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RNI Regd No: ODIENG/2019/77780

BHUBANESWAR

www.aroundodisha.com

VOLUME - 2

ISSUE - 242

PRICE- Rs.2/-

THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2021



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## Quick steps needed to stop 'second peak': PM Modi cautions 'carelessness' against Covid-19



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today interacted with the Chief Ministers of various states regarding the COVID-19 situation via video conference. Addressing the Chief Ministers, the Prime Minister said that more than 96% of the cases in India have recovered and India is having one of the lowest fatality rates in the world. He expressed concern about the high test positivity rate in Maharashtra and MP. and rising cases in Punjab and Maharashtra. 70 districts of the country witnessed 150 percent rise in the last few weeks. He urged to stop this emerging "second peak" of Corona immediately and warned that if we do not stop

this growing pandemic now, then a country-wide outbreak can occur. For stopping this emerging "second peak" of Corona, the Prime Minister stressed the need to take quick and decisive steps. He stressed the importance of solving the problems of local governance. He warned that the confidence which came from our achievements in the battle against Corona should not turn into negligence. He further stressed that the public should not be brought to panic mode and at the same time also get rid of trouble. He stressed the need to strategize by incorporating our past experiences, in our efforts. The Prime Minister noted the need for provision of micro contain-

ment zones. He stressed the need to be serious about 'Test, Track and Treat' as we have been doing for the last one year. He said it is very important to track every infected person's contacts in the shortest time and keep the RT-PCR test rate above 70 percent. He insisted on more RT-PCR tests in states which give more emphasis to Rapid antigen tests like Kerala, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and U.P. The Prime Minister urged to increase testing and to pay special attention to the "referral system" and "ambulance network" in small cities. He said this is because now the whole country has opened up for travel and the number of people travelling has

also increased. He stressed on the need for a new mechanism for sharing information among themselves. Similarly, responsibility of following the SOP for surveillance of the contacts of the travellers coming from abroad have also increased. The Prime Minister remarked that we need to identify mutants of coronavirus and assess their effects. He lauded the continually increased pace of vaccination in the country and the vaccination rates crossing more than 3 million vaccinations in a single day. But at the same time he warned to take the problem of vaccine doses wastage very seriously. He noted that the vaccine waste in Telangana, Andhra

Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to the tune of 10 percent. He urged to immediately correct the drawbacks of planning and governance at the local level to reduce vaccine waste. The Prime Minister summed up that along with the above steps the basic steps to prevent the spread of this infection are wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, taking care of cleanliness etc. He urged that there should be no laxity in such steps and people's awareness will have to be raised on these subjects. He called for increasing the number of vaccination centres and asked to stay vigilant about the vaccine expiry date. 'Dawai bhi aur kadai bhi' insisted the Prime Minister.

## Restrict Coronavirus Spread, Cannot Go Back To Lockdowns, Says Naveen At COVID Meet

Bhubaneswar, Mar 17: Over the last one year, the world has seen an unprecedented crisis due to the Covid-19 situation. It was a difficult year for every human being as the virus spread to all parts of the world. Families and societies have been affected not only in terms of health crisis but also a severe impact on the economy and livelihoods as well,

the cooperation of the people of Odisha, we have been able to control the pandemic and limit its damage to a large extent. Our health staff and administrative system have been working continuously throughout this crisis period." The roll-out of the vaccine has been helpful in providing hope to citizens that the end of the pandemic is nearing. Hu-

has brought fatigue and complacency in following Covid health protocols. We need to be careful as multiple surges of Covid spread is the reality in many countries and as witnessed in many states in India as well. "We cannot go back to the era of lockdowns. However, at the same time, we need to ensure that the virus spread is also contained



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said today. Addressing the meeting of Chief Ministers convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Naveen said, "We in Odisha are affected by disasters like cyclones almost every year. Our administrative machinery is well prepared to deal with crisis situations. Thankfully with

mankind will remain ever grateful to the scientific community for developing vaccines at such short notice. It's a matter of pride for us that India is leading in vaccine manufacture, the Odisha CM said and added that we need to involve further the private sector in expediting the vaccination program. The long period of this crisis

through renewed efforts in awareness and enforcement." "As a country with a huge population, achieving herd immunity will be a long process and in the meantime, we all need to be extremely careful. We will continue to extend all support to the Union Government in this fight against Covid," the CM concluded.

## Odisha DGP Reviews Security Arrangements Ahead Of President Visit



Bhubaneswar, Mar 17: Ahead of President Ram Nath Kovind's scheduled visit to Odisha, DGP Abhay today reviewed the security arrangements through video conference. During his two-day visit, the President will attend the convocation of National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Rourkela on March 21. He will

also inaugurate a super speciality hospital on the premises of Ispat General Hospital (IGH) at the Steel City the same day. He will visit the Konark Temple and Puri Srimandir the next day. The DGP made a thorough review of security arrangements at all visit locations in Rourkela, Puri, airports of

Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda and the Raj Bhawan here. He emphasised on strict access control, anti-sabotage check and thorough security arrangements in adherence to all COVID-19 protocols. On the occasion, concerned district SPs apprised the DGP about arrangements being made to ensure full proof security during the President's visit. Additional DGP (Law and Order), Intelligence Director, Twin City Police Commissioner, Joint Director of Intelligence Bureau, Rourkela IGP WR, DIGP Central Range, Cuttack and SPs of Rourkela, Puri, Jharsuguda and DCP Bhubaneswar attended the meeting, among others.

## Deadlock In Odisha Assembly: Congress Appeals To CM Again For Intervention

Bhubaneswar, Mar 17: Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Narasingha Mishra today again wrote a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appealing him to call an all-party meeting to restore normalcy in the state Assembly and assure that no farmer suffers during the paddy procurement process. In his letter, Mishra pointed out that no business has been transacted since the House assembled on March 12 for second phase of the budget session. The House has been stalled

by both ruling party and the entire Opposition on one ground or other. Legislators of the ruling party are protesting in the middle of the House for last four days. "As a leader of the Assembly, it is your responsibility to intervene for smooth functioning of the House. Attempts by the Speaker to bring the House to order has failed. In democracy, ruling party is not supposed to create pandemonium in the House demanding action against a member of Opposition party. If Speaker feels that the

member has committed breach of privilege, action can be taken against him as per Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Odisha Legislative Assembly," the CLP wrote. "Rampant corruption in procurement of paddy and dissatisfaction among the farmers are being reported by media frequently. When the the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on behalf of the state Government has already assured in the House to purchase paddy from genuine farmers, Minister In-



charge of Food Supplies and Cooperation should not make confusing remarks contrasting the statement made by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs," he further added. Earlier in the day, a delegation of BJD leg-

islators marched to Raj Bhawan from the state Assembly and submitted a memorandum to the Governor regarding irresponsible behavior of BJP MLA Subash Panigrahi by attempting suicide inside the House.

## Sisir Ratho Appointed PCCF In Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Mar 17: Odisha Government today appointed Sisir Kumar Ratho as the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Head of Forest Force.

The 1987-batch Odisha cadre IFS Officer is currently serving as the Additional DG (FC) in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Last year, Ratho

was given the additional charge of CEO and Member Secretary, National Authority CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority).

Bhubaneswar, Mar 17: The Odisha government today requested the Health and Family Welfare Ministry to categorise Journalists and personnel of print and electronic media as Front Line Workers (FLWs) for Covid-19 vaccination. In a letter to MoHFW Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, Additional Chief Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Department, PK

Mohapatra urged him to consider inclusion of additional groups of people as front line workers for inoculation due to the nature of their work. He also requested to add staff engaged in maintenance of essential services like electricity and water supply and employees engaged at airports, railways and sea ports in the FLW category. Sevayats or priests of Lord Jagannatha Temple in Puri



and Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar should be considered for inclusion in

the FLW category as well, Mohapatra stated. He mentioned in the letter that

many categories of persons who are at risk of exposure to infection due to the nature of their work have not been included as FLWs. Worth mentioning, officials from different departments who were engaged for Covid-19 surveillance and containment measures at the State and district -level have been considered as Front Line workers in Odisha since February 2021.



## 'Azaan disturbing sleep, causing headache': Allahabad University V-C writes to DM; admin says 'action as per rules'

Lucknow, Mar 17: Allahabad University Vice-Chancellor Sangita Srivastava has kicked off a row after she wrote to the Prayagraj DM, claiming her "sleep is disturbed due to loud azaan" at the nearby mosque. In her letter, the V-C has also raised the issue of sehri call during Ramzan at 4 am from the mosque. She complains that the azaan "results in a headache, throughout the day, causing losses in work hours". In the letter, dated March 3, 2021, written to Prayagraj DM Bhanu Chandra Goswami, the V-C wrote, "This is to bring to your kind notice that every morning at about 5.30 am my sleep is disturbed due to loud azaan done on the mike by the maulvi in the surrounding mosque. The sleep so disturbed does not resume even after trying hard. This also results in a headache, throughout the day, causing losses in work hours." The letter is titled, "Noise Pollution in Civil Lines, Prayagraj". "An old adage says 'your freedom ends where my nose begins' this hold true here. I am not against any religion, caste or creed, they may even



perform the Azaan without the mike, so that others are not disturbed. Even before Eid, they pronounce Sehri on the mike at 4 am. This practice also creates disturbance to other people. The Constitution of India envisages a secular and peaceful co-existence of all communities, which needs to be practiced in letter and spirit," the letter adds. The V-C also referred to an Allahabad High Court judgement in a PIL filed by Ghazipur MP Afzal Ansari and two others. In May last year, the Allahabad High Court had said that while the azaan (call to prayer) "may be an essential and integral part of Islam", its recitation "through loudspeakers or other sound amplifying devices cannot be said to be an integral part of the religion, war-

ranting protection of the fundamental right enshrined under Article 25 of the Constitution of India, which is even otherwise subject to public order, morality or health and to other provisions" of Part III of the Constitution. The V-C's letter sought a "quick response" from the administration and said, "A quick response from you will be highly appreciated and will restore some peace and tranquility in the minds of all suffering from this loud Azaan". The letter is also marked to Prayagraj (range) Inspector General Kavindra Pratap Singh and SSP Sarvashresth Tripathi and Prayagraj Divisional Commissioner. On Wednesday, Lucknow-based prominent Sunni cleric Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali opposed the letter and

said, "She should be aware that our country is famous for its Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb. People in the country respect others' religions and this is the reason that the sound of azaan from mosques and bhajan and kirtan from temples is always in the air. No one's sleep has been disturbed due to it. Hence, saying things like this is meaningless and the honourable High Court's order from earlier are being followed at mosques. I appeal to everyone to respect each other's religion, and also, not confuse people with unnecessary issues." Speaking on Wednesday, Prayagraj (range) IG Kavindra Pratap Singh said, "We are verifying the letter. I have received it on WhatsApp. Once verification is done, we will see what action has

to be taken. The High Court ruling does say that no one should use loudspeaker between 10 pm and 6 am." While speaking to reporters on Wednesday, the IG said, "She has said that the loudspeaker is used beyond the decided decibel level, which causes her disturbance. We are studying the matter. There are apex court guidelines saying loudspeakers should not be used between 10 pm and 6 am, and if it is done, there should be permission for that. We will study the matter and action will be taken accordingly so that the court's directions are followed." Prayagraj Division Commissioner Sanjay Goel confirmed that he had received the letter through post on March 4, and had asked Prayagraj DM to take "necessary action". Contacted by The Indian Express on Wednesday, Prayagraj DM Bhanu Chandra Goswami said he had received the letter, and action would be taken according to rules. "The letter was received. We are looking into it. And we will take action according to the rules and regulations," said Goswami.

## Narendra Modi's leadership a big boost in global fight against climate change: Boris Johnson

New Delhi, Mar 17: UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday thanked his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, for hosting the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI). He also lauded Modi's "fantastic leadership in areas such as renewable energy" and said it would be a big boost in the global fight against climate change. The three-day international conference on disaster resilience, to discuss several aspects of disaster preparedness including health and digital infrastructure resilience, began on Wednesday. Addressing the ICDRI, virtually inaugurated by Modi, Johnson said, "I applaud my friend Prime Minister Modi for his commitment to this excellent initiative, the Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure (CDRI). The UK is proud to be its co-chair and I am delighted that since its launch, the coalition has made such a great start with 28 countries and organisations now signed up." He highlighted how the UK embarked on its journey to make its infrastructure more disaster-resilient over 10 years ago and is investing 5.2



billion pounds in bolstering flood defences and has a "wealth of expertise to share". "If our battle with COVID-19 has taught us anything over the past year, it's that we must be ready for whatever challenges may be coming next. "And, as the world's climate changes, we must not only do everything in power to strive for Global Net Zero, an ambitious 2030 emissions reductions target, but we must also adapt to its damaging effects and build more resilience to disasters—our roads, our bridges, powerlines, our schools and hospitals—all the infrastructure that we rely on to keep our economies moving and our communities safe. They must be made ready," Johnson said. "As we look forward to COP26 in Glasgow this November, we are working hard to help

countries adapt to the effects of climate change. Let's take action now so that as we build back better from the pandemic, we do so cleaner and greener, making all our communities stronger and more resilient," he added, in reference to the United Nations climate conference being hosted by the UK later this year. Johnson also said that UK and India's shared vision for a sustainable future will be among the issues on the agenda for talks with "friend" PM Modi during his upcoming visit to New Delhi next month. Addressing the event, Modi said the COVID-19 pandemic has taught that in an interdependent and interconnected world, no country—whether rich or poor, in the east or west, north or south—is immune to the effect of global disasters.

## Mukesh Ambani bomb scare: Hemant Nagrale replaces Param Bir as Mumbai police commissioner

New Delhi, Mar 17: The Maharashtra government on Wednesday appointed Hemant Nagrale as the new Mumbai police commissioner, shunting Param Bir Singh, who has now been made the Director General of Home Guards. In another major reshuffle, Rajnish Seth has been appointed Maharashtra DGP while Sanjay Pandey will head the Maharashtra State Security Corporation. The development comes after Param Bir Singh met Maharashtra Chief Min-

ister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday night against the backdrop of the arrest of city police officer Sachin Vaze by the NIA over its probe into the recovery of an explosives-laden SUV near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's house. Vaze, arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on March 13, was attached to the Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU) of city police's

crime branch till recently. The NIA has so far recorded the statements of seven officials of the crime branch, including an assistant commissioner of police, in connection with the case related to the recovery of the vehicle with explosives near Ambani's house in Mumbai last month. State Textile Minister Aslam Shaikh had earlier in the day said action will be taken against the one who has committed a mistake and that the Maharashtra government will not back anybody in such a case. Sachin Vaze



also identified Vaze as the person seen on CCTV footage wearing a large kurta and covering his face, a few hours after the Scorpio SUV was parked outside the Ambani residence that day, sources have said. Vaze (49), is also facing heat in the murder case of Thane-based businessman Mansukh Hiran, who was in possession of the Scorpio. Hiran was found dead in a creek in Thane district on March 5. Before his body was recovered from the creek, Hiran had filed

a complaint at the Vikhroli police station claiming that the Scorpio had been stolen on February 17. His wife Vimla Hiren had also alleged in her statement before ATS that assistant police inspector Vaze had been using the Scorpio car, parked outside Mukesh Ambani's residence with explosives, from November 2020 till February 5.

Will ban import of soldiers' clothing if India can manufacture them: Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat

## Will ban import of soldiers' clothing if India can manufacture them: Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat

New Delhi, Mar 17: The armed forces will completely ban the import of clothing, required to sustain its soldiers at extreme temperatures across the country, if the Indian textile industry is able to innovate and manufacture them, said Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat on Wednesday. "We are looking at the kind of clothing that can sustain our soldiers in the kind of extreme cold climate (near northern borders of Ladakh) and in the hot, dry and humid climate in the deserts and the north-eastern regions where we have the jungle and semi-mountainous ter-

rain," he said in his speech at an event organised by industry body FICCI. "As of now, a large amount of clothing for the armed forces is being imported but in the past one or two years, there has been a lot of innovation by the Indian industry as far as high altitude clothing is concerned," he said. "We have now started placing orders for such clothing. And if we find that this thing can take off and support us, we will not hesitate in putting the entire clothing or the entire 'techno clothing' that we are using in the armed forces on the positive indigenisation list,



which we were earlier calling the negative list for imports," Rawat said. "This means we will completely ban the import of these items and make sure that the defence services have to depend only on the Indian industry as part of our Atmanirbhar Bharat support that we wish to give to the industry," he added. Techno clothing is special clothing that is de-

veloped by incorporating new technology to make it usable in special circumstances and places such as extremely cold areas, biomedical equipment, aircraft, etc. The government in August last year announced a 'negative list for imports' that restricted purchase of 101 defence items such as light combat helicopters, transport aircraft, conventional submarines and

cruise missiles from foreign entities. Rawat said, "As far as defence services are concerned, we have a huge stake in techno textiles. We are large users of textiles that use technology and we will continue to use them in the years ahead." Today, soldiers are serving in altitudes at the northern borders where the temperature falls to as low as minus 50 degree Celsius in the winters, he said. "We have our jawans operating in the deserts where the temperature rises to as high as 58 degree Celsius in the summers. I'm not saying the same textile should suffice and meet both the parameters," he added.

## No decision yet on nationwide NRC, govt tells Rajya Sabha

New Delhi, Mar 17: The Centre on Wednesday said it has not taken any decision on the nationwide roll-out of the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai was replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on whether the central government had any plans to implement the NRC throughout the country. "Till now, the government has not taken any decision to prepare the National Register of Indian Citizens at the national level," Rai said in a written reply. The NRC was

updated in Assam under the supervision of the Supreme Court. When the final NRC was published on August 31, 2019, a total of 19.06 lakh people were excluded out of the total 3,30,27,661 applicants, which created a ripple across India. The NRC is an Assam-specific data of bonafide Indian citizens living in the state. Replying to another question, Rai said there is no provision of detention centres under the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the National Register of Indian Citizens. He said the Supreme Court on February 28, 2012



had directed that foreign nationals who completed their sentence shall be released from jail immediately and be kept in an appropriate place with restricted movement pending their deportation or repatriation. Following that directive, Rai said, the

Ministry of Home Affairs issued instructions on March 7, 2012 to state governments and UT administrations to comply with the directions of the Supreme Court. The minister said detention centres are set up by the state governments and UT adminis-

trations as per their local requirements to detain illegal immigrants and foreigners, some of whom may have completed their sentence and their deportation to their native country may be pending for want of proper travel documents.



## Sriranjan Mangaraj Appointed as New Vice-President of BJP Krushak Morcha



(A.O. Bureau) Khordha, Mar 17: The BJP Krushak Morcha Odisha State announced its new team of office bearer's and said it will continue to work the interests of farmers across the state of Odisha. The Morcha new team has six vice-

president. Among them the front line young leader of BJP Khordha Assembly Constituency Sriranjan Mangaraj appointed as new vice-president of BJP Krushak Morcha Odisha state. Sri Mangaraj work for a discipline member of

BJP since last 27 years. After his appointment he thanks to the BJB President Sameer Mohanty, BJP Krushak Morcha State President and Former BJP MLA, Pradeep Purohit and BJP state Organization General Secretary Manash Kumar Mohanty. BJP state Executive Committee Members Kalu Charan Khandayatray said "The appointment of Sriranjan Mangaraj as Vice-president of BJP Krushak Morcha Odisha state make stronger in the organization of BJP in Khordha Assembly Constituency."

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 17: The Election Commission has Declared by-elections to be held in 17/4/21. According to Gazette Notification the Date of Nomination is 30/3/21, last date of Withdrawal is 3/4/21 Date of Pulling on 17/4/21 The counting is stated on 25/21 The Enrollment of New Voters in constituency is 77708 the total male voters is 119020 and female is 110561 and others- 2. The Commission has arranged VVPAT machines, Ballot units of 933, control units 968 above all other preparation like 273 Polling

Stations with 75 Auxiliary polling stations. The commission has trained all the officers Dealing with by-elections. The Flying squad, Static surveillance team, and other team has been formed In the view of Covid-19 ECI has allowed 3 new category of voters age of 80 and above they can vote through postal Ballot. The ECI noted the identification of voters as following document namely Adhar card, Job card, Health insurance, Pan card, Pension document service Icard etc. Voters information slip will be distributed at least 5



days before date of poll The Collector Mr Samarth Barma has appeal to the voters of pipile constituency to vote fearlessly and freely to their choice

with out any hesitation The SP of puri Mr K Visal Singh told that he will control over the whole Bye- election with peacefull manner, In this press meet Sub

collector Mr Bhabataran Sahu, ADM Pradip ku Sahu, Election officer Sumanta ku kar and other official were present

## Saraswati shishu vidya mandir, Nuabazar new management committee has formed

Cuttack, Mar 17: The new saraswati shishu vidya mandir, Nuabazar has been formed on dt: 15.03.2021. Mr. Sushant Kumar Panda, Former president of the school and General manager of Bharat Masala Group announced the dissolution of the former management committee at a meeting held on the occasion. Mr. Kamalakanta Mishra, member of the Odisha economic toll committee of the Education devel-



opment committee announced the names of the new activists, Mr. Mahendra Kumar

Ghadei, Editor in chief of the Education development committee of Odisha, North east

sambhag, gave his views on the organization. Mrs. Namita Panda as the president

of the school's new management committee, Mr. Pradipta Kumar Jena as Vice president, Mr. Lalitendu Kanungo, as editor, Mr. Suryakant Nayak as Sub editor, Mr. Prafulla Kumar Padhi as treasurer and Mr. Sukru Singh and Mrs. Laxmipriya Das as member takes the charges. Mr. Bhaskar Chandra Sahu, Head Department of talks, education development committee, Odisha thanked the participants.

## India ready to produce aluminum air battery - Dharmendra Pradhan

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 17: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and "IOC Finance Pvt." "Mr. Pradhan said the joint venture was planned to produce aluminum air batteries in the country and reuse used aluminum in the coming days." "Notably, IC Finance Pvt. Ltd. is a subsidiary of Indian

thanked the two companies for making the trip a success "Chief." He said the business of aluminum air technology in the automotive sector "Automotive with Indian Oil-Finances Pvt. Ltd. to cooperate. "Producers Maruti Suzuki and Ashok Leland also wrote a letter of intent "Agreed today." "This is a great

Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in New Delhi. "India has pledged to reduce climate change through energy, such as reducing pollution. This is an important step for the future. "The move will facilitate the development of the Aluminum Air Battery Environment and strengthen Make in



Oil and Israel. "Finerji's joint venture. "The company will supply aluminum-air battery technology to Indian automakers. "Indian Oil and Financing Company emphasizes clean, sustainable, affordable and safe energy. "He

achievement for the self-reliant India. "This technology will help reduce pollution in the transportation sector. "The joint venture is a reflection of the 2014 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Prime Minister Narendra

India in the field of electric vehicle technology. "In addition to promoting clean energy, research and development, technology transfer, investment, capacity building will be encouraged, Mr. Pradhan said."

## Complaint Against Odisha Lawyer For 'Inappropriately Touching' Salon Boy

(A.O. Bureau) Cuttack, Mar 17: An FIR has been lodged against a lawyer namely Rajeev Rath for allegedly inappropriately touching a boy working at a salon located at CDA Sector-9 in Odisha's Cuttack city. As per the complaint lodged by the elder brother of the boy



with Markat Nagar police, the accused came to the salon yesterday and touched the private part of the boy when he was cutting the lawyer's hair. As the complainant opposed the act, Rath abused and threatened him of dire consequences. Earlier, the lawyer used to send ob-

scene messages to the boy on WhatsApp and had asked the boy to have physical relation with him, the complainant alleged. Death threats are being given to the brother duo by the associates of the lawyer, the complainant said. Police have started an investigation into the incident.

## Remedial Classes For Standard 1 To 8 Students Soon In Odisha

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 17: To develop and strengthen students' competencies, Odisha Government has decided to conduct remedial classes of Standard 1 to 8 students for first two to three months of the next academic session. The decision will be applicable to all Government, Government-aided and all unaided private schools under School and Mass Education Department.

The Director of Elementary Education has been directed to issue suitable instructions to all concerned for implementation of the same. This was mentioned in the official notification issued yesterday regarding promotion of Class 1 to 8 students without conduct of any examination during 2020-21 academic session in view of COVID-19 pandemic. "I am directed to say that the Government has been

pleased to approve the proposal that there will be no examination/assessment test during the academic session 2020-21 for Class 1 to 8 and all students of the said classes will be promoted to the next higher class, due to the COVID19 pandemic situation in the state," the letter reads. However, students of the said classes in private schools across the state can appear in their respective examinations online.



## 5-Month Pregnant Odisha Woman Found Dead Under Mysterious Circumstances

(A.O. Bureau) Bhubaneswar, Mar 17: Mystery shrouded the death of a pregnant woman, who was found dead in her house in Baliana area on the city outskirts last night, about 15 months after marriage. However, family members of the deceased identified as Suchismita of Nayagarh district alleged it to be a case murder. As per the complaint lodged at Baliana police station by her parents, Suchismita had married one Subir Kumar Muduli of Jajpur district in December, 2019. Both were well educated and staying in Pahala area post their marriage. Both



were working in IOCL. Reportedly, the couple got into a fight last night, following which the five-month pregnant woman called up her father and complained about it. After a while, Subir tele-

phoned his in-laws and told that their daughter has locked herself in room. Hearing this, Suchismita's parents left for Pahala and later found their daughter dead. The body was later sent to

Capital Hospital here for post-mortem. "Recently, my sister's in-laws had asked her to bring money from my father as they were supposed to buy a land in Cuttack's CDA area at a cost of Rs 18

lakh. Last weekend, my father went to their house and gave Rs 1.5 lakh to avoid any dispute among the couple. Subir, his parents and sister are directly and indirectly involved in the murder," said brother of the deceased. In a related incident, a woman was allegedly strangled to death by her husband at Nandamunda village under Laikera police limits in Jharsuguda district. The couple was collecting mahua flowers in a forest when a verbal duel ensued among them leading to the alleged murder, sources said. Later, police detained the accused and initiated an investigation into the incident.



# EDITORIAL

## Crying wolf?

The use or abuse of women's rights is a common thread binding these two seemingly unrelated developments that hit the headlines recently. On the one hand, the report pertaining to the arrest of a Zomato delivery man physically assaulting a social media influencer has turned on its head with the police now filing a case against the female customer; on the other, there is a genuine and long-pending demand for criminalising marital rape in India. As far as the Bengaluru developments are concerned, the incident reflects the customer's sense of entitlement on account of being moneyed, power-wielding AND a woman. The customer, Hitesha Chandranee, a beauty influencer, had accused the Zomato delivery agent, Kamaraj, of attacking her after delaying her order's delivery. Now, the alleged perpetrator — who was arrested, released on bail and has since been temporarily suspended by the online platform — has filed a case against her claiming that she accidentally hurt herself. This incident reveals one side, where women could present themselves as victims while actually being the perpetrators. The other, diametrically opposite angle, pertains to their true plight, like in the instances of marital rape. Already made to feel unsafe at the workplace or on the roads, they have not been safe within their own homes, too. The instances of domestic violence during the lockdown are a case in point where they were forced to remain closeted at home with their family. In this backdrop, the NCP's Rajya Sabha MP, Vandana Chavan, made an authentic demand asking the Government to take steps to criminalise marital rape. This was not only a demand by women's organisations but also the norm as laid down by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW), she rightly pointed out. According to data, 10 per cent to 14 per cent of the married women in India are raped by their husbands. Though many countries have already criminalised marital rape, India is one of 36 such countries where it is not yet penalised. While there is no denying the shameful fact that even in this time and age, the fair gender is shortchanged and often subjected to harassment and gender inequality, owing largely to the patriarchal mindset, the other side of the coin — where undeserving members of the gender encash their femininity to settle scores, as in dowry-related or stalking cases — must also be addressed by the nation's women.

## Capital mess

The national Capital, it seems, is to have no peace. Be cause, with the introduction of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021, the stage is set for another protracted power struggle between the duly-elected Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government in Delhi and the BJP-led Government at the Centre. The citizens had to witness the unsavory war between the Lieutenant-Governor and the Delhi Chief Minister in the first term of the Arvind Kejriwal-led Government as Najeeb Jung had demanded that the CM's Office route all the files through his office. This was resisted by Kejriwal who viewed it as gubernatorial overreach as in none of the other States and Union Territories of the country was such a protocol necessary. Things came to such a pass that governance in the Capital began to suffer due to the daily spats between the L-G and the Delhi Government, with the bureaucrats caught in the crossfire. The matter reached the Supreme Court in 2017 and, in July 2018, a Constitution Bench of the apex court ruled that the L-G was the "administrative head but can't act as an obstructionist" and "cannot interfere in every decision of the Delhi Government". However, while the separation of powers of the CM and the L-G was clearly delineated by the top court's verdict, the matter related to services remained unresolved and is yet to be concluded in the country's top court. However, after the apex court's decision, governance in Delhi was back on track. The new L-G shared cordial relations with the CM and Kejriwal's office was required to only inform Anil Baijal about its decisions. Now, the Centre has brought the NCT Bill to demarcate the powers of the L-G and the Delhi Government and it will open up a Pandora's Box all over again. This is because the Bill makes it necessary for the Delhi Government to obtain the L-G's opinion before taking any executive decision. This will not only drastically curtail the powers of the elected Government but will also have dangerous consequences for India's federal structure. It would undoubtedly be a mockery of the people's will if Governors across the country are given overriding powers to interfere in the working of an elected Government. It is no wonder that the AAP Government is up in arms as it is worried that the passage of the Bill will take the Capital back to the days when the Centre versus Delhi Government confrontation marred governance in the city. The Congress, which ruled the Capital for 15 years before the AAP Government came to power in 2015, has also termed the Bill unconstitutional, with senior leader Kapil Sibal saying it "violates the federal structure, hems in the elected Government and makes the MLAs caged representatives" and Delhi's Deputy CM Manish Sisodia accusing the Centre of wanting to "rule Delhi through a backdoor channel by making the L-G ever more powerful". Whatever it portends for the successive Governments that will rule Delhi, one thing is sure: The national Capital is set for yet another battle for political supremacy.

## It's time to address learning concerns

It's time to address learning concerns. The Justice JS Verma Committee in 2012 recorded the existence of around 10,000 teacher education institutes out to make a quick buck. The Madhya Pradesh (MP) legislature recently witnessed a rare scene. The Government didn't contest the points raised by the Opposition; rather significantly, both sides showed equal concern. The issue reveals how callous and insensitive our systems are towards children in tribal and backward areas. In this case, the Government assured urgent steps to ameliorate the schoolchildren's sufferings. Recall the constitutional directive to the State to ensure free and compulsory education to all children below 14 years. Now, the revelation: Alirajpur, Jhabua and Mandala are tribal districts in MP with 256, 208 and 237 Government schools, respectively, but without a single teacher. The district of Badwani tops the list with 408 "shikshak-viheen" schools. The current Opposition was in power till a couple of months ago; the new dispensation squarely blames it for this situation. No one accepts responsibility for the continuing fiasco; there are practically no provisions to hold people responsible. There, however, is no dearth of pious assurances. In the time of global initiatives to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs-17) by 2030, this may appear shocking to those who are striving to successfully achieve SDG-4: "Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning." The UN explains: "Obtaining quality education underpins a range of fundamental development drivers. Major progress has been made towards increasing access to education at all levels, particularly for women and girls... The world has achieved equality in primary education between girls and boys,



JS Rajput

but few countries have achieved that target at all levels of education." India is being recognised globally as a nation of young people who have earned appreciation in intellectual and technological arenas. Distressingly, such islands of neglect and exclusion inflict irreversible damage on the image of India and Indians, apart from the sinful deprivation being thrust upon innocent young children. Such conditions persist only because of a lethargic and archaic work culture that continues to prevail in the departments of education in most States and UTs. This, if not transformed urgently, could seriously impede the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP-2020). The challenges that emerge before the implementers of the NEP-2020 include filling up of such breaches at the earliest. The State Governments have to play a major role in redressing such deficiencies as school education is solely their responsibility. It is high time that past experiences are incisively analysed and transformed into lessons for the future. The NEP-1986 led to several initiatives that had the po-

tential to transform the school education scenario in quality, character and relevance. The Centre had come in a big way to assist the States. I would like to recall only two such schemes: Operation Blackboard (OB), and restructuring and strengthening of teacher education institutes (TEIs). As a lateral entrant to the bureaucracy from the world of academics, I was in charge of these two also in Shastri Bhavan, with very high hopes of enhancing the credibility of sarkari schools and the TEIs. By early 80s, the downfall of sarkari schools was visible while private schools, exceptions apart, emerged as a lucrative commercial enterprise. The craze for English medium had overtaken people willing to invest more in the education of their children. To implement the NEP-86, the Centre's support included funds for an additional room, equipment and play material and an additional teacher for every primary school. There would be no single-teacher school in the country. Visiting an educationally backward tribal block, one came across a

shocking instance of how things were moving. Under the OB scheme, there were 208 appointments as second teachers in single-teacher primary schools. Asking to meet a couple of them, it was revealed that all the OB teachers are now OD ('on duty' placement) teachers. Finally, it emerged that most of the new appointees got postings in cities and towns of their choice, leaving the single teachers to their fate. The TEI scheme also met with similar luck. Having headed the Regional Institute of Education in Bhopal for 11 years, one was convinced that the nation needs quality teacher educators who would prepare quality teachers, and the quality so generated would flow into every area of human endeavour. For the TEIs, the Union Government offered financial support. Buildings came up, all the posts of support staff were filled up, but not many States were ready to fill up the academic positions on regular basis; they preferred the "on deputation" approach. The spirit of innovation was thus jeopardised. The mushrooming growth of TEIs during the last two decades attracted the attention of the Justice JS Verma Committee in 2012, which painfully recorded the existence of around 10,000 TEIs that were commercialising teacher education. The NEP-2020 has made serious recommendations on teacher preparation: "The teacher must be at the centre of fundamental reforms in the education system. The new education policy must help re-establish teachers, at all levels, as the most respected and essential members of our society, because they truly shape our next generation... The new education policy must help recruit the very best and brightest to enter the teaching profession at all levels, by ensuring livelihood, respect, dignity and autonomy while also instilling in the system basic methods of quality control and accountability." This says it all.

## Historic Dandi March Resolve Of Total Self-reliance



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The historic Dandi March of Gandhi marked the nation's fresh resolve of total self-reliance—Atmanirbhar Bharat! Each and every homes of the nations will get an opportunity to tell their children the great story in good details once again. For, that is the story of how a small band of determined Satyagrahis led by a man called Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi—who was derisively described by British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill as "half naked fakir from India"—changed history's complexion beyond recognition. From that moment on, when Mahatma Gandhi picked up the symbolic fistful of Salt from the Dandi sea-shore, the mighty British Raj uncontrollably to its core which even the stoic British Media admitted then. India of today must grab this moment with both hands to recall that great history and tell itself again the glory of the various tools the country used to fight the alien rulers over time. Those were truly the unconventional tools in the fight for freedom, defying all norms and forms of logic, in the

process during the British empire upon which the Sun never set proverbially and realistically. On April 5 1930, that sun over the British empire started looking dimmer. Yes, most of us do know the Dandi March story but only in piecemeal. For in our schools and colleges and homes, we have never really made efforts to tell the story in wholesome detail so

armed battle against the alien rulers. There were also the glorious chapters in that story about how the Ghadar movement was launched, of how Swatantryaveer Savarkar led a massive under-cover operations against the British, of how Netaji Subash Chandra Bose took over the Indian National Army, of how countless freedom fighters and

there were just a few people only 81 by one count. But as the Mahatma led that small group through villages and town, countless people just locked their homes and joined the unique idea. Acharya Kripalani offers details of villages got emptied as their heads appealed common people to follow Mahatma. Every detail of the March and April 5, 1930 on the Dandi sea-shore is very inspiring. It is now therefore time to start telling ourselves the great story once again. It is time for all of us to enlighten our youngsters on how the nation fought the great struggle for Independence. And it is time for us to remind our children that the freedom they enjoy today has come out of sacrifices unimaginable to the younger generations of today, enamoured by terrible values of shocking superficiality. Fistful of salt was both, a patriotic symbolism and economic realism of that moment under the British rule. Actually by March 12, 1930, it had become amply clear to the country and the world that the British would soon leave India. The Government has done well to pick up the symbolism of the Dandi March to begin the celebrations of India's 75 anniversary 75 weeks ahead of that moment. That is the true need of the hour.



as to make succeeding generations proud of one of the most historic moments of our long struggle for Independence. The story had many points when the struggle changed its form. There were times when India's native ruling class came together to launch what has now come to be described as 1857 War of Independence. There were times when young people formed revolutionary groups and waged

revolutionaries from north-eastern or southern parts of India waged relentless battles against the British and made it impossible for them to have a good night's sleep for nearly a hundred years—ultimately forcing them to give up their control of India. The story of Dandi March is one of those moments when the British realised how the common people could dare them. When the March began on March 12, 1930



## ‘Dhud’ Reunites With Foster Mother In Odisha

(A.O. Bureau)  
Telkoi, Mar 17: Happiness of Kuntala Kumari Penthei from Purushottampur village in Keonjhar district and her family knew no bounds when their pet boar ‘Dhud’, that was reportedly taken away from them by Forest personnel forcibly, returned to her lap on Tuesday. ‘Dhud’ has been an integral part of Kuntala Kumari’s family since its childhood. Kuntala Kumari brought up the boar at her house and gave food whatever she and her family ate after rescuing her from a forest near her house. But a few days back, the Forest personnel raided her house to her dismay and reportedly took away the boar forcibly and released it



into forest. Kuntala Kumari and family were broke after the incident and worried about the well being of ‘Dhud’. For consecutive eight days, the woman and her children carrying rice in a large utensil went to the forest and called ‘Dhud’ hoping that it would come to them and eat the food. On the ninth day on Tues-

day, ‘Dhud’ came to Kuntala Kumari in the forest and ate rice. “‘Dhud’ has been limping as it has sustained injuries in the left hind limb. Also, it has become weak without food in the forest,” said Kuntala Kumari. She further said ‘Dhud’ was not safe in the forest as fire was raging there. Moreover, from its childhood the boar

has been eating food that humans are eating. “We want ‘Dhud’ to stay with us and the Forest personnel should not intervene into it,” she added. Rajashree, daughter of the woman, said her mother rescued the boar at infant stage from stray dogs in nearby forest when she had gone to collect firewood. Her mother

brought the baby boar home and nurtured it. The woman’s daughter further said when the baby boar was staying with them at their house no Forest official objected to it. Meanwhile, Telkoi Forest Ranger Pramod Kumar Sethi said the boar rescued from the house of a woman in the village was released to Samakoi reserve forest and it was safe. Sethi further stated, “After some villagers complained that a boar has been visiting the house of a villager and alleged that the wild animal attacked cows in the village, the local forest officer launched an inquiry. Later the woman herself called up the local forest officer and asked him to rescue the boar and release it in a forest.”

## Volleyball Player Dies During Match In Odisha



(A.O. Bureau)  
Angul, Mar 17: A pall of gloom descended after a young volleyball player died during semifinals at a sports ground at Talcher Thermal Power Station, one of the coal-based plants of NTPC, in Angul district yesterday. Himanchal Dehury, the

volleyball player, was declared dead at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar. According to reports, Dehury was playing a district level volleyball game for the Brajakot team against Gobara team. He suddenly collapsed on the ground during a semifinal match at Talcher

Thermal Power Station, after 10.00 PM on Tuesday. He was immediately rushed to power plant hospital for treatment. Later, he was shifted to a private hospital in Bhubaneswar where the doctors declared him dead in the wee hours.

## Elephant Menace Forces Odisha Villagers To Move To Tree Houses



(A.O. Bureau)  
Sambalpur, Mar 17: Being scared of elephant attack, some villagers of Rugudipada in Jujumura area of Odisha’s Sambalpur district have started staying on tree houses. On March 12, a herd of el-

ephants had wreaked havoc in the locality by destroying a person’s house and damaging articles which were arranged for a wedding ceremony. In a bid to avoid trouble and ensure safety in view of the presence of the jumbos

in the area, several villagers have created tree houses for themselves. They were seen sleeping on the tree houses during night. The locals alleged that Forest officials were yet to reach the village and take stock of the situation.

## Civic Workers Open Fire At Man For Walking Pet Dog In Berhampur Street



(A.O. Bureau)  
Ganjam, Mar 17: In a bizarre incident, two sanitation workers of the Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) allegedly opened fire at resident while he was walking his pet dog in a street in Berhampur town on Tuesday night. The man and his dog survived the murderous attack as the solitary

bullet missed the target. As per reports, the Vidyannathpur Police have arrested the two workers and seized the Mouser they had used in the attack. Source said that the incident occurred at Dhoba Street in Khodasing area of Berhampur. The local resident got into a heated exchange of words with the two

sanitation workers after they objected him to taking his pet dog out on a walk in the street. They allegedly stopped him and threatened him with dire consequences if he did not take the dog away as it could soil the street by defecating in the open. The duo allegedly became violent during arguments when one of them pulled out the firearm and opened fired on the resident without any provocation. Fortunately, the bullet missed the target and the resident and his dog had a providential escape from sure death. On receiving the information, the Vaidyanathpur police rushed to the spot arrested the two miscreants before they could escape. The Mouser they had used in the shootout was subsequently seized from them.

## Man Fined For Driving Truck Without Wearing Helmet!

(A.O. Bureau)  
Berhampur, Mar 17: In what could be termed as a major embarrassment for the Transport Department, a man was fined Rs 1,000 for driving truck without wearing helmet. While the challan is issued on December 24, 2020, the matter came to fore when vehicle owner Pramod Kumar Swain of G. Jagannathpur in Ganjam district went to the RTO office recently for renewing the permit of the truck. He was



shocked to know that a challan pertaining to ‘Driving without helmet’ was pending against the registered number of the truck. The permit was renewed after payment of the fine. Expressing displeasure, Swain said the government should take steps to prevent such errors for which people are suffering. Earlier, a truck driver and helper were fined by police for not wearing helmet in Chandikhole area of Jajpur district.

## Bank Staff Robbed Off Rs 21 Lakh

(A.O. Bureau)  
Sonepur, Mar 17: Armed miscreants on Wednesday decamped with cash of Rs 21 lakh

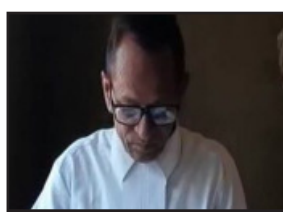
him at gunpoint while he was going to deposit the amount in a nearby ATM. The robbers fled the spot before anyone



from a bank staff near Baghalpur chhak in the district. As per sources, as many as six unidentified miscreants reached the spot on three bikes and snatched the cash bag from the contractual bank staff by keeping

could inform the matter to the police. They have reportedly left behind a bike at the spot. Cops along with a scientific team have been roped in to conduct a thorough probe at the spot to obtain vital clues regarding the loot.

## Cleared Matric On 42nd Attempt & Class 12 After 19 Years



(A.O. Bureau)  
Dhenkanal, Mar 17: Failure is the first step towards success and 65-year-old man Trilochan Naik from Odisha’s Dhenkanal had to take 42 steps to clear Matric exams. Naik who recently cleared Bachelor of Laws is a true embodi-

ment of grit and determination. He has proved that one should not say that one will never do something, because there is always a small possibility that one might do it. Naik has also registered his name in the Bar Council. While one might think his passion for education is a sheer obstinacy, what makes his story so captivating is his journey to get the law degree which took him nearly 50 years.

## Lottery For Water In Odisha Town: Winner Gets A Bucketful

(A.O. Bureau)  
Chhatrapur, Mar 17: Around 50 families at the Station Road in the district headquarters town have resorted to a bizarre innovation for getting a bucketful of drinking water from a lone stand-post in their locality. An instant lottery system is played out every day to decide who gets the quota first. Reason: water comes for only 30-45 minutes in a day to quench the thirst of hundreds of men, women and children in the sprawling colony. As per reports, wisdom prevailed among residents following daily squabbles and fights between women to grab ground in order to fill buckets during the short period when water comes. Elders finally came out with the solution: instant lottery. Though the idea helped in reducing the

rush and feuds, the dry days still continue to haunt as water supply has become scarce and infrequent in the last couple of years. “We resorted to a lottery system because of the regular disputes amongst us. This way we at least get a serial number and accordingly fetch water peacefully. However, only the first three winners get a chance to collect water while others in the queue have to return with empty bucket as the supply stops,” said a woman resident. “We ran from pillar to post for piped water connection in our locality, but got nothing except false assurances,” she added. Locals alleged that they had appraised the NAC executive officer, JE and Councillors on many occasions about the appalling water scarcity in their locality. “They are least

bothered,” they said. Another resident, while highlighting the urgency of the crisis, said, “We can’t even provide a glass of water to passersby as we have to buy water from the market for our daily needs.” She said while other colonies in the vicinity have been provided with adequate water supply, the administration has turned a dry eye towards them. “Are we not citizens of the State, are we not human beings,” another resident asked. The residents said that an open well and a bore-well in the colony were functional earlier. “But now those are in dilapidated condition and not enough to address the needs of all the families,” a resident said adding, “This has left us to depend on the solitary stand-post which again is not enough for us.”





# Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain Completes 1500 Episodes, Shubhangi Atre, Aasif Sheikh and Others Celebrate

Mumbai, Mar 17: Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain recently completed 1500 episodes. The cast of the show celebrated the occasion with cake-cutting. Television show Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain recently completed 1500 successful episodes. The cast of the show celebrated the occasion with cake-cutting. The cake had "1500 congratulations from &TV team" written on it. Shubhangi Atre, Rohitashv Gour, Aasif Sheikh and the other cast members of the show were present during the cake-cutting. Nehha Pendse, who re-



cently joined the show as Anita Bhabi, was missing from the celebrations. Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai was launched in 2015 and since then both the lead actresses have been replaced. Subhangi took over Shilpa Shinde's role,

whereas Nehha is seen in the role played by Saumya Tandon. While Shilpa played Angoori Bhabi for one year,

Saumya was part of the show for five years. Meanwhile, on joining the show as Anita Bhabi, "Firstly, I am thrilled to be playing the role. I have made my contributions in the fresh look of Anita Bhabi. The idea was not to create an entirely new look but bring alive my personality with a tinge of freshness to the overall persona of Anita Bhabi. The Indo-western look continues, but the glam quotient and the oomph factor will be a notch higher. I am eagerly looking forward to the audience's response," said Nehha.

# Kiara Advani reveals her last romantic date: 'It was sometime this year'

New Delhi, Mar 17: In a new interview, Kiara Advani revealed she went on a date earlier this year. The actor was also asked about her rumoured boyfriend Sidharth Malhotra during the chat. Kiara Advani has been long-rumoured to be dating Sidharth Malhotra. The two actors, who have

refused to divulge details. Instead, the actor opened up about a date she went on earlier this year. Speaking to Filmfare, Kiara said, "Last time I went on a date was... It was sometime this year. And it's been only two months for this year, so you do the math." The Kabir Singh star also

year will see the actor and Sidharth on-screen in Shershaah, which is set to release on July 2, this year. Sharing two posters of the movie on social media, Kiara wrote, "#Shershaah coming to theatres on 2nd July, 2021, see you at the movies!" Kiara also has Jug Jugg Jeeyo in the pipeline. The movie is directed by



starred in the movie Shershaah together, haven't confirmed her relationship status but she has been spotted with him and his family on a couple of occasions. They have also travelled to the Maldives on the heels of the new year. In a new interview, the actor was asked about what's brewing between her and Sidharth. But Kiara

opened up about how she would react if she found her boyfriend cheating. The actor said, "Then I will block him and never look back. No forgetting. I don't go back. That's a complete no-no in a relationship." Kiara has been busy with a few projects. Last year, she appeared in Guilty, Indoo Ki Jawani and Laxmii. The upcoming

Raj Mehta and she stars alongside Varun Dhawan, Anil Kapoor, Neetu Kapoor, and Prajakta Koli. Kiara has also been busy with the shoot of Anees Bazmee's Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2. Kiara stars opposite Kartik Aaryan in it. As for Siddharth, apart from Shershaah, he will be seen in Mission Majnu, opposite Rashmika Mandana.

# Kartik's sister recreates his pose in new pics, he calls her his most loyal fan

New Delhi, Mar 17: Kartik Aaryan has shared a picture of his sister as Kritika as she recreated a pose of him from a billboard in her new picture. Kartik Aaryan has shared a new post dedicated to his sister and her loyalty. He took to Instagram to share a photo of Kritika, standing in front of a large hoarding, bearing his face. Kritika posed in the same that Kartik did on the hoarding. Kartik often shares pictures and videos of his sister on



Instagram. Recently, Kartik put up a video of his sister booking a wrong flight, due to which she had

to return from the check-in gate at the airport. She wrote, "Dear Koki. I can't count the number of

times you've made me feel proud of you. Here's one more added to that long list! "KOKI POOCHEGA" what an epic initiative! Love the show and i'm so proud of the thought and hard work you've put into it." Kartik was last seen in Imtiaz Ali's Love Aaj Kal, co-starring Sara Ali Khan. The film was a sequel to Imtiaz's 2009 movie by the same name, which starred Deepika Padukone and Saif Ali Khan. The actor has an impressive line-up

of projects in the pipeline including Dhamaka, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2, and Dostana 2. Kartik plays a journalist in Dhamaka, which is about a television channel's live coverage of a terrorist attack. Directed by Ram Madhvan, the shoot was mostly restricted to a hotel in Powai. The entire crew was put up at the hotel, creating a bio-bubble during filming. Only a few action sequences were shot outdoors.

# Salman Khan's Radhe Vs John Abraham's Satyameva Jayate 2: Who'll Win at the Box Office This Eid?



Mumbai, Mar 17: John Abraham's action drama Satyameva Jayate 2 is scheduled to release this Eid. It will clash with Salman Khan's Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai which is also releasing on the same date. This Eid, be prepared to witness double action with John Abraham in Milap Milan Zaveri's Satyameva Jayate 2, along with Divya Khosla Kumar and Manoj Bajpayee. Releasing on 13th May, this action drama will see Abraham in a double role for the very first time. Satyameva Jayate 2 is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar's T-

Series and Monisha Advani, Madhu Bhojwani, and Nikkhil Advani's Emmay Entertainment, and is a sequel to Abraham's 2018 hit. The makers unveiled the poster on Wednesday and Abraham took to

Twitter to share it with his fans. However, Satyameva Jayate 2 will clash with Salman Khan's Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai, which is also scheduled to release this Eid. A couple of days back, Khan had taken to Twitter to announce the release date of his film. He had shared the poster of the film with this caption: "Eid ka commitment tha, Eid par hi aayenge kyun ki ek baar jo mine... #RadheOn30May #2MonthsToRadhe". Teri Aankhon Mein: Divya Khosla Kumar, Pearl V Puri Create Magic in New Romantic Song The film will show Khan in the titular role, along with Disha Patani, Randeep Hooda and Jackie Shroff. It is helmed by Prabhu Deva and presented by Salman Khan films in association with ZEE Studios.



# 6 Films That Won Best Picture Oscar Award with Their Musical Themes

New Delhi, Mar 17: We bring to you a list of six films that had previously won the Academy Awards for their musical theme. Earlier this week, British-Pakistani actor Riz Ahmed made history by being the first Muslim actor nominated for the Oscars in the "Best Male Actor" category for his film Sound of Metal. The film went on to get five other nominations including Best Picture, Actor in a Supporting Role, Original Screenplay, Best Sound and Best Film Editing. While the expectations are high with this film, we bring to you a list of six films that had previously won the Academy Awards for their musical theme. The Broadway Melody (1929): Back when The Broadway Melody won, the Best Picture award was known as Outstanding Picture awards. What's more interesting is that this film was the first musical, and the first sound film to win an Academy Award. The film follows sisters Hank and Queenie Mahoney, who try to make it big on Broadway, but get stuck in the complications of love and relationships. The music of the film was given by Nacio Herb Brown, who is also known for his score in the 1952 musical Singin' in the Rain. An American In Paris (1951): It was nominated for as many as nine awards and ended up winning seven of them. The film follows three



friends struggling to find work in Paris and is based on American composer George Gershwin's 1928 orchestral composition of the same name. Gershwin's brother Ira wrote the lyrics and additional music was provided by Saul Chaplin. The film's climax is a very popular dance sequence of around 17 minutes. West Side Story (1961): One of the most remarkable films of all time, West Side Story won eleven Academy Awards, including the Best Picture, making it the only musical to win so many awards. It is an adaptation of the 1957 Broadway musical of the same name, which is another adaptation of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. It is based on the rivalry of two gangs from New York City and

how two youngsters from the respective gangs manage to fall in love amid the existing tensions. The film also found its place in the National Film Registry in 1997, and Steven Spielberg is all set to release its adaptation in December 2021. My Fair Lady (1964): This musical drama is based on lyricist Alan Jay Lerner and composer Frederick Loewe's adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's 1913 play Pygmalion. It is based on poor girl Eliza Doolittle (Audrey Hepburn), and a snobbish professor Henry Higgins (Rex Harrison) who bets that he could teach Eliza proper English and make her presentable in high society. Some of the notable musical numbers include "Wouldn't It Be Lovely?", "With a Little Bit of Luck", and "The

Rain in Spain". This film was also selected for preservation by the Library of Congress in 2019 for its cultural significance. The Sound of Music (1965): We have all sung along to "Do-Re-Mi", "Edelweiss", or "So Long, Farewell", and some might even remember the words by heart. Such is the significance of The Sound of Music which went on to become one of the greatest cinematic experiences of all time. Starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer, the film is an adaptation of the 1959 stage musical of the same name, which portrays the story of the Von Trapp family. Apart from the Best Picture Award, it also bagged the award for the Best Director, making it the second pair of awards for director

Robert Wise who also won these accolades for West Side Story. Amadeus (1984): A list of musicals would be incomplete if a film on the prodigious Austrian composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart doesn't find its way into it. This 1984 American period biographical drama is based on a fictional rivalry between Mozart and Antonio Salieri, an Italian composer. The music of the film was supervised and conducted by an English violinist, and one of the world's most significant conductors Neville Marriner. The soundtrack of Amadeus also found its way to the top spot in the Billboard classical Albums Chart, and also ended up winning the Grammy award for Best Classical Album in 1984.



# India struggle to 188 all out despite Mithali's unbeaten 79



Lucknow, Mar 17: Mithali Raj played a captain's knock by hitting a well-crafted 79 not out as India struggled to 188 all out against South Africa in the fifth and final women's ODI here on Wednesday. Put into bat, Mithali steered India's innings after India lost three early wickets with the scoreboard reading 53 in the 13th over. Together with Harmanpreet Kaur (30), who retired hurt following cramps, Mithali shared 71 runs for the fourth wicket before the former left the ground in the 31st over. India lost opener Priya Punia (18) early before India's star batswoman of the

series Punam Raut (10) and Smriti Mandhana (18) departed in successive overs. Dayalan Hemalatha (2) and Sushma Verma (0) failed to provide the much-needed support to Mithali as the veteran Indian batter brought up her second fifty of the series and 55th overall in 78 balls in the 38th over. Jhulan Goswami (5) and Monica Patel (9) too didn't trouble the scorers much as Mithali kept India's innings going single-handedly. Debutant Challuru Prathyusha (2) also failed to make a mark as India slumped to 176 for eight by the end of the 47th over. Mithali was left

# Is Virat Kohli the best T20 batsman in the world?



New Delhi, Mar 17: The India captain tops the charts in every important aspect, but when it comes to building an innings in a chase, there's no one to match him. In a fickle format where 4-5 balls can change the entire course of a match and a number of top-rung contenders like Rohit Sharma, David Warner, Martin Guptill or Aaron Finch in the fray, that may seem like a tough question to answer. Yet, a stack of numbers shows that Kohli is a T20 monster, and, if that's possible, his skills in this format are underappreciated. Take any major criteria and Kohli sits at the top of the chart: Most runs in T20Is (3078 in 88 matches), only batsman with more than 1000 T20I runs to average above 50 (52.16), most fifties (27) and most boundaries (278). What these numbers don't say is how Kohli achieved it by defying the norms of success in this format - he doesn't open the batting like Sharma, Warner or Guptill, plays more conventional shots and hardly takes the aerial route like Chris Gayle, Finch or Eoin Morgan. Kohli subscribes to a classical batting approach that ensures maximum runs at minimum risk, a methodology at odds with the usual T20 mantra of aggression, muscle and power-hitting. It's why T20 has been less accommodating of some of the finest Test batsmen. There are exceptions like Kane Williamson or Babar Azam but no major Test batsman has slipped into this format as comfortably as Kohli. And he does it by preserving his wicket, rotating the strike and picking the gaps - just the way you would want to bat in Tests. That was yet again on display in the way Kohli built his innings on Tuesday - scoring 28 off his first 29 balls before scoring 49 in the next 17. Only Yuvraj Singh has scored more (58 off 16 against England in 2007) in the last five overs of a T20I for India, that too because of his six sixes off one Stuart Broad over. We are so used to watching Kohli make batting look ridiculously easy that

back-to-back ducks at the start of this T20I series sparked unfair chatter over his form. But no one is as hard on Kohli as Kohli himself. So he spoke to AB de Villiers who advised him to "watch the ball". "That's exactly what I did," said Kohli after his unbeaten 73 in the previous match. What else? "I had to shift the focus back to the basics of the game." Basics of the game translate to being patient, trusting one's instincts and finding the right stroke for every delivery. Time-consuming on the onset, these basics help Test greats like Kohli make the seamless transition between facing pace or spin, on quick or slow pitches, in big or small grounds, converting them into the run machines T20 cricket craves. Let's go back to Tuesday's match. Watch Hardik Pandya, one of the most hyped T20 batsmen, struggle against Jofra Archer's slowers in the 19th over. Now rewind to the 17th over and watch Kohli move across the line, head still, slapping Chris Jordan's slower wide delivery between deep midwicket and wide long-on to bring up his fifty. A similar but quicker delivery from Mark Wood the next over was expertly dispatched wide of a scampering deep third-man. The ball before that, Kohli just hit Wood through the line for a straight six with a high-elbowed finish. It tells you a story when Wood, who till his third over had taken three wickets for just 14 runs, leaks 16 in just three deliveries. This is what Kohli does once he stays at the crease long enough - he makes the bowlers pay and finishes big. And he almost always stays till the last ball. Among contemporary batsmen, only Shoaib Malik has more unbeaten innings (31) than Kohli (23) but the Pakistani has played far more matches (116) compared to Kohli (88). But it is really in the chasing game that Kohli has proven to be an all-time best. Of all the batsmen to have featured in at least 20 wins batting second, Kohli tops the average with a

stupendous 108.3 in 31 victories. Next best is MS Dhoni, averaging 72.5 in 29 wins, followed by Jos Buttler (71.85 in 21 wins). Acing 164 on Sunday's 2nd T20 was easier, thanks to Ishan Kishan's coordinated assault. But chasing 160 in the 2016 World Twenty20 game against Australia at Mohali was far more difficult after India lost Shikhar Dhawan, Sharma and Suresh Raina and the asking rate touched nine for the last 12 overs. Twenty off 20 balls at one point, Kohli pressed the Australians with his running between the wickets before unleashing cover drives that quickly hacked down the equation. Kohli finished unbeaten on 82 off 51, India won with five balls to spare. He did it again in 2017, scoring 82 chasing 170 in Colombo; and then again in 2019, chasing down West Indies' 207 with a reassuring 94. The list is pretty long. If it's a tricky chase, trust Kohli to have a whole-hearted go at it. Kohli's scoring prowess is in full display in the IPL as well - highest all-time scorer (5878 runs in 192 matches), highest scorer in a season (973 runs in 2016) and five centuries (second only to Gayle's six hundreds) tell you why Kohli is such a game-changer in this format (though, it must be said, not enough to change the fortunes of his chronically underperforming team RCB). And he has kept himself in business by adapting; lifting his IPL strike rate from 105 in 2008 to 152 in 2016 was one such crucial adjustment. It improved his international returns as well. Barring 2018, Kohli's T20I strike rate hasn't dipped below 140 since 2016. Through the years, Kohli has looked and acted the part of the Test-style anchor who not only chases down stiff totals but also ensures respectable first-innings finishes after batting meltdowns. That he does that without ever looking slow makes Kohli such a giant of the game.

# Sreeshankar Murali books Tokyo berth with a big jump, silences naysayers

New Delhi, Mar 17: The moment long jumper Sreeshankar Murali completed his fifth jump, he had a gut feeling of having crossed the Olympic qualifying standard of 8.22 metres. The 21-year-old looked anxiously at the official to check if he had fouled. Much to his relief the white flag was raised and Sreeshankar let out a scream of joy and pumped his fists. It is rare for the youngster from Palakkad district, Kerala, to show any emotion. But the occasion called for it. His fifth and best attempt of 8.26m earned him a spot in the Tokyo Olympics. He also bettered his previous national mark of 8.20m. "While I was landing I saw myself go past the Olympic qualifying marker placed on the side. My only fear was whether I had committed a foul or not," Sreeshankar told. His fear was unfounded. The wiry BSc mathematics student was in great

rhythm on Tuesday. Sreeshankar credited the feat to his father and coach S Murali, who was beaming. "When he was just 10, he created an email account with a combination of his name and the word 'Olympics' in it. Maybe he will have to update that after he goes to Tokyo," Murali said. But it hasn't been easy for the duo, especially with constant barbs aimed at Sreeshankar for being reluctant to not train with anyone else other than his father. "I know a lot of people were saying things like 8.20m is my peak and that I can't go any further while training under my father. All those comments charged me up actually. I came here and wanted to prove that I am much better than that. I know my father isn't a qualified coach but his approach is the best. Everything in my training is tailor-made and specific. He knows my mentality and body better than me," said



Sreeshankar whose mother KS Bijimol is also a former international-level athlete. Despite the huge jump, the father-son duo was quick to brush off talks of a big result in Tokyo. Tuesday's result was just a huge weight off their shoulders. They know they are still miles away from the top stars on the global stage. Father Murali says his son would be ultimately aiming for a podium spot at the Paris Olympics in 2024. "I don't

want to be overconfident. 8.26m is just one milestone on the road. I am happy but there is no reason to be content. There are jumpers who are doing extremely well especially on the American collegiate circuit. If I have to make an impact on the global level then I will have to raise my standards," said Sreeshankar. On his return to competition in the second leg of the Indian Grand Prix last month, Sreeshankar

wasn't able to get the explosiveness in his jumps despite breaching the 8m mark. The restless youngster went back to the hotel room to 'pester his father' and know where he was going wrong. "He said I'm stupid in a jovial tone. He said I am scared of approaching the board and that I should attack it. I tried to remove that fear today from the first jump itself and I saw a constant improvement," he said.

# Ruthless Man City sweep aside Gladbach, Real Madrid beat Atalanta to return to CL quarterfinals



New Delhi, Mar 17: The ruthless nature of City's 4-0 aggregate win over Gladbach, sealed by another 2-0 victory over the German team in the second leg on Tuesday, smacked of a side in control of its destiny. Mancity, Champions League The celebrations at the full-time whistle were as business-like as the performance. For City, it felt the

competition now starts for real. The quarterfinals have proved to be the ceiling for Manchester City in the Champions League under Pep Guardiola. The team is back there again, for a fourth straight season, after sweeping aside Borussia Monchengladbach in the last 16. And this time, things feel very different. The ruthless nature of

City's 4-0 aggregate win over Gladbach, sealed by another 2-0 victory over the German team in the second leg on Tuesday, smacked of a side in control of its destiny. The celebrations at the full-time whistle were as business-like as the performance. For City, it felt the competition now starts for real. "Since the first day I arrived here, five years ago, they told me you have to win the Champions League," Guardiola said. "So it's always on our shoulders." Yet the expectations have proved too much for Guardiola and his team in successive quarterfinal exits, to Liverpool, Tottenham and then so painfully Lyon last season.

# Rohan Bopanna-Aisam Qureshi pair loses first match after reunion

New Delhi, Mar 17: The 'Indo-Pak pair' of Rohan Bopanna and Aisam ul Haq Qureshi lost their first match after rejoining forces, bowing out of the ATP 500 event on Wednesday. Up against second seeds Bruno Soares and Jamie Murray, the unseeded Indo-Pak team lost 7-6(4) 2-6 1-10 in the opening round of the USD 1204960 hard court tournament.

After trailing 0-7 in the Super Tie Breaker, it was an enormous task for them to pull back. The last time Bopanna and Qureshi played together was in 2014 at the an ATP event in Shenzhen. Both the players had made it clear that their reunion was one-off arrangement since their low combined ranking won't let them enter the bigger tournaments.





## Services Of Four Long Distance Trains Through ECoR Jurisdiction And Puri-howrah Special Extended



(A.O. Bureau)  
New Delhi, Mar 17: Ministry of Railways has extended the services of five long distance trains passing through East Coast Railway jurisdiction including Howrah-Puri-Howrah daily Special. 02835/02836 Hatia-Yesvantpur-Hatia weekly Special from Hatia on every Tuesday and from Yesvantpur on every Thursday will run

up to 24th June, 2021. 02873/02874 Howrah-Yesvantpur-Howrah daily Special will run up to 28th June from Howrah and up to 30th June, 2021 from Yesvantpur. 02867/02868 Howrah-Pondichery-Howrah weekly Special from Howrah on every Sunday and from Pondichery on every Wednesday will run up

to 30th June, 2021. 02877/02878 Howrah-Ernakulam-Howrah weekly Special from Howrah on every Saturday and from Ernakulam on every Monday will run up to 26th April, 2021. 02837/02838 Howrah-Puri-Howrah daily Special will run up to 29th June from Howrah and up to 30th June, 2021 from Puri.

## More Muslim outfits slam Waseem Razvi; Shia Personal Law Board calls emergency meeting

(A.O. Bureau)  
Lucknow, Mar 17: More Muslim organisations on Wednesday slammed former UP Shia Waqf Board chairman Waseem Rizvi, while his family members appeared to shun him for his PIL in the Supreme Court seeking removal of some Quranic verses which he claimed promoted terrorism. The All India Shia Personal Law Board has called an emergency meeting on Thursday to discuss the issue and decide on a plan of action, its spokesperson Maulana Yasoob Abbas said. Terming the incident a test of patience of the entire community, Abbas said, "Despite this, no action has been initiated against Rizvi. This is a big question in itself. The petition filed by Waseem Rizvi is an insult to Muslims of the

entire world, and it has hurt them significantly." Senior member of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Khalid Rasheed Farangi Mahali asked why no action has been initiated in the case, and added, "Whose patronage is Rizvi getting? Rizvi has broken all the limits by raising a finger on the Quran. The government must initiate stringent action against Rizvi for playing with the sentiments of a large section of people of the country." Meanwhile, Rizvi's family members appeared to distance themselves from him. In a purported video, Waseem Rizvi's younger brother Zaheer Rizvi said, "I, my mother, my brother and my sister do not have any relationship with Waseem Rizvi. Nor do we want to have a relationship with



him. He has nothing to do with Islam, hence he is speaking like this. He is saying this at the behest of someone. I do not want to get into this." "Waseem Rizvi has committed a grave sin. Allah will protect the Quran, and not a single point from it can be removed. There were attacks on the Quran in the past as well, but every time Allah protected it," Zaheer Rizvi added. Waseem Rizvi had moved the apex court on March 11, drawing immense criticism. An

FIR was registered against him in Bareilly on Monday evening for allegedly hurting religious sentiments of Muslims across the country with his petition. The FIR followed complaints by Anjuman Khuddam-e-Rasool secretary Shan Ahmed and an organisation known as Ittehad-e-Millat Council. On Tuesday, chairman of the Raja Action Committee, Maulana Afroz Raja Qadri, claimed sectarian forces were operating behind Rizvi, and that time has come

to unmask them. Members of the Muslim community held a protest in Lucknow against Rizvi on Sunday. Shia cleric and senior member of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board Maulana Kalbe Jawwad and a large number of people took part in the protest at the Bara Imambara. Addressing the gathering that day, Maulana Syed Salman Hasni Nadvi laid stress on Muslim unity and described Rizvi as a "kaafir (non-believer)" and "mujrim (criminal)". Jawwad then urged the government to immediately arrest Rizvi and impose a heavy fine on him. In Bareilly, Mufti Ahsan Raja Qadri of the Dargah-e-Aala Hazrat, a prominent centre of Bareilly Muslims, too had condemned Rizvi's move and said not even an iota of change in the holy book was possible.

## Peace with Pakistan will give India direct access to Central Asia: Imran Khan

(A.O. Bureau)  
Islamabad, Mar 17: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said India will be benefitted economically by having peace with his country as it will be able to directly access resource-rich Central Asia through it. Delivering the inaugural address at the launch of the two-day Islamabad Security Dialogue, Khan also said that his government after coming to power in 2018 did everything for better ties with India and it was for India to reciprocate. "India will have to take the first step. Unless they do so, we cannot do much," he said. India last month said that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence. India has said the onus is on Pa-

kistan to create an environment free of terror and hostility. India has also told Pakistan that "talks and terror" cannot go together and has asked Islamabad to take demonstrable steps against terror groups responsible for launching various attacks on India. The prime minister discussed Pakistan's vision of comprehensive national security, built on the pillars of traditional and non-traditional security, including his vision for economic prosperity and human welfare. Khan dwelt at length on the issue of peace in the region, including peace between Pakistan and India, saying "the unresolved Kashmir issue was the biggest hurdle between the two countries." "If India gives the Kashmiris their right under the UN (resolutions), it



will be greatly beneficial for Pakistan as well as for India," he said and added, "India can access Central Asia after peace." Khan said that having a direct route to the Central Asian region will economically benefit India. Central Asia, in the modern context, generally includes five resource-rich countries — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Pakistan has been unsuccessfully trying to drum up

international support against India for withdrawing Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcating it into two Union territories in August, 2019. India has categorically told the international community that the scrapping of Article 370 of the Constitution was its internal matter. The Ministry of External Affairs has also underlined that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of In-

dia. India and Pakistan had announced on February 25 that they have agreed to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and other sectors. Ties between India and Pakistan nosedived after a terror attack on the Pathankot Air Force base in 2016 by terror groups based in the neighbouring country. Subsequent attacks, including one on Indian Army camp in Uri, further deteriorated the relationship. The relationship dipped further after India's war planes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp deep inside Pakistan on February 26, 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF jawans were killed.

## Mamata releases Trinamool's manifesto, promises minimum monthly income



(A.O. Bureau)  
Kolkata, Mar 17: West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool supremo Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday released the election manifesto of the party, promising a minimum monthly income if voted to power. Under this scheme, which is a remodelling of Congress's Universal Basic Income promise of Lok Sabha election 2019, the woman guardian of every family (general category) will get 500 every month, while the amount will be 1,000 for SC/ST/OBC families. "This is for everyone. This is not any job or anything.

There will be no discrimination. But women guardian will get this, as part of our women empowerment programme," Mamata said. Follow other updates of West Bengal Assembly Election 2021 Apart from that, about five lakh jobs will be generated, Mamata said. The manifesto promises a student credit card of ₹10 lakh at only 4 per cent interest, where the government will be the guarantor. "Parents will not have to worry about the higher education of their children," she said. "This is not a political manifesto. My manifesto is

development-based because I believe where there is a will, there is a way. This a manifesto of the people, for the people, and by the people. Elections will come and go, but people will be there forever. There are many things that exist only in Bengal. In Bengal, we give 731 days of maternity leaves. Because we believe in women empowerment," Mamata said on announcing universal basic monthly income. "We have not decided the name of the scheme yet, because we can't call it a stipend. A stipend is for students. I don't think we can give our mothers a stipend. The name will be finalised later," Mamata added. "It doesn't matter what they say. All doctors of SSKM lied? The MRI report is also wrong?" Mamata said on the accusation of staging the Nandigram attack.

## Union Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar speaks in Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament

(A.O. Bureau)  
New Delhi, Mar 17: Vaccine Maitri began in India's immediate neighbourhood, starting with the Maldives, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, Mauritius and Seychelles, and this was followed by the extended neighbourhood, especially West Asia. The Vaccine Maitri initiative, which has so far supplied Made-in-India Covid-19 vaccines to 72 countries, demonstrated the quality of the country's products and



generated great international goodwill, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday. While making similar statements on the initiative in both houses of Parliament, Jaishankar also appeared to reject

criticism from the West about the government's handling of certain issues and the status of democracy in the country by saying Indians are "naturally internationalist by virtue of our culture, traditions, heritage and history".

## FIRs against 'unknown people' for raising permanent structures at farmers' protest site

(A.O. Bureau)  
Gurgaon, Mar 17: Four days after farmers who have been protesting at the Tikri border for the last three months started raising brick and cement structures in the area, two FIRs have been registered against "unknown" people in Hajar for raising "permanent structures" and "illegal boring". The FIRs have been lodged at the Sadar Bahadurgarh police station and the City Bahadurgarh police station. The FIR at the former has been registered under Section 3 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Prop-

erty Act, 1984, and Section 283 (danger or obstruction in public way or line of navigation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on the basis of a complaint submitted by Siddharth Singh, Estate Officer of the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), Bahadurgarh. In his complaint to police, Singh has stated, "It has come to the notice of this office that some unknown persons are raising permanent structures on the HSVP Dividing Road of Sector 10-12, Bahadurgarh opposite Maruti Training School and RTA Office. It



is also intimated that illegal boring has also been done by some unknown persons along the road... thereby causing damage to the Government Property. Therefore, it is requested to stop the ille-

gal construction and are requested to lodge the FIR against these unknown persons." Confirming an FIR had been registered, Inspector Sunil Kumar, Station House Officer (SHO) of the Sadar

Bahadurgarh police station said, "An FIR has been lodged regarding the matter at our police station, and a similar one has been registered at the City Bahadurgarh police station as well.