

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | WEDNESDAY 31 | MARCH 2021

## WEATHER



**Max:** 40°C  
**Min:** 23°C  
**Rainfall:** Nil

## ASTROGUIDE

**Sarvari:** Panguni 18  
**Tithi:** Thrithiyai  
**Star:** Swathi/ Visagam  
**Rahukalam:**  
12 noon to 1.30 pm  
**Yamagandam:**  
7.30 am to 9 am  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 4.55 am  
**Zohar:** 12.18 pm  
**Asar:** 3.29 pm  
**Maghrib:** 6.20 pm  
**Isha:** 7.32 pm  
**SUNSET TODAY 6.21 PM**  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.06 AM**  
**MOONRISE TODAY 9.05 PM**  
**MOONSET TOMORROW 8.58 AM**

## CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+53,043)	(+355)
1,21,48,405	1,62,502

covid19india.org

### STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,342)  
TN: 8,84,094 12,700

### WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

12,85,56,276

### DEATHS

28,09,226

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES  
219

worldometers.info

**Fire in slum cluster in Delhi, around 60 shanties gutted**

**New Delhi:** Around 60 shanties were gutted in a fire that broke out in a slum cluster in Delhi's Bawana area on Tuesday, officials said. No injuries were reported, they said. According to the fire department, a call about the fire at JJ Colony in Bawana was received around 12.35 pm. Fifteen fire tenders were rushed to the spot, it said. An autorickshaw and bike, parked in the area, also caught fire, the officials said. The flames were doused by 2 pm and the cause of the fire is being ascertained, the fire officials said. — *PTI*

**AstraZeneca shots halted in parts of Germany for under-60s**

**Berlin:** Several health authorities in Germany announced Tuesday that they are again suspending the use of AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine for residents under age 60 amid fresh reports of unusual blood clots in people who recently received the shots. The medical regulator said it had received a total of 31 reports of rare blood clots in recent recipients of the AstraZeneca vaccine .

**WHO experts report says it has 'not yet' found source of Coronavirus**

**Beijing/Geneva:** A team of WHO experts, which probed the origin of the novel Coronavirus, said that it has""not yet"" found the source of the deadly virus and called for further studies to find answers to questions, including allegations that it could have emanated from a bio lab, need to be addressed. The report of the international team which visited the central Chinese city of Wuhan, where the virus was first reported in December 2019.

## COUNTER POINT



**Just to be on the safe side, I want to record all your promises!**

## STATE | 2

**Communist leader Nallakannu tests positive**



## NATION | 3

**Mamata woos Nandigram voters**



## SPORT | 8

**Pant named Delhi captain**



deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle, google.com/+deccanchronicle

# Modi slams Cong-DMK over remark against CM's mother

**Dharapuram, March 30:** In a veiled attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday dubbed former union telecom minister A Raja, as an 'outdated 2G missile' of the Congress and DMK and slammed him for insulting the mother of Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and targeting Tamil Nadu women.

Without naming Raja, Modi in his election rally here said Congress and DMK have launched their 'outdated 2G missile' and this missile has one clear target, the women of Tamil Nadu.

"A few days back, this missile was launched by UPA with a clear order to attack the nari shakti of Tamil Nadu." Today Congress and DMK have insulted the respected mother of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami, he alleged.

"God forbid, if they come to power, they will insult many other women of Tamil Nadu." Days ago, in his campaign, Mr Raja allegedly spoke in an offensive manner over the birth of Mr Palaniswami and the ruling AIADMK lodged a police complaint and a case has been registered against him.

Asking the Congress and the DMK leaderships to control their party leaders, the PM said the people of Tamil Nadu are noting everything and they would never toler-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves at crowd during a public meeting in support of their NDA candidates for Tamil Nadu Assembly polls, at Dharapuram, in Tirupur district, on Tuesday. — *PTI*

ate insult to the women of the state.

The agriculture sector is in need of urgent reform and modernisation and the government has initiated reforms that would free the small farmers from the pressure of middlemen, the Prime Minister said.

In his poll campaign here, he invoked Tamil classic *Thirukkural* and said one common theme in it was respect for farmers.

The world must follow the farmers as farming is the base and farmers are the linchpin of the world for they support all others who cannot till the land, he said quoting the *Kural*. — *PTI*

## Campaigning for second phase of polls ends in Bengal

**Kolkata, March 30:** Campaigning for the second phase of West Bengal assembly poll ended on Tuesday, setting the stage for the voting in 30 constituencies spread across four districts on April 1.

The fate of 171 candidates will be decided in the second phase by 75,94,549 voters who will exercise their franchise in 10,620 polling booths spread across the 30 constituencies, the Election

Commission sources said.

All the booths where polling will be held in the second phase have been declared as "sensitive" by the EC, sources in it said.

It will deploy total 651 companies of Central Armed Police for this phase of election which will be held in Bankura, Purba Medinipur, Paschim Medinipur (Part II) and South 24 Parganas, they said. — *PTI*

**LDF govt 'betrayed; people of Kerala just as Judas did to Jesus: PM**

**DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 30**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hit out at the CPI(M)-led LDF government in Kerala, accusing it of betraying people in the manner in which Judas deceived Jesus Christ.

Addressing his first election meeting in Kerala in Palakkad, the Prime Minister said if Judas deceived Jesus for a few silver coins, the Pinarayi government betrayed the people for gold, referring to the gold smuggling case involving the chief minister's former principal secretary, Metroman E. Sreedharan is the BJP candidate in Palakkad. Mr Modi also raised the Sabarimala issue accusing the LDF government of unleashing lathis on innocent devotees who were fighting for the protection of traditions, customs and rituals. He was referring to the agitation of Hindutva outfits, including the BJP, which protested against the LDF government's decision to implement the SC verdict on allowing women of all ages in the hill shrine. ■ **P3**

# Ex-MP calls Rahul 'unmarried trouble-maker', courts controversy

**Idukki(Ker), March 30:** As campaigning for the assembly polls reached feverish pitch in Kerala, former MP Joyce George courted a controversy by making alleged derogatory remarks against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in

connection with the latter's interaction with students of a women's college in Kochi last week.

George, who had won as the CPI(M) supported independent during 2014 Parliament election from Idukki, made highly objec-

tionable comments against the Nehru scion while addressing an election rally at Irattayar here on Monday.

Distancing himself from the comments, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the LDF's stand is not

to personally attack Gandhi. "We will oppose him politically not personally", Vijayan told reporters in Kasaragod on Tuesday. Attacking the opposition Congress-led UDF and Rahul Gandhi in particular, George said

Gandhi would visit only women's colleges and the girls should be "cautious" while dealing with the former Congress President. "Girls never bend down in front of him.. he is an unmarried trouble maker," he alleged. — *PTI*



**IMRAN HARPS ON KASHMIR IN REPLY TO MODI**

**Islamabad, March 30:** Prime Minister Imran Khan has written a letter to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, saying creation of an "enabling environment" is imperative for a constructive and result-oriented dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues between Pakistan and India, in particular the Jammu and Kashmir issue.

Mr Khan's letter was in reply to Mr Modi's letter to him last week to extend greetings on the occasion of Pakistan Day. In his letter, Mr Modi had said that India desires cordial relations with Pakistan but an atmosphere of trust, devoid of terror and hostility, is "imperative" for it. — *PTI*

# HC prescribes counselling to parents of same-sex partners

**Chennai, March 30:** The Madras high court has asked the parents of two women, who were in a live-in relationship, to subject themselves to counselling by a specialist in the field, to face the matter wisely. Justice N Anand Venkatesh, who gave an interim order on Tuesday, hoped that the parties will work towards a peaceful resolution.

"What is required for the present is an understanding of the issue in hand," the judge said.

He was passing orders on a petition from the women, seeking protection for their living together without any disturbance from their respective parents. While one of them was 22 and pursuing MBA, the other woman, 20, was an undergraduate student.

They were natives of Madurai district and were in a relationship for about two years.

They told the judge their friendship blossomed into love and that they were

very clear that both of them will be a partner to each other for life. But, their parents did not like this. They exerted pressure on them to separate. The women left Madurai and were presently under the care of a city-based NGO.

Before passing the interim order, the judge said he personally spent time in doing some research and collected materials to arrive at a proper understanding of this issue. — *PTI*

**OCI card holders need not carry old passports for travelling to India**

**Washington/New York, March 30:** People of Indian origin and the Indian diaspora having Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cards are now not required to carry their old, expired passports for travel to India, according to a government notifica-

tion that has been welcomed by the community.

The Indian missions in the US said in order to ease the travel of OCI card holders, it has been decided that the time line for re-issuance of OCI cards has been extended to 31 December, 2021. — *PTI*

**PRESIDENT STABLE AFTER CARDIAC BYPASS SURGERY**

**New Delhi, March 30:** President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday underwent a cardiac bypass surgery at the AIIMS here, a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

The surgery was successful and his condition is stable, it said.

"The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind underwent cardiac bypass surgery today morning (March 30, 2021) at AIIMS, New Delhi. Surgery was successful. He is stable and is being closely monitored by a team of senior doctors," the statement said. The president was shifted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on Saturday. Kovind, 75, had undergone a health check-up at the Army Hospital (R&R) here following chest discomfort Friday morning. — *PTI*

# SC sentences ex-IGP's son to 3 months in jail for contempt

**G. BABU JAYAKUMAR | DC CHENNAI, MARCH 30**

The Supreme Court has sentenced Chennai resident, Michael Arul, son of former inspector-general of police the late F.V. Arul, to three months in jail for contempt of court after he failed to clear the maintenance arrears of ₹2.60 crore along with ₹1.75 lakh monthly maintenance to his estranged wife despite a final warning.

● **The trial court had directed Mr Michael Arul to pay compensation to Jennifer Arul and all the higher courts had upheld that decision. While giving him two to three week to pay the money, the Supreme Court had pointed out that the man had not complied with even a single order of courts.**

Passing the order on March 22, a bench of Chief Justice S.A. Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian said Mr Arul had not utilised the chances given to him and referred to its own order of February 19,

giving him a last chance to pay the entire outstanding maintenance amount along the monthly sum fixed earlier by the court.

Michael Arul's wife, Jennifer Arul, a former English television journalist based in Chennai,

had been fighting a protracted legal battle since 2009 when she filed a case under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act before the metropolitan magistrate's court. The trial court had directed Mr Arul to pay compensation to Jennifer Arul and all the higher courts had upheld that decision.

While giving him two to three week to pay the money, the Supreme Court had pointed out that the man had not com-

plied with even a single order of courts.

The couple were married in 1972 and Mr Arul, according to his wife, deserted the family in 1997.

She told *Deccan Chronicle* that Mr Arul, who is now 75 years, was leading a luxurious life with a German woman from Munich in a huge mansion in Muttukadu.

The two of them owned five companies and Mr Arul had diverted every bit of the family's wealth

into his live-in partner's possession, she said.

A few years ago, David Arul, son of Michael and Jennifer, had also filed a case against his father for illegally selling a prime ancestral property, measuring eight grounds and 2177 square feet, on Pantheon Road.

That property was actually bequeathed to David Arul by his grandmother, Mabel Arul, who is the daughter of legendary plantation owner A.V. Thomas.







## SHORT TAKES

MANIPUR GOVT  
RETRACTS ORDER  
ON REFUGEESMANOJ ANAND | DC  
GUWAHATI, MARCH 30

In what has led to serious embarrassment for the Manipur government, it has been compelled to withdraw an administrative order barring district administrations and civil society organisations from opening shelters or providing food to refugees from Myanmar who may have crossed the border following the ongoing military action against the agitating civil society protesters against the coup. The state home department, in an order signed by Gyan Prakash on March 26, had stated that only medical attention should be provided in case of "grievous injuries" on "humanitarian considerations".

NANDED: 18  
ARRESTED FOR  
ATTACK ON COPSBHAGWAN PARAB | DC  
MUMBAI, MARCH 30

The police have arrested 18 people for the violence and an attack on policemen at Nanded. They have also registered a case against 410 people for attempting to take out a Holi Mohalla procession outside Sachkhanda Gurudwara without permission. According to police, an FIR has been registered under IPC sections for attempt to murder, causing grievous hurt and rioting. The situation around the gurudwara in Nanded is tense but under control at present.

NIA SEIZES LUXURY  
CAR REGISTERED IN  
WASE'S NAMESHAHAB ANSARI | DC  
MUMBAI, MARCH 30

The National Investigation Agency on Tuesday seized a high-end car apparently registered in the name of arrested Mumbai Police officer Sachin Waze from Navi Mumbai. The probe team had been looking for this Mitsubishi Outlander SUV for the last several days.

According to sources, the car was parked in Kamathe area of Navi Mumbai around 15 days ago. It was discovered after locals informed the police about the abandoned car.

Mamata woos  
N'gram votersSays the people of Nandigram are  
not to be blamed for her injuryRAJIB  
CHOWDHURI | DC  
KOLKATA, MARCH 30

Swinging into damage control mode in Nandigram, from where she is standing in the Assembly election, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee clarified Tuesday that the people of the area were not to blame for her leg injuries on March 10 evening.

The Trinamul Congress supremo, who broke her silence on the leak of her conversation with BJP leader Proloy Pal recently, also stood on her feet as the national anthem was being played, mustering courage for the first time in public in the last 20 days since the leg injuries put her into a wheelchair.

Before the campaign for the second phase polls ended, Banerjee said at Tenua in Nandigram, "After suffering injuries at Birulia, I found my feet swollen badly and blood dripping. The heel was badly injured. But the people of Nandigram are not to be blamed for my injury. I still believe some goons from outside this place planned the attack on me. Nandigram wants me. That is why I am fighting here."

Her latest version on the March 10 incident assumes significance as she held the locals responsible for her injuries in the past few days of the campaign. The injured CM, helped by some TMC leaders, was later seen rising from her wheelchair briefly to show her respect for the national anthem at the dais of her party rally.

Seeing their firebrand leader back on her feet, the TMC workers erupted in jubilation. Soon after Banerjee's campaign ended, TMC workers clashed with some BJP cadres in the area.



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee at a rally on the last day of the campaign for the 2nd phase of Assembly polls, in Nandigram on Tuesday. — PTI

NOT NECESSARY THAT ONLY SITTING  
MLA WILL BECOME CM: DILIP GHOSH

**New Delhi, March 30:** Claiming that a "strong undercurrent" for the BJP has now come to the surface in West Bengal, its state unit chief Dilip Ghosh on Tuesday exuded confidence that the party will form the next government in the state and said it is not necessary that only a sitting MLA will become the chief minister.

Ghosh, a sitting MP from Medinipur, asserted that the momentum "in favour" of the BJP will continue till the last phase. "After the first phase of polling only the BJP is confident of its victory, whereas the

TMC and its leaders are frustrated. As the election will progress, the trend set by the BJP in the first phase will gain momentum and with every phase of polling TMC workers will themselves realise their defeat," Ghosh said.

To a query on whether a sitting MLA will become the chief minister if the BJP wins, Ghosh, who himself is seen as a strong contender, said, "It is for the party to decide but it is not necessary a sitting MLA will become the chief minister.... when Mamata ji became chief minister she was not an MLA." — PTI

On the leak of the audio clip, which recorded her plea to Pal to work for her victory, the TMC chief angrily said, "I had some information that the person concerned wanted to talk to

me. I have every right to have that conversation as a candidate. What he did was a criminal offence. I am not at fault. I will not forgive those who backstabbed us here in Nandigram."

Maha names retd judge to  
probe Param Bir's claim

**Mumbai, March 30:** The Maharashtra government on Tuesday set up a committee headed by a retired judge of high court to probe the corruption allegations levelled by former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh against state Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

The one-member panel, to be headed by judge Kailash Uttamchand Chandiwal (retd), is given the time of six months to submit its report to the state government, an official order said.

In his letter to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, days after he was transferred

as Mumbai police chief before the end of his term, Singh alleged that Deshmukh had given a target to collect Rs 100 crore from bars and restaurants to Mumbai police officer Sachin Waze.

Deshmukh had denied the allegations.

The NIA is probing the alleged role of Waze, who was arrested on March 13, in parking an explosives-laden vehicle outside the south Mumbai residence of industrialist Mukesh Ambani on February 25 and in the murder of businessman Man-sukh Hiran, who purportedly owned that vehicle. — PTI

Maharashtra: Lockdown  
talk divides MVA leaders

**Mumbai, March 30:** The constituents of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government spoke in different voices on Tuesday on the need for a fresh lockdown in Maharashtra with some leaders of the NCP and the Shiv

Sena questioning the effectiveness of such strategy against the epidemic. NCP leader and Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope said imposing a lockdown is the last option for the state government. — PTI

LDF govt 'betrayed';  
people of Kerala just as  
Judas did to Jesus: PM

FROM PAGE 1

The Sabarimala temple customs prohibit the entry of women between the age of 10 and 50.

"I want to tell the LDF and the UDF, if you abuse our culture we will not remain silent spectators. Our state president Surendranji was arrested and ill-treated by the Kerala government. What was his crime? That he spoke for Kerala's traditions?" Mr Modi asked.

He hit out at the Congress-led UDF for remaining silent when devotees were being attacked by the police. "I am proud to belong to a party that has, is always and will always defend the culture of our land," he said.

Mr Modi solicited votes for 11 BJP candidates contesting from the district. "The BJP would offer a vision to Kerala which would be different.

Metroman Sreedharanji, a man who has done excellent work to make modern India and improve connectivity, a man admired by all sections of society, has devoted himself to Kerala's progress," he added.

The Prime Minister came down heavily on the CPM over politics of violence.

He said despite being in power for so long, some junior level leaders behave like anti-social elements. Political rivals are killed with their blessings.

He said if the BJP came to power it would bring an end to the saga of political violence. "Differences in political sphere are normal. But killing the opponents in the name of ideology is not acceptable. So many of our young BJP karyakartas have lost their lives," he reminded the gathering.

## FORM C-1

## Declaration about Criminal Case

(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP(Civil) No.536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of candidate : Agri.S.S.Krishnamurthy

s/o. Sundaresan,  
Elathur Village & Post, Kalasapakkam Taluk,  
Tiruvannamalai District.

Name of Political Party : All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)

Name of Election : Tamilnadu Legislative Assembly General Election - 2021

Name of Constituency : 066 - Polur

I, Agri.S.S.Krishnamurthy, a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

(A) Pending criminal cases				
Sl.No	Name of Court	Case No. and dated	Status of Case (s)	Section (s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence (s)
1	Hon'ble Supreme Court	CrI. Appeal No : 322/2017 dated 10.02.2017	(Detailed below)	(Detailed below)
(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences.				
Sl.No	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum punishment imposed	
	Nil	Nil	Nil	

The CBCID Police, Tirunelveli has registered a FIR in Crime No. 1/2015 under Section 174 of Cr.P.C and it was subsequently altered to Section 120(B) of I.P.C., r/w. Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, r/w. Sections 109, 306 & 34 of I.P.C. and the same was numbered as P.R.C. No. 40/2015.

The CrI.O.P. (MD) No. 22379/2015 was filed by the candidate herein under Section 482 of Cr.P.C before the Hon'ble Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court and the said P.R.C. No. 40/2015 on the file of the Judicial Magistrate, Tirunelveli was quashed by an order dated 08.03.2016 of the Hon'ble Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court.

However, the State has preferred SLP No. 2688/2016 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, challenging the said order and the SLP has been converted as Criminal Appeal No. 322/2017 and the same is pending.

## KERALA | POLLS

Govt failed to meet aspirations of people: Cong

## Priyanka launches attack on LDF

DC CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
MARCH 30

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Tuesday hit out at the CPM led-LDF government for failing to meet the aspirations of the people of the state during its five year rule.

Gandhi who began her campaign in the state on Tuesday addressed a series of meetings in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Alappuzha districts in support of UDF candidates. She said the LDF government had failed to provide 20 lakh jobs that it had promised to give to the youth after coming to power in 2016.

She said the LDF had sold off the fishermen interests and their means of liveli-



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi arrives in poll-bound Kerala, at Kayamkulam in Alappuzha district. — PTI

hood for ₹5,000 crore to a US company while referring to the MoU signed by the government for deep sea trawling and ship building. The government

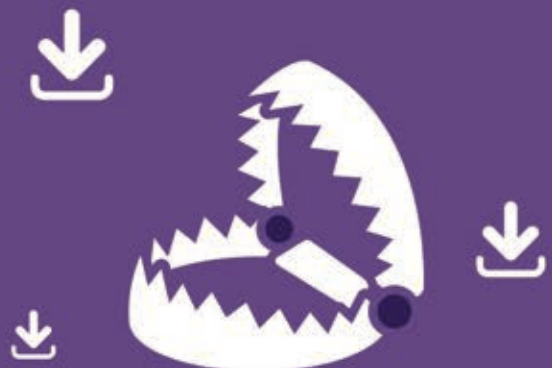
was later forced to scrap the MoU following widespread protests.

But the deal has exposed the government's real intentions.

Gandhi said the CPM-led government had failed to implement a reasonable support price for paddy, coconut and rubber. The cashew and coir sectors were in dire straits. She said the UDF would revive the state's economy and provide support price to the cash crops and paddy.

The Congress leader lashed out at the government for spending crores of rupees on advertisement to refurbish its image. "If you ask me where the government's money is going? I would say it is going for publicity, propaganda and advertisement," she said amid applause from people at Karunagapally.

The Congress general secretary addressed rallies in Kollam district and took part in road show at Kayamkulam.



Cyber scamsters carefully  
set their trap,  
Don't download or install  
app from unknown source



Installing any app from an unknown  
source can give fraudsters  
remote access to your mobile phone



If you have downloaded such apps  
delete them now. Also, keep a check  
on your app, SMS, email alerts and  
bank account statements

RBI Kehta Hai...  
Jaankaar Baniye,  
Satark Rahiye!



Issued in public interest by  
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक  
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA  
www.rbi.org.in



Format C-7

(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals

without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party:BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY				*Name of the Election :TAMILNADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION -2021		_Name of State/ UT:TAMILNADU	
S. No.	Name of the Constituency	Name of the candidate	Criminal antecedents	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)		
1	39 - KANYAKUMARI	Shri. PON. RADHA KRISHNAN	a. <b>Nature of the offences</b> 1.Crime No.56/2021, ARUMANAI(P.S), 1.U/S.143, 188, 269 IPC and 3 of ED Act 1897 Allegedly Unlawful Assembly, Danger in public way, Nuisance, spread infection of disease, disobedience to quarantine rule, 2.Crime No.52/2021, SUCHINDRUM(P.S), U/S.143, 269 IPC and 3 of ED Act 1897 Allegedly Unlawful Assembly, Danger in public way, Nuisance, spread infection of disease, disobedience to quarantine rule 3.Crime No. 197/2019, THUCKALAY (P.S), 4AA(i)(a) r/w 4AA(4) TNOPD Act and 171(H) IPC, Allegedly Unauthorized disfigurement by Advertisements in open place, unnecessary restraint. <b>b. Case No.</b> charge sheet not filed <b>c. Name of the Court:</b> charge sheet not filed. <b>d Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No):</b> NO <b>e. Date of conviction, if any:</b> NOT APPLICABLE <b>f. Details of punishment undergone, if any :</b> NOT APPLICABLE <b>g. Any other information required to be given:</b> NOT APPLICABLE	The selected candidate is a very senior, sincere and dedicated party worker who has already been on various important positions in the party. He was also Served as Union Minister in the Central Government.	As a party worker and Eminent personality, he had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no adverse party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the Alleged accused.		
2	18-HARBOUR	VINOJ P SELVAM	a. <b>Nature of the offences</b> 1)T-4, Maduravayal PS, Crime No. 1405/2020- u/s. 143, 188, IPC, r/w3 of ED Act1897. 2)C-3, Sevan wells PS, Crime No. 1415/2020- u/s.143,188,269 IPC. 3)C-3, Sevan wells PS, Crime No. 1491/2020- u/s. 143, 188, 269 IPC r/w 3 of ED Act 1897, and 51(b) of D M Act-2005 and 134 of TNPH act 1939 4)B-2, Espilanedu PS, Crime No. 1661/2020- u/s 143, 188, 269, IPC r/w 3 of ED act 1897 and 51(b) of DM act 2005 and 41(6) of TNCP act. 5)C-1, Flower Bazaar PS, Crime No. 38/2021-u/s143,188 IPC, 6)D-1, Thiruthani PS Crime No. 2727/2020 -u/s143, 341, 188,269,270IPC r/w51(a). (b)of D M act 2005, 7)Karur Town PS, Crime No. 1303/2020 u/s 143,341,269 IPC r/w 3 of ED act 1897 ( all the cases Charge sheet not filed) <b>b. Case no.:</b> All the above said cases charge sheet not filed <b>c. Name of the Court :</b> All the above said cases charge sheet not filed. <b>d. Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)</b> NO <b>e. Date of conviction, if any</b> NOT APPLICABLE <b>f. Details of punishment undergone, if any :</b> NOT APPLICABLE <b>g. Any other information required to be given :</b> NOT APPLICABLE	The selected candidate is a very senior sincere and dedicated party worker who has already been on various important positions in Party.	As a young and long time party worker he had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no substance and are purely with a vindictive approach and personal vendetta being waged by his political enemies. The case is long pending and party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the Alleged accused.		
3	20-THOUSAND LIGHTS	Smt. KUSHBOO SUNDAR	a. <b>Nature of the offences</b> 1)D-1, Triplicane Ps. Crime No. 243/2018(AD) u/s 143, 188 IPC & 41(6) City Police Act. 2) Nungambakkam PS, Crime No.55/2021 (UJ) U/s 143,188,269,285 IPC r/w 41(6) city police act. 3)Veerapandi PS, Crime No.919/2020(UI) u/s 143,188,269 IPC r/w 3 of ED Act, 4)Kelambakkam Ps Crime No.3598/2020( UI) 151 CrPC. <b>b. Case no.:</b> charge sheet not filed <b>c. Name of the Court :</b> charge sheet not filed. <b>d .Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No) :</b> NO <b>e. Date of conviction, if any:</b> NOT APPLICABLE <b>f. Details of punishment undergone, if any :</b> NOT APPLICABLE <b>g. Any other information required to be given :</b> NOT APPLICABLE	The selected candidate is an Eminent person and dedicated party worker.	As a party worker and Eminent film personality, she had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no substance.Party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the Alleged accused.		
4	63 - THIRUVANNA MALAI	S. THANIGAVEL	a. <b>Nature of the offences</b> 1)Tiruvannamalai PS, Crime No 1110/2008 in CC No. 394/217 JM(FTC) Tiruvannamalai, u/s 147,448,294(B)/427,323,307 IPC altered to 147,148,427,323, 294(b) 506(ii) IPC r/ew 149 IPC 2)Tiruvannamalai Ps, Crime No.277/2013 in STC No. 488/2013 JM (FTC) Tiruvannamalai. u/s 294(b) 506(ii) IPC 3)C C No. 66/2016, Private complaint ,u/s 138 , 142, NI Act 4)Chennai CBI, RC7(A)/2009 in CC No. 10283/2014 ACM at Egmore u/s 120(B) r/w 409,420,467,468,471 IPC and Sec 66 of IT Act and 131(c) & (d) of PC act 5) C C NO. 4623/2017Private Complaint,u/s 138 & 142 NI act 6)Contempt petition No. 1464/2016 in Civil No. 638/2014 Madras high court, <b>b. Case no.</b> 1) CC No. 394/217 JM(FTC) Tiruvannamalai. 2) STC No. 488/2013 JM (FTC) Tiruvannamalai 3)C C No. 66/2016, JM(FTC) at Tiruvannamalai, 4)CC No. 10283/2014, CMM at Egmore, Chennai 5) C C NO. 4623/2017FTC –II, CMM at Egmore, 6)Contempt petition No.1464/2016 in Civil No. 638/2014 Madras Highcourt, <b>c. Name of the Court</b> 1) CC No. 394/217 JM(FTC) Tiruvannamalai. 2) STC No. 488/2013 JM (FTC) Tiruvannamalai 3)C C No. 66/2016, JM(FTC) at Thiruvannamalai. 4)CC No. 10283/2014, CMM at Egmore, Chennai 5) C C NO. 4623/2017FTC –II, CMM at Egmore, 6)Contempt petition No. 1464/2016 in Civil No. 638/2014 Madras Highcourt, <b>d. Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)</b> 1)No 2)No 3)YES 4)NO 5) YES 6)NO <b>e. Date of conviction, if any</b> NOT APPLICABLE <b>f. Details of punishment undergone, if any</b> NOT APPLICABLE <b>g. Any other information required to be given</b> NOT APPLICABLE	The selected candidate is a sincere and dedicated party worker and is politically prominent person.	As a senior party worker he had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no substance and are purely with a vindictive approach and personal vendetta being waged by his political enemies. The case is pending and party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the Alleged accused.		
5	76- Thirukkoyilur	VAT. KALIVARA THAN	a. <b>Nature of the offences:</b> 1)Crime No. 1328/2020, Tirukkoyilur PS in STC no. 98/2020 -JM at Tirukkoyilur, u/s 341,143,269,278 of IPC <b>b. Case no.</b> 1)Crime No. 1328/2020, Tirukkoyilur PS in STC no. 98/2020, JM at Tirukkoyilur <b>c. Name of the Court</b> 1)Crime No. 1328/2020, Tirukkoyilur PS in STC no. 98/2020 - JM at Tirukkoyilur <b>d. Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)</b> Charges Not framed, JM at Tirukkoyilur <b>e. Date of conviction, if any :</b> NOT APPLICABLE <b>f. Details of punishment undergone, if any :</b> NOT APPLICABLE <b>g. Any other information:</b> required to be given NOT APPLICABLE	The selected candidate is a very sincere and dedicated party worker who has already been on various important positions in Party.	As a party worker he had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no substance by his political enemies. The case is pending and party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the Alleged accused.		
6.	101-DHARAPURAM	L.MURUGAN	a. <b>Nature of the offences:</b> 1.Chengalpattu PS Cr.no.- 3975 /2020, u/s 143,270 of IPC and u/s 51(b) of Disaster Management Act. 2.Thiruthani PS, Cr.no.-2727 / 2020 , u/s 143, 341, 188, 269, 270 of IPC and u/s 51 of Disaster Management Act. 3.Thiruvennainallur PS, Cr.no.- 637 / 2020,u/s 143, 188, 269 of IPC . 4.Kallakurichi PS, Cr.no.-2039/2020 u/s 143, 269 of IPC, u/s 3 of Infectious Diseases Act and u/s 51 of Disaster Management Act. 5. Thiyagathuruvam PS, Cr.no.-1334 / 2020,u/s 143, 188 of IPC, u/s 3 of Infectious Diseases Act and u/s 51 of Disaster Management Act. 6.Cuddalore Puthu Nagar PS,Cr.no.- 1240 /2020, u/s 143, 188, 269 of IPC, u/s 3 of Infectious Diseases Act and u/s 51 of Disaster Management Act. 7.Appan Thiruppathi PS , Cr.no.- 1359 / 2020, u/s 143, 188, 290 of IPC, 8.Palani Town PS, Cr.no.- 1552 / 2020, u/s 143, 341, 269 of IPC and u/s 3 of Infectious Diseases Act. 9.Karur PS , Cr.no.-1303 / 2020, u/s 143, 341, 269 of IPC and u/s 3 of Infectious Diseases Act. 10.Erode North PS, Cr.no.- 1071 / 2020, u/s 143, 341, 269 of IPC, u/s 3 of Infectious Diseases Act , u/s 51 (b) of Disaster Management Act and u/s 4 Tamil Nadu Open Places ( Prevention Disfigurement )Act. 11.Hosur PS, Cr.no.-982 /2020, u/s 188, 270 of IPC and u/s 134 of The Tamil Nadu Public Health Act . 12.Salem - Sooramangalam PS , Cr.no.- 1548 / 2020, u/s 143, 341, 269 of IPC, u/s 2&3 of	The selected candidate is a very senior sincere and dedicated party worker who has already been on various important positions in Party. Currently he is the STATE PRESIDENT of the party.	As a senior party worker and state president of the party, he had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no substance and are purely with a vindictive approach and personal vendetta being waged by his political enemies. The case is long pending and party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the alleged accused.		



Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party: BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY			*Name of the Election :TAMILNADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION -2021		Name of State/ UT:TAMILNADU	
S. No.	Name of the Constituency	Name of the candidate	Criminal antecedents	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere “winnability” at the polls (not more than 100 words)	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	
			Infectious Diseases Act , u/s 51 (b) of Disaster Management Act and u/s 4 Tamil Nadu Open Places ( Prevention Disfigurement ) Act. 13.Coimbatore - Rathinapuri PS , Cr.no.- 1323 / 2020, u/s 143, 341, 269 of IPC. 14.Chennai - Esplaned PS , Cr.no.-1660 / 2020, u/s 143, 188 of IPC and u/s 3 of Infectious Diseases Act. 15.Chennai - Esplaned PS , Cr.no - 1661 / 2020, u/s 143, 188 of IPC and u/s 3 of Infectious Diseases Act. 16.Chennai - Mambalam PS Cr.no.- 532 / 2020, u/s 143, 188, 269 of IPC, u/s 3 of Infectious Diseases Act and u/s 51(1)(b) of Disaster Management Act. 17.Chennai C.M.B.D PS , Cr.no.- 792 / 2020, u/s 147, 148, 188 of IPC and u/s 3 of Infectious Diseases Act. 18.Chennai - Thiruvetiyur PS, Cr.no.-5701 / 2020, u/s 143, 188, 269 of IPC and u/s 3 of Infectious Diseases Act. 19.Chennai C.M.B.D PS, Cr.no.-797 / 2020, u/s 147, 148, 188 of IPC and u/s 3 of Infectious Diseases Act. 20.Chennai - Nazrath Pettai PS, Cr.no.-738 / 2020, u/s 143, 269 of IPC, u/s 3 of Infectious Diseases Act and u/s 41(6) Municipal Police Act. 21.Chennai - Nazrath Pettai PS , Cr.no.- 739 / 2020, u/s 143, 269 of IPC, u/s 3 of Infectious Diseases Act and u/s 41(6) Tamil Nadu Municipal Police Act. 22.Chennai - Nazrath Pettai PS , Cr.no.- 740 / 2020, u/s 143, 269 of IPC, u/s 3 of Infectious Diseases Act and u/s 41(6) Tamil Nadu Municipal Police Act. 23.Madurai - Thirupparangunram PS, Cr.no.- 1505 / 2020, u/s 269 , 270 of IPC. b. Case no. In said above cases chargesheet not filed c. Name of the Court In said above cases chargesheet not filed d. Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No) : NO e. Date of conviction, if any NOT APPLICABLE f. Details of punishment undergone, if any NOT APPLICABLE g. Any other information required to be given NOT APPLICABLE			
7.	120-COIMBATORE (SOUTH)	Smt. VANATHI SRINIVASAN	a. Nature of the offences 1)B-8, Variety Hall Road PS(Coimbatore) Crime No. 182/2016 in CC No.368/2017, u/s 147,294(b)& 506(ii) of IPC, 2)C-2, Race Course PS(Coimbatore) Crime No.301/2016 in STC no.2602/2016, u/ s171© r/w 171F & 188 of IPC. b. Case no. 1)CC No. 368/ 2017 and 2) STC No.2602/2016 c. Name of the Court 1)B-8, Variety Hall Road PS(Coimbatore) Crime No. 182/2016 in CC No.368/2017, u/s 147,294(b)& 506(ii) of IPC, 2)C-2, Race Course PS(Coimbatore) Crime No.301/2016 in STC no.2602/2016, u/ s171© r/w 171F & 188 of IPC. d. Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No) 1) YES . Dated 02.07.2018 2) YES. Dated 04.01.2019 e. Date of conviction, if any NOT APPLICABLE f. Details of punishment undergone, if any NOT APPLICABLE g. Any other information required to be given NOT APPLICABLE	The selected candidate is a very senior, sincere and dedicated party worker who has already been on various important positions in Party. Currently she is the National President of Mahila Morcha of the Party.	As a senior party worker she had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no substance. The case is pending and party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the Alleged accused.	
8.	134 - ARAVAKURICHI	K.ANNAMALAI	a. Nature of the offences 1)Aravakurichi PS, Crime No.130/2021, u/s 143,341 of IPC 2)Karur Ps, Crime No.1303/2020,u/s 143,341&269 IPC r/w 3 of Epidemic Diseases Act.1897 3)Erode (South)PS, Crime No.1071,u/s143,341 & 269IPC r/w 51(b) of Disaster Management act & 3 of ED act and 4 of TNOPPD act. 4)Arachalur PS, Crime No.715/2020,u/s 143,269,271,291 IPC r/w 51(b) of Disaster management act 2006 5)Dharamapuri PS, Crime No.241/2020,u/s 143,341,&269IPC r/w 51(b) of Disaster management act2005 6)Hosur PS, Crime No.982/2020,u/s 188,270 IPC r/w 134 of Tamilnadu Public Health act 7)Palani PS, Crime No.1480/2020,u/s 144, 341,269 &285 IPC r/w 3 of ED act, 8)Palani PS, Crime No.1552/2020,u/s 143,341,& 269IPC r/w 3 of Disaster management act 2005 9) Race Course(coimbatore) PS, Crime No.1057/2020 u/s 143,269 IPC 10) Rathnapuri PS, Crime No.1323/2020,u/s143,269,341 IPC b. Case no. In the above cases chargesheet not filed c. Name of the Court In the above cases chargesheet not filed d. Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No) NO e. Date of conviction, if any NOT APPLICABLE f. Details of punishment undergone, if any NOT APPLICABLE g. Any other information required to be given NOT APPLICABLE	The selected candidate is a very sincere and dedicated party worker.Currently he is the STATE VICE PRESIDENT of the party.	As an Eminent party worker and State Vice President of the party, he had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no substance and are purely with a vindictive approach and personal vendetta being waged by his political enemies. The case is long pending and party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the alleged accused.	
9.	151-TITTAKUDI	D.PERIYASAMY	a. Nature of the offences 1)Mangalamedu PS In Crime NO.876/1998 In SC No.103/2003 CJM at Perambalur u/s 147, 148, 323, 324, 332, 336, 307 & 120(B) IPC 2 )Mangalamedu PS, Crime No.877/1998 in SC No.104/2003, CJM at Perambalur,u/s 147,178,323,326,336,307, & 120 (B) IPC b. Case no. 1)SC No. 103/ 2003 and 2) SC No.104/2003 c. Name of the Court 1 .SC No.103/2003 CJM at Perambalur, SC No.104/2003, CJM at Perambalur d. Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No) YES e. Date of conviction, if any NOT APPLICABLE f. Details of punishment undergone, if any NOT APPLICABLE g. Any other information required to be given NOT APPLICABLE	The selected candidate is a very senior sincere and dedicated party worker who has already been on various important positions in Party.	As a senior party worker he had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no substance and are purely with a vindictive approach and personal vendetta being waged by his political enemies. The case is pending and party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the Alleged accused.	
10.	173- THIRUVAIYARU	POONDI. S.VENKATESAN	a. Nature of the offences 1)Private Compliant, u/s 138 & 142 NI Act 2) Private Compliant , CC No. 824/2018 MMC, Chennai u/s 138 & 142 NI act 3) Private Compliant , u/s 138 & 142 Ni Act 4)Private Compliant , CC No.827/2018 MMC, Chennai u/s 138& 142 NI act 5)Private Compliant CC No.828/2018 MMC, Chennai u/s 138 & 142 NI Act 6)Private Compliant , CC No.97/2012 JM-FTC,Karur u/s 138 & 142 NI act 7)Thanjavur CCB, Crime No34/2012 in CC40/2014JM-111, Thanjavur u/s 406,465,467 ,&420 of IPC 8)Puthalur PS, Crime No.179/2008. In CC No. 43/2017 ADJ, Thanjavur. u/s 147,148,149,294(b),333,332,307 &506(ii) Of IPC b. Case no. CC No. 824/2018 MMC, Chennai, CC No.827/2018 MMC, Chennai, CC No.828/2018 MMC, Chennai , CC No.97/2012 JM-111, Thanjavur, CC No.43/2017 ADJ, Thanjavur c. Name of the Court CC No. 824/2018 MMC, Chennai, CC No.827/2018 MMC, Chennai, CC No.828/2018 MMC, Chennai , CC No.97/2012 JM-FTC,Karur, CC40/2014JM-111, Thanjavur, CC No. 43/2017 ADJ, Thanjavur d. Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No) NO e. Date of conviction, if any NOT APPLICABLE f. Details of punishment undergone, if any NOT APPLICABLE g. Any other information required to be given NOT APPLICABLE	The selected candidate is a very senior sincere and dedicated party worker.	As a party worker and given his political experience of the past, he had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no substance. The case is pending and party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the alleged accused.	



Format C-7

(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

**Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates**

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party:**BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY** \*Name of the Election :**TAMILNADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION -2021** Name of State/**UT:TAMILNADU**

S. No.	Name of the Constituency	Name of the candidate	Criminal antecedents	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)
11.	184- KARAIKUDI	Shri.H.RAJA	a. <b>Nature of the offences</b> 1)Tirumayam PS, Crime No.114/2018, u/s 143,188,153(A),290,294(b)353,505(1)(b)(c),506(i) of IPC 2)Virudhunagar PS, Crime No.339/2018, CC No.399/2020 JM at virudhunagar, u/s294(b),353,505(1)(a) IPC 4 of TNPHW act 3)Karaikudi PS, Crime No.135/2014, STC No.10160/2014 u/s 143,188 &290 IPC 4)Sivagangai PS, Crime No.5829/2014 STC No. 5829/2014 u/s 143,188, &290 IPC b Case no. CC No.399/2020 JM at virudhunagar c. Name of the Court CC No.399/2020 JM at virudhunagar d. Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No) NO e. Date of conviction, if any NOT APPLICABLE f. Details of punishment undergone, if any N O T APPLICABLE g. Any other information required to be given NOT APPLICABLE	The selected candidate is a very senior, sincere and dedicated party worker who has already been on various important positions in the party. He also Served as National Secretary of the Party.	As a party worker and Eminent personality, he had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the Alleged accused.
12.	191 - MADURAI NORTH	DR.P.SARAVANAN	a. <b>Nature of the offences</b> 1)Madurai City, CCB, Crime No.55/2015 in SC N0 15/2017 1st ADJ, Madurai, u/s 201,409,420,468, 120(B)109,328 IPC 2)Karimedu PS, Crime No.1429/2020, u/s143,283,,290,269, IPC r/w 3 of ED act 3)Silaiman PS, Crime No.1611/2020, u/s 143,271 IPC & 134 TNPH act 4)Samayanallur PS, Crime No.400/2014, u/s 151 of CrPC, 5)Subramaniyapuram PS, Crime No.690/2019, u/s 143,283,290, IPC & 71 A(1), 73 Tn City Police Act 1888, 6)Thirunagar Ps, Crime No.156/2019,u/s 143,171(h)IPC &179 MV act b. Case no. SC N0 15/2017 1st ADJ, Madurai. In other cases charge sheet not filed. c. Name of the Court SC N0 15/2017 1st ADJ, Madurai d. Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No) NO e. Date of conviction, if any NOT APPLICABLE f. Details of punishment undergone, if any NOT APPLICABLE g. Any other information required to be given NOT APPLICABLE	The selected candidate is a very eminent person with good social background. Reputed person in the constituency.	As a party worker and given his political experience of the past, he had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no substance. The case is pending and party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the alleged accused.
13.	211- RAMANATHA PURAM	D.KUPPURAMU	a. <b>Nature of the offences</b> Chatharakudi PS, Crime no. 307/2020, u/s 143,341,290,269 IPC b. <b>Case no.</b> Charge sheet not filed c. Name of the Court Charge sheet not filed d. Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No) NO. e. <b>Date of conviction, if any</b> NOT APPLICABLE f. <b>Details of punishment required to be given</b> NOT APPLICABLE g. <b>Any other information required to be given</b> NOT APPLICABLE	The selected candidate is a very senior sincere and dedicated party worker who has already been on various important positions in Party.	As a senior party worker he had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no substance and are purely with a vindictive approach and personal vendetta being waged by his political enemies. The case is pending and party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the Alleged accused.
14.	224 - TIRUNELVELI	NAINAR. NAGENDRAN	a. <b>Nature of the offences</b> Tirunelveli PS, Crime no. 36/2018, u/s 153A,152,504,505(2),500,506(i) IPC b. <b>Case no.</b> Charge sheet not filed c. <b>Name of the Court</b> JM-1, Tirunelveli d. Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No) NO. e. <b>Date of conviction, if any</b> NOT APPLICABLE f. <b>Details of punishment required to be given</b> NOT APPLICABLE g. <b>Any other information required to be given</b> NOT APPLICABLE	The selected candidate is a very senior sincere and dedicated party worker who has already been on various important positions in Party.	As a senior party worker he had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no substance and are purely with a vindictive approach and personal vendetta being waged by his political enemies. The case is pending and party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the Alleged accused.
15.	231 - COLACHEL	Shri.P.PRAMESH	a. <b>Nature of the offences</b> 1)Thackalay PS , Crime No.s.203/17 &678/2017 &386/2018 and 1052/2012, u/s 143,148,188,342,285,269,270 IPC & 3 of ED act 2)Erainyal PS, crime Nos. 189/2017,454/2020,588/2020 and 130/2012, u/s 143,148,188,342,285,269,270 IPC and 3 of ED act b Case no. Charge Sheet Not Filed c. Name of the Court Charge Sheet Not Filed d. <b>Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)</b> NO e. <b>Date of conviction, if any</b> NOT APPLICABLE f. <b>Details of punishment undergone, if any</b> NOT APPLICABLE g. <b>Any other information required to be given</b> NOT APPLICABLE	The selected candidate is a very senior, sincere and dedicated party worker who has already been on various important positions in the party.	As a senior party worker he had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no substance and are purely with a vindictive approach and personal vendetta being waged by his political enemies. The case is pending and party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the Alleged accused.
16.	233 - VILVANCODE	P.JAYASELAN	a. <b>Nature of the offences</b> 1)Marthandham PS, Crime No.505/2015 in SC no.102/2019 at ADJ Nagarcoil, u/s 3(i) TNPPD act and 324, 120(B) of IPC 2)Kottaru PS, Crime No.23/2017 in JM-II at Nagarcoil, u/s 147, 148,294(B)307,324,341,506(i) IPC b. Case no. 1) SC no.102/2019 at ADJ Nagarcoil, 2) JM-II at Nagarcoil,(Charge sheet not filed) c. <b>Name of the Court</b> 1) SC no.102/2019 at ADJ Nagarcoil, 2) Crime No.23/2017 in JM-II at Nagarcoil, d. <b>Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)</b> 1) YES2) No e. <b>Date of conviction, if any</b> NOT APPLICABLE f. <b>Details of punishment undergone, if any</b> NOT APPLICABLE g. <b>Any other information required to be given</b> NOT APPLICABLE	The selected candidate is a very senior sincere and dedicated party worker who has already been on various important positions in Party.	As a senior party worker he had an edge over other individuals considering the fact that whatever charges are alleged in the charge sheet have no substance and are purely with a vindictive approach and personal vendetta being waged by his political enemies. The case is pending and party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the Alleged accused.

\*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

  
(Signature of Office Bearer of the Political Party)  
P. Jayaseelan  
(BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY)



# DECCAN Chronicle

31 MARCH 2021

## Let not Covid 2nd wave destroy economy again

The spike in the daily numbers of new Covid-19 infections across the country is truly alarming and it reminds us of the period when the pandemic had peaked last year. The country has seen a steady surge in new cases for the past couple of weeks and the active cases at present are 5,40,720, which is little over half of the September 18 peak of 1,017,754. When Tuesday's new infections of 56,211 are added, India's total Covid-19 caseload has risen to 1,20,95,855. The death toll has reached 1,62,114, or 1.34 per cent of total confirmed infections.

While the infection killed lakhs across the globe, it paralysed the economy and threw many millions out of their jobs and into abject penury. Governments had to announce several special economic packages to bring them back to life; and India was no exception. And the worst affected were the people at the lowest strata of the economic pyramid. The fate of lakhs of guest workers who had to walk back home hundreds of miles away was an experience no one would like to see repeated. From economic to social and psychological breakdown, the micro-organism has sowed seeds of disquiet in societies and families.

The sad part is that we as a people are still at the mercy of the virus despite an expansion of our knowledge base to fight it and the discovery of vaccines. There are treatment protocols that help save lives. There have been research findings that elaborate on the virus activity in the human body once it enters it. We are much better equipped to fight the infection and we now know the consequences which we had not known last year. But still, there is no stopping the virus and its effects.

The Union government has, on its part, speeded up the vaccination programme, and has rectified the technical glitches in the software; at present, one crore people can register for the jab in one day. There are still logistical issues to be addressed and coupled with vaccine hesitancy, they drag down the vaccination programme which aims at inoculating 30 crore people by June this year. The number now stands at 6.5 crore after two-and-a-half months.

The worsening of the pandemic situation could force another national lockdown which the economy, and the nation, can ill-afford. The government and the people must realise it and return to the strict adherence of Covid-appropriate protocols and behaviour.

Some of the developed countries have added "meetings outdoors" to the standard prescription of social distancing, mask wearing and washing of hands. This means group functions will no longer be allowed in closed environs. This measure could help avoid gatherings turning into super spreader events.

The government must consider introducing this idea here too. It must also relaunch the awareness campaign on the Covid-19 protocols and direct the state governments to enforce them. The people have been lax in following them, and the governments have been equally lax in enforcing them. This combined neglect will land the nation in deeper trouble. There will be no justification for that, should it happen.

## Suez lesson proves costly

Proof of Murphy's Law could not have come in a worse scenario than in the Suez Canal being blocked by the skyscraper-sized, 2,24,000-tonne container ship *Ever Given*, which is as long as the Empire State Building is tall. As \$9 billion of daily trade was blocked for a week in terms of goods in transit, from crude oil to cattle, nature's helping hand came to the rescue as an unusually high tide followed a full moon. How helpless man was for days as tugs, sand dredgers and various other salvage equipment battled on to refloat a symbol of man's ambition in making things bigger and bigger in order to benefit from economies of scale, which, in this case, includes environmental benefits too in terms of carbon footprint.

The all-Indian crew of the Japan-owned, Panama-flagged giant ship will be among those eagerly awaiting the result of a blame game that will probably be resolved at the end of a thorough probe of what went wrong, how and why. Human error is not ruled out either as the ship was gathering speed to 13 knots on an uneven course in the channel. The explanation that the stacked-up containers could have acted as a huge sail to gusts from dust storms not uncommon to the area may seem logical enough. For all the high fees in hundreds of thousands of dollars, including costs of pilots, to use the canal to save 5,000 km on Europe-Asia journeys Suez Canal pilots, the responsibility of steering is solely that of the ship's captain.

The Suez Canal, completed in 1869, has saved uncountable time and money in cutting global shipping costs and today 13 per cent of maritime trade moves through the crucial waterway. An occasional tanker getting grounded used to be solved with the simple principle of tugging it out but a catastrophe of this size had never been envisaged. This serves up the elementary lesson that bigger is not necessarily better as man is still vulnerable to nature's random acts as much as his vehicles are subject to the laws of locomotion.

KAUSHIK MITTER  
Editor

R. MOHAN  
Resident Editor

K. SUDHAKAR  
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:  
**Chennai:** SP 3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai 600032. Phones: (044) 22254747, 22254748  
**Coimbatore:** 77 Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore 641009. Phone: (0422) 2231255, 2231256  
**Hyderabad:** 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad 500 003. Phone: (040) 27803930-4. Fax: (040) 27805256  
**Bengaluru:** 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Ft. Road, Koramangala, Bangalore-560095. Ph: 08043460500; Fax: 080-22960551/52/55  
**Visakhapatnam:** Survey No. 1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017. Phones: (0891) 2552333/2552334, Fax (0891) 2755285  
**Vijayawada:** No. C 3 & 4, Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.). Phones: (0866) 2555284/2555287, Fax (0866) 2555234  
**Rajahmundry:** Vemagiri, Dhawleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry 533125. Phones: (0883) 2417208, 2417618  
**Anantapur:** Thapovan Colony, Bangalore Bye-Pass Road, Anantapur 515004. Phones: (08554) 276903, Fax: 08554-276904  
**Nellore:** Survey No. 527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemudugunta Panchayat, Nellore. Phone: (0861) 2348581/82, Telefax (0861) 2348580  
**Karimnagar:** Survey No. 1341, Vavilalpally Colony, Jagitayala Road, Karimnagar 505 001. Phone: (0878) 2228908; Telefax (0878) 2220433  
**Kochi:** No. 3-B, 3rd Floor, DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavanthara Road, Emakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408  
**Kozhikode:** No 6/1002 E, First Floor City Mall, Opp. YMCA Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001 Fax : 0495 4019018  
**Thiruvananthapuram:** St Joseph Press Thycad post, Cotton Hills, Thiruvananthapuram-14, Ph: 0471-2735105/67, Fax: 0471-4016112 Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-0885

Subhani



## Weak Britain reluctant to confront aggressive China



Sunanda K. Datta-Ray

Reflections

British history books claim that before the First Opium War against Manchu China in 1839, the Chinese hoped there would be a lot of "talk-tee-talk-tee before fight-tee-fight-tee". This time around, it is the British who seek discussions and negotiations before the war of words over China's alleged human rights abuses spills over into action.

The United States also drew back when similar arguments erupted with China. One reason was that China held \$3,399.9 billion of the American Treasury's foreign exchange reserves. Another factor was the calculation that the American cost of living would shoot up without access to cheap Chinese footwear, clothing, electricals and household goods.

No wonder British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy skirted around the subject of China. The 100-page review even hinted that Russia was Britain's most serious threat and the reason for acquiring high-tech drones and the expensive paraphernalia of cyber warfare and satellites to control space while increasing the stockpile of nuclear warheads by 40 per cent.

No wonder Britain's response was limited to grieving rhetoric when Beijing imposed sanctions on five ruling Conservative Party MPs, two peers, a barrister and an academic. They can no longer travel to China, and any assets they there will be frozen. "Willing to wound, and yet afraid to strike? Just hint a fault, and hesitate dislike", as in Alexander Pope's poem, Mr Johnson "noted that China has chosen to sanction individuals and entities that are

seeking to shine a light on human rights violations".

Apart from the Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang, the British PM must have two other controversies in mind. One is Hong Kong, where the citizens' protests have been continuing relentlessly despite Beijing's crack-down and the enforcement of its harsh new security law, the other the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, which Britain excluded from its 5G networks last year as a result of American pressure backed by Britain's defence establishment. Huawei of course denies any spying activities. While China's response to the exclusion was muted, it denounced a new programme for fast-track British citizenship for certain residents of Hong Kong as "brutal meddling" in its domestic affairs.

Hong Kong is a former British colony which was returned to China in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" agreement whereby its capitalist system and laws would continue until 2047. But the UK accuses China of whittling away at this agreement — known as the Joint Declaration — especially through the new law giving China sweeping controls over the people of Hong Kong which came into effect on June 30, 2020.

What all this means is that once again Britain finds itself on the horns of a dilemma. It can take the high moral ground over Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Huawei. Or it can take a pragmatic view of the benefits of an increasingly close partnership with the world's second largest economy. "We will invest in enhanced China-facing capabilities, through which we will develop a better understanding of China and its people,

while improving our ability to respond to the systemic challenge that it poses," the review says.

A showdown seemed imminent when British foreign secretary Dominic Raab told the House of Commons that British businesses should not profit from what he called the "industrial scale" forced labour of Uighurs. However, Mr Raab tactfully refrained from mentioning sanctions on Chinese Communist Party officials allegedly involved in human rights abuses. The omission confused listeners because the government had earlier indicated sanctions under a law modelled on the US Global Magnitsky Act.

Mr Raab's explanation that the possibility of sanctions was being kept "in reserve" did not satisfy Sir Iain Duncan Smith, a former Conservative Party leader who supports sanctions. He asked in Parliament who in the government might be blocking Mr Raab from following through with the planned measures.

Whoever was responsible, the reversal exposed the inconsistency of official British thinking about China. The UK government's last white paper on China was published in 2009, before the CCP became aggressively authoritarian after Xi Jinping assumed power in 2012. The softer tone of Mr Raab's speech also reflected Mr Johnson's desire to keep his options open as the UK assumes the G-7's annually rotating presidency and prepares to host the next climate change conference in Glasgow later this year, reaches out to the Indo-Pacific destiny that the review eulogises, and

seeks economic and strategic alternatives to EU membership.

He cannot be anxious to provoke a China that has recently imposed punishing tariffs on Australian imports of everything from wine to timber and coal, in retaliation for Canberra's calls for an investigation into the origins of Covid-19. Chinese investments in Britain, assessed at £8.63 billion, represent a 12.5 per cent year on year increase. Chinese investment in London real estate rose from £2.69 billion in 2016 to £3.69 billion in 2017. Bilateral trade totalled £80 billion (roughly \$110 billion) in 2019.

Chinese companies play a vital role in British infrastructure. The state-owned China General Nuclear Power Group holds a one-third stake in the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station, a £20-billion project being built in southwestern England. Last year, Chinese steelmaker Jingye Group paid about £50 million to acquire British Steel. Other Chinese firms have large stakes in British offshore oil fields, as well as transport networks and utilities.

Ramping up criticism of Beijing not only risks deterring future Chinese investment but could undermine British businesses in China. Hence the review's diplomatic claim: "We will pursue deeper engagement in the Indo-Pacific in support of shared prosperity and regional stability, with stronger diplomatic and trading ties ... This approach recognises the importance of powers in the region such as China, India and Japan and also extends to others including South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines."

With their acute sense of history, the Chinese know that they have little to fear. European writers and politicians have spoken down the centuries of "La Perfide Albion", or Perfidious Albion.

*The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author*

### LETTERS

#### CRUELTY PERSONIFIED

It was shocking to learn that a lady police inspector made a pregnant woman walk for three kms for not wearing a helmet (as pillion rider). No doubt, not wearing a helmet is punishable under the Motor Vehicles Act. But then the officer should have looked at the practical side of the issue instead of being concerned only about legalities. Making a nine-month pregnant woman walk 3 km under the scorching sun is the height of cruelty. The inspector deserves maximum punishment for her insensitivity.

P.G. Menon, Chennai

#### I-T SEIZURE

**APPROPOS REPORT ₹1 crore seized from ALADMK's aide** (March 30). Whether it is the ruling party or Opposition parties' candidates or their aides, the raids conducted by the ED and Income-Tax department creates an impression that the hyper-activity of the departments was unleashed by the state government and Centre to tarnish mainly the image of Opposition parties. If the raids are targeted to damn DMK+ candidates at the hustings it may prove counter-productive and boomerang on the ruling party. The question is why are these raids being conducted only in the poll-bound states Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, that too after elections were declared? How could the investigating agencies run roughshod after the EC's code of conduct came into force? No doubt that most of the agencies like CBI are branded as "caged parrots" but raids to catch black money or distribution of the same to voters are the duty of the EC. It is time the EC asserted its vested powers under Art.324 and instructed the above agencies not to conduct such raids while its Code of Conduct reigns.

A. Seshagiri Rao, Chennai

#### END OF SUEZ CANAL CRISIS

**TO THE** cheer of many, salvage teams with a flotilla of tug boats largely supported by the peak of high tide had finally managed to wrench "Ever Given", one of the world's most colossal container ships with 22,000 containers from the Suez Canal's sandy bank where it had been lodged since last week. Besides causing an unprecedented traffic jam in one of the world's most important maritime arteries, "Ever Given" held up US \$9 billion each day in global trade and heightened genuine apprehensions about its resultant devastating impact on the already burdened global supply chain before it was set free. The traffic through Suez Canal may have resumed now after "Ever Given" was set free, but the insurance companies face the looming threat of increasing claims from everyone affected, ranging from shipping industry to commodities business.

M. Jeyaram, Sholavandan

A.G. Noorani



## India in Nato? Is New Delhi ready for such a major shift?

WHILE it is not fair to impute motives to a writer, one cannot help wondering if he is flying a kite, especially given his background. A. Wess Mitchell was US assistant secretary of state for Europe and Eurasia from 2007-2019 and co-chair of the Nato 2020 Reflection Process. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, headquartered in Brussels, has long been in a reflective mood regarding its own fatuous irrelevance.

That did not inhibit him from writing recently in an Indian publication: "When the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) leaders meet later this spring, they will debate the recommendations from a group of experts [which Mr Mitchell co-chaired] that advocates, among other things, extending a formal offer of partnership to India. Such an idea has been discussed before but has always foundered on India's aversion to entanglement in rival geopolitical blocs. It's time to overcome this obstacle.

"China's meteoric rise has dramatically heightened India's need

for closer security relationships with politically reliable, like-minded states. ... Beijing is increasingly willing to depart from its hide-and-bide strategy to directly challenge even the largest of its neighbours."

China's military spending is three times that of India. India's policy of equidistance, with tilts towards Russia and China, is not viable enough to meet the juggernaut of China's power. Hence its moves for ties with the United States, Japan and Australia in the "Quad". Now for the moth-eaten carnet: "While Nato partnerships do not carry the Article 5 guarantee of collective defence against armed attack, they nevertheless come with regular defence dialogues, military-to-military planning and joint exercises that improve readiness, interoperability and predictability. In the event of a conflict, India would benefit from having prior planning and arrangements in place for cooperating with Nato and its Mediterranean partners...."

Nato has spread a web of partners, namely Egypt, Israel, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland and Finland.

Now comes the crunch. "However, the obstacles to partnership are not only on the Indian side; in the past, some Nato allies have effectively blocked discussion of the matter insisting that any offer of partnership to India be accompanied by similar invitations to Pakistan. This may have seemed attractive to some in the era when Nato militaries were mainly focused on conducting operations in Afghanistan. But with the winding down of operations there, Nato has little in common with a Pakistan that is increasingly radicalised at home and aligned with, and beholden to, China.

"... The Nato leadership should extend to India an offer of opening partnership talks. Doing so would signal that it is seriously evaluating all of its tools, including partnerships, according to how well they equip its members for dealing with a new era of great-power competition...."

"In this emerging competition, India is a vital player in its own right and should be treated as such. But Indians should be under no illu-

sions that a truly nonaligned path remains a viable option."

Nonalignment is a worn-out misnomer. India's non-alignment did not prevent its first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru from seeking covertly — behind the back of India's ambassador Asaf Ali — a written alliance with the United States in 1948.

Note that the Nato partnership is shorn of guarantee of help in Article 5 of the Nato Treaty of 1949, which reads: "The parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all; and consequently, they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognised by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the party or parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force...."

This is a worthless guarantee as its prime architect, US secretary of

state Dean Acheson, had said. He told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: "This naturally does not mean that the United States would automatically be at war if one of the other signatory nations were the victim of an armed attack. Under the treaty we would be bound to make an honest judgment as to what action was necessary to attain that end and consequently to take such action. That action might or might not include the use of armed force."

As Charles De Gaulle remarked, treaties, like roses and pretty girls, last only as long as they last. How did Pakistan's pacts with the United States help, in its moments of crisis in the 1965 and 1971 wars?

Treaties are concluded in the national interest purely. Help is extended in the same spirit. In 1962, it took the US long to support India's case on the border and even that was confined to the McMahon Line; not the Aksai Chin in Ladakh.

India has unwisely let skirmishes on an undefined border ratchet its dialogue and diplomacy.

*By arrangement with Dawn*



## SHORT TAKES

## India boxers test +ve in Turkey

**New Delhi:** Eight members of an Indian boxing squad, including three pugilists, tested positive for Covid-19 during a competition trip to Turkey and have been quarantined in Istanbul. Commonwealth Games silver-medallist Gaurav Solanki (57kg), Prayag Chouhan (75kg) and Brijesh Yadav (81kg) tested positive for the virus a week back, leading to them being quarantined following the event which ended on March 19. Coaches Dharmendra Yadav and Santosh Birmole, physiotherapists Shikha Kedia and Dr Umesh along with video analyst Nitin Kumar are the others in isolation, a team source said. They were in Istanbul to compete in the Bosphorus Tournament. Solanki had claimed the lone medal — a bronze — among men. Among women, Nikhat Zareen (51kg) had also fetched a bronze helping India finish with two medals overall. — PTI

## Pak football stares at long FIFA ban

**Karachi:** Pakistan football is staring at a long-term ban from the FIFA after a forced take over of the national federation headquarters in Lahore by a group which won the last elections but annulled by the world governing body of the sport. The world body has now given until Wednesday for the PFF group, led by Ashfaq Hussain, to vacate the Football House and give its control back to the FIFA Normalization Committee headed by Haroon Malik. "If the government's sports minister does not intervene and resolve this issue Pakistan football could be banned for a very long time from all international competitions," a member of the normalization committee said on Tuesday. He said if FIFA imposes a ban, the PFF will not get any fund from the world body, leaving the sport in the country in a financial mess and development projects on hold. — PTI

## Live on TV

## FOOTBALL

**European Qualifiers for the 2022 FIFA World Cup:** Armenia vs Romania from 9.30 pm on Sony Ten 2; Spain vs Kosovo from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 2; Bosnia-Herzegovina vs France from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Six; England vs Poland from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1; Germany vs North Macedonia from 12.15 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 3

## OLD IS GOLD

## Former selector feels Rohit-Dhawan best openers for T20 WC

**New Delhi, March 30:** India should stick to the experienced opening combination of Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan in the T20 World Cup, feels former selector Sarandeep Singh, calling the duo the "best option" despite skipper Virat Kohli's recent interest in the slot.

Sarandeep, whose term ended with India's historic win in Australia earlier this year, also gave his take on split captaincy, asserting the issue was never even discussed in his time as Kohli performed in all three formats.

After the T20 series win against England, Kohli had said he will open in the IPL raising the possibility of him opening with Rohit in the World Cup. Dhawan was dropped after the opening game of the series and Ishan Kishan was picked ahead of him in one of the games. Kohli and Rohit opened in the final T20.

"It was surprising. He (Dhawan) did well in the IPL, he did well in Australia. Whenever he plays he performs. He is mentally very strong. May be they want to try out options but in my view the left-hand right-hand combination of Rohit and Dhawan is the best option for the India at World Cup," Sarandeep said.

"You can't judge him on basis of one match. He did well in ODIs after that. The IPL will decide a lot of the team. There are no easy places in the team. Ishan Kishan too will need to do exceptionally well to make the team," he added.

He also said that K.L. Rahul should continue keeping in the ODIs and the in-form Rishabh Pant will have to wait for his turn when Shreyas Iyer returns.

The IPL beginning April 9 will decided bulk of the spots for the World Cup squad and Sarandeep feels Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav, who became India's go to pair in the middle overs after the 2017 Champions Trophy, are no more sure starters in the T20 or ODI format. — PTI



Shikhar Dhawan (left) and Rohit Sharma in this file pic.

— AP

## India tour a lesson for England: Coach

**Pune, March 30:** England may have suffered series defeats across all formats but head coach Chris Silverwood feels his team has learnt valuable lessons from the tour of India that will come in handy when it returns here for the T20 World Cup later this year.

India completed triumphs in all three formats against England, with a seven-run win in the series-deciding third ODI on Sunday.

Silverwood, in an interaction with the British

**● Silverwood, in an interaction with the British media, reflected on the India tour with pride and said the English will be stronger when they come back here for the T20 WC in the last quarter of the year.**

media on Monday before the side headed home, reflected on the long tour with pride and said the English will be stronger when they come back here for the T20 World in the last quarter of the year. "It was a good, competitive game and a good, competitive series

## PIECE OF GLASS FOUND INSIDE JOFRA'S FINGER

**London, March 30:** An accident while cleaning his fish tank was the cause of Jofra Archer's hand injury that troubled him during the series against India along with an elbow issue and a glass fragment was found lodged in the England pacer's right middle finger that had to be operated. England's director of cricket Ashley Giles made this revelation while giving an update on Archer, who underwent the surgery on Monday. The elbow problem has ruled him out of this year's IPL. "They (surgeons) have operated and I think they found a small fragment of glass still in attendance. It obviously healed but there was part of the fish tank still in his finger," Giles said on a BBC's show, as reported by ESPNcricinfo.

"This is going to sound like an awful conspiracy ... But it's true. But, yeah, he was cleaning at home. He's got a fish tank. He dropped the fish tank, cut his hand, and he's been in surgery..."

Archer suffered a cut on his right hand's middle finger in the accident that took place in January.

— PTI

## Pant named Delhi captain

**New Delhi, March 30:** Star India batsman Rishabh Pant was on Tuesday named captain of Delhi Capitals in place of an injured Shreyas Iyer for the upcoming Indian Premier League season beginning on April 9.

Iyer has been ruled out of the IPL after injuring his left shoulder during the recently-concluded India-England ODI series.

"Under Shreyas' captaincy, our team reached newer heights, and he is going to be missed immensely. In his absence, the franchise has collectively picked Rishabh to lead the team this year," DC Chairman and co-owner Kiran Kumar Gandhi said in a release. "While it has come under unfortunate circumstances, it is a tremendous opportunity for him to grow further. I wish him all the best in his new role."

This will be 23-year-old Pant's debut as IPL captain. The wicketkeeper-batsman has captained Delhi's state team in the past. "Delhi is where I grew up, and where my IPL journey began six years ago. To lead this team one day is a dream I've always harboured. And today, as that dream comes true, I feel humbled," Pant said.



Rishabh Pant

"I am truly grateful, especially to our team owners, who considered me capable enough for this role. With an amazing coaching staff, and a plethora of accomplished seniors around me, I can't wait to give my absolute best for Delhi Capitals."

Pant was one of the architects of India's historic 2-1 Test series win in Australia in January. He then played a big role in India's 3-1 Test series win against England, scoring 270 runs from six innings with the help of a century.

Pant also returned to India's white-ball team against England. After a decent outing in the T20 Internationals, he was in cracking form in the ODI series, hitting 77 and 78 in the two matches he played.

## HARMANPREET TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

**Patiala, March 30:** The Indian women's T20 team captain Harmanpreet Kaur has tested positive for Covid-19 and is experiencing mild symptoms.

Kaur, who did not play in the T20 series against South Africa in Lucknow after injuring herself in the fifth ODI on March 17, got herself tested on Monday after developing mild fever.

"She is self-isolating at home. She got tested yesterday and the report came positive today morning. She had mild fever since four days so thought it was best to get tested. She is doing fine otherwise and should recover soon," a source close to the player said.

"She was getting tested regularly during the South Africa series so she must have caught the

virus after that only," the source added.

India, who returned to international cricket after 12 months, lost both the ODI and T20 series.

## SHAFALI CONSOLIDATES TOP SPOT IN T20 RANKS

Following a blistering 30-ball 60 in the final against South Africa, India opener Shafali Verma consolidated her position at the top among batters in the latest women's T20I rankings issued on Tuesday.

Verma, who had regained the top position last week, garnered 26 rating points for her knock in the final and is now currently on 776 rating points. The young Indian now has a 35-point lead over Australia's Beth Mooney.

## WORLD

## PROBE INTO SUEZ BLOCKAGE BEGINS

**Suez (Egypt), March 30:** Experts on Tuesday boarded the massive container ship that had blocked Egypt's vital Suez Canal and disrupted global trade for nearly a week, seeking answers to a single question that could mean billions of dollars in legal implications: What went wrong? As convoys of ships again began travelling in this artery linking East and West through the Mediterranean and Red Seas, hundreds more idled waiting for their turn in process that will take days.

Egyptian government officials, insurers, shippers and others similarly waited for more details about what caused the skyscraper-sized Ever Given to become wedged across the canal's southern single-lane on March 23.

When blame gets assigned, it could turn into years of litigation over the costs of repairing the ship, fixing the canal and reimbursing those who saw their cargo shipments disrupted. And with the vessel being owned by a Japanese firm, operated by a Taiwanese shipper, flagged in Panama and now stuck in Egypt, matters become an international morass.

— AP

**Washington, March 30:** President Joe Biden has announced that 90 per cent of the adults in the US would be eligible for Covid-19 vaccination by April 19 and the rest 10 per cent no later than May 1.

Biden also urged state authorities to once again to make mask-wearing obligatory in public places to combat the disease as the "war is far from won".

Biden's announcement on the vaccination schedule came on a day when the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Dr Rochelle Walensky warned that the US faces "impending doom" as Coronavirus cases and hospital admissions rise across America, the worst-hit by the pandemic. The US has recorded around 60,000 new cases daily for the past week, a rise of around 7 per cent. The US has reported more than 30,331,000 confirmed cases and over 550,000 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University Covid-19 tracker.

The vaccination drive under the Biden administration has been going in at an unprecedented pace. As many as 100 million shots have been administered in less than 60 days of his administration and they are now moving on to the next 100 million shots in just 40 days.

"I'm pleased to announce that at least 90 per cent of all adults in this country will be eligible to be vaccinated by April the 19th, just three weeks from now, because we have the vaccines," Biden told reporters at the White House on Monday. "For the vast, vast majority of adults, you won't have to wait until May 1. You'll be eligi-

**Biden's announcement on the vaccination schedule came on a day when the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Dr Rochelle Walensky warned that the US faces "impending doom"**

ble for your shot on April 19th. Finally, the final 10 per cent will be eligible no later than May 1," he said.

"Due to the steps we're taking today, 90 per cent of Americans will be within five miles of a location where they can get a shot as of April the 19th." "The progress we're making is a significant testament to what we can do when we work together as Americans. But as I've always said, we still need everyone to do their part. We still are in a war with this deadly virus. And we're bolstering our defences, but this war is far from won," Biden said.

According to Biden, the progress on vaccination is a stunning example that there is nothing this country cannot do if "we put their minds to it".

Biden said just 10 weeks after he became the president, nearly 75 per cent of Americans over the age of 65 had received at least one vaccination shot.

"When I took office on January 20th, that number was 8 per cent. It's going to 75 per cent," he said. The president also directed officials to ensure there is a vaccine site within five miles of 90 per cent of all Americans by April 19.

— AP



A Spanish police officer checks PCR Coronavirus test results of motorists willing to enter Spain at the border between France and Spain in Le Perthus, on Tuesday.

— AFP

## CDC warns of virus rebound

**Washington, March 30:** President Joe Biden and a top health official warned that too many Americans are declaring virus victory too quickly, appealing for mask requirements and other restrictions to be maintained or restored to stave off a fourth surge of Covid-19. The head of the CDC said she had a feeling of impending doom if people keep easing off.

The double dose of warnings on Monday came even as Biden laid out hopeful new steps to expand Coronavirus vaccinations, with all adults to become eligible over the next five weeks. Biden announced plans to expand the number of retail pharmacies that are administering vaccines, and investments to help Americans get to vaccination sites. But the optimism

was tempered by stark warnings about the potential for another wave of cases. This is deadly serious, Biden said, urging governors to reinstate mask mandates and other restrictions that some states have been easing.

Hours earlier, during a virtual White House health briefing, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention, grew emotional as she reflected on her experience treating Covid-19 patients, who are alone at the end of their lives. "We have so much to look forward to, so much promise and potential of where we are and so much reason for hope," she said. "But right now, I'm scared. I'm going to reflect on the recurring feeling I have of impending doom."

— AP

## OCI CARD HOLDERS WON'T NEED OLD PASSPORTS

**Washington/New York, March 30:** People of Indian origin and the Indian diaspora having Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cards are now not required to carry their old, expired passports for travel to India, as required earlier, according to a government notification that has been welcomed by members of the community. The Overseas Citizens of India or OCI card is issued to people of Indian origin globally which gives them almost all the privileges of an Indian national except for the right to vote, government service and buying agricultural land. The OCI card gives them a visa free travel to India. — PTI

## PAK MIN JUMPS QUEUE, GETS KIN VACCINATED

**Islamabad, March 30:** A federal minister in Pakistan found himself in hot waters on Tuesday after video clips showing his family getting shots of Coronavirus vaccine surfaced online, creating a stir as netizens accused him of "jumping the queue" and demanded an apology from him. The clips showed a nurse giving vaccine jabs to family members of Minister for Housing Tariq Bashir Cheema, which seems to be a clear violation of government policy regarding Covid-19 vaccination. Cheema belongs to the Pakistan Muslim League Quaid, which is an ally of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf. — PTI

Regd. No.  
TNENG/2010/35692

Printed & Published by  
K. Sudhakar on behalf of  
Deccan Chronicle Holdings  
Limited and Printed at  
Deccan Chronicle Press situated at  
No 2/22, Sengalipalayam Road,  
N.G.G.O Colony Post,  
Kurudampalayam Village,  
Coimbatore - 641 022. RNI  
Registration No: TNENG/2010/35692  
Ph No : 2231252,253,255,257 & 358  
Editor: KAUSHIK MITTER