





# Womenia

TWEET PATROL



**YAMI GAUTAM**  
@YAMIGAUTAM

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

### Lara Dutta is back on set with a broken toe

Actress Lara Dutta Bhupathi took to social media on Monday to share the news that she has resumed shooting. Lara, however, also shared a piece of bad news saying she has fractured a toe.

"Mandawa in Mumbai!! Back on set with a broken toe, but obviously sooo thrilled to be doing what I love best!! #shootlife #actor #setlife #backtoshoot," Lara wrote in an Instagram post.

Lara also shared photographs seated in a chair wearing a blue churidar kameez. Her fractured right toe can be seen covered with a bandage.

Even though Lara an-

nounced that she has resumed shooting, the actress did not mention which project she is shooting for.

On the work front, Lara will share the screen with superstar Akshay Kumar in the period drama spy thriller "Bell Bottom". The Ranjit M. Tewari directorial film is slated for a theatrical release on July 27.

"Bell Bottom" also features Vaani Kapoor and Huma Qureshi.

The film was earlier scheduled for an April 2021 release but was pushed due to the second wave of Covid-19 in the country.



### Organic face serum must for your monsoon routine

Monsoon season ring in high humidity, increasing the risk of bacterial and fungal infections. To maintain your skin's glow and to nourish it regularly, one must use the right products and follow a systematic skin care routine.

Upma Kapoor, Founder, Teal & Terra, says using organic products for your face helps you achieve your chemical-free skin goals, giving you flawless skin without side-effects.

#### Benefits of organic face serums are:

- Having Anti-Oxidants & Omega-3 & 6 Fatty Acids that repair and rejuvenate the skin
- When added to one's daily routine, be a solution to many skin care problems.
- Regular use can help reduce hyperpigmentation, and heal blemishes.
- It gets the skin nourished from within

Organic face serums contain grapeseed oil that promotes hydration within the skin, with Mulethi and Ashwagandha - age-old remedies for youthful skin, and Walnut oil that evens out skin tone. Vitamins E and C form a barrier around the skin



to protect it, says Kapoor.

An effective organic serum should help fight acne breakouts, blackheads, discolouration, which run the possibility of increasing during this fluctuating season. An essential oil rich face serum can help the skin replenish its moisture, thus shielding it from further infections. They also help in improving overall health of the skin by promoting the skin's renewal process. It can also be incorporated into the skin care routine as a toner, as it acts as an antiseptic to heal skin. A lightweight formula serum is perfect for the wet climate; hydrating without being too heavy, adds the beauty expert. Organic face serums can act as all-in-one products by giving you skin that is radiant, glowing and healthy. Owing to their long-term benefits, they are often considered indispensable part of skin care rituals.

# All you need to know about Covid vaccination for pregnant women

PUJA GUPTA

The healthcare infrastructure is facing an enormous burden due to the Covid pandemic. Vaccination against the virus will reduce the risk of infection, severity, long-term effect of the infection and transmission to other individuals. In a recent guideline, the government has approved the vaccination for pregnant women. This is a very progressive step as it will affect 50 million lives in India, say doctors, adding that every individual needs protection from the surging COVID-19 infections, and vaccination seems to be the best and long-term solution. Now all mothers-to-be can be protected from COVID-19. The benefits of vaccinating pregnant women seem to far outweigh any theoretical and remote risk of vaccination.

Dr Sonal Kumta, Senior Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, Fortis Hospital Mulund and Dr Manjiri Mehta, Consultant Gynaecologist & Obstetrician, Hiranandani Hospital Vashi share a few things that pregnant women must know about vaccination.

#### The need for pregnant women to be vaccinated -

First, it is important to note that pregnancy does not increase the risk of COVID-19 infection. Most pregnant women will be asymptomatic or have a mild disease, but their health may deteriorate rapidly and that might affect the foetus. It is also important that they

**A Parenting Guide: Is there going to be a third wave of the pandemic affecting children? If a pregnant woman has already had COVID-19, she should be vaccinated soon after the delivery, say experts**



take all precautions to protect themselves from being infected, and that certainly includes vaccination against COVID-19. It is therefore advised that a pregnant woman should take the vaccine.

#### Covid-19 impact on pregnant women -

Although most (>90%) infected pregnant women recover without any need for hospitalization, rapid deterioration in health may occur in a few. Symptomatic pregnant women appear to be at an increased risk of severe disease and death. In case of severe disease, like all other patients, pregnant women shall also need hospitalization. Moreover, pregnant women with underlying medical conditions e.g., high blood pressure, obesity, age over 35 years, etc are at a higher risk.

#### Recovered pregnant women with covid infection -

Pregnant women who have recovered from COVID-19 are eligible for vaccination. Among such individuals, vaccination should be deferred for 12 weeks from the infection site, or 8 weeks after recovery.

#### Side effects of the vaccines -

The available COVID-19 vaccines are safe, and vaccination protects pregnant women against illness/disease like other individuals. Like any medicine, a vaccine may have side effects which are normally mild. After getting the vaccine injection, she can get a mild fever, pain at the injection site, or feel unwell for 1-3 days.

If you are confused about whether to receive a COVID-19 vaccine while preg-

nant, consider:

- Your risk of exposure to COVID-19
- The risks of severe illness
- The known benefits of vaccination
- The limited but growing evidence about the safety of vaccinations during pregnancy

#### Vaccine registration for pregnant women -

All pregnant women need to register themselves on the CoWIN portal or may get themselves registered on-site at the COVID-19 vaccination centre. The process of registration for pregnant women remains the same as of the general population and as per the latest guidance provided by the MoHFW. The need of the hour is to arrange for on-site consultation by Gynecologists, especially for those not registered for ante-natal (pre-delivery) care. We should also maintain a registry of vaccinated pregnant women for long-term follow-up and data collection.

#### Precautions to be taken -

- Wear a double mask
  - Practice frequent handwashing
  - Maintain physical distance and avoid going to crowded places
- Please note, if a pregnant woman has already had COVID-19, she should be vaccinated soon after the delivery. Moreover, speak to your doctor and discuss all your doubts. Also, note that if you are trying to get pregnant now or in the future, would-be parents can receive the COVID-19 vaccine. There is currently no evidence that any vaccines, including the COVID-19 vaccines, cause female or male fertility problems—problems getting pregnant. Most importantly, you cannot get COVID-19 infection from vaccination!

# Why Vitamin C is beauty's new buzzword

N LOTHUNGBENI HUMTSOE

If you pick up any skincare products – peel-off mask, day cream, face wash or serum – which promises to brighten the skin and hydrate it as well, you will likely find Vitamin C or ascorbic acid in the ingredients list. Vitamin C has become an essential part of skincare, especially now, when natural extracts are all the rage.

Perhaps the most popular natural remedy for skin woes, Vitamin C has several incredible benefits for the skin. It is not surprising, then, that it has become the absolute buzzword in the beauty category. Vishal Kaushik, Founder & MD at Upakarma Ayurveda lists the multifarious benefits of Vitamin C for your skin.

#### Undoing sun damage

When you go out in the sun, UVA and UVB rays from the sun wreak havoc within minutes of exposure. This can cause skin ageing, dullness, and many other skin troubles. Enter: Vitamin C. Photoprotection is



one of the best benefits of Vitamin C. This means, when your sunscreen contains Vitamin C, you are better protected from the harsh rays of the sun due to its strong antioxidant properties. This is why several day creams with SPF are also enriched with Vitamin C. Not just for protection, Vitamin C can also undo previous damage caused by the sun, giving you hydrated and supple skin.

#### Reduces hyperpigmentation

Hyperpigmentation presents as changing skin colour in patches or spots. This can happen due to a lot of reasons including age or sun damage. However, it can be reversed or lightened with Vitamin C which inhibits melanin production in the skin. This is why several brightness products contain Vitamin C – it reveals naturally brighter and even-toned skin.

#### Prevents fine lines

The very first signs of skin ageing, fine lines can cause a lot of stress. However, with regular use, Vitamin C serums can help to fade away these lines so you can smile without fretting about them. This is because Vitamin C boosts the skin's collagen and elastin production, which in turn makes the skin firm and plump. Goodbye, fine lines!

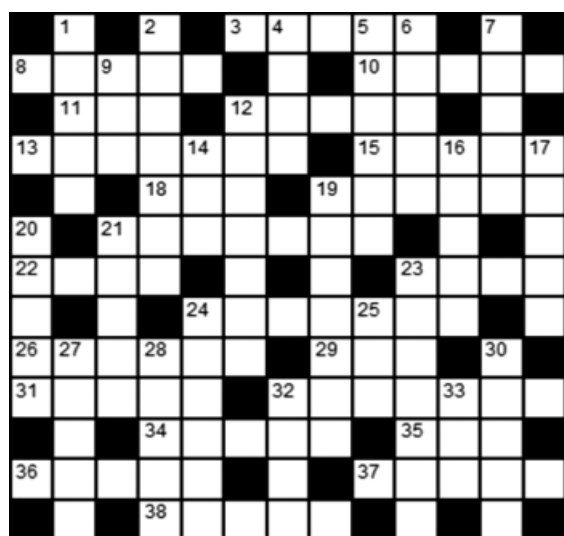
#### Reduces Inflammation

A powerhouse of antioxidants, Vitamin C can also soothe skin inflammation and

help with conditions such as psoriasis and acne. Signs of inflammation like rashes, redness or irritation can also be reduced with Vitamin C-based products. However, since Vitamin C is a powerful ingredient, it is best to consult a doctor before using it for inflammatory conditions.

#### Hydrating effect

Modern skincare focuses a great deal on hydration. Well-hydrated skin remains youthful and problem-free much longer. A great benefit of Vitamin C is that it penetrates the skin and locks in moisture. This essentially means that Vitamin C deeply hydrates the skin and also helps it retain moisture. While Vitamin C is a miraculous product for the skin, it takes a little while to start showing discernible effects. So, regular use is the key to derive maximum benefits from your Vitamin C based products. With patience and correct usage, you will get the smooth, radiant and youthful skin of your dreams. So, is Vitamin C worth the hype? Definitely!



SOLUTION TO JULY 5

## CROSSWORD

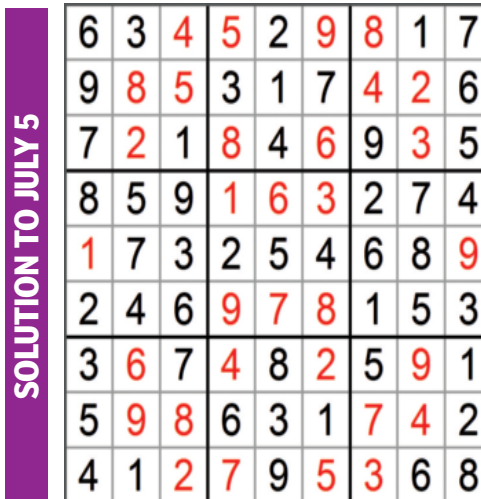
#### Across

- Maltreat (5)
- Spirited horse (5)
- Bump (5)
- Pilgrimage to Mecca (3)
- Day of film (5)
- Deteriorate (2,2,3)
- Meditates (5)
- Climbing plant (3)
- Fast (6)
- Takes or receives (7)
- English river (4)
- Sewing case (4)
- Burdensome (7)
- Contagious disease (6)
- A part that lies over another part (3)
- Allow scope for (5)
- Reconsider (7)
- Goat's cry (5)
- Run \_\_\_ : elope or flee ? (3)
- Sleep disorder (5)
- Beginning (5)
- Zimmermann alias (5)

#### Down

- Community spirit (5)
- Feel joy (7)
- Shoe or footwear (4)
- Stints (6)
- Follow (5)
- Felt sore (5)
- Consume (3)
- Senior member (7)
- Polyvinyl chloride (3)
- Cults (5)
- Arab state (5)
- A young actress (7)
- Where's \_\_\_? : 1970 film (5)
- Tea-growing state (5)
- Agreeableness of sound (7)
- Expenditure (6)
- Cereal grass (3)
- Drug used to treat Parkinson's disease (1-4)
- Scoffed or jeered (5)
- Hungry (5)
- Indian music (4)
- Uncertainties (3)

## SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO JULY 5

## Fried chicken Day

Fried chicken, otherwise known as Southern fried chicken, is a dish that features different chicken pieces that have been coated in a seasoned batter. After which, they are either pressure fried, deep-fried, or pan-fried. The breading creates a crisp crust or coating to the exterior of the meat while ensuring the juices are kept inside. Broiler chickens are most commonly used.

There is no denying that fried chicken is one of the best and most popular types of comfort food enjoyed all around the world. It may be greasy, but it is indulgent and very tasty! Today, we are able to enjoy this dish for a very cheap price, and it does not matter where in the world you go, you will be able to enjoy fried chicken on the menu! However, this was not always the case. In fact, fried chicken was deemed an expensive delicacy until the Second World War. However, thanks to mass production techniques, this is no longer the case.

There are a number of reasons why we all love Fried Chicken Day. Of course, the main reason is that we have the perfect excuse to eat as much fried chicken as we want and we don't have to feel guilty about it! It is also a dish whereby your manners can go out of the window.

There is no need to use a knife and fork when you are tucking into fried chicken! You can also get many different varieties of fried chicken to select from today. This includes everything from extra crispy to spicy fried chicken. Fried chicken can also be cooked in many different varieties of oil. This includes peanut oil, lard, vegetable shortening, and much more.





# CBI registers second FIR on Gomti River Front project

NEW DELHI

THE CBI has booked 189 officials and contractors in its second FIR related to irregularities in the Rs 1,437-crore Gomti river front development project in Lucknow, which was undertaken during the tenure of the previous Samajwadi Party government in Uttar Pradesh, officials said on Monday.

In the 2022 UP assembly elections, the Samajwadi Party, the Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party, the Congress, among others, will try to wrest the state from the BJP. Uttar Pradesh Minister Sidharth Nath Singh said that CBI searches indicate to the misdeeds of the previous Akhilesh Yadav government. "We had re-

quested the CBI earlier to speed up its probe in such scams. The CBI is a central agency and working in its style. In the Gomti river front scam, the searches are on at places of 16 engineers and 173 contractors," the minister said.

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav was the chief minister then. After registering the fresh FIR on Friday, following a preliminary inquiry, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday carried out searches at 42 locations spread across 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh, Alwar in Rajasthan and Kolkata in West Bengal, they said. The operation, which started early in the morning, is going on and it may be expanded during the course of the

day, the officials said. This is the second FIR related to the project by the CBI. An earlier FIR has already covered work orders worth over Rs 1,031 crore. In the present FIR, in which 16 officials, including chief engineers, and 173 contractors are accused, the CBI has alleged that 30 notices inviting tenders have come under the scanner. Out of these, only five were published in newspapers while the remaining 25 forged letters were sent to the Department of Information and Publication to show compliance, it alleged. The agency has listed several similar irregularities, including award of tender on the basis of forged documents and forgery in publication of notices invit-



ing tender, according to the present FIR. The preliminary inquiry also showed that 27 work orders each over Rs 1 lakh, including one for import of an international standard musical

fountain, worth over 55.95 lakh Euros (Rs 49.3 crore at the present exchange rate), from the Aquatique Show in Strasbourg, France, were issued without any tender, it alleged.

This was in violation of government orders which stipulate that no order of above Rs 1 lakh can be awarded without a tender, the CBI said. The quotation notice for the fountain was issued by Akhil Raman, the then superintendent engineer, and it was genuinely published, it said. "However, prior to issuance of quotation notice a normal tendering process notice was shown by Raman. This notice was not published and forged receipt letter, release order and copies of newspaper clippings were placed in the records," an official said. The estimate was approved on the basis quotations in 2016. Roop Singh Yadav, another the then superintendent engineer, directly wrote to the French company for signing the con-

tract. He recommended for issuance of supply order for the company, the CBI alleged. S N Sharma, the then chief engineer, sought prior permission to import the material on August 27, 2016, and issued supply order after four days without obtaining prior permission, it alleged.

The CBI has alleged that Sharma, Raman and Yadav abused their official position and issued the supply order on quotation basis instead of tender basis giving undue benefit to Aquatique Show. In Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr district, CBI sleuths raided the residence of contractor Rakesh Bhati in connection with the case, officials said. Bhati is also a member of the Congress unit in Uttar Pradesh.



## Nishads want to see me as deputy CM if NDA wins 2022 UP Assembly polls: Sanjay

BALLIA

NISHAD party president Sanjay Nishad has claimed that his community wants him to be made the deputy chief minister of Uttar Pradesh if a BJP-led alliance wins the state assembly elections next year.

He also said the BJP was pushed to the fourth spot in the UP panchayat polls because the Nishad community is angry with the party for not fulfilling its promise of granting reservation to it. Sanjay Nishad was speaking to reporters here on Sunday during a party programme.

"It is the demand of the (Nishad) community that I be made the deputy chief minister (of UP). The chief minister is from a community that has fewer numbers. Our numbers are more. If the BJP puts up our face, then it will easily form the government in the state. We are friends who are partners in good and bad times," he said.

Asked if the BJP will accept his demand to be made the deputy CM, Sanjay Nishad said, if the BJP feels that it will gain by granting reservation to the Nishad community, it will accept the demand. If the BJP feels that it will face a loss by granting reservation to the Nishad community, then the party may meet the same fate as it did in the West Bengal Assembly elections. Sanjay Nishad further said, "Our alliance with the BJP will continue. We were with the BJP, we are with the BJP today as well,

and we will stay with it. However, our community is moving away from the BJP.

The Congress, the SP and the BSP have cheated our community and now it feels that the BJP is also cheating them." The intention of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was right earlier and he had even promised to grant reservation to the Nishad community.

"There is a BJP government at the Centre now but there is no discussion on the reservation," he said. "It was due to the anger of our community that the BJP was pushed to the fourth spot in the panchayat elections. I want that the community gets reservation at the earliest and cases registered against them are withdrawn," he added. Asked about his next step if the BJP does not accept his demand to be made the deputy CM, Sanjay Nishad said, "The community will decide on this. The BJP has seen our strength in Gorakhpur. The BJP lost the bye-election to Gorakhpur Lok Sabha constituency when Yogi Adityanath was the chief minister."

Responding to a question about the possibility of a tie-up with the Samajwadi Party in the future, Sanjay Nishad said he was with the SP earlier but the party did not give him any chance. Currently, the NISHAD party has one MLA in the UP Legislative Assembly. Sanjay Nishad's son Praveen is the BJP MP from Sant Kabir Nagar.

## Police use water cannon, tear gas to disperse BJYM activists

CHANDIGARH

THE police on Monday lobbed tear gas shells and used water cannon to disperse BJYM activists trying to lay siege to the official residence of Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh here over his alleged failure to curb drug menace in the state.

Leaders and several activists of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) -- the youth wing of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) -- were detained by the police.

Protesters led by BJYM's Punjab chief Bhanu Pratap Rana raised slogans against the Congress-led dispensation and alleged that the chief minister had "failed" to wipe out drug menace from Punjab. The Chandigarh Police had deployed police per-

sonnel and put up barricades to prevent the BJYM activists from heading towards the chief minister's residence. But when the protesters tried to force their way through the barricades, police used water cannon to disperse them at sector 17 here. Police also used teargas shells to stop the protesters.

Earlier, talking to the media, Rana slammed the Amarinder Singh-led government in Punjab for not being able to curb the drug trade in the state which has "flourished" under Congress rule. He said before coming to power in 2017, Amarinder Singh had promised to wipe out drug menace from the state. But he has completely "failed" in doing so. In fact, drug trade has "flourished in the state", Rana claimed.



# BJP eyeing over 60 seats in 2022 Uttarakhand polls



DEHRADUN

UTTARAKHAND BJP President Madan Kaushik has said the party will win more than 60 seats in the state assembly elections in 2022 under the leadership of young Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.

"Through development works done over the past four-and-a-half years in the state, the BJP has proved that it is the only positive thinking party dedicated to development. A constitutional crisis did lead to a change of guard in the state but it has had no impact on development works. They are going on at an uninterrupted pace," Kaushik said with ministerial colleagues. The 45-year-old Dhami, a two-time MLA from

Khatima, took over on Sunday as the new chief minister of Uttarakhand which has few months to go for the next assembly polls early next year.

Kaushik said the BJP's victory in the Salt assembly bypoll in May this year was a confirmation of the people's growing faith in the party. Appointment of a young and energetic CM has enthused the BJP cadres and it will help the party win an even bigger mandate than in the 2017 assembly polls, he said. The BJP had stormed to power bagging 57 out of a total of 70 assembly seats in the state.

"Unlike the opposition, the BJP does not look for opportunities in a crisis. The party and the government together grappled

with the challenges arising out of the Covid pandemic and we have been successful in reining in the crisis to a large extent. We are also preparing for a possible third wave," Kaushik said. The BJP government has been able to address the basic problems by providing better facilities in health and education sectors besides generating more employment opportunities through self-employment schemes like the Mukhya Mantri Swarojgar Yojana, he said.

Chief Minister Dhami, all his cabinet colleagues, BJP National general secretary in-charge of party affairs in Uttarakhand Dushyant Kumar Gautam and Pradesh BJP general secretary Ajay Kumar attended the meeting.

## SGPC holds event to mark police action at Golden Temple in 1955

AMRITSAR

THE Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) on Sunday organised an event to commemorate the police action in the Golden Temple here on this day in 1955.

The then government in Punjab had sent police to the Golden Temple in 1955 during a Punjabi Suba Morcha, a movement started for a Punjabi speaking state. The action came after the then Amritsar Deputy Commissioner banned the slogan 'Punjabi Suba' in view of the law-and-order situation.

On the morning of July 4, 1955, the then Deputy Inspector General of Police Ashwani Kumar led the police and entered the Golden Temple premises with shoes on. He stopped the 'langar' and also took away utensils and other articles used for making food for the devotees. Police had also lobbed teargas shells in the periphery of Golden Temple and more than 200 people were detained. "This



was the first attack on the central Sikh shrine, Sri Darbar Sahib, after Independence. Sikhs sacrificed... their lives for the independence of the country.

"But the deployment of police in the central shrine of the Sikhs only after eight years of independence was a manifestation of anti-Sikh mentality of the then Congress government," SGPC chief Bibi Jagir Kaur said on Sunday. The then chief minister Bhim Sen Sachar tried to "suppress" the legitimate demands of the Sikhs, but the community, as always, emerged victorious from the chal-

lenge, Kaur said. The SGPC chief said that an anthology would be compiled after thorough research on the police action on Darbar Sahib on July 4, 1955, and photographs related to it would also be included.

"Efforts will be made to preserve memories by searching for the eyewitnesses of that time," Kaur said and appealed to the people to make their children aware of this history. At Sunday's event, the teargas shells which were fired by the police inside the Darbar Sahib complex in 1955 were displayed.

## 5 killed in head-on collision between SUV, truck

JODHPUR

FIVE people were killed after the SUV they were travelling in collided head-on with a truck in Rajasthan's Jodhpur district, police said on Monday.

The incident occurred on the Jodhpur-Jaipur highway near Dangiyawas late on Sunday night.

Two injured are undergoing treatment at a hospital, they said. Station House Officer, Dangiyawas, Kanhaiyalal said the driver of the SUV was speeding while trying to overtake another vehicle. During the process, the SUV collided head-on with a truck that was coming from the opposite direction. The impact of the collision left the SUV badly mangled and all those inside stuck. Villagers and police, who rushed to the spot, had a tough time pulling out the victims, he said.

"Two of the passengers died on the spot while two died on the way to the hospital. Another pas-



senger died during treatment at the hospital today (Monday) afternoon while two injured are undergoing treatment," Kanhaiyalal said. All victims were residents of Londari Malgaon in Beawar sub-division of Ajmer district and were headed back to their village from Jodhpur, the police said. The truck driver fled from the spot immediately after the collision.

The truck has been seized and efforts are being made to nab the driver, they said. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot expressed his condolences to the bereaved families of the victims over the "unfortunate" incident.

## BJP giving political colour to religious conversion issue: Maya

LUCKNOW

BSP supremo Mayawati on Monday accused the BJP of giving political colour to the issue of religious conversion in an attempt to hide its failures ahead of the 2022 assembly elections in five states.

"It seems that now they (BJP) want to give political colour to (religious conversions) to cover their weaknesses ahead of the assembly elections to be held in some states of the country. If this is really a conspiracy, it is highly condemnable," Mayawati said.

Alleging that the BJP has a political interest in cases of religious conversion, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said, looking at the entire Muslim community with suspicion is wrong. "It is completely illegal to convert someone by intimidating, threatening or luring them and strict action should be taken against the culprits after proper investigation of such cases," Mayawati said. The BSP chief further said "as per a well thought out strategy and conspiracy", it is being portrayed as a "Hindu-Muslim issue".

"Looking at the entire Muslim community with suspicion is not correct... This is the belief of Muslim community and other people also. This is creating a



sense of insecurity among Muslims. The BSP condemns it in the strongest terms," she said "It is being claimed that a conspiracy to harm the country under the guise of religious conversion was going on for a long time. If this is true then what were the intelligence agencies of the country doing till now.

The action that is being taken now should have been taken long back," she added. Mayawati, without naming anyone, claimed the properties confiscated or demolished by the Yogi Adityanath government as they were allegedly owned by mafia elements mostly belonged to Muslims.

The state government has tightened the noose on BSP MLA from Mau Mukhtar Ansari and his associates. While proceedings are going on against them, many of their properties were attached and illegal constructions were demolished.

## Dhami vows to provide corruption-free governance

DEHRADUN

THE first meeting of the Uttarakhand cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami resolved to give people a corruption-free administration, transparent, sensitive and speedy services through the maximum use of information technology and ramp up health facilities to effectively control COVID-19. The cabinet adopted six resolutions to rise to the expectations of people ahead of next year's state assembly polls, minister Subodh Uniyal told a media briefing here on Monday.

The cabinet meeting was held hours after Dhami's swearing-in,

along with a team of 11 ministers, on Sunday, but the media briefing was held on Monday as the meeting went on till late in the night. The other resolutions passed by the cabinet included those for creating jobs and self-employment opportunities for youngsters, uplifting Dalits and empowering women, Uniyal said.

Apart from the resolutions, some major decisions were taken by the cabinet, including raising the salary of the guest teachers from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 per month and deploying them in their home districts, he added. Other important decisions were maintaining the continuity of



service of around 200 contractual employees of polytechnic institutes, payment of salaries to MGNREGA workers for the strike period and the filling of around 22,000 vacancies in different departments, Uniyal said.

It was also decided to revive the defunct district employment offices. A cabinet sub-committee headed by Uniyal was also constituted to look into the pay-related issues of the police department. The chief minister held a separate meeting with senior officials at the Bijapur guest house on Monday and asked them to start the process of filling different vacancies in a time-bound manner at the earliest. He also asked them to prepare a proposal for giving a one-year concession in the upper age limit for recruitment to vacant posts for Covid duty and bring it up before the cabinet for its approval.

Giving employment to people is among the top priorities of his government, Dhami said while asking the officials to prepare a detailed action plan so that the maximum number of people get employment. All arrangements should be made to effectively control the COVID-19 pandemic and facilities such as oxygen concentrators and cylinders should be made available to all the community and primary health centres, he added.

The chief minister also flagged off 10 vehicles carrying Covid relief material for distribution among 1,500 families of the Mussoorie constituency.



# Indian defence sector badly needs reform

THE furore over the latest arms procurement scandal in India — this time over the Rafale deal should have led to calls for greater indigenisation of the military industrial complex in the country. Unfortunately, we don't prefer it. All that we prefer is politicking around the same. Why is there always a corruption cloud surrounding our deals with foreign countries? We should also remember that the problem is not foreign suppliers alone, but a defence marketplace where domestic industry produces low-quality weapons at great cost.

Excluding foreign sellers only reduces the number of players and externalises the problem; it does not stop corruption. As a rising power, India is better off buying technology rather than stealing it. It is better off inviting the world to participate in its rise than keeping the world outside and suspicious. There is a tremendous transparency in the country's development in this aspect. India does not make the world suspicious at all. India also does not mind sacrificing its secrecy. What is required is reforming our procurement system rather than winnowing down the market.

Whenever India buys weapons from foreign suppliers it not only develops military capacity but also builds relationships with other key countries that facilitate its rise. In spite of this, it always throws up a question as to whether it knows that economic efficiency in the market and pricing does not hold good when we are talking about armaments. Weapons in the same category made by different manufacturers are not readily comparable, especially at the higher rungs of the technology ladder. There are too few sellers and even fewer buyers to make a truly competitive market.

Further, the value of a particular weapon-system in the context of a national security strategy is hard to calculate. As defence experts say, figuring out whether missiles or attack aircraft have greater utility is not that easy. India's defence market faces these challenges and more. Apart from adopting their political stands, our leaders seem to be disconnected from national objectives when they talk of armed forces. We expect our services to define their threat perceptions and prepare for their wars.

To top it we have our service rivalries. Only during crisis time they seem to unite. The problem is exacerbated by the lack of military expertise in the political and bureaucratic class. Strangely our country has a scientific advisor to the Defence Ministry who is also a head of the military labs which means he is supposed to evaluate his own work. Moreover, these dysfunctions persist behind the trope of secrecy.

Closed-off organisations generally fail to innovate; little wonder that only three per cent of DRDO scientists and engineers have PhDs. Opening up the military research and weapons procurement process to public view would reduce the potential for corruption, and it would not be worse than the present glacial acquisition process. Indian defence badly needs reform, but the recommendations of several high-powered committees — including those headed by Arun Singh, Naresh Chandra and the irreplaceable K. Subrahmanyam (Kargil review) — remain ignored by several governments. Talking of corruption alone will not help. The sooner our netas understand it, the better.



## Tough times do not last but happiness does: Dalai Lama

VISHAL GULATI

TOUGH times do not last, happiness does -- at least this is what Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama appears to be telling the world. Many Tibetans see him as a living God and he is idolised here and in the West. His Holiness will turn 86 on July 6.

If one thing the virus from Wuhan has not changed during the past two years, it is the Dalai Lama's infectious smile. Despite living through extreme hardship, he's showing the world how to live with joy even in troubled times, believe his disciples.

The Dalai Lama, or Ocean of Wisdom, is the leading spiritual figure bringing Buddhist teachings to the international community.

Finding joy and happiness, the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu came together once again to share with the world their joyful insights on overcoming adversities and social injustices.

This time they were reunited virtually from their respective places on June 24 on the occasion of the release of their new film "Mission: Joy -- Finding Happiness in Troubled Times".

Initiating the conversation with South African anti-apartheid icon Archbishop Tutu, the Buddhist monk says he is very happy and it is a great honour to talk to his old and spiritual friend.

"Although physically there is a distance but mentally we are always together. I always consider you as an elder spiritual brother."

"I myself till my death will carry your spirit. And then on one occasion on our meeting at Dharamsala you mentioned as a believer of God, so you after death are ready to go to heaven. According to Christianity, I am not a believer. So Dalai Lama, go some different place," says the Dalai Lama with laughter, his secret weapon.

Saying that he has been looking forward to this session with his dear friend, His Holiness, and to see him looking so well, Archbishop Tutu says, "He looks like he is on top of the world."

Archbishop Tutu came to Dharamsala for a week to meet the fellow Nobel laureate in April 2015. That was the Archbishop's second visit here after 2012. The Dalai Lama describes himself as a simple Buddhist monk. For Tibetans, he is the human manifestation of Chenrezig -- the Bodhisattva of compassion.

The elderly monk, known for his simplicity and jovial style, prefers to participate in meetings with religious leaders, and lectures businessmen on ethics for the new millennium and the art of happiness.

He chuckles throughout his talk and often slaps visitors on the back. For him, joy could really be a source of world peace.

"Doing harm to others may bring some temporary satisfaction, but being helpful to them is the only real source of lasting joy," the Dalai Lama is often quoted as saying. As one of the world's most inspirational figures, the Dalai Lama teaches that human beings are the same, all want happiness and no one wants suffering.

Just as physical hygiene is essential for a healthy body, a sense of moral hygiene based on warm-heartedness and compassion is equally important. He believes education should instill in children both cognitive and emotional intelligence in order to create synergy and balance between a healthy body and healthy mind. As Tibetans everywhere join millions of admirers across the globe to celebrate the 86th birthday of the spiritual leader, the global face of the Tibetan movement in exile, the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) has issued an advisory amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Having lost his job, man with a violin winning hearts in Kolkata

SAIBAL GUPTA



While the pandemic hit, he lost all his income.

"During last year's lockdown I lost my job and at around the same time, my daughter, married and settled in Kolkata, was in an advanced stage of pregnancy. I had to move to Kolkata to take care of my daughter and because of the lockdown I couldn't leave the city. Ever since my daughter delivered a baby, my wife and I have been living on the street as the one room in which our daughter and son-in-law live doesn't have enough space for us," Mali said.

It was then that he started to play music to make ends meet. The local police in the Burotolla area of the city have provided him a place to stay for now.

"Mali told us that he began performing on the streets to arrange food for himself and his wife. Whatever extra that he saved was spent in buying baby food and fruit for the baby and the mother. However, disaster struck yet again and Mali's violin got damaged a couple of weeks ago," a police officer of Burotolla police station said. That was when Burotolla police -- and later the community policing wing -- decided to step in. Kolkata Police Commissioner Somen Mitra was so impressed with Mali that he gifted him a violin on Monday under the community policing scheme. "Met Mr Bhagwan Mali, who is a very talented musician. Few weeks ago, a video of him playing his violin in the city streets had gone viral on social media. Last week, he was financially assisted by our Community Policing Wing. Today, @/CPKolkata gifted him a new violin," he said.

Director Raj Chakraborty, who is also the Trinamool Congress MLA from Barrackpore, first noticed Mali playing his violin on June 21 at Beadon Street and Girish Park crossing. Impressed with his music Chakraborty got in touch with the local MLA and minister Sashi Panja and arranged for his food and medicine.

A video that has gone viral on the Internet shows Chakraborty speaking to Mali and offering him an opportunity in his film. Chakraborty also plans to give Mali a chance to perform in his forthcoming music reality show.

Mali, who has so far refused any financial help stating that he will only accept money after performing, has also been provided a roof over his head at Burotolla by the police.

"We have arranged some performances for him at some of the leading hotels and restaurant chains in the city. He has been performing for the past one week," said a senior officer of Kolkata Police.

If you walk through the crossing of Beadon Street and Girish Park, you also might hear the magic melodies 'Diwana Hua Baadal' by Asha Bhosle and Mohammed Rafi from the 1964 movie 'Kashmir ki Kali' and Lata Mangeshkar's 'Ajeeb dastan hai yeh' from the 1960 movie 'Dil Apna Aur Preet Parai' floating on the empty streets of North Kolkata.

This octogenarian man who sits on the pavement with his violin to arrange food for his grand-daughter will surely make everyone forget the harshest realities with his magic melodies.

# Akhil Gogoi: A case of abuse of terrorist law



Madabhushi Sridhar Acharyulu

Citizenship Act, popularly called CAA led to firing and killing of five persons in Assam.

This was followed by the false cases against the activists under draconian laws -- Sedition under 124A of British Indian Penal Code and UAPA -- the anti-terrorist law. An activist who was charged with terrorism and sedition etc., Akhil Gogoi contested election from jail, and registered a handsome victory, as his mother campaigned for him as an Independent candidate.

While the police of Assam implicated him in false charges, the National Investigation Agency investigated it, and both received a shameful slap from the NIA court in Guwahati for absolutely lacking in prima facie evidence and discharged all the four accused including Akhil Gogoi as innocents, on July 1.

The National Investigation Agency investigated the cases under the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act (UAPA) for alleged criminal conspiracy, sedition, promoting enmity between groups on grounds such as religion, race and language, assertions against national integrity, and support to a "terrorist organisation".

Almost all anti-CAA protesters are terrorists according to the Government of India and Governments of the states ruled by BJP or NDA coalition partner. Akhil Gogoi was in jail since December 2019, without bail.

The fact that substantial number of cases against the protestors are failing shows prolific abuse. Some of the cases reach Constitutional courts where the finer judicial interpretations decide the contours of 'criminality' or otherwise. Yet, the police in this state or that state go on registering false cases and make the innocent citizen to suffer the trauma of appeals up to Supreme Court.

Akhil is lucky enough to get discharged. The process has already become punishment. Akhil Gogoi lost his precious freedom for more than 18 months without any remedy. The principle that no right should go without a remedy is breached once again.

Specific directions from the Supreme Court that such charges do not constitute even prima facie case are ignored totally by the police and their political bosses. The judicial norms are supposed to guide them in their day today investigations but unfortunately they do not percolate into rules of law to prevent the abuse of law by the Government and the officers who follow the instructions instead of adhering to the law.

The charges which may not even fit into the strict definition of IPC will make the innocents to suffer jail, until the courts discharge them. This is what the

political Government to use as a threat to criticism.

Charge against Akhil and his three associate activists who opposed CAA is that they are terrorists. The Supreme Court in *Hitendra Vishnu Thakur v. State of Maharashtra* (1994) 4 SCC 602, para 1542 explained: "Terrorism means use of violence when its most important result is not merely the physical and mental damage to the victim but the prolonged physiological (sic psychological) effect it produces or has the potentiality of producing on the society as a whole. Terrorism is generally an attempt to acquire or maintain power or controlled by intimidation and causing fear and helplessness in the minds of people at large or any section thereof and it is a totally abnormal phenomenon. Terrorism is distinguishable from other forms of violence as in the former, the deliberate and systematic use of coercive intimidation is used."

Section 39 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act defined the Offence relating to support given to a terrorist organisation. A person, (a) who, with intention to further the activity of a terrorist organisation, (i) invites support for the terrorist organization; and (ii) the support is not or is not restricted to provide money or other property within the meaning of section 40; or (b) who, with intention ...arranges, manages or assists in arranging or managing a meeting which he knows is-- (i) to support the terrorist organization; or (ii) to further the activity of the terrorist organization; or (iii) to be dressed by a person who associates or professes to be associated with the terrorist organisation; or (c) who, with intention to further the activity of a terrorist organisation, addresses a meeting for the purpose of encouraging support for the terrorist organisation or to further its activity.

(2) A person, who commits the offence relating to support given to a terrorist organisation under sub-section (1) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years, or with fine, or with both.

Police alleged that Akhil Gogoi had secretly merged his organisation Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti -- KMSS with Revolutionary Communist Centre and the latter was later merged with the banned CPI (Maoist) and conspired with three other accused to incite hatred and disaffection towards the Government established by law, using the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) as a pretext and that they also promoted enmity amongst different groups of people.

While it was alleged that he provoked violence through his speeches the defence presented evidence of speeches that show he in fact appealed not to resort to violence. The books which were seized by the NIA were not banned books. Akhil also suggested not indulging any activities of Maoist in Assam. Defence council pointed out that the CPI (Maoist) has been declared a banned terrorist organization only from 22.06.2009.

An overt act is essential for an offence u/s- 15 UA (P) Act and that the same also has to be done so with the alleged intentions. One cannot say that that protest,



The fact that a substantial number of cases against the protestors are failing shows prolific abuse. Some of the cases reach Constitutional courts where the finer judicial interpretations decide the contours of 'criminality' or otherwise. Yet, the police in this state or that state go on registering false cases and make the innocent citizen suffer the trauma of appeals up to Supreme Court. Akhil is lucky enough to get discharged. The process has already become a punishment. Akhil Gogoi lost his precious freedom for more than 18 months without any remedy. The principle that no right should go without a remedy is breached once again

bandh etc. would not be taken as compromising the economic security of India.

The Court agreed that the ingredients of Sections 18/39 of UA (P) Act do not exist; that, three accused being associates of Akhil is not an offence as he was not a declared terrorist; that no independent action is attributed to three with regard to conspiracy. The prosecution witnesses have not made any reference to these three accused persons. The witness No 15, was not asked about any connection with Maoists. The statements of witnesses have no adverse materials against accused.

The speeches of Akhil including one speech made at Jorhat did not show any provocation. Some books were seized, but keeping such books is not an offence. Without active violence, people protesting should not invite criminal liability. The activities cannot be said to be done with intention to threaten economic security of India.

It is the duty of every Judge at district or metropolitan level to examine the strength of the charges based on the evidences produced by the investigators. In *Sajjan Kumar v. Central Bureau of Investigation*, (2010) 9 SCC 368 (para 21), the Supreme Court, under sections 227 and 228 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Judge while considering the question of framing the charges has the undoubted power to sift and weigh the evidence for the limited purpose of finding out whether or not a prima facie case against the accused has been made out.

The court cannot act merely as a post office or a mouthpiece of the prosecution but has to consider the broad probabilities of the case, the total effect of the evidence and the documents produced before the court, any basic infirmities, etc.

cats on the wall.

N Ramalakshmi, Secunderabad

## It's actually Kursi yatra

THIS refers to "Padayatra to electoral victory!" (5 July). If one goes into the history of "Padayatra" (journey on foot), it was the father of the nation who introduced the journey on foot in 1930 famously known as "Dandi March" and then again in 1933-34 against untouchability. On both occasions, there is evidence of Gandhiji journeying on foot for power or position. Post independence, Vinoba Bhave undertook a foot journey called "Bhoodan" movement. Much later though it did not look like a padayatra for power or politics, the late Chandrashekar went on a Padayatra from Kanyakumari to Raj Ghat in Delhi covering 4620 km of what he claimed to understand the problems of masses.

The Padayatra was then hijacked by politicians including late YSR who did reap political power and position. Of

course, a different version of yatra was pioneered by none other than late NTR which ventured to use his old "Chevrolet" van and called "Chaitanya" yatra and then BJP leaders Advani and others aped him to go on "Rath yatra" from Somnath to Ayodhya leaving behind trial of death in many parts of India ending BJP finally sitting in power. I think people know politicians like Bandi and Revanth. The question one should ask is why BJP and Congress leaders are undertaking the Padayatra. Will they be able to bring down the prices of essential commodities, will they provide jobs, better roads and clean drinking water. We the people don't consider this as "Padayatra" but a yatra for position. I would rather call these yatras ras al "Kursi Yatra". In this pandemic time, we want someone to conduct "Rozi Roti Yatra". Time has come for the people to boycott these "Pad-Yatras".

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad

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## LETTERS

### Unity in diversity

NOTHING can be happier than the RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat's appeal saying that development is not possible without unity in the country. His reiteration that all Indians have the same DNA and his assertion that he is not saying this as an image makeover exercise is heartening to note, notwithstanding his bitter critics taking this with a pinch of salt. So, he and his party along with BJP and their ancillaries should take upon the responsibility of disproving the opponents.

This can happen when RSS and BJP unitedly ensure over a period of time during their tenure in power the actual translation of their words into deeds. Like minded Hindus and Muslims always yearn for harmony and peace and unless they see visible and tangible action in curbing fundamentalism of all religions

across all regions, they would say that this is emerging because elections in five states are fast approaching. All trouble making bodies irrespective of the religion should be reined in and only then people would enjoy harmony between various religions. Lynching, per se, is against all religions including Hindutva.

D Nagarjuna, Hyderabad

### Padayatra politics

THE editorial "Padayatras to electoral victory!" (July 5) specifically stating amassing of people's mandate in elections as a result of walkathons is an indicator to grab the hearts of people. Decades ago, LK Advani's rath yatra and NTR's vigorous campaigns on his van also put them in governing seats. Today prominent political party suserains in Telangana state are keen to stage a big walk to win sympathy waves of the public. As the proverb promotes that many cooks spoil the broth, all padayatras may not yield ambitious goals as voters are



AP records  
2,100 fresh  
cases, 26 deaths

AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh logged 2,100 fresh cases of coronavirus, 3,435 recoveries and 26 deaths in the 24 hours ending 9 am on Monday. A total of 2.24 crore tests so far turned out 19,05,023 positive cases of Covid-19 in the State, at an overall positivity rate of 8.65 per cent. The mortality rate remained stable at 0.67 per cent as the gross toll mounted to 12,870, government data said. The infection positivity rate in the districts showed a drastic decline over the week, with only two staying above the five per cent mark.

From a high of 25 per cent six weeks ago, the infection positivity rate fell to 6.17 per cent in East Godavari and from 23 to 5.32 per cent in West Godavari. Chittoor's graph slid from 21 to 3.76 per cent, Prakasam's from 17 to 3.37 per cent, SPS Nellore's from 18 to 3.13 per cent and Guntur's from 13 to 2.94 per cent, government data showed.

Vizianagaram now has the lowest 1.59 per cent positivity rate in the State, followed by Srikakulam 1.96 per cent, Anantapur 2.09 per cent, Kurnool 2.16 per cent, Visakhapatnam 2.28 per cent, Kadapa 2.44 per cent, and Krishna 2.88 per cent. The data also showed that 23,419 Covid-infected persons were now in home isolation, down from 31,171 last week.

The number of patients in hospitals came down from 7,998 to 6,542 and in Covid Care Centres from 5,655 to 5,364.

# WATER IS THICKER THAN BLOOD

## Jagan finds fault with KRMB for favouring Telangana

## Stop RLIS, TS pleads with NGT



In a missive to Union Minister, Jagan said the KRMB "has shown and been showing" discriminatory attitude against the interests of AP. "KRMB acts swiftly on false complaints made by TS, but ignores the genuine complaints of AP"

No bonhomie as both CMs stick to their guns



TS government lodged a contempt petition before the NGT requesting it to act against Andhra Pradesh for not stopping the construction of the controversial Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme project

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday accused the Krishna River Management Board of adopting a discriminatory attitude against the State and acting with a bias towards Telangana. Jagan found fault with the KRMB's move to visit the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme under the guise of an NGT order without inspecting the sites in Telangana where unauthorised projects were in advanced stages of execution. He requested the Union Minister of Jal Shakti to direct the KRMB to first visit the project sites under execution in Telangana before visiting RLS.

In a follow up letter to Union

Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Jagan said the KRMB "has shown and been showing" discriminatory attitude against the interests of Andhra Pradesh. "KRMB acts swiftly on false complaints made by Telangana but ignores the genuine complaints of AP, though we have time and again requested it to act in a fair manner. KRMB, which is supposed to be a neutral body to safeguard the interests of both the member-States, is acting with a bias towards Telangana," the letter said. He further said that the neighbouring Telangana government was acting in a whimsical manner causing distress to the state. He said it was blatantly violating the provisions of the AP State Re-organisation Act 2014. Jagan requested the former

to prevail upon the Telangana government to at once stop the indiscriminate drawl of water solely for power generation. "We have already complained to the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti on a number of occasions on how TS was intentionally violating all established norms, principles and procedures to cause harm to the interests of AP and deprive the state of its due share of water."

"In spite of repeated complaints and requests to prevail upon Telangana to stop execution of the unauthorised projects, without appraisal of detailed project reports by KRMB and scrutiny by the CWC, no effective steps have been taken so far," the AP Chief Minister regretted.

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THE Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) has come under the firing line of both the Telugu States as both have accused the board of being partial. While TS alleged that KRMB was taking swift actions on the complaints of Andhra Pradesh, the neighbouring State accused the KRMB of being partial towards TS. It also urged the KRMB to convene a full board meeting after July 20 instead of a 3-member committee.

The Telangana State Government on Monday lodged a contempt petition before the NGT (National Green Tribunal) requesting it to act against Andhra Pradesh for not stopping the construction of the controversial RLIS

(Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme) project. It said the tribunal had sought an explanation from the KRMB on the contempt case filed against violations in the construction of the RLIS project recently and warned that if the project works were not stopped it may seek the arrest of AP Chief Secretary. But the AP government ignored this warning as well, the government said.

Interestingly, while accusing AP of going ahead with the controversial project despite the orders of tribunal, the TS government in another letter to the Appraisal Committee (River Valley Projects), said that the diversion of a substantial amount of water outside the Krishna basin through RLIS would even affect the ecosystem around the project.

The letter further said that several wildlife sanctuaries – Rollapadu, Gundla Brahmeshawaram, Sri Lankamalleshwara, Rajiv Gandhi National Park among others within the 10-km radius of the canals of the project would face threat. A copy of documentary evidence about the project and its impact on the ecosystem was also attached to the letter.

The government demanded the tribunal to pass appropriate orders under Section 26 and 28 of NGT Act, 2010 against the AP government for the willful violation of the previous orders and judgements against the RLIS. The TS government also demanded action against the private agency SPML Infra limited for executing the works in violation of the orders.

### DECLINE IN CASES

## Curfew further relaxed in 11 dists in AP from July 8

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

FOLLOWING the decline in Covid cases, the State government on Monday decided to further relax curfew timings from 6 am to 10 pm from July 8 barring two Godavari districts.

During a review on Covid-19, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy decided to allow cinemas, restaurants, gyms and function halls to operate from July 8 strictly adhering to Covid protocols, including alternate seating in cinemas and restaurants with 50 per cent seating capacity by mandating masks and sanitisers. However, all shops and commercial establishments should close by 9 pm. In East and West Godavari districts, the night curfew will be enforced from 7 pm to 6 am and the restrictions would be in place till the positivity rate drops below five per cent.

In regard to oxygen supply, the Chief Minister directed the officials to complete the establishment of oxygen generation plants



Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy holding a review meeting on the containment of Covid and vaccination programme at his camp office in Tadepalli on Monday

in the next two months with full production capacity. The authorities informed that 15,000 oxygen concentrators are available in the State and explained the work in progress at 134 Oxygen generation plants at 97 locations.

Further, the Chief Minister instructed the officials to focus on vaccination, prioritising teachers after it reaches 90 per cent vaccination to all those aged above 45 years. He told the authorities to complete vaccination for the government employees on priority by

department wise, including the pregnant women.

The officials said that the government is already vaccinating mothers of children under the age of five.

The officials informed the Chief Minister that there were 35,325 active cases at present and 6,542 patients are being treated in hospitals. They said 5,364 people are being treated at Covid care centres and 23,419 are under home isolation. The officials added that the recovery rate has increased to

97.47 per cent and positivity rate has decreased to 3.66 per cent. They said the positivity rate is less than 3 per cent in five districts and almost 93.40 per cent of patients in network hospitals are being treated under AarogyaSri scheme. The authorities stated that 3,670 black fungus cases were registered till date of which 295 persons died and 2,075 were discharged. In regard to vaccination, so far 1,28,84,202 people have been vaccinated, where 96,25,316 have got single dose vaccination and 32,58,885 have completed the two-dose vaccination.

Deputy Chief Minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas (Nani), Chief Secretary Aditya Nath Das, DGP Gautam Sawang, Covid Command and Control chairman Dr K S Jawahar Reddy, Covid Task Force Committee chairman MT Krishna Babu, Principal Secretary (Health) Anil Kumar Singhal, Health Secretary M Ravichandra, Health Commissioner Katamaneni Bhaskar, 104 call centre in-charge A Babu, APMSIDCVC and MD Vijayarama Raju and other officials were present.

### KRISHNA WATER DISPUTES

## CM urged to lead all-party delegation to meet PM

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
MANGALAGIRI

A meeting of senior TDP leaders presided over by party national president and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday urged Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to take an all-party delegation to discuss the Krishna water disputes issue with the Prime Minister.

The meeting resolved that the Chief Minister should take the AP delegation to Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in order to make a strong plea for the protection of the AP farmers' rights. The other demands of the TDP included allocation of funds for the interlinking of rivers to ensure augmented irrigation and drinking water to Rayalaseema and North Andhra.

Resettlement plans should be strictly implemented for the Adivasis and the farmers facing submergence threat under projects. The storage levels in all the reservoirs should be increased. The pending works on the Muchumarri

project should be completed. Water should be provided to all Rayalaseema projects.

Speaking on the occasion, the TDP leaders said that the Jagan Mohan Reddy government's failure and inefficiency was causing the Krishna water to wastefully flow into the sea instead of ensuring irrigation facility to farm lands in Rayalaseema.

While the Srisailem reservoir was being emptied, the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister was just writing useless letters. Jagan Reddy would go in special flights to Delhi for his cases but not for important issues like the Krishna water, the meeting alleged.

The TDP leaders asserted that the Chief Minister was just indulging in gimmicks to divert the attention of the public from his government's growing unpopularity, unemployment problem, wholesale corruption and dissatisfied youth. Condemning the YSRC's 'attitude', the TDP leaders reminded the Jagan regime of its responsibility to protect the AP's lower riparian State rights as per the

Bachawat Tribunal. The resolution passed in the Apex Council should be strictly implemented. The people would teach a strong lesson to the Chief Minister if he continued making useless allegations against the Opposition instead of fighting for the AP water rights. The TDP spent Rs 9,500 crore on the Rayalaseema projects in its five years rule. Jagan Reddy had no courage to tell how much his government had spent in two years. Shamelessly, the evacuees of Polavaram and Gandikota were denied compensation.

Some TDP leaders recalled that the Naidu regime proposed shifting of the KRMB office from Hyderabad to Vijayawada. The Telangana government later gave its approval. But, this shifting was stopped as Jagan Reddy tried to change the destination for political purposes. As a result, the KRMB remained in Hyderabad. Jagan Reddy accused the KRMB of being partial to Telangana. This situation could have been avoided if no obstacles were created for the KRMB shifting, the TDP leaders opined.

## TRS PREDICTS CONG WILL SEE EXODUS AFTER JULY 7

- TRS MLAs Sudheer Reddy and Chirumarthi Lingaiah hit out at Revanth for his remarks against defected legislators
- Allege AP leaders using Revanth to get a grip on Telangana, pose a slew of questions to PCC chief

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana Rashtra Samithi legislators on Monday said that many leaders in Congress were ready to leave their party to join TRS after July 7, the day when new PCC president Revanth Reddy takes the charge.

The TRS MLAs D Sudheer Reddy and Chirumarthi Lingaiah, who were earlier with Congress, made the above comments at a



TRS MLA Sudheer Reddy addressing a media conference in Hyderabad on Monday. MLA Chirumarthi Lingaiah also seen

press conference here. Sudheer Reddy said that in the coming days, especially after Revanth Reddy takes charge on July 7, many leaders would be joining the TRS and other parties. The Andhra rulers, who want to protect their properties in Telangana

were using 'broker' Revanth Reddy as a tool as they want to have a grip on Telangana, alleged the MLAs.

They further lashed out at Revanth for targeting them and stated that the new PCC president was not maintaining dignity

and was using foul language only to get limelight in the media.

"Instead of answering our questions, the PCC president is provoking people. He should maintain dignity of his post," said Sudheer Reddy.

Meanwhile, the TRS MLAs questioned as to why Revanth Reddy in 2017 gave his resignation to Telugu Desam Chief N Chandrababu Naidu and why not to the Speaker? Why did the Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot welcome the BSP MLAs into Congress? Why did Digvijay Singh made TRS MLAs join Congress? Why did Revanth Reddy attend the programme of inauguration of municipal office in Kodangal when he had resigned as an MLA?

The TRS leaders alleged that Revanth Reddy restricted himself to his home during the pandemic and ignored people of the constituency. Chirumarthi Lingaiah alleged that Revanth Reddy has formed a team to blackmail people in the guise of Right to Information Act.

### BDL to recruit for senior positions

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

CITY-BASED Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a Defence Ministry unit, has invited applications from candidates for filling of 46 posts. Applications should be sent online by July 19. The last date for sending hard copy of application is July 27. For details refer to website: <http://bdl-india.in>

Details of posts are: General manager 1, deputy general manager 3, medical officer 2, assistant manager 3 and management trainees 37, in branches of HR, new projects, safety, electronics, mechanical, electrical, civil, computer science, optics, business development and finance. Candidates who have passed in relevant subjects in engineering, MBA, PG diploma, MBBS, MS, MD along with experience in the relevant field are eligible to apply.

The selection for posts of general manager, DGM, medical officer, assistant manager will be on the basis of interview. For management trainee posts, there will be computer-based online test and interview.

## Harish promises to waive farm loans

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

FINANCE Minister T Harish Rao on Monday promised farmers of the State that the government would waive their farm loans very soon.

He made the announcement after inaugurating the Union Bank of India's Mulug branch on the premises of Konda Lakshman Telangana

State Horticulture University. Harish stated that he had asked banks to extend their co-operation to the beneficiaries of Rythu Bandhu and Aasara pension schemes. The Minister said Chief Minister K Chandrababu Naidu had plans to transform the forest college into a university. He asked bank managements to set up an ATM on college premises to help students.



Finance Minister T Harish Rao taking part in the plantation drive organised on the premises of Konda Lakshman Telangana State Horticulture University on Monday



Section 66A of the IT Act abolished on March 24, 2015

SC asks Centre how 1K FIRs lodged under scrapped law

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday expressed shock and displeasure on being told that over 1,000 cases had been filed under Section 66A of the IT Act - a controversial law that allowed police to arrest people for posting "offensive" content online - since it was struck down seven years ago.

Sec 66A was scrapped by the top court on March 24, 2015. In a landmark judgement, the court described the now-defunct law as "vague", "unconstitutional" and a "violation of free speech". "It is shocking. We will issue notice," a three-member bench of Justices R Nariman, KM Joseph and BR Gavai said. Justice Nariman added: "Amazing. What is going on is terrible."

The court has sought a response from the Centre in two weeks' time. The court was hearing a plea by an NGO - the People Union for Civil Liberties (PUC) -

seeking directions to the centre to advise all police stations against registering FIRs under this law.

Appearing for the petitioner, senior advocate Sanjay Parikh told the court "please look at how cases have increased... people are suffering", and urged it to direct the centre to collect all data on FIRs and active investigations under this scrapped law, as well as cases still pending in court.

Parikh said that prior to the scrapping of Sec 66A there were 229 pending cases. Since then, 1,307 new cases had been registered, of which 570 are still pending. The majority of these were registered in Maharashtra (381), followed by Jharkhand (291), Uttar Pradesh (245) and Rajasthan (192).

Other states to register Sec 66A cases after it was struck down are Andhra Pradesh (38), Assam (59),



Delhi, (28), Karnataka (14), Telangana (15), Tamil Nadu (7) and Bengal (37).

The petitioner also pointed out that in February 2019 the Supreme Court had directed that copies of the judgment scrapping 66A be available to every district court via the concerned High Court.

"... shockingly, despite the above order (dated February 15, 2019) and steps taken towards compliance... the Applicant discovered that Section 66A of the IT Act has continued to be in use not only within police stations but also in cases before trial courts across India," the PUC said. Responding on behalf of the centre, Attorney General KK Venugopal said: "Even if it is struck down... Section 66A is still there in the bare Acts. When police has to register a case it is still there... only a footnote that the Supreme Court has

struck it down. There has to be a bracket with 'struck down'."

In 2018 a study by Delhi High Court advocate Abhinav Sekhri and Apar Gupta of the Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), found continued use of Sec 66A by the authorities; they called this a "Legal Zombie".

Sec 66A was struck down on March 24, 2015, after it was challenged by Shreya Singhal, a Mumbai law student who filed a petition in 2012 after two young women were arrested for posting comments critical of the city's shutdown after the death of Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray.

"Nobody should have fear of putting up something because of the fear of going to prison," Ms Singhal said at the time, adding there were other laws that could be used to counter hate speech.

WINDOWS

Lalu makes 1st public appearance

PATNA: A frail-looking RLD supremo Lalu Prasad on Monday addressed his first political meeting in a long time and castigated the Narendra Modi government at the Centre and Nitish govt for their "many failures" and predicted that a bright future awaits his own party under his son Tejashwi. Appearing on national television to mark the silver jubilee of the party he founded in 1997 after breaking away from the Janata Dal, Prasad, who is suffering from many ailments and convalescing at his MP daughter Misa Bharti's residence in New Delhi, recalled his struggles for OBC quota and the fight for the rights of the weaker sections. The snappy wisecracks were missing from the speech he delivered virtually for scores of RJD workers and leaders at the party's state headquarters in Patna who were waiting for a glimpse of their leader for a long time since his incarceration after conviction in the fodder scam.

Country safe, Army prepared: Rajnath

KANPUR: The country is completely safe and the Indian Army has the power to face any challenge, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said here on Monday. Asked about a recent attack on the Jammu Air Force Station by explosives-laden drones, the defence minister said, "We want to assure the countrymen that the country is completely safe. Whatever challenges come, our Army has the power to face it." He said there is no question of warning anyone regarding drones coming into the country. Singh also told reporters that justice and humanity have been the basis of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) politics.

Those involved in lynching are against Hindutva: Mohan Bhagwat  
'Sack BJP leaders who harassed Muslims'

NEW DELHI

A day after RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat asserted that the DNA of all Indians is the same, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Monday said if Bhagwat is true to his words, he must give directions that all those BJP leaders who "harassed" innocent Muslims be removed from their posts.

Singh, however, added that Bhagwat will not do so, alleging that there is a difference between his words and actions. In his address at an event 'Hindustan First Hindustani Best' organised by the Muslim Rashtriya Manch in Ghaziabad on Sunday, Bhagwat also took on those indulging in lynching.

"Cow is a holy animal, but those involved in lynching are against Hindutva," he had said. Bhagwat had also said that though at times, some "false cases" of lynching have been registered against some people. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi hit back at Bhagwat over his remarks, saying those



criminals who carried out lynching may not know the difference between a cow and a buffalo but the names of Junaid, Akhlaq, Pehlu, Rakbar, Alimuddin were enough for them to kill. This hatred is the product of Hindutva and these criminals have the patronage of a government backing Hin-

dutva, the president of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) alleged. "Cowardice, violence and murder are an integral part of Godse's Hindutva thinking. The lynching of Muslims is also the result of this thinking," he said in a series of tweets in Hindi. Tagging a report on

Criminals who carried out lynching may not know the difference between a cow and a buffalo but the names of Junaid, Akhlaq, Pehlu, Rakbar, Alimuddin were enough for them to kill

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi

the RSS chief's remarks that the DNA of all Indians is the same and those asking Muslims to leave the country cannot call themselves Hindus, Singh said, "Mohan Bhagwat ji, will you pass on these views to your disciples, preachers, Vishwa Hindu Parishad/Bajrang Dal workers also? Will

you pass on these teachings to Modi-Shah ji and BJP chief minister also?" "Mohan Bhagwat ji, if you make it obligatory for your disciples to follow this thought, I will become your admirer," the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister said.

Alleging that the RSS had instilled "hatred" between Hindus and Muslims, Singh said it was now not easy to remove the "seeds of hatred" sown against Muslims from "Saraswati Shishu Mandir to the intellectual training provided by the Sangh."

"If you are honest with the views you expressed, then issue directions to remove all those leaders in the BJP, who have harassed innocent Muslims, from their posts immediately. Start with (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi and (UP Chief Minister) Yogi Adityanath," the Congress leader said. Referring to Bhagwat's remarks giving primacy to being Indian, Singh asked Bhagwat to explain this to his disciples first as they "advised me to go to Pakistan many times".

PRANAB'S SON ABHIJIT JOINS TRINAMOOL



Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha MP Sudip Bandopadhyay greets son of former President late Pranab Mukherjee, Abhijit Mukherjee as he joins Trinamool Congress at Trinamool Bhawan in Kolkata on Monday

'Govt won't survive in Australia if people die due to O2 shortage'

SYDNEY: Dr Yadu Singh, a well-known cardiologist of Indian origin in Australia, has been keeping a close watch on the Covid-19 situation in India as well as Australia. An internal medicine specialist, Dr Singh is also a Fellow of The Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

Dr Singh, who is based in Sydney, said that if a fiasco of the proportions, which happened in India (Oxygen shortage), had happened in Australia, there would have been an independent and high-powered judicial investigation to find out the reasons for the failings, fix responsibility for the failings and recommend steps to not allow its recurrence in the future. The government may not have survived in Australia, he added. A recent spike in Covid cases has Australian authorities scrambling to contain the delta variant, which was first detected in India.

The country has handled the coronavirus pandemic relatively better than most, with fewer than

31,000 total cases due to strict social distancing rules, border restrictions, contract tracing and lockdowns.

Several major cities were locked down last week, including Sydney — the capital of Australia's most populous state, New South Wales, and home to more than five million residents.

On Monday, New South Wales reported 35 new local cases as authorities clamp down on individuals and businesses for flouting restrictions. State Premier Gladys Berejiklian reportedly warned that the situation over the next couple of days would decide if the two-week lockdown in Sydney will be extended beyond July 9.

Last week, Australia's national cabinet agreed to halve the number of international arrivals allowed into the country by July 14 as part of a four-phase recovery plan. Non-residents are mostly barred from entering the country, with few exceptions.

Third wave may hit India in Aug, peak in Sept: SBI research report

NEW DELHI

ONLY months after the devastating second wave of Covid-19 that claimed thousands of lives across the country comes a report that says the third wave may hit India next month, that is August 2021.

The report published by SBI Research has been named 'Covid-19: The race to finishing line' has further said that the third wave will peak in September 2021, reported Live Mint.

The SBI report also talks about the second wave in India and said that it peaked on May 7. The second wave hit India in April and peaked in May, affecting thousands of families in Delhi, Maharashtra, Kerala and other states.

"Going by the current data, India can experience cases around 10,000 somewhere around the second week of July. However, the cases can start rising by the second fortnight of August," the SBI report has said.

India records 39,796 new cases, 723 deaths

NEW DELHI: India saw a single-day rise of 39,796 new Covid infections, which took the tally of cases to 3,05,85,229, while the death toll climbed to 4,02,728 with 723 more fatalities, the lowest in around 88 days, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday. The active cases have further declined to 4,82,071 and comprise 1.58 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid recovery rate has improved to 97.11 per cent, the data updated at 8 am showed It said that there has been a decline of 3,279 active cases in a span of 24 hours.

The ministry said that 15,22,504 tests were conducted on Sunday, taking the total cumulative tests conducted for detection of Covid in the country to 41,97,77,457.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.61 per cent. It has been less than five per cent for 28 consecutive days, it said.

The weekly positivity rate has declined to 2.4 per cent, according to the health ministry.



33-year-old Dolly Vanskar, an ASHA worker, along with her children rides a scooter to deliver vaccines as an alternate vaccine distributor, in Jabalpur on Monday.

Recoveries continue to outnumber daily cases for 53 consecutive days, it said, adding that the number of people who have recuperated from the disease has risen to 2,97,00,430. The case fatality rate stands at 1.32 per cent, the data stated. The cumulative vaccine doses administered has reached 35.28 crore under the nationwide vaccination drive, the ministry said.

Lanka 1st S Asian nation to get Pfizer vaccine

Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa tweeted: "Great news this morning as #SriLanka becomes the first country in South Asia to acquire a contingent of #Pfizer vaccines. I am proud of the work that is being done by my government to ensure vaccines for all Sri Lankans. Vaccination continues throughout the country." Pfizer's vaccine has reported a 95 per cent efficacy.

Japan searches for dozens missing in mudslide

ATAMI: Rescue workers dug through sludge and debris Monday looking for dozens of people who may be trapped after a a torrent of mud, trees and rocks ripped with a roar through a Japanese seaside resort town, killing at least four people. Eighty people were still unaccounted for two days after the landslide, according to Shizuoka prefectural disaster management official Takamichi Sugiyama.

Officials planned to release their names, hoping that perhaps some were away when the disaster struck, since many of the apartments and houses in Atami are second homes or vacation rentals. Initially, 147 people were unreachable, but that number was revised downward after officials confirmed some had safely evacuated or were simply not at home. In addition to the four people found dead, officials said 25 people have been rescued, including three who were injured.

The disaster is an added trial as authorities prepare for the Tokyo Olympics, due to start in less than three weeks, while Japan is still in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, with cases steadily climbing in the capital and experts suggesting a need for another state of emergency. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga told reporters that rescue workers are doing their utmost "to rescue those who may be buried under the mud and waiting for help as soon as possible".

Three coast guard ships, and six military drones were backing up hundreds of troops, firefighters and others toiling in the rain and fog.

'Nothing less than murder'

POLITICAL leaders and activists on Monday called for accountability after tribal rights activist Stan Swamy died at the age of 84 in Mumbai.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said he was shocked to learn about Swamy's death, while pointing out that he had opposed the activist's arrest and incarceration. "He [Swamy] dedicated his life working for tribal rights," Soren tweeted. "The Union government should be answerable for absolute apathy and non-provision of timely medical services, leading to his death."

Lawyer-activist Prashant Bhushan held the government and the judiciary responsible for Swamy's death. "This is nothing less than murder by the state of one of the gentlest and kindest men I have known," he tweeted. "Unfortunately our judicial system is also complicit in this."

In the same vein, activist Saket Gokhale blamed former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for the tribal rights activist's death. "Father Stan Swamy was murdered by Devendra Fadnavis," he tweeted. "The coward implicated an old man to appease his masters. The system says 'innocent until proven guilty' and the system killed a man who was innocent. Hope justice prevails someday so that his soul may eventually rest in peace."

Communist Party of India-Marxist general secretary Sitaram Yechury said he was pained and outraged over the death of Father Stan Swamy.

"Deeply pained and outraged at the death of Father Stan Swamy. A Jesuit priest & social activist he tirelessly helped the marginalised. Draconian UAPA custody, inhuman treatment since October 2020 with no charge established. Accountability must be fixed for this murder in custody," tweeted Yechury.

Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) politburo member Kavita Krishnan also castigated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for not accepting Swamy's bail request.

"Modi and Shah have accomplished the custodial killing of the gentle Jesuit social worker Fr [Father]



Stan Swamy

Stan Swamy, who spent his life serving the oppressed," she wrote on Twitter. "I hope the judges who denied him bail never get to sleep at night: they have blood on their hands."

Youth Congress chief Srinivas BV said that Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami got urgent hearing in courts, while Swamy was denied bail for over seven months. He asked, "Now he is no more. Who is responsible?"

Historian Ramchandra Guha called Swamy's death "a case of judicial murder, for which the home ministry and the courts are jointly culpable." Journalist Barkha Dutt tweeted: "The death of ageing, infirm Stan Swamy subverting even the bail not jail principle. Pause and consider how callous our system can be."

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh also blamed the Modi government for Swamy's death. Vadgam MLA Jignesh Mevani said that Modi and Shah have Swamy's "blood on their hands". Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Shashi Tharoor, mourned the tribal rights activist's death.

An aged frail Jesuit priest who fought all his life for the poor & dispossessed, mercilessly jailed, at first denied even a straw to drink water, denied timely medical help, repeatedly denied bail, dies in custody. A national tragedy. Who killed Father #StanSwamy? Senior journalist Sagarika Ghose







# ICC begins process to identify hosts for white-ball events post 2023

DUBAI

THE International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday said it has commenced the process to identify the hosts for the men's white-ball events to be held post 2023, following the expansion to its event programme in the next cycle.

The hosting of the ICC World Test Championship Final, the ICC women's and under-19 events in the new cycle will be determined in a separate process that will get underway later this year.

Eight men's ODI and T20 events, comprising two ICC Men's Cricket World Cups, four ICC Men's T20 World Cups and two ICC Champions Trophies, will be staged from 2024-2031 and ICC Members were invited to submit a preliminary technical proposal as a potential host. This included individual country submissions as well as joint proposals. ICC said in a statement that, "Initial submissions have been received from Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, Malaysia, Namibia, New Zealand, Oman, Pak-

istan, Scotland, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies, UAE, USA and Zimbabwe."

ICC Acting Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said, "We are delighted with the response from our Members to hosting ICC men's white-ball events post 2023. This process gives us an opportunity to extend our range of hosts and grow interest in cricket worldwide reaching more fans whilst creating a long-term legacy for the sport."

"Cricket has more than a billion fans around the world and ICC

events have a proven track record of bringing significant economic and social benefits for host countries. These events provide hosts with a wonderful opportunity to work closely with local communities to grow the game whilst supporting economic and social development public policy goals. "We will now move forward to the second phase of the process where Members will provide a more detailed proposal before the ICC Board takes decisions on our future hosts later this year," said Allardice. (IANS)



## No reason to remove Shastri as head coach: Kapil Dev

NEW DELHI

FORMER Indian captain Kapil Dev thinks that there is no need to remove India's head coach Ravi Shastri if he is doing the job well. Shastri is with the Test team for the five Tests against England, while Rahul Dravid is at the helm in the white-ball tour to Sri Lanka. Shastri's contract ends after the T20 World Cup in October-November.

"I don't think there is any need to speak about it. Let this Sri Lanka series get over. We'll get to

know the kind of performance our team has dished out. If you're trying to shape a new coach, there's nothing wrong with it. "Then again, if Ravi Shastri continues to do a good job, there's no reason to remove him either. Only time will tell. Before that, I think it will put unnecessary pressure on our coaches and players," Kapil told ABP News.

On India fielding two different teams in different formats, the 1983 World Cup-winning captain said that a lot of

youngsters stand to benefit from such an arrangement. "India have a big bench strength. If players get the opportunity and India can assemble two teams that can claim to win in both England and Sri Lanka, there is nothing better. If the youngsters get the opportunity, there's nothing wrong with it. But it is up to the team management to decide whether they should apply such pressure on two teams simultaneously," said Kapil. (IANS)



EURO 2020 CHAMPIONSHIP

## Spain, Italy set for semifinal

MADRID

SPAIN'S football team flew to London on Monday ahead of their European Championship semifinal against Italy on Tuesday night.

The need to protect the playing surface at Wembley Stadium meant the Spanish, who enjoyed a day off on Sunday, held their final training session ahead of the game at the familiar headquarters of the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) in Madrid, reports Xinhua. Spain have reached the last-four after testing the nerves of their fans (and no doubt coach Luis Enrique) as they needed extra-time to beat Croatia 5-3 in the last 16, while their quarterfinal against Switzerland went to a

penalty shootout in which goalkeeper Unai Simon was the hero. Consecutive extra-times mean Spain have played an hour more than Italy over their last two games and the general feeling is that Luis Enrique's players will need a good night in front of the goal if they are to get past the Italians.

Nevertheless, Spain have lost just two of their last 14 meetings against Italy and they still remember their quarterfinal win against Italy on way to the 2008 European Championship title, which truly marked their arrival as a top team and started a run of success which saw them win the 2010 World Cup and Euro 2012, where they thrashed Italy 4-0 in the final.

However, the current Italian side is very different from the ultra-defensive teams of the past, with Roberto Mancini building a team based on pace in attack and drive in midfield.

He has lost left-back Leonardo Spinazzola to injury, whose pace down the flank will be missed, although Ciro Immobile, Lorenzo Insigne and Nicola Barella all pose massive threats to a Spain side that always look as if they have a defensive error in them.

Pablo Sarabia is likely to miss out for Spain with a muscle problem, with Dani Olmo or Thiago Alcantara stepping in for a game where Spain will hope their control of midfield, rather than tired legs, will be the key factor. (IANS)

## Young sailor from city selected for Optimist World Sailing C'ship

HYDERABAD

PADIDALA Vishwanath, 15, a young sailor who lives and trains at Navy Boys Sports Company (NBSC), INS Mandovi, Goa has been selected to Junior Boys Yachting team to represent India at the ongoing Optimist World Sailing Championship 2021.

The championship being held at Riva Del Garda, Italy from June 30 will conclude on July 10. Vishwanath, a resident of Hyderabad is from a very humble background. His parents are daily wage labourers, however, Vishwanath strives to live his dream of becoming a professional sailor.

He was selected by Navy Boys Sports Company at a young age of 12. NBSC, a joint venture between Indian Navy and Sports Authority of India has been training young talents like P Vishwanath with an aim to win medals in Asian Championships as well as Olympics.

His prior achievement in international event includes silver medal in the Sub Junior International Regatta 2017. He is part of national squad in optimist class since then.



## Football Delhi to launch '37 Plus League' on August 3

NEW DELHI

FOOTBALL Delhi will launch the '37 Plus League', involving retired players, from August 3 this year to mark the 37th birthday of Indian team striker Sunil Chhetri.

Football Delhi has been celebrating Chhetri's birthday as 'Delhi Football Day' since 2018. Football Delhi, following its executive committee meeting on July 4, issued a statement, saying, "As Indian national team captain, Sunil Chhetri, is turning 37 on 3rd August 2021, we named the league '37 Plus League' in his honour. This league will be played on Saturdays and Sundays, lasting 8-10 weeks with 8-10 teams."

"37 Plus League is yet another initiative of Football Delhi to actively promote football in Delhi and, with the start of this

league, retired players in Delhi will have a platform to come together and express their love, passion, experience, and continue to be active with the game," said Football Delhi president Shaji Prabhakaran. "It is our honour and privilege to celebrate the Football Delhi Day on 3rd August, the birthday of Sunil Chhetri. This initiative will greatly motivate 37-plus age group to remain physically active through football as Sunil is an inspiring leader, still performing like a 25-year-old for the Indian team and BFC (Bengaluru FC)."

The executive committee also decided to start the qualifying competition for Senior Division League clubs from July 20 to nominate two teams from Delhi in the 2nd Division I-League competition to be held in Bengaluru. (IANS)

## 'Team needs players of Sneha's calibre who can take pressure'

WORCESTER

INDIAN women's team head coach Ramesh Powar has said that all-rounder Sneha Rana is someone who can play in crunch situations and that the team needs players of "her calibre who can take pressure".

Sneha Rana's 24 off 22 balls and her 50-run partnership for the fifth wicket with skipper Mithali Raj played a key role in India's victory in the third and final ODI against England women here on July 3. Sneha also bowled seven overs, conceding 31 runs and taking a wicket. India lost the series 1-2.

"I think Sneha is the find of this series, the way she was bowling in Southampton in practice session, we thought we must give her a chance and the think-tank thought, you know... it was a difficult decision to play two off-spinners in the XI, but she just played her role to the core and I'm really happy for her," said Powar in a video posted by the Indian cricket board on Monday.

"Being an off-spinner (myself), I can see the talent. She (Sneha) is a player who can play



in crunch situations and that's what we needed because when the big series come up, we need players of calibre who can take pressure."

On the consolation win in the third ODI at Worcester, Powar said, "Bowlers brought us back into the game. We have to learn a lot many things from this series. I think the fielding improved immensely, bowling has improved immensely, batting has to be up if we are aiming at the World Cup."

Powar was all praise for skipper Mithali Raj, who scored half-centuries in all three ODIs.

"I think she deserves every praise; she's served the game for 22 years. I think she is a role model for a lot of girls. She single-handedly won the last ODI.



## Mary Kom, Manpreet picked as flag bearers for Tokyo Olympics

MUMBAI

MULTIPLE-TIMES world champion boxer and London Olympics bronze medalist MC Mary Kom and men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh were on Monday named flag bearers of the 200-strong Indian contingent in the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games on July 23.

At Tokyo, Mary Kom, 38, will be participating in her second Olympics -- women's boxing was introduced at the London Olympics in 2012 -- after failing to qualify for the Rio Games in 2016.

She is the most accomplished Indian sportsperson, having bagged the World Championship a record six times and has won a gold (2014) and silver (2020) medal at the Asian Games.

Manpreet, 28, will be participating in his third Olympics. He has been captain of the Indian men's team from 2016 onwards and has been part of the team that won gold at the 2014 Incheon Asian Games and two silver medals in the Champions Trophy.

## World T20 will be low-scoring on worn-out pitches: Boucher

ST GEORGE'S (GRENADA)

SOUTH African cricket team coach Mark Boucher feels the ICC T20 World Cup in October-November this year in the UAE will be a low-scoring tournament, given that the pitches would be worn out by the time the Indian Premier League (IPL) ends and the mega event commences.

The suspended edition of the IPL will resume in the UAE on September 19 with the final scheduled on October 15, while the ICC T20 World Cup begins two days later, on October 17, and concludes on November 14.


"They are playing the IPL there (UAE and Oman); there's not a lot of grounds and those wickets are going to be worn




so scores will probably go even further down," Boucher, who is in the West Indies with his team, told ESPNcricinfo on Sunday. South Africa clinched the five-match T20I series against the West Indies 3-2 after winning the decider on July 3. "It's going to be tough to bat on especially at the back end, like we saw

here (in West Indies). We will have an idea of what scores are going to be by watching the IPL and then taking a look and assess how the wickets are playing during the beginning part of the World Cup. I suspect spinners will play a massive role."


"We are probably going to be playing in conditions like this (West Indies) in the UAE. The wickets after the IPL are going to be a bit dry. It's not the same as we're used to back in South Africa where you can go out and bash your way to 180 to 200 runs. You've got to be skilful here (West Indies); you've got to be smart," Boucher said. The scores in St George's, the venue for all five T20Is, were between 160-170, and the team batting first won four of them. (IANS)





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Printed and Published by K. Hanumanta Rao, on behalf of Hyderabad Media House Pvt. Limited, Flat No.609, 6th Floor, Kirti Shikhar Building, Plot.No.11, Dist.Center, Janakpuri, New Delhi- 110058. and Printed at M/s. Marutinandan Printers & Publishers, A-15, Bara Bagh, G.T Karnal Road, Industrial Area, New Delhi - 110033. Editor: V Ramu Sarma. RNI No: DELENG/2017/74095