



## THE WORLD

**RUSSIA PRESSURES MARIUPOL, FOCUSES ON UKRAINE'S EAST****HOUSE SPEAKER SAID GOTABAYA READY TO QUIT: OPP LEADER**  
PAGE 12**Attrition high, so Infosys & TCS invoke job clause to retain talent****PRANAV MUKUL**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

AN OVERHEATED job market in the software and BPO space has triggered a surge in attrition rates at TCS and Infosys, the top two IT companies in the country by revenue, prompting tech companies to fall back on unconventional tactics in an attempt to retain talent.

A workers union representing IT and BPO sector employees has said that Bengaluru-based Infosys is enforcing a clause in the employee contract to prevent workers from joining some of its competitors. The union has written to the Ministry of Labour & Employment and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, seeking intervention in the matter.

Infosys, on its part, has said that such a non-compete clause is a "standard business practice" in employment contracts.

The non-compete clause under contention says that after re-signing, an Infosys employee cannot work, for a period of six months, with one of the named rival companies on a client he or she would have serviced in the preceding 12 months before quitting.

Among the rival companies named in the employment contract are TCS, Accenture, IBM, Cognizant and Wipro for Infosys' software services wing. For the business processing management (BPM) wing, the named competitors in the employment pact are Tech Mahindra, Genpact, WNS, TCS, Accenture, IBM, Cognizant, Wipro and HCL.

This comes amid rising attrition in the segment. For the March-quarter, Tata Consultancy Services reported an annualised attrition rate of 17.4 per cent, up from 7.2 per cent in the same quarter last year. Infosys reported an annualised voluntary attrition rate of 27.7 per cent during January-March period, compared to 10.9 per cent in January-March 2021. Other top IT companies are yet to declare their fourth quarter and full-year 2021-22

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## EXPLAINED

**SIMPLY PUT SMART CITY'S NERVE CENTRE**  
PAGE 9

## BENGAL GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT

## Mamata reaches out to investors: 'job creation, industry my priority'



CM Mamata Banerjee with Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and top industrialists at Bengal Global Business Summit in Kolkata on Wednesday. Partha Paul

**'Will create 1.5 cr jobs in 5 years, Bengal saw 40% job growth during pandemic'****ATRI MITRA**  
KOLKATA, APRIL 20

MAKING A strong pitch for big-ticket investments in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Wednesday that her main target in the near future was industrialisation and employment generation and that the state will create 1.5 crore jobs in the next five years.

Addressing a gathering of industrialists during the inaugural session of the Bengal Global Business Summit, Banerjee took a jibe at the former Left government in the state. "We lost 75 lakh man-days every year during the Left Front rule, but now no man-days are lost."

She also urged Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar to speak to the Central government and en-

sure that industrialists are not harassed by central agencies. She said, "If you don't mind, Governor sir, on behalf of all industrialists, we want all help from the Centre. In the Governors' conference, please raise this issue. Industrialists will not raise their voice (fearing reprisal)."

"At a time when employment opportunities in the country slumped by 40%, we witnessed 40% growth in the same. Our people are in places like NASA. We want to bring that talent here," she said.

West Bengal was the first state in the country where the government successfully tackled the Covid-19 situation and returned to normalcy in terms of industry and trade, she claimed.

"The state government has made strides in several

## FULL COVERAGE

**NON-PARTISAN APPROACH KEY TO DEVELOPMENT, SAYS GOVERNOR**  
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sectors. The sun is rising in Bengal. A new Bengal is emerging every morning."

Even at the peak of the pandemic, the GDP growth of Bengal was significant while that of the country was in the negative,"

she said.

Unemployment in the state did not increase during the pandemic since their MSME sector employed 1.36 crore people, she emphasised.

Making an appeal to the investors, Mamata said, "Remember you are coming to Bengal, not some other state. You will be like our family here. Think of Bengal as your home. You can see sun rise from Darjeeling. The best tiger — the royal Bengal tiger — is here in the Sundarbans."

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) believed in women empowerment, the CM said, adding 38 percent of the party's MPs are women.

The development of the state, the CM said, hinged on eight pillars, including

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## WHAT BUSINESS LEADERS OFFERED

■ **Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani commits to invest ₹10,000 crore in Bengal in the coming years, which he said will create 25,000 jobs**

■ **TCG Group's Purnendu Chatterjee announces to set up one-of-its-kind university in Kolkata to "realise global research aspirations"**

■ **JSW Group chairman Sajjan Jindal announces to develop a 900 MW pumped storage hydel power project in Bengal**



During the demolition drive in Delhi's Jahangirpuri on Wednesday. Anand Mohan J

## DAYS AFTER COMMUNAL CLASH IN DELHI

## Bulldozers roll, raze in Jahangirpuri in the face of SC order

**Court orders status quo but demolition continues for two hours before pause****ANAND MOHAN J, PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA & ANANTHAKRISHNANG**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

HIT BY communal violence days earlier, Jahangirpuri in North West Delhi saw seven bulldozers roll into the neighbourhood Wednesday on orders of the BJP-led North Delhi Municipal Corporation, razing parts of several structures, including the exterior gate of a place of worship.

The demolition, which started around 10.15 am, went on for two hours despite the Supreme Court's directions at 11 am that status quo be maintained. The matter will be heard by a bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai Thursday.

The demolition action came a day after the civic body wrote to the North West DCP requesting 400 police personnel for what it called was an "anti-encroachment drive".

This came after Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta had also written to the North MCD Mayor Tuesday demanding that "illegal encroachment done by rioters be bulldozed".

Before 8 am Wednesday, a heavy deployment of police, CRPF and Rapid Action Force was in place in Jahangirpuri, which saw violence following a Shobha Yatra on Hanuman Jayanti on April 16 — 10-12 people, including six police personnel, were

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## BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNYY



## EXPLAINED Questions over due process

THE ACTION in Jahangirpuri flies in the face of the civic body's usual practice of sending a notice at least five days in advance in cases of encroachment. The bylaws state that the notice has to be given to the person who has carried out the alleged illegal construction. During this time, the person can be asked to make alterations, failing which the civic body has the power to demolish or seal the structure.

## Johnson begins visit to India today, deals worth £1 bn on table

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

AS BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson lands in Ahmedabad on Thursday for the start of a two-day visit to India, UK and Indian businesses are set to announce investments and export deals worth over £1 billion, in areas from software engineering to health.

Science and tech collaborations, including a digital health partnership and a joint investment fund for Indian deep-tech and AI start-ups, supported by both the governments; new AI scholarships for Indian students jointly funded by the UK government's Chevening programme and India's Adani Group; and a £6 million investment by AI healthcare specialists Qure.ai to open a centre of excellence in the UK are set to be announced.

On Friday, Johnson will hold talks with Prime Minister

**PM Modi, WHO DG Tedros Ghebreyesus in Ahmedabad. Johnson lands in the city today.** Nirmal Harindran

Narendra Modi in New Delhi on economic, security and defence collaborations. He is expected to announce commercial agreements, hailing a new era in trade, investment and technology partnership between the two countries.

"The Prime Minister will use his visit to India to boost our collaboration with one of the world's fastest growing economies, slashing trade barriers for UK businesses and driving jobs and growth at home," the British High Commission said in a statement.

The £1 billion in new investments and export deals, expected to create about 11,000 new jobs in UK, will include:

■ A new Switch Mobility electric bus R&D centre in the UK, and the opening of its Asia Pacific Headquarters in Chennai, generating over 1,000 jobs.

■ Investment from leading Indian manufacturer Bharat Forge and electric truck maker Tevva Motors to expand to a new site and create 500 jobs.

■ £79 million investment by Indian software company Mastek to create 1,600 jobs over the next three years all over

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## R-value over 1 across India, Delhi brings back mask mandate

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

INDIA'S EFFECTIVE reproduction number (R-value) for Covid-19, an indicator of how quickly a disease is spreading in the population, has increased to over 1 for the first time since mid-January, during the third wave of the pandemic.

The R-value, which saw a steady increase over the last few weeks, was 1.07 for April 12-18, according to Sitabhra Sinha, a researcher from Chennai's Institute of Mathematical Sciences who has been tracking the country's R-value since the beginning of the pandemic. It was 0.93 the previous week.

An R-value of 1, which signifies that every infected person is passing on the infection to at least one person on an average,

## INSIDE

**28 NEW COVID-19 CASES, NO DEATH IN WEST BENGAL**  
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is a key threshold after which cases begin to rise.

Asked whether this could signal the beginning of the fourth wave, Sinha said: "It's too early to say whether it will be a wave; there have been a couple of instances, for example in last August-September, when the R-value was higher than 1 but it was not termed a wave. An R-value of greater than 1 doesn't mean that it is a wave, but yes, in the last 10 days or so, we have seen an increase."

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## After bulldozers left: 'No notice... what have you proved with this?'

**ANAND MOHAN J & SUKRITA BARUAH**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

ONE WAS selling cold drinks to police until yesterday. Another had been running a store in the building where he was born 40 years ago. A third was saving up for the festival. None had any prior notice, none were given the right to respond — all were scrambling Wednesday evening to pick up the pieces of what was left.

Just hours earlier, as two CRPF officers took position atop Akbar's home in Jahangirpuri and complained about the harsh sun, the 35-year-old shop owner had immediately split a red flex board into two to make a temporary sun shade. "All I asked was whether the encroachment drive would damage my shop

**A woman breaks down amid the anti-encroachment drive in Jahangirpuri on Wednesday.** Praveen Khanna

and they promised me it was against scrap dealers," Akbar said.

Barely an hour later, all that a bulldozer left of his small shop was squashed cigarette packets

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## PAGE 1 ANCHOR

**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

FOR ANIL Padhye, it was the late evening deals with his maternal grandparents in the 1980s that got him hooked to bridge. His teammate, Ashok Goel, stayed up late at night to master the skills of the card game. And their captain, R Krishnan, took to the sport casually at first, in his hostel room at IIT Madras, exactly 50 years ago in 1972.

The trio was part of a six-member team that won India's first-ever silver medal at the World Bridge Championship

earlier this month. All of them are in their early-to-mid 60s and hail from varied backgrounds — stockbroker to industrialist, banker to publisher.

Subrata Saha, Sukamal Das and Rajesh Dalal were the other members of the team that defeated heavyweights like the US en route to the final of the seniors category, where they lost to a strong Polish side.

"It's an important moment for the sport in the country," Padhye said. "For the first time, an Indian team has reached the final of the World Championship. This augurs well for the sport and hopefully will

change the perception among the masses."

Popularly known as the 'Bermuda Bowl', the World Championship in the Italian city of Salsomaggiore attracted 24 teams from across the globe. After the round-robin stage, India finished fifth, qualifying for the knockout rounds where the top-eight teams made the cut.

There was no lack of drama.

"The team that finishes on top after the round-robin stage gets to pick the team from the top-eight they want to play in the quarterfinals," explained Krishnan. "In this case, the US, which had fielded two teams,

**The seniors category Indian team that reached the World Bridge Championship final, where it lost to Poland.** SAI/Twitter

was first and chose us, assuming we'll be easy to beat."

After hours of heavy dealing, which saw both teams taking turns to get into the lead, India recorded an upset and progressed to the semi-final, where they defeated France. That ensured a historic finish, given that no Indian team had ever reached that far in a World Championship.

In the final, India took on Poland, which had five former world champions in its team. The European giants proved too strong, recording a 45-point win over six sets and 96 deals.

Despite the loss in the final,

the bridge community has hailed their performance as path-breaking. Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, whose father-in-law Anand Mehta was a bridge player himself, led the accolades, tweeting that "age isn't a barrier to be the best in the world".

Bridge made its debut at the 2018 Asian Games and India won three medals — gold in men's pair, bronze in men's team and bronze in mixed team.

Padhye, who has partnered Mehta in the past, hoped their silver medal will prove to be a catalyst for change, and attract younger players to the sport.

"There's a stigma attached to the sport, unfortunately, and many people mistake it for gambling," he said.

Padhye, who runs a printing business, recalled how his grandmother "got restless if she did not play a couple of deals every evening".

"It's a stimulating activity that keeps you alert and agile. And even though it's a cerebral game, that does not mean physical fitness is less important. Every day, we have to play almost eight hours — and to do that for 10 days in a high-pressure tournament like the World

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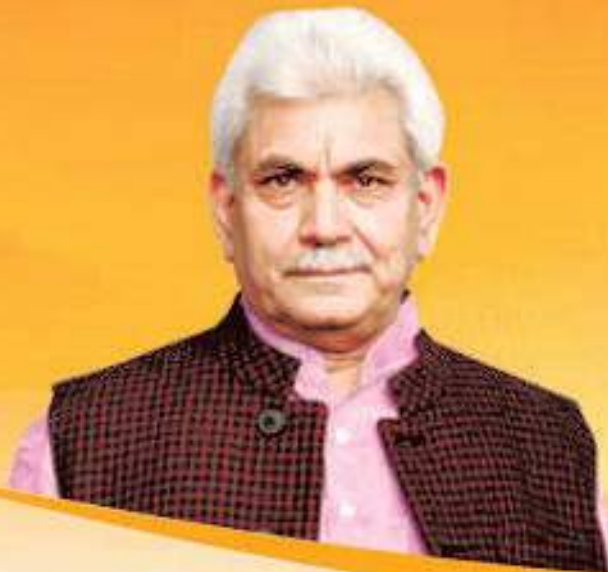




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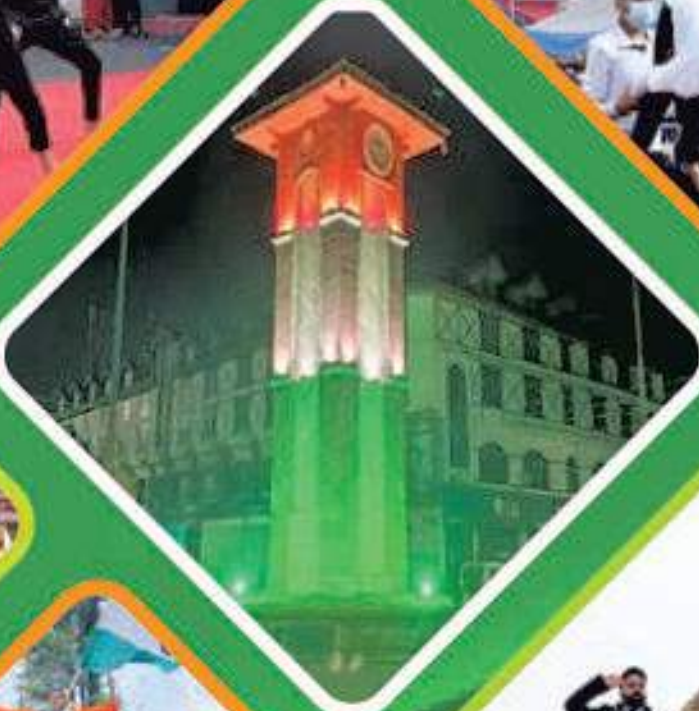


Celebrating 75 years of Independence



- More than 20 lakh Teachers and Students participated in 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021 Celebrations
- National Anthem Singing Competitions held across all districts of J&K
- Government buildings and monuments illuminated in shades of tricolour on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Elected grassroot representatives hoisted/unfurled the National Flag on Independence Day/ Republic Day
- 100 feet tall National Flag was dedicated at Hari Parbat, Srinagar on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021
- 100 feet tall National Flag was hoisted by the Army on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at famous tourist destination Gulmarg in Kashmir valley
- Grand Air Show was organised at the Dal lake, in collaboration with Indian Air Force
- "Beating Retreat Ceremony" was started by the Border Security Force at Octroi Post, Suchetgarh, Jammu on the Indo-Pak International Border

One  
Nation  
One  
Flag



Iconic week festival - events

- Musical water fountain with laser light and sound show inaugurated at Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu
- Kashmir's famous Dal lake gets first ever open air floating theatre
- Grand Shikara Rally was organised in connection with celebration of birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel
- Grand festivals like Houseboat festival, Sufi festival, Literary Festival and various events organised across J&K

Peace, Progress, Prosperity, People First

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# 4 WEST BENGAL

## HC forms panel to probe claims of post-poll displacement

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, APRIL 20

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Wednesday constituted a three-member committee to hold an inquiry into the allegation that over 303 victims of alleged post poll violence last year have been displaced.

In August last year, the HC had directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe alleged post poll violence cases related to murder, rape and crime against women while a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted to investigate the other cases.

The direction by the division bench, comprising Chief Justice Prakash Srivastava and Justice Rajrashi Bharadwaj, came during the hearing on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by petitioner and BJP leader Priyanka Tibrewal where it had been submitted that over 303 victims had been displaced due to the alleged violence and had been subsequently prevented from returning to their respective houses and workplaces.

The bench said that the three-member panel will comprise a member/ nominee of the National Human Rights Commission, a member/ nominee of State Human Rights

Commission and member secretary, State Legal Services Authority.

The Court further directed that the committee must ensure that appropriate opportunity of hearing is given to the state government before it reaches to any conclusion. The panel was further instructed to address the complaints of the alleged victims and conduct an inquiry into their right to return to their houses and workplaces.

### State files status report on rape probes

Meanwhile, the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday took on record the status report filed by the state government on investigation into the rape cases in Deganga and Matia (North 24 Parganas), Englishbazar (Malda) and Bansdroni (Kolkata).

The division bench of Chief Justice Prakash Srivastava and Justice Rajrashi Bharadwaj had earlier asked IPS officer Damayanti Sen to oversee the probe in these rape cases.

Appearing on behalf of the state government, Advocate General SN Mookherjee informed the court that Sen has intimated that she has no difficulty in supervising the investigation into these cases.



Industrialists at the business summit in Kolkata on Wednesday. Partha Paul

### BENGAL GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT

## From hydel project to 'one-of-its-kind' varsity, top industrialists bet big on Bengal

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, APRIL 20

INDUSTRIALISTS FROM across the country spoke about their plans to invest in West Bengal on Wednesday, the first day of the two-day Bengal Global Business Summit 2022.

Adani Group chief Gautam Adani promised to "invest Rs 10,000 crore in the coming years" that will create direct and indirect employment to around 25,000 people. Adani attended BGBS for the first time.

At present, Adani Wilmar Ltd has an edible oil plant in Haldia. "Over the next decade, we expect our total investment in Bengal to exceed Rs 10,000 crore. Thereafter, as we con-

tinue to expand here, we will bring into Bengal our world-class expertise across the green energy value chain," Adani said at the sixth edition of BGBS.

Veteran businessman from Bengal Purnendu Chatterjee, who is the head of the TCG group, said he is planning to set up a "one-of-its-kind university" in Kolkata.

Chatterjee said he has committed all the resources that would be required to realise the global scale research aspirations the proposed university has.

As a first step towards this, the group has already set up a centre for translatable research in fundamental sciences. The proposed university will be unique in its concept as it will also be focused on transla-

tional fundamental research. With a focus on collaborative research on a global scale, this university will also have its own quantum computer, again the first from the private sector in India.

The computer, proposed to be dedicated to helping high-end research, is being installed in Kolkata. The complex installation process has already been initiated. Once fully operational, Kolkata can boast of being in step with its fame for striving to stay ahead of the rest in the field of the academic initiative.

Chatterjee also said TCG are expanding their petrochemicals unit in Tamil Nadu. He said, "We got more potential and an attractive opportunity in Tamil Nadu. Every business house al-

ways want to set up their different units in different areas. We also tried that."

Sajjan Jindal, chairman of the JSW Group, said the group would develop a 900 MW pumped storage hydel power project in West Bengal. Addressing the inaugural session of the Bengal Global Business Summit, Jindal said it would be developed on a nomination basis.

ITC Ltd Chairman & Managing Director Sanjiv Puri, RPSG Group chairperson Sanjib Goenka and Niranjan Hiranandani, co-founder and managing director of Hiranandani Group, among others, spoke during the inaugural session of the summit and promised investment in Bengal.

## 'Non-partisan approach key to development'



CM Mamata Banerjee with Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar at the business summit in Kolkata on Wednesday. Partha Paul

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, APRIL 20

GOVERNOR JAGDEEP Dhankhar on Wednesday invited industrialists to set up business in West Bengal. He was speaking on the first day of the two-day Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) 2022 in Kolkata.

Referring to the state-Centres ties, he said: "It will be appropriate for Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to proactively catalyse a development bonhomie with all concerned as it is imperative to distance development from a partisan stance."

He also suggested a non-partisan approach and involvement of Opposition parties in development programmes. "A greater reflection of the political spectrum of the state in participation in such ventures would surely be motivational," he said.

Emphasising coordination with the Centre, he said: "This can fructify by synergistic working between the Government at

the Centre and the State, and all other entities. This would certainly result in an economic leap for the state."

Highlighting the need for governance based on rule of law, he said: "I am sure the government is alive to the need for an investment friendly, wholesome ecosystem in governance as investors invariably look for political stability, democratic governance, transparent, accountable mechanism and systemic working, coupled with peaceful environment and rule of law."

CM Mamata Banerjee took a dig at the BJP-ruled Centre while winding up her speech in the form of a request to the Governor. "Through the Governor I want to tell, if you don't mind, Governor sir, on behalf of all industrialists as they cannot open their mouth. We want all help from the Central Government. In the Governors' conference, please raise it. Please see industrialists are not disturbed through some Central agencies," she said.

## No land policy, law and order has collapsed: Opp slams govt

**ENS & PTI**  
KOLKATA, APRIL 20

OPPOSITION PARTIES, led by the BJP, on Wednesday slammed the Mamata Banerjee government for creating an atmosphere of fear in the state, saying it cannot attract investments unless the culture of "tolabaji" (extortion) is put to an end.

Majumdar on Wednesday visited the abandoned Tata Nano plant site at Singur in Hooghly district to target the state government over its alleged failure to bring industries to the state. His visit coincided with the state government organising its annual flagship investment conclave — Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS).

"The state government does not have a proper land policy. The law-and-order situation has totally collapsed. There is syndicate raj and extortion. Unless the high handedness of TMC leaders and extortion stop, there cannot be an industry in West Bengal," Majumdar said.

The BJP leader claimed that despite hosting BGBS since 2015, the state government has not been able to attract investments to the state.

"What happened in Singur? Neither was there a factory (Tata Nano plant) nor agriculture took place. Now this area is witnessing fish cultivation. Mamata Banerjee became the chief minister of Bengal following her movement in Singur but what did the people of Singur get in return? Nothing. Unless the right atmosphere is created, no one will invest in Bengal," Majumdar added.

Also hitting out at the CM, who urged West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar at the flagship event to ensure that industrialists are "not disturbed by some agencies", Majumdar said, "It is distressing to see our chief minister using the platform of the business summit to criticise the Centre and politicise the entire event. It is not a platform to make such a baseless statement. Had the Centre harassed the industrialists, they would not have invested in various parts of the country."

CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakraborty said Banerjee's comments were aimed at justifying the failures of her government in drawing investments to the state. "Everybody is well aware of

the lack of industries in the state. The chief minister's comment is aimed at giving an excuse in case promises made at the business summit do not materialise. Also, was she trying to give an excuse about her party leaders being summoned by CBI in criminal cases?" he asked.

Congress state president Adhir Chowdhury said such statements in front of business tycoons only reflected that the "Governor and the chief minister were not on the same page". "It was not a platform to make such statements," he said.

Responding to Opposition criticism, TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, "There is a reign of fear across the country. Even big industrialists are afraid to speak up. Mamata Banerjee has dared to speak the truth."

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari visited the proposed coal block site at Deocha Pachami in Birbhum district and took part in a protest meeting against the project. "The police and administration do not want people to protest against the coal block project in a democratic manner. They are using force to stifle their voice. There cannot be any eviction to pave the way for the project. This is a closed chapter as the project will never be a reality," the BJP MLA said.

## 15 pacts inked between state varsities and overseas centres

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, APRIL 20

OVER 15 MoUs between several universities in West Bengal and foreign institutions were signed during a Global Interactive Session on 'Education in Post-Pandemic World' on Friday. The event, 'Education Sector in BGBS (Bengal Global Business Summit 2022)', was held as part of the state's annual investment conclave.

Sources said the state government expects to net investment proposals worth Rs 2,000 crore for the education sector. State education minister Bratya Basu announced that over 15 MoUs were signed between universities of Bengal and that of UK, Poland and other countries. "Over 15 MoUs between universities of Bengal and overseas academic institutions were signed. Huge investments in the education sector have been made, which will take the state to newer heights," Basu said.

Jadavpur University has signed five MoUs, while Calcutta University has signed 3. Vidyasagar University, Presidency University and some private universities also inked pacts.

The overseas institutions with which the MoUs were signed included University College London, Exeter University, University of Leeds, in the UK and the University of Warsaw, Poland, among others. Similar pacts were also signed with institutes from Turkey, Finland and Japan.

The MoUs focused on areas such as academic collaboration, joint research programme, student and faculty exchange, knowledge transfer, quality improvement in teaching-learning process and others.

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The tender Specification can be down loaded from website: [www.tngdcop.gov.in](http://www.tngdcop.gov.in) or [www.tenders.in.gov.in](http://www.tenders.in.gov.in) or <https://tenders.gov.in> or <https://tenders.in.gov.in> at free of cost. Tender will be opened through the TNC portal.

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Sl. No.	Proposed name of the new industrial area	Approx. Extent	EMD (Rs in lakhs)
1	Hassana Industrial Area, Doddahonnenahalli, Kaachanayakanahalli, Bommanayakanahalli, Kasturivalli, Bustenahalli, Gavenahalli and Aaduvalli Villages, Hassan Taluk & District.	1057-24 Acres (427.99 Ha)	2.00
2	Doothanuru Kaval Industrial Area, K.Aladahalli village, Shanthigramma Hobli, Hassan Taluk & Dandiganahalli Hobli Channarayapattana Taluk, Hassan District.	177-11 Acres (71.74 Ha)	2.00

The firms who are listed as Accredited Consultants in the accredited list of Ministry of Environment and Forest, New Delhi are eligible to participate in the tender. The agency has to apply separately for the Individual Industrial Area. The EMD amount as per the above table should be paid through e-payment in the e-procurement portal only using any of the four modes namely: Credit Card, Direct Debit, National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT), and Over the Counter (OTC).

Applicants may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

**Scheduled of dates are as follows:**

- Last date to receive pre bid queries: **05-05-2022** up to 5.00 pm
- Pre-bid meeting will be held on: **07-05-2022** at 12.00 noon
- Last date for submission of bid is : **10-05-2022** up to 4.00 pm
- Time and date of opening of Technical bid is on: **12-05-2022** at 11.30 am

**Sd/-**  
**Chief Engineer-2**  
**KIADB, Bengaluru.**

DIPR/CP/228/MAA/2022-23

**Kolkata Zonal Office (5th & 6th Floor)**  
"Baroda Tower", Plot No. 38/2, Block- GN, Salt Lake  
Sector-V, Kolkata- 700 091, E-mail: [zm.ez@bankofbaroda.com](mailto:zm.ez@bankofbaroda.com)

**SHOW CAUSE NOTICE**  
Letter No: BOB/KZ/RECY/ 2021-22 Date: 03.07.2021

**M/S ALMASA TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS** through its proprietor Mr. Ayanjit Kumar Chatterjee  
Address 1: PRIYANKA APARTMENT, FIRST FLOOR, P 36 BANK GARDEN, BANDSDRONI, WEST BENGAL 700070  
Address 2: 151, S. P. MUKHERJEE ROAD, NEARARAMBAGH CHICKEN, KOLKATA- 700026  
Address 3: 14B/1BANIL MITRA ROAD, KOLKATA 700019  
Mrs. Anurupa Chatterjee, Guarantor  
Address 1: PRIYANKA APARTMENT, FIRST FLOOR, P 36 BANK GARDEN, BANDSDRONI, WEST BENGAL 700070  
Address 2: 151, S. P. MUKHERJEE ROAD, NEARARAMBAGH CHICKEN, KOLKATA- 700026  
Address 3: 14B/1BANIL MITRA ROAD, KOLKATA 700019  
Dear Sir/Madam,  
Re: Show Cause Notice for declaring M/S ALMASA TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS and its Proprietor and Guarantors as Wilful Defaulters and Opportunity for Representation there against.  
We refer to your captioned account and write to inform you that due to non-payment of interest/installment, account turned to Non-Performing Assets in the books of the Bank on 29.06.2017.  
We further write to inform you that as per the directions of the Committee of Executives on Wilful Defaulters of our Bank and on scrutiny of your account based on your acts of omission and commission, deeds/ documents and writings, performed /executed by the borrower/ guarantors, the Proprietor/ Guarantors be classified as Wilful defaulter in case your submission is RBL on the following grounds:  
■ Even though mortgage was created in favour of Bank of Baroda for securing the credit facilities sanctioned by Bank of Baroda to the borrower, the borrower/ mortgagor has taken another loan of Rs.90 lac by submitting the same property to erstwhile Vijaya Bank in the name M/s Briquer Infoserve having proprietor Mrs. Anuradha Ganguli. Thus the proprietor in connivance with the guarantor defrauded the Bank as well as erstwhile Vijaya Bank by mortgaging the same property without liquidating the dues of Bank of Baroda.  
The borrower has defaulted in meeting its payment/ repayment obligations to the lender and has not utilised the finance from the lender for the specific purposes for which finance was availed of but has diverted / siphoned off the funds for other purposes and the funds are not available with the firm/ company in the form of other assets.  
In terms of RBI guidelines and to comply principles of natural justice, if you, desire, you may send your submission for consideration by the Committee of Executives, headed by our Executive Director within -15- days from the date of receipt of this letter as to why your account and you be not classified by Bank as a Wilful Defaulter. The Committee reserves the right to give or not to give the personal hearing to decide about classifying as wilful defaulter in case your submission is received.  
Please note that, in case your submission against the intention of Bank to declare you as a Wilful Defaulter is not received within -15- days from the date of receipt of this letter, the Bank will proceed further and classify your account as wilful defaulter. Bank reserves the Right to publish the name and photograph of Wilful Defaulter in News Paper and will initiate the necessary recovery action as per extant guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India.  
This communication is issued as per the directions of the Committee of Executives on Wilful Defaulters (COE).  
Yours faithfully,  
Sd/-  
(Debabrata Das)  
Zonal Head, Bank of Baroda  
Kolkata Zone

### CORRIGENDUM

**PRESS NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON AS PER MAHARASHTRA WATER RESOURCES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2016. (MAHARASHTRA ACT NO. VIII OF 2017) :**

**GOVERNMENT** of Maharashtra (GoM) has enacted Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Act, 2005 to regulate water resources within the State of Maharashtra, facilitate and ensure judicious, equitable and sustainable management, allocation and utilisation of water resources, fix the rates for use of water for agriculture, industrial, drinking and other purposes and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

**Fresh nominations are invited by undersigned on behalf of Selection Committee for the post of Chairperson of Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority on or before 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 upto 17.00 p.m.** (Candidates who have applied for the said post as per the advertisement published earlier are required to re-submit the new application).

**The last date for submission of nomination form for the said post has been extended to 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 instead of 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.**

All the relevant details regarding eligibility criteria, service conditions, details to be furnished along with the nomination as per the Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Act, 2016 (Maharashtra Act No. VIII of 2017) are available on following web sites.

<https://maharashtra.gov.in>  
<https://wrd.maharashtra.gov.in>  
<https://mwrra.org>

Sd/-  
(R. R. Shukla)  
**Chief Engineer (WR) & Joint Secretary**  
Water Resources Department,  
Government of Maharashtra

DGIPR/2022-2023/232



BIRBHUM VIOENCE CASE

Compensation, jobs, CBI probe: How TMC’s response differed

Opposition claims it is because those killed were ruling party supporters

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA  
AND ATRIMITRA  
KOLKATA, APRIL 20

AFTER NINE people were killed in West Bengal’s Birbhum district last month, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) hastened to begin a damage-control exercise.

The party’s district chief, Anubrata Mondal, admitted that both the accused and the victims were TMC workers and supporters. Following Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s directive, the government suspended police officials for alleged dereliction of duty and ordered the arrest of a local party leader. The government also expedited the payment of compensation to the victims’ kin, did not oppose a plea in court for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe, and directed the police to conduct a statewide search for crude bombs and illegal guns.

The ruling party’s response to the incident that occurred in the village of Bogtui on the night of March 21 was not the same as its reaction to recent incidents such as the alleged murder of student leader Anis Khan in February, and the murder of Congress councillor Tapan Kandu in Purulia district last month. In both those cases, the state government opposed pleas in the Calcutta High Court for CBI investigation and did not offer either any monetary compensation or jobs to their kin.

After the 28-year-old student leader’s death, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee praised him and claimed that he was “close to the TMC”. But Khan’s father disputed this and refused to meet the chief minister. After the High Court agreed with the state administration and rejected a petition for a CBI inquiry, a Special Investigation (SIT) continued its probe. A home guard and a civic volunteer have been arrested in the case.

Earlier this month, a single-judge Bench of the Calcutta High Court ordered a CBI probe into Jhalda councillor Tapan Kandu’s



Nine villagers were burnt to death in Birbhum’s Bogtui in suspected retaliation to a TMC leader’s death. File

murder but the TMC government challenged the decision and appealed to a Division Bench. The state Criminal Investigation Department (CID) that initially probed the incident arrested four people. With the Division Bench yet to decide on the appeal, the case is with the CBI at present.

In contrast, a state police SIT arrested 22 people within 72 hours of the violence in Bogtui that was triggered by the death of TMC panchayat leader Bhadu Sheikh. In alleged retaliation, nine people were killed. The violence was attributed to an internal party feud. Banerjee visited Bogtui within three days and ordered the arrest of the party’s Rampurhat-1 Block president Anarul Hossain. She distributed a part of the Rs 7-lakh compensation, including Rs 2 lakh for house repair, during the visit. The rest was given later. On April 4, the chief minister handed over government job letters to 10 family members of the victims.

“We are happy with the chief minister and the administration. Mamata Banerjee kept her promise and gave us compensation and jobs. We were with the Trinamool Congress from the beginning. Now we are waiting to get justice. The accused should be hanged,” Mihilal Sheikh, who received a government job, told The Indian Express over the phone.

The state government also did not challenge the Calcutta High Court’s order for a CBI probe into the alleged retaliatory killings and Bhadu Sheikh’s murder.

“If all cases are to be investigated by the CBI, then what will our police do?” asked senior state minister Firhad Hakim. “Bogtui incident is an appropriate case for the CBI to investigate. But the state police are equipped to handle cases of murder. In Bogtui, those who lost their lives were our supporters and our partymen were also involved. We took immediate action. After the incident when we got to know strict action was taken. In cases like Anis Khan and Tapan Kandu, our party was not involved.”

A senior Trinamool leader, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told The Indian Express that the “different approach” was primarily down to the fact that both the accused and the victims were TMC workers. “Secondly, no matter how good a job the state police would have done, questions would have been raised. Therefore, the CBI is perfect for this case. Secondly, our chief minister did whatever possible for the family members of the victims. Thirdly, even our leaders were not spared,” the leader added.

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said the investigation in all the cases had progressed on

the right path. “Whatever needed to be done, the administration did it,” he added.

But a sceptical Opposition claimed that the state government treated the Birbhum case differently because it was the result of an internal party feud.

“Since its victories in the Assembly and civic polls, the TMC is struggling to control its leaders. With overall supremacy at the grassroots level, the TMC is facing a tremendous internal factional feud. So, in the case of Bogtui, Mamata Banerjee realised that it is time to allow the CBI to investigate even at the cost of sacrificing one faction,” said CPI(M) leader Kallol Majumder.

BJP leader Samik Bhattacharya alleged that the government opposed CBI inquiry in the Anis Khan case and the Kandu murder because “the police are the main culprits”. He added, “The police are now working for the TMC. In this situation, if the state government does not oppose CBI inquiry, then two things may happen — one, the CBI will solve the actual case and will arrest the main culprits; second, if the state government does not safeguard the police, the force may not remain in its control. So, the state government has no option but to oppose a CBI inquiry.”

Political analyst Subhamoy Maitra said the government was “sensitive in the Birbhum case” as it did not want unrest brewing within the TMC’s rank and file in the area.

“Had the hope for justice been lost for a section of party workers, it would have boomeranged for the TMC. Therefore, the party left no stones unturned and no compromise could have been made in the Bogtui case,” Maitra told The Indian Express.

He added, “Before 2021, the TMC had the support and supervision of a professional team. After 2021, the support of the professional team seems to have dwindled. Unlike the BJP or the CPI(M), the TMC is an agenda-based party with weak regimentation.”

in the Sunderbans, in the Northeast.”

Modi said the idea for an Ayush summit came to him “when there was widespread panic across the world” about Covid-19. “Innovation and investment increases capability of any sector... It is time now to increase investment as much as possible in the Ayush sector,” the PM said.

Pointing at “limitless possibilities of innovation and investment” in this sector, Modi highlighted initiatives planned by the government, including aiding farmers, encouraging start-ups and incentivising medical tourism in the Ayush sector.

Speaking about the efficiency of traditional medicine, Modi took the example of Rosemarie Odinga, daughter of former Kenya PM Raila Odinga, and said her blindness was cured by Ayurveda treatment in Kerala.

Modi said Atmanirbhar Bharat existed even in the time of Ramayana when “Hanuman brought herbs from the Himalayas for Lakshman when he fainted”.

Hindutva stand in targeting the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government, in a shift in her political stance. Her statements followed a visit to Delhi last month, where the BJP national vice-president met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, national BJP president J P Nadda and other senior leaders. Earlier this month, Raje accused the Gehlot government in Rajasthan of practising “appeasement politics”, soon after an April 1 order of Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited directed 10 districts under its jurisdiction to ensure there were no power cuts in Muslim-dominated areas during Ramzan.

Delay in implementation of CAA fuelling Matua angst in Bengal: BJP MLA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA, APRIL 20

DAYS BEFORE Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s likely visit to West Bengal, BJP MLA Asim Sarkar on Wednesday said the delay in the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is fuelling apprehensions among the Matua community in the state about the future of the law and they may have to hit the streets in case of further delays.

Sarkar, a BJP legislator from the Matua-dominated Haringhata constituency, said the delay was creating confusion among the people and the refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) who had trusted the saffron camp and ensured the party’s victory in 18 Lok Sabha seats in the state in 2019.

“The Matua community trusted us and voted for us in 18 segments. There is worry among them as to why the CAA has not

been introduced yet. The Matuas may have to come together and hit the streets to press for its implementation,” he said at a programme of the community in North 24 Parganas district.

Prominent Matua leader and Union Minister Shantanu Thakur, who too was present at the programme, said, “The CAA will be implemented and there is nothing to worry about it.”

The promise of implementing the controversial CAA had been a major poll plank of the BJP in the last Lok Sabha and assembly polls.

“The ruling TMC has opposed the CAA. The state must support its implementation,” Sarkar said.

Shah is likely to pay a three-day visit to West Bengal from May 4.

Senior TMC leader and a prominent Matua leader Mamata Bala Thakur alleged that the BJP has tried to fool the state’s people with false promises of citizenship.

Five Bengal BJP MLAs move HC challenging suspension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA, APRIL 20

FIVE BJP MLAs, including Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari, on Wednesday filed petitions in the Calcutta High Court challenging their suspension from the West Bengal Assembly by Speaker Biman Banerjee. The petitions are likely to be heard soon, a lawyer said. The five BJP MLAs were suspended by the Speaker for future sessions this year for their alleged unruly conduct in the House on March 28, the last day of the Budget session. Besides Adhikari, the other MLAs are Dipak Burman, Shankar Ghosh, Manoj Tigga, and Narahari Mahato.

The Assembly had seen chaos on the day as the TMC and BJP MLAs scuffled after the saffron party legislators demanded a statement by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the alleged “worsening” law and order situation in the state.

Baghel and Gehlot present, Prashant Kishor stresses on messaging to revive Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

TWO CONGRESS chief ministers — Rajasthan’s Ashok Gehlot and Chhattisgarh’s Bhupesh Baghel — joined a group of party leaders Wednesday and sat through a presentation by election strategist Prashant Kishor to fine-tune his proposals to make the party battle-ready for 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The two leaders posed several questions to Kishor, including on his bottom-up design to strengthen the party organisation.

Given that both have extensive organisational experience in their previous roles as state Congress presidents and AICC in-charge of states, they are learnt to have focused on Kishor’s emphasis on preparing the party cadre at the booth level, besides improving its communication strategy, refurbishing its image and political messaging, choice of alliances and tactics, including creating divisions in BJP states where Congress is strong.

The deliberations will continue for the next two days and the group of senior leaders, who were asked by party chief Sonia Gandhi to cull out actionable points from Kishor’s proposals

Bengal records 28 new Covid-19 cases, no death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA, APRIL 20

WEST BENGAL’S Covid-19 tally rose to 20,17,874 on Wednesday as 28 more people tested positive for the infection, a bulletin issued by the state health department stated.

The state has been recording infections in double digits at a time when some states, including New Delhi, have been seeing a fresh upward spiral in cases.

The death toll remained unchanged at 21,200 as no fresh fatality was recorded, the bulletin said.

The number of active cases dipped to 258 from 272 on Tuesday, while 42 more people were cured of the disease, taking the total number of recoveries to 19,96,416 and the discharge rate to 98.94 per cent.

The state has thus far tested over 2.4 crore samples for Covid-19, including 9,879 in the last 24 hours, it added.

The group of senior leaders, who were asked by Sonia Gandhi to cull out actionable points from Kishor’s proposals, will submit a report to her.

and find areas of convergence, will submit a report to her. On Wednesday, Sonia attended the nearly five-hour-long meeting at her 10, Janpath residence.

On Kishor’s presence at the meeting, Gehlot said: “Prashant Kishor has become a brand. He was with (Narendra) Modi and BJP for 2014 Lok Sabha polls; then he went with Nitish (Kumar), and then with the Congress in Punjab. He is a professional. There are many others like him — we get in touch with them, too. But Prashant Kishor has become a big name, so the media is focusing on him.”

“We have been taking suggestions from agencies and experts. Since Kishor has become a big name... he is in (the) discussions. If his experience comes in handy... to unite the opposition; to fight against the government (then it will help the Opposition)...”

NOTICE

It is hereby notified to all concern that the present Owner, Sri Surendra Kumar Dalmia, son of Sanwar Mal Dalmia, of 'Promit Apartment', 261, Gorakha Basi Road, Dum Dum, Kolkata-700028, of the property measuring 2 Cottahs 11 Chittaks and 8 Sq.ft. in Mouza Garfa, under R.S. Dag No. 2159, Khaitan No.1591, J.L.No. 19, Touzi No. 56, R.S. No.2, under K.M.C. Ward No. 106, P.S. - Garfa Kolkata, has lost the original Deed of the Property vide Deed No. 8000 for the Year 1987 of D.S.R. Alipore from his custody. The present owner has lodged G.D. Entry 175, dt. 10.01.2018, P.S. Dum Dum. If any one finds the same please contact with the under signed within 7 days from the date hereof with proof otherwise the present owner shall be at liberty to sell the property to any buyer to which no objection will be entertained.

**Swarupa Singha (Advocate)**  
13A, B.L. Ganguly Lane, Kolkata-700033  
Mob. No. 8240067810

After Azam camp’s swipe at SP, Jayant stirs peace buzz with visit



RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary tweeted the photo of his meeting with Azam Khan’s family in Rampur, Wednesday.

ASAD REHMAN  
LUCKNOW, APRIL 20

IN A SURPRISE development, days after the Samajwadi Party was attacked by an aide of its senior leader Azam Khan, for “ignoring” Muslims, SP ally RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary paid a visit to Azam Khan’s wife Tanzeen Fatima and son Abdullah Khan at their Rampur residence on Wednesday. The RLD posted the pictures of the meeting from its official Twitter handle.

While RLD spokesperson Surendra Nath Trivedi termed the meeting a “courtesy visit”, sources said Chaudhary may have met the Khans to try and mend ties between the family and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. Azam Khan remains one of the tallest SP leaders, especially of supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav’s time, and the statement from the Khan camp followed growing talk of Muslim disenchantment with the SP.

“Jayantji was in Rampur for some other programme. Since he was there, he met Azam’s family. Azam Khan is a big leader of Uttar Pradesh and he has been in jail for a long time. If the national president of the RLD is visiting the district, then it is but natural that he visits his family,” said Trivedi.

Sources said Azam Samaj Party chief Chandrashekhar was also scheduled to meet Khan, in jail on Wednesday, but had to cancel it as he fell ill. “He will meet him in jail next week,” said a source, indicating that this might also be an intervention on Akhilesh’s behalf. Chaudhary and Chandrashekhar recently made a joint visit to a village in Rajasthan where a Dalit youth was murdered.

An indication of Khan’s lingering popularity in his bastion

was the victory of both him and Abdullah in the recent polls. Akhilesh, who almost single-handedly spearheaded the SP campaign, made only one appearance with the Khan family during the polls.

On April 10, Khan’s media in-charge Fasahat Ali Khan attacked Akhilesh, arguing that while the SP had won 111 seats in the state “due to the Muslim vote”, the party chief keeps mum when, under the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government, FIRs are lodged against Muslims, their properties attached or recoveries carried out from them. Fasahat also accused Akhilesh of ignoring Khan since he was jailed two years ago, having met him only once. The SP had done well in places with sizeable Muslim population in the recent elections, and of the 36 Muslim MLAs elected, most belong to the party.

Also supporting the idea that Chaudhary’s visit was an outreach to the Khan family, an SP leader said: “There is huge discontent among Muslim leaders in the party. They want Akhilesh to be vocal for the community, but he is playing safe because he fears the SP may lose support of other communities as it woos Muslims.”

On Wednesday, SP Saharanpur leader Sikander Ali quit the party, questioning Akhilesh’s “silence” on issues concerning the Muslim community and accusing him of “politics of cowardice”. Ali has held several district-level posts in the party, and claimed he had been with the SP for over two decades.

Another SP leader said Chaudhary could not have gone to meet Khan’s family without keeping Akhilesh in the loop. “Azam Khan is an SP leader, and if Jayant has met him, it must be after getting a nod from the SP chief.”

‘Invalid’ caste certificate: Governor urged to disqualify Jharkhand MLA

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, APRIL 20

THE RULING coalition in Jharkhand has submitted a memorandum to the governor, seeking cancellation of membership of a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA from the legislative Assembly after his caste certificate was recently declared “invalid”.

Samri Lal got elected from Kanke (reserved) seat on a BJP

ticket in 2019 and the state government earlier this month cancelled the caste certificate issued to him. The group that met the governor comprised Labour Minister Satyanand Bhokta (BJD), state Congress chief Rajesh Thakur, JMM spokesperson and others. They submitted that since Lal’s caste certificate, which he made from Jharkhand after relocating from Rajasthan, has been cancelled, “the point of him being elected remained baseless”.

**THE NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY**  
Kerwa Dam Road, Bhopal-462044 (M.P.)

**RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION**  
(No. – NLIUB/RECR/01/2022B)

NLIU, Bhopal invites online applications for the following Positions :

(1) Registrar (2) Controller of Examination (3) Finance Officer (4) Deputy Registrar (Administration) (5) Deputy Registrar (Examination) (6) Assistant Registrar (Examination) (7) Assistant Director (Sports) (8) Assistant Engineer (9) Assistant Registrar (Finance) and (10) Assistant Librarian.

[From Sl. No. 1-9 (one post each) and Sl. No. 10 two posts]

(a) Last date for receipt of online applications : 20.05.2022 up to 5:00 pm.

(b) For application and other details, please visit [www.recruitment.nliu.ac.in](http://www.recruitment.nliu.ac.in) .

M.P. Madhyam/104488/2022 **O/o REGISTRAR**

**GOKHALE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS**  
(Deemed to be University u/s 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)  
PUNE- 411 004

**ADVERTISEMENT NOTIFICATION FOR THE POST OF REGISTRAR AND ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

The Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics is a one of the oldest research institutes in the country established in 1930 under the aegis of Servants of India Society. The Institute is widely recognized in the country as an advanced centre for the study and research in Economics and allied subject fields. The University Grants Commission, vide its notification no. F.6-4/89(CPP/Desk-C/CPP-I) dated 9-5-1993 has declared the Institute as a Deemed to be University u/s 3 of the UGC Act 1956.

The Institute is seeking applications from eligible candidates for the following teaching and non-teaching positions:

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts	Category
1.	Registrar	01	Open
2.	Assistant Professor	02	Open

For further details on eligibility criteria, pay, application form etc. visit [www.gipe.ac.in](http://www.gipe.ac.in).  
Last date for receipt of applications- May 13, 2022.

**OFFICIATING REGISTRAR**

RAJASTHAN

‘Moderate’ Raje puts Hindutva foot forward as BJP seeks unity

DEEP MUKHERJEE  
JAIPUR, APRIL 20

WHILE THE message emerging from the meeting the BJP central leadership had with its senior Rajasthan leaders on Tuesday was of unity, along with an indication that the party would not project a chief minister face, former CM Vasundhara Raje appears to be positioning herself for the role.

In the past fortnight, Raje has adopted a markedly pro-



Raje during a visit to Karauli after the violence. @VasundharaBJP





WHEN YOU IMMERSE YOURSELF IN MEDICINE  
YOU REALISE THAT HOPE IS NOT ABSOLUTE.  
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. — SIDDHARTHA MUKHERJEE

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

THE ENCROACHMENT

Due process lies at the heart of citizens' rights and freedoms. A bulldozer ran over it in the national capital

THE BULLDOZER IS at the door, due process is underfoot, and the Supreme Court cannot unsee the danger. The sequence of events speaks for itself: At Jahangirpuri in northwest Delhi Wednesday morning, seven bulldozers rolled in, accompanied by over 1,000 policemen, to demolish “illegal encroachments” in an area still tense because of the flaring of communal violence on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti on Saturday — and they continued on their mission to raze for well over an hour after the Supreme Court ordered them to pause. Evidently, the BJP-led North Delhi Municipal Corporation follows the BJP’s agenda ardently, even when the Court directs it to hold its hand, even when it goes against the law. At Jahangirpuri, the fig leaf — of illegal constructions — is so thin it does not even require a puff of Delhi’s acrid air to be blown away. After all, in dense urban sprawls across India, encroachment of public spaces is so widespread that it is not remarkable anymore — what is striking is the selective action taken in its name by the state. In Jahangirpuri, as in Khargone in Madhya Pradesh only days earlier, the timing was a dead giveaway. “Illegal encroachment” has become the pretext for a BJP administration to target “rioters” after the eruption of communal violence, who belong overwhelmingly to one community.

No notices were sent to the residents of Jahangirpuri before bulldozers were sent to demolish structures, many in the vicinity of the mosque that was at the centre of the communal clashes Saturday. Bylaws call for a notice except in the case of public land encroached by temporary structures — what is temporary and what is not needs to be settled as per due process. Therein lies the rub. A bulldozer’s damage can’t be reversed and that’s why this flagrant flouting of due process, and the bid to brazen it out even after the court stepped in to caution and restrain, makes victims of those who were at the receiving end in Jahangirpuri. But it is not only they who are in danger of being left without recourse in the face of this brutish bulldozer politics. Any attack on due process, much less one that is as high-profile and therefore as unabashed as this one, affects all citizens. It goes to the fundamental promise that lies at the heart of a constitutional democracy — to protect lives and safeguard rights. Due process is not just what is written into the rule-book. It is inscribed in the everyday relations between institutions and citizens and government. It is what keeps them honest, and respectful of each other’s freedoms and spaces.

The spectacle in the national capital Wednesday, the intimidatory deployment of bulldozers and police force, the attempt to cock a snook at the judiciary, should set many alarm bells ringing, especially in the court. Illegal encroachments in public spaces need to be addressed — but as per the law. It’s for the Supreme Court to underline this principle, it is the only bulwark for the citizen against a transgressing state. It must act. It cannot kick this can down the road. For the citizen’s sake — and for its own.

FULLER CARE

Initiatives to resuscitate traditional medicine are welcome. There is need to iron out regulatory flaws, remove misapprehensions

INAUGURATING THE WHO’S Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) at Jamnagar in Gujarat on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi talked of the possibilities offered by therapeutic approaches that are different from the allopathic medicine system. Their emphasis on “holistic care” makes traditional medicine systems particularly potent in dealing with the challenges posed by modern lifestyle disorders like diabetes and obesity, he said. Conversations on medical pluralism — one of the stated objectives of the new medical centre — are welcome. They could pave the way for a healthcare ecosystem in which healing approaches based on diverse knowledge systems learn from, and complement, each other. For that to happen, however, there must be thorough stocktaking on why practitioners of different medical systems rarely see eye to eye today. This would involve clearing misapprehensions but also, and equally importantly, ironing out regulatory deficits.

According to WHO data, 65 to 70 per cent of people in India use traditional therapies at some stage in their lives. The turnover of the AYUSH (ayurveda, yoga and naturopathy, unani, siddha and homeopathy) industry has gone up six times in the past eight years. Paradoxically, however, there is a lot of misinformation about such cures and their practitioners are vilified at times. A part of the blame for this must be laid at the door of a section of practitioners who make unsubstantiated claims. During the pandemic, for instance, Baba Ramdev sought to exploit mass anxiety by making wildly inaccurate claims for the products manufactured by his Ayurvedic pharmacy, Patanjali Ayurved. The yoga guru disparaged the allopathic system as a “force” and alleged that lakhs of people had died because of the faulty treatment by doctors practising this system of medicine. Reports of traditional medicine practitioners prescribing allopathic drugs and steroids are also common. At the same time, the grouse of such physicians, about being judged according to criteria designed primarily to ascertain the efficacy of allopathic medicines, deserves serious attention. The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020 does try to resolve this predicament — the act was amended in 2021. But accomplishing one of the major objectives of this law — “ensuring the availability of quality medical professionals of Indian systems of medicine and adoption of the latest research” — will take time.

A growing body of scholarly literature today documents the efforts of a section of traditional medicine practitioners to sync the practices of these systems with modern research protocols. Regulatory bodies and initiatives such as the GCTM would do well to rope in such professionals.

HOW TO GET A TV SHOW

Here’s how, from Piers Morgan’s playbook: Make outrageous statements, play the martyr

IN the age of hyperbole, everything is either “awesome” or “atrocious”, “the best movie ever” or so “problematic” that it represents all that ails society. Yet, even by the standards of the widespread penchant for exaggeration, TV show host and right-wing provocateur Piers Morgan’s claim that he is “like Nelson Mandela when he came out of prison” and that his on-air tantrums and job search are a “long walk to the freedom of expression” is a bit much. And yet, given the sharp lines that have been drawn in the “culture wars”, Morgan’s sense of self-importance is likely to be rewarded by many.

Last March, Morgan walked off his ITV show, *Good Morning Britain*, after a co-panelist confronted him on his statements about Meghan Markle’s interview with Oprah Winfrey. In essence, Morgan said that Markle was faking mental illness in order to gain public sympathy and tarnish the royal family’s image. After a backlash, Morgan was asked to apologise — he quit instead. Now, he claims that his new show on the Rupert Murdoch-owned TalkTV will “stand up for democracy” and against cancel culture.

Shorn of the rhetoric, all that has happened is that a powerful, extremely well-paid person has switched jobs. And even the most ardent opponents of cancel culture will agree that not being on television for a year is hardly the same as being imprisoned for decades and fighting Apartheid. Perhaps Morgan’s life has been such a bed of roses that he has lost all sense of perspective. More likely, though, he has figured out — as so many seem to have across the world — that the best way to be on TV is to upset half the people, make outrageous partisan statements, and use guests on panels to further an agenda.



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

ANYONE WHO HAS ever genuinely immersed themselves in *Ramcharitmanas* will recognise the singular poignancy of one moment in the *Sundarkand* where Hanuman meets Sita. Until that point the story is hurtling towards disaster. Sita has been abducted. Ram is distraught and unsure of himself. But the moment Hanuman meets Sita is the point at which the epic turns; the confidence that order will be restored reappears. Hanuman drops Ram’s ring from the tree. Sita experiences contradictory emotions: joy at recognition of the ring; fear about what its presence might mean. (In Tulsidas’s rendition: *Harsha vishaad hridya akulani*). Sita is thinking many things. Suddenly Hanuman’s words of reassurance break out as he identifies himself. In all musical renditions, whether by Channulal Mishra or the underrated version by Mukesh, the gentle line “*madhur vachana bole Hanumana*” (Hanuman spoke, his words like honey), always stops you in your tracks. Its power is not just the simple poetry but the magical calm it produces, an almost irresistible effect that, for a moment at least, bathes you in gentle reassurance and bliss. That moment is itself the deliverance from all worry, and from evil.

It is a measure of our perversion as a society that Ram and Hanuman are now tropes to prepare the ideological groundwork for pogroms. The communal frenzy that has accompanied Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti, spread across several cities, should leave us in no doubt about the direction in which India is headed. On the surface, the narrative circulating in society is simple “Hindus were taking out processions celebrating festivals. We were asserting our right. We got pelted by stones or worse. The minorities are responsible for this. It shows Hindus are not safe nor do they have space in their own country”. And then the ominous “We need to get rid of them.” This narrative is designed to feed the most contrived sense of Hindu victimhood. This is an old playbook.

What should give us nightmares is this. The simple fact is that this narrative is very widespread. All the arguments that we used about majoritarian communalism in India no longer hold. Its logic is no longer merely instrumental (as if that is not bad enough), that will pass with election cycles. It is no longer

New Hinduism is about wide acceptance of vile prejudice, contempt for rights, glorification of violence

episodic where we can take reassurance that it will somehow pass of its own accord. It is not local in nature, but has taken on a national character. The orgies of hate and prejudice are not aberrations. They are now the norm. They are the norm because the highest levels of political authority, including the prime minister, by silences or dog whistles, condone it. They are the norm because elites openly spout it, without shame. They are the norm because being communal in some ways has become almost a necessary condition of political advancement and is fast becoming the default common sense of civil society.

But what is more ominous is this. Think of what might happen to a society whose dominant religious sensibility literally inverts everything of value. Religion has often been misused and put to grossly perverse and violent uses. But can you think of another occasion in the history of modern Hinduism where everything sacred has become ominous, forms of worship have become fearsome, singing and text weapons, acts of public piety menacing, a sense of community murderous, and any talk of decency or civilisation constraining? That is the fearsome image the organised mobs that masquerade as religious processions now evoke. Let us be very clear. This new form of Hinduism you are seeing unfolding is not an expression of genuine pride and piety. It is meant to be a raw assertion of power and violence to intimidate minorities. It is meant to literally extract reaction (even one photograph will do), that can be used as a pretext to construe all minorities as a threat. The number of seemingly well-meaning people for whom stone-throwing on threatening processions can become a vindication of the deepest prejudices against minorities is truly alarming. It is the one factoid they are looking for to sustain their insidious lie that Hinduism will not be safe unless minorities are shown their place if not erased. This was the mission and the aggressive processions accomplished that. It sustains the insidious lie that the murderous perversion of modern Hinduism, now sustained by state power, is entirely reactive; a belated self-assertion against a minority that dominates us, rather than what it is: Increasingly a drive to violence and cruelty.

Writing on communalism has become a futile act. Who is it addressed to? Certainly

not the state whose ideological practices and power fuel the crisis in the first place. Not civil society, because there is not much of civil society left. Not religious groups. To the votaries of new Hinduism, the only discourse of communalism that matters is one they can use in a discourse of revenge. To Muslims, what reassurance can we now give that asymmetry of numbers, state power and ideological zeal will not be used in a project of their cultural erasure? Those who claim to be secular are bulldozed by the lie that secularism is minority appeasement. To those who want to speak the language of human dignity beyond the vortex of communal identification? Is anybody left in that camp? To the Opposition parties who have no courage of conviction or a grammar of politics that can combat majoritarianism?

There is a comforting fallacy out there that somehow a pragmatic, instrumental logic will at some point assert itself over the politics of Hindutva: Inflation and unemployment will show up the cracks. But this communalism is not always rooted in material conditions. The fact that hordes of young men are seeking vindication and self-esteem through a public display of collective narcissism and violence suggests that communalism is now so deep that even social discontent has to express itself in the language of communalism.

Almost all the preconditions for widespread pogrom-type violence are now in place in India. You almost dread the thought that India has reached a point where the question is not “if” but “when.” What else would you call the widespread acceptance of vile prejudice, the dismantling of any semblance of conscience, the alignment of the state with majoritarian power, the complete effacement of the individual by imposed communal identification, the self-justification of the majority that has cloaked itself as the victim, the total contempt for rights, the glorification of violence, the search for the slightest pretext for revenge, and the radical othering of minorities?

Even Hanuman Jayanti is not the deliverance from evil but us hurtling into it, with eyes wide open.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express



ADITI NARAYANI PASWAN

IT WOULD BE a profound injustice to recognise Babasaheb Ambedkar, whose 131st birth anniversary was recently celebrated, as only a Dalit leader. He also worked hard for the cause of women’s rights, believing that a society’s political, economic and social aspects can only be ameliorated when men and women have equal rights. This piece is therefore a tribute to all the women from the periphery who have either not been heard of or written about but are important. We can’t celebrate Ambedkar without giving due respect and acknowledgement to these women.

The historical and cultural narratives of India have failed to acknowledge the contributions of the women from the margins, as they are either androcentric in approach or reflective of the dominant castes. Remembering unsung Dalit women heroes and their stories of struggle and bravery from across the centuries, will broaden these narratives and help address the institutionalised discrimination Dalit women have faced for centuries.

The story of Sabari from the Ramayana has been used as an example of acceptance, selflessness and unconditional love, and adapted into bhajans and poems. The coming of bhakti saw the emergence of women from the Mahar caste, such as Sant Nirmala and Soyarabai, questioning Hindu orthodoxy. Nangeli fought against the cruel “breast tax” system, which imposed a tax on women of the lower castes who covered their breasts. She cut off one of

UNSUNG DALIT WOMEN HEROES

Their stories must become part of historical, cultural narratives

her breasts and presented it to tax collectors, inspiring other women in the community to cover their breasts unapologetically.

Every section of society attempted to combine social and political liberation during the freedom struggle. Kuyili, who commanded the army of Velu Nachiyar, the queen of Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu, was a Dalit woman who fought against the British around 1780. Jhalkaribai, another fearless Dalit warrior, played a pivotal role in what is known as the First War of Independence in 1857, as the most trusted companion and advisor of Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi. Born in Ujirao, Lucknow, Uda Devi formed a battalion consisting of Dalit women under the leadership of Begum Hazrat Mahal.

Among social reformers, there was Savitribai Phule, a pioneer in education for Dalits, who started a school in 1848 with nine girls. By 1851 this became three schools with around 150 girl students. She also started a school in 1849 with her friend Fatima Sheikh, the Mahila Seva Mandal in 1852 to raise awareness about women’s rights and the Balahatya Pratibandhak Griha, where widows and rape survivors could deliver their babies. Born in the Kaibarta caste community, Rani Rashmoni, protested practices like sati and child marriage and atrocities against lower caste people and even submitted a plea against polygamy to the Company. Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar fought against the

exploitative Devadasi system. In 1936, she published a Tamil novel on Devadasis and wrote the fictional series Damayanthi in 1945.

Dakshayani Velayudhan was the first and only Dalit woman to be elected to the constituent assembly in 1946. She was also a part of the provisional parliament from 1946-1952. Her contribution in civil disobedience and satyagraha is a story that needs to be told.

The bravery of Dalit women has not only been visible in their deeds but also in the words they wrote. In Maharashtra, writers like Shantabai Kamble, Mallika Amar Sheikh and Kumud Pawde shone a light on Dalit feminism through their autobiographies. In Tamil Nadu, writers like Bama and P Sivakami explored gender discrimination as a two-fold oppression. Marathi writers like Urmila Pawar and Meenakshi Moon worked to make Dalit women visible in women’s movement and, through their research and testimonies, brought out the grim reality of the missing voices. Dalit women like Dulari Devi and Mayawati also need to be celebrated. Her conviction and social engineering skills made Mayawati chief minister of UP four times, and through her art, Devi, a Mithila painter from Bihar, tracks the interplay between meaning and power within the hierarchical structures of religion, caste, gender and politics.

The writer is assistant professor, Maitreyi College and founder of DAPSA

APRIL 21, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

PM IN SAUDI ARABIA

INDIA AND SAUDI Arabia underlined the importance of maintaining an atmosphere conducive to further negotiations between Islamabad and New Delhi, to attain the objectives of non-aggression and non-use of force. They agreed that consolidation of Indo-Pak relations would contribute to the security, stability and peace in South Asia, and the entire region according to a joint communique issued at the end of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi’s four-day visit hailed as heralding a new year in Indo-Saudi relations. The communique says that India stressed its desire to establish peaceful and

harmonious relations with all countries including Pakistan.

US FALKLAND MISSION

The United States mission to bring about a settlement of the Falkland dispute between ally Great Britain and semi-ally Argentina has entered into a twilight zone of sorts. The United States envoy Alexander Haig has returned to Washington. He has not succeeded. But he hasn’t failed either. An Argentine proposal talks of flying both Argentinian and British flags over the Falkland islands. The proposal has to be transmitted to Britain.

BAR AGAINST BENCH

SUPREME COURT LAWYERS threatened an indefinite strike unless the chief justice and other judges withdraw the circular that list steps for speedier disposal of cases. The circular said: “The Chief Justice and other judges are anxious to consider and take steps for the speedy disposal of cases in the Supreme Court and as a step in that direction, it has been considered that certain categories of matters should be disposed of by circulation (in chambers)”. The nine categories proposed also include proceedings under section 144 and 143 CrPc, transfer petitions, bail applications and others.



# India's wheat opportunity

It must not rush to encash it. Not delivering on quality or not honouring commitments sustainably can have counterproductive long-term effects



DEVESH ROY AND NEELKANTH MISHRA

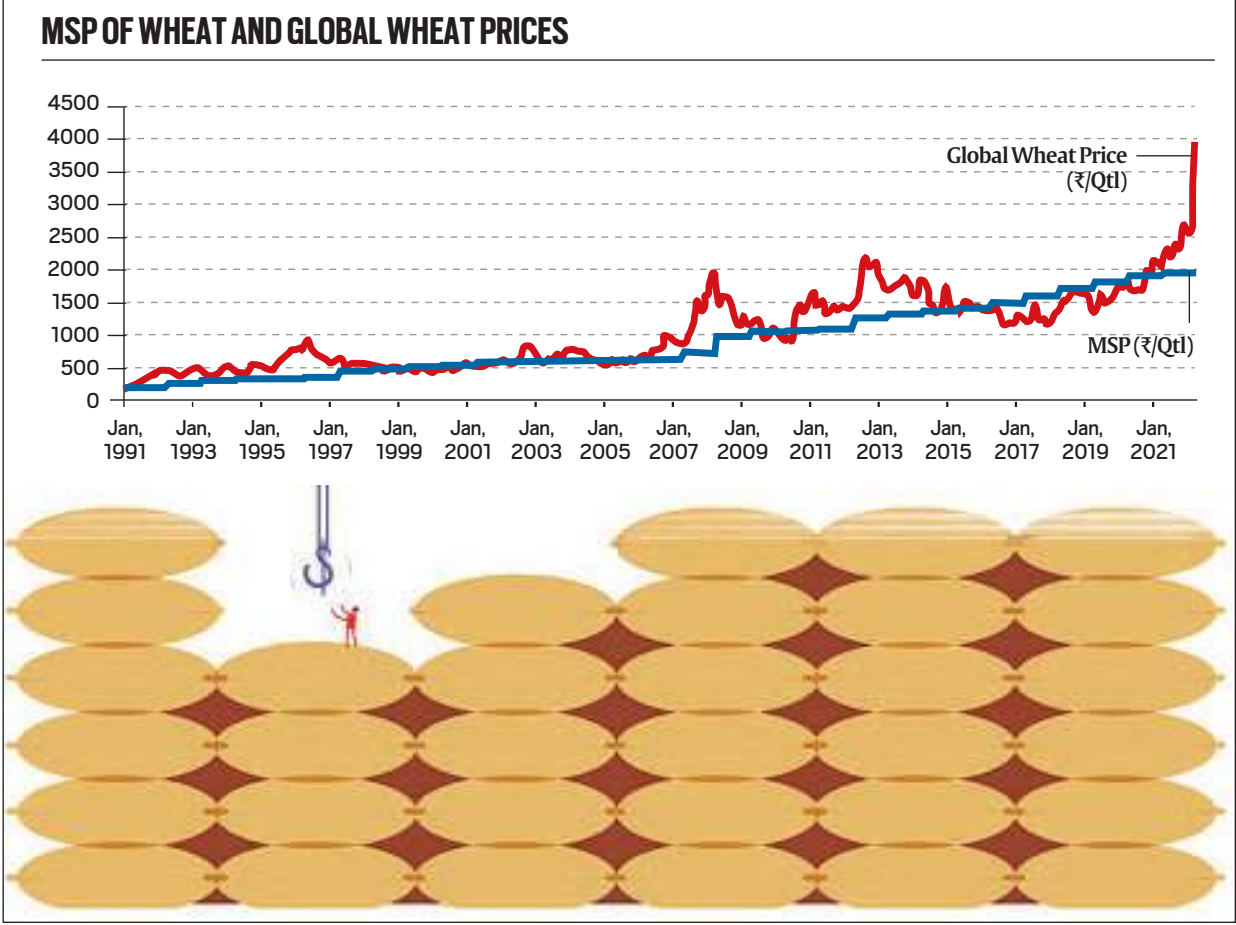
THE EFFECTS OF conflicts show up in countries geographically distant from the war zone. India faces strong headwinds to growth from the surge in energy costs due to the Russia-Ukraine clash and the resultant sanctions. The elevated geopolitical uncertainty also threatens global growth, which hurts Indian exports.

On the other hand, distant countries also get an opportunity to fill the void left by conflict areas being unable to export. Russia and Ukraine together accounted for nearly 30 per cent of global wheat exports. This sudden shortage of wheat in global markets and the surge in prices has spawned a discussion in India on how best to capitalise on the opportunity. India's wheat output has consistently exceeded its demand for the past five years, as seen in the buildup of inventory. Wheat inventory was 23 million tons at the end of February. The rabi harvest, which is projected to be around 111 million tons (this has some downside risk), would augment it significantly. When the last rabi harvest ended in June 2021, with output at 100 million tons, stocks of wheat with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) touched a record high of 60 million tons, two-and-a-half times the buffer norms for July.

It would, therefore, appear that India is ready to reap windfall gains. Yet, on closer look, the prospects for sustained wheat exports appear limited. To start with, the available surplus of around 25 million tons (including the seven million tons exported last year) accumulated over five years, implies an average annual surplus of five million tons. Not only is this a fraction of the nearly 60 million tons of wheat exported annually by Russia and Ukraine, but even at \$500 per ton, it would be worth just \$2.5 billion annually.

Further, given how little political appetite exists in most countries for food price increases, particularly for cereals, exporting foodgrains also requires political resolve. Exporting all the surplus stock would push up domestic wheat prices, potentially inviting restrictions on future exports, similar to the recent hikes in export tariffs on palm oil in Indonesia. Exporting for a year and then banning exports is bad for trade relationships. In agricultural trade, India has the dubious distinction of being an unreliable trading partner, which partly explains its 1 per cent share of global wheat exports despite being the second-largest producer in the world. Rushing to "encash the opportunity" can potentially dent the long-term prospects for agricultural exports.

A bigger concern from the perspective of a sustained opportunity is that Indian wheat is not competitive globally in most years. As the government (through FCI) buys 40 per cent of all the output at the minimum support price (MSP), and FCI holds most of the surplus grain at a high cost, exports only occur when export prices far exceed the MSP (Figure 1). Under WTO commitments, the government (read FCI) may not sell procured grain for commercial gains. For private play-



C R Sasikumar

ers to route the surplus to exports, a large gap is necessary given the additional intermediary (FCI releases wheat into the market, traders buy from the market and then export). As the MSP only rises every year, in years where global prices fall, exports would be difficult.

Consideration of the export parity price (EPP) amplifies the lack of competitiveness. The price a producer can expect to receive is the FoB price (the price when loaded onto the ship) minus the cost of getting the produce from the farm or factory to the border or the port. If the latter is high, as it is in India, the EPP falls for the producer, which further constrains exports. At Rs 1.2 to move one ton per kilometre, domestic rail freight costs are higher than the global average. A study conducted by IIM-Kolkata found that road transport costs from wheat producer-states were even higher — Rs 4.5 from Uttar Pradesh and Rs 2.8 from Madhya Pradesh. Domestic logistic costs in aggregate are over 13 per cent of GDP compared to the global best practice of 8 per cent. There is inefficiency at the ports too. While wheat also uses dry-bulk shipping, in container handling, India's cost per container of \$1,374 is substantially higher than those of other agricultural exporters like Thailand and Vietnam at \$759 and \$913, respectively. The question is: After meeting all the costs, does India remain competitive and leave enough margins for sellers? The crisis can be an opportunity for India to fix the fundamentals, like its "time to trade" and "costs to trade", which are among the highest globally.

Perhaps the most important constraint on sustainable Indian exports is the composition of importers and the role of non-price attributes like food safety, quality, and variety of wheat. Russia exports to Turkey, Egypt, Turkey, and Bangladesh, and Ukraine to Indonesia, Philippines, North Africa,

Perhaps the most important constraint on sustainable Indian exports is the composition of importers and the role of non-price attributes like food safety, quality, and variety of wheat. Russia exports to Turkey, Egypt, Turkey, and Bangladesh, and Ukraine to Indonesia, Philippines, North Africa, Bangladesh, Korea, Thailand, and Spain. Neighbouring Bangladesh importing wheat from Russia and Ukraine when India is accumulating surpluses deserves scrutiny.

Bangladesh, Korea, Thailand, and Spain. Neighbouring Bangladesh importing wheat from Russia and Ukraine when India is accumulating surpluses deserves scrutiny. Generally, though, several of these markets are high value, demanding food safety and quality, and have preferred varieties of wheat. A recent ICRIER study showed that Indian agriculture produce faces more rejections in key export markets compared to other developing countries. India has the highest number of consignment rejections in both European and US markets despite a comparatively low level of agricultural exports. Addressing these challenges, whether concocted or real, would be more helpful in boosting the sustainable export opportunity. Lastly, a long-term sustained export strategy must incorporate the changing nature of global trade. India's opening up of its trade follows the "heterodox" approach: Open on the export side while being restrictive on the import side. This creates political difficulties in trading relations, but may also not be good economics.

Rushing into opportunistic export deals would thus appear to be short-termism, and cannot be a strategy for agricultural exports. Not delivering on quality or not honouring commitments sustainably can have counterproductive long-term effects, hurting India's reputation. Much of the expansion in trade historically has occurred through new products and varieties and new customers, which requires new links, agreements, and looking at opportunity costs of wheat production, market structures within the country (like the FCI's role), as well as reducing the risk of frequent policy interventions.

Roy is a Senior Research Fellow with the International Food Policy Research Institute and Mishra is co-head of APAC Strategy for Credit Suisse. Views are personal

# In a free fall

The politics and economics of freebies are deeply flawed, they are a quick passport to fiscal disaster



N K SINGH

INDIA IS A Union of states. It is not a confederation of states. It is not a question of holding together but of coming together. The Union is indestructible. The configuration of the states which constitute the Union can change. The Union, therefore, is integral to both the Centre and the states. The strength of the Centre lies in the strength of the states.

Therefore, the macroeconomic stability of the Union is contingent on the macroeconomic stability of both the Centre and states. That is why in grappling with the complex issues of the Fifteenth Finance Commission, of which I was the chairman, we devoted the entire Volume-IV to the states. Each state in this volume of the report has been analysed at great length. So have their individual deficits, debts and macroeconomic stability, which includes the developmental challenges each of the states face.

The political dialogue built around freebies is fraught with danger. There is great ambiguity in what "freebies" mean. We need to distinguish between the concept of merit goods and public goods on which expenditure outlays have overall benefits. Examples of this are the strengthening and deepening of the public distribution system, employment guarantee schemes, support to education and enhanced outlays for health, particularly during the pandemic. All over the world, these are considered to be desirable expenditures.

Therefore, it's not about how cheap the freebies are but how expensive they are for the economy, life quality and social cohesion in the long run. We must dread the thought of replicating the culture of competitive freebie politics. We must go the route of achieving higher rates of economic growth. The race to efficiency is the race to prosperity.

There are seven reasons why. First, freebies undercut the basic framework of macroeconomic stability. The politics of freebies distorts expenditure priorities. Outlays are being concentrated on subsidies of one kind or the other. What, therefore, does this mean to fiscal sustainability for states which are already debt-stressed?

Illustratively, in the case of Punjab, while estimates vary, some have speculated that the promise of freebies might cost around Rs 17,000 crore for their implementation. If we take everything impacting the debt ratio of Punjab into account, there is going to be an additional impact of 3 per cent of GSDP. As we know, the debt-to-GDP ratio of Punjab is already at 53.3 per cent for 2021-22, which would worsen on account of these new measures.

Second is the issue of the distortion of expenditure priority. Take, for instance, the change to the new contributory pension

scheme from the old scheme, which had a fixed return. Rajasthan announced that it would revert to the old pension scheme. This decision is regressive as the move away from the old scheme was based on the fact that it was inherently inequitable. The pension and salary revenues of Rajasthan amount to 56 per cent of its tax and non-tax revenues. Thus, 6 per cent of the population, which is made up of civil servants, stands to benefit from 56 per cent of the state's revenues. This is fraught with dangers not only of intergenerational inequality, but also affects the broader principles of equity and morality.

Third, the issue of intergenerational equity leads to greater social inequalities because of expenditure priorities being distorted away from growth-enhancing items.

Fourth, movement away from the environment. When we talk of freebies, it is in the context of providing, for example, free power, or a certain quantum of free power, water and other kinds of consumption goods. This distracts outlays from environmental and sustainable growth, renewable energy and more efficient public transport systems.

Fifth, the distortion of agricultural priorities. This affects agricultural practices which do not depend on extensive use of water and fertilisers. The depleting supply of groundwater is an important issue to consider when speaking of freebies pertaining to free consumption goods and resources.

Sixth, its debilitating effect on the future of manufacturing. Freebies lower the quality and competitiveness of the manufacturing sector by detracting from efficient and competitive infrastructure enabling high-factor efficiencies in the manufacturing sector.

Seventh, this raises the question of whether the time has come to consider recourse mechanisms like subnational bankruptcy. Freebies bring into question market differentiation between profligate and non-profligate states and whether we can have a recourse mechanism for subnational bankruptcy.

The race to the bottom implies government deregulation of markets and business. This means eventually that states compete to underbid each other in lowering taxes, expenditure and regulation. We must strive instead for a race to efficiency through laboratories of democracy and sanguine federalism where states use their authority to harness innovative ideas and solutions to common problems which other states can emulate.

The economics of freebies is invariably wrong. John Maynard Keynes said, "There is no harm in being sometimes wrong — especially if one is promptly found out." In this case, it has been promptly found out that both the economics and politics of freebies are deeply flawed. It is a race to the bottom. Indeed, it is not the road to efficiency or prosperity, but a quick passport to fiscal disaster.

The writer was chairman, 15th Finance Commission. Edited excerpts from a speech delivered at the Annual Day Celebration of the Delhi School of Economics on April 19, 2022



BALBIR PUNJ

# Ignorance isn't bliss

Understanding trail of hate in India requires honest examination of its origins

HATE AND BIGOTRY feed on each other. They germinate and flourish on a toxic diet of divisive and schismatic ideologies and polarising creeds that discriminate against human beings on the basis of colour, region, gender, faith — and divide between believers and non-believers — ranging the chosen ones against the idolatrous.

'Calling out hate' by S Y Quraishi (IE, April 15) has little to do with the anatomy of hate or its ongoing malignancy. It is more of an *ad hominem* attack on the ruling dispensation. A complex phenomenon has been over-simplified to suit a convenient political narrative. The arguments are dearly familiar, facts dodgy and conclusions delusional.

For aeons, India has had syncretic traditions inspired by the Vedic aphorism, "Ekam sad vipra bahudha vadanti" (there is only one truth and learned persons call it by many names). Because of this underpinning, Indian society has never insisted on uniformity in any facet of life. Indian philosophy is a smorgasbord of varied ideas and traditions — incongruous at times, but always a part of a harmonious milieu.

This equanimity of Indian society was, however, disrupted by invading creeds claiming only their God, and His messenger were true, and the rest were false and worthy of destruction, along with their followers and places of worship.

The first such incursion came in 712, when Muhammad bin Qasim vanquished Sindh,

and as *Chach Nama*, a contemporary Arab chronicle states, introduced the practice of treating local Hindus as *zimmis*, forcing them to pay *jizya* (a poll tax), as a penalty to live by their beliefs. "Hate" and "bigotry" thus made their debut in India, which was hitherto free from this virus. Pakistan's official website credits this invasion as when the country was born as an Islamic nation in the Subcontinent.

In the 11th century, Mahmud of Ghazni, while receiving the caliphate honours on his accession to the throne, took a vow to wage jihad every year against Indian idolaters. During his 32-year reign, he did keep his solemn promise over a dozen times. The rest is history.

But why go into the distant past? Unfortunately, the trail of hate unleashed over a thousand years ago continues to haunt us even today. The last 100-odd years witnessed the Moplah riots, Partition, and the decimation of Hindus/Sikhs/Buddhists in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Kashmir Valley. The recent pre-planned attacks on Ram Navami processions in over half a dozen states, and the onslaught on the Hanuman Janamutsav rally have reminded us that the ogre of hate is alive and stinging.

It's uncanny: While communal mayhem was going on in India, Muslim mobs were fighting pitched battles against the police in dozens of towns in Spain, Sweden and the city of Jerusalem. In Sweden, Muslims were agitated over blasphemy involving the holy

Quran. Protests in Spain are against the imprisonment of a rapper convicted of insulting the monarchy and praising terrorist violence. While the issues involving these sordid episodes may differ, the pattern is common.

Were the Hindu-Muslim relations peaceful in the past and have soured post-2014? The fact is, ties between the two communities were seldom cordial. There were intermittent skirmishes, wars and occasional short-lived opportunistic alliances. Is the current dispensation responsible for Muslim alienation? Remember, even Gandhiji failed to wean Muslims from Muhammad Ali Jinnah's schismatic movement.

In the aftermath of the Moplah violence and communal riots at several places in India, Gandhiji observed in Young India (May 24, 1924): "My own experience but confirms the opinion that the Musalman as a rule is a bully, and the Hindu as a rule is a coward". Nothing much has since changed in the Subcontinent.

Can laws or police fight hate? No. If they could, Kashmiri Hindus wouldn't have gone through the hell they did in the 1990s, and would have been happily back in their homes by now. India is a secular democracy, not because of its Constitution. It's the other way round. When Pakistan declared itself an Islamic Republic in 1947, it would have been natural for India to identify itself as a Hindu state. It didn't, and couldn't have — because of its Hindu ethos of pluralism. A Hindu-dominated India, is, and will always be, catholic,

plural, myriad and a vibrant democracy.

George Orwell said, "The relative freedom which we enjoy depends on public opinion. The law is no protection. Governments make laws, but whether they are carried out, and how the police behave, depends on the general temper in the country".

Can one fight hate selectively? The burning of Graham Staines and his children is reprehensible. So was the lynching of Akhlaq and Junaid. But why the cowering silence on the dastardly gunning down of Swami Lakshmanananda Saraswati and four of his disciples (August 2008) in Orissa for which seven Christians and a Maoist have been convicted? Over a dozen Muslim workers of the BJP have been killed in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India in the recent past. These victims of hate are, of course, ignored. Their deaths don't suit the narrative.

Charged reactions, punctuated with half-truths, deliberate omissions and tailored narratives, offer no real solution. Pusillanimity to face facts will only exacerbate the situation and give egregious results. Ignorance is not always bliss.

In this context, it's relevant to recall what Lester Pearson (14th PM of Canada) said: "Misunderstanding arising from ignorance breeds fear, and fear remains the greatest enemy of peace."

The writer is a former Member of Parliament and a columnist

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### GAME OF PRIVILEGE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Family game' (IE, April 20). Cricket in India, by all accounts, is alluring — for players, spectators, sponsors and management boards. While the players have to prove themselves to stay in the game, the spectators have to buy tickets, sometimes at a premium, sponsors have to shell out astronomical amounts to catch people's fancy, there are no real constraining factors for those running the whole show. The authority baton gets passed, and quite naturally too, to the next in the family, letting the family members enjoy the status, power and pelf without a break. Even the apex court's interventions have not been able to change this inherent structure. If the government is really keen to usher transparency in the functioning of the cash-rich BCCI, it must step in to stem the rot. But then, the political class and cricket officials make for more than cosy company, don't they?

Vijai Pant, *Hempur*

### RESPECT HOUSE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Living in a shrunken house' (IE, April 20). The parliamentarians of the early decades of independent India had set elevated standards for their successors by engaging in quality deliberation in Parliament and by showing the utmost respect for parlia-

mentary decorum. The issues of national interest should prevail over partisan consensus on any subject that has been brought in front of the legislature for thorough scrutiny. The anti-defection law ties a parliamentarian's hands during the voting process, but their independent opinion on the floor of the house isn't covered under the purview of the law in normal circumstances. The floor leaders and party whips of different political parties should respect the differences of opinions of their fellow party men and co-equal colleagues.

Sudip Kumar Dey, *Barasat*

### FACE THE TRAGEDY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The dead must count' (IE, April 20). The controversy over the mortality data in the Covid pandemic has reached new heights, with the Indian government's alleged efforts to resist the WHO's report. The virtual collapse of the healthcare system in the second wave, the numerous shallow graves on river banks, and the shortage of vaccines pointed to the government's shortcomings. Unfortunately, attributing failures to a global conspiracy aimed at tarnishing India's image is an oft-used recourse. An impartial, all-encompassing survey on the number of deaths in the pandemic is the need of the hour and would mark the first step towards rebuilding trust and honouring the dead.

Ila Railkar, *Mumbai*



Top court commutes death penalty to 20-year jail in minor’s rape-murder case

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE SUPREME Court has commuted the death sentence of a man, who had sexually assaulted and killed a four-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh in April 2013, to 20-year imprisonment.

Citing Irish poet and playwright Oscar Wilde’s famous lines “the only difference between the saint and the sinner is that every saint has a past and every sinner has a future”, a bench of Justices U U Lalit, S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi also refused to sentence convict Mohd Firoz to imprisonment for the rest of his life and instead ordered 20-year imprisonment.

“...one of the basic principles of restorative justice as developed by this court over the years, also is to give an opportunity to the offender to repair the damage caused, and to become a socially useful individual, when he is released from the jail,” Justice Trivedi writing for the bench said in the court’s April 19 order. The court observed “one of

**Convict had sexually assaulted and killed a four-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh in April 2013; trial court had awarded death to him while co-accused was given seven-year rigorous jail term**

the most barbaric and ugly human faces has surfaced”. “A tiny bud like girl was smothered by the appellant before she could blossom in this world. Any sympathy shown to the appellant would lead to miscarriage of justice. This court has not treated such cases as the rarest of rare,” reads the order.

The trial court had awarded death sentence to Firoz and his co-accused Rakesh Choudhary was handed seven-year rigorous imprisonment.

On appeal, the Jabalpur bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court acquitted Choudhary but confirmed Firoz’s death sentence.

J&K admin sets aside 18,000 kanal land for industrial use

NAVEEDIQBAL  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 20

A YEAR after Jammu and Kashmir notified a fresh industrial policy, the administration has made available more than 18,000 kanals of land for the purpose of setting up industrial units. Out of this, 5,747 kanals have been allotted in Kashmir, according to an official. Ranjan Thakur, Principal Secretary of the Industries and Commerce Department, told *The Indian Express* that land for the industrial units have been provided

at multiple locations in the Valley but “largely in Pulwama, where we have cleared up about 2,000 kanals for this”.

Lassipora in Pulwama, Thakur said, has emerged as an area of interest among the investors because of its connectivity to the highway. All of this, he said, is state land and the government has “not acquired a single kanal under the land acquisition Act”. Change of land use from agricultural to non-agricultural purposes has been permitted, he said.

According to the administration, investment of more than



**READY FOR THE PLUNGE:** *INS Vagsheer*, the sixth and final submarine of Indian Navy’s Project 75, was launched at Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited on Wednesday. *Pradip Das*

Govt focusing on decriminalising bona fide action, omissions: Gauba

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE GOVERNMENT is focusing on decriminalising bona fide action or omissions which are not fraudulent, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba said on Wednesday. Addressing a gathering of civil servants to mark the 15th Civil Services Day, Gauba said this move was as per the concept of “trust-based governance”. “The risk of imprisonment for actions

or omissions that aren’t fraudulent or the outcome of malafide intent is a huge problem for citizens, for private sector, creating opportunities for harassment and rent seeking,” he said. On the Prime Minister’s directions, we are now focusing on decriminalisation of such minor offences and violations, he said.

“This work needs to be taken up as a mission by each one of us,” Gauba said after inaugurating the celebrations in Delhi. “We need to constantly learn, innovate and

Karnataka: Lecturer, 2 others held for harassing woman colleague

KIRAN PARASHAR  
BENGALURU, APRIL 20

POLICE ON Wednesday arrested three persons including a lecturer of a college in Mangaluru for alleged sexual harassment of a woman colleague.

Police identified the accused as an economics lecturer, a college correspondent, and a physical education director. The police sources said, “The accused wrote contact number and email address on the walls of public toilets and bus stands in many places of the state including Mysuru, Madikeri,

Chikkamagaluru, Mudigere, Balehonnur, NR Pura and Shivamogga. The incident came to light when the victim started receiving phone calls seeking sexual favours.”

The accused had been sending obscene WhatsApp messages to the victim since November last year. The victim received more than 500 calls by unknown persons seeking sexual favours till February, police said.

A case was registered at the Women’s Police Station under IPC sections 507, 509, 149 and 354. The police officials said that the accused had also sent hundreds of postcards and letters with objectionable content about the woman to the her colleagues, college principal and other officials in the department of collegiate education.

“While checking the track record of a few suspects, we found out that these people were in places where the victim’s posters were pasted on toilet walls. We got CCTV footage evidence, which led to their arrest,” said an officer. Police seized three mobile phones from the accused.

Union Minister raises Islamic terror, ‘love jihad’

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, APRIL 20



Union minister V Muraleedharan

SENIOR BJP leader and Union minister V Muraleedharan on Wednesday said Islamic terrorism has caused much loss to Christian churches across the world as he gave the examples of Iraq, Syria and Sri Lanka.

“Much Christian blood has flowed in Iraq, Syria and even in India’s neighbouring country Sri Lanka. Christians were massacred in Sri Lanka on Easter day in 2018 by Islamic extremists at a time when Pope Francis exhorts to love everyone,” said the Minister of State for External Affairs.

He was addressing a felicitation event held after the consecration of Archbishop Joseph Pamplany at Thalassery in Kannur.

Muraleedharan said there is nothing unusual if the Church leadership has concerns about Islamic terrorism. The Narendra Modi government sees the anxiety of the Church with great concern, he said, adding that the Centre would not adopt a negative approach towards the issues raised by it.

Muraleedharan also took a dig at the Left, saying that CPI(M) leader George M Thomas and Left ally Kerala

Congress (M) chairman Jose K Mani had shared their concerns over “love jihad” as well but had to retract their statements.

“It is a matter of concern that cases are registered against bishops if they use the word jihad. Who else other than the Church leadership can say that there is a planned attempt to convert Christian women? There are lot of evidences about trapping Christian women in love jihad,” the minister said.

CPI(M) MP John Brittas, in his address, hit back without naming either the minister or the BJP. “Beware of the wolves in sheep’s clothing,” he said.

The Union minister’s remarks at a Church event assumes significance against the backdrop of the state BJP’s move to start a campaign against “religious terrorism”. Recently, state BJP president K Surendran announced that Union Home Minister Amit Shah would attend a state leadership meeting of the party on April 29 and chalk out the action plan against countering “religious terrorism”.

CPM publicly censures former MLA for remark against interfaith marriage

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, APRIL 20

THE KOZHIKODE district committee of the CPI(M) on Wednesday publicly censured former party legislator George M Thomas for his recent comment that “love jihad is a reality and interfaith marriage by a party worker shattered the religious harmony in the region”.

According to the CPI(M) constitution, ‘public censure’ is the third harshest disciplinary action, starting from warning, followed by censure, public censure, removal from a party post, and dismissal from party membership.

The disciplinary action against Thomas, who is a district secretariat member of the party in Kozhikode, was taken at a meeting of the party’s district committee. The action against Thomas, the lone Christian face of the party in the district, came a day after the state leadership said his statement was against the party’s stand on the issue.

After the meeting, CPI(M)’s district secretary P Mohanan said Thomas’s comment on interfaith marriage was against the secular stand of the party. “He understood the mistake and tendered an apology. As he realises the gravity of the issue, the party decided to publicly censure him. The disciplinary action against Thomas was taken unanimously. There will not be any further disciplinary action,” said Mohanan.

12 years on, woman gets life term for killing infant daughter

SADAFMODAK  
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

TWELVE YEARS after a woman was booked for throwing her premature one-and-a-half-month-old daughter from the bathroom window of KEM Hospital, leading to her death, a sessions court on Wednesday sentenced the woman to life imprisonment.

Dipika Parmar, now 42, had to undergo treatment after the incident and was diagnosed with post-partum depression.

Additional Sessions Judge Ajay Daga convicted Parmar under sections 302 (murder) and 317 (parent leaving a child with intention to abandon) of the Indian Penal Code.

The incident took place on October 26, 2010, at BMC-run KEM Hospital, where Parmar was admitted a day earlier with her premature twins – a son and daughter. Both were underweight and required treatment.

Around 5 am, Parmar told the nurse on duty in the ward that her daughter has been stolen. The nurse, who deposed as a witness in the case, alerted the security guards, who began looking for the infant. A guard heard a crying baby outside a bathroom window and followed the sound. He, along with Parmar’s husband, found the injured in-

fant lying on a pile of clothes. The infant was shifted to the casualty ward, where she later succumbed to her injuries.

According to the police, Parmar had first claimed that she had gone to wash her clothes when her daughter was stolen. The prosecution, led by Ranjana Budhwant, told the court that the CCTV footage from the ward showed that Parmar had gone to the bathroom with the infant and returned empty-handed. Based on this, she was arrested but granted bail in December 2010.

The prosecution had examined nine witnesses, including three security guards, a nurse, a man present in the ward with his infant at the time of the incident and others.

Maintaining that the prosecution had not examined other independent witnesses, lawyer Devendra Yadav, representing Parmar, told the court that there were discrepancies in the manner in which CCTV camera footage was saved and hence, it could not be relied upon. He also brought as a defence witness then head of department (HOD) of KEM hospital’s psychiatry, under whom Parmar had undergone treatment for post-partum depression after her daughter died.

The HOD told the court that

Parmar had earlier twice undergone failed child births – she once had a miscarriage and also lost a child after birth.

She added that Parmar had post-partum disorder and had not eaten, slept or rested properly since the birth of her twins. She said that Parmar and her husband, who suffered from leprosy, were living in poverty and the medical condition of their twins had stressed them out. The doctor told the court that Parmar had told her that they had borrowed over Rs 1 lakh to pay a private hospital during her previous pregnancies.

When she was told that to save her daughter who was born premature, she would have to pay Rs 200 per day for a ICU bed, she was under tremendous pressure, the HOD alleged. She added that Parmar’s son was kept away from her, fearing that she would commit infanticide till her condition improved.

Yadav told the court that despite knowing that Parmar was being treated, her doctor’s statement was not recorded.

Budhwant told the court that while Parmar was treated after her the infant died, she was in a good condition till then and had not made any complaints before the incident took place.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,**  
**KALAHANDI RWS&S DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA.**  
**CANCELLATION OF BID THROUGH e-TENDERING**  
Bid Identification No- 01/SE/RWSS/2022-23/ Bpt Dated. 02.04.2022  
**01. Name of the work:- As per ANNEXURE - A**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding on office hour only.		Date of opening (Technical Bid)
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna	01/SE/RWSS/2022-23/ Bpt Dated- 02.04.2022	16.04.2022 10.00 AM	06.05.2022 05.30 PM	07.05.2022 10.00 AM onwards

**CANCELLATION OF BID DUE TO SOME UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCE** Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna  
OIPR-25005/11/0003/2223

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA,**  
**“e”- PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
E-mail: ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com  
3rd corrigendum to Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O) / 27/2021-22  
File No - P-IM -Misc.10/2008(Pt.)

The tender invited for the work at (SI No. 06) Improvement and widening to Karapalli Markandi road from 9/850km to 17/380km. (ODR) from SL to DL) in the District of Ganjam under NABARD Assistance, Tender ID No. 2022\_EICCL\_75618\_6 is hereby cancelled. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-  
**Chief Engineer**  
**World Bank Project, Odisha**  
OIPR- 34003/11/0003/2223

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-2**  
**2142 JANTA FLATS G.T.B. ENCLAVE DELHI-110093**  
**“Stop Corona: Wear mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene”**  
**PRESS NIT NO-02 (2022-23)**

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender	Date of release of tender in E-Procurement solution	Last date/ time of receipt of tender through E-Procurement solution
1	Engagement of 10 nos S.G. Beldar for on contract basis for maintenance of sewerage system in Gokulpur AC-68	Item rate	19.04.2022 2022_DJB_220717_1	26-04-2022 3:10 PM

Further details in this regards can be seen at <https://delhi.govtprocurement.com>  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (Water) Sd/- V.K. CHAUHAN  
Advt No. J.S.V. 44(2022-23) Ex. ENGINEER (T)-2

**DELHI JAL BOARD (Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi)**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (C)-5**  
**THROUGH DY. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER(C)DR-III**  
**Kanhaiya Nagar, Delhi - 110035**  
Phone: 011-27394876 Email: eecd3@gmail.com  
**“STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene”**  
**PRESS NIT NO- 01 (2022-23)**

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender	Earnest Money (EMD) (Rs.)	Tender processing Fee Non Refundable (Rs.)	Date of Release of Tender/ Tender Id.	Last date/time of receipt of tender
1.	Construction of 2 MGD SPS and allied works at Gandhi Vihar Resettlement Colony in Adarsh Nagar AC-4.	Rs. 1,48,14,184/- (Civil Work), Percentage Rate (E&M Work)* (O&M for 12 years i/c 2 years DLP) Item Rate	Rs. 10,18,000/-	1500/-	19.04.2022 / 2022_DJB_220586_1	10.05.2022 upto 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/-  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 45 (2022-23) Dy. SE(C) DR-III

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR**  
(E-Mail:- [serwbpr2004@yahoo.com](mailto:serwbpr2004@yahoo.com), Tel/Fax:- 0680-2404287)  
At- Ambapua Po:- Engineering School Near Income Tax office, Berhampur- 760011

**NOTICE**  
**FOR PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)**  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH “e”-Procurement**  
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/07-2022-23/PMGSY(Missing Link)/BPR

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Bridge works (Balance Work) under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the districts of Kandhamal for 01 (One) number of works with estimated cost totalling to Rs 2.81 Cr (Approximate) including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement. Dtd. **22.04.2022**  
**Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission:** The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in [www.pmgstyenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgstyenders.gov.in). The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security declaration and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (i) of ITB with Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur // Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division, Balliguda on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. **Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 06.05.2022 upto 3.00 P.M**  
For further details and corrigendum (if any) please log on to [www.pmgstyenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgstyenders.gov.in).

Sd/- P.K.Jena  
**Chief Construction Engineer**  
**R.W.Circle, Berhampur**  
OIPR- 25071/11/0011/2223

**DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (P)-2/EE(WW)PROJECT-I**  
FLAT NO.- E-1, TYPE-IV, STAFF QTRS. JHANEWALAN, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005  
Email: [djbeeemil@gmail.com](mailto:djbeeemil@gmail.com)  
**Press NIT No- 01 (2022-23)**

NIT No.	Name of work	Estimate Cost	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of release of Tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 150 Nos. tube wells along with Automation, O&M for 2 Yrs. at Niloti and Najatgarh for augmentation water supply	Percentage Rate	28,16,500/-	Tender Id: 2022_DJB_220890_1 Publish Date 19-Apr-2022 02:00 PM onward	04-May-2022 up to 03:15 PM

NIT along with all terms & conditions is available on DJB website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/-  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 46 (2022-23) **“STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene”** EE (WW) PROJECT-I

**DELHI JAL BOARD (GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI)**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (C)-4**  
**THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR-VI**  
**LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110024**  
**STOP CORONA : WASH YOUR HANDS, WEAR MASK, MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE**

NIT No.	Name Of work	Amount put to tender (In Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Non-Refundable Tender Fee	Completion Period	Last date/time for tender download through e-procurement solution
1	Providing and laying 300 mm to 500 mm nominal dia Internal and peripheral sewerage line in Dera Mandi under Chhattarpur assembly constituency, South Delhi Tender Id: 2022_DJB_220609_1	11,89,21,952/-	23,78,500/-	1500/-	12+3 Months Period = 15 Months	10.05.2022 upto 3.00 PM
2	Providing and laying 300 mm to 500 mm nominal dia Internal and peripheral sewerage line in Chandan Hota & Satban under Chhattarpur assembly constituency, South Delhi Tender Id: 2022_DJB_220617_1	59,07,20,924/-	1,18,14,500/-	1500/-	12+3 Months Period = 15 Months	10.05.2022 upto 3.00 PM
3	Providing and laying 300 mm to 600 mm nominal dia Internal and peripheral sewerage line in Fatehpurbi, Asola & Bhati village under Chhattarpur assembly constituency, South Delhi Tender Id: 2022_DJB_220624_1	48,28,78,750/-	96,58,000/-	1500/-	12+3 Months Period = 15 Months	10.05.2022 upto 3.00 PM
4	Providing and laying 300 mm to 600 mm nominal dia Internal and peripheral sewerage line in Rajpur Khurd (Maidangarh) under Chhattarpur assembly constituency, South Delhi. Tender Id: 2022_DJB_220628_1	37,22,08,364/-	74,44,200/-	1500/-	12+3 Months Period = 15 Months	10.05.2022 upto 3.00 PM

Further, details in this regard can be seen at <https://govt.procurement.delhi.gov.in>  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/- (Tausif Saifuddin)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 47 (2022-23) EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR-VI



# 9 | E. EXPLAINED

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022



@ieExplained

#ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## THIS WORD MEANS

### 20A OF SRI LANKA CONSTITUTION

To douse Sri Lanka fire, an attempt to reduce the President's powers

SRI LANKA'S embattled Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has promised to repeal the 20th amendment to the country's constitution, and to bring back clauses of the 19th amendment (which had been rolled back) as the 21st amendment. An escalation of the unrest in the country is likely after police in central Sri Lanka shot and killed a man protesting food shortages and high fuel prices on Tuesday.

**19TH AMENDMENT:** The 19th amendment, rushed through by the United National Party (UNP) regime led by then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in April 2015, took away the powers of the President to remove the PM and the Cabinet at his discretion.

Following the amendments to Articles 46(2) and 48 of the constitution, ministers could be removed only if the PM ceased to hold office by death, resignation or otherwise, or if Parliament rejected a government policy or the budget, or if the government lost a vote of confidence in the House.

The amendment was criticised as having been brought for political reasons and passed without following proper procedure. Wickremesinghe pushed changes in the draft even during its third reading by Parliament.

**20TH AMENDMENT:** The 20th amendment (known as 20A) passed in October 2020 turned the clock back on 19A. The amendment restored and enhanced to an unprecedented degree the executive powers of the President, and abolished the independent constitutional council for a Parliamentary Council. It gave the President power to dissolve parliament and remove the PM, nominate the country's top judge, and gave him legal immunity for his actions. It also allowed those with dual citizenship to hold political office.

The amendment, which was pushed by



Protest in Colombo amid the country's economic crisis. *Reuters*

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and passed by a two-thirds majority in parliament, was criticised for destroying the balance between the legislature, executive, and judiciary, and for centralising power in the hands of one individual. The changes were opposed by not just Tamils and other minority groups, but also by some Sinhala Buddhists.

The ruling party argued that 20A was needed for reasons of national security and economic development.

**PROPOSED 21ST AMENDMENT:** The changes proposed by Prime Minister Rajapaksa seek to remove several key powers of the President, essentially reducing the presidency to a ceremonial position. It is expected that the amendment might hand over almost all key powers of the President to the PM, except, possibly, those relating to the three armed forces. The attempt to douse the flames at a time when Galle Face in Colombo is witnessing huge gatherings of protesters seeking the President's resignation, and the government has its back to the wall with very few options left.

ARUN JANARDHANAN

Longer version on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## EVERYDAY EXPLAINERS

### ECONOMICS

## WHAT ARE DIGITAL BANKING UNITS, AND WHAT SERVICES WILL THEY PROVIDE?

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday reiterated her Budget announcement on setting up 75 digital banking units in 75 districts this year.

**WHAT IT MEANS:** Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of India announced the guidelines for DBUs, following the report of a working group of the Indian Banks Association. A digital banking unit is a specialised fixed-point business unit or hub housing certain minimum digital infrastructure for delivering digital banking products and services as well as servicing existing financial products and services digitally in self-service mode at any time.

Commercial banks (other than regional rural banks, payment banks and local area banks) with digital banking experience are permitted to open DBUs in tier 1 to tier 6 centres, unless specifically restricted, without needing to take permission from the RBI in each case.

**SERVICES:** As per the RBI, each DBU must offer certain minimum digital bank-

ing products and services. Such products should be on both liabilities and assets side of the balance sheet of the digital banking segment. Digitally value-added services to conventional products would also qualify.

The services include savings bank accounts under various schemes, current accounts, fixed deposits and recurring deposit accounts, mobile banking, Internet banking, debit cards, credit cards, and mass transit system cards, digital kit for merchants, UPI QR code, BHIM Aadhaar and point of sale).

Other services include making applications for and onboarding of customers for identified retail, MSME or schematic loans. These may also include end-to-end digital processing of such loans, starting from on-line application to disbursement and identified government sponsored schemes that are covered under the national portal.

PRANAV MUKUL

Longer version on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)


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# Life and legend of Guru Tegh Bahadur, who stood up to the Mughals

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA  
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 20

TO MARK the 401st birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh guru who stood up against forcible conversions by the Mughals, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will give an address from the Red Fort on Thursday. The BJP has been trying to reach out to the Sikh community ever since it decided to go it alone in the Punjab elections following the breakdown of the alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal over the three farm laws.

### The ninth Guru

Tegh Bahadur was born in Amritsar on April 21, 1621 to Mata Nanki and Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh guru.

Tegh Bahadur was married to Mata Gujri at Kartarpur in 1632, and subsequently left for Bakala near Amritsar.

After Guru Ram Das, the fourth Sikh guru, the guruship became hereditary. When Tegh Bahadur's elder brother Gurditta died young, the guruship went to his 14-year-old son,

Guru Har Rai, in 1644. He remained on the seat until his death at the age of 31 in 1661.

Guru Har Rai was succeeded by his five-year-old son Guru Har Krishan, who passed away in Delhi in 1664 before he could reach the age of eight. It is said that when asked about his successor, he took the name of "Baba Bakala", his grand uncle. But since Guru Har Krishan hadn't directly named Guru Tegh Bahadur, many claimants cropped up.

Dr Hardev Singh from the Department of Religious Studies, Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University, Fatehgarh Sahib, said that according to lore, Makhan Shah, a wealthy trader whose ship was caught in a storm at sea, had prayed that if it was saved he would give 500 gold mohurs to the reigning guru. But when he reached Delhi, he learnt that Har Krishan had passed away and there was a line of claimants at Bakala. It is said that he decided that whoever was the real guru would ask him for the exact sum he had promised in his prayers.

He had exhausted his options when he was told about Tegh Bahadur meditating in the *bhora* (basement). Tegh Bahadur took one



Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib, built at the site in Delhi where Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed. *Express Archive*

look at Makhan Shah, and told him he had promised 500 coins. An ecstatic Makhan Shah is said to have run to the rooftop and shouted "Guru ladho re (I have found the guru)." Soon afterward, Tegh Bahadur moved to Kiratpur Sahib. In 1665, he bought land at

Makhwal village and renamed it Chak Nanki (now Anandpur Sahib) after his mother.

### The Guru's times

Aurangzeb was the ruling Mughal emperor. "There were conversions, either through a government order or through coercion. When people were charged with some crime or misdemeanour, they would be pardoned if they converted," Dr Hardev Singh said.

Guru Tegh Bahadur, who started travelling extensively through Malwa and Majha, first came into conflict with the authorities when he started questioning the tradition of worshipping at the graves of *pirs* and *faqirs*.

As his message began to spread, a local chieftain at Dhamtan near Jind in present-day Haryana picked him up on fabricated charges of collecting revenue from villagers, and took him to Delhi. But Raja Ram Singh of Amer, whose family was a long-time follower of the Gurus, intervened and kept him in his house for around two months until he convinced Aurangzeb that the Guru was a holy man with no political ambitions.



Varanasi's Integrated Command and Control Centre, which — like other ICCCs — served as war-rooms for Covid-19 management during the pandemic. *Express Archive*

Internet infrastructure, these centres have since evolved to monitor various other parameters. The ICCCs are now also linked to the CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems) network under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The ICCC acts of a smart city acts as a "nerve centre" for operations management. It processes a complex and large pool of data sets at an aggregated level. For example, it is now the go-to source for integrated traffic management monitoring.

The ICCC is the nodal point of availability of all online data and information relating to smart services included in a smart city, such as like LED street lighting, CCTV surveillance cameras, air quality sensors, smart parking system, WiFi, electricity and water supply and billing, GIS, e-hospitals, property tax management, estate management, engineering systems, asset management systems, and other services.

During the pandemic, they also served as war-rooms for Covid-19 management.

### How did the ICCCs help in management of Covid-19?

During the peak of the first wave, when countries were struggling to figure out ways

of combating the virus, the government used the ICCCs as war-rooms for managing the outbreak, with real-time surveillance and monitoring of districts across the country that were affected by the coronavirus disease.

Converted into war-rooms, the smart cities' ICCCs used the central data dashboard and provided information about the status of Covid-positive cases in various administrative zones of these cities, officials aware of the exercise said. The war-rooms were also used for tracking people under quarantine and suspected Covid-19 cases.

### What is the current status of the Smarts Cities Mission?

The ambitious project, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015, had an initial deadline of 2021 for the first lot of 20 smart cities out of the 100 selected. Although the project was announced in 2015, the cities were selected over a period of two years between 2016 and 2018, each with a deadline of completion within five years from the time of their selection.

On the recommendation of NITI Aayog, the timeline was extended last year until 2023 due to delays caused by the pandemic. In its assessment, the NITI Aayog noted that

# Submarine Vagsheer: features, capabilities



Vagsheer was launched at Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited on Wednesday. *Pradip Das*

YOGESH NAIK  
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

VAGSHEER, THE sixth submarine of the P75 project of the Indian Navy was launched on Wednesday by Veena Ajay Kumar, wife of Union Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, at Mazgaon Dock Ltd. It is the last of the Scorpene class submarines made under the P75 project and can join the Navy fleet within 12-18 months after sea trials.

### The project

P 75 is one of two lines of submarines, the other being P751, as part of a plan approved in 1999 for indigenous submarine construction with technology taken from overseas firms. The contract for six submarines under P75 was given to Mazgaon dock on October 6, 2005 and delivery was to start from 2012, but the project has faced delays. Under P75, *INS Kalvari*, *INS Khanderi*, *INS Karanj* and *INS Vela* have been commissioned. Sea trials are on for *Vagir*. *Vagsheer* is the sixth; its production was delayed due to the pandemic.

### Why 'Vagsheer'

*Vagsheer* is named after the sand fish, a

deep sea predator of the Indian Ocean. The first submarine *Vagsheer*, from Russia, was commissioned into the Indian Navy on December 26, 1974, and was decommissioned on April 30, 1997. The new *Vagsheer* will be officially named at the time of its commissioning.

### Specifications

Naval sources said *Vagsheer* can take up to eight officers and 35 men. It is 675 metres long and 12.3 metres high, with a beam measuring 6.2 metres. *Vagsheer* can reach top speed of 20 knots when submerged and a top speed of 11 knots when it surfaces.

It has four MTU 12V 396 SE84 diesel engines, 360 battery cells for power, and a silent

Permanently Magnetised Propulsion Motor. The hull, fin and hydroplanes are designed for minimum underwater resistance and all equipment inside the pressure hull is mounted on shock-absorbing cradles for enhanced stealth.

### Features

*Vagsheer* is a diesel attack submarine, designed to perform sea denial as well as access denial warfare against the adversary. It can do offensive operations across the spectrum of naval warfare including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying and area surveillance.

It is enabled with a C303 anti-torpedo

counter measure system. It can carry up to 18 torpedoes or Exocet anti-ship missiles, or 30 mines in place of torpedoes.

Its superior stealth features include advanced acoustic absorption techniques, low radiated noise levels, hydro-dynamically optimised shape, and it has the ability to launch a crippling attack using precision guided weapons, underwater or on surface.

Scorpene submarines can undertake various types of missions such as anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying, area surveillance etc.

### Road ahead

*Vagsheer* will be commissioned into the Indian Navy's Western Command after 12 to 18 months when sea trials end. It will be based with Western Naval Command, mostly in Mumbai.

The submarine will undergo a very comprehensive and rigorous set of tests and trials, for more than a year, to ensure delivery of a fully combat worthy submarine, capable of operation in all modes and regimes of deployment.

Longer version on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

### Travels beyond Punjab

Dr Amarjit Singh, director, Guru Granth Sahib Department, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, said that a little more than a year after setting up his headquarters in present-day Anandpur Sahib in 1665, the guru spent four-odd years travelling up to Dhaka in the east, and going up to Puri in Odisha. He also visited Mathura, Agra, Benares, Allahabad, and Patna. Guru Gobind Singh was born in Patna in 1666.

On the way back from Dhaka, Raja Ram Singh sought his help to broker a truce with the Ahom king, Gurdwara Dhubri Sahib on the banks of the Brahmaputra commemorates this peace accord. The Guru was also honoured at Guwahati's Kamakhya temple.

According to historians, the Guru rushed back to Punjab on learning about the increasing atrocities by the Mughals.

### The Guru's martyrdom

Back in Anandpur Sahib, the Guru was approached by Kirpa Ram, a Kashmiri Brahmin who sought his protection from local chieftains who had told him to convert or face ret-

tribution. The Guru assured Das and his group of his protection and told them to tell the Mughals that they should first try to convert the Guru.

Aurangzeb considered this a challenge to his authority. According to *Sri Gur Bilas Patshahi Dasm*, a biography of Guru Gobind Singh by Kavi Sukha Singh, the Guru himself went to Delhi where he was arrested by the Mughals. In a paper titled "Who killed Guru Tegh Bahadur?", historian Sardar Kapur Singh wrote that Aurangzeb ordered the public execution of the Guru on November 11, 1675 after he declined to embrace Islam.

He was tortured to death and beheaded at Chandni Chowk along with his three companions, Bhai Mati Das, who was torn asunder, Bhai Sati Das, who was burnt to death, and Bhai Dyalaji, who was put in boiling water. Till the very end they were asked to change their minds, but they remained resolute. In 1784, Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib was built on the site on which they were executed.

Longer version on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



Renowned physicist Ajay Sood appointed new PSA

ESHA ROY  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

AJAY KUMAR Sood, a Padmashree awardee and honorary professor of Physics at the Indian Institute of Science, was on Wednesday appointed Principal Scientific Adviser to the government.



Sood has been a member of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council. He will serve as PSA for a three-year term, taking over from renowned biologist K Vijay Raghavan.

Sood completed his masters degree in Physics from Punjab University, Chandigarh in 1972, and went on to do his PhD from IISc, Bengaluru. Between 1973 and 1988, he worked as a scientist at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, before going on to pursue post-doctoral research as a Max Planck Fellow at the Max Planck Institute für FKF in Stuttgart, Germany. Sood has seven patents in his name, getting his first one in 2003 for "Carbon Nanotubes flow sensor and energy conversion device".

Speaking to *The Indian Express* from Bengaluru, Sood said, "I have been involved in Indian science for 45 years... I have been closely related to the fundamental sciences, essentially, but I am sensitive to the need for the application of these sciences..."

"There are three equally important pillars of science — the basic fundamental science, technology, and innovations. These three pillars have to be intricately woven, which is already being done in the country, but it needs to be given a further push... This is what we have been doing the past couple of years at the Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council to the PM," he added.

Delhi HC sets aside show cause notice issued to CBI Director

New Delhi: Taking a strong exception to a subordinate court's issuance of show cause notice to the CBI director over initiating contempt proceedings against agency officers, the Delhi High Court said that a subordinate court cannot, on its own, assume jurisdiction under the Contempt of Courts Act.

"It is outrightly illegal for the Ld. Special Judge to issue the said Order issuing Show-Cause Notice to the Director, CBI to explain why not a reference of Contempt of Court be made by him against the respective officers of CBI for the purported non-compliance of its orders," said Justice Chandra Dhari Singh in an order on Tuesday.

The court passed the order on a petition moved by the CBI against the orders passed by a Rouse Avenue District Court judge on March 31 and April 13.

Arguing before the HC, the agency said that there was no deliberate or wilful disobedience of the orders of the lower court. **ENS**

7 charred to death in fire near Ludhiana dumpsite

RAAKHI JAGGA  
LUDHIANA, APRIL 20

SEVEN MEMBERS of a family of migrants from Bihar were burnt to death in a fire that broke out in their shanty next to a garbage dump in Ludhiana's Tajpur road Wednesday morning. The dead included a two-year-old boy.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (East) Surinder Singh said the incident took place while they were asleep. The deceased were identified as Suresh Sahni (55), his wife Rona Rani (50), and the couple's children Rakhi (15), Manisha (10), Chandini (5) Geeta (6) and Sunny (2). Their 17-year-old son, Rajesh Kumar, survived the fire.

There are several rag pickers who live around a huge dump of

Guru Tegh Bahadur sacrificed life for Hindu dharma, says Shah

DIVYAA  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

GURU TEGH Bahadur sacrificed himself to "protect Hindu dharma", Union Home Minister Amit Shah said at an event at the Red Fort on Wednesday evening to mark the 400th birth anniversary (Prakash Parv) of the Guru.

Shah said the nation stands truly indebted to the great Sikh Guru.

"When Kashmiri Pandits told him about atrocities being committed on them by Mughals, he (the Guru) said, 'go and tell Aurangzeb that they can convert others (only) after they can convert me'," Shah said.

"He came to Delhi and sacrificed himself right here — at Chandni Chowk.... *Sir kalam kame wale toh chale gaye, par jinhone apne sir ka balidaan diya aaj karon log unke marg pe chalte hain* (those who ordered his execution have long gone, but millions follow the path of the one who sacrificed himself).... That's why he continues to be known as Hind ki Chadar even 400 years later."

"There's no one in the country who is not touched by the Guru's

sacrifice — Hindus, Sikhs...every-one respects him," he said.

Shah said India is free today and is celebrating Amrit Mahotsav of 75 years of its independence due to the supreme sacrifice made by Sikh Gurus. He called it Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "good fortune" to witness during his tenure commemorations of three Sikh Gurus — 550th parkash parv of Guru Nanak Dev, 400th Parkash utsav of Guru Tegh Bahadur, and 350th parkash parv of Guru Gobind Singh.

Wednesday's event set the stage for Modi's address from Red Fort a day later, which will mark the culmination of the two-day event organised by the Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee.

A special rendition of the shabad, 'Tilak janju rakha prabh taka', dedicated to Guru Tegh Bahadur, was presented by 400 school students during the three-hour function.

In his speech, expected around 9:30 pm on Thursday for 'shabad kirtan' by 400 ragis (Sikh musicians), PM Modi is likely to focus on relaying a message of interfaith peace.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Red Fort. Prem Nath Pandey

Centre extends ceasefire pact with 3 Naga groups by a year

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE CENTRE has extended ceasefire agreement with three Naga groups for further period of one year. The groups include National Socialist Council of Nagaland-NK (NSCN-NK), National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Reformation (NSCN-R) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland-K-Khango (NSCN-K-Khango).

All these groups are break-away factions of NSCN-IM and NSCN-K and signed the ceasefire agreements with the government over the years.

"It was decided to extend the ceasefire agreements for a further period of one year with effect from April 28, 2022 to April 27, 2023 with NSCN-NK and NSCN-R, and from April 18, 2022 to April 17, 2023 with NSCN-K-Khango," a statement from the Ministry of Home Affairs said.

The development comes even as NSCN-IM leaders, led by General Secretary Th Muivah, Tuesday met with Centre's representative for Naga peace talks, AK Mishra, at the outfit's headquarters, Camp Hebron near Dimapur. Former special director of the Intelligence Bureau, Misra, who replaced RN Ravi as the Centre's representative last year, reached Nagaland on Monday to discuss the vexed Naga political issue. He is expected to meet the state government's core committee, as well as the Naga National Political Groups (NNPG) during his stay.

This is the first time that talks on the Naga issue were held inside the NSCN-IM headquarters. The discussions on Tuesday lasted for little more than two hours.

The meeting comes a week after Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio, Deputy CM Y Patton and former CMT R Zeliang met PM Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi to discuss the status of peace talks.

Nashik top cop shifted over azaan controversy

He had disallowed bhajans on loudspeakers near mosques

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

DAYS AFTER Nashik Police Commissioner Deepak Pandey announced that no one will be allowed to play bhajan or songs on loudspeaker within 15 minutes before and after the azaan call in a radius of 100 m of any mosque, the officer was shunted out from his post on Wednesday. This also comes after Pandey earned the government's censure for writing to Maharashtra DGP Rajnish Sheth, allegedly terming revenue officials and executive magistrate as RDX and detonators.

Pandey was appointed as the special IG of Prevention of Atrocities against Woman (PAW) — deemed to be a side posting.

While Pandey's announcement had drawn flak from right wing groups, the officer had also issued a directive to religious places in Nashik, instructing them to take permission for usage of loudspeakers by May 3, failing which, legal action will be taken



Deepak Pandey made Special IG (PAW)

against those violating the rule, including being "externed or detained by police".

The directive was in response to an "ultimatum" given by MNS president Raj Thackeray that repercussions would follow if loudspeakers on mosques were not removed by May 3.

In his letter to the DGP, Pandey had alleged that revenue officials were hand-in-glove with the land mafia and were harassing people. He had sought that powers of revenue officials and executive magistrate to be given to the police.

The letter had sparked a controversy, with the state Cabinet earlier this month expressing its displeasure over the language used by Pandey in the letter.

Apart from Pandey, the government on Wednesday appointed Suhas Warke, an officer

from the 2000-batch, as the new joint commissioner of police (Crime). Milind Bharambe, whom Warke replaced and who oversaw several high-profile cases, is the new IG (Law & Order), a post previously held by Warke.

The government also transferred Thane joint commissioner Suresh Mekala to the state CID, appointed DIG Virendra Mishra as the additional commissioner (North Region) in Mumbai and transferred DCP (Zone III) P S Dahiya to the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad as DIG. Vinayak Deshmukh, who was the Jalna SP, was made the additional commissioner of police (West Region).

Further, Krishna Prakash, who was the Pimpri-Chinchwad police commissioner, was transferred as IG (VIP Security). Special IG (Prisons) Ankush Shinde will replace Krishna Prakash as the Pimpri-Chinchwad police commissioner. Ravindra Shive, who was the joint commissioner of police in Pune, has been transferred as IG of state human rights commission.

Punjab: Vishwas, Lamba booked for remarks against Kejriwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MOHALI, CHANDIGARH, APR 20

THE ROPAR police Wednesday visited homes of former AAP leader Kumar Vishwas and Alka Lamba of the Congress to serve notices in connection with a case registered over "inflammatory statements" against Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal.

Both leaders have been summoned to Ropar for questioning on April 26. The case was lodged against Vishwas and Lamba in Ropar's Sadar police station on April 12. In a statement, the Ropar police said that a case under Sections 153, 153A, 505 (2), 116 read with Section 143, 147, 323, 341, 120-B of the IPC and under Representation of Peoples Act was registered. In run up to the Punjab polls, Vishwas had accused Kejriwal of supporting separatists. Lamba has been accused of backing his remarks.

The police said: "...notice has been served upon Kumar Vishwas to produce whatever evidence he has to support his allegations..."

SC: Public debates touching upon court domain interference in justice delivery

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

DEBATE OR discussion touching upon matters that fall in the domain of courts, such as evidence in a criminal case, on public platforms like television will amount to direct interference in the administration of criminal justice, the Supreme Court has ruled.

A bench of Justices U U Lalit and PV Narasimha said this while deciding appeals filed by four convicts who were held guilty of robbery (Section 394 IPC) and sentenced to life imprisonment by

the Karnataka High Court.

The bench also acquitted the appellants, giving them the benefit of doubt.

The case involved the murder of a woman during the course of a robbery in Bengaluru in 1999. The bench noted that voluntary statements of the appellants were recorded by the police on a DVD formed the basis of the trial court judgment convicting them. "The statement amounted to confession to a police officer which should instead have been recorded before a magistrate," the court said, adding "the DVD statement should not have been relied

upon by the court... What has further aggravated the situation is the fact that the said statements recorded by the investigating agency were played and published on a programme named 'Putta Mutta' by Udaya TV".

Deprecating this, the SC said: "Allowing the DVD to go into the hands of a private TV channel is nothing but dereliction of duty... Evidence must be dealt with by a court... Any such debate or discussion touching upon matters which are in the domain of courts will amount to direct interference in the administration of criminal justice."

Quick response, trained responders: safety app a hit

REENIVAS JANAYALA  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 20

IN SEPTEMBER last year, a 29-year-old woman from Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district had travelled to New Delhi for a new job when an auto-rickshaw driver started misbehaving with her. She took out her phone, opened an application — 'Disha' — and pressed the SOS button. Within minutes, her distress signal had been relayed to Delhi Police, routed through police in Kurnool, and the matter was addressed.

Disha app, developed by Andhra Pradesh government to provide quick response of women's safety issues, was launched in February 2020 and has been downloaded more than 1.30 crore times. The response



time of less than 10 minutes, and support provided by trained responders, especially women police officers trained to handle specific situations, have made the app so popular that the number of calls through it have overtaken calls to emergency police number — 100 — in Andhra Pradesh.

"It is a first-of-its-kind app in the country to protect women in distress," former state Home minister Mekathoti Sucharita said. "We have deployed special patrol vehicles, which are connected to the Disha control room through



Police personnel interact with students on Disha app in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh. Express

GPS, where the staff will respond in 4-5 minutes in cities and towns, and 8-10 minutes in villages."

The Disha control room is located in Tech Tower at AP Police Headquarters in Mangalagiri.

According to DIG G Pala Raju, who is in charge of the Disha programme, the control room has re-

ceived more than 10,000 actionable SOS calls since the app was launched, and these have led to nearly 1,500 FIRs being filed.

Based on SOS calls, police have been identifying and geo-tagging sexual offenders, cyber bullies and stalkers targeting women.

The app has also helped

women in other emergencies, such as when a flat tyre left a woman stranded on a deserted road, or when a pregnant woman had to be rushed to a hospital. Disha patrol vehicles have safely dropped such stranded women at their homes or hospitals.

The app's SOS button not only sends an alert to Disha Command Control Centre, but it also alerts five phone numbers that can be registered as emergency contacts. If the app's hand gesture feature is turned on, even shaking the mobile phone five times will lead to an SOS alert being sent. A 'track my travel' feature is also available on the app which can be activated if one is travelling alone.

On March 23, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy flagged off a fleet of 163 Disha patrol vehicles to further re-

duce the response time. Eighteen "Disha Caravans" — buses equipped with a washroom, rest and changing rooms for the convenience of women police officers in the field — were also added to the Disha fleet. Each mobile restroom vehicle costs Rs 19 lakh and 30 have been ordered. Around 900 scooters are also being introduced. Disha patrol now has 900 two-wheelers and 3,000 other vehicles.

Former minister Sucharita said the issue of women's safety became urgent after the November 2019 rape-murder of a veterinary doctor on Hyderabad's outskirts. Since then, besides the app, 18 Disha police stations have been opened to deal exclusively with women's issues. The doctor was given the pseudonym Disha, and the women's safety app was named after her.



## ECONOMY



GOLD

₹52,367



RUPEE

₹76.19/USD



OIL

\$107.92



SILVER

₹67,969

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of April 19

SENSEX: 57,037.50 ▲ 574.35 (1.02%) NIFTY: 17,136.55 ▲ 17790 (1.05%) NIKKEI: 27,217.85 ▲ 232.76 HANG SENG: 20,944.67 ▼ 83.09 FTSE: 7,616.69 ▲ 1541 DAX: 14,306.76 ▲ 153.30

International market data till 1900 IST

POLICY WATCH  
PRODUCTION-LINKED INCENTIVES

## Drone PLI: Zerodha co-founder-backed firm, Adani JV, 12 others make the cut

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

ADANI'S JOINT venture with Israeli defence firm Elbit Systems, IdeaForge Technology, and drone startup Omnipresent Robot Technologies — backed by Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath — are among the 14 companies that have been selected by the Ministry of Civil Aviation as beneficiaries of the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the drone industry.

The PLI scheme for drones has a total outlay of Rs 120 crore, spread over three years. The eligibility criteria for the scheme includes an annual sales turnover of Rs 2 crore for drone companies and Rs 50 lakh for drone components manufacturers, along with a value addition of over 40 per cent of their sales turnover.

The Ministry has selected five drone manufacturers and nine drone component manufacturers as beneficiaries of the scheme: Dhaksha Unmanned Systems, Idea-Forge Technology, IoTech-World Aviation, Omnipresent Robot Technologies and Raphe Mphibr are the five drone manufacturers selected as beneficiaries, the ministry said. Absolute Composites, Adani-Elbit Advanced Systems India, Adroitec Information Systems, Alpha Design Technologies, Inventgrid India, Paras Aerospace, SASMOSHET Technologies, ZMotion Autonomous Systems and Zuppa Geo Navigation Technologies are nine drone component manufacturers selected for the PLI scheme, it noted.

The ministry said the list of beneficiaries is likely to be expanded further since some more manufacturers are likely



**A drone in New Delhi. The PLI scheme for drones has a total outlay of Rs 120 crore spread over three years. File**

to exceed the eligibility criteria for the full financial year 2021-22, and a final list could be released by June-end.

Under the drone PLI scheme, announced last September, the incentive for a manufacturer of drones and drone components will be 20 per cent of the value addition made by the company in the next three years. The value addition will be calculated as the annual sales revenue from drones and drone components minus the purchase cost of drone and drone components.

The government expects investments of over Rs 5,000 crore in the drone space in the next three years on account of the new drone rules announced last year and the PLI scheme. "The annual sales turnover of the drone manufacturing industry may grow from Rs 60 crore in 2020-21 fold to over Rs 900 crore in FY 2023-24. The drone manufacturing industry is expected to generate over 10,000 direct jobs over the next three years," the Ministry of Civil Aviation had said last year while announcing the PLI policy on drones.

## HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR FINANCIALLY VIABLE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

## Post-pandemic recovery: FM pitches for coordinated action

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

TAKING NOTE of food, energy securities and debt vulnerabilities, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that there is an urgent need for coordinated action across countries to "enable swift post-pandemic recovery" along with building resilience to future shocks at the G20 Emerging Market Economies meeting in Washington D.C. on Wednesday.

"Discussing #future of #work and #debt vulnerabilities, FM Smt. @nsitharaman said that there is an urgent need for coordinated action across countries to not only enable swift post-pandemic recovery but also to build resilience to future shocks," the Finance Ministry tweeted. She shared her insights on the economic outlook, risks and near-term policy challenges for EMs such as food and energy security and tightening of global financial conditions. The G20 Emerging Market Economies meeting was organised by the IMF on the sidelines of the upcoming G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting.



**Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, along with officials, at G20 Emerging Market Economies meeting, in Washington DC, on Wednesday. PTI**

"Union Finance Minister Smt. @nsitharaman & Shri @DasShaktikanta @RBI attend the #G20 Emerging Market Economies #EMEs meeting organised by @IMFNews in Washington D.C., today, on the sidelines of the upcoming #G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting #FMCBG," the Finance Ministry tweeted. The Finance Minister also spoke on the need for environmentally sustainable and financially viable alternatives of energy sources and said the International

Solar Alliance can be an effective platform to catalyse efforts.

Sitharaman arrived in Washington on Monday for the annual spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

On Tuesday, she met IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and discussed issues including the impact of the geopolitical situation on global growth, policies to navigate the pandemic, food and fuel price shock and helping the most vulnerable.

## Sitharaman meets FSB Chair Knot

*Washington:* Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has held talks with Financial Stability Board Chair Klass Knot and Vice of the Climate Finance Leadership Initiative Mary Schapiro and exchanged views on dimensions of risk in crypto eco-system and development of GIFT City. **PTI**

## 38% more domestic passengers fly in March against February

*Around 1.06 crore domestic passengers flew in March, about 38% more than 76.96 lakh in February, showed DGCA data*



**Passenger load factors — which means occupancy rates — were above 80% for all Indian private carriers in March, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in its monthly statement**

Source: DGCA/PTI

## Domestic passengers carried by airlines in March:

IndiGo:	58.61 lakh
Go First:	10.44 lakh
SpiceJet:	10.21 lakh
Air India:	9.36 lakh
Vistara:	8.9 lakh
AirAsia India:	6.98 lakh
Alliance Air:	1.45 lakh

## On-time performances at four metro airports — Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai:

IndiGo:	93.9%
Go First:	93%
Vistara:	91.9%

FOR ₹184 CRORE  
HDFC set to sell 10% in HDFC Capital

*Mumbai:* HDFC Ltd has entered into binding agreement to sell 10 per cent of the share capital of HDFC Capital Advisors Ltd to a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) for Rs 184 crore.

ADIA is also the primary investor in the alternative investment funds managed by HDFC Capital. Set up in 2016, HDFC Capital is the investment manager to HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Funds 1, 2 & 3.

Deepak Parekh, chairman, HDFC Ltd, said, "This investment by ADIA will enable HDFC Capital to leverage ADIA's global expertise and experience..." **ENS**

BRIEFLY  
IPO fee via UPI

*New Delhi:* Sebi streamlined the payment of processing fee via Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system for shares applied for and allotted during an initial public offering (IPO).

## Datsun ops shut

*New Delhi:* Nissan is discontinuing its Datsun brand in India, nine years after its global relaunch began here.

## Goyal on rupee

*New Delhi:* At an event to mark 15th Civil Services Day, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said weakening of rupee would not be in the nation's interest, as it brings inflation, pushes up interest cost and makes products uncompetitive.

## Nidhi co rules

*New Delhi:* The Centre amended rules governing Nidhi companies, which are NBFCs that are into lending and borrowing with their members, whereby its prior declaration will be must for a certain class of such companies to start business.

## FRL holds meet

*New Delhi:* Future Retail Ltd (FRL) on Wednesday held a meeting of shareholders to consider and clear sale of assets to Reliance Retail. It was chaired by Shailesh Haribhakti, FRL said, and it was held via video conferencing.

## EPFO payroll

*New Delhi:* Employees' Provident Fund Organisation in February added 14.12 lakh subscribers, 14% over the year-ago month. **PTI**

## Temasek backs probe; working with investors, says Zilingo

*New Delhi:* After Singapore state investment firm Temasek backed an investigation into Zilingo's accounting practices, the fashion technology startup said it is working closely with its major investors and an independent firm for the probe.

"The major investors of the company authorised the board to put the CEO, Ankanti Bose, on suspension pending an investigation of the matters raised," Zilingo Pte

said in a statement. However, it did not elaborate on the investigation.

"The major investors have hired an independent firm to investigate the matter, and the company is working closely with the major investors and the independent firm for the investigation," it said. Proper due process has been and will be followed, it insisted.

Temasek had on Tuesday stated, "We expect our portfolio companies to abide by the sound

## THE BACK STORY

■ The statement comes after the board of Zilingo put co-founder Ankanti Bose on suspension on March 31 pending an investigation

corporate governance and codes of conduct and ethics. We are,

therefore, in support of the board's investigation into the complaint as a part of good governance to safeguard the interests of the company." This is the second investment firm that has spoken in the favour of a strong governance framework, days after Sequoia India, also an investor in Zilingo, spoke on the subject.

The statement comes after the board of Zilingo put its co-founder Ankanti Bose on suspension on

March 31 pending an investigation. The investigation reportedly is into the way that Zilingo had accounted for transactions and revenue across a platform spanning thousands of small merchants.

Zilingo also counts Burda Principal as well as Singapore's Economic Development Board's investment arm EDB among its investors. It was not immediately clear how much shareholding each investor has in the firm. **PTI**

## Russia tweaks tax code to make it easier for foreign cos to pay in rubles

REUTERS  
MOSCOW, APRIL 20

RUSSIAN LAWMAKERS on Wednesday passed an amendment to the tax code that they said would make it easier for foreign companies to open accounts with Russian banks and pay for Russian goods and other goods in rubles.

Russian President Vladimir Putin last month signed a decree demanding foreign buyers pay for gas in rubles or else have their supplies cut. In practice the measure requires foreign gas buyers to open ruble and hard currency accounts at Gazprombank, which will receive payments in foreign currencies and convert them into rubles via auctions on a Moscow bourse.

Meanwhile, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and European Central Bank president Christine Lagarde expressed their displeasure at the in-person participation of a Russian official in Wednesday's meeting of G20 finance officials, a source said. Lagarde urged Deputy Finance Minister Timur Maksimov, to convey to Russian leaders to end the war.

It employs over 8,000 people, with an annual crude steel capacity of 5 million tonnes. It supplies high-quality steel products to demanding markets, like construction and infrastructure, automotive, packaging and engineering.

Last week, Infosys Ltd said it is moving its business out of Russia and is pursuing alternate options against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. **ENS**

## FY22: Crude output slides 2.6%, natural gas production up 18.7%

*New Delhi:* India's crude oil production in FY22 fell by 2.6 per cent over the previous fiscal and by 11.7 per cent than the targeted number amid lower output from state-owned ONGC, as per government data released Wednesday.

Domestic natural gas output, however, rose 18.7 per cent due to a sharp hike in production from the Krishna Godavari basin but still fell short of targeted production for the fiscal by 9.7 per cent.

Total crude output for financial year 2021-22 was 29.7 million tonnes (MT). India's crude production has declined steadily from



**ONGC factory in Uran. File**

35.9 MT in FY15 as production from ageing oil fields has fallen. The Oil Ministry had last year asked ONGC to consider selling stakes in maturing fields in western offshore to foreign players

to end its dependence on Russia," the company's European arm said in a statement. However, the company's Indian division has not issued any statement about doing business with Russia.

Tata Steel Europe is the largest steelmaker in the UK with primary steelmaking at Port Talbot in south Wales supporting manufacturing and distribution operations at sites across England, Northern Ireland and Wales, as

well as Norway and Sweden. It employs over 8,000 people, with an annual crude steel capacity of 5 million tonnes. It supplies high-quality steel products to demanding markets, like construction and infrastructure, automotive, packaging and engineering.

Last week, Infosys Ltd said it is moving its business out of Russia and is pursuing alternate options against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. **ENS**

## Account sharing, user loss post Covid boom: Netflix plans cheaper, ad-supported version

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

NETFLIX, WHICH has historically taken a strong stance against any kind of advertising on its platform, may soon budge and offer a cheaper, ad-supported version of its streaming service, the company's CEO Reed Hastings has hinted. This comes on the back of the streaming service reporting a loss in quarterly subscriptions for the first time in more than a decade.

The company said that geopolitical tensions — led by the war in Ukraine that triggered a suspension of services in Russia — rising inflation, fierce competition, and some Covid-related disruptions contributed to the loss of some 200,000 subscribers in the first quarter of this calendar year.

The current situation is the opposite of an earlier forecast by the streaming services major that it would add 2.5 million subscribers during the period.

## Could Netflix get cheaper?

Netflix has so far been committed to the subscription, ad-free model for its streaming service. However, Hastings revealed that the company could experiment with an ad-supported, lower-priced version of its service going forward, a model that has been used by some of its key rivals like HBO Max and Disney+.

"Those who have followed Netflix know that I've been against the complexity of advertising, and a big fan of the simplicity of subscription," said Hastings. "But, as much as I'm a fan of that, I'm a bigger fan of consumer choice. And allowing consumers who would like to have a lower price, and are advertising-tolerant, get what they want makes a lot of sense."

Last December, Netflix had cut prices across its plans in India with the cheapest mobile-only plan starting from Rs 149 per month against Rs 199 earlier.

In a letter to shareholders, the company said it was seeing "good progress" in terms of growth in the Asia Pacific region in a variety of markets including India. During a call with investors, Netflix's chief product officer Gregory Peters said that the incremental subscribers it had gained owing to the price cut were "largely behaving similar to the subscribers we've added over the last 12 months".

It is also worth noting that a number of Netflix's major competitors in India, including Disney+ Hotstar, Zee5 and MX Player, offer ad-supported tiers of their streaming service. Amazon also offers a similar service through its miniTV streaming platform.

## FALL IN GLOBAL FOREX RESERVES

■ Global forex reserves as a share of GDP have fallen from 15.4% of GDP to below 14% in the last six years, says a Credit Suisse report

2014, they are now below 14 per cent," Credit Suisse said. Forex reserves are foreign assets of a country held in a liquid form by a country's central bank as insurance against financial shocks. India's forex reserves were \$604 billion as on April 8, 2022.

The rise in Switzerland and India has less to do with sequestering the country's savings into safe assets, and more with protecting the local currency from appreciating against the USD, says the report, authored by Credit Suisse analysts Neelkanth Mishra, Prateek Ancha and Abhay Khaitan. A country running current account surpluses will accumulate foreign assets over time. Forex reserves are liquid assets kept with a central, state-owned entity. China and Saudi Arabia are examples of countries that surpassed what was necessary as insurance and shifted their mix of foreign assets away



**Netflix office in Los Angeles. The company lost 200,000 users in Q1 2022. Reuters file**

## Why has it lost subscribers?

Netflix lost 200,000 subscribers in Q1 2022 as it fell way short of its earlier forecast of adding 2.5 million subscribers. Suspension of services in Russia resulted in a loss of 700,000 subscribers.

Gloomier times lie ahead as the company has predicted a loss of two million subscribers in the next quarter. "Macro factors, including sluggish economic growth, increasing inflation, geopolitical events such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and some continued disruption from Covid are likely having an impact as well," it said.

Sharing of accounts across households and the company's growth during the first two years of the pandemic which "created a lot of noise" were the reasons the company attributed its loss of subscribers to. "... in addition to our 222m (million) paying households, we estimate that Netflix is being shared with over 100m additional households, including over 30m in the UCAN (US plus Canada) region." Netflix added that increasing competition from other streaming services was a likely reason behind its sluggish growth in the quarter.

Finally, the company said that its growth over the last two years amid the pandemic "clouded the picture by significantly increasing our growth in 2020, leading us to believe that most of our slowing growth in 2021 was due to the COVID pull forward".

## What's next for Netflix?

The company said it was looking for ways to monetise the millions of households sharing Netflix accounts. While sharing accounts may have helped the company's growth in terms of getting more people to watch content on Netflix, the company said it also "created confusion about when and how Netflix can be shared with other households".

To get around the issue, it started testing different approaches to monetise such households and in March had introduced two new paid sharing features, where current members have the choice to pay for additional households, in three markets in Latin America.

from forex reserves. This diversification added to safety and promised better returns, either financial or geopolitical, it said. According to Credit Suisse, countries are diversifying and optimising their foreign assets. China and Saudi Arabia continue to accumulate foreign assets, just not as forex reserves. Over the last decade, reserves as a share of China's foreign assets have fallen from 70 per cent in 2010 to less than 40 per cent now. For Saudi Arabia, the fall was from over 60 per cent to less than 40 per cent.

Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Norway have built SWFs (total assets \$10 trillion), and others like Japan and China have allowed their firms to buy assets abroad. "Such assets are hard to use in times of crisis, but are better overall for the economy," it said.

The Credit Suisse report said the share of US dollar in the global forex reserves fell from 71 per cent in 1999 to 59 per cent in 2021. Chinese Yuan Renminbi (CNY) share is at 2.7 per cent (Russia holds a fourth of these), it said.

For reserves to shift from USD to CNY, the latter needs to be more freely tradeable (a more open capital account), and see a higher share of global transactions (trade and financing-related).

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



# 12 THE WORLD

## TOPOF THE WORLD



John Lee. AP

### HONG KONG

#### YouTube takes down leader's poll channel

**Hong Kong:** YouTube on Wednesday took down the campaign channel of Hong Kong's sole candidate to become its next leader, John Lee, citing compliance with US sanctions imposed against the former No. 2 official. Lee had set up a Facebook page and a YouTube channel to promote his campaign, even though he is running uncontested in the election for chief executive on May 8, in which an Election Committee of about 1,500 people will select the city's leader. Lee had been live-streaming his meetings with media and political figures in the city on both Facebook and YouTube prior to the termination of his YouTube channel. **AP**

### EAST TIMOR

#### Ramos-Horta set to win presidency

**Dili:** East Timor's former independence fighter and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jose Ramos-Horta is set to win the presidential runoff election, according to over 60% of the votes counted Wednesday, defeating incumbent Francisco "Lu Olo" Guterres for the second time in Asia's youngest democracy. Official results are not expected until next week, but Ramos-Horta, who led resistance during Indonesia's occupation of East Timor, had 61.72% of the votes counted so far. **AP**

### TAIWAN

#### TV station says sorry for report on Chinese attack

**Taipei:** A Taiwan government-backed television station apologised and urged people not to panic on Wednesday after mistakenly reporting a Chinese attack in Taipei, amid rising military tensions with Beijing. During a live news broadcast on Wednesday morning, Chinese Television System mistakenly showed news ticker alerts at the bottom of the screen about military ships and critical infrastructure near Taipei being hit by Chinese missiles, according to local media reports. There were no overt signs of panic in Taipei after the accidental bulletins. **REUTERS**

## MORE THAN 5 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE FLED UKRAINE

# No surrender in Mariupol as Russian deadline runs out

### REUTERS

APRIL 20

A RUSSIAN ultimatum to Ukrainian troops in Mariupol to surrender or die expired on Wednesday afternoon with no mass capitulation, but the commander of a unit believed to be holding out in the besieged city said his forces could survive just days or hours.

In a video, the commander of Ukraine's 36th Marine Brigade, one of the last units believed to be holding out in Mariupol, asked for international help to escape the siege. "This is our appeal to the world. It may be our last. We may have only a few days or hours left," said Major Serhiy Volyna in a video uploaded to Facebook.

The United Nations said on Wednesday the number of refugees who have fled Ukraine since Russia invaded on Feb 24 had surpassed five million. More than half are children.

Russia has been trying to take full control of Mariupol since the war's first days. Russian-backed separatists said shortly before a 2 pm (1100 GMT) Wednesday deadline that just five people had surrendered.

Peace talks have been stalled. The Kremlin accused Kyiv of delaying the talks and changing its positions. Kyiv accuses Moscow of blocking talks by refusing humanitarian ceasefires, especially



A man and a child ride a bicycle in the southern port city of Mariupol on Wednesday. Reuters

to relieve besieged Mariupol.

Meanwhile, Britain's delegation to a meeting of top Group of 20 finance officials in Washington, including Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey, walked out in protest at Russia's participation, a British finance ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday. "Alongside our allies the US and Canada, representatives from the UK left the G20 meeting as Russian delegates spoke," the spokesperson said.

## Moscow tests nuclear-capable missile that Putin says has no peer

London: Russia said on Wednesday it had conducted a first test launch of its Samat intercontinental ballistic missile, a new addition to its nuclear arsenal which President Vladimir Putin said would give Moscow's enemies something to think about.

Putin was shown on television being told by the military that the missile had been

launched from Plesetsk and hit targets in the Kamchatka peninsula in the far east.

"The new complex has the highest tactical and technical characteristics and is capable of overcoming all modern means of anti-missile defence. It has no analogues in the world and won't have for a long time to come," Putin said. **REUTERS**

## Israeli ultra-nationalists' Jerusalem march restricted

ILAN BEN ZION  
JERUSALEM, APRIL 20

POLICE APPEAR to have prevented hundreds of ultra-nationalist Israelis from marching around predominantly Palestinian areas of Jerusalem's Old City on Wednesday, an event that served as one of the triggers of last year's Israel-Gaza war.

Police set up large roadblocks outside the Old City walls, closing the main road



Israeli right wing activists gather for a march in Jerusalem on Wednesday. AP

leading down to Damascus Gate, the epicenter of last year's unrest. Bottled up, the marchers waved Israeli flags, chanted and sang.

Earlier in the day, a small group of Palestinian protesters threw rocks at police while hundreds of Jewish visitors entered the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, known to Jews as Temple Mount.

Amateur video from the scene appeared to show police using sponge-tipped plastic projectiles intended to be

## New Mexico fines 'Rust' for willful gun safety failures

**Santa Fe:** New Mexico workplace safety regulators on Wednesday issued the maximum possible fine of nearly \$137,000 against a film production company for firearms safety failures on the set of "Rust" where a cinematographer was fatally shot in October by actor and producer Alec Baldwin.

New Mexico's Occupational Health and Safety Bureau said Rust Movie Productions must pay \$136,793, and distributed a scathing narrative of safety failures in violation of standard industry protocols, including testimony that production managers took limited or no action to address two misfires on set prior to the fatal shooting.

The bureau also documented gun safety complaints from crew members that went unheeded and said weapons specialists were not allowed to make decisions about additional safety training. **AP**

**EXPLAINED**

**Chinese growth rate affected**

THE IMF reduced its forecast of Chinese growth this year to 4.4% from 4.8% due to the shutdowns of Shanghai and other industrial centers. That is down by almost half from last year's 8.1% growth and below the ruling Communist Party's 5.5% target.

Meanwhile, Shanghai started reducing lockdowns gradually in the backdrop of rising anger among the people. Four million more people in the city were allowed to leave their homes from the quarantine rules, taking the total so far to 12 million, a health official in the city said.

### MEANWHILE

## DEMEANED, BERATED BY EX-WIFE: JOHNNY DEPP

Actor Johnny Depp, testifying on Wednesday in a \$50 million defamation case against his former wife Amber Heard, said she was the one who became violent when their relationship soured, hurling insults that at times escalated into a slap or a shove. Depp said that Heard made little digs at him to demean him. The couple had frequent arguments that included "demeaning name calling" and "bullying" by her, Depp said.



## US Pentagon chief speaks for 1st time to Chinese counterpart

### ROBERT BURNS

WASHINGTON, APRIL 20

Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin on Wednesday spoke with his Chinese counterpart for the first time since becoming Pentagon chief more than a year ago, breaking a communications impasse that American officials saw as increasingly dangerous amid concern that Beijing might provide military support for Russia's war in Ukraine.

Austin requested the telephone conversation with Gen. Wei Fenghe after months of failed effort to speak with Gen. Xu Qiliang, the highest ranking uniformed officer in the Communist Party military structure.

In a brief statement after the call, the Pentagon said Austin and Wei discussed US-Chinese defence relations, regional security issues and "Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine." It offered no details.

The defence ministry in Beijing provided a more detailed account. It said Wei "expounded his solemn position on the Taiwan issue and stressed that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China."

The two men exchanged views on "maritime and air security issues," the ministry said, adding that Wei conveyed to Austin that "China demands that the US stop military provocations at sea and not use the Ukrainian issue to discredit, frame, threaten and pressure China." **AP**



Sri Lankans representing various government establishments during a protest in Colombo on Wednesday. AP

## Lanka Opp leader quotes Parliament Speaker: Gotabaya ready to step down

### Three MPs withdraw support to govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
COLOMBO, APRIL 20

SRI LANKA'S Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa on Wednesday claimed that Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardene had assured that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was ready to resign if all parties request him, media reports said on Wednesday.

There have been growing calls for President Rajapaksa's resignation over the past few weeks over his government's mishandling of Sri Lanka's worsening economic crisis.

Speaker Abeywardene, however, denied informing party leaders that the President was ready to step down, the *Daily Mirror* newspaper reported.

"There is a report circulating on social media that I have informed party leaders of the President's willingness to resign if they (party leaders) make a request. I only said the President is ready to handover the government to anyone who commands majority," the Speaker clarified.

Leader of Opposition Premadasa reiterated that Speaker Abeywardena had said this at a party leaders' meeting.

"You said to the party leaders that all party leaders of his House go and ask him to step down, he is ready for it. We're ready to do that. You give us the opportunity. All of us in the Opposition are ready to unanimously make that statement.

## President assures inquiry into police shooting

**Colombo:** Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Wednesday pledged "an impartial and transparent inquiry" into a police shooting that left one person dead and 13 others injured. The president said in a tweet he was "deeply saddened" over the incident, which occurred Tuesday in Rambukkana and urged "all citizens to refrain from violence as they protest." **AP**

"I am not a fool to distort what you said. Don't deny your statement. You are a Tom Pachaya (blatant liar)," Premadasa said. Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella also confirmed that the Speaker did not say.

The President was dealt a further blow when three more parliamentarians withdrew their support to the government.

Sri Lanka Muslim Council (SLMC) MP Faizal Cassim informed Parliament that he along with MPs Ishak Rahuman and M S Thowfeek will withdraw their support to the government. The three MPs were part of the opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) coalition, including from the SLMC.

## Pak values its relationship with US, Shehbaz tells Ilhan Omar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD, APRIL 20

PAKISTAN VALUED its longstanding relationship with the US and wanted to further deepen bilateral cooperation based on mutual respect, trust, and equality, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Wednesday.

Sharif's remarks came amid a new low in US-Pakistan ties after ousted PM Imran Khan accused Washington of toppling his government.

During a meeting with visiting US Congresswoman Ilhan Abdullah Omar, Sharif, highlighted that constructive engagement between the two countries could help promote peace and development in the region.

He hoped that Omar's first-ever visit to Pakistan would lead to deepening people-to-people

## MAKE PUBLIC IMRAN'S GIFT DETAILS: COURT

**Islamabad:** A Pakistani court on Wednesday ordered the government to make public details of the gifts received by the former PM Imran Khan from foreign dignitaries since assuming office in August 2018. As per reports, the former premier received 58 gifts worth more than Rs 140 million from world leaders. **PTI**

ties and strengthen exchanges between the Parliament of Pakistan and the US Congress, Geo News reported. Sharif also emphasised the need to further enhance cooperation between the two countries, especially in the trade and investment fields.

## All-girls varsity bans smartphones on campus

**Islamabad:** An all-girls university in Pakistan's conservative northwest has banned the use of smartphones by students on campus, according to a TV report on Wednesday.

Samaa TV reported that the university provost issued a notification saying that "smart phones/touch screen mobile or tablets will not be allowed on the premises of Women University Swabi with effect from April 20.

It has been observed that students use social media applications during university timings which affects their education and performance. Therefore, it is directed that students should not use mobile phones on campus, the notification read. **PTI**

## IN NEARLY 2 MONTHS OF WAR, MANY YOUNG UKRAINIANS HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY OR TAKEN UP ARMS, WHILE ELDERLY HAVE STAYED BACK

# In fog of dementia, one grandmother relearns that her country is at war

VICTORIA KIM  
APRIL 20

EVERY MORNING, Olga Boichak's grandmother wakes up at her home in western Ukraine, turns on the television and discovers anew that her country is at war.

Panicked and flashing back to childhood memories of bombings during World War II, she starts packing to evacuate, her granddaughter said. Her husband of six decades hides the house keys and reassures her everything will be all right, and that their home is the safest place for them.

Before long, the war, the fear and the reassurance will dissipate into the fog of dementia — as have all new memories in recent years. Until the next morning, or the next air raid siren, when the reality of the invasion that has subsumed Ukraine for more than 50 days will find her once more.

"She's going through the daily trauma of rediscovering that war has begun, and keeps trying to evacuate," Dr Boichak, who is based in Sydney and speaks to her grandparents and her aunt, a health care worker who looks after them, weekly over video chat. She declined to give her grandparents' names or

their exact location in relatively safe western Ukraine out of concern for their safety.

"It's really heartbreaking," she said.

In nearly two months of war, many Ukrainians who are young and able-bodied have left the country or taken up arms. Many who are elderly, infirm or disabled have stayed behind, unable to make the journey or unwilling to leave the surroundings set up for their needs.

Dementia in particular is a "hidden" disability that can result in patients being left out of humanitarian assistance or protection from responders, according to Alzheimer's Disease



Liza Vovchenko and her grandmother Rita in 2012. NYT

International, an umbrella organization for groups around the

world. Even before Russia's invasion in February, the war in

Ukraine's eastern separatist regions had disproportionately affected elderly Ukrainians.

For Boichak's grandparents, who are in their late 80s, childhood memories of being forced to flee amid Soviet shelling made them all the more attached to their home, and her grandfather is determined to stay despite their children and grandchildren's pleas, she said. Her grandfather, a retired physician, felt strongly about spending his final years in the home they spent decades rebuilding and where her grandmother, a retired architect, tended to a garden for years growing tomatoes, zucchini and carrots, Dr Boichak said.

On day 41 of the war, Dr Boichak, a sociologist and lecturer who has been researching the role of social media in shaping narratives about war and military violence, beginning with Russia's 2014 invasion of Crimea, posted her grandparents' story on Twitter. She described how her grandmother had been caught in a "never-ending loop."

To her surprise, her tweet appeared to resonate around the world; more than 44,000 people liked the post.

Among the people moved by their story was Liza Vovchenko, who immediately thought of her own grandmother in a Russian-

occupied town in the Kherson region of southern Ukraine.

For weeks after the Russian soldiers took control, her 82-year-old grandmother, Rita, kept trying to go on her daily walks to the market in the town center even though the streets were no longer safe. The market had long stopped operating as food became scarce and people ran out of cash.

Her grandmother, a retired teacher who has been showing increasing signs of dementia over the past three years, keeps forgetting about the war and getting angry at the grandson she lives with for not letting her out of the house, Vovchenko said. **NYT**



## BRIEFLY

## Aakarshi, Priyanshu top BAI trials

**New Delhi:** Aakarshi Kashyap and Priyanshu Rajawat are set to be picked for the upcoming Commonwealth Games and Asian Games respectively after emerging as winners in women's and men's singles at Badminton Association of India's (BAI) selection trials here on Wednesday. While Aakarshi prevailed over Ashmita Chaliha 21-10 17-21 21-15, Priyanshu saw off Odisha Open winner Kiran George 21-15 18-21 21-10 to top the rankings at the national trials at the IG Stadium Complex here. While Aakarshi, who stayed unbeaten in the tournament, is set to join double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu in the CWG team as the second women's singles player, Priyanshu will get a chance to represent the country at the Asian Games and Thomas Cup. With Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth given direct selection due to their top 15 world ranking, Priyanshu, however, won't get a place in the CWG team. **PTI**

## Top stars to feature in Khelo India 2022

**New Delhi:** Olympian shooter Manu Bhaker, sprinter Dutee Chand and swimmer Srihari Nataraj are some of the big names to feature in the Khelo India University Games to be held in Bengaluru from April 24 to May 3. Besides, the shooting duo of Divyansh Singh Panwar and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar will also be seen in action in the event, where two indigenous sports — Yogasana and Mallakhamb — will make their debut. A total of 3,878 athletes from 189 universities from across the country will participate in the Games, where 20 disciplines will feature and a total of 275 gold medals will be up for grabs. The large number of participants and the high level of technical conduct of the Games in state-of-the-art venues makes the Khelo India University Games one of the biggest University-level Games in the country, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said in a press briefing. "I am confident that these Games will throw up many more champions this year." **PTI**

## Pele back in hospital for tumour treatment

**Brasilia:** Brazilian soccer great Pele returned to hospital on Monday as he continues to receive treatment for cancer, Sao Paulo's Albert Einstein hospital said in a medical note on Tuesday. Edson Arantes do Nascimento's clinical condition is good and stable, and he is likely to be discharged in the next few days, doctors said, using Pele's full name. The 81-year-old had a tumour removed from his colon in September 2021 and has since been in and out of hospital for treatment on a regular basis. Widely considered one of the greatest footballers of all time, the former Santos, New York Cosmos and Brazil player has suffered a series of health issues in recent years, including hip surgery that left him with recurring pain and trouble walking unaided. In February, Pele was admitted to hospital for a round of chemotherapy when a urinary infection was identified, keeping him in longer than was planned. **REUTERS**

## Delhi find reason to rejoice

Despite Covid outbreak in camp, Capitals put up brave display to thrash Punjab by 9 wickets



Delhi Capitals' spinner Kuldeep Yadav (2/24) dismissed Kagiso Rabada and Nathan Ellis on Wednesday.

Sportzpics for IPL

**SYNOPSIS:** Bowlers make it a cakewalk for DC. Punjab suffer a night of misery

## SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY

APRIL 13

ONCE PUNJAB Kings folded up for 115, Delhi Capitals' challenge was to up their net run rate. They romped to the victory target in 10.3 overs, winning by nine wickets, getting to six points from as many games and improving their net run rate to +0.942. Such a resounding win amid the Covid scare would bring some joy in the camp. Punjab bowlers had virtually nothing to bowl with. Still, their captain Mayank Agarwal missed a trick by not bringing Rahul Chahar early into the attack, on a surface where three DC spinners — Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav and Lalit Yadav — accounted for six scalps, conceding 45 runs. Chahar was brought on in the seventh over, when Prithvi Shaw and David Warner had already sealed the deal. The leg-spinner dismissed Shaw in his first over, but by then the batsman had raced to a 20-ball 41. Warner remained unbeaten on 60 off 30 balls. "Was grateful to have gotten to play the game," the left-hander said post-match.

## Cakewalk for DC

The game, played against the backdrop of a Covid outbreak in their camp, wasn't easy for DC. It's not easy to play cricket when a teammate is battling the virus in a hospital, while another one returned a positive test result on matchday. Also, DC weren't able to train since their last game against Royal Challengers Bangalore, their players and coaching staff coming into this fixture from room isolation.

Leadership becomes important in such situations and the team's young captain Rishabh Pant had head coach Ricky Ponting to fall back on. Warner, too, stepped forward. Before the start of the match at Brabourne Stadium, Pant was having what looked like an on-field leadership meeting, with the two Aussies.

## IPL TABLE

TEAM	M	W	L	PT	NRR
GT	6	5	1	10	0.395
RCB	7	5	2	10	0.251
RR	6	4	2	8	0.380
LSG	7	4	3	8	0.124
SRH	6	4	2	8	-0.077
DC	6	3	3	6	0.942
KKR	7	3	4	6	0.160
PBKS	7	3	4	6	-0.562
CSK	6	1	5	2	-0.638
MI	6	0	6	0	-1.048

DC also came into this game on the heels of two defeats in their last three games, searching for consistency. Their bowlers stood up to be counted.

The pitch was a bit on the slower side. The ball wasn't quite coming on to the bat and Shikhar Dhawan's soft dismissal gave DC an opening. The left-hander tried to paddle a Lalit Yadav delivery that was going down leg, nicking it to Pant behind the stumps in the process. Agarwal had a good start, but chopped on a Mustafizur Rahman delivery on to the stumps, playing away from his body. Then, Axar and Kuldeep took over.

Attacking Axar blindly on a pitch like this is risky business. Liam Livingstone was premeditated in his charge, making it easier for the left-arm spinner to outmanoeuvre the batsman. Axar just dragged his length back and Pant had an easy stumping.

Kuldeep's first over was a little indifferent and he conceded a couple of fours to Jitesh Sharma. But the chinaman bowler started to bowl faster — 'zorse dalo' was Pant's advice from behind the stumps — and his wickets of Kagiso Rabada and Nathan Ellis inside three deliveries thwarted Punjab's lower-order recovery. In between, seamer Khaleel Ahmed removed Jonny Bairstow and welcomed

Shahrukh Khan with a hostile bouncer. Shahrukh and Sharma were trying to build a partnership, but a faster one from Axar trapped Sharma leg-before, on umpire's call. Khaleel returned to dismiss Shahrukh, which ensured that Punjab's total didn't attain respectability.

No DC bowler, bar Shardul Thakur, went beyond seven runs per over. Axar was outstanding, returning with 2/10 from his four overs. Lalit Yadav bagged 2/11 from two overs. Kuldeep (2/24) and Khaleel (2/21), too, contributed handsomely to their team's cause. Together, the bowlers made it a cakewalk for DC. "The bowlers did a fantastic job to make ours easier," Warner said.

## Punjab's night of misery

One of the reasons for Punjab's inconsistent performance — four defeats in seven games now — is the fact that their middle order, save Livingstone, isn't contributing much.

Bairstow hasn't hit his straps yet. Shahrukh isn't making an impact and uncapped Sharma isn't converting his cameos into big scores.

Agarwal recovering from a toe injury and returning to the fold was a positive for Punjab. But he got out after getting a start, Dhawan and Livingstone fell cheaply and there wasn't much fight from the rest.

The onus was on Bairstow to bat deep, but he pulled a length ball on the hips straight to deep fine leg. At 54/4, Punjab needed a partnership. Sharma and Shahrukh needed to play low-risk cricket for the next eight-nine overs. The former played some fine shots, but became a little greedy and went across the stumps to sweep an Axar delivery. It was wrong shot selection, as the situation demanded a safer approach, a push down the ground. Also, Sharma misjudged the pace of the ball. He would learn from his mistakes.

For the moment though, Punjab need middle-order batting improvement. Just 15 fours and a six in their innings encapsulated Punjab's night of misery.

**Brief scores: Punjab Kings 115 all out in 20 overs (Jitesh 32; Axar 2/10, Lalit 2/11, Kuldeep 2/24) lost to Delhi Capitals 119/1 in 10.3 overs (Warner 60 not out, Shaw 41) by nine wickets**

## EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER



Hot heads, calm minds and everything in between at the game

## Plan's well that works well

Delhi Capitals have two frontline spinners in their XI against Punjab Kings — **Axar Patel** and **Kuldeep Yadav**. But Axar brings the ball into the left-handers, and perhaps they didn't want to risk Kuldeep in the Powerplay, or were saving him for later. So, when Punjab raced to 27 without loss in three overs, Rishabh Pant handed the ball to Lalit Yadav for some part-time off-spin to Shikhar Dhawan. The plan seemed to be simple — Lalit darted it in full, in an attempt to take out the slog to the shorter leg-side boundary and make Dhawan hit to the longer rope on the offside. Dhawan did exactly that, moving in-



side the line to loft over mid-off for a couple of runs, although he didn't quite time it. He bettered that effort, skipping out to now take one on the full and hit it for a straight four. DC's plan wasn't working, and Lalit speared in a length ball

headed down the legside. Dhawan decided to swivel and slap it past the wicketkeeper. If he had missed, it would have been a wide. And any decent connection would have got four, as fine leg was up. But all Dhawan managed was to feather it for Pant to take a sharp catch. The plan had worked, even if not in the way DC might have envisaged..

## Livingstone stranded

For a brief instant when he charged Axar Patel and wasn't to the pitch of the ball, **Liam Livingstone** found himself



in the exact position from where he reckons he hits his biggest sixes. "The time you hit the biggest sixes against spin is when your last thought is 'you are not there, I am being done'. And you swing your hands through and if you connect, they go further than anything else," he had once said on a demonstration of six-hitting on Sky Sports. But of course, for that you have to connect. Axar had shortened the length and Livingstone was well short but still went for the big swing. However, the bat swished through well inside the line of the ball that turned and bounced into the gloves of Rishabh Pant. Livingstone was left stumped, in more ways than one.

## Out of sync with inswing

Vaibhav Arora troubled **Prithvi Shaw** twice with his inswing, and once with the lack of it, in the opening over of the DC chase, but ended up conceding three fours. Shaw nearly had his stumps disturbed trying a booming drive to the first in-dipper, but an inside edge saved him, as the ball ran away past short fine. Arora bowled the next one wider, and Shaw had a go again, but couldn't get bat to ball as it curled in under his bat. Shaw was third time wiser and offered a relatively straighter bat to the



third inswinger.

He barely has a front-foot stride and while that leaves him vulnerable to getting bowled through the gate, it helped him flick the next delivery, much straighter this time, over midwicket for four. By now Shaw was expecting inswing every ball but the last delivery of the over didn't; Shaw threw his bat somewhat inside the line, but fortunately for him, toe-ended it safely over cover for the third four."

## Russians, Belarusians banned from Wimbledon; Medvedev to miss out

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, APRIL 20

Tennis players from Russia and Belarus will not be allowed to play at Wimbledon this year because of the war in Ukraine, the All England Club announced Wednesday.

Among the prominent men's players affected by the ban are reigning U.S. Open champion **Daniil Medvedev**, who recently reached No. 1 in the ATP rankings and is currently No. 2, and No. 8 **Andrey Rublev**. The women's players affected include No. 4 **Aryna Sabalenka**, who was a Wimbledon semifinalist last year; **Victoria Azarenka**, a former No. 1 who has won the Australian Open twice; and **Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova**, the French Open runner-up last year. Medvedev, Rublev and Pavlyuchenkova are from Russia; Sabalenka and Azarenka are from Belarus. Wimbledon begins on June 27. The All England Club confirmed in March that it was having discussions with the British government about whether Russians should be able to play in Wimbledon. "It is our responsibility to play our part in the



widespread efforts ... to limit Russia's global influence through the strongest means possible," the All England Club said in a statement first posted on Twitter. "In the circumstances of such unjustified and unprecedented military aggression, it would be unacceptable for the Russian regime to derive any benefits from the involvement of Russian or Belarusian players with The Championships."

Russian athletes have been prevented from competing in many sports following their country's invasion of Ukraine. Belarus has aided Russia in the war. Soccer, figure skating and track and field all banned players from their events because of the war. The Russian men's national soccer team was excluded from last month's World Cup qualifying playoffs, forcing them to miss a chance to reach this year's tournament in Qatar. Wednesday's move signals the first time a tennis tournament has told players from Russia and Belarus they are not welcome, and the ATP was quick to criticize the All England Club for what the men's tennis tour called a "unilateral decision" and "unfair." "Our sport is proud to operate on the

## STARS MISSING OUT

## RUSSIANS

**MEN:** Daniil Medvedev, World No.2, US Open champion; Andrey Rublev, World No.8

**WOMEN:** Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, World No. 16

■ 4 Russian men are ranked in the top 30 on the ATP Tour

■ 5 Russian women are in top 40

## BELARUSIANS

**WOMEN:** Aryna Sabalenka, World No.4, 2021 Wimbledon finalist  
**Victoria Azarenka, World No.18, 2-time Australian Open winner**

fundamental principles of merit and fairness, where players compete as individuals to earn their place in tournaments," the ATP said in a statement, adding that the decision "has the potential to set a damaging precedent for the game."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

BATTING STALWART Virat Kohli is mentally "overcooked" and needs to take a break from cricket in order to serve the country for at least another six-seven years, feels ex-India coach Ravi Shastri. Kohli has been going through a lean patch with just two 40-plus scores to show in last seven innings for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the current IPL season.

The 33-year-old from Delhi, who hasn't scored a century in the last 100 matches across formats, had stepped down from T20 captaincy both for India and RCB and also quit Test leadership, while he was removed from ODI skipper's role.

Shastri feels the likes of Kohli needs to be handled with care and empathy amid the COVID-19 restrictions which has confined players inside bio-bubbles.

"I am going straight to the main guy here. Virat Kohli is overcooked. If anyone needs a break, it's him," Shastri told Star Sports.

"Whether it's 2 months or a month-and-a-half, whether it's after England or before

England. He needs a break because he has got 6-7 years of cricket left in him and you don't want to lose that with a fried brain."

Kohli was out for a duck on Tuesday night as RCB rode on Faf du Plessis' 96 to claim a 18-run win over Lucknow Super Giants.

"When I was coach at the time when this first started, the first thing I said is 'you have to show empathy to the guys'. 'If you're going to be forceful, there is a very thin line there, from a guy losing the plot as opposed to him hanging in there and giving his best. So you have to be extremely careful."

Shastri said there might be one or two players in world cricket going through the same problem which needs to be addressed upfront. Echoing the same sentiment, former England captain Kevin Pietersen said Kohli should take time away from the game as well as social media to rejuvenate himself.

"...the guy has had so much to deal with, from marriage to baby to media scrutiny and all on his personal life. He is the biggest star on show," he said. "Virat Kohli needs to say 'cricket boots, for six months, I will see you later'. Turn off social media, go and get re-energised."

## Pollard announces retirement from international cricket

**Mumbai:** West Indies white-ball captain Kieron Pollard on Wednesday announced his retirement from international cricket though he will continue to freelance in private T20 and T10 leagues across the globe. If one tries to sum up Pollard's international career in a nutshell, he could be termed as a perennial underachiever in maroon jersey. The 34-year-old Pollard, who made his ODI debut back in 2007, fittingly played his last series against India, a country which has become his second home due to his long association with Mumbai Indians.

"Hi all, after careful deliberation, I have decided to retire from international cricket. It was a dream of mine to play for West Indies since I was a 10-year-old boy and I am proud to represent the West Indies for over 15 years in T20 and ODI format of the game," Pollard announced on his official Instagram page.

While he is a feared T20 cricketer, one of the finest that the world has seen, his numbers for the West Indies remain underwhelming with only 2706 runs at just above 26 and 55 wickets from 123 ODIs along with 1569 runs from 101 T20Is at an average of shade over 25. He also took 44 wickets.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



# Harpreet, Sachin win bronze, India finish with five GR medals

# With two games to go, Mumbai City FC's Round of 16 dreams still alive

In their maiden Asian Champions League campaign, Mumbai City FC have played four games, winning once, drawing once and losing twice. They are in third place in a group of four, level on points with UAE Pro League club Al Jazira.

At the start of the competition, coach Des Buckingham had given the squad a target—to become the first Indian team to win an Asian Champions League game. The victory over Air Force Club Iraq ensured that their primary goal was met, but now Mumbai could possibly advance in the tournament. They have two more games left.

## QUALIFICATION STORY

The winner of the Indian Super League shield wins a spot in the Asian Champions League Group stages while the winner of the ISL playoffs wins a spot in the AFC Cup group stages.

In the 2020-21 season, Mumbai won the ISL shield. This happened after the City Football Group (CFG) bought the cash-strapped club. CFG's entry changed the club's fortunes. They signed Spanish coach Sergio Lobera along with a sizeable chunk of the FC Goa team core that he had curated. Players like Mourtaada Fall (still at the club), Ahmed Jahouh (still at the club) and Hugo

Boumous (now at ATK Mohun Bagan) were signed along with strikers like Adam le Fondre and Bartholomew Ogbeche. These players helped the Islanders win the league at a canter and helped them become only the second Indian team to qualify for the AFC

The next season, Mumbai, due to the financial rules of the league, had to let go of some crucial players but instead focused on signing young Indian talent like Apurva Ralte and Lallinzuala Chhangte. They finished fifth in the league but through the campaign kept building up towards Asia's premier continental competition.

## STORY SO FAR

Four points from four games and a chance to take the second spot in the group with two games remaining puts them in a good position. It hasn't been smooth sailing for the Islanders. They



**Mumbai City FC has one win in AFC Champions League group stage.**

have played most of these games with very little possession and are forced to give the ball away to teams that are simply better in quality. But what has carried Mumbai ahead so far has been their defending, which has been brave and their attempts to play attacking football from goalkeeper Phurba Lachenpa's hands to striker Diego Mauricio's feet, which have been braver.

## THE PERFORMERS

In this campaign, the onus has been on Mumbai's defensive line to keep them alive. Senegalese defender Mourtada Fall has somehow put in perfect sliding challenges right at the death on multiple occasions and has headed dangerous balls away from the box. Lachenpa has saved 20 shots on target in three games – the most in the Champions League. In the midfield, Apuia Ralte has shown his

ability to keep the ball moving under pressure. Lallinzuala Chhantane, a right-winger signed from Chennaiyin FC in January, has the ability to slow games down by winning fouls – a crucial aspect of modern day football that not many Indian players are successful in exploiting. In the absence of striker Igor Angulo due to a calf injury, Diego Mauricio has taken over. The Brazilian has been instrumental in holding the ball in the final third and allowing Mumbai players to come further up the pitch. He offers Mumbai the chance to play a different style of football when playing in the opposition half – one that has translated into the Indian club becoming a dangerous team when attacking.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

The format of the Champions League is such that all winners from their group plus three of the best runners up from each region make it to the Round of 16. Currently, Mumbai are level on points with Al Jazira and Air Force Club Iraq but are on third spot because Al Jazira lead the head-to-head record against the Islanders but then Mumbai lead the head-to-head record against Air Force Club. Al Shabab lead the group with 10 points. Currently there are five clubs (Al-Taawoun with 7 points, Al Rayyan with 7 points, Shabab Al-Ahli with 6 points and Nasaf Qarshi with 5 points and Al Jazira with 4 points) ahead of Mumbai in the race for the knockout stages. The top 3 teams will go through. **SHASHANK NAIR**

# Salah double sinks United, Liverpool reach top of PL

## ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIVERPOOL, APRIL 20

TO KNOW deficit in quality now between English football's most successful clubs, just look at how Liverpool's forwards tormented United in a 4-0 rout on Tuesday.

It wasn't just Mohamed Salah scoring twice at Anfield, following a hat trick in the 5-0 humiliation in the reverse fixture. Salah also assisted Luiz Diaz's opener. Salah's first was set up by Sadio Mané. And Mané's goal was provided by Diaz's pass. All before Salah compounded another night of misery for United with a chipped finish for his second, provided by Diaz's replacement — Diogo Jota. Regaining the Premier League trophy from City in the remaining six games would see Liverpool match United on a record 20 English titles. "They just showed what kind of caliber they are," United interim manager Ralf Rangnick said. "Liverpool is fighting for the title," United midfielder Bruno Fernandes said. "We are not fighting for nothing." The 80-year-old Ferguson will have been regretting making the trip across northwest England to watch United being torn apart after only five minutes. United's five-man defense — featuring Phil Jones making his second league appearance of the season — was unlicked by a sweeping break launched from inside Liverpool's penalty area. By the time the ball reached the halfway line, Mané had Salah running forward to release a pass to.

Then Diaz arrived unmarked centrally to strike beyond goalkeeper David de Gea. All the animosity that exists between these rivals was put aside when the clock hit seven minutes and solidarity was shown with Cristiano Ronaldo following the death of his new-born son. A chant of "Viva Ronaldo" was started by the United fans. Their Liverpool counterparts launched a rendition of their anthem — "You'll Never Walk Alone" — and applause to back United's No. 7 who missed the game to grieve with his family and surviving new-born twin. Ronaldo's absence was not the reason for United's struggles. It was another passing move that led to Liverpool's second. Receiving a pass from Joel Matip, Mané lofted the ball to Salah, who had time to take it past Diego Dalot before slotting low into the net in the 22nd minute. Perhaps the only surprise at halftime was United limited the damage to 2-0. There was more of a visiting threat after the break, sparked by Jadon Sancho as the replacement for Jones. But the formation change by Rangnick, the interim manager following Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's firing in November, could not stir a comeback. Any home anxiety was eased once Mané netted in the 68th. Andrew Robertson gained possession and ran with the ball unchallenged



**Mohamed Salah scored a brace in Liverpool's 4-0 win over United.** *Reuters*

**"I'm not blaming anyone -- not my players nor anybody else -- but we just have to realise what kind of squad they had available. This just shows what quality squad and team they have built together, working together with Jurgen and his team the last six years."**

## RALF RANGNICK

MANCHESTER UNITED INTERIM MANAGER

before feeding Diaz to cut-back to Mané to finish. It would get worse for United. Hannibal Mejbri replaced Anthony Elanga and within a minute he was giving the ball away. Robertson pounced and fed Jota whose pass to Salah allowed the Egypt forward to make it nine goals in six games against United, via a deflection off visiting defender Aaron Wan-Bissaka.

"I'm not blaming anyone -- not my players nor anybody else -- but we just have to realise what kind of squad they had available. This just shows what quality squad and team they have built together, working together with Jurgen and his team the last six years," Rangnick said of Liverpool.

## PREMIER LEAGUE STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Liverpool	32	23	7	2	61	76
Man City	31	23	5	3	52	74
Chelsea	30	18	8	4	41	62
Tottenham	32	18	3	11	18	57
Arsenal	31	17	3	11	8	54
Man United	33	15	9	9	4	54

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