



WINDOWS



A model displays a crown designed using symbols of Indian Assembly, currency and bird at Sparkle 2021 Gem & Jewelry exhibition in Surat on Monday

Delhi Court sends Disha Ravi to 1-day police custody

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Monday remanded climate activist Disha Ravi to one-day police custody in connection with the Greta Thunberg toolkit case. The Patiala House Court has turned down the Delhi Police's request for a five-day custody of the 22-year-old. Seeking a five-day extension of Ravi's police custody, the Public Prosecutor had argued that the activist had been evasive during interrogation and shifted the blame on the co-accused Shantanu Muluk and Nikita Jacob.

Dadra-Nagar Haveli MP found dead in Mumbai hotel

MUMBAI: Mohan Delkar, a seven-time MP from Dadra and Nagar Haveli, was found dead at a hotel in Mumbai's Marine Drive on Monday. Mohan Delkar, who was staying in a sea-facing room on the fifth floor of the Sea Green Hotel, reportedly committed suicide by hanging. His body has been sent for post mortem. The Mumbai police said that a suicide note has been found and an investigation is underway. The exact cause of death will be known after post mortem, the police added.

IMA demands explanation on 'promoting' Coronil

PUNE: The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has demanded an explanation from Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan for promoting Patanjali's Coronil, a Ayush Ministry-approved drug that can be used as "supporting measure in Covid-19". "Being a Health Minister of the country, how justified is it to release such falsely fabricated unscientific product to people of the whole country and how ethical was it to promote the product in unethical, wrong and false ways," IMA national president Dr Jayalal has said. "Let us not adulterate Ayurveda on the pretext of market gain to some monopoly corporate and create a disaster for humanity (SIC)," he said.



Delhi riots: Govt paid ₹26 crore compensation to 2,221 victims

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi government has so far disbursed compensation of over Rs 26 crore to 2,221 victims of last year's northeast Delhi riots, official sources said on Monday. The communal violence across northeast Delhi erupted in the backdrop of the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests on February 23 last year, claiming 53 lives, injuring over 500 and causing extensive damage to property. A total compensation



of Rs 26.09 crore has been paid so far. It included Rs 4.25 crore provided to kin of 44 people killed in the riots and Rs 1.75 crore to 233 injured persons, the government sources said.

stroyed during violence and arson, they said. Further, Rs 5.50 lakh was paid in cases of 22 damaged juggis, Rs 20 lakh to three schools and Rs 4.42 lakh for losses of animals, e-rickshaws and two-wheelers, they added. As per compensation announced by the Delhi government for riots' victims, kin of those who were killed received Rs 10 lakh, those with permanent disability were given Rs 5 lakh.

Poll schedule of 5 States likely by March 7

DHEMAJI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday hinted at the Election Commission (EC) declaring dates for Assembly polls in five States by March 7. While addressing a public meeting at Silapathar in Assam's Dhemaji district, Modi said, "Last time in 2016, the Assembly poll dates were announced on March 4. This year, it is my assumption that the EC will announce the dates for Assembly polls by March 7." "It is up to them (EC) to announce the dates but till the announcement was made, I will visit Assam, West Bengal, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Kerala as much as I can," he added. Assembly elections in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry are likely to be held in April and May. On January 21, the full bench of the EC, led by Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, visited West Bengal and held a meeting in Kolkata with top bureaucrats and leaders of all political parties in West Bengal to discuss preparedness and hear grievances or suggestions for the upcoming Assembly polls. Election Commissioners Sushil Chandra and Rajeev Kumar also accompanied Arora.

Elgar case: Varavara Rao gets interim bail

MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court on Monday granted interim bail for six months to ailing poet Varavara Rao on medical grounds. Rao, 82, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case being probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), is currently undergoing treatment in the Mumbai-based Nanavati Hospital where he had been admitted by the Maharashtra government following the High Court's intervention. Rao has been in custody since August 28, 2018, awaiting trial in the case. A bench of Justices S S Shinde and Manish Pitale ordered that Rao be discharged from the hospital, depending on his current health condition.

INDIA SEES SHARPEST SURGE IN ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES

NEW DELHI

ACTIVE coronavirus cases in India increased by 4,421 in 24 hours - a spike of three per cent - to go back over the 1.5 lakh mark for the first time in 17 days and register the steepest increase since end-November. On November 27 the active caseload was 4,55,555 - an increase of 3.85 per cent from the 4,38,667 recorded on November 24. This is the fifth consecutive day in which active cases (calculated as the difference between new cases and recoveries) have increased; 13,506 new cases have been added in this period. The three per cent increase in active cases is also double that recorded this time last week -1.5 per cent - and a massive 2.9 per cent bigger than two weeks ago, when active cases decreased by 157.



A health worker during a door-to-door screening in the wake of Covid-19, at Dharavi in Mumbai on Monday

Public may get vaccine by April

NEW DELHI: The Union government has begun to scale up the Covid-19 vaccination process in multiple steps, but is yet to take a call on how much it would spend. As part of scaling up, the appointment and registration system for the general public is ready to go live. Such a system will enable anybody over 50 years of age or with comorbidities to get a date, place and time of own choice for getting the vaccine shots. The Union Health Ministry is expected to open up public vaccination by end of March after registration through Co-WIN, the cloud-based end-to-end IT solution for vaccination, sources said.

Chhagan Bhujbal 7th Maha minister to test Covid +ve

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Food and Civil Supplies Minister Chhagan Bhujbal on Monday said he has tested positive for coronavirus. Bhujbal is the seventh minister to be infected by the novel coronavirus this month. 'I have tested positive for COVID-19. All those who came in my contact over the past two-three days should get themselves tested,' he tweeted. 'My health is fine and there is no reason to worry. All citizens should take proper care in the backdrop of Covid-19. 'Should wear masks and use sanitisers regularly,' the Nationalist Congress Party leader added.



Cong govt falls in Puducherry Narayanasamy quits as CM after losing majority

PUDUCHERRY

IN a huge setback for the Congress ahead of the polls in Puducherry, the V Narayanasamy government lost its majority in the Union Territory on Monday. After walking out of the Assembly, Narayanasamy tendered his resignation to Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan. In the Assembly, Narayanasamy accused the Opposition of trying to topple his government. "Former LG Kiran Bedi and Central government colluded with the Opposition



Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy hands over his resignation letter to Lt Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan after he failed to prove his majority in the assembly, in Puducherry on Monday

Will enhance capabilities in defence mfg: PM

NEW DELHI

INDIA is working hard to enhance its capabilities and capacities in the defence-manufacturing sector at a fast pace, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, noting that there were hundreds of ordnance factories before independence with large-scale weapons export from the country in both world wars but this system was not strengthened. Addressing a webinar on

the effective implementation of the Union Budget's provisions in the defence sector, the prime minister listed a series of measures taken by his government to boost self-reliance in the defence sector and rued the fact that the country is amongst the biggest defence importers in the world. "An India that has the capacity to reach Mars could have made modern weapons also, but it became an easy way to import weapons from abroad," he said. But now, the country is working hard to change the situation and to enhance its capacities and capabilities at a fast pace, the PM asserted. "Before independence, we used to have hundreds of ordnance factories. In both the world wars, weapons at largescale were exported from India. But for various reasons, this system was not strengthened as much as it should have been after independence," he said.

Northeast Delhi riots

A year on, kin of victims remain oblivious about status of probe

NEW DELHI

A year on, scars of the communal violence that convulsed northeast Delhi last February continue to haunt the kin of victims, many of whom say they remain unaware of the status of police investigations relating to their cases.

The police, however, say they are taking forward over 750 cases registered in connection with the conflagration. The riots had erupted in northeast Delhi on February 24 last year after clashes between citizenship law supporters and protesters spilled, leaving at least 53 people dead, around 200 injured and also led to extensive destruction of property, including houses, shops, schools as well as religious places.

As northeast Delhi became the epicentre of violence, clashes also broke out at Jaffrabad, Maujpur, Chandbagh, Khureji Khas, Bhajanpura, Dayalpur, Gokalpuri and other areas. Nizamuddin, whose younger brother Jamaluddin was killed by a mob in Shiv Vihar, says he has no idea about what is happening in his case. "They killed my brother near our home in Shiv Vihar. Officials of Delhi Police's Crime Branch call us regarding the investigation, but I have no idea what is happening in the case," Nizamuddin said.

He said he also got injured during the attack and had to be treated with metal plates in his broken hands. Twenty-year old Salim, a scrap collector, is caught up with the police work related to his elder brother Jameel's killing during the riots and is also taking care of his parents. "In Jameel's case, police call us to Daryaganj for identification. Apart from this, we have no idea what is happening in our case.

After his death, our financial condition has also become very bad," he said. Trying to control her trembling voice, his mother Noor Jahan says she misses her son everyday. Jameel (26), who used to work as a labourer, went missing when he had gone out to buy milk. Later, the family got a call from GTB hospital, which said his body was kept there. Living in Uttarakhand's Paudi Gadhwal, Devender Negi whose brother Diabar Negi's body was disfigured and burnt in Shiv Vihar, is concerned about the poor financial condition of his family.

"The Crime Branch of Delhi Police had called me once but due to the poor financial condition of my family, I could not reach Delhi. Since then, no one has called me or communicated with me. We have less hope in connection with the case as nothing has happened in one year," Negi said.

Man who climbed Red Fort tomb held

NEW DELHI

A 29-year-old man who allegedly climbed one of the tombs of the Red Fort during the violence in Delhi on Republic day has been arrested, police said on Monday.

Jaspreet Singh is one of the associates of Maninder Singh, who was arrested last Tuesday for allegedly swinging swords with the intent of "motivating" and "energising" the protesters at the historic monument.

Jaspreet Singh, a resident of Swaroop Nagar in northwest Delhi, was arrested by a Crime Branch team on Saturday. Thousands of protesters had clashed with the police during the tractor parade called by farmer unions on January 26



demanding repeal of the Centre's contentious farm laws. Many of the protesters reached the Red Fort driving tractors and entered the monument, and some of them even hoisted religious flags on its domes and a flagstaff at the ramparts.

JEE (Main) 1st phase from today

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE first phase of JEE (Main) 2021 is set to begin from Tuesday in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. According to officials, the exams will be conducted following Covid protocols. Necessary arrangements have been made to ensure that candidates wear masks, sanitisation of examination halls, maintaining physical distancing from the entry point to occupying the allocated seats for the Computer

Based Test (CBT) for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main-2021 examination. The National Testing Agency (NTA) said that the JEE (Main)-2021 CBT examination will be held in two sessions. The first phase of the four phases of the JEE (Main)-2021 will be held from February 23 to 26. The examination superintendents and invigilating staff and the examination centre authorities have been asked to ensure strict compliance with the Covid norms issued by the Centre and the State governments.



tion. "You are aware of the riots which led to 53 deaths and 581 injuries.

Riots reached its peak on February 24 and 25 last year. We made it a point that no one had a grievance that their complaint was not acknowledged," he said. Delhi Police formed three SITs in its Crime Branch to probe 62 important cases, including 53 cases of murder and rioting. A separate case was registered to unearth the conspiracy behind the riots, which was investigated by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police while the remaining 692 cases were investigated by northeast district police, police officers said. "To ensure a free and fair investigation, technology was extensively used and the evidences which are based on science and technology cannot be refuted," the Delhi Police chief had said. According to the police, overall, 1,818 people have been arrested so far in 400 cases in connection with the riots. They said 342 charge sheets have been filed by Delhi Police by the end of 2020, out of which the trial court has taken cognizance 250 cases. Of the 1,754 accused arrested, 1,553 have been charge sheeted already, they said.

Womenia

TWEET PATROL



KIARA ADVANI
@ADVANI_KIARA

#BhoolBhulaiyaa2
19th November, 2021



Things to know about ovulation and pregnancy

Ovulation is a subject of reproductive health that is often surrounded by myths, unverified information and fiction. While there are factors beyond ovulation that can help in getting pregnant, ovulation plays an important role in successful conception. Not knowing about your fertile window, tracking and predicting ovulation days can be challenging for desirous couples to get pregnant.

Dr Kshitiz Murdia, CEO and Co-Founder of Indira IVF explains it all:

What is ovulation?

Ovulation is a part of the reproductive cycle when the egg is released from ovary of the dominant follicle into the fallopian tube. When the egg is fertilized by a sperm, an embryo is formed in the fallopian tube which later travels to the uterus developing further into fetus. In the case where the egg isn't fertilized by a sperm, it disintegrates and sheds along with the uterine lining during menstruation.

How to track or predict ovulation day?

Typically, ovulation happens about 13-15 days before the start of each period. But like period, the timing of ovulation can vary in each person from cycle-to-cycle. If an average menstrual cycle is 28 days, the ideal day for ovulating would be around day 14, and most fertile days would be two-three days prior to that.

Symptoms of ovulation

Symptoms of ovulation can differ from person to person. Females can experience- mild ovulation pain, spotting, increased libido, tender breasts, bloating and change in consistency and amount of vaginal discharge (clear and slippery like egg white) and the amount of vaginal discharge also increases.

Apart from these symptoms ovulation can also be tracked by transvaginal sonography, basal body temperature, ovulation prediction kits, maintaining a tracking calendar, ovulation indicator applications etc.

Not knowing about your fertile window, tracking and predicting ovulation days can be challenging for desirous couples to get pregnant



What is a 'fertile window' and how is it related to ovulation?

A fertile window is the time frame during the reproductive cycle when the chances of conception are higher. While the sperm can stay active in the female body up to three days, the life of an egg is limited to survive for about 24 hours. Therefore the best time to try for pregnancy is from three to four days before ovulation to about two days post ovulation.

Ovulation and pregnancy post 40 years

While the quality and quantity of eggs in women starts to reduce in their 30s and can sharply decline post 35, it is possible to have babies through various ART methods. The consistency of ovulation and risk of infertility can get affected after 40 years of age. Egg freezing, cryopreservation, embryo preservation PGTA, IVF and IUI etc. are few of the methods one can opt for under the medical guidance of doctors and embryologists for a successful conception even in 40s.

Getting pregnant or successful conception goes beyond than just ideal timing. There are a variety of physiological, physical, reproductive and health factors that can impact pregnancy. It is always advised to consult your doctors and embryologists and gain more knowledge on the subject to be able to plan a successful roadmap to pregnancy.



Natasha

Stories for and by a 'new India'

TEJAL SINHA

Natasha is a new-age storyteller who has resonated with an entire generation. This Valentine's day, Natasha is going to take you to 'The dark side of Love'.

Natasha who holds a Master's degrees from Oxford and Cambridge and an MBA from Stanford, was previously an investor in London and now runs Boundless Media, a creative house that makes high quality shows and films that are locally rooted, and resonate globally.

Natasha shares, "Our stories are for and by a new India. My first collection of poems, Boundless, captured my search for my own identity in my twenties as I built my career as an immunologist and investor in London, and then moved to California to do an MBA at Stanford. I wrote Reinvention after moving back to India after ten years of living abroad. The transition has been both difficult and rewarding. I wrote these poems as I grappled with the idea of coming 'home' and 'coming of age'. Reinvention is my personal diary- it explores the darker side of love, family and ambition. Can we preserve our identity, while being part of multiple families? What sacrifices do we have to make for success? Can we have it all- and keep it?"

At first, Natasha worried about losing the identity as she had worked so hard to build it. For her home didn't feel anything like home when she moved back.

She adds, "I transitioned from being an investor to a producer and starting my own company, and adjusting to two families. The changes were huge- but have made me stronger. I titled the book Reinvention, because the book is about the power of embracing and leaning into change. Now I believe we can absolutely keep and amplify our voice- while staying connected to our roots. I think this is a bolder book, and hopefully reflects my own personal growth post Boundless. Fiction is sometimes more real to me than my real life, I think the most truth lies in fiction."

Natasha has been writing since her childhood and has also got her stories through school and college. hilariously, the first book that she wrote was an autobiography when she was four and had no idea what stories that she told to fill the pages, given how limited her life experience was.

"I've also always been an obsessive reader. Growing up, my punishment was having my library card taken away when I broke the rules. In retaliation, the first

Natasha Malpani Oswal, who, apart from being a poet, is also a content producer and podcast producer, wrote her latest book, "Reinvention" after moving back to India after ten years of living abroad as she grappled with the idea of 'coming home' and 'coming of age'

'startup' I built was a library when I was nine. When I was younger, I mostly wrote short stories about coming of age, family and friends. I also wrote articles for newspapers and online portals, and dabbled in poetry, but wasn't bold enough to show the poems to anyone else. I wrote the poems under a pen name. I enjoyed immigrant fiction even before I left the country- a part of me felt like an 'outsider' even before I left home. I've always enjoyed darkly twisted stories that have a comic undertone. I'm very excited about the slate of stories we're working on this year- we have a dark comic show, a feminist film and an animated film coming up soon. We really pour ourselves into our creative projects because I think stories resonate and connect with people when they have truth in them," adds the writer.

The dark side of love

Natasha explores the dark side of love through two chapters in the book, Freedom and Longing. This book is about coming of age- and all growing up is sad in a way. You're developing layers, shedding your innocence, you learn to hide what you really think or feel, you learn pain, betrayal- but you also learn who you really are, who you can really trust, what you really want.

Natasha thinks that real love is painful and it hurts because you have to be truly vulnerable and open with your partner, you're giving them power over you, and that's okay.

She adds, "I absolutely do not believe in settling in love. Settle is a tongue in cheek poem. I think real love is a journey and a constant choice- you have to work at it, and choose to fall in love every day. I've intentionally called relationships ties and bonds in the last chapter. The people who love you and care for you want you to be there for them, to give to them. It's what makes life worth living- but can also hold you down and back. You need to make space to grow, to think independently, to take risks, to make your own path and decisions. I think building close relationships and a community while charting your own path is a very delicate balancing act."

Sharing about how she got an idea on writing about this, she says that for her home didn't feel anything like home when she moved back.

"The chapters cover losing and rebuilding trust and relationships and the dark side of home, love and ambition, because this is what I was exploring at this time. The changes were huge but have made me stronger. I wrote the poems as notes to myself, because I wanted to keep the words as sharp and vulnerable as possible. I think poetry is the most honest and raw form of self-expression. I find the process very freeing- it's a form of therapy. I have a very distinct style of writing- the words I use are hard-hitting, evocative and have powerful imagery and rhythm, but are also very direct and simple. I think this maximizes their impact. The poems are my truest voice this is how I think," concludes Natasha.

Shine: A key parameter for healthy hair

PUJA GUPTA

Don't we all dream of having luscious shiny locks? We've all stepped out of the salon with gorgeous shiny hair and have seen the shine wearing off over the next few days, taking us back to our original hair texture. No matter how many serums and styling products you use, the external shine will only be temporary as a genuine long-lasting shine will only appear once your hair is healthy and well-nourished.

When your hair follicle is healthy and nourished, the shine reflects on your hair from root to tips.

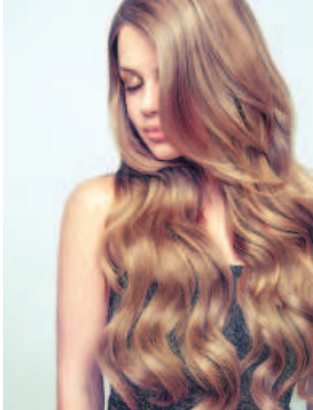
If you are wondering how you can

have shiny healthy hair all day- every day, the easiest and least expensive way to do that is by regularly oiling your hair with coconut hair oil, suggests Dr Aparna Santhanam (MD, DNB) - Consultant Dermatologist, Marico India Limited for Parachute Advanced Jasmine Hair Oil.

"Doing so will certainly help you achieve that salon-like hair texture without having to put in much effort... and money. And if you want to add a dash of fragrance to your shiny hair, choose a coconut hair oil with Jasmine extracts." Coconut hair oil has several benefits. It penetrates 10x deeper in your scalp, locking in all the required hydration and nutrition for shiny

healthy hair. Regularly oiling your hair using coconut hair oil will keep your scalp well-nourished preventing it from getting dry and flaky. It helps in moisturising your scalp from deep within. Coconut hair oil also has antiviral/antimicrobial properties which help to rid your scalp of infections and retain the health of your scalp. A healthy scalp will ensure that your hair grows faster, stronger and shinier.

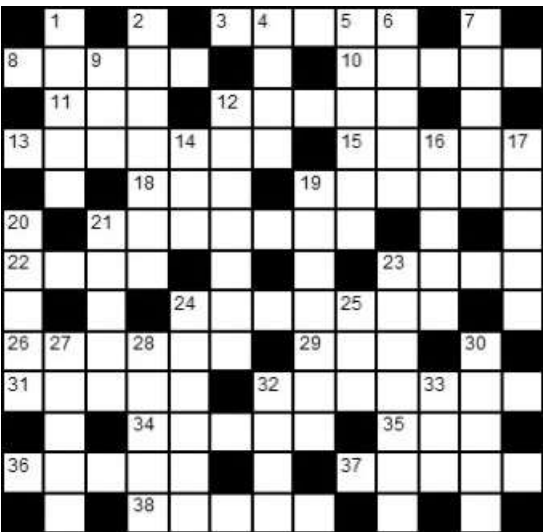
Opting for coconut hair oil with Jasmine extracts instantly adds an aromatic fragrance and dials down the thickness of the oil making it lightweight and non-sticky. Jasmine flowers have a heavenly fragrance and



women have been adorning their hair with it through generations. It has a wonderful fragrance that helps you to relax by soothing your mind and calming down the nerves. Gently massage in coconut hair oil with Jasmine ex-

tracts into your scalp and tips of your hair and let it sit for 20-30 minutes and then rinse off with a gentle cleanser. The power combination of Coconut and Jasmine will not only give you healthy shiny hair but also, leave you with a soothing fragrance.

You may also use the coconut hair oil with Jasmine extracts as a serum post hair wash. All you need to do is, dab a small quantity onto your slightly damp hair to add that extra boost of shine. This will help keep your hair in place, prevent fly aways while also giving you a healthy shine throughout the day. Switching out your serums and using this combination hair oil instead will also save you endless touch-ups throughout the day making your hair look almost as good as it was when you left your house even after a long day out in the sun



SOLUTION TO FEBRUARY 22

CROSSWORD

Across

- Harvests or cultivates (5)
- ___ Hopkins University (5)
- Brings up (5)
- Steerer of boat (3)
- Lukewarm (5)
- North African capital (7)
- Incite (3,2)
- Kimono sash (3)
- Pretended (6)
- Side story in a work of fiction (7)
- Horned goddess (4)
- Unwanted e-mail (4)
- Reviewers or analysts (7)
- Spain's peninsula (6)
- Egg cells (3)
- Trig. function (5)
- Miserable or cheerless (7)
- Tokyo's land (5)
- Not well (3)
- Inspired, dull (5)
- Cause to lose courage (5)
- Surgical dressing (5)

Down

- Plinth (5)
- Worried, uneasy (7)
- Females in general ? (4)
- Religious leader (6)
- Marsh grass (5)
- Hatchlings (5)
- A large pig (3)
- Indian state neighbouring Bangladesh (7)
- Subside (3)
- Swallows greedily (5)
- Standards (5)
- Card game - "noon pot" anagram (7)
- Municipal (5)
- Hits over the boundary in cricket (5)
- Climbing a mountain (7)
- Chirpy insect (6)
- Climbing vine (3)
- A cleaning compound (5)
- Re-arrange (5)
- Religion of the Muslims (5)
- Improvised music (4)
- Shade tree (3)

SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO FEBRUARY 22



NEWS ROUNDUP

Rubina Dilaik: Not for a single day will I take my relationship for granted

Bigg Boss 14 winner Rubina Dilaik had openly spoken about going for a divorce with husband and former contestant Abhinav Shukla in the show. However, she now tells us their stint on the show mended the relationship and that she will not take their bond for granted anymore.

"It will be ever evolving and not for a single day will I take my relationship for granted again. That's a promise I have made," Rubina told.

She had a clash with contestant Rakhi Sawant on the show, after the latter claimed "crazy love" for Abhinav.

Will she fix her relationship with Rakhi? "Yes, like I said (I will move ahead) with a clean slate. All relationships from here will evolve and I am going to carry forward the ones that are good. The bad relationships, I have ended there (in Bigg Boss 14). The new story and new beginning will happen from here," she said.

During her stint, Rubina, who married Abhinav in 2018, had said that she was on the verge of divorcing Abhinav before entering the reality show. On the show, she had shared that they were about to get divorced and had given each other time till November, and that is the reason they decided to enter Bigg Boss 14 together.

Rubina came into the reality show with a huge fan base she had earlier garnered with her roles in shows such as Shakti: Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki and Chhoti Bahu, and she took home the Bigg Boss trophy plus Rs 36 lakh in the grand finale on Sunday night.

What does she yearn to do now? "I am open for new surprises," she said.



After the deluge: Noble gesture by Uttarakhand police inspector



DEHRADUN

AN inspector with Uttarakhand police, Harak Singh, has turned good Samaritan after he gave shelter to an old woman in his house at the disaster-hit Reni village in Chamoli district.

After the February 7 deluge, the house of 85-year-old Sona Devi had been completely damaged, rendering her along with her daughter homeless.

When Singh, who is also a native of Reni village, started

rescue and relief work there, he came to know about the plight of Devi. Singh, who lives in Dehradun along with his family, immediately offered his house to Devi.

Singh, who is presently working with the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), is now being hailed by the villagers and top police personnel alike.

"It is very commendable when we hear about such good gestures, especially by people from our own police force.

Such incidents bring closeness and good relations between civilians and police," said SDRF commandant Navneet Bhullar.

After the gesture of Singh, the state police are looking for closed or deserted houses from where the inhabitants have migrated to the plains so that they can be used as temporary shelters for the disaster-hit people.

Significantly, most of those who lost their lives in the February 7 deluge were workers who had come from outside the

state for work at the two power projects. Nearly 465 families in 12 villages of Chamoli district have also been affected by the floods as they lost their houses, domestic animals and farm lands.

"In our Reni village, only one house of Sona Devi was damaged. Though we lost five persons of our village, the damage to the village was not much," said Bhagwan Singh Rana, the village pradhan of Reni.

Some social organisations

have shown their readiness to work in the disaster affected areas. Even film actor Sonu Sood has expressed his desire to provide monetary help to four daughters of Alam Singh Pundir of Tehri, who was killed in the floods, for their studies. Sood also shared a photograph of the four daughters on his Tweeter handle.

Pundir's body was among the first to be brought out from the disaster-hit tunnel of the Tapovan project.

₹5,50,270 crore UP budget to make State 'atmanirbhar'

LUCKNOW

WITH a target of making Uttar Pradesh 'atmanirbhar', the Yogi Adityanath government on Monday presented a Rs 5,50,270.78 crore budget for financial year 2021-22 in the state Assembly.

With Assembly elections in the state less than a year away, the budget includes new schemes of Rs 27,598.40 crore, with infrastructure development bagging the lion's share. The budget presented by Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna, in the presence of the chief minister, is over Rs 37,410 crore more than the previous year's budget size, making it the largest fund allocation in the state.

Reading out the budget speech from a laptop, Khanna said the target was to make Uttar Pradesh "atmanirbhar" and ensure all round development of the state. This is the Adityanath government's first paperless budget. The budget for 2021-22, is also the last budget of the present Adityanath government before



the next UP Assembly polls.

There is a provision of an outlay of Rs 100 crore proposed for "Atma Nirbhar Krishak Samanvit Vikas Yojna" in the budget for doubling farmers' income and Rs 600 crore for Mukhyamantri Kr-

ishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana besides Rs 700 crore for free water facility to farmers and Rs 400 crore for crop loan to farmers at concessional rates.

For women welfare, the budget proposes Rs 1,200 crore for im-

plementation of Mukhyamatri Kanya Sumangla Yojana and Rs 100 crore for malnutrition of women and children under Mukhyamantri Saksham Suraksha yojna. Provisions of Rs 4,094 crore for nutritional programme and Rs 415 crore for National nutritional campaign besides Rs 200 crores for Mahila Samartha Yojana are also there.

For youth development, the budget makes a provision for distribution of tablets to eligible students under the government's ambitious Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana, for free coaching for competitive exams and for setting up model career centres in 12 other districts.

The budget provides Rs 100 crore for providing employment and self-employment to migrant workers under the Mukhyamantri Pravasi Shramik Udyamita Vikas Yojna.

In view of the coronavirus pandemic, the budget makes a provision of Rs 50 crore for vaccination scheme towards prevention of COVID-19.

2 drown as boat overturns during live streaming on social media

BALLIA

TWO men drowned in a lake after their boat overturned while they were streaming a live video on social media.

The police spokesman said that six youths of Mairait village in Bansdih area were riding a boat in Surha Taal on Sunday and were moving towards an island. Some of the youths were enjoying their ride and went live on Facebook to record their outing.

Due to movement by the passengers, the boat overturned and the six youths started drowning.

The boatmen rescued the youths from the lake.

The condition of two men was serious, and they were taken to the district hospital, where Anuj Gupta (25) and Deepak Gupta (26) were declared dead by the doctors.



Bullet marks are seen on a vehicle belonging to Manish, who was shot dead by unidentified miscreants at Feroz Gandhi Colony, in Gurugram on Monday

Youth shot dead in Gurugram

GURUGRAM

A 24-year-old man was shot dead by two to three unidentified armed assailants in Feroz Gandhi Colony area of Gurugram at around 12 noon on Monday, the police said.

According to the police, the armed assailants fired dozens of bullets into the deceased who was later identified as Manish alias Babu, a resident of Basai village here.

"We are trying to ascertain the cause of the murder. The reason behind the murder will

Fuel price hike: Congress activists protest in Gurugram

GURUGRAM

CONGRESS activists on Monday held a protest in Gurugram against the Central government over the rising diesel and petrol prices.

Hundreds of party activists took out a procession from Sohna Chowk to Rajiv Chowk in old Gurugram. The protesters carried pamphlets and placards with slogans against the fuel price hike.

Attacking the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Central government over the rising prices of petrol and diesel, former Haryana Minister and Congress leader Sukhbir Kataria blamed the Central government and the BJP-led Manohar Lal Khattar government in Haryana and sought an immediate rollback of the increase in the prices of petroleum products. He asserted that under the BJP dispensation, prices of other products like dal, rice and sugar are continuously increasing.

"The people were battling coronavirus pandemic and the Central government has increased price of diesel and petrol.



The fuel price has crossed Rs 100 per litre in several states. It's like the Central government and the state government don't even think about the problems faced by the common man," Kataria said.

"The government is profiteering at the expense of the people, it is an example of extorting money from people," he added.

We urge the Centre through this protest to rollback the rise in excise duty on petrol and give its benefit to the people, Kataria said.

Kataria claimed that more than 200 farmers have died at the borders of the national capital during the protests but the Central government is still adamant over the three contentious farm laws.

Accused in teen's murder arrested from Hardoi

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police on Monday arrested an accused who was on the run in the Begampur murder case in which a 17-year-old girl was hammered to death in Rohini. The accused Laik was arrested from Hardoi in UP, police said.

Rohini DCP P.K. Mishra said the accused was trying to flee when he was arrested. The police said 25-year-old Laik absconded after allegedly murdering the girl with a hammer on Friday evening. The victim's kin had gone to fetch some grocery items from the market at the time of the incident. Later, Laik bolted the door from outside before fleeing the spot. Both the suspect and the victim's families were neighbours in Bawana and had known each other for years. A year back the girl's family had shifted to Begampur in Rohini. However, the accused Laik kept visiting the family.

Laik is from Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh and the girl's family is from Etah. The parents of the victim are factory workers. The accused is also a factory worker. He would be produced in court by the police and would be questioned on the motive for the murder.

Delhi govt to make labourers aware of welfare schemes

NEW DELHI

DELHI Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday said that the AAP-led Delhi government has initiated a mass registration process of construction workers in the city. A month-long registration process will start from Monday at several locations in the city. The move aims to provide benefits of Delhi government's welfare schemes to poor construction workers and labourers. "Majority of them are not aware about the welfare schemes being provided by the Delhi government. We have decided to launch a mass registration and awareness programme for such workers so that they can avail welfare schemes. There are nearly 10 lakh labourers and construction workers in Delhi but of them only 2.12 lakh are registered. Around 29,000 workers were registered last year and the registration process for around 50,000 is underway," Sisodia said. He further informed that mass awareness and labour registration will be held at 262 locations where construction workers and other labourers assemble every day in Delhi. "Apart from it, the registration process will also be run at 45 places, which includes schools and other government premises in the city. There would be four to five counters at each registration centre," Sisodia added.

Highlighting the welfare schemes, the minister said the Delhi government provides Rs 30,000 as one-time financial aid to women labourers under maternity scheme. Those aged above 60 get a benefit of Rs 3,000 per month as pension. For labourers who want to buy homes in Delhi, the government provides Rs 3 to 5 lakh as one-time financial assistance to them.

The Deputy Chief Minister further stated that the Delhi government provides many welfare schemes for the children of labourers and construction workers for their education.

Woman held for killing husband

NEW DELHI

A 35-year-old woman has been arrested for allegedly killing her husband who used to thrash and abuse her in front of their children, police said on Monday.

The incident took place at south Delhi's Fatehpur Beri area. Sarita Devi strangled her 38-year-old husband Sikandar Sahni to death with a saree and later took him to a hospital where he was declared brought dead on Sunday, they said.

The woman told the police that her husband was an alcoholic despite being a chronic tuberculosis patient. He did not work and used to beat her in front of her children daily, police said.

During enquiry, police found that the man was brought to Safdarjung hos-

pital by his wife and was declared brought dead. During post-mortem, doctors observed multiple ligature marks on his neck and came to the conclusion that Sahni was murdered, a senior police officer said.

The crime team and officials of Forensic Science Laboratory also visited the spot and collected evidence, he said. A case of murder was registered and the woman was arrested, said Atul Kumar Thakur, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South).

"During interrogation, she disclosed that her husband was an alcoholic despite being a chronic tuberculosis patient and did not work anywhere. He used to beat and abuse her daily in front of her children. So, she strangled him with a saree," he said., police said.

ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
मुख्य संख्या-1, नॉलेज पार्क-04 ग्रेटर नोएडा सिटी, गौतमबुद्ध नगर

सार्वजनिक सूचना

ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत **M/s Jindal Promoters Pvt. Ltd.** के मुख्य संख्या GC-031/GH-03 सेक्टर-16C ग्रेटर नोएडा पर दिनांक 16.05.2013 को मानचित्र स्वीकृति प्रदान की गयी थी। तदोपरान्त बिल्डर द्वारा Block-A, Block-B & Block-C के अधिनियम प्रमाण पत्र (Occupancy Certificate) हेतु दिनांक 25.01.2021 को आवेदन किया गया है, तत्कम में उ0प्र0 अपार्टमेंट एक्ट के प्रस्ताव सं0 4, sub section 2 of section 12 के अन्तर्गत जनसामान्य से आपत्ति/सुझाव आहित किये जाते हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में बिल्डर द्वारा प्रस्तुत संशोधित (Declarations) एवं मानचित्र का परीक्षण किसी भी कार्यदिवस में सुबह 9.30 से सांय 6.00 बजे के मध्य नियोजन विभाग के displayed में नक़्शे में किया जा सकता है। मानचित्रों में उ0प्र0 अपार्टमेंट एक्ट-2010 के प्रावधानों के अन्तर्गत उक्त प्रस्तावित संशोधन की घोषणा के सम्बन्ध में अपार्टमेंट स्वामियों / संघ को नोटिस जारी करने के साथ 30 दिन के अन्दर आपत्तियाँ आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

उपरोक्त के निहतार्थ अपनी आपत्तियाँ लिखित रूप से अपने आवंटन पत्र, नाम, पता एवं दूरभाष नम्बर के साथ कार्यालय समय व कार्यदिवस में ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण के मुख्य प्रशासनिक कार्यालय, मुख्य संख्या-1, नॉलेज पार्क-04, ग्रेटर नोएडा में स्थित वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (नियो0/वारतु0) विभाग में निर्धारित अवधि अर्थात सूचना प्रकाशित होने के 30 दिवसों में प्राप्त करायी जा सकती हैं।

महामन्त्र्यक (नियो0/वारतु0) ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण

KT residency

"A premium Co-Living Space"

PROPERTY MULTIPLIER
WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT

KT Residency approved by **ITS RERA** | Approved No. PO2400001598

SAFE

AFFORDABLE

NO MAINTENANCE

Earn extra sft*

9% to 11% Returns

Assured rental income for 20years

+91 95337 76694

www.ktresidency.com | sales@kapilproperties.com

Mother knows best

WHILE granting custody of a minor child to his mother, the Allahabad High Court recently observed that mothers are best suited to take care of very young children. The court has based its verdict on not just the arguments of the parents, but also on the conduct of the litigants in this matter. This should be an eye-opener for all. Justice J Munir was dealing with a habeas corpus petition filed by the mother Preeti, who submitted before the Court that she was not being allowed to meet her three-year-old son, and that he was under the 'unlawful' custody of her husband/in-laws. The mother argued successfully about her consistent income with which she could support her child, but

also pointed to the irregular income of her husband. The latter has argued on the good and bad conduct of his wife to emphasise on the point that the child should not be given to the custody of the mother hence. The dominant male view that prevails in the society did not find the acceptance of the court. It rightly observed "it is the precipitate wisdom of generations that a young child's welfare is better ensured in the hands of the mother than the father, or for that matter, anyone else. It is in keeping with this transcendent experience of mankind that the proviso to Section 6(a) of the Act of 1956 reserves to the mother the right to the child's custody until the age of five years", the judge observed before his verdict. Most admirable here is the fact that the judge did not close his eyes to the happenings around him. He did not confine himself to the points being raised by the learned lawyers of both the parties.

He keenly followed the behaviour of the parents and other elders too in the court hall. The Court had the advantage of watching the parties' interaction during the hearing. The Court noticed that the child's father and his grandparents thereof, were a doting father and grandparents to the extent that their affection might become a bane for the child. It hardly needs be said that the welfare of a child consists not only in the care that he is given while young, but the manner he is groomed to become a responsible citizen. The Court found the overindulgence by the child's father and his grandparents, a possible source of hampering his development and grooming him into a young adult. To the contrary, this Court did not notice anything about the mother's disposition towards her son, which may not augur well for the child's development and overall welfare. Hats off Mr Judge!

CRUEL KILLERS AND INDIFFERENT PASSERS-BY

Humanity is under challenge



THE cruelty of killers on one hand and silent viewership of the hundreds on the other, made murder of lawyer couple a spectacular event. Tragic indeed. Besides law, public order, and peace, humanity is under challenge. In the present world of criminals becoming leaders, none will come to rescue the victims of broad daylight murders as that enthrals all of us in movies, where one will be fighting hundreds while thousands watch it as a tamasha. But at least the people should report to police and call an ambulance, instead of prioritising the recording of murder for sharing on social media.

Several tabloids and paparazzi agencies were lambasted for constantly following Diana's car till her death in early hours of August 31, 1997. Some media claimed the erratic behaviour of paparazzi following the car had contributed to the crash as the driver was rushing in unsafe speed to avoid their cameras. Though it was found later that it was driver's loss of control alone that could be blamed, the media was criticised as irresponsible and inhuman.

On February 17 in Telangana, two men waylaid, killed a woman lawyer inside the car and dragged out her husband, threw him on the road, repeatedly attacked him with knives, sickles, and axes at leisure, without any fear or hesitation, though hundreds were watching in broad daylight. The two RTC bus-full people were watching, and dozens of bypassers were recording on mobile cameras, ignoring the need to call police or ambulance.

Since afternoon of the murder, Facebook and WhatsApp platforms are full of the bloody pictures and videos. The victim Vaman Rao was found telling 'call ambulance'.

They were helping helpless

They were human beings, indeed. They were killed because they were helping others and fighting the powerful. A flexi "this construction has no legal permission" appeared in on a house under construction, and on the temple under construction. The wrong doers suspect it was the act of the advocate-couple.

A politician filed an affidavit listing his properties when he contested an election. Vaman Rao challenged the veracity of his affidavit with proof of suppression of several properties. When one young Dalit died in police custody, he filed a public interest litigation leading to investigation into police atrocity.

Advocates Gattu Vaman Rao and his wife Nagamani were practicing in High Court under the firm name Gattu Law Chambers. They belonged to village Gunjapadugu in

Ramagiri Mandal of district Peddapalli in Telangana.

They were using weapon of law and court action to challenge the wrongs of the police and powerful persons in their village, despite facing, threats, hardships, and harassment. They sought police protection and direction to prevent police from harassing them. He was also fighting against sand mafia, and other wrongs occurring in his native village.

Protection from police

The High Court of Telangana has accorded the protection to the Advocate-couple. It is reported that victim Nagamani had requested recently again for protection. Entire Telangana courts came to stand still and Manthani town near his village observed Bandh for a day.

Advocate Gattu Vaman Rao and his wife Advocate Nagamani were attacked while they were returning to Hyderabad after attending a case in a local court in Peddapalli district. They were dragged out of four-wheeler at Kalvacharla village in Ramagiri Mandal of Peddapalli district in Telangana and attacked continuously with knives, axes, sickles etc. Vaman Rao was repeatedly attacked on the road while his wife was killed within the car itself.

The police officers said that the killings appear to have been executed by professional killers. The Ramagundam Police Commissioner V Sathanarayana told media, "While they were travelling, some assailants have brutally stabbed them to death after overtaking their vehicle and stopping it." The assailants, who travelled in an SUV had blocked the vehicle of the couple, leaving them with no escape route.

Traffic halted for a while as motorists and bystanders watched the killings in horror, some of them were capturing the brutal murders on their phone cameras. One video showed the murder and the other showed assailants escaping in their SUV after the murders. Vaman Rao lying in the pool of blood was answering the questions about his name, village besides naming Kunta Srinu as responsible for attack. He was pleading for ambulance, but the people preferred recording the event

man who was arrested under the charges of poaching wild animals. The couple had written to the HC that on 22.5.2020 Sheelam Rangaiah (since deceased) was brought to Manthani Police Station, illegally detained in lockup for the past four days, harassed him both mentally and physically and due to unbearable beatings of the police including the CI, SI and constables, Sheelam Rangaiah died in the lock up, and ultimately issued FIR u/s 174 of Cr.P.C and sent the dead body to Manthani Area Hospital for Post-mortem and trying to manage the Doctors not to identify the injuries on the dead body of the deceased.

The petitioners wanted a direction to the police to register the FIR as custodial death for the offences under section 176(2) Cr PC and u/s 302 of IPC and to conduct re-post-mortem examination on the dead body with a team of Doctors to trace out the original facts, to stop the cremation of the deceased Sheelam Rangaiah and also to conduct judicial inquiry into the death of Sheelam Rangaiah. The Bench has directed the Hyderabad



Traffic halted for a while as motorists and bystanders watched the killings in horror, some of them were capturing the brutal murders on their phone cameras. One video showed the murder and the other showed assailants escaping in their SUV after the murders. Vaman Rao lying in the pool of blood was answering the questions about his name, village besides naming Kunta Srinu as responsible for attack. He was pleading for ambulance, but the people preferred recording the event

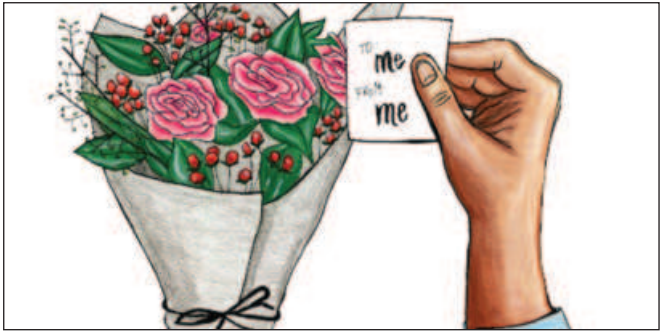
Commissioner of Police Anjani Kumar to probe these allegations of custodial death. The High Court directed Anjani Kumar, the Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad, to personally investigate and to submit report, which was submitted to Court on 19.06.2020. The Court directed report to be kept under the custody of the Registrar General of High Court and Nagamani was permitted to take the notes from the report.

Nagamani informed High Court that ever since the said permission to file the counter to the Report was given to her, both she, and her husband are constantly being harassed by the police force, both at Manthani, and in Hyderabad. She also complained that her husband is being falsely implicated in two FIRs including No.176 of 2020 on 02.09.2020, registered with Police Station, Basanth Nagar, Ramagundam District. Moreover, according to her, she is being threatened over phone by the Police Department, in case she was to file a counter to the Report submitted by Anjani Kumar, the Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad, not only her life, but also the lives of her children, and other family members will be in danger.

She also told that the concerned Circle Inspector of Police had threatened to commit suicide, in case, if the case filed by Ms. Nagamani is not withdrawn by her. The High Court directed the Director General of Police, Telangana State, to ensure chat neither Nagamani, nor her husband, Gattu Vaman Rao, are threatened by any police officer, and that they are not called to any police station as long as this case is sub judice before the High Court. The court had extended protection to the couple and posted the matter for further hearing in April. The leaders of ruling party and police are facing allegations in this gruesome murder. They have to clear these doubts.

(The writer is Professor of Law, Bennett University and former Central Information Commissioner)

LOOKING AT SELF-LOVE



Some observations after Valentine's Day

We can't be so desperate for love that we forget where we can always find it; within — Alexandra Elle

VIVECK VERMA

AS the cheer around Valentine's Day subsides and as we continue our everyday journeys, it can be safely acknowledged that the coveted and much celebrated ideas of love remain as tricky as ever. We live in a consumerist society and love emerges as a commodity which we may possess briefly but keep running out of. Love is at the end of a never-ending chase often fueled by materialistic aims which tell us that acquiring certain kinds of success, beauty and wit make us more worthy of love. The conundrum gets inevitably more complicated when we explore the possibilities of loving ourselves and think of what we can do to feel sufficient and worth the best of things the world has to offer. After all, what exactly is self-love and how do we go about it?

Self-love in today's capitalistic age, is a frequently and fervently promoted idea. Yet, going by studies and observing people around us, it remains as elusive as ever. First of all, despite all the hype around the term, it remains on the backburner. Hindustan Times reports how a survey by Shaadi.com found that 40 per cent of the respondents felt the pressure to be with someone on Valentine's Day. To interpret this, one can remark that people are pressured into thinking that people and things outside them will complete their selfhoods and provide them with a sense of worth. Compared to this, a study by Jeevansathi.com showed that 21 per cent of women respondents and a meagre 9 per cent of men believed they were their own Valentines. Self-love, then, is certainly not the most mainstream of phenomena in a universe that incessantly locates fulfillment outside.

Secondly, even as we look beyond loving another person, loving ourselves can be unsparingly difficult. Body image issues, anxieties around careers and familial responsibilities, social discomfiture and several other host of issues can plague us into devaluing our

present selves while aiming to be someone we can cherish in a very indeterminate future. The script pretty much is like, "If I lose a few kilograms, I will like myself better.", or "If I get that promotion at work, I will be more confident in being myself." In this goose chase, we forget that it is necessary and indispensable to love ourselves as we are and not who we want to be. Wanting to be someone better without affirming ourselves in the present moment is like trying to build a house without a foundation, and such houses are unlikely to be sturdy in the face of the struggles life engenders. A third and derivative concern is how in trying to love other people and not knowing how to love who we are, we lose sight of ourselves. Neglecting ourselves and putting in effort to complete other people's lives is an arrangement that leaves us feeling inadequate no matter how we go about it. Pouring in tremendous amounts of energy and yet not achieving a desired sense of contentment can cause massive harm to self-esteem and restrict how we channelise our agencies and creativity to be individual and social actors. As these concerns remain prominent and ubiquitous, what do we do about love? One suitable place to begin is to value our effort and realise that no matter how much energy we expend on any regimes of love or self-love, as long as it is misdirected, it is always going to end in disaster or at the very least, discomfort. We forget that the world as we know it, is a narrative concocted by us, and thus, when we change that narrative, our lives are consequently transformed. Love, then, being part of this world, is also a matter of the mind and something we imagine and conceptualise. In simpler words, the key to loving meaningfully does not lie outside, but inside us

end in disaster or at the very least, discomfort. We forget that the world as we know it, is a narrative concocted by us, and thus, when we change that narrative, our lives are consequently transformed. Love, then, being part of this world, is also a matter of the mind and something we imagine and conceptualise. In simpler words, the key to loving meaningfully does not lie outside, but inside us.

This irrevocable truth was glaringly highlighted by the way in which people coped with living in a co-Covid world. As the pandemic massively limited the avenues of finding happiness externally, people were compelled to live with themselves and look at themselves. Social media was flooded with people trying new recipes, unleashing previously untried health regimes, reading new books and connecting in new ways with themselves and people around them. Citing the same Jeevansathi.com survey referred to earlier, 45 per cent of Indian respondents chose to celebrate Valentine's day with friends or family. This is a radical development, as on a day all about performativity and grand gestures to validate our love, a substantial number of people departed from the convention to find self-consummation in a new, self-fashioned way.

Keeping all of this in mind, it can be safely remarked that self-love outside an imposed template is a possibility when individuals are made to face themselves and look within. It is important to not judge ourselves as we grow and heal and even more important to love ourselves as we happen to be in the current moment. We must find what makes us happy and pamper ourselves with moments of self-affirmation and realisation. Once we learn how to love ourselves, we also will know better to love in general, and find contentment and individual and social levels.

Valentine's Day is gone, but loving ourselves and others in rewarding ways is a possibility we can realise on every day of our lives. The path is to look within and empower ourselves and others through a love that is our own invention. We can truly love only when we have learnt to love ourselves. So, go ahead, bolster your selfhood and love yourself like never before!

(The Author is founder of Upsurge Global and Senior Adviser, Telangana State Innovation Cell).

LETTERS

Has KCR erred in his selection?

BY nominating former PM's daughter Vani Devi as the MLC candidate, the TRS wants to encash the good image of P. V. Narasimha Rao, as son of Telangana, to win in the MLC elections after its successive losses in Dubbak and greater Hyderabad polls , notwithstanding the fact that PV always advocated united Andhra Pradesh (TRS fields Surabhi Vani for MBNR-RR- Hyd, February 22). One wonders why KCR is still banking on "region" sentiment , when the state under his governance is heading towards "bangaru Telangana" as claimed by him repeatedly?.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao, Hyderabad

Victim of defection

THE Congress party has lost its only ruling state in South India, Puducherry with resignation of the chief minister, Narayanasami after losing Congress led government the confidence vote there. Though the losing of power for the grand old party in that tiny UT is mainly due to relentless efforts of its rival BJP, the helplessness of its high command to come to rescue in time is also quite evident. If six legislators from ruling dispensation have resigned or switched loyalties in a row leaving the party in minority, it shows how the brazen defections have become order of the day in our democratic country. The sad part is that however small state it is, it has to toe the line of the political face off between rival National parties, leaving the local development to the winds. The lieutenant governor there had left no stone unturned for four years to intervene in daily administration of the people's elected government. While the next elections are around the corner in

Puducherry, the BJP has cleared its way in getting rid of Congress government. The grand old party has its task cut for getting people's sympathy and votes as well.

D V G Sankararao, Nellimarla

International Mother Language Day

INTERNATIONAL Mother language day looks like an Ioxymoron to me. Mother tongue is specific to a particular region and how can it be international? Yes, Mother tongue is vital and unfortunately its losing its place in the very Motherland. Nothing will come out of meetings and seminars until parents take interest and inculcate the habit of speaking in mother tongue at home. On the contrary, parents are taking all the delight when their kids speak English. In a way, English itself is becoming their mother tongue right from infancy. Our politicians speak volumes about the importance of mother tongue but send off their children only to English medium schools. It only shows our hypocrisy and over dramatization. In the olden days, the foreign trips were rare. So the politicians and social activists used to have International mother language celebrations in foreign lands and grab the opportunity to have a visit. Those days are gone and hence we see the importance of such things waning now.

Vinay Bhushan B, Hyderabad

II

EVEN today, some English medium schools insist their students to speak in English, and English only. Some schools go to the extent of punishing the students if they talk in their mother tongue. (Editorial Feb. 22) This trend should change. Nobody can undermine the importance of mother tongue in improving power of expression, creative ability, enhancing family bondage and even upgrading cultural ethos of the society. The parents and teachers should insist on the students to talk in the mother tongue. Gov-

ernment on its part, encourage schools promoting mother tongue. Experts in linguistic studies say, if we have command on our mother tongue, we can learn and improve any other language very easily, including English.

G V N Murthy, Hyderabad

III

YOUR editorial ' Ignoring mother tongue equals degrading culture' (THI, February 22) is valuably composed. The revered word mother tongue is prudently chosen as mother teaches first to new-born baby. With regard to Telugu, emphatic orations are delivered in Mahasabhalu for saving the dying language and conveniently ignored later. Mummy daddy culture must exit from our midst first. The value of mother tongue cannot be substituted by any other language.

N Ramalakshmi, Secunderabad

Welcome 'Metro Man'!

THE joining of the legend ' the metro man of India ' E Sreedharan in the BJP is definitely a shot in the arm for the party, giving it an extra energy .Especially when the party is looking forward to create some ripples in the forthcoming elections in Kerala using all tactics and strategies the entry of a person well admired by all for his exemplary character and meritorious service to the common man can create wonders in the political scenario of Kerala.

The metro man's opinion that he's not interested in governorship as such a post would not help to contribute to the state and it's citizens only goes to show that he's not one who wishes to just adorn such a 'constitutional' position with no powers at all but one who would like to be amidst the masses and lend a helping hand to the common man. A genius like him is an asset to a party and with his help the organisation can definitely do great service for the betterment of the citizens and the society .

M Pradyu, Kannur

IIT-H predicts lifetime of SARS-COV-2 droplets

The study conducted by IITH faculty shows the importance of properly sanitising contact-prone surfaces

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD

AN interdisciplinary research group of faculty at Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, has predicted the lifetime of SARS-CoV-2 droplets on surfaces in different environmental conditions, such as ambient temperature, relative humidity, and volume and composition of droplets. Respiratory infections such as the SARS-CoV-2 virus spread primarily by respiratory droplets (size > 10µm) of saliva or discharge from the nose of an infected person during coughing/sneezing. Fluid dynamics plays an important role in the study of the life of these droplets migrating in the air or deposited on surfaces.

It was noticed that the spread of virus is minimal after drying of droplets containing virus. The study focussed on various factors affecting the drying time of saliva droplets whereas earlier studies were based on water droplets.

Saliva droplets consist of salt, protein (mucin), and surfactant (dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine) in addition to water. These ingredients delay the evaporation of respiratory droplets significantly as compared to pure water droplets.

Increase in humidity will make



Dr. Saravanan Balusamy



Dr. Sayak Banerjee



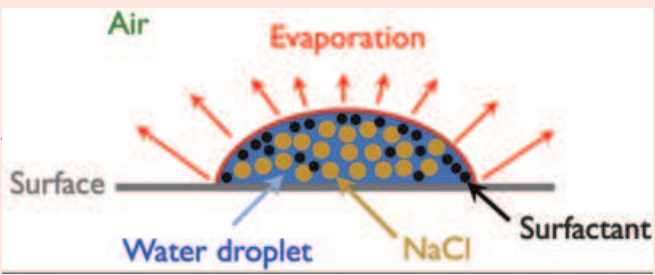
Prof. Kirti Chandra Sahu

The longest drying times are observed with the combination of low ambient temperature and high relative humidity, while the drying time progressively reduces as the humidity falls and the temperature rises. Researchers also found that for a fixed initial volume of the droplet, increasing the initial contact angle increases the drying time

- The study focussed on various factors affecting drying time of saliva droplets, whereas earlier studies were based on water droplets

- Under the same environmental conditions, the drying time for droplets on a smartphone screen is three times longer than that on a normal glass surface

- Fluid dynamics plays an important role in the study of the life of these droplets migrating in the air or deposited on surfaces



- Respiratory infections such as the SARS-CoV-2 virus spread primarily by respiratory droplets (size > 10µm) of saliva or discharge from the nose of an infected person during coughing/sneezing

the droplet to take longer than an hour compared to a droplet under a lower humid environment that will dry-up in minutes. Lower ambient temperature also increases the drying time of the droplet.

The angle made by a droplet on the surface (which is known

as “contact angle”) plays important role in the drying time of the droplet and hence highly hydrophilic surfaces may be less susceptible to prolonged contamination.

Saliva droplets consist of salt, protein (mucin), and surfactant

(dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine) in addition to water as reported in the earlier study published in the Journal of Royal Society Interface.

By conducting a theoretical and numerical study, Dr Saravanan Balusamy and Dr Sayak Banerjee from the Department of

Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering and Prof Kirti Chandra Sahu from the Department of Chemical Engineering of IIT-H showed that these ingredients delay the evaporation of respiratory droplets significantly as compared to pure water droplets. The work appeared in the International Communications in Heat and Mass Transfer, a leading journal in this field.

Dr Saravanan Balusamy said, “A simple classical theoretical model developed in this study that takes into account the dynamic contact angle and the insoluble surfactants is capable of accurately predicting the evaporation time under different conditions.”

“The time taken by saliva droplets to dry up also depends on the nature of the surface material on which it falls as it dictates how far the droplet spreads out”, said Dr. Sayak Banerjee.

Prof Kirti Chandra Sahu, said, “While the lifetime of a small saliva droplet of size 1 nanolitre is less than a 1 minute, a normal size saliva droplet of 10 nanolitres takes more than 15 minutes to evaporate at room temperature and relative humidity of 50 per cent. For high relative humidity, say of greater than 90 per cent, the droplet stays live on the surface for significantly longer, about an hour. Of course, viruses

could still be alive in dried droplets, which requires further research involving biologists.”

The longest drying times are observed with the combination of low ambient temperature and high relative humidity, while the drying time progressively reduces as the humidity falls and the temperature rises. Researchers also found that for a fixed initial volume of the droplet, increasing the initial contact angle increases the drying time. This follows physical intuition, as a droplet with a smaller contact angle has a greater wetting radius and surface area for the same volume resulting in a larger interface area over which the diffusion-driven evaporation can occur. Thus, highly hydrophilic surfaces may be less susceptible to prolonged contamination in comparison to less hydrophilic surfaces, which is somewhat a counter-intuitive result.

The study conducted by IITH faculty shows the importance of properly sanitising the contact prone surfaces in different seasons and air-conditioned indoor areas and suggest to follow World Health Origination (WHO) guidelines, such as wearing face masks and maintaining social distance as the preventive measures for air transmission of COVID-19.

KTR sets Feb-end deadline for party membership drive

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD

THE ruling TRS working President KT Rama Rao has set February end as the deadline for the completion of party membership drive launched recently in the Telangana State. The party’s second-in-command conducted a teleconference with party in-charges and leaders of the districts and reviewed progress in the membership drive. He instructed the leaders to conduct digitisation of the members being enrolled simultaneously.

“Focus more on increasing our membership by attracting the local people by addressing their issues. We should succeed in our efforts to reach our target by February end,” KTR told the TRS party incharges. The party in-charges informed that at some places the given target was already surpassed.

The TRS is planning to increase the membership from existing 60 lakh to 80 lakh plus this year. He noted that the drive of membership was getting a good response. The meeting assumed political significance as the election to two MLC seats under graduates quota are fast approaching.

Cyber Warriors at each PS to curb cybercrimes

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD

IN a first of its kind the Telangana state police has initiated a new mission wherein the police department will deploy cyber-warriors in every police station of the state to curb the rising number of cybercrime cases.

The Director General of Police (DGP) of TS Police, M Mahender Reddy, on Monday launched the new initiative under which two to five police personnel from each police station will be provided training to act as cyber warriors to prevent and investigate cybercrimes, as well as create public awareness about the cybercrimes.

The DGP launched the week-long training programme for 1988 officials selected as cyber warriors. Speaking at the event, the DGP said that, there will be two cyber warriors in each police station in rural areas

whereas in semi-urban area police stations there will be three cyberwarriors. However, in each of the police stations under police commissionerates or cities, five cops will be trained as cyberwarriors.

He noted, “As human life is increasingly becoming digital, cybercrimes are also on the rise. It is a first of its kind initiative undertaken anywhere in the country with an intention to prevent the menace of cybercrime. Since 4G mobile services have been extended to even remote villages, cybercrimes can be committed from any part of the world.”

“We are hopeful that the cyber warriors will play a key role in preventing cybercrimes and so they will work to ensure that effective investigations in such crimes are carried out. So far, 17 functional verticals were already in day to day functioning of all police stations and Cybercrimes will now become the

18th functional vertical to assess the performance of the police force,” stated the officer.

Mahender Reddy further added, “Since cybercrimes are very different in nature from the conventional crimes, special training will be provided to cyber warriors not only to prevent cybercrimes but also to create awareness among people and investigate such crimes. Every crime which takes place will have some cyber-related component, and if cyber warriors help the police officers investigating conventional crimes, the investigations can be completed expeditiously.” Apart from it, the cyber criminals are using modern techniques with every passing day and it is clearly instructed to the state police that they should also keep themselves abreast with the latest technological developments to tackle cybercrimes, stated the officer.

Naidu sees poll outcome as ‘people’s revolt’ against govt

HANS NEWS SERVICE

MANGALAGIRI

TDP national president N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday termed the results of just-concluded panchayat polls as “people’s victory” and thanked the contesting candidates who stood up and fought against the ruling YSRCP atrocities and poll violations with courage and confidence. He warned Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and his party MLAs that their midnight murder of democracy perpetrated in the panchayat polls would not recur in the forthcoming municipal elections. The urban voters, young people, traders and educated sections were all well-prepared to oppose the YSRCP for its J-tax collections, increased municipal taxes and unabashed sale of unhealthy J-liquor brands.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, the TDP chief asserted that the TDP-supported candi-



TDP national president and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and party State president Kinjarapu Atchannaidu addressing a press conference at party office in Mangalagiri on Monday

dates won 41.7 per cent vote share in the 4th phase polls despite the multifarious threats and election violations by the YSRCP leaders.

Strongly opposing the unanimous results, Naidu said that Minister Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy would not be able to win 85 panchayats unanimously without police support. Only through false cases, terror and threats that the YSRCP

won 90 seats unanimously in Pulivendula, 71 in Srikalahasti, 30 in Thamballapalle, 74 in Macherla and other segments, he said.

Naidu asked the Election Commission why it could not take any action against the police officer who threatened to encounter a TDP leader if he did not stop demanding justice in Kuppam.

He asked why the SEC was

- Says unfair polls led to 10% vote loss to TDP,
- Claims his party candidates won 41.7% vote share in 4th phase
- Warns midnight ‘murder of democracy’ won’t happen in municipal polls

not able to take action against the officials who disconnected power at the counting centres.

Naidu said that their party would see to what extent the Vizag ‘fake swamiji’ would be able to use the black magic to kill the TDP leaders. It was unfortunate that the Chief Minister was making frequent visits to such a false godman. Since the Chief Minister was visiting him, the DGP and the IPS officers were also surrendering to the fake swami. The situation was so pitiable that the suspended executive officer of the Durga temple immediately went and met the fake swami for his blessings.

SEC happy over GP polls success



State Election Commissioner N Ramesh Kumar addressing the media on panchayat elections in Vijayawada on Monday. Addl DGP N Sanjeev and SEC Secretary K Kannababu are seen.

- Appreciates role of police personnel and medical and health staff, apart from other departments, in ensuring free and fair polling following Covid protocol
- Opines that elections, in which half of elected leaders are women and weaker sections, will pave the way for good leadership
- Directs municipal officials to make arrangements for municipal polls slated for March 10

HANS NEWS SERVICE

AMARAVATI

STATE Election Commissioner N Ramesh Kumar expressed happiness over completion of panchayat elections without any violence. He said that the voter turn out was good as the officials made arrangements for free and fair polls.

Speaking to media persons here on Monday, Ramesh Ku-

mar said the elections were held for 13,097 panchayats while 2,197 sarpanches were elected unanimously accounting for 16.7 per cent of total number of panchayats. The elections were conducted for 1,31,023 ward members while 47,459 ward members were declared elected unanimously, accounting for 34.37 per cent.

The SEC said that 50 per cent of elected leaders in the panchayat elections are women and from weaker sections. The SEC feels that the elections paved way for good leadership. More than 80 per cent voters exercised their franchise.

He commended the role of officials in successful conduct of elections. Police personnel postponed their corona vaccination schedule and came forward to discharge their duties during the panchayat elections, he said and praised the efforts of medical and health staff in making arrangements at the polling stations to prevent spread of Covid.

Ramsh Kumar said the SEC was ready to conduct the MPTC and ZPTC elections after completion of legal hurdles.

Main rivals make conflicting claims on results

While ruling YSRCP says its supporters won 2,513 panchayats as against only 488 by TDP, the Oppn party claims that candidates backed by it bagged 1,105 panchayats as against 1,460 by YSRCP

AMARAVATI

WITH the completion of the fourth phase of panchayat polls, political parties have resumed doling out their own victory statistics about the candidates aligned to them.

Out of the 3,299 panchayats notified, the ruling YSRCP said polls held in 2,743 panchayats and claimed that 2,513 panchayats were won by the candidates aligned to the party.

According to YSRCP count, principal opposition, TDP-backed candidates were restricted to only 488 panchayat victories.

The ruling party leaders also

claimed that the YSRCP supporters managed to win 534 of the 554 unanimous panchayats in the fourth phase and asserted that the TDP won only nine panchayats.

Meanwhile, TDP claimed that it won 1,105 panchayats in the fourth phase while the ruling party won only 1,460.

“It has been proved that only TDP-supported candidates have been honoured by the people in the elections. This is an example to show that people are loathing Jagan Reddy’s reign,” said a TDP leader.

As per TDP’s calculations, BJP and its local ally Jana Sena won 42 panchayats while independents.

Later, in a video conference conducted with district collectors and municipal commissioners, the SEC said arrangements should be made at polling stations to conduct free and fair elections for municipal bodies. He said CC cameras and web-casting arrangements should be made at the polling stations and asked the medical and health officials to make arrangements at the polling stations following Covid guidelines.

Chief secretary Aditya Nath Das, director general of police Gautam Sawang and municipal officials participated in the video conference.

Meanwhile, State Election Ramesh Kumar met Governor Biswa Busan Harichandan and apprised him of the success of panchayat elections.

The SEC said to have informed the Governor that the panchayat elections were held peacefully without any untoward incidents.

It is said that the SEC also briefed the Governor about the preparations for municipal elections.

It may be noted that the Governor convened series of meetings with officials and SEC earlier for smooth conduct of polls.

FOCUS ON SET GOALS, CM TELLS OFFICIALS

- During a review on Planning Dept, Jagan directs codification of data, including e-cropping, by digital assistants to check whether targets are met
- Tells officials to coordinate with UN and its wings to 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- Seeks action plan to honour village and ward volunteers with awards and incentives on the eve of Ugadi

AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the planning department officials to focus on targetted goals. During the review at the camp office here on Monday, the Chief Minister said digital assistants at the village and ward secretariats should be given the responsibility of codification of data and this work should be supervised by a mandal level employee.

He said the data regarding



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy holding a review with Planning Dept officials at his camp office on Monday

the functioning of internet services at government offices like village, ward secretariats, RBKs, etc., in villages should be recorded on regular basis for effective functioning.

The officials said the programmes of state government were to meet the 17 goals set by the United Nations for sustainable development. The Chief Minister directed the officials to take support and partner with UN, along with its affiliated departments and global organisations in order to achieve the goals. He said the state government should work along with organisations such as the World Bank, IMF and UNESCO.

He sought an action plan to

felicitate the volunteers on the eve of Ugadi and added that they be felicitated with awards like Seva Ratna and Seva Mitra and good incentives.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to focus not only on collecting data, but also on taking measures after analysing it. Progress of works should be tracked to ascertain whether they were achieving the desired goals of various programmes and also to identify the mistakes and correct them on regular basis.

Planning department Ex-Officio secretary Vijay Kumar, Connect to Andhra CEO V Koteswaramma, RTGS CEO J Vidyasagar Reddy and other officials were present.

Active cases fall below 600 mark in State

AMARAVATI: The number of active Covid-19 cases fell below 600 to 590 in Andhra Pradesh as 41 fresh positives were reported, along with 71 recoveries on Monday.

For the third consecutive day, no coronavirus

death was reported in the state, a health department bulletin said.

The cumulative positives touched 8,89,339 after 1.37 crore tests, at the rate of 6.47 per cent.

The total recoveries climbed to 8,81,582 while the toll remained at 7,167, the bulletin said.

In 24 hours ending 9 am on Monday, Chittoor district reported 10 new cases, East Godavari 7, Nellore 6, Srikakulam and West Godavari 4 each.

Blatant lie of World Health Organisation certification

IMA demands Modi govt's explanation on Ramdev's Coronil

NEW DELHI

THE Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Monday expressed shock over the "blatant lie of WHO certification" for Patanjali's Coronil tablet, which the company claims is an evidence-based medicine to fight COVID-19, and demanded an explanation from Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan in whose presence the medicine was launched.

This comes in the wake of global health body, WHO, clarifying that it has not reviewed or certified the effectiveness of any traditional medicine for the treatment of COVID-19.

Yoga guru Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved had

on February 19 said that the Coronil tablet had received certification from the Ayush Ministry as a medicine supporting COVID-19 treatment as per the World Health Organisation's certification scheme.

However, Patanjali's managing director Acharya Balkrishna later made a clarification about the certification through a tweet saying, "we want to clarify to avoid confusion that our WHO GMP compliant COPP certificate to Coronil is issued by DCGI, Government of India. It is clear that WHO do not approve or



disapprove any drugs. WHO works for building a better, healthier future for people all over the world (sic)." In a statement issued on Monday, the IMA said, being Health Minister of the country, how justified is it to release such falsely fabricated unscientific product to people of the whole country...can you clarify the time frame, time line for the so-called clinical trial of this said anti-corona product?"

"The country needs an explanation from the minister. The Indian Medical Association will also write

to National Medical Commission for seeking suo moto explanation for his blatant disrespect to the code of conduct of Medical Council of India, the IMA said.

"Indian Medical Association is shocked to note the blatant lie of WHO certification....," it said. Haridwar-based Patanjali Ayurved had also released what it claimed was research work supporting Coronil's efficacy in COVID-19 treatment.

The announcement regarding the Ayush certification for Coronil and release of a research paper calling it the "first evidence-based medicine for COVID-19 by Patanjali" was done at an event here attended by Vardhan.

1-day police custody for Disha

Toolkit case: She will be confronted with co-accused Nikita and Shantanu

'Google document tweeted by Greta was created by Disha and two others'

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday sent climate activist Disha Ravi to one-day police custody in connection with the 'Toolkit' case, during which she will be confronted with co-accused Nikita Jacob and Shantanu Muluk.

Ravi faces charges of conspiracy and sedition in the 'Toolkit' conspiracy case related to the farmers' agitation and was arrested from Bengaluru on February 13.

After her arrest, Ravi was first sent to five days' police custody, followed by three days of judicial custody.

The climate activist was produced before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pankaj Sharma of the Patiala House Court at the end of her three-day judicial custody, amid high security.

The police sought five days' remand of Ravi to confront her with co-accused Jacob and Muluk. "She has shifted the burden to other accused. I have to confront her with them," the prosecutor told the court.

Jacob and Muluk joined the investigation at Delhi Police's Cyber Cell office in Dwarka, earlier on Monday. They were issued a notice to join the probe last week.

Advocate Siddharth Agarwal, repre-



21-year-old activist Disha Ravi leaves after being produced at Patiala Court in New Delhi on Monday

sending the accused, told the court that her police custody is not required and that she can be confronted with the duo while being in jail.

"These days, investigation is through virtual conference links also. It is not the law that police custody can be granted on asking. Remand ought to be granted on real necessity," he told the court.

The prosecutor argued that there is no set formula for grant of bail and each case has to be seen on its own merit. "Police custody is not punishment. Fourteen days' custody is our right. This may be advantageous to her. She's shifting blame."

The police further said that it is a transnational and complex case. "Our endeavour is to finish the investigation

as soon as possible," the court was told.

The Delhi Police have contended that the Google document tweeted by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg to back the farmers' protest and then deleted, was created by Ravi and two other activists -- Jacob and Muluk.

The 'toolkit' is a series of guidelines suggesting how a particular aim can be achieved. Toolkits chart out plans of action explaining topics at hand and offer suggestions that could be followed to achieve particular goals.

Notably, the order on Ravi's bail application will be pronounced on Tuesday. During the three-hour-long bail hearing on February 20, the police said that the 'Toolkit' was a sinister design to defame India and cause violence.

"Poetic Justice Foundation and Sikhs For Justice in order to hide their involvement, used Disha Ravi as a front to carry out nefarious activity," ASG S.V. Raju told the court, adding that these organisations are connected to the Khalistan movement.

The Delhi Police further told the city court that Ravi covered her tracks and deleted evidence like contents of the Toolkit and a WhatsApp group, which the public prosecutor emphasised shows her "guilty mind".

Prime accused in 1999 gang-rape case nabbed

The case led to the resignation of then Odisha CM JB Patnaik

BHUBANESWAR

THE prime accused in the sensational gang-rape case involving the estranged wife of an IFS officer that led to the resignation of then Odisha chief minister JB Patnaik in 1999 was nabbed from Maharashtra, police said on Monday.

Bibekananda Biswal alias Biban was held from Aamby Valley in Lonavala in Maharashtra, announced Bhubaneswar-Cuttack's Commissioner of Police S Sarangi. Biban, the prime accused in the case, was working there as a plumber under the fake identity of Jalandhar Swain, he said.

'Operation Silent Viper' was launched three months back to nab the accused, following which the detention could be made, the officer added. The incident had created a state-wide outrage, leading to the resignation of the then chief minister. Three persons were accused in the case -- while two persons were arrested and convicted, Biban remained elusive for more than two

decades, officials said. Pradip Sahu alias Padia, a convict in the case, had died while undergoing treatment at Capital Hospital here in February last year.

Padia was the first to be arrested in the case after the survivor identified him on January 15, 1999. In 2002, the Khurda District Sessions judge convicted him and Tuna Mohanty, sentencing them to life imprisonment.

The High Court in 2010 had upheld the verdict. The three persons had waylaid the woman and raped her for hours at a place near Baranga, about 15 km from Bhubaneswar, on the intervening night of January 9-10 in 1999. The woman was on her way to Cuttack along with a journalist-friend in a car. The CBI, which was entrusted by the Orissa High Court to investigate the case, has maintained that the trio had raped her. The police will now handover Biban to CBI who will officially arrest him, sources said. The woman demanded capital punishment for the prime accused in the case.



Modi a migratory bird: Oppn

GUWAHATI

THE Congress-led Grand Alliance in Assam on Monday called Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "migratory bird" who visits the State often but does not solve any problem. The comment was made after Modi paid his third visit in a month to the poll-bound state and dedicated to the nation a number of projects in different parts of the state.

The Congress, which had posed six questions to the PM before his arrival, placed them again at a joint press conference with five alliance partners after he left. The questions asked were related to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, generation of employment in the State, granting of ST status to six communities, rise in the prices of essential commodities, minimum wage to tea garden workers and the exorbitant rise in fuel price. Assam Pradesh Congress Committee president Ripun Bora said "We asked six questions to Modi and hoped that he will answer at least one of them. Unfortunately he did not do that. He is just a migratory bird and nothing else. Let him come, visit and then go back". Continuing his attack, Bora, also Rajya Sabha MP, said "Modi said he will continue to come to Assam till the model code of conduct for the Assembly election is enforced. Why did he not come when the state was suffering from flood?"



Maryada Purushottam Sriram airport in Ayodhya

LUCKNOW

THE under construction airport in Ayodhya will be named Maryada Purushottam Sriram Airport, Ayodhya after Lord Ram and a provision of Rs 101 crore has been made for it in the budget presented in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Monday. Besides the provision for the Ayodhya airport which will subsequently be made an international airport, the budget also provides for Rs 2,000 crore for increasing the number of airstrips at Jewar Airport from 2 to 6. Cities like Aligarh, Moradabad, Meerut will also be linked through air service soon, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath told reporters after the presentation of the budget by Finance Minister Suresh Khanna. Under the Special Area Programme, a budget of Rs 300 crore is proposed for special schemes of Purvanchal and a budget of Rs 210 crore has been proposed for special schemes of Bundelkhand region. -

Finance Minister Suresh Khanna said in his budget speech that a budget of Rs 300 crore has been made for the construction of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple and the access road to Ayodhya Dham. Besides, a provision of Rs 100 crore has been proposed for the development and beautification of tourism facilities in Ayodhya.

A provision of Rs 100 crore is also proposed for the development and beautification of tourism facilities in Varanasi. A provision of Rs 200 crore has been proposed for the Chief Minister's Tourism Development Scheme. A provision of Rs 20 crore has been proposed for various schemes of tourism development in Chitrakoot. Apart from this, there is a provision of Rs 30 crore for site development in Vindhyachal and Naimisharanya.

Rohingya vessel in Indian waters, UNHCR calls for immediate rescue

**SUBIR BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI**

A boat carrying 90 Rohingya refugees and three Bangladesh crewmen drifted into India's territorial waters on Monday, with calls for immediate rescue mounting from UN agencies and humanitarian groups.

The boat has a satphone and the crew confirmed to humanitarian group 'Arakan Project' the presence of 65 Rohingya women and girls, five children below the age of 2 and 20 men.

"Since the boat's engines stopped functioning six days ago, it has been drifting towards India's Andaman islands from its course.

"The Rohingyas boarded the boat south of the Bangladesh seaside town of Cox's Bazar on 11th February and was headed towards Southeast Asia when its engines broke down," Chris Lewa, director of the Thailand-based "Arakan Project" told this writer.

Lewa, who has long association with the Rohingyas through her humanitarian project to provide relief of the hapless refugees often stranded in hostile host countries or at sea, said eight of these 90 refugees have already died.

"They have no drinking water or food left, so they are drinking sea water in desperation. That is why some of them are collapsing. 'Only the Indian navy or coast guards in Andamans can save them," said Chris Lewa, adding her organisation have informed the UNHCR and the Western embassies in Dhaka about the "huge humanitarian crisis" over the boat people.

IIT researchers turn Odisha steel plant dumpsites into greenbelt

NEW DELHI

RESEARCHERS at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur have transformed Odisha's steel plants' dumpsites into greenbelts using traditional Indian organic components and Japanese afforestation techniques.

According to the team, a drive through the Dhenkanal region of Odisha will give one the chance to witness the vast stretches of green canopy and vegetation developed by them on what was once industrial dumpsites. The transformation to a greenbelt is not a natural reclamation but the "Midass touch" of the Post Mining Mine Site Restoration group of the Department of Mining Engineering of IIT Kharagpur through a project supported by Tata Steel BSL, according to the team that worked on the project. The researchers afforested over 32,000 square feet in the region following a rapid forest regeneration technique by using a unique mix of the traditional resource of Panchagavya with the Miyawaki plantation technique of ecologist Akira Miyawaki from Japan.

The dumping of blast furnace slag by steel plants has been a perennial challenge in India and even in some of the developed countries in the world, said IIT Kharagpur professor Khanindra Pathak. "These steel slag dumps contribute to the generation of airborne particles causing air pollution and also to groundwater and



surface-water contamination through different pathways. The slag-covered land is unsuitable for vegetation growth and associated problems lead to the ruination of vegetation and health hazards for both humans and animals," he said. "Researchers at IIT Kharagpur have devised a bioremediation method to reduce the concen-

tration of these polluting slags to an innocuous state.

They have turned this slag suitable for plant growth by mixing it with topsoil, cow dung and other organic enhancers. Plants carefully chosen for the Miyawaki technique and 22 native species were grown on the mix with a 30-cm layer of topsoil over it after administering them with Panchagavya," he added. According to the team, periodic administration of Panchagavya checked the problem of nutrient scarcity while mulching helped retention of water and nutrients. "In a span of one year, we witnessed the growth of a self-sustaining mini-forest, dominated by plants belonging to the Fabaceae and Sesbania grandiflora family.

The plants with long root systems could utilize the steel slag with their roots penetrating up to a depth of 2 m from the ground surface, thus reducing the effects of groundwater contamination and surface runoff of water in the monsoons," said Pathak. The process turned an unsupportive steel slag dump to a self-sustaining primary succession over it. "Vetiver grass was used as a boundary for the plantation to check migration of nutrients. This grass, if grown over the slopes of the slag dumps, will further check the fugitive emissions and thereby reducing air pollution and erosion of slag onto adjacent habitations," he added. Pathak said that the process can be replicated for municipal waste dumps as well.

Mere gathering of crowd does not lead to revocation of legislations: Tomar

When crowds gather, governments get changed, says Tikait

NEW DELHI

FARMER leader Rakesh Tikait on Monday took a dig at Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar's remark that mere gathering of crowd does not lead to revocation of laws, saying when people gather governments get changed. The Bharatiya Kisan Union leader, who has held a series of 'kisan mahapanchayats' in Haryana this month, also warned that the government could find it difficult to stay in power if the new agri-marketing laws are not repealed.

The farmers' stir against the laws will continue till the time the Centre accepts their demands of repeal-

ing the legislations, Tikait said while addressing a farmers' 'mahapanchayat' at Kharkhoda in the state's Sonapat district.

On Sunday, Union Agriculture Minister Tomar had in Gwalior said the Centre was ready to talk to the farmers protesting against the new laws, and that mere gathering of crowd does not lead to revocation of legislations. He had urged the agitating farm unions to tell the government which provisions in these new laws they find anti-farmer.

Hitting back at Tomar for his remark, Tikait said, "The minister says that mere gathering of crowd does not lead to revocation of legislations."

"They have lost their mind. When crowds gather governments get changed," he told the farmers' gathering. Farmers, mostly from Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, have been protesting at Delhi's borders since November 28 last year demanding rollback of the laws. "They (the government) should know if farmers can destroy their own produce, then you are nothing before them," Tikait said.

"There are many questions, it is not only the farm laws, but the electricity (amendment) bill, the seed bill, what kind of laws do they want to bring?" he asked and slammed the government for rise in prices of diesel and petrol.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi takes out a tractor rally from Muttil to Kalpetta in Wayanad district on Monday

TODAY'S QUOTE

Public role in developmental projects

“The days of government directly carrying out all developmental projects are over with increasing public participation in the new age. Society at large is implementing a lot of developmental activities. The role of cooperative movements in the empowerment of women is invaluable.”


– V Muraleedharan, Union Minister



ACQUISITION

CCI nod for stake purchase in TCL

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Monday said it has approved acquisition of shares of Tata Communications Ltd (TCL) by Panatone Finvest Ltd. The proposed deal envisages acquisition of shareholding not exceeding 26.12 per cent by Panatone Finvest Ltd in Tata Communications Ltd (erstwhile VSNL). Government looks to divest its 26.12 per cent equity stake in TCL.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	76.86	South	
Euro	92.34	African Rand	5.61
UAE Dirham	21.71	Hong Kong Dollar	10.75
Thai Baht	2.77	Japanese Yen	0.79
British Pound	105.74	New Zealand Dollar	55.63
Australian Dollar	59.96	Saudi Riyal	21.26
Canadian Dollar	60.27	Swedish Krona	10.08
Swiss Franc	83.88	Singapore Dollar	57.52

DELHI TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2021

BIZ BRIEFS

Kaveri Seeds gets award

Kaveri Seeds has been honoured with the “Masters of Risk in Agriculture” award, mid-cap category at the 7th CNBC, TV 18 India Risk Management Awards 2020-21. The company focuses on Research & Development, large and varied Germplasm bank, Robust supply chain management which helps reaching out to its 60,000 plus distributors well before the sowing season and infrastructure to enhance longevity of seeds. These factors helped the company in bagging the award. GV Baskar Rao, company's founder, said: “Today, Kaveri Seeds has successfully forged a differentiated identity as an iconic seed company, laying the foundations for a stronger and steadier tomorrow carrying forward its zeal to support and sustain farmer prosperity across the value chain. It gives me great pride that once again, the industry has entrusted its faith in Kaveri by recognizing our efforts.”

Ather Energy opens outlet

Ather Energy, an electric scooter manufacturer, inaugurated its newest retail outlet Ather Space, in Hitech City, Hyderabad in association with Pride Motors. The inauguration of Ather Space was led by a group of enthusiastic Ather customers who wanted to be the first ones to experience Ather Space. The new centre will offer customers an opportunity to learn about every aspect of the vehicle and provide a complete overview of the various parts with a stripped-bare unit on display. Ravneet Phokela, Chief Business Officer, Ather Energy, said: “The year 2020 helped in creating awareness and demand for EVs and 2021 will see the scale of the same. Policies like FAME have been instrumental in bringing in this change and allowing OEMs to introduce high performance electric two wheelers.”

Bharat Forge, Paramount in pact

Global aerospace and technology company Paramount Group and India-based engineering & technology conglomerate Bharat Forge Limited, announced a cooperation that will see them join the technologies, capabilities and expertise of both groups in order to manufacture armoured vehicles in India. An agreement to this effect was signed by both companies during the International Defence Expo (IDEX 2021) held in Abu Dhabi. Amit Kalyani, Deputy Managing Director, Bharat Forge Ltd, said: “We are very pleased to partner with Paramount Group. This collaboration brings together the manufacturing and technology excellence of two leading companies, which have matching synergies and complementary capabilities.”

IndianOil new ED in South

K Sailendra has taken over as the Executive Director (Regional Services), IndianOil Southern Region comprising the States of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala & Lakshadweep. Besides being the Regional in-charge for key areas including human resources, finance, LPG & fuel logistics, contracts, safety & security, aviation and quality control, Sailendra would also function as the Regional Level Coordinator for Oil & Gas industry in the above five States. Prior to this posting, Sailendra was heading the LPG group of IndianOil in Karnataka. A Mechanical Engineer from Osmania University, Hyderabad, Sailendra hails from Hyderabad and is an acknowledged expert in LPG domain having worked across LPG bottling plants and operations.

Monday mayhem on D-St

Sensex, Nifty nosedive 2% each as bears take charge; investors lose ₹3.78 L crore

MUMBAI

SPIRALLING lower for the fifth straight session, the Sensex plummeted 1,145 points while the Nifty crashed below the 14,700-level on Monday as across-the-board selling hammered stocks amid a prolonged spell of weakness in global equities.

A surprisingly firm trend in the rupee was not enough to bolster investor sentiment, which has been hit by rising Covid-19 cases in multiple States and concerns on the valuation front, traders said. Posting its biggest single-day slump in two months, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,145.44 points or 2.25 per cent to close at 49,744.32. The broader NSE Nifty sank 306.05 points or 2.04 per cent to finish at 14,675.70.

Monday's trading session left in-

Posting its biggest single-day slump in two months, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,145.44 points or 2.25 per cent to close at 49,744.32

vestors poorer by Rs 3.78 lakh crore.

The Sensex has now lost 2,409.81 points in five sessions, while the Nifty has shed 639 points. Dr Reddy's was the top loser in the Sensex pack on Monday, declining 4.77 per cent, followed by M&M, Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank and TCS. Only three index components finished in the green - ONGC, HDFC Bank and Kotak Bank, rising up to 1.14 per cent. World shares retreated amid rising bond yields and a rally in select commodities, with investors monitoring the progress of the \$1.9

trillion Covid-19 relief bill in the US.

Rising economic restrictions from spike in virus cases and weak global cues hit the domestic market sentiment. The rate of market fall was aggravated by a sharp rise in volatility, being a monthly F&O expiry week.

“FPI inflows which were leading the rally slowed down due to global vulnerabilities

from rising bond yield and inflation. However, this is a buy on dip market, a short-term correction will trigger new buying, as



DHFL case: Auditor unearths ₹6,182-cr fraud

NEW DELHI

DEWAN Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) on Monday said its transaction auditor, Grant Thornton, has reported another fraudulent transaction of Rs 6,182 crore in the company.

The administrator of the company received an initial report from the professional agency appointed as the transaction auditor indicating that there are certain transactions which are “undervalued, fraudulent and preferential in nature”, DHFL said in a regulatory filing. “As per the transaction auditor report shared with the administrator, the monetary impact of the above transactions covered under the application amounts to Rs 5,381.90 crore towards outstanding principal, Rs 589.36 crore towards accrued interest and Rs 210.85 crore towards notional loss of interest on account of charging lower rate of



interest,” said the filing about the estimated impact on the company. Further, the estimated amount involved in this fraud transaction places the monetary impact at around Rs 6,182.11 crore (which includes Rs 210.85 crore as notional loss of interest), said the company. According to findings of Grant Thornton (GT), these transactions happened over a period of time.

The management of DHFL is currently being run under an ad-

ministrator appointed under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code after frauds were detected in the company. The administrator later on appointed GT as the transaction auditor to conduct investigation of the affairs of the company. Basis the investigation and observations of the Transaction Auditor, the Administrator has filed an application before the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on February 20, 2021 in respect of disbursement made to certain entities as other large project loans, against Kapil Wadhawan, Dheeraj Wadhawan, Creatoz Builders Pvt Ltd, Ikshudip Fincap Pvt Ltd, Rite Developers Pvt Ltd and certain other entities. DHFL said the application to NCLT has been filed against 33 respondents, including Kapil Wadhawan, Dheeraj Wadhawan, Creatoz Builders, Ikshudip Fincap, Rite Developers and certain other entities.

SC notice to Future Retail, others on Amazon plea

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from Future Retail Ltd (FRL) and others on Amazon's plea against the Delhi High Court direction to maintain status quo on the Future-Retailance deal.

The apex court said the proceedings before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) will go on and but will not culminate into any final order on amalgamation of FRL with Reliance. A bench comprising Justices RF Nariman and BR Gavai issued notices to FRL, Chairperson Kishore Biyani and others and sought their replies. The reply should be filed in three weeks and a rejoinder to it after two weeks thereafter, the bench said, adding that the appeal will be listed for hearing after five weeks. The Delhi High Court on February 8 had stayed its single judge direction to



Kishore Biyani

FRL and various statutory authorities to maintain status quo with regard to the Rs 24,713 crore deal with Reliance Retail. The interim direction was passed on FRL's appeal challenging the February 2 order of the single judge. The HC bench

had also declined Amazon's request to keep its order in abeyance for a week so that it can explore appropriate remedies. Amazon had first filed a plea before the single judge for enforcement of the October 25, 2020 Emergency Arbitrator (EA) award by the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) restraining FRL from going ahead with its Rs 24,713 crore deal with Reliance Retail.

In the interim order, the high court had said it was staying the single judge order as firstly, FRL was not a party to the share subscription agreement (SSA) between Amazon and Future Coupons Pvt Ltd (FCPL).

SBI Ecowrap bats for weekly OMO of ₹10k cr

KUMUD DAS MUMBAI

SBI'S research wing, Ecwrap has suggested for announcing a weekly outright OMO calendar of Rs 10,000 crore till March end. Citing the reason behind it, the study says that OMO (open market operations) in illiquid security will help shorters (hedgers) to get relieved of those holding in OMO and unwinding of short position will happen, if the sell-

ing pressure is matched by an equivalent or better buying pressures from the market participants.

During the first half of the current fiscal, bond yields were mostly below 6 per cent on the back of effective yield management by RBI.

However, all this changed after the Budget when the Government upped its borrowing programme for the current fiscal and has announced an aggressive one for FY22. With just over

a month left in FY21, the market is still expecting a consolidated borrowing amount of more than Rs 2.5 lakh crore as per the auction calendar of Centre & States. The average increase in G-sec yields across 3.5 & 10 years is around 31 basis points since the Budget. AAA Corporate bond and SDL spreads have jumped by 25-41 basis points during this period. While this significant increase in bond spreads is a manifestation of the nerv-

ousness of market players, we believe the central bank will have to resort to unconventional tools to control the surge in bond market yields, the report says. This is important as any further upward movement in G-sec yields even by 10 bps from the current levels could usher in MTM losses for banks that could be a minor blip of a rather wise exceptional year in FY21 bond markets with the RBI assiduously supporting debt management

of the Government at lowest possible cost in 16 years, that otherwise could have threatened financial stability. In fact, RBI strategy of devolving on the primary dealers may have its limitations as Standalone PDs account for 15-16 per cent of secondary market share that may not be enough to move the market. This share has remained broadly consistent over long period despite excessive market volatility. “We believe one of reasons for the recent surge in yields might be short selling by market players,” says Soumya Kant Ghosh, group chief economic advisor, SBI.

Food processing opportunities aplenty

There is scope for enterprises based on tomatoes, in view of abundant production of the horticulture crop in the district

ing a huge market for milk and milk based products.

This apart, thanks to the excellent network, milk is also being sent through special trains to far off places like Delhi to meet the demand there.

According to official sources, the daily milk collection is about 23 lakh litres by various dairies while another 17 lakh litres produced by the milk farmers mostly women goes to the domestic market i.e., locals' consumption amply reveal that the district is emerging as a major milk producer in the State. There are more than 50 dairies including the major ones Hatson, Heritage, Schreiber Dynamix, Dodla, Tirumala, Sivasakhti, Parag Milk to begin with. Dairy giant Amul also recently joined dairy club following a tie up with State government to boost the industry benefitting the dairy farmers in Chittoor district, which is heavenly for those depending on the dairy for livelihood.

The agriculture in the district

CHITTOOR PART II



being mostly rain-fed does not depend on the major irrigation facilities like in other Rayalaseema districts including Kurnool and Kadapa. Social activists fighting for a fair deal to dairy farmers say that the dairy industries were paying Rs 25-30 per litre to milk producing farmers against the market price (consumer) of Rs 60. This underlines the dire need for more dairy units and also reviving the Chittoor

coop dairy society for providing competitive price to milk producing farmers; at the same time generating employment for hundreds of farmers. Another high potential activity under food processing is mango based

products including pulp, juice and canning. The district is one of the major mango producers with about 1.20 hectares crop area under mango cultivation. Mostly the



pulp variety mangoes are grown here, which saw about 50 industries being set up, including the Galla Fruits floated by Amara Raja group of companies, Capricorn, Jain Irrigation, Foods and Inns, PLR Foods, Navya Fruit Processing, RMM Foods and Tasa Foods. These industries mostly located in the mandal near Chittoor and some in the Srinii Food Park at Mogili in Bangarupalem mandal.

While tamarind processing still remains untapped for investors,

which offers a huge market. It is still remas a cottage industry in the district. This industry offers jobs to about 10,000 people in Punganur, though it has much scope to grow. This apart, there are six tomato pulp units functioning in the district. There is more scope for enterprises based on tomatoes, in view of the abundant production of the horticulture crop in the district. These units would be beneficial to farmers who often resort to distress sale due to glut. The list of a few major enterprises operating in the Sri City SEZ includes Mondelez (Cadbury chocolates), Kellogg's (Corn flakes), Godavari Udyog, Lavazza, Parle, Farmgate, Tata Smart Food, Vista Processed Food and Charan Pokphand (CPF).

District Industries Centre (DIC) General Manager Pratap Reddy says that construction work on which is under progress many big industries including Britannia, Anila SRK Food Park and Nava Quality Foods.

Tanmay, Tilak again hand Hyderabad 2nd win on trot

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

SURAT

HYDERABAD bagged their second consecutive win in the Vijay Hazare Trophy by beating Chhattisgarh by seven wickets in an Elite Group A game here on Monday. Hyderabad had started their campaign in style with a resounding 113-run victory over Tripura on Saturday.

Opting to bat first at the Pithwala Stadium, Chhattisgarh managed to set a total of 242 runs for the loss of seven wickets in the stipulated 50 overs. Mehdi Hasan and T Ravi Teja were the pick of the bowlers for Hyderabad with figures of 3/32 and 2/60 respectively.

Hyderabad in reply, chased the target in 40.4 overs with a blitzkrieg century from opener Tanmay Agarwal (122 off 116 balls), a half century by his partner Tilak Verma (60 off 78 balls) and a quick-fire 49 off 36 balls by Himalay Agarwal.

In another league game of Group A, hosts Gujarat too recorded their second successive win with an eight-wicket win over Goa. Gujarat had started their campaign with a three-wicket win over Chhattisgarh.

Opting to bat at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium, Goa were bundled out for 159 in 45.4 overs, with Gujarat's slow-left arm spinner Hardik Patel (3/34) doing the bulk of the damage.

Gujarat then chased the target in 27.4 overs with half centuries from Priyank Panchal (57 not out off) and Bhargav Merai (57 off 55 balls).

Goa were struggling at 41/2 after losing opener Aditya Kaushik (4), who was castled by pacer Arzan Nagwaswalla (2/31). The other opener Ishann Gadekar (18) also failed to convert his start and became slow-left arm bowler Hardik's first scalp.

Gujarat kept making inroads and did not allow the opposition batsmen to settle down. One-down Snehal Kauthankar (23; 3x4) too failed to make it big and was trapped in front of the wicket

by Hardik, leaving his side in a spot of bother at 50/3.

They lost half their side for 78 as skipper Amit Verma (15) and Suyash Prabhudessai (3) also fell cheaply. It was a patient 36 by wicket-keeper KD Eknath off 62 balls that took his team over the 120-run mark. But pacer Nagwaswalla got his second wicket after dismissing Eknath as Goa slipped to 123/6 in the 39th over. Darshan Misal, who came at



number seven, top scored with 44, with four boundaries and that at least helped them go past the 150-run mark, but was devoid of partners as Gujarat bowlers ran through Goa's lower order.

For Gujarat, all the bowlers played their parts to perfection. Pacer Chintan Gaja (2/31) and spinner Piyush Chawla (2/32) also grabbed two wickets each. Gujarat began the chase on a strong note, with openers Dhruv Raval (37 off 26 balls) and Panchal adding 53 for the first wicket. Then Panchal and Bhargav Merai were involved in a 92-run stand for the second wicket and took the game away from Goa.

In another league game, Baroda rode on skipper Krunal Pandya's unbeaten 127 to beat Tripura by six wickets.

BRIEF SCORES

Group A

Goa 159 (Darshan Misal 44; KD Eknath 36; Hardik Patel 3/34,



Mohammed Khan 3/24, Stephen 3/46) lost to Andhra 181 for 3 in 29.1 overs (Ashwin Hebbur 101 not out, Ricky Bhui 52 not out) by seven wickets. Andhra: 4 points, TN: 0.

Jharkhand 217 for 9 in 50 overs (Utkarsh Singh 51, Shahbaz Nadeem 45 not out, Siddharth Kaul 3/44) beat Punjab 215 all out in 45.5 overs (Mandeep Singh 68, Abhishek Sharma 56, Gurkeerat Mann 37, Rahul Shukla 2/34, Shahbaz Nadeem 2/36) by two runs. Jharkhand: 2 points, Punjab: 0.

Madhya Pradesh 243 for 9 in 50 overs (Parth Sahani 68 not out, Aditya Shrivastava 52, Aditya Sarvate 3/39) lost to Vidarbha 246 for 6 in 48.5 overs (Ganesh Satish 47, Faiz Fazal 43, Aditya Sarvate 39 not out) by four wickets. Vidarbha: 4 points, MP: 0.

Group C

At Just Cricket Academy: Karnataka 354/3; 50 overs (Ravikumar Samarth 158 not out, Devdutt Padikkal 97, Krishnamurthy Siddharth 76) beat Bihar 87; 27.2 overs (Sakibul Gaini 37; Prasidh Krishna 4/17) by 267 runs. At M Chinnaswamy Stadium: Odisha 230; 49.3 overs (Ankit Yadav 48; T Pradeep 3/54) lost to Railways 231/2; 44.3 overs (Shivam Chaudhary 81 not out, Pratham Singh 63, Arindam Ghosh 39 not out) by eight wickets. At KSCA Ground 2, Alur: Uttar Pradesh 283; 49.4 overs (Akashdeep Nath 68, Priyam Garg 57, Abhishek Goswami 54; Sreesanth 5/65) lost to Kerala 284/7; 48.4 overs (Robin Uthappa 81, Sachin Baby 76) by three wickets.

At CK Pithawala Ground: Chhattisgarh 242/7 (Harpreet Singh Bhatia 63, Ashutosh Singh 51; Mehdi Hasan 3/32, T Ravi Teja 2/60) lost to Hyderabad 243/3 (Tanmay Agarwal 122, Tilak Verma 60; Jiwanjyot Singh 1-2, Ashutosh Singh 1/31) by seven wickets.

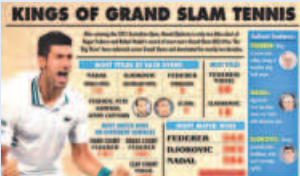
Group B

Tamil Nadu 176 all out in 41.3 overs (B Aparajith 40, R Sonu Yadav 37, R Sai Kishore 29, Shoaib

As long as they go, I'll go: Djokovic on Federer, Nadal

MELBOURNE: World No.1 Novak Djokovic has set his eyes on eclipsing the 20 Grand Slam titles tally held by Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer and also the overall singles records held by Serena Williams and Margaret Court.

While Nadal and Federer holds the record for most Grand Slam titles in men's singles, Margaret holds the record for most titles in women's singles with 24 and Serena trails the Australia legend by one Slam win. "Roger and Rafa inspire me. That's something that I've said before. I'll say it again. I mean, I think as long as they go, I'll go," Djokovic said after beating



Russia's Daniil Medvedev to win a record-extending ninth Australian Open title on Sunday.

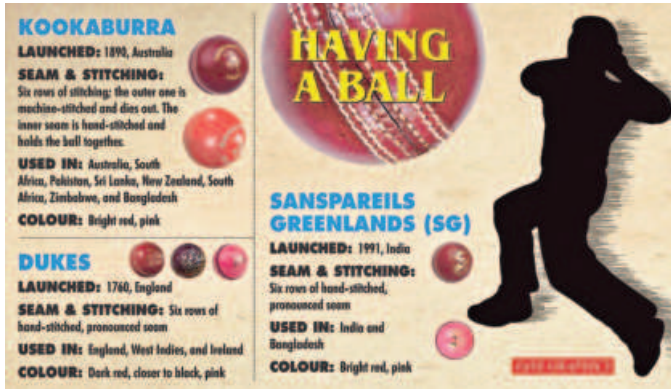
"In a way, it's like a race (of) who plays tennis more, I guess, and who wins more. It's a competition between us in all areas. But I think that's the very reason why we are who we are, because we do drive each other, we motivate each other, we push each other to the limit," he said.

AHMEDABAD

WITH Ahmedabad's Motera stadium set to host India's second day-night Test, against England, here from Wednesday, all eyes will be on Sanspareils Greenlands (SG) pink ball that will be used in Test cricket for only the second time. This will also be India's third Test match with the pink ball, having played one in India with SG ball and another in Australia in December last year with the Kookaburra ball.

The previous and the only Test played in India with pink ball was played in November, 2019, between India and Bangladesh with the match lasting just over two days which was too small a sample size to determine the behaviour of SG ball.

Of the three manufacturers using Test cricket balls -- Dukes, made in England, is the third brand -- India alone uses SG ball, though Bangladesh has used it sometimes. The most popular brand of balls across the world remains Kookaburra, which is used in seven countries -- Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,



New Zealand, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Bangladesh.

Since the outer seam of Kookaburra is machine stitched, it dies down making it difficult for spinners to grip the ball.

Unlike Kookaburra, the outer seam of the SG ball, like its inner seam, is hand-stitched and is pronounced that allows the spinners to grip the ball easily. Its seam lasts long. The Dukes ball is also pretty similar to SG as its seam is pronounced as well. It is, however, used only in England, West Indies, and Ireland.

There is however, difference in

colour of the balls. The Dukes is dark red, sometimes close to black. It moves a lot more.

India skipper Kohli has, in the past, called for Dukes to be used for Test matches in India as he felt that it lasts longer. Interestingly, an Indian businessman, Dilip Jadodia, owns the British Cricket Balls Limited, the company that manufactures Dukes. He bought the company in 1987. However, the durability of the cricket ball also depends on the surface.

India's abrasive surfaces, with there being no grass at all, are generally harsh on cricket balls.

Adriatic Pear boxing

India women top tourney with five gold medals

NEW DELHI

ARUNDHATHI Choudhary (69kg) and Naorem Babyrojisana Chanu (51kg) won gold as India's women contingent ended the 30th Adriatic Pearl boxing tournament with five gold, three silver and two bronze medals in addition to three male boxers winning bronze.

India's women's contingent thus finished top of the podium at the tournament and took home the trophy.

Babyrosijana beat Sabina Bobokulova of Uzbekistan while Arundhati beat Ukraine's Marina Stoiko in their respective final bouts on Sunday. Meanwhile, Lucky Rana (64kg) lost to Lia Pukkila of Finland to settle for silver.

Earlier, Vinka (60kg) and T. Sanamacha Chanu (75kg) finished atop the podium in the women's category late on Saturday night. Alfiya Pathan (81kg-plus) had won the first gold on Friday, also in the women's section. In an all-Indian final, Sanamacha prevailed over Raj Sahiba to win gold while Vinka defeated Moldova's Kristina Kriper.

An outstanding performance by the Indian boxing team at the 30th Adriatic Pearl Tournament in Budva, Montenegro, is the first step towards our preparation for next month's World Youth Championships in Poland, said the Indian team coach Bhaskar Bhatt on Monday.

The 19-member Indian boxing team, including 10 women, gave a good account of their prowess, winning as many as 12 medals, 10 of them being clinched by women. The women also won all five gold medals while the two medals the men won were bronze medals. The rest of the silver and



bronze were won by women. The women's squad, featuring boxers below the age of 18, was also declared the 'Best Team of the Tournament'.

Indian team coach Bhaskar Bhatt had on Saturday attributed the team's success so far to good preparation. "The training was structured according to individual strengths. Since the performance of the boxers is on expected lines, it means they have grasped what has been taught to them, and that they are able to repeat in the actual competition," Bhatt told IANS.

With global competition resuming after more than a year due to the Covid-enforced lockdown, the Indian officials accompanying the team ensured the youngsters got maximum benefit of the six-day long international tour by having extra training sessions apart from the main competition.

"We made efforts to arrange sparring sessions with teams like Finland, Uzbekistan and Ukraine. The Indians who had finished their events had an hour sparring session with them daily. This was aimed at gaining as much experience as possible. It was very productive as our boxers got the opportunity to train with players from other countries," Indian team coach Bhaskar Bhatt said.

TS' Snehit slays 3rd, 6th seeds to enter semifinals

PANCHKULA

SFR Snehit could not have asked for a better platform than the UTT 82nd National Table Tennis Championships to showcase his growing confidence. The 20-year-old from Telangana first slayed defending champion Harmeet Desai 4-0 and then accounted for sixth-seed Sushmit Sriram 4-1 in the quarterfinals, at the Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadium here today.

They were the result of his fitness, speed and power that he could add to his game. Besides, he had been seeing a psychologist to increase his mental strength. All of these, Snehit admitted after the match, have brought windfall gains to him. One could see that during the quarterfinals today. Down 0-1, he was looking for a turning point after managing to deuce. The umpire reversed a wrong call to award the point to Snehit that put him 11-10 up, and from there the Telangana boy took control.

Troubled with Sushmit's rare combination of rubbers—one side anti and the other, pimple—Snehit began in a measured way before slowing down the game to shift gears. Sushmit, who loves the ball coming to him, was not prepared as Snehit used the flanks and hit in the centre to unsettle his rival. But not once did he relent from attacking and using the backhand blocks with equal felicity. With a comfortable 3-1 lead, it was just a matter of time before he closed out the match. And it happened sooner than later as Sushmit committed several net errors and almost conceded the fifth game without making any real effort.

Earlier in the day, the third seed could not believe when he went down meekly, losing 0-4. After having beaten A. Sharath Kamal at the same venue in the North Zone championships in 2018, the Hyderabad had acquired the giant-killer tag. Snehit had the game and tactics but lacked the maturity to sustain. But today he was spot on in both the knockout matches, packing his shots with power.

In other quarterfinal matches, top-seeded Sharath toyed with Anthony Amalraj to win 4-1, second seed G.



Sathiyam dropped a game against Sanil Shetty for a similar result, and so did Manav Thakkar against Ronit Bhanja.

But it was disappointing that Bhanja failed to repeat his pre-quarterfinal performance. He beat Delhi's Sudhanshu Grover in an edge-of-the-seat thriller match. With the scores level 3-3, and Ronit training 8-10 the Delhi paddler seemed to have taken the decider. But from 10-all, the game got dragged on, Sudhanshu having an edge over his opponent with four match-points. But, in the end, on his second match-point, Ronit clinched it.

The start for top-seed Sharath Kamal was not ideal this morning, but he managed to put it across Sougata Sarkar of LIC 4-2. Second-seeded Sathiyam defeated Manush Shah, but not before the left-handed paddler from Gujarat gave a scare or two. Anthony Amalraj shunned the first-round hiccups and beat Soumyajit Ghosh 4-2, while fourth-seed and runner-up Manav Thakkar scored a quite 4-1 victory over Nitin Thiruvengadam of TNTTA. Seventh-seed Sanil Shetty overcame Sarthak Gandhi, a TTFI wildcard entrant, 4-2.

RESULTS

Quarterfinals: A. Sharath Kamal (PSPB) bt Anthony Amalraj (TTFI) 11-8, 11-3, 5-11 13-11, 11-2, Manav Thakkar (PSPB) bt Ronit Bhanja (Ben) 11-7, 12-10, 10-12, 12-10, 11-6, SFR Snehit bt Sushmit Sriram (TTFI) 8-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-8, 11-3. G. Sathiyam bt Sanil Shetty (PSPB) 11-9, 11-9, 11-13, 11-8, 11-6.

Pre-Quarterfinals: A. Sharath Kamal bt Sougata Sarkar (LIC) 7-11, 11-7, 11-9, 9-11, 11-9, 11-5, Anthony Amalraj bt Soumyajit Ghosh (Har) 9-11, 12-10, 9-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-5, Ronit Bhanja (Ben) bt Sudhanshu Grover (Del) 13-11, 7-11, 6-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-8, 15-13, Manav Thakkar bt Nitin Thiruvengadam (TNTTA) 11-9, 8-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-5, SFR Snehit bt Harmeet Desai (PSPB) 11-9, 11-7, 11-8, 11-7, G. Sathiyam bt Manush Shah (Guji) 11-8, 12-14, 11-9, 11-8, 13-11.

Yadav added for last 2 Tests

AHMEDABAD

FAST bowler Umesh Yadav has passed a fitness test and has been include in the Indian team for the last two Tests against England, the Indian cricket board said in a statement on Monday. "Team India fast bowler Umesh Yadav appeared for a fitness test on Sunday, 21st February at Motera. He has cleared his fitness test and has been added to the squad for the last two Tests of the ongoing India-England Test series," said the statement. "Shardul Thakur has been released from the squad to take part in the Vijay Hazare Trophy," it said.

The four-match Test series is levelled 1-1. **Squad for last two Tests:** Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma, Mayank Agarwal, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vice-captain), KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Wriddhiman Saha (wicket-keeper), R Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ishant Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav

Senior cricketers R Ashwin and Virat Kohli during and after the recent first Test against England, played in Chennai, complained about SG's red ball losing its seam but it seems that the pitch was to blame for it as the ball lasted well in the second Test.

"The seam of the ball held up pretty fine this game. The pitch was very hard the last game...hard,

meaning hard. It was that hard. That is why it [ball's seam] seemed to wither away. This time it held pretty well," said Ashwin after the second Test, which was also played at M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

India's premier off-spinner, however, refused to comment on how the SG pink ball would behave in Ahmedabad. (IANS)