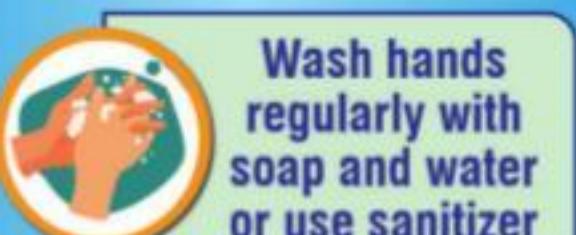


Keep following the Instructions, after Corona Vaccination

Monday &
Tuesday
**Mega
Vaccination**



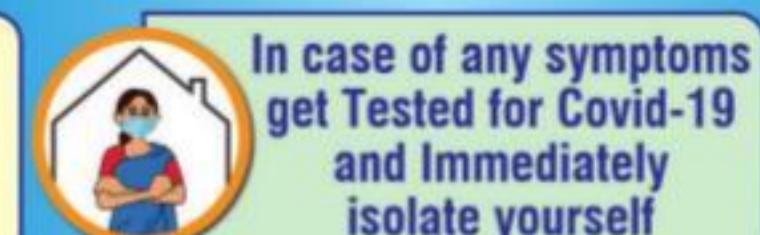
Wear
Mask
Properly



Wash hands
regularly with
soap and water
or use sanitizer



Maintain
2 Gaj
Social
Distance



In case of any symptoms
get Tested for Covid-19
and Immediately
isolate yourself



Be aware
and
make others
aware



Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

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

GOVT SOUNDS ALARM: DEATHS UP FOUR-FOLD IN LAST FEW DAYS**Situation going from bad to worse, vaccinate all 45-plus in surge districts in 2 weeks: Centre**

Daily cases up in 6 states; worry over Maharashtra, Punjab

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

WITH SEVERAL parts of the country reporting a second wave of Covid-19 cases, the Centre Tuesday warned that the situation is going from "bad to worse" and urged states to achieve 100 per cent vaccination coverage of those above the age of 45 years in surge districts within the next two weeks.

The Government will roll out the third phase of its vaccination drive from April 1 to cover all those above the age of 45. On Saturday, during a meeting with 46 districts that reported 70 per cent of the total cases over the last month, the Centre conveyed that 90 per cent of Covid-linked deaths in the country continue to be in the category of those aged above 45.

"All districts with high case-load and fast growth of cases

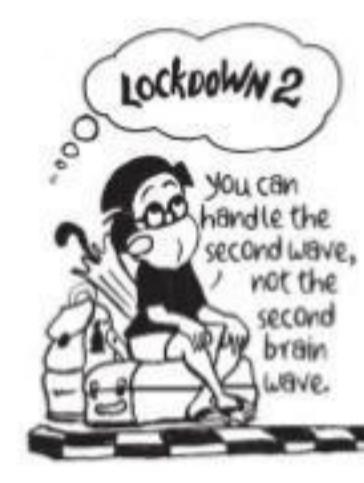
must ensure 100 per cent saturation vaccination of the priority age group of 45 years and above in the coming two weeks. Any complacency at this stage, at any level, will have heavy costs," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan wrote in a letter sent to all states and Union Territories.

On Tuesday, the Health Ministry said that six states — Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



You can handle the second wave, not the second brain wave.

Delhi spike mainly among young, says AIIMS chief

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

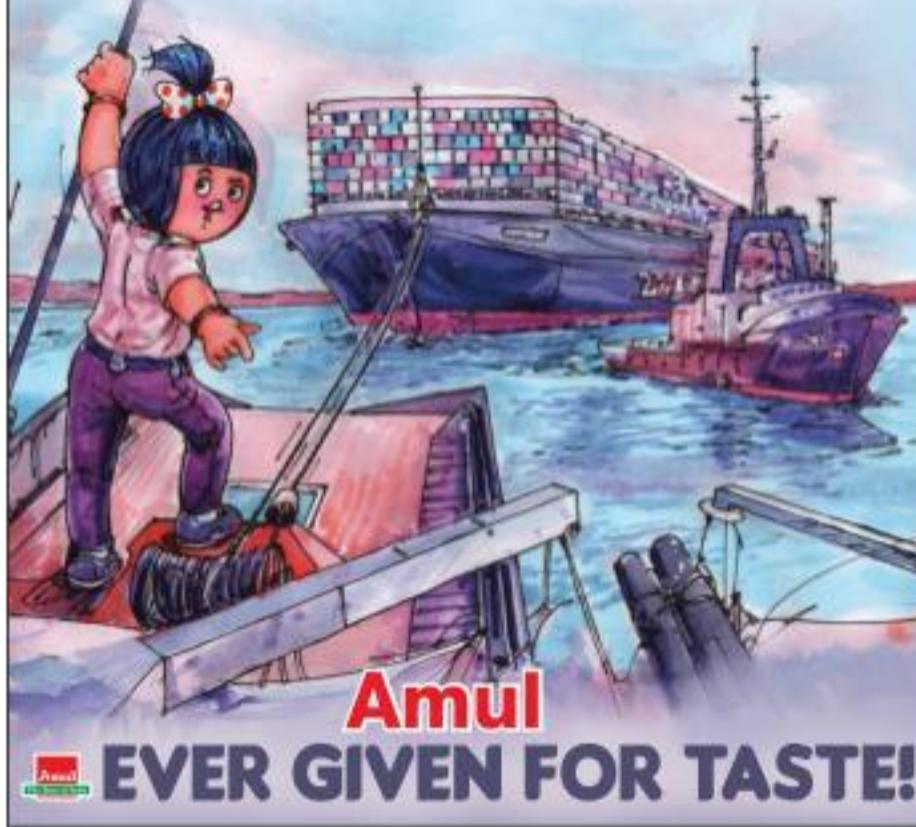
THE COVID surge in Delhi has mainly affected the younger population with most of the patients reporting "relatively milder symptoms", according to AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria. But there is a need to re-



'Number of patients in hospitals increasing'

main vigilant, he said, because the infection can "spread to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ISSUEZ RESOLVED!

dakuntha/AB/734

Pak govt meets today on reviving trade with India

11.30 am Pakistan time.

Pakistan snapped ties with India following the August 2019 abrogation of Article 370 in J&K and the division of the state into two new Union Territories.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's letter wishing him on Pakistan's National Day, said his country wants peace with its neighbours, including India, for which all outstanding issues between the two nations, including the dispute over J&K, needs to be resolved.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Voting tomorrow: High-octane campaigns by Mamata, Shah draw battlelines in Nandigram

We will fight every inch, says Chief Minister; Shah says can sense mood for poribortion



Amit Shah's roadshow for BJP candidate Suvendu Adhikari; Mamata Banerjee at a rally in Nandigram on Tuesday. PTI, ANI

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & AMITAVA CHAKRABORTY
NANDIGRAM, MARCH 30

ROAD SHOWS, public meetings, fiery speeches Tuesday in Nandigram, from where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is seeking a third term in office, marked the end of the high-octane campaign by the ruling TMC and rival BJP for the second

phase of Assembly elections in West Bengal.

The two parties, led on the ground by Banerjee and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, went all out Tuesday, firming battle-lines for the vote Thursday.

Around 1.30 pm, following a 2.5-km road show in Nandigram for BJP candidate Suvendu



**DECISION 2021
WEST
BENGAL**

Adhikari, Shah, on his way to a Shiva temple in Reyapara, stopped to buy cucumbers. As security personnel tried to push back the crowds, Shah walked up to Parulbala Mal's shop and sought the octogenarian's blessings before accepting the cucumbers.

That spot is barely 500 metres from the two-storeyed

house that Banerjee has rented for her stay in Nandigram.

Shortly after 5 pm, the Chief Minister, after addressing her last Phase 2 public meeting in Bhekutia, about 10 km from Reyapara, rose from her wheelchair and stood on one leg — her other leg has a plaster cast following injuries after a fall in Nandigram — to sing the national anthem.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



EXPLAINED
Why the stakes are high

FOR BANERJEE, and the BJP, the battle for Nandigram is a prestige fight. This was the place where she led an agitation against land acquisition in 2007, and it catapulted her to the centrestage of state politics.

CD case: Jarkiholi faces arrest after woman records statement in court

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, MARCH 30

BJP MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi, who had to step down as Karnataka Water Resources Minister earlier this month after TV channels played a video CD allegedly featuring him and a young woman, faces the prospect of arrest. The woman, who accused him of sexual assault and harassment,



Ramesh Jarkiholi

recorded a statement Tuesday before a magistrate in Bengaluru.

The woman, untraceable since March 2, the day the video CD was played by TV channels,

appeared before a magistrate Tuesday afternoon after being brought to the court by her lawyers.

On March 26, the Bengaluru police, acting on a complaint sent to them by the woman through her advocates, had registered a complaint of assault and sexual intercourse by an official in authority under IPC sections 354 and 376(c) against Jarkiholi.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Caught in crosshairs of Chhattisgarh's police-Naxal war, 14 who surrendered

GARGI VERMA
GUMIYAPAL, MARCH 30

ON JANUARY 6, 28-year old Nanda Midiyami, one of the 14 tribals who the police recorded as a Naxal, was restless, and scared. The next day, they had to present themselves at the SP's office in Dantewada, and put their thumb impressions on a surrender document.

Gumiyapal is a village 45 km from the district headquarters in Dantewada. It is difficult to access the village, with the nearest road at least 25 km away.

The 14 men, aged 25-40 years, are subsistence farmers and grow paddy in small plots of land around their village, for personal consumption. They had gathered on the outskirts of the village along with their gaayta (the tribal head), siyaan (the elder), women and children, to speak with The Indian Express.

Besides the police, the dozen-plus men also feared retribution from Maoists, who they feared would brand them as police informers, working for the lure of money.

Under an initiative launched last June called 'Lon Varat' (which in Gondi dialect means 'return to your village'), the state

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**PAGE 1
ANCHOR**

For 8 months, a father in J&K has been digging for missing son's body

NAVEED IQBAL
HARMAIN (SHOPIAN), MARCH 30

A SHOVEL and a spade in hand, he sets out from his two-storyed house. Depending on what he last heard, he chooses a spot and starts digging.

Manzoor Ahmad Wagay has been digging the earth for the past eight months now. What he hopes to find one day is his son's body — the son who would have been 25 years old in a few days.

On August 2 last year, Territorial Army soldier Rifleman Shakir Manzoor was travelling

between the Balpora and Bahibagh army camps in Shopian area. Since it was Eid day, he stopped to have lunch with his family on the way back and left home at 5 pm.

"That is the last time I saw him," says his father, 56.

The last time anyone heard from Shakir was about half-an-hour later, when he called the family and said he had run into some friends and that they should not worry if his officers called to ask his whereabouts.

"I think he had been kidnapped already and he just wanted to talk to us one last time," says Wagay.

A week after the killing, an audio clip circulated on social media made unverified claims



Manzoor Ahmad Wagay's son Shakir Manzoor was a Territorial Army soldier. Shuaib Masoodi

that "the soldier's killing and denial of his body to his family was retribution for a similar policy adopted by J&K authorities for militants killed in encounters".

On the records, Shakir remains missing. Amritpal Singh, Superintendent of Police (Shopian), says the "case is under investigation and efforts are on to trace the body".

Wagay is convinced that his son has been killed. "A woman had seen about four men torturing him. Given that and the blood on his clothes, I don't think he could have survived," he says.

Every other day since then, the father would hear about a

sighting from days ago and take his shovel and head over. At first, local residents would assist in his search. But in an area covered with orchards as far as the eye can see, it has been an ordeal.

Shakir was born to Wagay and Ayesha after four daughters. He was the only one with a job and helped out the family after joining the Territorial Army in 2016, although, the family says, he wished to become a doctor.

Today, the search has left the family in severe financial strain that has also led to Shakir's younger brother Shaan (20) dropping out of college in Aligarh. Shaan's phone is full of photos

with his older brother including one from last Eid, in the same clothes they later recovered from the ditch. It was Shaan who first raised the alarm after Shakir's phone was found switched off.

"At some point, we heard that an arrested militant had told authorities that they had buried him next to a canal. So we hired a JCB machine and started looking for his body near every water body we could see," Shaan says.

"Police record him as missing. If the search had been conducted more thoroughly in those first few hours, maybe we could have found his body, since he

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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It costs Rs 99,990 which is not accessible by any means but this notebook includes expensive components like the OLED display as well as long battery life.

PHOTO GALLERY**HOLI AMID PANDEMIC**

Women in Kolkata celebrate the festival wearing PPE kits

VIDEO**WHAT TMC POLL STRATEGIST SAYS**

'Khela Hobe' means we're not afraid to fight till end: Prashant Kishor

EXPRESS AUDIO

Unpacking PM Modi's Bangladesh visit

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Shubhajit Roy discusses the highlights of PM Modi's two-day visit to Dhaka, the tangible outcomes that have resulted from it, and the historical ties between India and Bangladesh

FROM PAGE ONE**Myanmar border**

With Myanmar is completely unfenced. Since 2017 there have been multiple proposals to fence parts of it, especially around the Champhai region, but there has been no progress.

Intelligence inputs suggest 733 Myanmar nationals have made it into the state, with the largest numbers being 324 in Champhai district, 144 in Siaha, 83 in Hnathial, and 55 in Lawngtalai. Officials believe 90 more crossed over between March 18 and 20, and are yet to be accounted for.

A top official of the Mizoram government, that has opposed the Centre's decision to identify the Myanmar nationals and deport them, pointed out that the Assam Rifles manning the border is "not standing hand-in-hand" to guard every inch, at all times. "So if someone tries, they can come. Those encountering patrols (while seeking to cross over) are just unlucky... They are trickling in every day, sometimes in large crowds, sometimes in smaller batches."

Senior sources in the Assam Rifles admit it is virtually impossible to man the border with just three battalions. Since it strengthened its vigil starting February 1, when the coup happened in Myanmar, an official said, "We have identified 58 crossing points traditionally used by smugglers." Most of these routes are in the northern part of Mizoram because the southern part does not have many good roads. Champhai, in the north, for example, has seen the largest influx.

The border has also been divided into "go and no-go areas", with 230 to 240 km length identified as where crossings can take place. "In other parts, deep rivers or dense jungles prevent people from passing through, and there have been no attempts in these areas," said a senior officer.

The officer added that apart from the state administration and locals, the Myanmar nationals were getting help from the Chin Nation Army, an insurgent group in Myanmar active in the central and northern areas of the border. "Camp Victoria of the Chin National Army is opposite Farkawn in Mizoram... about 10-12 km from the border," the officer said. "Around 120 people have been there for around 10 to 15 days, trying to cross over... The Myanmar Army is constantly patrolling along the border."

What's also keeping the influx restricted to the north is that in

the south, the Arakan Army, a Rakhine state-based insurgent group, was earlier believed to be helping the Myanmar army stop the refugees. On Tuesday though, the Arakan Army joined two other armed ethnic groups in asking the Myanmar military to stop killing the protesters, warning that it would also join them.

While nobody has a clear estimate about how many people are trying to cross the border, Mizo Zirlai Pawl (Mizo Students' Union), one of the largest civil society organisations in the state, says the number could be more than a thousand. C Lalremruata, advisor to MZP's president, said, "It's not just from one or two entry points, but several places from where refugees are trying to enter the state." He claimed several high-profile names who feared being killed by the Myanmar army have made it to India.

Underlining the crisis, he said, "Every day the situation is changing... Most of the refugees are caught in the jungles. They cannot come here, and they cannot go back. They are travelling without a change of clothes or food to eat."

According to Lalremruata, the numbers have further surged over the weekend since a shooting that killed three people in Tahan in Myanmar, where a majority of the people are of Mizo descent, adding that details are hard to get due to connectivity issues and security fears.

According to Pakhaw Chozah, general secretary of Mara Thutia Py or Mara Young Organisation, the number of refugees, including minors, stuck in the jungles was around 300 in the part opposite Siaha district alone.

The MZP president and Lalremruata were in Delhi for the past few days, trying to meet the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. But the office was closed due to Covid-19.

J&K father

was not killed for at least the first three days," Wagay says.

Of the four militants suspected of having kidnapped him, Wagay says he has visited the families of three to ask them where his son has been buried. "They just say that they are not involved," he says.

The father searches for hours every day and returns to a distressed family. He has now widened his search through the three districts around his village. "I just want to be able to bury my son. Bas harnein yeh tasali hogi ki woh sukoon se dafn hain (We will at least have the satisfaction of knowing that he is buried in peace)."

Looking back once more, he can't help but add: "The best apple in the orchard is the one that gets pecked by the birds."

CD case

In her complaint to the Cubbon Park police, the woman alleged that Jarkiholi coerced her into a sexual relationship by offering her a government job, and that he later reneged on the promise.

She alleged that Jarkiholi enticed her into sexually explicit conversations on video calls and later lured her to meet him at his apartment in Bengaluru where he forced her into sexual intercourse.

After she recorded her statement Tuesday, her lawyer, K Jagadish, said: "We have fulfilled our promise to produce the victim in court to provide her statement. The police should now fulfil their duty and arrest the accused who is roaming around freely."

Following the court appearance, the woman was taken by her lawyers to the police technical cell for a voice sample and statements in other cases that have been filed over the video CD telecast by TV channels.

A Special Investigation Team

Situation going from bad to worse, vaccinate all 45-plus in surge districts in 2 weeks: Centre

and Gujarat — continue to report a surge in daily cases and account for 78.56 per cent of the new cases overall.

"The situation is becoming bad to worse. There is a serious cause for concern. In some states, in particular, there is a huge cause of worry. But no state can be complacent. What the trends show is that the virus is still very active and can penetrate our defences. And when we think we have found ways to control the virus, it strikes back. The active cases, which were above a lakh, is now at 5.4 lakh. Two-thirds are in one particular state. But the fact is that it is a five-time rise," Dr VK Paul, who heads the country's Covid task force, said.

Bhushan, meanwhile, pointed out that the average positivity rate during the last

week in Maharashtra stood at a staggering 23.44 per cent against the national mark of 5.65 percent. Except for Bengaluru and Delhi, all the top ten districts in active cases in the country are from Maharashtra.

According to Bhushan, Maharashtra and Punjab continue to be cause of concern. On February 10, Maharashtra was reporting 3,051 daily cases and 32 deaths. On March 24, it reported 34,456 daily cases and 118 deaths. This is the extent of the surge in the state. We have to look at this data along with a weekly positivity rate of 23.44 per cent. This shows that the simple public health response activities are not taking place in the state," he said.

"Similarly, Punjab, which was reporting 240 daily cases in the second week of February, reported 2,742 cases on March 24. The state's weekly positivity rate was 8.82 per cent. This shows that Punjab is not testing enough. It also shows that the state is not promptly isolating people," he said.

According to the Centre, five states with the maximum average positivity rate over the last week were Maharashtra (23.44 per cent), Punjab (8.82 per cent), Chhattisgarh (8.24 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (7.82 per cent), and Tamil Nadu (2.50 per cent).

"The weekly data shows how the infection is spreading in the last few days. There is an urgent need to significantly increase testing in these states. This has to be increased exponentially. The states also need to increase the proportion of RT-

PCR tests," Bhushan said. Paul warned that the number of deaths over the last few days has increased four times. "New cases, which were around 9,000 per day, were 68,000 the day before yesterday. That is again six-seven times acceleration. That is huge. We have taken pride as a nation that the case fatality rate is low... but from 77 deaths per day, we are now witnessing four times that number in the last couple of days. Clearly, we have to be very vigilant. Not only in those states where the battle is raging, but in every state of the country," Paul said.

Bhushan urged states to increase private sector participation in the vaccination drive while pointing out that only 16.53 percent of doses were administered in the sector. Targeting the Chief Minister, Shah said she had failed to keep women safe. "The aged mother of one of our party workers was beaten to death. Within 5 km of Mamata Banerjee's residence (in Nandigram), there has been a rape case. And Mamata Banerjee talks about women security. People of Bengal are aware of this contradiction," he said.

On the effectiveness of lockdowns, he said: "Having a state lockdown is going to be difficult. I think the solution would be to identify areas where there has been a sudden surge in clusters and have a containment zone which can be like a localised lockdown. Test everyone in the area, treat and isolate them and make sure they don't spread the disease to other areas."

Delhi surge mainly among young, says AIIMS chief

been seen in Maharashtra, where it started with milder cases and then we found an increasing number of cases, and more serious symptoms, with hospital resources getting strained," he said.

"There is an increase in the number of patients getting admitted but it's not that we are running out of beds yet. As cases go up, we will reach a situation where more and more patients will get admitted and that is the cause of concern," he said.

Delhi has been witnessing over 1,500 daily cases over the past five days as a result of which

elderly" and trigger "serious symptoms", which would once again put healthcare resources under strain.

And, while some states are considering another lockdown, Guleria said that having more containment zones within a city would be a better strategy in containing the spread.

"As of now, most of the patients who are coming in are those with relatively milder symptoms but that is related to the fact that currently we are witnessing a surge in cases in the younger age group. But this will spread to the elderly, as has

been seen in Maharashtra,

where it started with milder cases and then we found an increasing number of cases, and more serious symptoms, with hospital resources getting strained," he said.

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Delhi has been witnessing over 1,500 daily cases over the past five days as a result of which

the city is now in the top 10 across the country with a high burden of disease.

"This is another wave and it's in our hands how big or small we want it to be, and how quickly we want it to end. In many ways, this is a situation we have got ourselves into. For some time now, cases will increase because of the surge in neighbouring states as well," Guleria said.

"As we move into aggressive action, in terms of following Covid-appropriate behaviour, increasing testing, tracking and treatment, and developing micro-containment zones to see

that cluster infections don't spread to other parts of the city, we may be able to stabilise the number of cases and bring them down. But I don't see that happening immediately," he said.

Targeting the Chief Minister, Shah said she had failed to keep women safe. "The aged mother of one of our party workers was beaten to death. Within 5 km of Mamata Banerjee's residence (in Nandigram), there has been a rape case. And Mamata Banerjee talks about women security. People of Bengal are aware of this contradiction," he said.

Led by a band of bagpipers and drummers, the BJP road show set out to chants of "Dole dole Nandigram, Jai Shri Ram, Jai Shri Ram," and "Krishna Krishna hare hare, BJP ghar ghar". Party workers and supporters showered rose petals on Shah and Adhikari as they led the road show. Huge cutouts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shah were seen all along the route.

Waiting by the roadside to catch a glimpse of Shah, Tapan Maity, a 32-year-old from Simulbari village in the adjoining Chandipur Assembly constituency which also votes on April 1, said: "I work in Gujarat as a mechanic and earn Rs 28,000 a month. During the lockdown, the state government did nothing to help me back or help me. That is why I decided to join the BJP."

Meanwhile, Banerjee, who held rallies in Sonachura Bazar and Basuli Chowk area earlier in the day, held her last public meeting in Bhekeuta.

Local residents, donning blue caps with "Bangla nijer meye chaoy" (Bengal wants her daughter) badges and her photo, queued to listen to the Chief Minister.

"We had planned the rally at Tengua crossing (about a kilometre from the site where the rally was finally held) but the BJP forcefully grabbed the spot. They are now trying to stop our supporters from reaching this venue. A few BJP workers tried to stop my car... and started chanting. Why can't they say 'Jai Siya Ram'? They are anti-women. I kept my cool and said to myself, 'Thanda thanda cool, vote for Trinamool,' Banerjee said.

"Khela hobe?" she asked, and drew cheers from the crowd. "We will play. We will play from the morning. We will not bow down. We will fight every inch. Let us go and fight this battle. I ask sisters and mothers to cook tonight. No need to cook tomorrow," she said.

Khan said "people of Pakistan also desire peaceful, cooperative relations with all neighbours, including India" and "we are convinced that durable peace and stability in South Asia is contingent upon resolving all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan, in particular the Jammu & Kashmir dispute".

He said "creation of an enabling environment is imperative for a constructive and result-oriented dialogue".

The exchange of letters comes amidst a renewed push for peace between the two countries. Over a month ago, the DGMOs of India and Pakistan had announced that both countries had "agreed to

strict observance of all agreements, understanding and cease firing along the Line of Control and all other sectors".

Nandigram

For her, and the BJP, the battle for Nandigram is a prestige fight. Because it was the 2007 agitation against land acquisition in Nandigram that catapulted Banerjee to the centrestage of politics in West Bengal, paving the way for the TMC's victory in the 2011 Assembly polls that ended 34 years of Left Front rule.

Addressing a press conference after the road show, Shah said: "Seeing the enthusiasm of the people of Nandigram, I am confident that Suvenu Adhikari will win by a huge margin... There is a mood to bring about poriborton (change) in Bengal. And an easy way to do this is to defeat Mamata Banerjee by a big margin. One needs to have a huge margin so that no political leader dares to undermine people's aspirations."

Targeting the Chief Minister, Shah said she had failed to keep women safe. "The aged mother of one of our party workers was beaten to death. Within 5 km of Mamata Banerjee's residence (in Nandigram), there has been a rape case. And Mamata Banerjee talks about women security. People of Bengal are aware of this contradiction," he said.

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"We will be targeted and was injured many times. I have sustained injuries on my entire body. Outsiders plotted against me and I got injured in Nandigram. Since 8th I have been campaigning and I will go on campaigning for a month. I cannot stop," she said.

"I could have contested from any seat but I chose Nandigram since I saw the people's enthusiasm here... I am here to stay. My credibility is my commitment. I may die, but I will always keep my word," she said.

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'NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, FOLLOW ALL PRECAUTIONS'

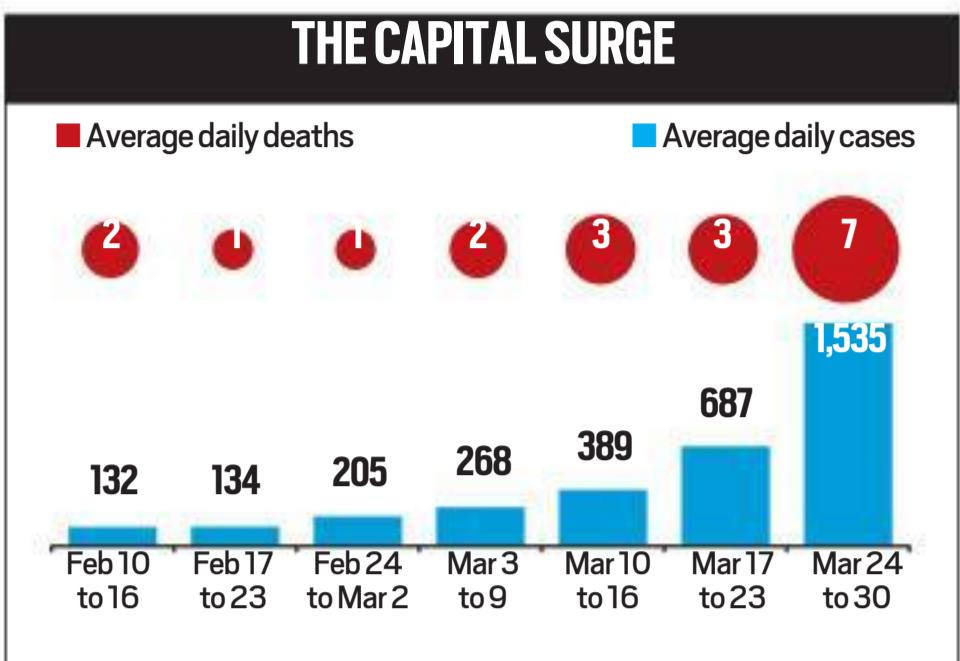
More beds reserved as cases spike: CM

Covid-19 patients in some hospitals.

At present, there are 5,784 beds earmarked for Covid-19 patients, out of which 1,584 (27.38%) are occupied. The bed occupancy was 9.8% on March 12.

"In view of coronavirus situation developing in Delhi, the number of normal and ICU beds reserved for Covid patients is being increased in a few hospitals. This will improve bed availability. We are keeping close watch and will take all steps necessary. There is nothing to worry. But please follow all precautions," tweeted Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday.

Keeping this in mind, the Delhi government has decided to increase the number of ICUs and general beds reserved for



new cases of Covid-19 and four deaths, taking the total number of infections in the capital to 6,60,611 and the death toll to 11,016.

The daily positivity rate has been recorded at 2.70%.

The national weekly average

positivity rate is 5.65%, while Delhi's weekly average positivity rate is 2.04%, the ministry's data stated.

"We are facing an increasingly severe and intensive situation in some districts but the whole country is potentially at risk. All efforts to contain the virus and save lives should be taken," said Dr VK Paul, NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog member.

There are 10 districts across the country that have the most number of active coronavirus cases – Pune, Mumbai, Nagpur, Thane, Nashik, Aurangabad, Bengaluru Urban, Nanded, Delhi and Ahmednagar.

In Delhi, the average daily

cases have gone up from 132 between February 10-17 to 1,535 between March 24-30.

Similarly, while the city was on average witnessing two deaths in February, the number of fatalities have gone up to seven between March 24 and 30.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said, "We held a meeting with officials from these 10 districts and found that isolation isn't taking place in most states and people are being told to isolate at home. But it is to be monitored if they are actually doing it. If they can't, they must be quarantined institutionally. Delhi was able to bring numbers under control through it."

ASTHA SAXENA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

WITH A continuous rise in the daily number of Covid infections, Delhi has swiftly moved to the top ten districts in the country having the highest Covid burden.

The data shared by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Tuesday stated that the capital has 8,032 active cases at the moment, and is number nine in the list of the ten districts with the most active cases.

Keeping this in mind, the Delhi government has decided to increase the number of ICUs and general beds reserved for

BRIEFLY**Man kills self after killing wife**

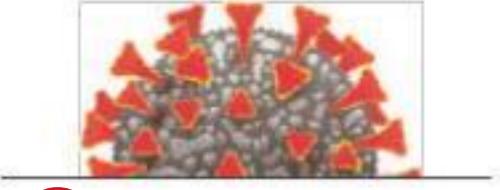
New Delhi: A 25-year-old man allegedly committed suicide after his killing his wife inside a farmhouse in Outer Delhi's Alipur. Police said the man, Mithilesh, worked as a security guard there and was living in the servant quarters. After playing Holi with his family and friends, he and his wife got into an argument which led to the murder, said police. The couple were found dead inside their room by their relatives and other staffers around 6 pm. Mithilesh and his wife Monika (22) hailed from Samastipur in Bihar and got married last year. A senior police officer said, "Mithilesh suspected Monika of having an affair and used to check her phone. They fought over this issue and the cousins had to intervene. The man was drunk and was told not to fight with his wife. The family members left after some time thinking the couple won't fight again." However, around 6 pm, they found Mithilesh hanging from the fan and Monika lying on the ground with head injuries. A case has been registered and investigations are underway.

Palwal man shot dead

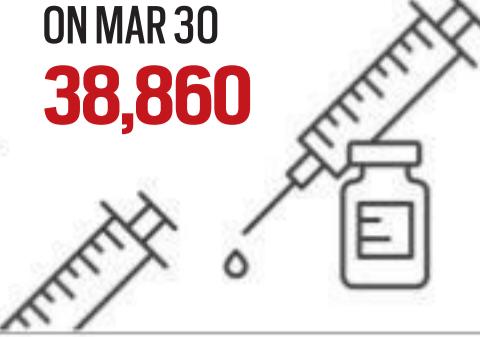
Gurgaon: A Holi celebration in Palwal culminated in bloodshed on Monday afternoon when a 27-year-old man was shot dead by four men after he requested them to not fire gunshots in the air, pointing out that "this can be dangerous". Police said the incident occurred in Janoli village around 12.30 pm. Police said an FIR has been lodged in the case, and efforts are on to nab the absconding accused. ENS

Over 18,500 fined in 5 days for Covid violations

New Delhi: More than 18,500 people were penalised and fines worth over Rs 3.18 crore imposed in the national capital for Covid-19 protocol violation in the last five days, official data released on Tuesday showed. While the highest number of such violations was reported in North Delhi district, the lowest was in East Delhi district, it added. The report on enforcement actions for strict implementation of Covid-19-appropriate behaviour has been compiled on the basis of data received from 11 revenue districts pertaining to action taken from March 25 to 29. PTI

CORONAVIRUS
IN THE CAPITALVACCINATIONS
ON MAR 30

38,860



TOTAL CASES

6,60,611

HOSPITAL BEDS

5,806

VENTILATORS

787

Total

4,125

Vacant

509

Cases

1,904

Recoveries

1,411

Deaths

6

Tests

68,805

Mar 29

992

1,591

4

Mar 30

7,429*

6,42,116

11,016

1,45,08,592

*Total active cases

BJP leader found hanging inside West Delhi park

A senior officer said, "We received a call around 6 pm. Bawa's son, Ishwender Singh, later came to the park and identified the body."

Police said they are probing whether Bawa committed suicide over domestic troubles. Police have seized case property and said inquest proceedings have been initiated. ENS

SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL
International School of Textiles & Management
Autonomous Institute, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India
1483, Avinash Road, Pimplemde, Coimbatore - 641004 Ph: 0422 - 2571675, 2592025
Advt. No.: SVPISM/Rect./2021/01 Dated 17.03.2021

RECRUITMENT

Applications are invited for the following posts on ad-hoc basis.

Sl.No.	Name of the Post	Specialization	No. of Post
1	Assistant Professor	Textiles/Apparel/Fashion	03
2	Assistant Professor	Management	01
3	Assistant Professor	Mathematics/Statistics	01
4	Administrative Officer		01

For detailed information about qualification, experience and salary, visit www.svpism.ac.in. Candidates can send their resume to recruitment@svpism.ac.in in the prescribed format available in the website within 15 days from the date of publication of the advertisement. Retired professionals with outstanding contributions to the government/government institutions/industry may also apply for Sl.No.4.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL,
BENCH-IV, NEW DELHI
COMPANY PETITION NO.CP (CAA)-26(ND)/2021
CONNECTED WITH
COMPANY APPLICATION NO.CA (CAA)-121(ND)/2019

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION U/230-232 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013
AND
IN THE MATTER OF MERGER OF DONRIVER INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED, a Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, having its registered office at G-41, Ground Floor, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi 110008.....Transferor Company/Applicant Company 1
WITH
CIENA COMMUNICATIONS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED, a Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, having its registered office at Kochhar & Co., Suite/ Unit No.1120-1121, 11th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jasola District Center, New Delhi 110025
.....Transferee Company/Applicant Company 2

NOTICE OF HEARING OF PETITION

A petition for second motion has been filed under the provision of section 230 to 232 and other applicable provisions, if any of the Companies Act, 2013 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") seeking an order for approving the Scheme of Merger between Donriver India Private Limited (hereinafter referred to as "Transferor Company") and Ciena Communication India Private Limited (hereinafter referred to as "Transferee Company"), collectively referred to as "Applicant Companies", and their respective shareholders and creditors was presented by the Applicant Companies on the 25th day of February, 2021, and the said second motion petition fixed for hearing before the National Company Law Tribunal, Court IV, Delhi Bench on 26th day of April, 2021.

Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said second motion petition should send to applicant Companies' advocate, notice of his/her intention, signed by him/her or his/her advocate, with his/her name and address, so as to reach the applicant Companies advocate not later than 15 days before the next date of hearing for the consideration of the approval of the scheme of Merger, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his/her affidavit shall be furnished with such Notice.

A copy of the 2nd motion petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on the payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

Donriver India Private Limited
Applicant Company 1
Date: 30.03.2021, Place: DelhiCiena Communications India Private Limited
Applicant Company 2
Date: 30.03.2021, Place: Delhi

Government of Karnataka
GOVT FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, Govt.Flying Training School,
Jakkur Aerodrome, Bangalore-560064
Telephone no: 080-23332251 Fax: 080-23627178

NO. FTS/18/ADM/2018-19. Dt:30.03.2021.

FILLING THE POST OF CHIEF FLYING INSTRUCTOR

Qualification For Chief Flying Instructor: Applicant must fulfill DGCA qualification as per CAR SECTION -7 SERIES I PART VISSUE II, 20TH FEBRUARY 2015.

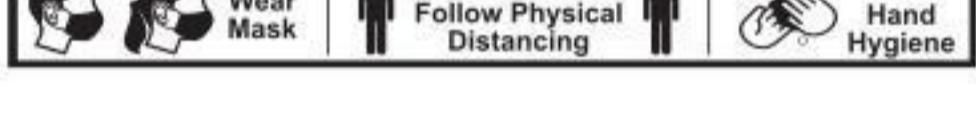
a)Should carry out pattern training for the issue of AFIR (A) & FIR (A).

b) All functions of Deputy CFI.

NOTE: Retired Air force Pilots may also apply.

Total No of posts-1, Age: 65 as on 30.03.2021.

Applicants must submit their resume by e-mail or by post by 07.04.2021 to the following address, Office of The Director, Govt. Flying Training School, Jakkur Aerodrome, Yelahanka Post, Bangalore-64.

Period of Contract: Three years. Consolidated Salary : Rs. 2.50 to 3.00 lakhs per month.
email-gfts.kar@gmail.com Telephone no: 080-23332251.Sd/- Director,
Govt. Flying Training School,
DIPR/DDU/SHIRDISA/3274/2020-21 Jakkur, Bangalore.**Covid-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE**

Farm laws are stuck, where's India's Agri sector headed?

EXPRESS explained.Live

with

**Dr Sudha Narayanan**

Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute

**Mr Balram Singh Yadav**

Managing Director, Godrej Agrovet Ltd

The Narendra Modi government's agricultural reform laws are in a political limbo with little prospect of any window opening for further negotiations between the Centre and the farmer unions.

This comes even as agriculture is the only sector of the economy expected to grow by 3% amid an overall 8% GDP contraction in 2020-21.

To go beyond the current impasse and look at the road ahead for India's farming and agri-business sector, Dr Narayanan and Mr Yadav will be in conversation with

Harish Damodaran

National Rural Affairs & Agriculture Editor, The Indian Express

31 MAR 2021

06:30 PM

To register, SCAN

To register, SMS - IEEXP <space> "IE" <space> "Your name and email ID" to 56161 Confirmation SMS will be your registration.

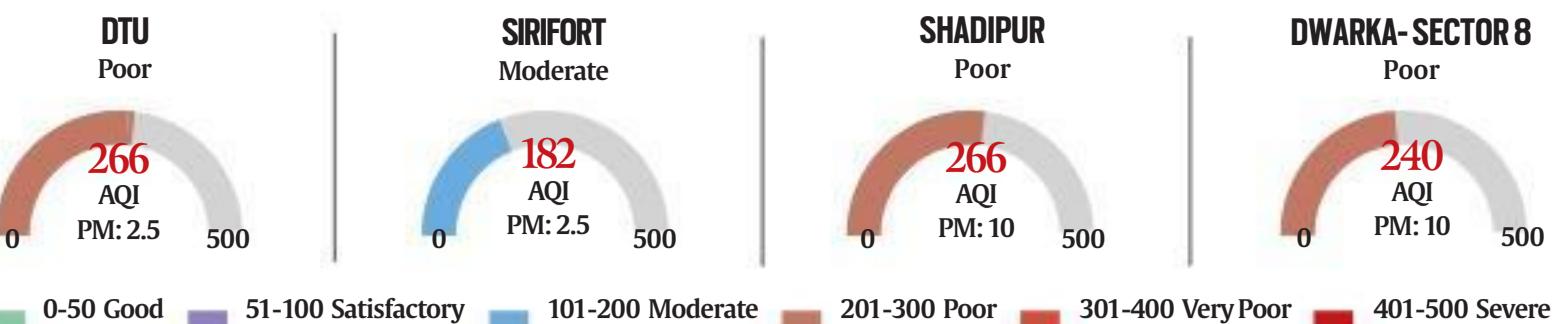
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The IndianEXPRESS
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE



SKY WATCH
FORECAST: Mar 31
 Mainly clear sky. Strong dust-raising winds

MAX: 36 4°C above normal | **MIN: 18** Normal

Landfill fire as East MCD was careless: Gopal Rai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER Gopal Rai Tuesday said the fire at Ghazipur landfill two days ago was a result of the East corporation's "carelessness", and strict action will be taken against it.

Addressing a press conference, Rai said an inspection by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) of the landfill site on Tuesday showed no system was installed there for curbing or dousing such fires.

"MCD's carelessness was the major cause of this, and has contributed to the area's air pollution quite extensively... Because of the advent of summers, such landfills are prone to fires, and a monitoring system should be set up to analyse them. As far as this incident is concerned, we will file a strong complaint against the MCD," he said.

Rai also spoke about two recent reports on air pollution — by Swiss technology company IQAir and the CSE — that mention Delhi. He said these reports show that measures taken by Delhi government for curbing air pollution have been successful.

The report by IQAir revealed that the national capital has dropped down to the 10th spot among polluted cities in the world, and the one by CSE revealed that Delhi's PM2.5 has decreased at the rate of 25% between 2018 and 2020. CSE's report also disclosed that Delhi is the first state in India to have shut down power plants that emit harmful gases and the first state to have 39 air quality monitoring systems, a statement from Rai's office said.

He asked the Centre to analyse these reports and create an action plan for curbing air pollution in Delhi's neighbouring states.



IMD officials said strong winds of up to 50 kmph were aiding the transport of dust to Delhi. Tashi Tobgyal

Dusty winds from Rajasthan push Delhi air quality to poor, will persist today as well

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

DUST-LADEN WINDS from Rajasthan engulfed Delhi Tuesday, pushing the air quality into the 'poor' category, which is expected to continue until Thursday.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials said strong winds of up to 50 kmph were aiding the transport of dust to Delhi from the neighbouring state.

This was noted a day after Delhi recorded a severe heatwave, when temperature soared to a high of 40.1 degrees Celsius, eight degrees above normal for this time of the year.

Kuldeep Srivastava, head of IMD's regional weather forecasting centre, said, "There's a cyclonic circulation over Rajasthan, which is leading to strong winds that are carrying dust from there to western Uttar Pradesh. These winds should subside in a day or two as the cyclonic circulation starts moving eastwards."

Concentration of particulate matter of 10 micrometres (PM10) — coarse particles suspended in the air, mainly comprising dust — increased three times above acceptable limit on Tuesday in Delhi.

As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), PM10 level at 5pm in Delhi-NCR was 341 µg/m³, much higher than the 24-hour exposure limit of 100 µg/m³. The concentration of PM2.5 — fine particles in the air that are smaller in size and released from combustion activities

— was about 105 µg/m³, higher than the 24-hour exposure limit of 60 µg/m³.

V K Soni, head of the IMD's Environment Monitoring and Research Centre, said higher concentration of PM10 pollutants in the air showed that dust particles were making a significant impact on air quality.

Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) on Tuesday, as per the CPCB, was 232 in the 'poor' category, higher than 225 recorded on Monday.

A bulletin from the Centre's

Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi stated the AQI is likely to deteriorate and remain between the 'poor' and 'very poor' category on Wednesday and Thursday.

Meanwhile, Srivastava said strong winds will also help in preventing mercury from rising further. The maximum temperature recorded in Delhi on Tuesday was 37.9 degrees Celsius, lower than 40.1 degrees a day earlier.

Maximum temperature is forecast to fall further up to 34 degrees by April 2, as per the IMD.

Man shot in front of wife: Police scan 1,000 CCTVs to nab accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

TWO WEEKS after a 40-year-old chartered accountant was shot dead at an under-construction house in Northwest Delhi's Adarsh Nagar, police on Monday arrested a man for the murder, which they say was the result of a robbery bid. Police said the accused, 22-year-old Jai Kumar Singh, is an addict and allegedly killed the CA to purchase drugs.

The victim, Anil Aggarwal, was out with his wife Anju for a morning walk on March 16 when the accused targeted him. After the

walk, Aggarwal went to his newly built house to oversee construction. He was with his wife and a worker when the accused came and threatened him with a gun.

Police sources said the accused tried to rob Aggarwal at gunpoint but he resisted. The accused then fired at Aggarwal and fled the spot. He sustained a bullet injury near his neck and was declared dead on arrival at the hospital.

Police said they found that the accused had been following the victim and his wife for some time, and had come on a scooter.

Usha Rangnani, DCP (Northwest), said, "We checked around 1,000 CCTVs in the area to

identify the vehicle and the accused. We also checked dossiers of criminals who recently got out of jail. We then found the suspect."

Police said Singh is involved in nine cases under the Arms Act, attempting to murder and robbery, as well as in a rape case and a property dispute case. He was granted bail on March 6.

"We looked for him in Delhi. Our teams then went to his hometown in UP's Gonda. Local enquiry revealed Singh knew about police raids at his home and was changing hideouts frequently. On Sunday, when he came back to Delhi, he was caught from Sarai Rohilla," said the DCP.

Police said they found that the accused had been following the victim and his wife for some time, and had come on a scooter.

Police said he then posted

her morphed photos from the account in October last year.

The girl committed suicide in January.

A senior Delhi Police officer said, "The girl and her parents had filed a case against her ex-fiancé after the girl received the morphed photos from his account. A case was registered under sections of the POCSO Act and stalking in October-November and the man was arrested."

He was later granted bail by a Delhi court, following which he went back to his home in Madhya Pradesh and lodged a complaint with the Crime

Branch there, alleging that his account had been hacked.

"The man claimed he didn't send those photos and someone had hacked his social media account," said a police source.

During investigation, Madhya Pradesh police zeroed in on the girl's cousin for the alleged hacking and morphing of the photos.

MP Police's Crime Branch sent a team to Delhi on Tuesday and arrested him. Family members of the accused meanwhile protested at the police station.

"The motive behind the crime is not clear so far," said a senior police officer.

Unable to open her mouth since birth, a surgery for 30-yr-old

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

UNABLE TO open her mouth since birth, 30-year-old Astha Mongia, who had a rare congenital fusion of the jaw joint with the skull bone, has undergone a successful operation at a private hospital. Diagnosed with the medical condition called temporomandibular (TMJ) disorder at birth, Mongia couldn't eat solid food, had difficulty in speaking, and had lost almost all her teeth.

The TMJ acts like a sliding hinge, connecting the jawbone to the skull, and dysfunction can lead to pain and discomfort, difficulty chewing, and clicking and locking of the jaw joint.

Doctors said the woman's mouth opening was so small that she couldn't even touch her tongue with her hand. The situation got worse as she had a neurovascular malformation (tumour) over the right half of the face, orbit and forehead, due to which there was no vision in the right eye.

"For such patients to open the mouth, both the condyles (ball-like head of jaw joint) have to be removed. Many a times a tongue like bony extension in front of ball joint known as coronoid process has to be either removed surgi-

Because of the disorder, the woman could not eat solid foods and found it difficult to speak, doctors said

cally or at least fractured, but in her case this was easier said than done as there were bunch of vessels surrounding the coronoid process on the right side," said Dr Rajeev Ahuja, senior plastic surgeon at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

After contacting several experts in the UK and Dubai but in vain, the family reached out to the hospital, and in February, her treatment began with a team of radiology and vascular experts.

Three weeks before the surgery, she was injected with a sclerosant — a solution that stops bleeding by hardening the blood — to shrink blood-filled vessels as much as possible. The woman was operated on March 20.

"At the operation table, the mouth opening of the patient was 2.5 cm," said Dr Ahuja.

At the time of discharge on March 25, her mouth opening increased to 3 cm; in normal circumstances it is 4-6 cm. Doctors said her mouth opening will further increase by way of exercises.

With aim to 'discourage rote learning', Delhi education board holds first meeting

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

THE DELHI Board of School Education (DBSE) held its first meeting Tuesday with Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia presiding over as its president. The Board will "discourage rote-learning, bring continuous formative assessments and promote growth mindsets in students", he said.

The agenda included "appraisal regarding the registration of the DBSE under the Society Registration Act, 1860, its constitution and its functioning from the academic session 2021-2022, and the appraisal of the members/nominated members of the general body of the Board," the Delhi government said.

Principal secretary (education), principal secretary (finance), director education, chairman DCPCR, director SCERT, principal advisor to director education, vice-chancellors of Delhi Technological University, Ambedkar University and Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University are also members of the DBSE. It also includes two educationists, two representatives of industries, two school managing committee members, and principals and

teachers as nominated members.

"The purpose of the DBSE is three-fold. First, the Board will move away from the practice of rote-learning and move towards giving a holistic picture of each learner, which goes beyond scholastic ability in subjects to include values and skills required in the future such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, etc. Secondly, it will emphasise on continuous formative assessments," said Sisodia.

"The main aim of setting up the Board is that the assessment system should become a 'partner of learning' and not an authority of testing'. And third, we want to encourage a growth mindset among

students, which would be strengthened by making it part of regular assessment," he said.

Sisodia also said the DBSE will give teachers "timely feedback on specific actions they take to help every child in their classroom".

"It will further employ effective modern technology available today to ensure a personalised learning experience for our students. Artificial intelligence and game-based assessments will be put to use to create a system where every student is regularly evaluated on the basis of his/her strengths and enter the next phase of their life with a deep understanding of their unique strengths," he said.



Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and MLA Atishi at the first meeting of the Delhi Board of School Education, Tuesday

Man killed inside Tihar: Court asks jail for footage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

THE DELHI High Court has directed Tihar Jail to place on record before it CCTV footage of the time when a 23-year-old was killed by other inmates in his cell last year. The court had earlier expressed shock at the undertrial's murder and questioned whether any inquiry has been initiated against officials for the security lapse within jail premises.

Dilsher Azad, who was facing trial in four separate cases, was attacked with knives and a blade by other inmates on November 30 inside Tihar Jail number 3. He was declared dead on arrival by a doctor at the jail dispensary. Police registered a case against three prisoners. The court has passed the direction in a petition filed by Azad's father Ali Sher for grant of compensation of Rs 5 crore.

Jail authorities told the court that undertrial prisoners were facing trial in four separate cases, was attacked with knives and a blade by other inmates on November 30 inside Tihar Jail number 3. He was declared dead on arrival by a doctor at the jail dispensary. Police registered a case against three prisoners. The court has passed the direction in a petition filed by Azad's father Ali Sher for grant of compensation of Rs 5 crore.

Total compliance at Gurgaon meat shops for no-meat Tuesdays

SAKSHIDAYAL
GURGAON, MARCH 30

ON THE second week of implementation of Municipal Corporation of Gurugram's directions to close all meat shops every Tuesday, the areas falling under the civic body's jurisdiction saw "100% compliance".

"Teams were sent out across the city in areas falling under our jurisdiction to penalise anyone found to be operating on Tuesday despite the mandate for all meat shops to remain closed on the day. However, owners had shut the shops themselves. There was hundred per cent compliance," said an official from the MCG who did not want to be named.

According to officials, Gurgaon has a total of 129 licensed meat shops. Last week on Tuesday, which was the first time the order was implemented, shop owners had "largely" complied with the MCG directions, with officials revealing that "at least 120" of the 129 licensed meat shops remained closed on their own. The violators were let off with a warning last week.

On March 18, during its house meeting, the MCG passed a proposal to close all meat shops on Tuesdays in areas falling under its jurisdiction — a proposal that was originally not on the agenda but had been put forward by the House by some councilors who cited "Hindu sentiments" in its support. The proposal was unanimously accepted by the House.



Gurgaon has 129 licensed meat shops. Archive

jurisdiction — a proposal that was originally not on the agenda but had been put forward by the House by some councilors who cited "Hindu sentiments" in its support. The proposal was unanimously accepted by the House.

At the same meeting, councilors had passed proposals to double the license fee for meat shops from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000, and to increase the penalty for meat shops operating illegally by ten times, from Rs 500 to Rs 5,000. In addition, MCG Commissioner Vinay Pratap Singh had stated that shops penalised thrice for operating illegally would be sealed and an FIR registered against the owner if the seal is found to have been broken afterwards.



Barak Valley split wide open: 'What use roads if you spread hate?'



Assam minister and senior BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma at a rally in Assam's Cachar district. PTI

In region that carries Partition scars, no one denies BJP has done work — or that social fissures now run deeper due to its Miya rhetoric

TORA AGARWALA
CACHAR, KARIMGANJ, MAR 30

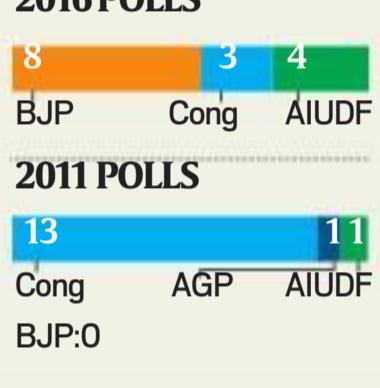
"SCHEMES FOR women, free ration during lockdown, new roads... there is no reason to complain about the last five years. Zero," declares Manoj Nath, who owns a fruit shop in Katigorah in Assam's Cachar district. A few metres away, selling gift items at his shop, Shahin Ahmed Chowdry says, "Yes, roads were built, but... none of the schemes reached me." Dropping his voice, he adds, "They can build all the roads in the world but then they are spreading hate."

Close by, in Cheragi Bazaar, near the border with Bangladesh, Hanif Alam, who sells electronic goods, agrees. "They made a law like the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), which is fine. But why leave out Muslims?"

In 2016, both Chowdry and Alam had voted for the BJP. "And what change did they bring?" says Alam. "Every other day, I see videos of someone being forced to say 'Jai Shri Ram' or being lynched. At least, before this our country was peaceful."

Unlike the linguistic, ethnic lines cleaving the rest of Assam, in Barak Valley, religious affiliation is an overriding factor. Much of the

BARAK VALLEY IN ASSAM
DISPUR
Cachar
Karimganj
Hailakandi
Total Assembly seats 15



valley's memories are shaped by Partition — when a large part of Assam's Bengali-speaking Sylhet was made part of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), while one part (Karimganj) was included in Cachar district, without any affinity to the region. Consequently, there was large-scale migration of Bengali Hindus to Barak Valley, and now Hindus and Muslims are evenly matched in numbers.

Barak Valley's ties with the BJP, in fact, go back as early as the 1990s.

First its CAA promise, excluding Muslim immigrants, and now its rhetoric targeting 'Miya' culture are playing on the intrinsic divide in Barak Valley. Its 15 Assembly seats (seven in Cachar district, three in Hailakandi and five in Karimganj) vote on April 1.

On Tuesday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi released a video

message for Assam, reiterating they would not allow the CAA.

Attributing the CAA delay to Covid, Rajdeep Roy, Silchar MP and Assam BJP general secretary, says, "The CAA has been passed by Parliament. It has gone through checks and balances, how can it be divisive?"

For Satish Das, a rickshaw-puller who lives in a Hindu settlement in Silchar, 2019 was a blur of trips to Guwahati and a loan of Rs 20,000. "Still my daughter's name did not make it to the NRC," he says, hardly reassured by neighbours telling him that the "Hindu law" will protect her.

However, on April 1, Das will vote for the BJP. "I have heard on TV that the BJP runs the *desh* (country) well," he says.

In Udharpur, Mompi Dey is as forgiving despite not getting "even ek mutthi (a fistful)" of free

rice during lockdown. "It's not the BJP or PM Modi's fault," she says. Plus, her husband adds, at least they are not siding with an "anti-Hindu" like Badruddin Ajmal.

While the AIUDF has always had a presence in Barak Valley, the BJP's vilification has turned Hindus against it, as well as ally Congress. "I worry that Ajmal may become Chief Minister," says Pushpa Dey, in a Silchar market.

But simple mathematics may work against the BJP, says Joyon Abedin, professor at Nabinchandra College in Karimganj, with Congress and AIUDF votes consolidating in Hailakandi and Karimganj, which are Muslim majority.

Abedin adds that it is clear the BJP has done work. The Modi government brought a broad gauge railway line to Barak Valley, roads and a much-needed passport office. "Even Muslims developed a soft corner for the BJP," says Abedin. "But they say 'don't want Miya votes,' call us *Mughals*."

Urban Silchar has seen many minor communal clashes in recent years. Mizajul Rahman, who runs a tile business in the city, points out that his best friends are Hindus. "How are we outsiders?" he says. "It is the Hindus who came here. We were here from before."

'CAA, polarisation
BJP's vote bank tools;
jobs biggest issue'

TORA AGARWALA
SILCHAR, MARCH 30

CONSIDERED THE face of the Congress in Assam's largely Bengali-speaking Barak Valley, which goes to vote on April 1, Sushmita Dev is said to have walked out of a party meeting in Guwahati last month, unhappy over seat-sharing with Badruddin Ajmal's AIUDF, which Congress has allied with in this election. Excerpts from an interview:

There were rumours of you quitting the Congress over seat-sharing in Barak Valley.

If you have to compromise your *karmabhoomi*, where you work, your soil... if you have to give it to others, it will hurt you. So it hurt me. But I always bow to the high command. If I am not going to fight for my territory, who will?... But no, I never resigned.

However, do you support the fears that the alliance with the AIUDF will alienate the Congress's Hindu support base, already upset over the party's opposition to the CAA, even further in Barak Valley?

So, the BJP partnered with the AGP, the people who historically led the Assam Andolan. So then why did Bengalis vote for the BJP? (Chief Minister Sarbananda) Sonowal took to the streets during the Assam Agitation — which was seen as a language agitation. So, is the BJP pro-Bengali then?

If you look at the margins by which we lost the seats to AIUDF candidates on previous occasions, it was a few thousand votes. One

more example... in 2014 (Lok Sabha polls), when the AIUDF put up a candidate against me, I won by a margin of 30,000-odd votes. In 2019, the AIUDF didn't put up a candidate against me, I lost.

What issues is the Congress fighting on in Barak Valley?

Jobs is the biggest issue. During our Assam Bachao Yatra, everywhere I went, unemployment was the biggest issue. It did not matter which age group — parents, grandparents were complaining and so were the young.

We are economically behind rest of Assam because we don't have any industry here. Even the fourth-grade jobs in offices of Barak Valley... our young people are not able to get them.

And the CAA?

The BJP has posed the CAA as the solution but I don't think it's a complete solution. Barak Valley people reacted the way they did to the CAA because they thought it was a shield. But now, as things emerge, how the BJP has stopped talking about the CAA... people have realised the Act is a vote-bank tool.

Do you think the polarising rhetoric the BJP has created in Barak Valley will harm you now as well as in 2024, when you contest?

This time our majority vote is going to go up... *Kaath ki handi baar baar nahin chadti* (you can't keep flogging a dead horse), and people have realised that. Polarisation is just the BJP's tool, that is now jaded. Jobs and unemployment are the biggest issues.

The SC vote

At 23.51%, West Bengal ranks third in the country in terms of SCs proportionate to its population. In terms of absolute numbers, Bengal far outranks the other two states, with its 60 recognised SC groups making up above 25% of the population in more than nine districts. Together, these nine districts account for 127 Assembly seats. Besides, in six districts, with 78 Assembly seats, the SCs constitute 15-25% of the population.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, when it won 18 seats, the BJP led in 33 of the total 68 SC-reserved Assembly segments in the state. Out of these 33 seats, 26 are Matua-dominated. The SC led in 34 segments, and the Left plus Congress in only three.

This indicated a massive swing of the SC vote to the BJP from the 2016 polls, when the Trinamool had won 50 of the reserved seats, the Left 10, Congress 8, and BJP 0.

In the 2011 polls, the TMC had won 37 of the reserved seats, the Left 20, Congress 10 and SUCI (Communist). The BJP was a virtual non-presence at the time.

The Namasudras

The Namasudras form the second largest chunk of SCs in Bengal (17.4%), just below the Rajbanshis (18.4%). The BJP has been wooing the Namasudras (with Matuas as the biggest group), who together comprise around 1.5 crore voters, with presence in 42 seats. PM Modi offered prayers during his visit to Bangladesh at a temple marking the birthplace of the Matuas' spiritual guru Harichand Thakur — this coincided with voting in the first phase in Bengal.

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KEY PLAYERS

JOSE K MANI:
Kerala 'Christian'
face in communist
fold



EXPRESS
Explained.

EC'S NEW RULES FOR POLLING AGENTS
AND WHY TMC IS OBJECTING TO THEM

I HEREBY DECLARE

MANARANJAN BRAHMA, UPPCL candidate from Kokrajhar, Assam



TOTAL ASSETS ₹268 CRORE	
Movable assets	₹250.71 crore
Cash in hand	₹15.1 lakh
Bank balance	₹102.34 crore
Bonds/Mutual funds	₹4 lakh
Insurance	₹3 crore
Immovable assets:	₹18 crore (approx)
Agri land	₹28.81 lakh
Non-agri land	₹5.47 crore
Liabilities	₹78.17 crore
Criminal cases	2

Fight for SC vote in Bengal: 23% of state numbers, 127 seats



PM Narendra Modi meets members of the Matua community in Orakandi during his recent visit to Bangladesh. PTI

Originally from East Pakistan, the Matuas migrated to India after the creation of Bangladesh. However, a sizeable number are yet to get citizenship. The BJP's CAA promise was one of the reasons the Matuas swung behind the NDA in 2019.

This election, the BJP kept mum on the CAA — with the Act still to be implemented — till it unveiled its manifesto.

The Mamata Banerjee government, on its part, has set up development boards for the Namasudras and regularised 244 refugee colonies, spread across North 24 Parganas, Nadia, South 24 Parganas, Kolkata and Cooch Behar, giving them land titles.

In the current Assembly polls, the Trinamool has fielded 79 SC candidates, 11 more than the total SC-reserved constituencies.

Harichand Thakur

Harichand Thakur was born in Orakandi in Bangladesh in 1812. Thakur, whose family were Matuas, founded a sect of Vaishnavite Hinduism called Matua. This was adopted by members of the Namasudras community, who were then known by the pejorative name of Chandal.

Married to Jagat Mata/Shanti Mata, with whom he had two sons, Harichand Thakur died in Faridpur in Bangladesh in 1878. Later, one of his sons collaborated with English missionary doctor Cecil Silas Mead, who worked with Namasudras, to get Chandals reclassified as Namasudras.

Other SC groups

The Mamata government has formed a Narayani Battalion for the Rajbanshis in North Bengal. The battalion was named after the Narayani Sena of the erstwhile princely state of Cooch Behar. Amit Shah has now promised a Narayani Sena CAPF battalion.

In West Bengal, Rajbanshis are concentrated in Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling, with some presence in Malda, Murshidabad (54 seats in north Bengal).

The Mamata government has also set up a separate development board for Rajbanshis, apart from boards for Kurni, Kami and Bagdi communities.

Cong banks on a 26-year-old dairy farmer to break into a Kerala Left bastion of 15 years

VISHNU VARMA & SHAJU PHILIP
KAYAMKULAM,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
MARCH 30

"MY BIGGEST identity is that I am from Kayamkulam and I understand its problems," says Aritha Babu, the Congress's candidate from Kayamkulam, a coastal constituency in Alappuzha district, and first made headlines in 2015 when she became the youngest candidate to get elected to the

Alappuzha district panchayat. This time, she is the second-youngest candidate in the electoral fray in Kerala and is taking on sitting CPM MLA U Pratibha and Bharat Dharma Jana Sena (BDJS) candidate Pradeep Lal. The BDJS is an ally of the BJP and draws its support from the OBC Ezhava community.

Babu also belongs to the Ezhava community and works as a dairy farmer. She had taken over the work from her father after he fell ill. In her affidavit, Babu declared assets worth Rs 1.89 lakh and Rs 32,000 as liabilities. Popular Malayalam actor and

Congress sympathiser Salim Kumar footed her security deposit for the election.

"My father introduced me to politics. For decades, he worked for the Congress's ward- and booth-level committees," Babu told *The Indian Express*.

On Tuesday, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra campaigned for Babu. Later, while addressing an election rally in Kollam, Vadra attacked the "fascist" LDF government over the gold smuggling scandal and the controversial deep sea fishing deal with a US firm. "When you try to raise your voice against it,

it tries to suppress it... When you question the frauds of the government, the Chief Minister (Pinarayi Vijayan) answers that he doesn't know what's going on. Is he a strong CM or a weak CM?" she said.

Though Kayamkulam has elected both UDF and LDF legislators in the past, it has been a CPM bastion since 2006. The Assembly segment includes Kayamkulam municipality and six other panchayats. In the 2020 local body elections, the LDF gained control of the municipality and four of the six panchayats.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, when it won 18 seats, the BJP led in 33 of the total 68 SC-reserved Assembly segments in the state. Out of these 33 seats, 26 are Matua-dominated. The SC led in 34 segments, and the Left plus Congress in only three.

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paper.indianexpress.com

The popular ADMK minister claims to know all his 2.76 lakh voters. Express

Thirumanagalam resident who works as a security guard, says he will vote for Udhayakumar as he is not Alagiri. The 2009 Thirumanagalam 'cash-for-vote' controversy — in what came to be known as the Thirumanagalam formula — devised by Alagiri — haunts voters. He says when Jayalalithaa also removed him from the Cabinet once when he took his devotion so far as to erect tulip lights along a stretch of 8 km to mark her visit, at a time when the state was fac-



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



OPTING OUT

ATTORNEY GENERAL K K Venugopal on Tuesday withdrew himself from looking into a lawyer's plea to bring a contempt of court case against former Supreme Court judge Markandey Katju for his comments about the Indian judiciary in an UK court in the Nirav Modi extradition case. Referring to his 16-year-old friendship with justice Katju, Venugopal advised that the request for sanction be made before Solicitor General Tushar Mehta. However, this is unlikely to resolve the issue since it would be a conflict of interest for Mehta to grant the sanction. The UK court, which decided the Nirav Modi case, had relied upon Mehta's words while rejecting Katju's statements that a free trial would not be possible in India.

VACCINE SHOT

UNION HEALTH Minister Harsh Vardhan along with his wife Nutan Goel on Tuesday received their second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at Delhi Heart and Lung Institute. The couple promptly received the second dose as per the protocol. India is administering the first and second dose of Covaxin, 28 days apart.

URDU VERSION

THE NATIONAL Council For Promotion Of Urdu Language (NCPUL), which is under the Ministry of Education, will release an Urdu version of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's book 'Bhavishya Ka Bharat' on April 5. The book, which will be titled 'Msutqabil Ka Bharat', has been translated by NCPUL Director Aquil Ahmed. It will be unveiled by RSS joint general secretary Krishan Gopal in the presence of Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhrayal.



Piyush Goyal, Amarinder Singh

Ensure e-payment of MSP directly into farmers' accounts: Goyal to Amarinder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH,
MARCH 30

UNION FOOD Minister Piyush Goyal has asked the Punjab government to implement the Centre's guidelines to ensure e-payment of the minimum support price (MSP) directly into farmers' accounts from the upcoming rabi marketing season beginning April 1.

In a letter to Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, Goyal said, "In the interest of farmers, GOI has been requesting the state government of Punjab to streamline their procurement and payment procedure in line with GOI guidelines of direct online payment to farmers and compliance of Public Finance Management System (PFMS), since 2018."

"The state government has time and again sought extension on these timelines..." and despite being given sufficient time to comply with the guidelines, the "state has not implemented these provisions so far," Goyal wrote in his March 27 letter.

This came days after the Food Ministry's March 4 letter, in which it asked the state government to "implement online payment directly into farmer's account and compliance of PFMS" with effect from the upcoming rabi market-

PM: LDF betrayed Kerala for a few pieces of gold, like Judas betrayed Jesus for silver

VISHNU VARMA
KOCHI, MARCH 30

THE LDF has betrayed Kerala for a few pieces of gold, just like Judas betrayed Lord Jesus Christ for a few pieces of silver. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday at his first election rally in the poll-bound state. He accused both the CPM-led LDF as well as the Congress-led UDF of taking turns to "loot" the state.

Speaking at Fort Maidan in Palakkad constituency, where the BJP has fielded 'Metro Man' E Sreedharan as its candidate for the April 6 elections, Modi said, "For many years, the worst-kept secret in Kerala politics was the friendly agreement of the UDF and LDF. Now, the first-time voter in Kerala is asking what is this match fixing? For five years, one loots and for the next five years, the other loots. People are seeing



PM Narendra Modi greets Union minister V Muraleedharan and BJP candidate E Sreedharan at a rally in Palakkad. PTI

how the LDF and UDF misled people. In West Bengal, Congress and Left are one. They were partners in UPA-I in Delhi and the Left continued to give issue-based support to UPA-II."

"Here in Kerala, during elections, they raise allegations against each other. But after coming to power, they never act on it. Their behind-the-scene [acts] are exposed. They have different names, but their work remains the same and they have their marked areas of making money," he said.

"The UDF has not even spared the rays of the sun. About LDF, it can be said... Judas betrayed Lord Christ for a few pieces of silver, the LDF has betrayed Kerala for a few pieces of gold," the Prime Minister said, referring to the solar panel scam during the previous UDF government and the recent gold smuggling case respectively.

He insinuated that the LDF and UDF have two principal objectives — engaging in vote-bank politics and filling their own pockets.

'Control your leaders': PM slams DMK, Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, MARCH 30

PM Narendra Modi Tuesday said insulting women is part of the DMK's and Congress's culture, and accused the leadership of both parties of not acting against those who make derogatory remarks against women.

Referring to recent remarks by DMK leaders, including A Raja, Modi said if they came to power, "they will insult many other women of Tamil Nadu".

Addressing a rally at Dharapuram, he asked the DMK and Congress to "control their leaders". "The Congress and DMK have launched their outdated 2G

EC notice to Raja

New Delhi: The Election Commission has issued showcause notice to DMK leader A Raja for alleged derogatory remarks he made against CM Edappadi K Palaniswami and his mother last week. The EC in its notice wrote Raja's remarks were "obscene", "derogatory", lowered the dignity of motherhood and prima facie violative of the Model Code of Conduct. Raja has to respond to the notice by 6 pm Wednesday. ENS

missile... It has one clear target, women of Tamil Nadu," he said, referring to Raja, who apologised to CM E Palaniswami on Monday after his derogatory remarks about the latter's mother created a furore.

Gross violation of democratic ethics during PM Bangladesh visit: TMC to EC

Kolkata: Derek O'Brien, TMC parliamentary party leader in the Rajya Sabha, has written to the Chief Election Commissioner alleging a "gross violation of democratic ethics and Model Code of Conduct" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Bangladesh". The complaint alleges that Modi's programmes were "solely and exclusively intended to influence the voting pattern in certain constituencies in the ongoing elections to the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal".

All India Trinamool Congress strongly objects to Shri Modi's programmes in Bangladesh on March 27. These had nothing to do with either the 50th anniversary of the independence of Bangladesh or the birth centenary of 'Bangabandhu', the letter stated.

It said that accompanying the PM was a BJP MP from West Bengal, Santanu Thakur, with no MP or representative from any other parties invited. Thakur is a leader of the Matua community. It demanded that the EC "not only censure him but also take deterrent punitive action". ENS



Ram Nath Kovind

President undergoes bypass surgery

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind underwent a cardiac bypass surgery at the AIIMS on Tuesday, three days after he was shifted from the Army's Research and Referral (R&R) hospital.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan issued a statement. "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."

Kovind, 75, had undergone a health check-up at the Army Hospital here following chest discomfort on Friday morning.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah tweeted, "Glad to learn about Rashtrapati Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji's successful bypass surgery at AIIMS, New Delhi. May each day bring him renewed strength. My good wishes and prayers for his speedy recovery." ENS

PDP leader quits with over 100 others in Nowshera

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 30

In a setback to former Jammu and Kashmir CM Mehbooba Mufti's party — the PDP — in Jammu region, former legislator and party general secretary Surinder Choudhary resigned from the party on Tuesday along with 108 other leaders in Nowshera constituency.

After the resignation of former legislators Dhaman Bhasin and Ved Mahajan, besides former MP Trilok Singh Bajwa, over Mehbooba Mufti's recent remarks on the Tricolour, Choudhary was the only prominent Hindu face left in the party in Jammu region.

Announcing his resignation from the party along with the other leaders, including councillors in Nowshera Municipal Committee, panches and sarpanches, Choudhary accused the PDP leadership of having drifted away from the agenda of party founder and former CM Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. He recalled that Mufti Sayeed used to say "Nagrenade na golise, baat banegi bolise" (neither grenades nor guns, dialogue is the way forward). Choudhary asked the PDP leadership to not defame those leaving the party by dubbing them as "people of (Union government's) agencies".

Need double peace, inside and around Afghanistan: Jaishankar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon in Dushanbe. PTI

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar said Tuesday that "for a durable peace in Afghanistan, what we need is a genuine 'double peace', that is, peace within Afghanistan and peace around Afghanistan," and this "requires harmonising the interests of all, both within and around that country".

He made these remarks at the ninth ministerial conference of Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process on Afghanistan in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, where Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was also present, along with representatives of 30 other countries and a dozen regional and international organisations.

Underlining that "India has been supportive of all the efforts being made to accelerate the dialogue between the Afghan government and the Taliban, including intra-

misunderstanding, he said.

"The state government has been taking all humanitarian steps and had recently taken all steps, including taking them to Imphal, to treat the injured Myanmar nationals. The state government continues to provide all aid," Prakash said.

Punjab Food Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu, however, said the state was opposed to the Centre's scheme to make direct online payment, bypassing Arthiyas. "Our chief minister has made his stand very clear. We will go by what our state's APMC Act says," he said.

Ashu said he had sought an appointment with Goyal a number of times in vain. "I have written 20 mails seeking a meeting with him... But he is not willing to meet the minister of a state who wants to explain the situation," he said. He said the chief minister had also sought a meeting with the Prime Minister on the issue but he too was not available. "At least, ask the CM about the problem. This kind of stubbornness would not lead them anywhere," he said.

The special secretary's directive was issued a day after three Myanmar nationals with bullet wounds were evacuated to the sub-divisional hospital in Moreh, the last Indian town before the border, and were subsequently brought to Imphal for treatment.

The Army Chief said after the ninth round of talks between Corps Commanders on January 24, "we agreed for phased disengagement from friction areas" and "10th February onwards disengagement started and went as per plan, from north and south

move towards a genuine political settlement and a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire in Afghanistan" and appreciates "the international recognition of foundational principles that will determine their contours".

"We support a regional process to be convened under the aegis of the United Nations. UN

stewardship would help to take into account all relevant UN resolutions and improve the odds for a lasting outcome."

He said "what happens in Afghanistan will surely affect the larger region" and though "the stakes in our discussions may be high" its "consequences are not less significant".

A "stable, sovereign and peaceful Afghanistan is truly the basis for peace and progress in our region," he said, adding that "ensuring that it is free of terrorism, violent extremism and drug and criminal syndicates is, therefore, a collective imperative".

The situation in Afghanistan, he said, "continues to give cause for grave concern". "The continued involvement of foreign fighters in Afghanistan is particularly disturbing. Heart of Asia members and supporting countries should, therefore, make it a priority to press for an immediate reduction in violence leading to a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire".

On the situation with Pakistan, in the wake of the recent joint statement by Directors General of Military Operation and Indian and Pakistani armies to adhere to the ceasefire agreement, Naravane said, "Terror camps and infrastructure still exist on other side of LoC."

"For terrorism to come down, the camps have to get dismantled," he said, adding that it is "only when snow melts will we come to know how serious Pakistan is about dismantling terror infrastructure for putting people across".

Opposition parties have raised concerns about alleged opacity in funding through electoral bonds.

The Election Commission of India has accorded 'no objection' from the model code of conduct angle on March 17 with certain conditions, including that no political functionary would make any reference in this regard during any public speech or communication to the media or public in the constituency going to polls, the Finance Ministry said.

Expenditure coverage under food security law Survey data for 2011-12. The coverage ratio has not been revised since the law came into effect on July 5, 2013.

Given the population increase since the food security law was enacted, there have been demands from states and union territories to update the list of beneficiaries through an annual system, said sources.

It was in this context that the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution had asked NITI Aayog to suggest an alternative methodology for "covering beneficiaries under NFSA, including prospective beneficiaries".

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com



General M M Naravane

banks of Pangong Tso and Kailash Range". He said "people have gone back to their nearest permanent locations".

"Thereby the face-to-face deployment which was there and because of which there could have been chances of miscalculation has now receded. Now there is relative peace and tran-

EXPLAINED Why NITI suggested coverage reduction

A DISCUSSION paper of the NITI Aayog justified the move "on account of increase in real per capita income for the country from Rs 63,462 in 2011-12 to Rs 94,954 in 2019-20". The estimation was, if national rural-urban coverage ratio remains the same, updating the population level from Census 2011 to projected 2020 population will expand NFSA's coverage base from 81.35 crore to 89.52 crore. But if it is reduced to 60:40, the number of beneficiaries will drop to 71.62 crore.

meetings on the issue, supported the suggestion by the CEA, they said. The NITI Aayog member said that "reasonable

Chand, who has held several

House nod needed, Centre builds case for lower food law coverage

February 15 to discuss a background paper on "National Food Security Act (NFSA) towards Hunger-Free India", was attended by Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) KV Subramanian, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey and other officials from ministries of Rural Development, and Statistics and Programme Implementation.

On February 28, *The Indian Express* had first reported on the NITI Aayog paper's recommendation that reducing the coverage ratio in this manner would result in the government saving an estimated Rs 47,229 crore annually.

The minutes of the February meeting shows that the CEA has been asked to provide inputs on the issue. "To build reasonable

arguments may be developed if national coverage ratio is proposed to be considered at 60 (rural): 40 (urban)", sources said.

Overall, NFSA caters to 67 per cent of the total population. Under NFSA, each Antyoday Anna Yojana household (approximately 2.37 crore households or 9.01 crore persons, as on February 1) is entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains per month, while the priority households (approximately 70.35 crore persons) are entitled to 5 kg per person per month.

Based on the rural and urban coverage ratio, the erstwhile Planning Commission had determined the state-wise coverage ratio using the National Sample Survey Household Consumption

Sudha Narayanan, Balaram Singh Yadav to clear the air on farm laws



DATE: 31 March 2021

TIME: 6:30 pm

TO REGISTER:

Register for this webinar:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/3015930942960/WN_mH_gEm7qQq2L8un279TMQ

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, MARCH 30

MORE THAN six months after the Narendra Modi-led government passed three agricultural laws, protests are still going strong. The Supreme Court-appointed committee, formed to study the laws in detail and talk to all the stakeholders, is about to submit its report, while the application of the laws continues to be held in suspension.

The protest against the laws saw unprecedented mobilisation by farmers from Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, and kept the areas around Delhi borders blocked for months. Protesting farmer leaders have tried to raise the issue in the ongoing Assembly elections in West Bengal as well.

The high-voltage politics around the three farm laws has often relegated the discussion on actual contents of the Bills, and intent, into the background. On Wednesday, two experts, Balaram Singh Yadav, managing director of

Godrej Agrovet, a large agri-business company, and Sudha Narayanan, research fellow at International Food Policy Research Institute, would appear at the Live Explained session conducted by *The Indian Express* to clear the fog on the provisions of the farm bills, and suggest the possible ways forward to break the current deadlock.

Yadav, an MBA from IIM Ahmedabad, began his career with Godrej Agrovet in 1990. Having twice served as the chairman of the industry body CLFMA (India), Yadav is a regular contributor to national and international fora in areas of food and agriculture.

He had played a crucial part in the public listing of the company in 2017 which has been a runaway success at the bourse.

Narayanan has a PhD from Cornell university specialising in agricultural economics. Her research focuses on contract farm-

ing, agrofood value chains, technology adoption in agriculture, public policies for food security and employment and agri-nutrition linkages. She was previously associated with the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research as associate professor.

Of the three laws, the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 has drawn the most protests with farmer's groups claiming that it is a ploy to dismantle the present network of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) and hence the safety net of government procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP). There have been allegations of corporatising agriculture, both charges vehemently denied by the government.

On its part the government has claimed these laws are culmination of years of reforms and will ensure more transparency in agricultural marketing and better earnings for farmers. The other two laws viz. Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Acts the government says will clear the bottlenecks in agricultural marketing and bring about investment in agri-infrastructure in the country.

"In view of the recent incidents of fire, we have done the needful. It is a precautionary measure and even earlier the Railway Board had issued such orders. The power from the main switchboard for these points will be switched off from 11 pm to 5 am," an official said.

No charging of phones, laptops in trains from 11 pm to 5 am: Rlys

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

PASSENGERS WILL not be allowed to charge phones, laptops and other electronic devices in trains between 11 pm and 5 am in view of the recent spate of fire incidents in trains.

Railways has taken this decision as a precautionary measure, officials said.

The Western Railway already put things in motion on March 16 by cutting off supply to these charging ports.

The instructions are, however, not new.

In 2014, citing a Commissioner of Railway Safety recommendation, Railway Board had instructed all zones to switch off charging points between 11 pm and 5 am, soon after a fire incident in the Bangalore-Hazur Sahib Nanded Express.

"In view of the recent incidents of fire, we have done the needful. It is a precautionary measure and even earlier the Railway Board had issued such orders. The power from the main switchboard for these points will be switched off from 11 pm to 5 am," an official said.

DABHOLKAR-PANSARE MURDER CASES Pulled up, CBI, cops tell HC: Ready for trial during probe

OMKAR GOKHALE
MUMBAI, MARCH 30

the court they had withdrawn the applications that sought a stay on commencement of the trial.

Dabholkar was shot dead in Pune on August 20, 2013, while Pansare was shot on February 16, 2015, near his house in Kolhapur in western Maharashtra. He died four days later.

A division bench of Justice S S Shinde and Justice Manish Pitale, which has been hearing pleas by Smita Pansare and Mukta Dabholkar, the kin of the late activists, had on March 12 asked the investigating agencies to file an investigation progress report by the next hearing on March 30.

AFTER BEING pulled up during the last hearing for delaying investigations in cases pertaining to the murders of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar (2013) and activist and CPI leader Govind Pansare (2015), the CBI and the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of state police on Tuesday informed the Bombay High Court that they were agreeable to commencement of trial in both cases though investigation was still under way. The agencies also informed

Dip in daily Covid-19 cases; lower testing might be cause

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, MARCH 30

MAHARASHTRA ON Tuesday showed a big drop in its daily count of Covid-19 cases, reporting 27,918 new infections, compared to over 40,000 two days ago. Across the country, about 45,000 new cases were detected, a substantial dip considering that more than 60,000 cases were being reported over the previous three days.

The daily count of cases does show a decline every Monday, because of lower testing on Sundays, but this does not usually extend to Tuesdays, certainly not a big decline. But this time, it could be relatively lower testing on Monday as well due to Holi. In Maharashtra for example, more than 1.5 lakh samples were tested every day between last Thursday and Sunday. In fact, on Sunday, the state had conducted more than 1.65 lakh tests. Only once has it done more tests than that in a single day. But on Monday, the number of tests dropped to 1.36 lakh, and further to 1.29 lakh on Tuesday.

The overall test numbers for the country for Tuesday was not yet available, but on two previous days, the numbers were well below the one-million (10 lakh) mark that was crossed every day last week. On Sunday, 9.13 lakh tests were done, while this number dropped to 7.85 lakh on Monday. The results of many tests are reported only a day or two later. That is why the usual drop in test numbers on Sunday shows up as a dip in cases on Monday.

Meanwhile, Chhattisgarh reported more than 3,000 new cases, for the second time in one week. The state has seen a recent spurt in cases, with more than 17,000 new infections detected in the last seven days.

He, however, maintained that private hospitals found directly admitting Covid-19 patients will be penalised. "All hospital beds will be allotted through the 24 ward war rooms. No one should try to procure positive Covid-19 test

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

NUMBER OF DOSES (MAR 30)
12,94,979

Total so far: 6,24,08,333

393 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN **CASES: 1,20,95,855** **ACTIVE CASES: 5,40,720**
DEATHS: 1,62,114

TESTS: 24,26,50,025 | RECOVERIES: 1,13,93,021

CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERIES	TESTS
56,211	271	37,028	7,85,864

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM CASES	CASES (MAR 29)	TOTAL
Maharashtra	31,643	27,45,518
Punjab	2,868	2,34,602
Karnataka	2,792	9,89,804

STATES REPORTING MAXIMUM DEATHS	DEATHS (MAR 29)	TOTAL
Maharashtra	106	55,627
Punjab	59	6,749
Chhattisgarh	20	4,096

Data as on March 29, released by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research and state governments.

No shortage of beds: BMC chief

Mumbai: Reiterating that there is no shortage of beds in Mumbai, Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal said on Tuesday that around 80-85 per cent of the active Covid-19 cases in the city are asymptomatic and patients do not require hospitalisation.

He, however, maintained that private hospitals found directly admitting Covid-19 patients will be penalised. "All hospital beds will be allotted through the 24 ward war rooms. No one should try to procure positive Covid-19 test

reports directly from the labs. Else, they will find it difficult to get a bed anywhere. Let the labs inform us of the names of the infected persons at night, we will go to their homes and allot them beds in hospitals early next morning, as we have been doing since last June," he told mediapersons.

Civic officials said this is to ensure that mildly symptomatic patients do not occupy hospital beds. In the last 48 days since the second Covid-19 wave began, the city has recorded 85,000 cases.

12 charged for arson during Muzaffarnagar riots acquitted

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, MARCH 30

A LOCAL court in Muzaffarnagar has acquitted 12 people who were charge-sheeted in two separate cases of robbery and arson during the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots. The court acquited them either for lack of evidence or differences in the statements of prosecution witnesses.

As many as 510 criminal cases were registered in connection with the riots and police filed chargesheets in 175 of them. The remaining cases were either closed or expunged.

District Government Counsel (Muzaffarnagar) Rajeev Sharma said that so far, the courts have given verdicts in 20 cases. Barring in one case, all the accused in the rest of the cases have been acquitted, Sharma added.

The only case in which the accused have been convicted so far is the one related to the murder of two youths — Sachin and Gaurav — at Kawa village that triggered the riots. Seven persons have been given life imprisonment in the murder case.

Last week, a local court allowed the UP government's petition seeking direction to withdraw a case lodged against several BJP leaders, including three MLAs, for allegedly making inflammatory speeches in Muzaffarnagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Delhi International Airport Limited
Delhi International Airport Limited has established a Noise Complaint Cell. In case of any grievance or suggestion on high level of aircraft noise kindly contact IGI Airport Noise Complaint Cell at our 24 hr helpline no.: 011-47198600

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(Special Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

List of life members is available on our Website : <http://www.ifuna.org>, if any persons name is left out who is a life member may contact our office with proof/Receipt by 15th April 2021 so that his/her name may be included.

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Gopabandhu Barik
Administrative Officer

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NATIONAL EDUCATION SOCIETY FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS (NESTS)

(Autonomous organization Under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India)

GF Gate No. 3 A Jeevan Tara building, Parliament street New Delhi, 110001

EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

TEACHING STAFF SELECTION EXAM (ETSSE) – 2021

National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous organization under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, invites online applications for the recruitment of the teaching staff viz. Principal, Vice-Principal, PGT and TGT for Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) across the states. Details regarding the online application, educational qualifications, teaching experience (wherever applicable) and other eligibility criteria etc. for the ETSSE-2021 has been detailed in the Information Bulletin, which is accessible at <https://recruitment.nta.nic.in>. The eligible and interested candidates can apply online up to 30.04.2021 (up to 23:50 Hrs. on the above-mentioned website by submitting the prescribed application-cum-examination fees mentioned therein). State-wise vacant positions are available in the Information Bulletin and vacant positions in a State are open to only those who are domiciled in the concerned State.

The candidates are advised to keep visiting the official website of National Testing Agency (<https://recruitment.nta.nic.in>) for the latest updates.

Sd-Commissioner, NESTS

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For details and online application, please visit the below link:

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Last date of submitting application is 30.04.2021

Sd-Dean (F A & D)

Date : 22.03.2021

Dear Bondholders,

This communication is being made with reference to redemption of Tranche 3 (Series 1 & 2) - Long Term Infrastructure Bonds ("LTIBs") issued by IDFC Limited during financial year 2010-11.

We wish to convey that the Bank vide its email and letter dated January 07, 2021, had reached out to all the Bondholders at their registered e-mail address, and through courier where e-mail id was not registered with our Registrar & Transfer Agent ('RTA'), KFin Technologies Private Limited, detailing the process of redemption of such LTIBs.

In the said communication we had requested the bondholders to update their personal records, viz. bank account, address, mobile no., and other important information, wherever required for redemption of LTIBs. Further, to spread awareness about said redemption, the same communication was also published through newspapers advertisements, Stock Exchanges intimations and hosting the same over website of our Bank.

The aforesaid LTIBs got matured on **Tuesday, March 30, 2021**. An electronic credit of the redemption proceeds have been made to all the bondholders where the Bank accounts were available in our RTA's records. Where bank accounts were not available, Physical Warrants/ Demand Drafts have been issued and dispatched through Speed-post at the registered address of the bondholder registered with the RTA of the Bank.

In case a bondholder does not receive the Physical Redemption Warrant/ Demand Draft sent through Speed Post, due to change in address (it being over 10 years since the address was registered) or incomplete/ invalid address in the records of our RTA, or COVID related access restrictions in certain localities, for such bondholders the Bank shall provide a dedicated web-link to facilitate updation of bank details and enable electronic payment of redemption proceeds on an expeditious basis.



DISTURBING STILLNESS

Assault on BJP MLA shows lumpens rush in when saner voices stay away. Farmers, Centre, state need to break political silence

THE ASSAULT, ALLEGEDLY by a group of farmers, against BJP MLA Arun Narang, at Malout in district Muktsar of Punjab on Saturday, has been rightly condemned by all the main parties and leaders. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has done well to reiterate his government's firm commitment to take strict action against those who disturb the peace. At the same time, he has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene for an early resolution of the continuing farmers' crisis to prevent the situation from escalating further. The Punjab CM makes a point that needs to be amplified and heard as the farmers' protest against the Centre's three farm laws enters its fifth month — the attack points to a disquieting backdrop that the Centre may have turned away from, but that hasn't gone away. The leaderless protests that began last year against the farm laws have attracted wide support in a border state that still bears the scars from the battle it fought and won against terrorism in the 1980s. Now, with mainstream politics all but falling silent — the Centre's talks with farm union leaders have ground to a halt, and the January 26 violence in the capital has hardened the stalemate — precious and hard-won space may have been vacated for hardliners and the fringe.

For now, BJP has seized the moment to target the Amarinder Singh government — voices in the party's state unit have alleged a breakdown of law and order and even demanded President's rule. But they, too, must pause and heed the dangers of the widening gulf between restless farmers and mainstream political parties. Already in a corner in Punjab as the party that doesn't have a significant electoral presence beyond some urban pockets and which has pushed through the laws at the Centre, BJP lost a vital interlocutor after its split with the Shiromani Akali Dal. The Congress, though it swept the recent local body polls, has no reason to be complacent either. Both the state's ruling party, and its main challenger, AAP, have been insistently kept out of the farm union-led protests, and reduced to watching from the sidelines.

The stilling of negotiations between the Centre and farm union leaders could allow anxieties and resentments to grow. The attempts by the BJP regime to talk down to farmers, or to deny them agency, or to label them as Khalistanis/Naxals/aandolanjees could reinforce alienation from due political processes. The farmers, themselves, need to take a step back and look afresh at the Centre's offer to keep the laws on hold. Violence, like on January 26, or the beating up of an MLA, undermines the movement, dents its legitimacy and allows lumpens to take over. For its part, the Centre must realise that no one, neither state nor nation, gains from this political standstill. Especially in a state that is headed to polls next year, it is time for the politicians to pick up the threads, and as the people's representatives, speak to the farmers again. The unnatural political silence must be broken in Punjab.

DENIAL AS VENDETTA

Refusal of passport to former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti invites questions about state arbitrariness and vindictiveness

THE DENIAL OF a passport to former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and her mother can only be read as harassment of the leader of the People's Democratic Party. Mufti's passport had expired in the middle of 2019, and when she reapplied for it last December and it did not come through she moved the J&K High Court for directions that her application be expedited. The response of the regional passport office to the court beggars belief. It has said that she cannot be given a passport under a clause of the Passport Act stating "that the departure of the applicant from India may, or is likely to be detrimental to the security of India". This, according to the passport office, was based on an "adverse" report about her by the state CID. Mufti's mother's plea was also rejected on the same grounds. All this makes it seem as if Mufti — whose party bore the brunt when the J&K Apni Party was formed while she and other party leaders were detained from August 2019 (she was released only in October 2020), and which is now being further denuded by a movement towards Sajjad Lone's Jammu & Kashmir People's Conference — is being targeted.

The government must explain why and since when it has seen her as a security threat. After all, in October 2020, at the time of her release after 14 months of detention, the J&K administration withdrew charges against her under the draconian Public Safety Act. Under her leadership, the PDP also participated in the District Development Council election. In recent days, she has been summoned for questioning by the Enforcement Directorate. Her aide, Waheed Para, has been jailed and charged with funding terrorists, after his release from a long detention, and the investigation against him has become a roving inquiry. All this only gives credence to Mufti's charge that she is being singled out for "not toeing the line".

Disturbing precedents are being set in J&K. The Supreme Court has recognised the right to travel abroad as part of the fundamental right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. When the state uses clause 6 (2) (c) of the Passport Act, 1967 against a former chief minister and member of the Lok Sabha, who also happens to be a former ally of the BJP, it opens the door to the misuse of this provision against all citizens on arbitrary grounds.

A NEW HIGH

Indian cricket team's triumphs against England were spirited. They will reinforce self-belief

THE TRIUMPH, ACROSS formats, of the Indian team against England was the perfect culmination to possibly the greatest cricketing season India has had in recent memory. The odds were stacked against them in the two series in Australia and at home — injuries, bio-bubble restrictions, captaincy changes, loss of the entire bowling attack at one point. But they chugged along to win five of the six series played with both teams. At home, after losing the first Test to England, they rallied to win the Tests, T20s, and ODI series.

The most satisfying aspect of the triumph against England is that the team has had to think on their feet, tweaking strategy as they went along. The pre-series talk suggested India's best chance would be on flat batting pitches in Tests — why give a chance to England's spinners was the argument, but it had to be jettisoned after Joe Root's double hundred helped England to a comfortable win. Backs to the wall, they went for spin tracks which could have backfired but showed great skill and resolve to steamroll England in the three Tests. They kept losing the toss and were forced to chase in two crucial games in the T20 series, considered an almost hopeless cause, but they quashed that argument in imperious style. All in all, they lost 16 tosses in 22 matches against Australia and England, but won 13 games. Broken bones didn't squash their spirits in Australia and they didn't let up against a strong England team at home.

If winning games after batting first was the creditable achievement in T20s against England, the fact that they regrouped from a near-loss situation in the first ODI with a bunch of youngsters will reinforce self-belief. Nearly every puzzle is falling in place in the T20 World Cup year. The only uncertain thing was the spinners, but considering the return of Ravindra Jadeja and more options after the upcoming IPL, that won't remain a headache for too long.



PRATAP BHAU MEHTA

THE UNFOLDING TRAGEDY in Myanmar, occasioned by the military (the Tatmadaw) overturning the election results last month, portends a new cycle of political repression, humanitarian disaster and geopolitical instability. India, because of its proximity to Myanmar, its geopolitical role, and its interests, will inevitably be drawn into the train of events. The most immediate challenge is, of course, dealing with the refugee crisis that this coup occasions. The Chief Minister of Mizoram, Zoramthanga, was correct in writing to the Centre that India cannot ignore the humanitarian crisis unfolding in our backyard, and remain "indifferent" to the suffering of those crossing the border. The Manipur government has, thankfully, withdrawn a shameful circular that would have prohibited providing meaningful assistance to victims of political persecution. This circular, if enacted, would have been terrible for India's image. But how we deal with the victims of this crisis should not be just driven by an exercise in image management, but take the larger humanitarian and political view.

To state that the rich and powerful nations have not pulled their weight in crafting an adequate multilateral response to the global refugee crisis is to state the obvious. Myanmar's other neighbours, and especially ASEAN countries, are also unlikely to do the minimal decent thing. Helping refugees is also not costless, and the burden has to be shouldered by the nation, not just a few states. But India now risks moving from what B S Chimni, India's most important scholar on refugee law, once called the transition from "strategic ambiguity to exclusion". This is in keeping with the ideological temper of our times, where the complexities of people's very human predicaments are effaced by xenophobia, paranoia, and discrimination. No group that is not of use to our new interpretation of nationalism will deserve any consideration.

The humanitarian case for providing some kind of safe haven for refugees is too obvious to be stated. Surely the real test of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" is not opportunistic displays of noblesse oblige, it is adherence to basic norms of decency. The principle of non-refoulement, which has been described as the equivalent of

Only by acting on its humanitarian impulses with Myanmar can India realise its ideals, strategic objectives

the Magna Carta in treatment of those fleeing persecution, has to be the cornerstone of any civilised state's response to a politically induced humanitarian disaster. It is not clear where India stands on this.

But there is also a more political case for crafting a more generous and imaginative policy. First, the protests for democracy are widespread, involve young people, and are driven by a genuine opposition to military rule. India has to decide whether it is on the side of the future. Second, Northeastern states like Manipur and Mizoram which will immediately bear the costs of helping refugees, are all, rightly, calling for a more generous and imaginative policy. As Avinash Palwal, one of the most insightful writers on Myanmar, had argued in an important article, "A Cat's Paw of Indian Reactionaries: Strategic Rivalry and Domestic Politics at the India-China-Myanmar Tri Junction," the concerns of the Northeast states have often been historically sidelined in India's handling of the "trijunction". This was partly because of counterinsurgency fears, and partly because of suspicion of political forces in the Northeast. But at this historical juncture, to ignore reasonable and accommodative sentiments in the Northeast, would be to potentially signal their marginality in shaping India's calculations. Third, the counterinsurgency and subversion fears have to be intelligently handled. For one thing, if we are relying only on cooperation with the Myanmar military, without support for the local population, we will once again be setting ourselves up for long-term problems. A broad-based reputation for humanitarian concerns and the welfare of people is a strategic asset, not a liability if you are a long-term player. India should also now have the confidence that it can both politically and militarily handle any risks that occasionally arise in the context of doing the decent thing. But by closing down its borders, it is not sending a signal of strength but one of weakness; that its position is so fragile, that even an adherence to a principle of non-refoulement poses risks.

Fourth, it is not yet clear what India's position on political developments inside Myanmar will be. With every major power, from Russia to China now seeing Myanmar in

terms of geopolitical terms, the stakes for India are going to be high. Admittedly, the choices are not easy. The Myanmar military, belying all analyses, has remained mostly united and oppressive. We know from historical experience that unless there is significant elite division in military structures, they can hang on for a long time through brutal repression. Myanmar's tragedy seems to be that its people seem more ready for democracy. But its military seems more repressive, and its elites, including Aung San Suu Kyi, have been more conservative in harnessing democratic and progressive impulses. There is also the brute fact that now with even Russia in the mix, the Myanmar military may have more options for support. So under such circumstances, it will be tempting for the so-called realists in India to deeply engage with the military. There is also a great deal of exaggeration about Myanmar's economic importance to India. Certainly, connectivity and trade with Myanmar provide momentum for India's eastward interests. But frankly, it will be a stretch to say that somehow the benefits from engagement with Myanmar are so great that India cannot put them aside, if the need arises, to act on a modicum of principle.

Presumably, India wants to be a key interlocutor in two contexts. It wants to be a key player in shaping a global response to the crisis. And it wants to have, perhaps, some role in, if possible, helping with a settlement towards a less repressive transition within Myanmar. But for both of those roles, it is important that India has widespread credibility with the different groups and movements inside Myanmar. That is what will give India potential advantage. But it is also important that your own positions are not seen just as a product of strategic cynicism, willing to trade large gains for small short-term gains. For both of these contexts, the exemplariness of India's conduct matters. That is how we differentiate ourselves from the crowded geopolitical pack. By sidelining even the most basic humanitarian impulses, under a myopically realist or xenophobic impulse, India will neither realise its ideals nor its strategic objectives.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express



DISHA NAWARE

IN THE present context, which seeks to demonstrate, measure and quantify learning, learning outcomes (LO) have become a fetish with policymakers and textbook developers, an idea popularised by large-scale assessment surveys, such as the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), in India. LO essentially refers to grade-appropriate, basic competencies in numeracy and literacy, which schoolgoing children are supposed to acquire.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), the apex body responsible for making curriculum, syllabus and textbooks, has already come out with two documents listing learning outcomes at elementary and secondary stages, while the one for the higher secondary stage is underway. This is because the new National Education Policy 2020 underscores the importance of foundational skills as being central to a child's schooling. State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) will be soon expected to toe the line. However, the government of Andhra Pradesh has already initiated the exercise. Besides deciding to convert all government schools from Classes I to X to English medium, the state education department was directed to prepare "mirror image" textbooks — with lessons printed in English and Telugu, side by side. This seems to be more of a mechanical exercise without any sound pedagogic rationale. A quick review of the new textbooks shows that they centre around LO and follow a didactic approach of essentially presenting in-

TESTING OVER LEARNING

Taken too far, NEP's focus on learning outcomes can drain education of meaning

Textbooks tailored to measure the acquisition of learning outcomes on part of children is a self-defeating exercise. It will reduce the teaching-learning processes from the possibility of a meaningful co-construction of knowledge to a teacher teaching to the test. Since teachers' own appraisal is contingent on children's performance in these tests, they feel pressured to ensure that children know the basic minimum and somehow pass the test.

formation/facts that children are supposed to passively consume and memorise. Such books typically deny the agency of both the teacher and the student, making them subservient to the printed text. They are physically heavy but conceptually terse.

It was with great difficulty that National Curriculum Framework prepared by NCERT in 2005, changed the form and nature of textbooks. Any change of government at the Centre or state level was/is usually followed by a change in textbooks, particularly history. Besides blatant misuse as a political tool, textbooks suffer from other limitations. They reproduce social inequalities by either omission of diverse social groups or their misrepresentation. The landmark Learning Without Burden (LWB) committee (1993) identified dense, poorly written and weakly conceptualised textbooks as being primarily responsible, in addition to unwieldy syllabi and rote-based exam system, for burdening children's school lives. The NCF 2005, with its roots in LWB, redirected the meaning of quality education to curricular, pedagogic and assessment practices being followed inside the classrooms. It sought to connect the life of the child outside school with learning in the classroom.

Soon after, NCERT developed "exemplar/model" textbooks which were conceptually sound and used a variety of pedagogic techniques to bring in real-life issues in the book. The social science textbooks particularly acknowledged social conflicts which children experienced in their lives and helped make sense of them. They also gave

fresh life to the meaning of learning which was no longer a one-way track of passing on information to children but became a process of constructing knowledge meaningfully by both the teacher and the student.

A few states took the lead and initiated the formation of state curricular frameworks, position papers and the development of textbooks. Undivided Andhra Pradesh was one of them. However, with the revision of the earlier written books, which were both pedagogically sound and collaboratively developed, it seems like the state is bent on undoing its own achievements.

There is no denying that textbooks, just like curricular frameworks, syllabus, and assessment practices, need to be revised periodically. However, textbooks tailored to measure the acquisition of LO on part of children is a self-defeating exercise. This singular focus on LO will take the teaching-learning processes away from the possibility of a meaningful co-construction of knowledge to a teacher teaching to the test. Since teachers' own appraisal is contingent on children's performance in these tests, they feel pressured to ensure that children know the basic minimum and somehow pass the test.

The choice is ours — whether we will allow testing to take precedence over learning or celebrate learning as a meaning-making exercise by both the teacher and the student.

The writer is professor and dean, School of Education, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai



MARCH 31, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

ASSAM MINISTRY CRISIS ASSAM FACES A major constitutional crisis with the Centre refusing to accept Anwara Taimur's defeat in the state assembly on budgetary demand as "censure" and the Opposition contending that the government has lost the confidence of the House. The Home Ministry has taken the stand that "there is no question of the government having been censured" as the appropriation bill has already been passed. A spokesperson of the ministry said that the Bill had been carried out in totality. The adoption of the cut motion sponsored by the Opposition would not have any effect on the government. The Congress (I)-lead minority government, in

power for three-and-a-half months, was defeated on the floor of the assembly when cut motions seeking to refuse approval of an expenditure for the enforcement of the National Security Act was put to vote.

REAGAN SHOT AT US President Ronald Reagan's lung was injured by a bullet fired during an assassination attempt. The assailant, an unidentified male in his late 30s or early 40s, was immediately pinned down.

BENGAL VIOLENCE THREE PEOPLE DIED and scores of others were injured in violent incidents following

a demonstration by the Congress (I). The Congress (I) was holding a demonstration at Esplanade east and the meeting was on the whole peaceful. Several of the leaders delivered speeches on the failure of the state's Left Front government. But then there was a lathi charge by police and violence broke out.

POLISH STRIKE OFF THE INDEPENDENT POLISH Union, after talks with the government, called off a nationwide strike threatened for March 31. The details of the talks were not known but there are reports that issues over workers' pay have been resolved.

A mural of George Floyd in Minneapolis.
AP

UNITED STATES

George Floyd was 'begging for his life': Witness

Minneapolis: The teenager who shot the video of George Floyd under the knee of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin now charged in his death testified Tuesday that she began recording because "it wasn't right, he was suffering, he was in pain."

Darnella Frazier, 18, said she was with her cousin when she came upon the officers, and sent the girl into a store because she didn't want her to see "a man terrified, scared, begging for his life." A bystander, who identified herself as a firefighter, pleaded repeatedly with officers to check Floyd's pulse, but Chauvin continued to kneel on Floyd's neck, Frazier said.

Police and a junta spokesman did not answer calls seeking comment.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the army ousted an elected government led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, reimposing military rule after a decade of tentative steps towards democracy.

At least 512 civilians had been killed in nearly two months of protests against the coup, 141 of them on Saturday, the bloodiest day of the unrest, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) advocacy group.

Alongside the protests, a civil disobedience campaign of strikes has paralysed large parts of the economy. In a new tactic, protesters sought to step up the campaign by asking residents to leave garbage at intersections in the main city of Yangon.

Afghanistan
Three women working in polio drive killed
Kabul: Attackers on Tuesday gunned down three women working to administer the anti-polio vaccine in eastern Afghanistan, officials said, a day after authorities launched a new campaign against the crippling children's disease. The women were killed in two separate attacks in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but eastern Afghanistan has witnessed an increase of attacks by the Islamic State group. IS militants have declared war on Shiites and frequently target the country's minority Hazaras. AP

THE NETHERLANDS
ICC upholds Congo warlord's conviction

The Hague: International Criminal Court appeals judges on Tuesday upheld the convictions and 30-year prison sentence of a Congolese warlord known as 'The Terminator' who was found guilty of crimes including murder, rape and sexual slavery. Bosco Ntaganda was convicted in July 2019 for his role as a commander of rebels responsible for atrocities committed during a brutal ethnic conflict in a mineral-rich region of Congo in 2002-2003. The global court found him guilty of 18 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes. On Tuesday, a five-judge appeals panel rejected all 15 of Ntaganda's challenges to the convictions and also upheld his sentence. AP

SLOVAKIA**PM, govt resign over Russian vaccine deal**

Bratislava: Slovakia's Prime Minister Igor Matovic and his government resigned on Tuesday to ease a political crisis triggered by a secret deal to buy Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine. It is the first European government to collapse due to its handling of the pandemic but the move will keep the current four-party coalition in power and avoid the possibility of an early election. The coalition holds a comfortably parliamentary majority. AP

THE WORLD



'To See Or Not To See...'

POPE USES SHAKESPEARE IN CLIMATE APPEAL

POPE FRANCIS has adapted Shakespeare's famous Hamlet quote in an appeal to people not to remain blind to the destruction of climate change and the mass migration it may cause, writing: "To see or not to see, that is the question."

Myanmar protesters launch 'garbage strike' as death toll crosses 500

Insurgents warn of growing conflict in country as neighbours press junta

REUTERS

YANGON, MARCH 30

RUBBISH PILED up on the streets of Myanmar's main city on Tuesday after activists launched a "garbage strike" to oppose military rule as the toll of pro-democracy protesters killed by the security forces since a Feb. 1 coup rose to more than 500.

Security forces shot and killed one man in the southernmost town of Kawthaung as they cleared the streets, the Mizzima news portal reported, and one person was killed in the northern town of Myitkyina, a relative of the 23-year-old victim told Reuters.

Police and a junta spokesman did not answer calls seeking comment.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the army ousted an elected government led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, reimposing military rule after a decade of tentative steps towards democracy.

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Alongside the protests, a civil disobedience campaign of strikes has paralysed large parts of the economy. In a new tactic, protesters sought to step up the campaign by asking residents to leave garbage at intersections in the main city of Yangon.



Anti-coup protesters throw garbage on a Yangon street on Tuesday. Reuters

"This garbage strike is a strike to oppose the junta," read a poster on social media. "Everyone can join."

Pictures posted on social media showed piles of rubbish building up.

Thousands of protesters came out to march in several other towns across the country on Tuesday, according to media and photos on social media.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged Myanmar's generals to stop the killings and repression of demonstrators.

Myanmar's military has for decades justified its grip on power by saying it is the only institution capable of preserving national

unity. It seized power saying that November elections won by Suu Kyi's party were fraudulent, an assertion dismissed by the election commission.

Insurgents warn of growing conflict

One of Myanmar's main ethnic minority rebel groups warned of a growing threat of major conflict on Tuesday and called for international intervention against a military crackdown on opponents of last month's coup.

While cities and towns across the country have been consumed by protests against the military, fighting has also flared

between the army and insurgents in frontier regions and refugees are spilling over borders.

The Karen National Union rebel group, which operates in the east along the border with Thailand, said it was bracing for a major government offensive.

"Now, thousands of Burma military ground troops are advancing into our territories from all fronts," the group said in a statement.

"We have no other options left but to confront these serious threats posed by the illegitimate military junta's army in order to defend our territory."

A spokesman for the Myanmar junta did not answer calls seeking comment.

Thailand denies forcing fleeing villagers back to Myanmar

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MAE SAM LAEP, MARCH 30

THAILAND'S PRIME Minister denied Tuesday that his country's security forces forced villagers back to Myanmar who had fled from military airstrikes, saying they returned home on their own accord. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha, nevertheless, said his country is ready to shelter anyone who is escaping fighting, as it has done many times in recent decades.

His comments came a day after humanitarian groups said Thailand has been sending back some of the thousands of people who have fled a series of Myanmar military airstrikes.

"There is no influx of refugees yet. We asked those who crossed to Thailand if they have any problem in their area. When they say no problem, we just asked them to return to their land first. We asked, we did not use any force," Prayuth told reporters.

"We won't push them back," he said. "If they don't have any fighting at the moment, can they go back first?"

The governor of Thailand's Mae Hong Son province, where as many as 3,000 refugees had sought shelter, said later that those still on Thai soil were expected to return to their own country in a day or two.



The cargo ship Ever Given after it was fully floated in the Suez Canal on Monday. Handout via Reuters

Ship freed, experts begin probe into Suez Canal blockageASSOCIATED PRESS
SUEZ, MARCH 30

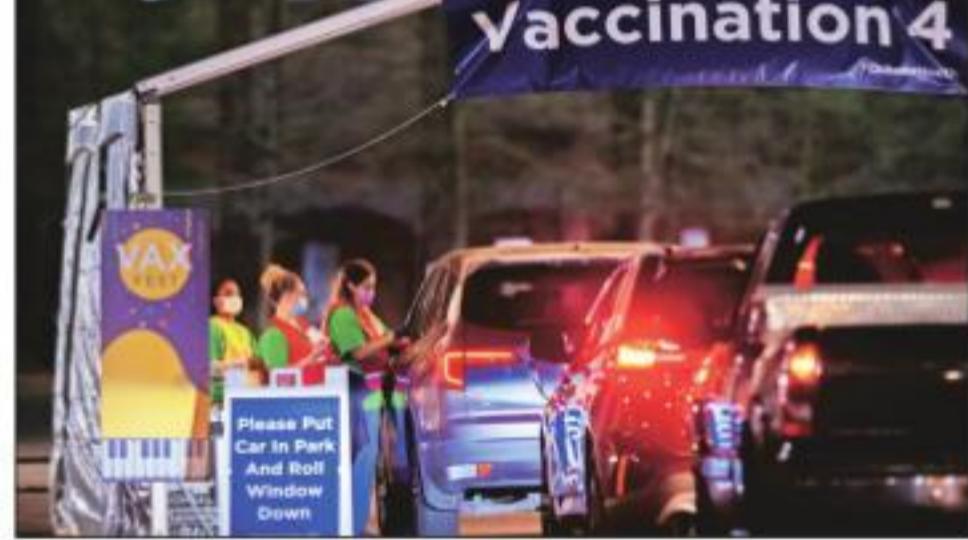
EXPERTS BOARDED the massive container ship Tuesday that had blocked Egypt's vital Suez Canal and disrupted global trade for nearly a week, seeking answers to a single question that could have billions of dollars in legal repercussions: What went wrong?

As convoys of ships again began traveling through the artery linking the Mediterranean and Red Seas, a canal service provider said more than 300 vessels carrying everything from crude oil to cattle were waiting for their turn, a 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 on March 23.

When blame gets assigned, it will likely lead to years of litigation to recoup the costs of repairing the ship, fixing the canal and reimbursing those who saw their cargo shipments disrupted. Since the vessel is owned by a Japanese firm, operated by a Taiwanese shipper, flagged in Panama and now stuck in Egypt, matters quickly become an international morass.

Experts boarded the Ever Given as it idled Tuesday in Egypt's Great Bitter Lake, just north of the site where it previously blocked the canal. A senior canal pilot, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to journalists, told *The Associated Press* that experts were looking for signs of damage and trying to determine why the vessel ran aground.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi traveled Tuesday to a canal office in Ismailia to praise those who freed the vessel. "We don't want this event to happen again in the Suez, but it was dealt with effectively and efficiently," he said in televised remarks.

World leaders call for treaty to combat future pandemicsSTEVEN ERLANGER
BRUSSELS, MARCH 30

Nurses and volunteers administer the Moderna vaccine at the 24-hour 'Vax Fest' near the US city of New Orleans. AP

Explained
E Accord may end up being toothless

International regulations governing health and implemented by WHO already exist — and can be disregarded by countries with few consequences.

Despite an obligation for nations to share critical epidemic data and materials quickly with WHO, for example, China declined to do so when the coronavirus first broke out.

Leaders note, "We believe that nations should work together toward a new international treaty for pandemic preparedness and response." NYT

POSSIBLE THAT COVID SPREAD BEFORE DEC 2019: WHO OFFICIAL

Geneva, Zurich: It is "perfectly possible" COVID-19 cases were circulating in November or October 2019 around Wuhan, China, the leader of a World Health Organization mission said on Tuesday, potentially leading to the disease spreading abroad earlier than documented, so far. The team is still working on finding the exact trace-back of the virus before Wuhan, said Peter Ben Embarek, a WHO official specialised in zoonotic diseases who led the four-week mission of international experts to China in January and February, during a virtual press conference. REUTERS

The move is part of a two-phase effort to rein in political protest and opposition in Hong Kong, which is part of China but has had a more liberal political system as a former British colony. China imposed a national security law on Hong Kong last year and is following up this year with a revamp of the electoral process.

The legislature will be expanded to 90 seats, and only 20 will be elected by the public. Currently, half of the 70-seat legislature — 35 seats — is directly elected.

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The crackdown comes in the wake of months of pro-democracy protests in 2019 that brought hundreds of thousands to the streets and turned violent as the government resisted the movement's demands.

China's top legislature, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, amended Hong Kong's constitution to pave the way for the changes. The Hong Kong government is now tasked with revising its electoral laws and holding an election.

China sharply reduces elected seats in Hong Kong legislature

ASSOCIATED PRESS
HONG KONG, MARCH 30

CHINA HAS sharply reduced the number of directly elected seats in Hong Kong's legislature in a setback for the territory's already beleaguered democracy movement. The changes were announced Tuesday after a two-day meeting of China's top legislature.

The legislature will be expanded to 90 seats, and only 20 will be elected by the public. Currently, half of the 70-seat legislature — 35 seats — is directly elected.

The move is part of a two-phase effort to rein in political protest and opposition in Hong Kong, which is part of China but has had a more liberal political system as a former British colony. China imposed a national security law on Hong Kong last year and is following up this year with a revamp of the electoral process.

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NCP-UML leaders call on party workers to oppose 'dictator' Oli

Nepal PM KP Oli

with the circulation of an internal party circular ostensibly to "rescue the country from external interference", for "purification and consolidation" of the party and to rid it from "rampant indiscipline".

Meanwhile, Oli seemed all set to expel two more dissident leaders — Surendra Pandey and Ghanshyam Bhushal, both signatories to the statement -- for anti-disciplinary activities.

Bhushal, in response to the showcause notice issued to him, said he should put on record that Oli was "intolerant towards criticism to the hilt, and he is out to finish any leader not in conformity with his style of functioning".

The revolt by the NCP-UML leaders appears to be triggered by the suspension of Madhav Nepal and Bhim Rawal from the primary membership of the party for six months, warning this was

Indian-American nominated as judge of DC District Court

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, MARCH 30

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Tuesday announced his intent to nominate Indian-American Rupa Ranga Puttagunta as a federal judge, among 10 other diverse picks for top judicial positions which include African-American and Muslim American candidates.

Among the presidential nominations, 10 are for Federal Circuit and District Court judge posts, and one is for Superior Court Judge for the District of Columbia.

Judge Puttagunta currently serves as an Administrative Judge for the DC Rental Housing Commission.

Google said the feature would launch later this year in the US and eventually reach other countries as part of its commitment to help combat climate change through its services.

Unless users opt out, the default route will be the "eco-friendly" one if comparable options take about the same time, Google said. When alternatives are significantly faster, Google will offer choices and let users compare estimated emissions.

"What we are seeing is for around half of routes, we are able to find an option more eco-friendly with minimal or no time-cost tradeoff," Russell Dicker, a director of product at Google, told reporters Monday.

Google said it derives emissions relative estimates by testing across different types of vehicles and road types, drawing on insights from the U.S. government's National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL). Road grade data comes from its Street View cars as well as aerial and satellite imagery.

REUTERS

Painful project: France plans museum on ravages of terrorismGAËLLE FOURNIER
PARIS, MARCH 30

A police officer near a floral tribute for the victims killed in the July 14, 2016 Nice truck attack. AP file

of showing our capacity to take a step back," Henry Roussel, a French historian who is overseeing the project, said.

President Emmanuel Macron of France pledged in

September 2018 to create a memorial museum to place the victims of terrorist attacks "at the heart of our memories."

The new museum is expected to be inaugurated in the Paris area by 2027, and will aim to show how France and other terrorism-affected countries have reacted to attacks over the past 50 years, with a particular emphasis on the resilience of their people.

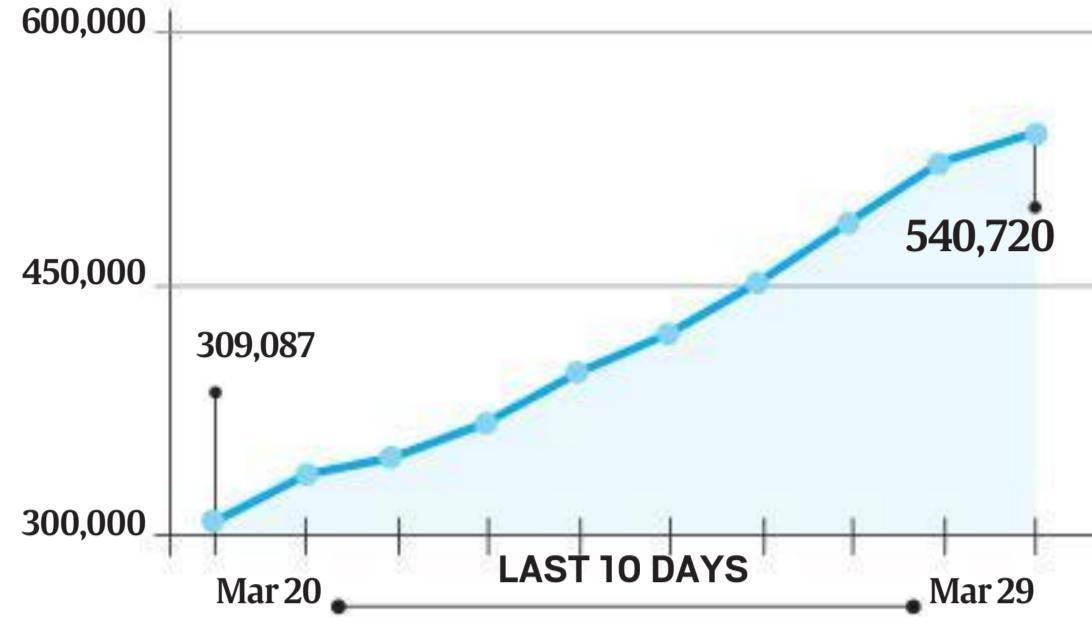
Mr. Roussel said the perpetrators of the attacks would also be featured in the museum. Responding to questions he has faced about whether the museum would unintentionally glorify them, he said it was important to represent them as well.

"Terrorism, whether we like it or not, is part of our societies," Mr. Roussel said. "Creating a museum is not a way to put the issue behind us. It is a way to make people understand it." NYT

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

540,720



Note: The March 29 figure in this graph is based on the government update on March 30.

INDIA TOTAL CASES

12,095,855

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Mar 30

WORLD TOTAL CASES

127,880,539

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on March 30

T cells of earlier Covid patients recognise all 3 major new variants

SINCE NEW variants of SARS-CoV emerged in late 2020, there have been concerns about whether these might elude immune responses generated by prior infection or vaccination, potentially making re-infection more likely or vaccination less effective. To investigate this possibility, researchers from the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and other scientists analysed blood cell samples from 30 people who had contracted and recovered from Covid-19 prior to the emergence of virus variants. They found that one key player in the immune response to SARS-CoV-2—the CD8+ T cell—remained active against the virus.

The research team was led by NIAID's Andrew Redd, and included scientists from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the company ImmunoScape.

The scientists investigated whether CD8+ T cells in the blood of recovered Covid-19 patients, infected with the initial virus, could still recognise three SARS-CoV-2 variants – B.1.1.7 (which was first detected in the United Kingdom); B.1.351 (originally found in the Republic of South Africa); and B.1.1.248 (first seen in Brazil). Each of these variants has mutations throughout the virus, and, in particular, in the region of the virus' spike protein that it uses to attach to and enter human cells. Mutations in this spike protein region could make it less recognisable to T cells and neutralising antibodies, which are made by the immune system's B cells following infection or vaccination.

Optimal immunity to SARS-CoV-2 likely requires strong multivalent T-cell responses in addition to neutralising antibodies and other responses to protect against current SARS-CoV-2 strains and emerging variants, the authors indicate. They stress the importance of monitoring the breadth, magnitude and durability of the anti-SARS-CoV-2 T-cell responses in recovered and vaccinated individuals as part of any assessment to determine if booster vaccinations are needed.

The study has been published in *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*.

Source: NIH/NIAID (US)



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, VIMLESH GUPTA D/O HARI GUPTA and W/O YOGESH GUPTA R/O H.NO.1/10976, SAPTRISHI MARG, SUBHASH PARK, SHAHARA, DELHI-110032. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME VIMMI GUPTA FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040568155-3

I, MOHD RASHID S/O MOHD KAMIL R/O 3175, KUCHA TARA CHAND, DARYA GANJ, DELHI 11002 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MOHD RASHID TO MOHD RASHID PERVEZ FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040556769-4

I, Simranjeet Singh S/o Gurmeet Singh R/o A 247/1 First Floor Kundan Lal Sabharwal Marg Clock Tower Hari Nagar New Delhi-110064, Changed My Name to Simran Jeet Singh. 0040568419

I, Waheed Khan S/o Deen Mohamad, R/o B-67, Village Badkhal, Near-Sarkari School, Faridabad, Haryana-121001, have changed my name to Vahid Khan, S/o Deen Mohamad, for all purposes. 0040568428-4

TSarika Sukumar D/o Achutan Sukumaran Nair R/o 8/143, 2ndFloor, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my Religion and embraced HINDU Religion and renounced Christian Religion w.e.f. 28/10/2019. 0070737082-1

TSarika Sukumar D/o Achutan Shri,Achutan Sukumaran Nair R/o 8/143, 2ndFloor, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015, declare that I got divorced from my husband Santhosh Abraham vide Court Decree No.-IDA No.03/19 dated 20/09/2019 (Tis Hazari Court, New Delhi) and, also got permanent custody of my minor daughter Samaira Santhosh vide Court Decree Op. No.124/2019 dated 19.06.2019 (Family Court, Pala, Kerala District). Further I have changed the name of my minor daughter aged 08 years and she shall hereafter be known as Samaira Nair.

0070737091-1

Twas formerly known as Mahendra Prakash S/o Shri Laxman Singh Rawat, Mahendra Prakash Singh Rawat and Mahendra Prakash. From all the documents onwards, I should be known only as Mahendra Prakash S/o Shri Laxman Singh Rawat. 0070737100-1

I, Baba Harpal Dass S/O Ramsarans Ahluwalia, R/o 11/3, Mishra Building, Maheshwari Hotel Station Road, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh-244001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Ravi Pal Ahluwalia. 0070737097-1

I, Dipankar Das S/o Samar Das R/o 48, Gali No.3, Ambekar Vihar, Sector-37, Noida, UP-201301 have changed my name to Deepankar Das for all purposes. 0070737120-1

I, Devendra Kumar, S/o Shri Vineshwari Mandal, R/o 3-D-89, Shahid Sukdev Nagar,Wazirpur Ind. Area,Delhi-110052,have changed name Devender Kumar. 0040568453-1

I, Jai Prakash S/o Rajpati Tripathi R/o RZF-76/37, Gali No.4, Raj-Nagar Part-2 Palam-Colony Delhi-77, have changed my name to Jai Prakash Tripathi. 0040568419-8

I, Rakesh Bhatt,S/o Late,Kulbhushan Sharma R/o-1104/10,Govindpuri, Kalkaji,New-Delhi-110019has been wrongly-written my Father's name as Kulbhushan Bhatt instead of Kulbhushan Sharma in my class-10th-Certificate. 0040568419-4

I, Jaswant S/o malkit singh,house.no.285 bhim nagar Gurgaon haryana, changed my name to Jaswant Singh. 0040568442-5

I,SARBJIT KAUR KALRA,W/O ASHWINDER SINGH KALRA R/O-H NO 1073-B,WARD NO 1,NEAR GURUDWARA BABA BANDA SINGH, MEHRANA,NEW,DELHI-110030,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SARABJIT KAUR KALRA. 0040568453-2

I,Gulshan Kumar S/o prabhu dayal, h.no.494/26 gali.no.16, baldev-nagar,gurgaon Haryana,changed my name to Gulshan. 0040568442-4

I,Rahul Kumar S/o Sh.Kanhiya Lal Sharma R/o-House No.D-2/17,Sheetla Colony,Gurugram, Haryana,inform that Rahul and Rahul Kumar both name are same person.My correct name is Rahul Kumar for all,future purpose. 0040568419-7

I,rukshar D/OSUMAN KHAN R/O B-53, SHAHEEN RAJIV GANDHI-COLONY, GOVIND PURI, KALKAJI, DELHI-110019 have change my name to RUKSHAR. 0040568428-5

I,PUSHPA GOYAL W/O JAI PARKASH GOEL R/O 137-138,TOP-FLLOOR,POCKET-12,SECTOR 24, ROHINI, DELHI-110085,CHANGED MY NAME TO PUSHPA GOEL. 0040568442-1

I,Meena W/o Vikas Tomar R/o-T-13, Mool Chand-Colony, Adarsh-Nagar,Delhi-110033,have changed my minor daughter name Pari Tomar and shall hereafter be known as Amaira Tomar. 0040568419-6

I, Jagdip Singh Chawla S/o-Satnam Singh Chawla R/o-801,IVORY-Tower The Retreat South City-1,Gurgaon(Haryana)-122001,have changed my name to Jagdip Singh. 0040568442-3

I,JAI PRAKASH GOYAL S/O JAI NARAIN GOYAL R/O.137-138,TOP-FLLOOR,POCKET-12,SECTOR-24,ROHINI,DELHI-110085,CHANGED MY NAME TO JAI PARKASH GOEL. 0040568442-2

I,GEETA RANI ARYA W/O ANIL KUMAR ARYA, h.no 221/21 lane,no.3 opp hanuman-mandir madanpur Gurgaon Haryana-122001,changed my name to GEETA ARYA. 0040568442-6

I,Deepindira kaur suri D/O-Tejpal Singh suri resident of,H.NO.9/6B,Tilak-Nagar New-Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Deepinder kaur. 0040568428-3

I,Bhanu Popli D/O-Naresh Popli R/O.A-26, chaukhandi Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Bhanu. 0040568419-1

I,Yash kumar, S/o Chander Shekhar, address 142B/2, Sangam Vihar, Mistakinal in my 8th class certificate my father name has wrongly mentioned as Shekhar Choudhary instead of Chander Shekhar. 0040568399-1

I,Setti Mahesh Babu/S/O Setti Bhaskara Rao R/o 4-12B Gummidi gonda, Nathavaram, Mandala, Gummidi gonda, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh-531115, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Pachigalla Mahesh Babu and Dora Babu Pachigalla in my PAN Card No. DCBPP8666P and name of mine, my father and my mother has been wrongly written as Pachigalla Mahesh Babu, Pachigalla Dora Babu and Pachigalla Gowri Parvathi in my 10th class marksheets, certificate and Graduation Degree and name of mine, my father and my mother has been wrongly written as Pachigalla Mahesh Babu, Pachigalla Dora Babu and Pachigalla Gowri Parvathi in my 10th class marksheets, certificate and Graduation Degree and name of mine, my father and my mother has been wrongly written as Mahesh Babu Pachigalla, Dora Babu Pachigalla and Gowri Parvathi in my Passport No. R4160292. The actual name of mine, my father my mother are Setti Mahesh Babu, Setti Bhaskara Rao and Setti Gowri, which may be amended accordingly. 0070737086-1

I,SUNIL BANSAL S/O SHRIHARSH KISHOR BANSAL R/O POCKET C-5, HOUSE NO-17, 1ST FLOOR, SECTOR-11, ROHINI, NEW DELHI-110085, INFORM THAT SUNIL BANSAL AND SUNIL KUMAR BOTH ARE THE ONE AND SAME PERSON. 0040568385-1

I,Kamla Rani W/o Prithvi Rai R/o F-14/17, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Kamal Kumari. 0040568428-1

I,Rashmi Dahiya, W/o-Mr.Amit Dahiya, R/o-Village-Dhanwarpur, P.O.Daultabud, Distt.Gurugram, Haryana-122006,have changed my name to Dr.Rashmi Dahiya for all,future purposes. 0040568419-8

I,KEERTI D/O Ripudaman R/O-Hno..304 Ph-1 pkt-1 netaji subhash appartments sector-13 dwarka,DELHI-78,have lost my original certificate and marksheets class-10th year-2008 Rollno-6393623,cast-12th year-2010 Rollno-6697842 CBSE-DELHI. 0040568442-9

I,Raj Bala W/O Krishan Singh Yadav R/O House No-736, Near Esi Hospital, Sector-9, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Raj Bala Yadav. 0070737121-1

I,QAYAMUDDIN, S/O NOOR MOHAMMAD R/O A-33, GALLI NO.1, PART-01, MUKANDPUR, DELHI-110042, HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO QUAMUDDIN. 0040568428-7

I,Pushkar Minocha s/o Ashok Kumar Minocha, R/o WZ-8, Punjab Garden, East Punjab Bagh, New Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Arav Minochha. 0040568442-11

I,Narennder Bansal S/o Jagdish Chander R/o AE-110, Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088, have changed my name to Narennder Kumar Bansal Permanently. 0040568386-1

I,Jagreeti Sain Negi S/O Bhag Sain Negi, Belonging to Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Indirect Taxes) Currently Posted/Employed as Principal Additional Director General, Risk Management Centre for Customs, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Department of Revenue, Govt. of India, 13, Sir Vithaldas Thackersey Marg, New Marine Lines, Mumbai- 400020. Residing at G-2, Bunglow, Customs Quarters Matunga (E) Mumbai- 400019 having Permanent Address:- A-202 Shyam Tirth Apartments, Jodhpur Satellite, Nr Chandan Farm, Satellite, Ahmedabad-380015, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Jagreeti Sen Negi. 0070737099-1

I,SONI D/o pradeep kumar,R/o-Add-H-no-1035/10-C-block-gali-no-14,khajuri khass gyani marke DELHI,have lost my original certificate Class10th Rollno-8650758 (2012)Class-12th Rollno-9639607 (2014) CBSE-DELHI. 0040568442-10

I,Saloni Singh D/o Sudhir Singh R/o-F-67, Khanpur Extn, Behind DTC-Depot Delhi-62, have lost my original certificate class-10th year-2017 Roll no-8768825 CBSE DELHI. 0040568442-7

I,Rahul Kumar S/o Sh.Kanhiya Lal Sharma R/o-House No.D-2/17,Sheetla Colony,Gurugram, Haryana,inform that Rahul and Rahul Kumar both name are same person.My correct name is Rahul Kumar for all,future purpose. 0040568419-7

I,rukshar D/OSUMAN KHAN R/O B-53, SHAHEEN RAJIV GANDHI-COLONY, GOVIND PURI, KALKAJI, DELHI-110019 have change my name to RUKSHAR. 0040568428-5

I,Leena W/o-Joyal Massey R/O-House.No-133,Lane No-3,Lalita Park,Laxmi Nagar Delhi-110092,Have Changed My Name To Leena Massey For All,Future Purposes. 0040568419-9

I,Gurmeet Singh Arora,S/O Kesari Singh R/O-A 247/1 first-Floor Kundan-Lal Sabharwal Mart Clock-Tower Hari-Nagar New-Delhi-110064,Changed My Name To Gurmeet Singh. 0040568419-3

I,Meeva W/o Vikas Tomar R/o-T-13, Mool Chand-Colony, Adarsh-Nagar,Delhi-110033,have changed my minor daughter name Pari Tomar and shall hereafter be known as Amaira Tomar. 0040568419-6

I,VIMLESH GUPTA D/O HARI GUPTA and W/O YOGESH GUPTA R/O H.NO.1/10976, SAPTRISHI MARG, SUBHASH PARK, SHAHARA, DELHI-110032. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME VIMMI GUPTA FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040568155-3

I, Jagdip Singh Chawla S/o-Satnam Singh Chawla R/o-801,IVORY-Tower The Retreat South City-1,Gurgaon(Haryana)-122001,have changed my name to Jagdip Singh. 0040568442-3

I,AkhilGoyal,S/O Ajay Kumar Goyal,R/o C-9/101,Sector-8 Rohini Delhi,have changed name of my minor daughter Vani Goyal to Vaani Goyal. 0040568428-2

I, Sarisha S/o D/o Ranbir Singh and W/o Surender Singh Solanki R/o WZ-511A Chhotial Mohalla, Palam Village, Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Mukesh 0070737124-1

I,Sarika Sukumar D/o Achutan Sukumaran Nair R/o 8/143, 2ndFloor, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed the Religion of my minor daughter Samaira Samanth, who has now embraced HINDU Religion and renounced Christian Religion, w.e.f. 28/10/2019. 0040568442-6

I,Deepindira kaur suri D/O-Tejpal Singh suri resident of,H.NO.9/6B,Tilak-Nagar New-Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Deepinder kaur. 0040568428-3

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I,Pushkar Minocha s/o Ashok Kumar Minocha, R/o WZ-8, Punjab Garden, East Punjab Bagh, New Delhi-110026, have lost my original certificate Class-10th Year-2016 Rollno-8230755 CBSE-DELHI. 0040568442-11

I,Mr Vishnu Nandan Srinivas Namana & Ms Anubhuti Jain R/O A-13, FF, Trinity Towers, DLF Phase 5, Gurgaon 122002, Haryana have lost original allotment letter & payment receipts of dlf Sky Court property No. SC014/PH2033/PH2034#293. FIR No. 801012120800. If found please call at Ph: 99945615. 0040568279-1

I,SONI D/o pradeep kumar,R/o-Add-H-no-1035/10-C-block-gali-no-14,khajuri khass gyani marke DELHI,have lost my original certificate Class10th Rollno-8650758 (2012)Class-12th Rollno-9639607 (2014) CBSE-DELHI. 0040568442-10

I,Saloni Singh D/o Sudhir Singh R/o-F-67, Khanpur Extn, Behind DTC-Depot Delhi-62, have lost my original certificate class-10th year-2017 Roll no-8768825 CBSE DELHI. 0040568442-7

I

SENSEX: 50,136.58 ▲ 1128.08 (2.30%) NIFTY: 14,845.10 ▲ 337.80 (2.33%) NIKKEI: 29,432.70 ▲ 48.18 HANG SENG: 28,577.50 ▲ 239.20 FTSE: 6,748.13 ▲ 11.96 DAX: 14,909.72 ▲ 92.00



GOLD

₹44,113



RUPEE

₹73.38



OIL

\$63.22



SILVER

₹63,212

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as on Mar 26, 2021

International market data till 1900 IST

DIGITAL PAYMENT THIRD-PARTY APP

As data leak claims resurface, MobiKwik plans forensic audit

Details of alleged breach in public domain since February

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

GURGAON-BASED MOBILE payments and digital wallet company MobiKwik on Tuesday said it would get a third-party forensic data security audit done after allegations of a data breach containing the company's users' details resurfaced. Cybersecurity experts claimed that the data of as many as 10 crore MobiKwik users had been leaked and put up for sale on darkweb.

"The company is closely working with requisite authorities on this matter, and considering the seriousness of the allegations will get a third party to conduct a forensic data security audit. For its users, the company reiterates that all MobiKwik accounts and balances are completely safe," the company said in a statement.

Though the details of the alleged leak have been in public domain for over a month now, the issue gained prominence on Monday after the so-called data dump was said to be posted for sale on darkweb. Later, a link with a search bar, where anyone could search if their phone number or email address and other details was present in the data dump, was present on the darknet.

The Indian Express was independently able to verify and search within the said link the names, email addresses, phone number and other details for some of the users.

Tuesday was the second instance of the company issuing a denial and claiming that all the accounts and user information with it were completely safe. In February, when the alleged data breach was first reported by Twitter user Rajshekhar Rajaharia, who claims to be an independent cybersecurity researcher, the company had said he was "desperately trying to grab media attention".

"We thoroughly investigated his allegations and did not find any security lapses. Our user and company data is

... It is entirely possible that any user could have uploaded her/his information on multiple platforms"

MOBIKWIK BLOGPOST

completely safe and secure. The various sample text files that he has been showcasing prove nothing. Anyone can create such text files to falsely harass any company. Finally, our legal team will be pursuing strict action against this so-called researcher who is trying to malign our brand reputation for ulterior motives," MobiKwik had said on Twitter.

The firm, however, did not detail what legal action it was planning and whether any action had been taken over the past month. In another blogpost Tuesday, the company said although some users had reported that their data was visible on darkweb, it was "entirely possible that any user could have uploaded her/his information on multiple platforms".

"While we are investigating this, it is entirely possible that any user could have uploaded her/his information on multiple platforms. Hence, it is incorrect to suggest that the data available on the darkweb has been accessed from MobiKwik or any identified source," a company blogpost said.

India does not have a robust mechanism for user data protection and penal actions, if any, in cases of data breaches. The Personal Data Protection Bill, which is said to contain provisions dealing with the same has been pending in Lok Sabha since 2019. A Joint Parliamentary Committee, which was initially supposed to submit its report on the Bill by March, has sought extension till the first week of Parliament's Monsoon session.

In the absence of the Bill, the Information Technology Act of 2000 and the rules made in 2011 form a regime of data protection, which several experts have said are inadequate.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

Norms for FPIs

New Delhi: Sebi has come out with additional guidelines pertaining to surrender of foreign portfolio investment (FPI) registration.

Fuel prices cut

New Delhi: Fuel prices on Tuesday were cut for the third time within a week, with a 22 paise cut in petrol to Rs 90.56 per litre and a 23 paise cut in diesel Rs 80.87 a litre in Delhi.

Buyout by HPCL

New Delhi: Hindustan Petroleum said Tuesday it bought out its partner SP Ports in the firm that was building an LNG importer terminal in Gujarat, for Rs 397 crore.

₹30K cr to states

New Delhi: The Centre released Rs 30,000 crore to states as GST compensation on March 27, with Rs 63,000 crore pending for FY21.

HDFC Bank glitch

New Delhi: HDFC Bank said Tuesday it is taking steps to resolve glitches in its digital banking platform and restore services on priority. PTI

NiyoX launch

New Delhi: Fintech firm Niyo has launched Niyo X, a mobile banking solution, in partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank and Visa. ENS

Recovery slowed in Q4 of 2021'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

THE COUNTRY'S economic output in 2021 is expected to remain below the 2019 level despite rollout of the vaccine to deal with the menace of the coronavirus pandemic, said a report by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) released on Tuesday.

India is estimated to record an economic growth of 7 per cent in 2021-22, over a contraction of 7.7 per cent witnessed in the previous fiscal on account of the pandemic's impact on normal business activity.

"However, the pace of recovery moderated in the fourth quarter with estimated year-on-year growth still close to zero."

FROM APRIL 1

Auto recurring debit: Additional factor of authentication a must

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

COME APRIL, there will be no automatic recurring payment for various services including recharge and utility bill as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) mandatory after March 31. However, banks and payment gateways are seeking additional time to comply with the RBI directive on automatic recurring payment.

On December 4, the RBI had directed all banks including RRBs, NBFCs, and payment gateways that the processing of recurring transactions (domestic or cross-border) using cards or Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) or Unified Payments Interface (UPI) under arrangements/practices not compliant with AFA would not be continued beyond March 31, 2021.

As part of risk mitigation measures,

BANKS, PAYMENT GATEWAYS SEEK TIME

■ Banks and payment gateways are seeking additional time to comply with the RBI directive on automatic recurring payment

ure, RBI announced this step to bolster safety and security of card transactions.

Non-readiness of some of the players could impact recurring payment such as of utility bills, recharge of phone, DTH and OTT, among others, post March 31.

Recently, the RBI enhanced the limit for contactless card transactions and e-mandates for recurring transactions through cards (and UPI) from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 from January 1, 2021 with a view to further the adoption of digital

payments in a safe and secure manner.

Under the new norms, banks will be required to inform customers in advance about recurring payment due and transaction would be carried following nod from the customer. So the transaction would not be automatic but would be done after authentication from the customer.

For recurring payments above Rs 5,000, banks are required to send one-time password to customers as per the new guidelines.

"All the ecosystem players, be it banks and payment gateways, are guilty of not taking RBI directive seriously from 2019 and not being able to come on a single platform, which we should have done at least a couple of months back, so that there could have been a smooth transition to the new way of doing recurring transactions," Payments Council Of India (PCI) Chairman Vishwas Patel was quoted by PTI as saying.

The name change will not impact other VW brands like Audi, Porsche or Bentley.

VW says new exterior and interior signs will soon appear on all US properties and dealerships.

TikTok parent bank accounts blocked over tax evasion'

REUTERS
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

AUTHORITIES HAVE blocked at least two of ByteDance's bank accounts for alleged tax evasion, prompting it to ask a court to quash the directive that it fears will hit its operations, two sources with direct knowledge told Reuters.

ByteDance in January cut its Indian workforce after New Delhi decided to retain a ban on its popular video app TikTok, first prohibited last year following a border clash between India and China.

China has repeatedly criticised India's move and said it suspected it was against World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. ByteDance, which issued a statement contesting the Indian decision, has around 1,300 employees in India, most of whom service its overseas operations.

Spot fines, higher surveillance: DGCA on better compliance of Covid protocols

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

AVIATION REGULATOR DGCA has found the compliance of Covid-19 protocols at the country's airports to be "not satisfactory", and consequently asked all airport operators to step up surveillance while exploring the possibility of imposing spot fines to those violating rules such as improper wearing of masks and social distancing.

Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has also approved 18,843 domestic flights per week in the summer schedule of 2021, which will last till October 30. This is 80 per cent of the full summer schedule of 22,980 flights per week, and around 77 per cent of the 2020 summer schedule that was approved for 24,409 flights every week.

"Our fight against COVID continues. Advisory issued to all airports to ensure compliance of COVID19 Protocol. People must wear face masks (covering nose & mouth)& maintain social distance. We are moving in direction of punitive action by police against passengers who don't comply," Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said in a tweet Tuesday.

According to him, on March 28, a total 2,47,395 passengers flew on 2,281 flights. Currently, flight operations are restricted at 80 per cent of pre-Covid schedule.

In the new schedule for 2021, the country's largest airline IndiGo has been approved to operate 8,749 flights per week, followed by budget carrier SpiceJet at 2,854 flights every week, and GoAir and Air India at 1,747 flights and 1,683 flights per week, respectively.

The total of 18,843 flights will be operated every week out of 108 airports in the country, including the new ones at Bareilly, Bilaspur, Kurnool and Rupasi.

leagues – past & present.

"My aim at Tata... was to ensure a robust board driven system of decision making and governance that is larger than any one individual," he said. A key focus was to enable the directors on various boards to discharge their fiduciary duties without fear or favour, while still ensuring that shareholders views were reflected in strategy and actions, he added.

"During my tenure as executive chairman of Tata Sons, it was always my duty and privilege to present India to the global business community as a market of great opportunity and promise, backed by an effective rule of law that is just, equitable and evolved. "At Tata Sons, I have had the opportunity to work with a fantastic team of people from diverse backgrounds in multiple industries and geographies all bound together by a common value system embedded by the founders into the Tata group. For that opportunity, I shall be eternally grateful," he said.

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OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SIDDIPET
 (SIDDIPET DISTRICT)
 "e" procurement Tender Notice
 e-procurement NIT Nos. E/126/2021, Pragati 2021
 Total No. of Works SBM/Pattana Pragati funds - 1 Works
 Bid Submission Start Date and Time 27-03-2021 @ 9:00 P.M.
 Bid Submission Closing Date and Time 12-04-2021 @ 3:00 P.M.
 Further details can be seen @ e-procurement market place i.e., https://tender.telangana.gov.in/
 Phone and Fax No. 08457-222440, 9505507241, 9505507244 siddipetmunicipality@gmail.com
 R.O. No.: 1951-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/2020-21
 Commissioner, Siddipet Municipality.**NORTHERN RAILWAY****TENDER NOTICE**

Dy. Chief Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Moradabad for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

1. Name of work and location	Pre and Post tamping survey of newly laid track between Rosa-Sitapur 65 Km. (except Baratang Bahadur Ganj) with GEDO trolley, calculation, marking and feeding designed values in the CSM/DUO/UNIMAT machine to achieve the designed line and level of the track.
2. Completion period	06 months
3. Approx. Cost of the work	Rs. 35,07,361.65
4. Date & Time for uploading of tender and Opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 Hrs. on 23.04.2021 date on IREPS website i.e. www.reps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender. Technical cum commercial bid and Financial bids will be opened immediately after close of uploading of tenders on 23.04.2021 at 11.30 Hrs.
5. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.reps.gov.in . Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.reps.gov.in from 09.04.2021 to 23.04.2021 upto 11.30 Hrs. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No.: 1-W-Tender-276/DY.CE/CMB Dated: 30.03.2021 724/2021

Serving Customers with a Smile**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Byataranapura Division, No. 2152/20, Defence Colony, BWSSB Tank Road, Sahakaranagar, Bangalore - 560092

No.EE/BTP/BBMP/E-PMT/15/2020-21 Date: 29.03.2021

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS (IFT)
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Byataranapura Division invites the tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Value of the work (Rs. In Lakhs)
Single Cover Tender		
1	Solid Waste Management works in Ward No. 06 (Call-2).	7.50
2	Improvements to footpaths and roads in Ward No. 8 . (Call-3).	7.50
3	Improvements to Govt. School building in Kodigehalli in Ward No. 8.	50.00
4	Emergency Grants in Ward No. 10 Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura Sub Division (Call-3).	25.00
Two Cover Tender		
5	Construction of Basavalingappa Samudhaya Bhavana and Construction of Ambedkar Bhavan in Amruthahalli in Ward No. 7 (Call-4).	175.00

EMD Declaration: as per FD order No. FD 675 EXP-12/2020. Dtd: 22.12.2020. 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GOK e-Procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

2) Pre-bd Meeting : 08.04.2021 at 3:00 p.m. 3) Last date for uploading the filled Tender documents:15.04.2021 upto 16.00 Hrs.

4) Date of opening of Technical bids: 16.04.2021 at 16.05 Hrs., if possible. 5) Date of opening of financial bids:17.04.2021 at 11.00 Hrs., if possible. (For Two Cover System) Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

SD/- Executive Engineer, Byataranapura Division

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

**Superintending Engineer****Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr**

No. 2398/96M/E-TENDER/BSR CIRCLE/2020-21 Dated: 15.03.2021

E-Procurement- Inviting Tenders

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, U.P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate bid online through <http://tender.up.nic.in> from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with P.W.D. class as per column no. 10 below Road work Category as applied from Date 15.04.2021 to 23.04.2021 upto 12:00 Noon as per the prescribed T-2 Govt. of U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on dated 23.04.2021 at 02:00 P.M. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day, at the same time any validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.

SI. No. Name of Work Estimated cost (Rs.In Lakhs) Bid Security (Rs.In Lakhs) Time of Completion work including rainy season Tender document fee Including GST (In Rs.) Executive of Preexisting Engineer Superintending Engineer Address of Chief Engineer Category

1 Under the sanction State Road Fund Special Repair work in the financial year 2020-21 71.20 5.56 02 Month Tender Cost Rs: 300 + 200%+18% G.S.T. Rs. 414.00 = 2714.00 Executive Engineer Provincial Division, P.W.D., Bulandshahr Superintendent Engineer Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr Chief Engineer Meenut P.W.D. Meerut

2 Under the sanction State Road Fund New Construction work in the financial year 2020-21 60.20 5.01 03 Month Tender Cost Rs: 300 + 200%+18% G.S.T. Rs. 414.00 = 2714.00 -D6 -D6 -D6 A. B. C. (Roads)

3 New construction of missing link road Banparupur to Bahirkhura. 98.60 6.93 03 Month Tender Cost Rs: 300 + 200%+18% G.S.T. Rs. 414.00 = 2714.00 -D6 -D6 -D6 A. B. (Roads)

4 New construction of missing link road Januara link road. 165.10 10.26 03 Month Tender Cost Rs: 300 + 200%+18% G.S.T. Rs. 414.00 = 2714.00 -D6 -D6 -D6 A. B. C. (Roads)

5 New construction of missing link road Shyampram Bombe Path. 47.50 4.38 03 Month Tender Cost Rs: 300 + 200%+18% G.S.T. Rs. 414.00 = 2714.00 -D6 -D6 -D6 A. B. C. (Roads)

6 New construction of missing link road Jadiuli to Shekhpura. 72.00 5.60 03 Month Tender Cost Rs: 300 + 200%+18% G.S.T. Rs. 414.00 = 2714.00 -D6 -D6 -D6 A. B. C. (Roads)

7 New construction of link road of Samadhi Shrine of marty Soldier of Indian Army in 2010 after Vikram Kumar at madhaya of Rehmpur Syawali. 71.50 5.58 03 Month Tender Cost Rs: 300 + 200%+18% G.S.T. Rs. 414.00 = 2714.00 -D6 -D6 -D6 A. B. C. (Roads)

8 New construction of Baxaria to Chhatruwa missing link road. 66.00 5.30 03 Month Tender Cost Rs: 300 + 200%+18% G.S.T. Rs. 414.00 = 2714.00 -D6 -D6 -D6 A. B. C. (Roads)

1. Time allowed for completion of Whole work is mention in col. no. 5 with 5 including rainy season. 2. The Bid Security and Tender document fee need to be deposited through Internet Banking only. 3. All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by C.A. of last 5 years and details of maximum cost work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Chanakya Software before submission of tender. Details of e-tender uploaded on <http://tender.up.nic.in> shall also be uploaded on UP PWD Chanakya software, before last date & time of submission of bid. 4. Terms & other conditions related to bid are available on <http://tender.up.nic.in>. 5. During execution of work contractor should ensure the all safety precautions for COVID-19. 6. In PWD technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prahar Software URL for Prahar is <http://wms.uppwd.ayni.in/Prahar/>

Sd/- Executive Engineer P.D., PWD, Bulandshahr

(Ajay Shankar Singh) Superintending Engineer Bulandshahr circle, PWD Bulandshahr

Sd/- Executive Engineer P.D., PWD, Bulandshahr

UPID-16297 DATE-27.03.2021 WWW.UPGOV.NIC.IN

Sr. No. Name of Department NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER

1 PWD B&R, REWARI 1.FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM AT HOME FOR OLD AGED AND INFIRM REWARI.(RE-INVITED)-4 OTHER WORKS

2 PWD B&R, PANIPAT PROVIDING & LAYING 20MM THICK PREMIX CARRIAGE WITH TACK AND B TYPE SEAL COAT ON ROAD FROM SEENK TO PATHARI (ROAD ID 8193) IN PROVINCIAL DIVISION, PANIPAT

3 PWD B&R, YAMUNANAGAR ISMANTLING AND DISPOSAL OF MATERIAL OF EXISTING / DAMAGED STRUCTURE IN THE CAMPUS OF CHC RAJABUR IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT (FOR UP-GRADATION OF CHC RAJABUR FROM 30 BEDDED TO 50 BEDDED IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT (AUCTION NOTICE))

4 CIVIL SURGEON,KATHAL E-RICKSHAW

5 CIVIL SURGEON,FARIDABAD PUBLICATION OF TENDER NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONCURRENT AUDITOR FOR DISTRICT HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY FARIDABAD FOR THE F.Y. 2020-2021 FOR AUDIT OF ALL PROGRAMME UNDER NHM & NON NHM FARIDABAD & OTHER WORK

6 PANCHAYATI RAJ,FATEHABAD WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT AT VILLAGE TALWARI & TALWARI BLOCK JAHKAL DISTRICT FATEHABAD

7 IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARAYANA,KATHAL CONSTRUCTION OF PIPE INLET AT RD 238.302/L OF BML-HB-BPLC TO PROTECT AGRICULTURE LAND VILLAGE PAI, HAJWANA, KARORA AND AVOIDANCE OF DAMAGES OF CHANNEL

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

epaper.indianexpress.com

**ग्रेटर नौडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण**

पत्रक नं.-1, नौडा-IV, ग्रेटर नौडा सिटी, गोमतीनगर-201308, उत्तर प्रदेश

वेबसाइट : www.greaternoidaauthority.in, ई-मेल : authority@gnda.in

दिनांक: 22 / 03 / 2021

इनिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

महाप्रबन्धन (अधिनियम) नौडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा मुख्य कार्यालय के पास एवं ग्रेटर नौडा की ओर से इनिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना-जीएपीम् / (अधिनियम) / 2021 / 209 दिनांक 22 / 03 / 2021 के माध्यम से उल्लिखित क्रम संख्या-01 से 22 पर कार्यालय की इनिविदा आमंत्रण की जाती है। समाचार नियम व शर्तों के अनुरूप इनिविदा की वेबसाइट www.greaternoidaauthority.in पर इनिविदा अनुरूप सूचनाएँ के लिए उपलब्ध हैं।

प्रति ई-पैकेज <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है किसी पारंपरी, वेबसाइट व शर्तों के अनुरूप इनिविदा की वेबसाइट www.greaternoidaauthority.in पर इनिविदा अनुरूप सूचनाएँ के लिए उपलब्ध हैं।

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BRIEFLY

Harmanpreet tests positive for Covid

Patiala: 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 told PTI. "She was getting tested regularly during the South Africa series so she must have caught the virus after that only." **PTI**

NZ seal home sweep over Bangladesh

Napier: New Zealand wrapped up a seventh series win of their home summer with a 28-run victory over Bangladesh under the Duckworth-Lewis method in the second Twenty20 in Napier on Tuesday. A downpour at McLean Park brought a premature end to New Zealand's innings on 173 for five and Bangladesh were placed in the unusual position of starting their chase without knowing what tally they needed to win. They were finally apprised of their victory target – 170 runs in 16 overs – in the second over of the innings but fell well short of the tally they needed to keep the three-match series alive with 142-7.

BRIEF SCORES: New Zealand 173 for 5 (Phillips 58*, Mitchell 34*, Mahedi 2-45) beat Bangladesh 142 for 7 (Sarkar 51, Naim 38, Southee 2-21) by 28 runs (DLS method) **REUTERS**

Barty tops Azarenka to reach Miami QFs

Miami: World No. 1 Ash Barty reached the Miami Open quarterfinals by holding off 14th-seeded Victoria Azarenka of Belarus 6-1, 1-6, 6-2. It was Barty's 17th win in her last 20 three-set matches, two of those victories for the Australian coming so far in this tournament. No. 5 seed Elina Svitolina of Ukraine needed nearly 2½ hours to beat ninth-seeded Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic 2-6, 7-5, 7-5 and earn her ticket to the quarterfinals. Barty will next face No. 7 seed Aryna Sabalenka, a 6-1, 6-2 winner over No. 19 seed Marketa Vondrousova. Svitolina will play unseeded Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia in the quarters; Sevastova was a 6-1, 7-5 winner over wild-card Ana Konjuh of Croatia. No. 2 women's seed Naomi Osaka of Japan ran her winning streak to 23 matches and moved into the quarters by toppling No. 16 seed Elise Mertens of Belgium, 6-3, 6-3. "I'm not the type of player that really needs that many tournaments to feel a groove," Osaka said. **AP**

Bhuvneshwar has the skill, subtlety to lure batsmen into mistakes, as seen during his recent comeback

SANDIP G
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

MUCH OF Bhuvneshwar Kumar's last three years were spent in cricketing wilderness. In hospital rooms, on the surgeons' tables, and in rehab centres, nursing sores and bruises, whereas in an ideal world he would have been on the cricketing field, adding more names and numbers to his wicket ledger, establishing his own name as an all-format, all-condition fast-bowling colossus.

The list of marquee series he missed out on is long and rueful—the ODI World Cup in England, two Test tours to Australia, one tour of England and New Zealand apiece to name but a few. In the golden era of India's fast-bowling, the most golden-armed of their men was missing. He wasn't missed as it was touted to be, despite his absence India emerged as a bona fide proposition overseas, yet India felt they were incomplete without. His comeback infuses them with that sense of completion.

Perhaps, there's no larger tribute to his worth and place in Indian cricket than the sheer reason that he was not forgotten amidst a plethora of burgeoning bowlers. The forgotten one, if you could call him. The pricelessness of his craft is such that even if he barely played a game in the last three years, he needn't go through the domestic grind to reassess his credentials. He barged his way back into the team, as if he never spent time out of it.

Sharpened skills

His comeback was obvious and smooth. If any it seemed he had spent the time getting craftier and cleverer, sharpening his control and learning batsmen. The gulf of quality in the series was all too blatant—Bhuvneshwar and the rest, the medium-pacer from Meerut operating on a different plane, his understanding of the game at an elevated plank. Not just in terms of quantifiable yardsticks like wickets, economy rate, or average—he bargained numbers that were a cut above the rest—but in the sheer quality of his craft.

Former England captain Michael Vaughan went to the extent of even hailing him as the best "white-ball" bowler in contemporary cricket. "Give me someone bowling at 90 miles an hour and I will face them with my eyes shut, but while facing someone like Bhuvneshwar, one has to think so much," he said in his Cricbuzz podcast. It's hard to disagree with him. He has demolished the white-ball archetype of a bowler being all yorker-spewing macho-ness, painted the format with a Test-match-like subtlety. There are several exceedingly good all-format bowlers—Jasprit Bumrah, Pat Cummins and Kagiso Rabada the most instant faces—but no one has mastered all-format subtlety as Bhuvneshwar.

Sometimes, he conveys the impression of three different Bhuvneshwars. One for every format. Exceptional in each avatar, and in each one, subtlety is the defining factor. He does not swing the ball as prodigiously as Praveen Kumar, but he gets enough swing both ways to con batsmen. The seam movement he generates is not as sharp or swift as



Bhuvneshwar Kumar finished the ODI series with six wickets in three games, at an economy rate of 4.65. **PTI**

THRIFTY BHUVI

ECONOMICAL Bhuvneshwar eked out the best economy rate in the white-ball leg, leaking only 6.38 runs per over in T20s and 4.65 in ODIs. The next best in respective formats was Hardik Pandya (5.33 in ODIs and 6.94 in T20s).

HARD TO PUT AWAY Both formats combined, Bhuvneshwar was struck for a boundary just once in 9.25 balls. For the rest of the bowlers, it was a boundary almost every six balls (6.6).

INDUCING ERRORS According to Cricviz, he has drawn a false shot with 26.3 per cent of his deliveries in the ODIs, the highest for any bowler on either side.

Bumrah's, but there is deviation, often late, nonetheless. His bouncers are not the rapids, but they climb awkwardly. The slowness of the slower balls is not drastic, because he is not ultra-quick to start with, but they are hard to decipher. The yorkers don't threaten the toes, but ticks the off-stump.

Outskilling opponents

Besides, there are more nuclear-tipped bows in his string—like the assortment of cutters and the knuckle ball (it's difficult to name a better exponent of the off-cutter and the knuckle-ball). In short, as Vaughan remarked, "He can out-skill you. He can bowl the balls that you necessarily can't prepare for."

Or the ones you prepare but can't prevent.

Like the one he did Jason Roy with in the third ODI of the series. Struck for three boundaries of the first three balls, he pulled the length back a bit and seamed the ball into him.

Initially, Bhuvneshwar was bowling fuller in search of lateral movement, but having bludgeoned for fours, Roy assumed he would bowl shorter. He did bowl short but not short enough to hang on the back-foot. And he completely discounted his ability to bend the ball back into him. Thus, he has the ability to lure you into a mistake, even if you seem to have (and not a definite has) a measure of him.

Here again, Roy had time to make the necessary adjustments. But he had too much time to consider his options. To ask himself two questions: Do I go forward or do I stay back? Do I defend or do I attack? He catches batsmen in two (often several) minds. They change their decision. In the process, the balance and positioning go off-kilter. Allied with precision and purpose, he daunts batsmen like few others.

So much so that it's time the "throwback" tag was taken off him. And hailed him as the most new-age of practitioners. A pure post-modernist. For, there are few around who have had a grasp over the changing times and evolved accordingly. Some refused, some gave up, some strove, but few have excelled

as Bhuvneshwar. Equally, his versatility should not be constricted to generalised classifications like 'swing bowler'. Or a seamer, or a "white-ball" specialist (he has denied the latter possibility, asserting that he's keen to play red-ball cricket). He is not one, but all. A transcendental genius of our times. An AB de Villiers with the ball, the one that can't be pigeon-holed.

More importantly, his comeback would not have been better timed. Gazing the calendar and encounters lined up later this year

—World Test Championship final, five-Test series in England and the World Cup —Bhuvneshwar offers a mouth-watering prospect. A missing link to several of Virat Kohli's elusive endeavours —a series win in England, or winning an ICC event. Bhuvneshwar could be the Kohinoor in Kohli's jewel-box.

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

ASHLEY GILES, ENGLAND'S DIRECTOR OF CRICKET SAYS A GLASS FRAGMENT WAS FOUND LODGED IN PACER JOFRA ARCHER'S RIGHT MIDDLE FINGER

Another feather: Pant appointed DC captain

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
MARCH 30

DELHI CAPITALS on Tuesday appointed Rishabh Pant as their captain for the 2021 Indian Premier League (IPL) season. With regular captain Shreyas Iyer injured, vice-captain Pant will take charge of the franchise that finished runners-up last term.

The elevation comes after a memorable four months for the wicketkeeper-batsman as he became a match-winner for the Test team and made a rousing comeback to the Indian limited-overs fold.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for young Rishabh, who is coming off successful stints against Australia and England which will no doubt give him the confidence needed to take on a new role," Capitals head coach Ricky Pointing said in a press release.

Despite having proven captains Ajinkya Rahane and Steve Smith in their ranks, and a senior pro like Ravichandran Ashwin who led Kings XI Punjab two years ago, Capitals stuck to their youth policy.

The franchise went for a young captain in Iyer in 2018 and allowed him to grow into the job. They have taken a similar approach with Pant.

"I see this season as an apprenticeship period for Rishabh. Apart from Ajinkya, Smith and Ashwin, they (Capitals) have Shikhar (Dhawan) as well. If all of them help him out, I don't see why Delhi Capitals can't do well," Delhi Ranji team coach KP Bhaskar, who was instrumental in appointing Pant as the Ranji captain in 2017-18, told *The Indian Express*.

"He shouldn't get bogged down and go into a shell with all these big stars around. This is where his quality of leadership will come forward. Now that he has done so well for India, the confidence boost that he has now, he will have things under control," Bhaskar opined.

Past experience

In 2017-18, when Pant was just 20, he led Delhi to the Ranji Trophy final. Bhaskar recalled the decision to hand over the captaincy to the youngster. "Probably when he took over Delhi, he was raw. But he has matured over the years. He was made captain with a long-term vision."

What are the boxes that Pant ticks as captain? "Being a wicketkeeper, he has a close watch on what is happening all around the field. He has got this aggressive nature in batting, but deep inside he is a very cool guy. That helps," Bhaskar observed.

The 23-year-old went to Australia last November as the back-up Test keeper and not a part of India's limited overs set-up. "After the IPL (last year) he came on with a lot of baggage. He worked his backside off to lose it. He has trained harder than anyone else in the last two months. And the results are not just for him to see, they're for the world to see. You have a naturally brilliant match-winner of his ability playing to potential, there's no greater sight in cricket," India head coach Ravi Shastri said after the Test series against England.

How Seema overcame tough times in Russia in quest for another medal

ANDREW AMSAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 30

OVER THE past year, four-time Commonwealth Games medal-winning discus thrower Seema Punia has been through hell and back. The 37-year-old, who trains in Russia, tested positive for Covid, spent long hours in solitude and fought mental battles. But she never gave up though she was in a foreign land. The Haryana born athlete says she took solace in yoga, meditation and Osho's philosophy to pull through testing times.

Since 2016, Seema has been based in Russia, travelling from her training centres mainly for competitions. Seema currently trains at three centres in Sochi, Maykop and Krasnodar under coach Vitaliy Pishchalnikov, a former thrower.

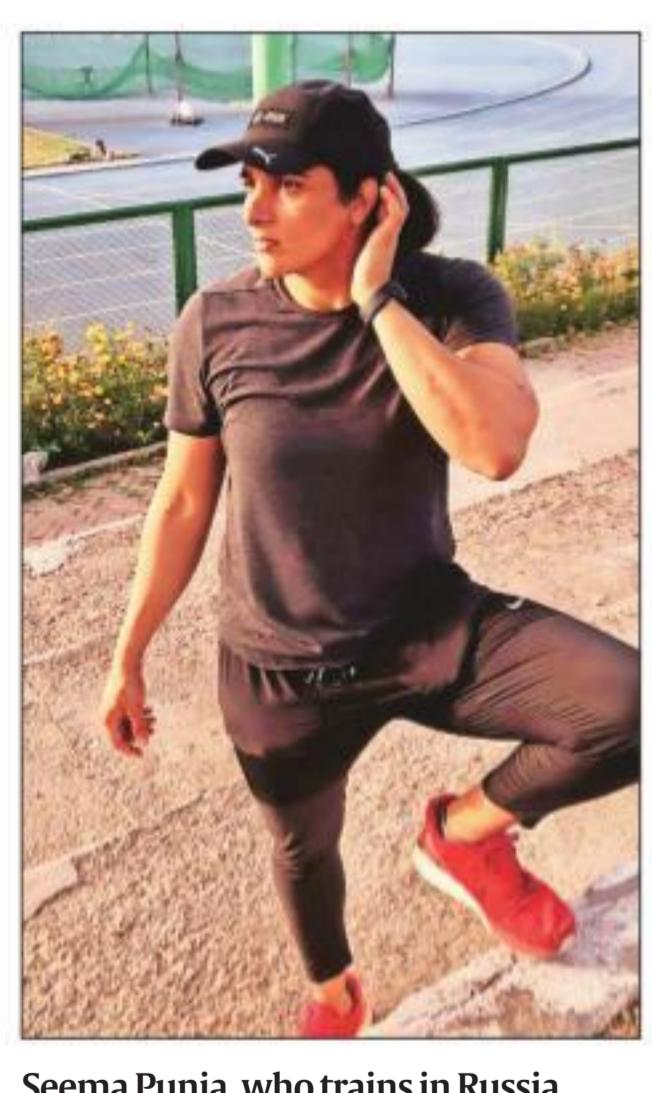
"It can get very lonely and hard over there but I am searching for something greater. Language is a huge issue but I can understand now. I have picked up enough that I can move around the city without a translator. If you have to prove something you have to stay away from here and dirty politics," says Seema.

Seema was in India earlier this month for the Federation Cup, her first competition in the country in over two years. She was favourite to bag the gold until Punjab's Kamalpreet produced a record-breaking throw in excess of 65 metres. Seema, although disappointed, accepted the second spot gracefully. The athlete feels it was a decent attempt, considering she was coming from a cold region like Krasnodar (southwestern Russia), one of her three training bases.

"I am coming from a region where it is extremely cold so I consider my throw (62.64m) nothing less than a 65m throw," she says.

I couldn't breathe'

It was around April last year when the tall and well-built athlete tested positive for Covid-19. Dizziness and a fever of 103 Fahrenheit were telling signs.



Seema Punia, who trains in Russia, tested positive for Covid, fought mental battles. She was in India earlier this month for the Federation Cup, her first competition in the country in over two years.

"I felt like my head was spinning and had a severe fever. I asked my trainer not to come to my room. It was a dreadful feeling. Like going through hell. Then health professionals arrived to take blood samples. The test showed I was positive," the athlete recalls.

Getting back in shape felt like a herculean task for the athlete, who used to train a minimum of six hours a day before the virus hit her. "I would be left breathless after climbing a flight of stairs and there was this constant headache. Things eased slowly and I would have been really happy had I qualified for the

Olympic Games here," says Seema, a two-time Olympian who has a combined tally of six medals in the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.

Despite the struggles, Seema feels meditation and spirituality helped in the healing process. "I read a lot of books on Osho and spirituality. I am a huge follower of Osho and listen to his sermons regularly. It brings me a lot of peace and tranquillity which helped me get through these testing times," she says.

Seema's decision to start training in Russia back in 2016 had raised eyebrows because of the doping record of athletes from the country. Apart from coach Pishchalnikov, Seema also works closely with physio and fitness trainer Bella who travelled to Patiala for the Federation Cup.

"We have spent a lot of time together and she is like a sister to me. Since I am a local, I help her with anything she needs. Our way of having fun is ensuring good recovery and eating well. Seema is very hardworking and we train 24X7. No holidays and no alcohol. Never," says Bella, who was seen interacting with the Indian athlete in Russian.

Seema is also much leaner and fitter thanks to changes in her eating habits. Red meat and a lot of veggies are what she survives on. "No sugar, almost zero carbs. I have developed a gluten allergy so no bread as well. At this age I need to be very careful of what I consume," says Seema.

'Society needs to change'

Although Seema has been away from home for a long time now, she is never homesick. "I had a marriage which ended. We separated in 2016-17, and now there isn't much left to think about or miss about India," she says.

"Giving up is not a choice. You have been given this one life, and you have to make the most of it. I want to be a beacon of hope for other women. There are so many oppressed women in our society. If you go to the interiors of Haryana you will see the plight of women. Now all I think about is throwing better."

EXTENSION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of Rail Passengers, Railways have decided to extend the Periodicity of run of the following Festival Special Trains as per the details given below :-

Train No.	From	Dep. Time	To	Arr. Time	Frequency Days of run	At present running upto	Period of Extension
02237	Varanasi Jn.	12:40	Jammu Tawi	11:00	Daily	31.03.2021	upto 30.06.2021
02238	Jammu Tawi	14:00	Varanasi Jn	12:30	Daily	01.04.2021	upto 01.07.2021
04041	Delhi Jn.	22:25	Dehradun	08:25	Daily	31.03.2021	upto 30.06.2021
04042	Dehradun	21:20	Delhi Jn.	07:20	Daily	01.04.2021	upto 01.07.2021
02231	Lucknow	22:25	Chandigarh	10:05	Daily	31.03.2021	upto 30.06.2021
02232	Chandigarh	21:05	Lucknow	08:25	Daily	01.04.2021	upto 01.07.2021
02448	Hazrat Nizamuddin	20:00	Manikpur Jn	07:30	Daily	31.03.2021</	