



BJP National President JP Nadda brandishes sword while being welcomed by party workers in Jaipur as Satish Poonia looks on. —PHOTO BY SUMAN SARKAR

Nadda emerges as 'uniting force' in Raj BJP!

Aditi Nagar

Jaipur: He came, He saw, He 'conquered'. BJP Chief JP Nadda's presence in Rajasthan's capital Jaipur on Tuesday was akin to setting foot of BJP's two mightiest leaders - PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. For a long time, several factions and specially the national media jostled with the idea of Nadda working under a 'shadow' of towering leaders, but the veteran politician dispelled any such assumptions on Tuesday. Not only did he took charge of setting the 'Rajasthan House' of the saffron party in order, he made sure that the alleged factionalism had no footing in the party.

Nadda was every bit the national president that people and certainly the party workers have come to expect a president to be and it was this persona that ensured that senior stalwarts like Vasundhara Raje, Arun Singh, Om Mathur and others queued up at Jaipur airport to receive Nadda. His stride was humbling and confident and much like Modi-Shah, his presence attracted people to surround him. What more could be said about his arrival that not just the party leaders, but even whose hearts are told to be 'disenchanted' with the party, came ahead gleefully and shook hands with the 'other faction' in the state unit to give out a message of a united BHP, under the national president's presence.

A state unit that is marred with 'rumoured' infighting and perpetual factionalism, seemed to be cementing the differences away as Poonia, who hasnt seen eye-to-eye with former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, was seen serving food to her as a cordial Raje smiled back at him, all under the watchful eyes of Nadda. And whether there be two or three or even more factions in the party, at least here, the party president wields the power to bring all sections of the 'saffron family' to one table and iron out the differences, which means the president's word is final authority in organizational working.

INDIA SHINING

India sincere to emerge as leading blue economy :PM

New Delhi: Asserting that India is a natural leader in maritime sector with a rich history, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the nation is very sincere to emerge as a leading blue economy of the world and pointed out that the government aims to operationalise 23 waterways by 2030. "The Summit brings together many stakeholders relating to this sector. I am sure we will achieve great success in boosting the maritime economy. India is a natural leader in this sector. Our nation has a rich maritime history. Civilisation flourished on our coasts. Turn to P6



UNEMPLOYMENT DUE TO DEMONETISATION

Thiruvananthapuram: Attacking the Centre on Tuesday, former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said unemployment is high in the country and its informal sector is in shambles following the "ill-considered demonetisation decision" taken by the BJP-led government in 2016. He also criticised the Central government for not holding regular consultations with the States. Inaugurating a development summit virtually organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Development Studies (RGIDS), Turn to P6



INDIA ADDS 40 BILLIONAIRES IN PANDEMIC YEAR

Mumbai: The world added 607 new billionaires or more than three billionaires in two days, while India added 55 new billionaires or more than three billionaires every two days in 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, as per the 10th Edition of Hurun Global Rich List 2021 released on Tuesday. In the list of Indian billionaires, Ambani was followed by Adani Group's Gautam Adani & family with his wealth nearly doubling to \$32 billion, HCL's Shiv Nadar & family with net worth of \$27 billion, Turn to P6

INVESTORS WEALTHIER BY ₹2.8LAKH CR

New Delhi: Fag-end buying on Dalal Street lifted benchmark indices higher for a second straight day on Tuesday. Auto, IT and power stocks were in demand amid positive global cues. Despite the close with gains, the intraday movement was volatile, but all efforts by the bears were foiled. Eventually, investors grew richer by Rs 2.81 lakh crore on Tuesday. With this, investors became wealthier by nearly Rs 6 lakh crore in two consecutive sessions. The 30-share pack Sensex advanced 447.05 points or 0.90 per cent to close at 50,296.89. Its broader peer NSE Nifty climbed 157.55 points or 1.07 per cent to 14,919.10.

4G SPECTRUM AUCTION: GOVT NETS ₹77,800 CR

The authorities are believed to have generated Rs 77,800 crore from the 4G spectrum auction that bought underway Monday and ended on Tuesday, the second day itself, making it one of many shortest such gross sales in latest occasions.

TACTICAL ADVANTAGE

- Sri Lanka will offer a strategically located deep-sea port to India and Japan, an official said Tuesday, as the island seeks to balance traditional ties against China's rising regional influence.
- In the primary such endeavour in the strategically-positioned Persian Gulf region, India is all set to participate in a serious multi-nation air fight train in the United Arab Emirates with fighter jets and heavy-obligation airlift plane this month.

Indian economy on 'upswing': Panagariya



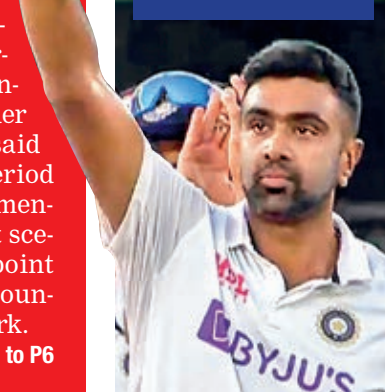
New Delhi: India's economy is on an 'upswing' and the government's plans for increased spending comes in the backdrop of pro-growth reforms, former Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Arvind Panagariya said on Tuesday even as he opined that it might take longer by a year or two to become a USD 5 trillion economy due to the coronavirus pandemic-induced disruptions. The eminent economist described the government's decision to privatise two public sector banks next fiscal as an 'unprecedented' effort to 'finally right a wrong done 50 years ago'. Turn to P6

EMERGENCY WAS A MISTAKE: RAHUL



New Delhi: Terming the Emergency that was imposed by former prime minister Indira Gandhi a "mistake", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said what happened during that period was "wrong", but it was fundamentally different from the current scenario as the Congress at no point attempted to capture the country's institutional framework. Turn to P6

ASHWIN NOMINATED FOR ICC 'PLAYER OF THE MONTH'



5 states=84% COVID-19 cases, more than 50L register for vaccine jab

New Delhi: Maharashtra continues to report the highest daily new cases at 6,397. It is followed by Kerala with 1,938 while Punjab reported 633 new cases. The Centre is continuously engaging with the states and UTs manifesting higher caseload of active cases and those reporting a rise in the daily new Covid-19 cases. According to Union Health Ministry, India's total Covid-19 active cases stand at 1.68 lakh with five states accounting for 84.16 percent of active infections, while six states and UTs have weekly positivity rate higher than national average of 2 percent. Meanwhile, more than fifty lakh people from across the nation have registered themselves online for receiving the vaccine jab.



Union defence minister Rajnath Singh receives the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine at RR Hospital in New Delhi.

HARYANA: 54 STUDENTS OF A SCHOOL HOSTEL TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

54 students of a school hostel in Haryana's Karnal have tested positive for Covid-19, officials said. "Our medical teams have reached the spot and the hostel is being marked as a containment zone," Yogesh Kumar Sharma, Karnal Civil Surgeon said. In December last year, Haryana had allowed students from Classes 9 to 12 to go to schools. They reopened for those from Classes 3 to 5 from February 24. Schools have opened in several states with caution amid rising COVID-19 cases in some states like Maharashtra and Punjab.

COVID UPDATE

- Public compliance for Covid appropriate behaviour cannot be diluted. Please avoid large gatherings, parties, weddings etc. These could be super spreading events: Dr VK Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog
- Nigeria receives 4 million doses of Made in India Covid-19 vaccines

ROYAL BENGAL RUMBLE

Yogi Shows No 'Mamata' For Didi In Bengal

Love jihad is being executed here. We have made a law against it in UP. But in West Bengal, there is appeasement politics

First India Bureau

Malda (West Bengal): In West Bengal, all roads led to Malda on Tuesday as BJP's one of the trump cards Yogi Adityanath held a massive rally here. From almost dethroning Asaduddin Owaisi to knocking off the strongmen and gangsters aided by various political bigwigs, Yogi has now

trained guns at Mamata Banerjee as the party looks forward to making inroads in the Eastern state. In his fiery speeches, Yogi hit out at the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) government. He stated that there has been an attempt to ban 'Jai Sri Ram' slogan in West Bengal whereas 'love jihad' and

Turn to P6, See p2



CM Yogi addressing the rally in Bengal. He fired fresh salvo against Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday.

YOGI PRESSES CTRL+H

I would like to tell the Bengal government and Mamata didi that there was a government in Uttar Pradesh, which used to fire bullets at Lord Ram devotees in Ayodhya. You can see the condition of that government now. Now, it is the turn of the TMC government in Bengal, Yogi said.

RAM BHAROSE TMC: 'UP GOVT THAT SHOT RAM BHAKTS OUT, DIDI NEXT'

Once the BJP Govt is formed, a cow slaughter ban will follow within 24 hrs, declares Yogi



CM has directed officials to take strict action in a matter in which a man was shot dead in Hathras and to invoke National Security Act against all the accused involved in the case.

Yogi has deeply mourned the death of people in a road accident in Kanpur Dehat. He has instructed officials to make arrangements for treatment of the injured.

Governor Anandiben Patel and CM Yogi have mourned death of senior journalist Dilip Awasthi and extended condolences to the bereaved family.



UP CM Yogi Adityanath lambasted the West Bengal govt at a rally organised in Malda on Tuesday.



BJP MP Babul Supriyo with CM Yogi Adityanath.



BJP leaders and party workers accompany CM Yogi Adityanath on stage.



People thronged for CM Yogi's rally in large numbers in Malda.

First India Bureau

Kolkata/ Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday lambasted his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee for allegedly pursuing appeasement politics and endangering national security by allowing illegal immigrants into the state for vote bank politics. "West Bengal has always been a land of cul-

tural nationalism in India. It has been the land of the revolution for the country's freedom struggle. Today the anarchical situation in West Bengal created by TMC, CPM and Congress over the years has hurt the entire country," he said.

Launching his WB assembly campaign with a massive rally in Malda which is considered a minority-dominant district

of North Bengal, he said that every worker of the party has come here to connect to the Bengali brothers and sisters to re-establish the identity of Bengal and carry forward a new change through this.

Attacking TMC for promoting cow slaughter in the state, Yogi said that Durga Puja gets prohibited in Bengal today while the cow slaughter has been tak-

ing place unabatedly. "People's sentiments have been hurt through cow smuggling but the state government remains silent. It has also attempted to ban slogan of 'Jai Sri Ram' and BJP workers are being attacked in Bengal," said UP CM.

On keeping farmers unaware of the schemes launched by the Central Government, the CM said that the party that can not work for the

well-being and safety of the poor, farmers and women, had no right to be in power. Warning Mamata Banerjee, he said, "There was a government in UP that used to fire bullets at lord Ram devotees in Ayodhya. "You have seen the fate of that government. Now it's TMC govt's turn in Bengal." "On my way from Bagdogra to Malda, I could not find any con-

crete house. TMC is afraid that if it gives benefits of Center's schemes, then they will not be able to do vote bank politics," CM said. Giving a glimpse of the development model of UP from the election platform of West Bengal, the CM said that PM Modi always dreamt of providing a roof to every homeless person, and to fulfill his dream he has made every possible effort.

Uproar in UP Assembly over fuel prices

First India Bureau

Lucknow: The issue of rising fuel prices rocked the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, with Samajwadi Party MLAs staging a walkout over the matter.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, Leader of Opposition in the assembly Ram Govind Chaudhary said the prices of LPG cylinders have increased significantly and the people are also getting less subsidy.

He said in 10 months' time, the price of an LPG cylinder in Ballia has increased by over Rs 240.

In an apparent reference to the UP Assembly polls next year, Chaudhary said, "If the government does not wake up now, then there will be a silent revolution in 2022."

"The prices of petrol and diesel are increasing almost everyday. This is impacting the farmers and the common man," he said.

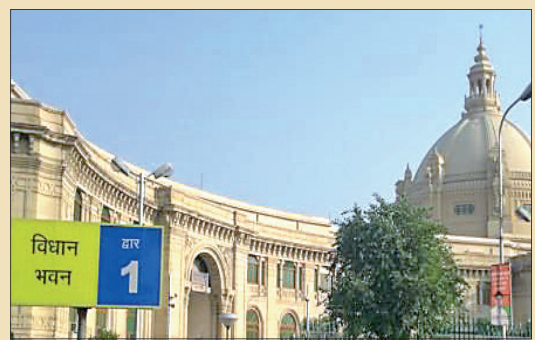
The leader of opposition said due to the increase in the prices of petrol and diesel, bus and auto-rickshaw fares have also increased in the past few months.

"Is this a 'jankalyankari' government (a government which works for the welfare of the public)? This dispensation is not for the poor people," he said, alleging that the government has failed on all fronts.

Oppn questions govt on withdrawal of cases

The Assembly also witnessed a slanging match between the ruling and opposition benches over withdrawal of criminal cases by BJP government in the state.

Ruling party members alleged that cases against terrorists were withdrawn during the previous regime, while the opposition benches trashed the claim and said cases against "rioters" were withdrawn by the Yogi-led BJP government.



Vidhan Bhavan in Lucknow.

—FILE PHOTO

Free training for SC/ST students

First India Bureau

Lucknow: Assistant Director Employment said that students of SC/ST and OBC categories can enroll themselves for the 1 year free training beginning April 1. Students should have completed intermediate education and should be between 18 to 35 years. They can submit application between 01.03.2021 to 20.03.2021 (excluding holidays).

30K women farmers to be trained on March 8

First India Bureau

Lucknow: In its commitment towards the security, safety and self-reliance of women and daughters, the Yogi government has directed all government departments to organise programmes related to women empowerment on the occasion of international women's day on March 8.

These programmes will be held under the ongoing Mission Shakti



Representative picture.

that started in February and will continue till April.

The department of agriculture will be organising about 250 seminars with special focus on women farm-

ers and groups. More than 30,000 women farmers and entrepreneurs will be trained in these seminars.

For promoting women farmers, the department of agriculture will also be holding interactive sessions with scientists and officers who will be sharing new techniques of progressive farming. To be conducted virtually, the programme will be held on March 8.

Late night reshuffle: 18 IAS transferred

First India Bureau

Lucknow: 18 IAS officers were transferred in a late night reshuffle on Tuesday. Four Divisional Commissioners were transferred while two officers at CMO, were sent on field. DMs of Rampur, Badaun, Basti, Chitrakoot, Devaria, Kanpur (rural) were also transferred. Sanjay Goyal is now Commissioner Prayagraj while Surendra Singh has been appointed as Commissioner Meerut.

Varasat campaign dates extended till further notice

First India Bureau

Lucknow: The highly successful 'Varasat' campaign of CM Yogi has been extended till further orders due to the huge response it has received from the people.

A whopping 8.43 lakh matters related to registration of names of the successors have been settled while the remaining ones are in the different stages of solution, an official spokesman said.



Problem solver Yogi.

Out of these only 23732 matters are pending, which will be disposed of in due course. **The total of 867343 matters had been received, out of which**

843611 stand settled. This is the second time the government has extended the deadline of the ambitious campaign because of the support it has received from the people.

The first-of-its-kind campaign was launched on December 15 last for two months and was extended for two weeks till was on February 28. The state government has extended the campaign till further orders.

RAM TAKES IT HIGH

Maryada Purshottam Shriram airport to function by early next year

First India Bureau

Lucknow: After the Central Government's nod, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is pulling out all stops to make Ayodhya International Airport operational early next year.

The construction work on the project is in full swing and air services are expected to start early next year, according to a state government official.

Close on the heels of Rs 250 crore from the Centre, the Yogi Adityanath Government too has given a whopping amount of Rs 3,21,99,50,722 to purchase the additional land for the Maryada Purshotam Shriram Airport.

The State government has also allocated a sum of Rs 1000 crore, including purchase of 555.66 acres of land for the UP



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's midas touch will soon be transforming Ayodhya.

CM's dream project. Apart from this, a sepa-

rate provision of 100 million rupees has been

made for Ayodhya Airport in the next finan-

cial year 2020-21. So far, an amount of 9,47.91 crore has been released by the state government to purchase the land.

377 acres of land has also been made available to the Airport Authority of India (AAI) for the development of the airport so far. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath started planning a strategy for the all-round development of Ayodhya after coming to power. He in-

structed to work out an action plan for the international level air connectivity of Ayodhya, including the airport, and other necessary facilities.

The central government also selected the Ayodhya airstrip on October 4, 2018 for the Ayodhya-Hindon air route under the Regional Connectivity Scheme of the Government of India. On November 6, 2018, the Uttar Pradesh

Chief Minister had announced the development of an airstrip at Ayodhya for large aircrafts such as A 320 and B 737, construction of suitable runway and terminal building.

Later, in order to develop an international airport in Ayodhya, the Chief Minister modifying his earlier announcement ordered to develop the airport for Code-E B777-300 type aircrafts.

Gun Rule: Molester out on bail shoots dead victim's dad

Video of daughter pleading for justice goes viral; CM for NSA against accused

Janardan Misra

Lucknow: A 50-year-old man was allegedly shot dead in Hathras district by Gaurav Songara, who was out on bail in a case of molestation of the victim's daughter lodged by him in 2018, the police said on Tuesday.

"The incident took place in Nozarpur village of Sasani area in Hathras on Monday afternoon when the daughters of Ambrish Sharma (50) had gone to a temple, where the wife and aunt of accused Gaurav Songara were present. The women had heated arguments with each other after which both Gaurav and Ambrish also reached there," Hathras SP Vineet Jaiswal said.

Gaurav and Ambrish also had an argument after which the accused called some members of



One of the nabbed accused Lalit Sharma in police custody on Tuesday.

his family and shot Ambrish in a fit of rage, the SP said adding that Ambrish was rushed to the hospital where he was declared brought dead.

According to an FIR lodged by the victim's daughter, however, the incident took place in their family potato field. The SP said the FIR had been registered against

AKHILESH TWEETS

"After 'Hathras ki beti', murder of a father who had complained of molestation of his daughter has taken place. UP's women have lost hope from govt & has stopped seeking justice from it," Akhilesh tweeted.

Gaurav Songara, Lalit, Rahitash, Nikhil and two others. Out of them, Lalit has been arrested while the main accused Gaurav is absconding.

Taking note of the incident, CM Yogi ordered strict action against the accused and directed officials to invoke provisions of the stringent National Security Act

(NSA) against them.

Also a video of the girl went viral on social media where she pleads, "Please give me justice... please give me justice. First, he molested me and now he has shot my father. He had come to our village. There were six-seven people. My father had no enmity against anyone. His name is Gaurav, he is a dog...". Even Akhilesh had tweeted that video.

After it was alleged that Gaurav Songara had connection with the Samajwadi Party, a journalist on Tuesday asked about it to SP president Akhilesh Yadav, to which he slammed the journalist. Earlier Akhilesh had tweeted about the incident and accused the BJP rule for deteriorating law and order and atrocities against women in state.

Govt terminates services of 812 primary teachers

First India Bureau

Varanasi: A day after primary schools in Uttar Pradesh reopened after a year, the State Government terminated the services of 812 primary school teachers and issued directives to lodge FIRs against them for seeking appointments on the basis of fake degrees.

The state government took the decision on a February 26 High Court verdict which declared BEd degrees of 812 primary teachers as fake.

These teachers had obtained the B.Ed degree from Agra University and got their appointment in government primary schools.

The High Court had found that their degrees were fake and directed the state government to initiate action against these teachers. The High Court, however, allowed seven teachers to continue for one month on the basis of documents they produced in the court.



Representative picture.

The Basic Shiksha Parishad Secretary PS Baghel said that following the High Court order, the government has decided to terminate the services of these 812 teachers and ordered registering FIRs against them for fraudulently seeking appointments in government jobs.

"We have issued an order in this regard and directed District Basic Shiksha Adhikaris (BSAs) to identify these teachers to terminate their services. An FIR will also be lodged against them for seeking government jobs on fake documents," said Baghel.

Primary Schools in Uttar Pradesh were reopened on Monday after almost a year, as they were shut down following the covid-induced lockdown starting-March last year.

Within 24 hours of their reopening, axe fell on these 'fraud' primary teachers.

Lko HC bench asks Solicitor Gen to clear stand on GSAT

First India Bureau

Varanasi: A petition demanding creation of principal seat of Goods and Services Appellate Tribunal(GSAT) at Lucknow with its four circuit benches at Varanasi, Ghaziabad, Agra and Prayagraj came up on Tuesday before the bench comprising Senior Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi and Justice Manish Mathur at Lucknow High Court.

The petition was filed by Awadh Bar Association through its General Secretary Sharad Pathak. On behalf of Awadh Bar Association battery of senior lawyers JN Mathur, LP Mishra, HGS Parihar, SK Kalia, addressed the bench stating that even



Lucknow High Court bench.

the resolution sent to the Centre in the shape of Agenda No.7 of the 40th meeting held last year by GST Council on June 12 is in conformity to the demand made in this petition and as per the provision of Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.

The court fixing the next date of hearing for this petition for March 4 has directed Additional Solicitor General of In-

dia Shashi Prakash Singh representing Secretary Ministry of Finance New Delhi and Additional Advocate General UP Vinod Kumar Shahi assisted by government lawyer QH Rizvi representing Principal Secretary Finance UP and Commissioner Commercial Tax UP to clear the stand regarding creation of principal seat of GSAT at Lucknow or Allahabad.

Hema to talk Yamuna pollution with CM Yogi

First India Bureau

Mathura: Hema Malini on Tuesday said she will request CM Yogi to take necessary steps to reduce pollution in the Yamuna before the next shahi snan during the Vrindavan Kumbh.

The BJP MP told reporters that she will request the chief minister for the discharge of more Ganga water into the Yamuna during the second and third shahi snan on March 9 and 13, respectively.



CS conducts surprise inspection of offices

First India Bureau

Lucknow: Chief Secretary Rajendra Kumar Tiwari conducted a surprise inspection of the offices at Lok Bhawan on Tuesday morning. He said it was everyone's duty to keep the office premises clean. He also asked the officials to systematically arrange the records kept in the record rooms of the Industrial Development section.

The CS instructed the officials to come to of-



CS RK Tiwari chairing a review meet. ACS Navneet Sehgal also seen. (R) The CS inspecting office.

ice on time and the people missing from the office were marked absent by him. Later, in a review meeting progress of the expressways and Defense Corridor was

reviewed at a meeting of the Project Monitoring Group. A meeting of the committee constituted to review the progress relative to the Letter of Comfort was also organ-

ised under the Bio Energy Enterprise Promotion Programme. The CS was told the firm to set up Bio-CNG plant in Harpur had not received loan from the bank.

Lawyers' strike to continue in Lucknow

First India Bureau

Lucknow: Lawyers will continue their ongoing strike and on Wednesday hold a motorbike rally from High Court to Grand Post Office to protest against the government.

Awadh Bar Association president HGS Par-



ihar told **First India** "A motorbike rally will be organised to protest

against government for our demands."

Lawyers of Allahabad HC at Lucknow and Allahabad bench went on strike with three major demands including increment of jurisdiction area of Lucknow bench. It was also matter of dispute where GST tribunal should be estab-

lished. Lawyers of Allahabad bench argued that tribunal should be in Allahabad as norms directs that it must in principle bench while Lucknow bench lawyers demand tribunal to be established in Lucknow as it is centre point of the state and will provide relief to litigants.

EXCISE DEPT ON TOES

To break illegal liquor hangover in poll time, govt tightens noose

CM Yogi has given strict instructions to ensure free and fair polling in the state

First India Bureau

Lucknow: Even as the State Election Commission (SEC) has launched hectic preparations for free and fair panchayat elections next month, the state excise department along with UP police has girded up to break the network of illegal liquor supply in

the villages during the election.

Over the decades the sale and distribution of illegal liquor during the panchayat polls had assumed serious dimension leading to law and order problems.

In this connection the excise department has sought the services of village watchmen to



Police after a illegal liquor haul

—FILE PHOTO

keep tab on manufacturing, sale and distribution of illicit liquor in rural areas. On the other

with the High Court fixing a deadline of April 30 to complete the election process the SEC has

planned to go for polling by the last third week of April. On the pattern of assembly elections, moves are afoot to hold election in entire district in one phase and not to scatter it in several rounds as it used to be in the past.

The excise department in coordination with the police has decided to carry out raids with special attention to sensitive districts. Past record indicated that

sale of illicit liquor always went up during the rural elections, which resulted in violence. According to information the excise department has already commenced crackdown by registering 4,926 cases against liquor mafiosi in February. The police have also increased vigil on all the bordering areas. Sources said during raids the department recovered around 1.50 lakh litres of illicit liquor and five

lakh kg material used in the preparation of the liquor along with the arrest of 1,450 persons involved in the racket.

During the review of election preparations, CM Yogi had issued strict instructions about free and fair polling. Thereafter the DGP office had establish a cell in its office to make security arrangements. The SEC has sought services of at least 9.50 lakh employees for the poll duty.

SPENDING LIMIT

Village Panchayat member will have a limit of Rs 10,000, while for Village Pradhan, the limit is Rs 75,000. For Kshetra Panchayat member too it is Rs 75,000 and for Dist Panchayat member it is Rs 1.50L. Block Pramukh can spend Rs 2 lakh and Dist Panchayat chairman Rs 4 lakh

IN-DEPTH

CONGRESS HEADING FOR SPLITSVILLE?

The schism in Congress is rapidly widening. A few days ago the Group of 23 dissenters led by veteran leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Manish Tiwari, Kapil Sibal, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Raj Babbar, and Vivek Tankha said that they could see the Congress weakening under the leadership of Gandhi. The next day Azad again showered praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He had done so in his farewell speech in the Rajya Sabha. Azad singing paeans to the prime minister repeatedly leaves no room for doubt about which way the group may be headed. If at all there were some doubts, they were brushed aside by Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Congress president in West Bengal.

Responding to Anand Sharma's condemnation of the party's decision to enter into a "communal alliance" with the Indian Secular Front (ISF) led by the CPI(M), Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury urged "a select group of distinguished Congressmen to rise above always seeking personal comfort spots and stop wasting time singing praises of PM. They owe a duty to strengthen the Party and not undermine the tree that nurtured them. Chowdhury said that calling the front communal would only help the BJP. Anand Sharma hit back with "I believe in civilised political dialogues".

The dissent, it appears, is over who should lead the party. The G-23 apparently is opposed to having Rahul Gandhi as party president.

JABS CAN LESSEN COVID-19 WORRIES

In the Covid-19 front, there's a little cause for worry but ample to cheer. The worrisome factor continues to be the increasing number of cases in Maharashtra which reported 6397 cases, more than half of the 12,286 cases recorded in the country. Maharashtra and Kerala together account for 67.84 percent of total active cases. These two states along with Gujarat, Goa and Punjab have a weekly positivity rate higher than the national average of 2 per cent. Maharashtra's weekly positivity rate is 10.02 per cent. At the same time, the recovery rate has crossed 97 percent in the country. Looking at the seriousness of the situation Maharashtra was reluctantly mulling another dose of lockdown. This has given the former CM Devendra Fadnavis a reason to attack the state government.

Other than the five states where Covid-19 is uncontrollable, the spread of the virus has been checked rather effectively. The only fear is that of resurgence. Schools have reopened and life seems to pick up its normal pace with people becoming more and more relaxed. The saving grace is the second phase of the vaccination drive which entered its second day. Over 1.48 crore vaccines were administered by Tuesday afternoon. That's an impressive figure for the senior citizens and those with comorbidities as it dispels fear which people may have about the vaccine. The vaccination drive's success will ensure the restoration of complete normality.

24 NOVEMBER 1970 — 2 MARCH 2021

WORLD WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR SANJAY'S KNOWLEDGE

Prabhjot Kaur

Grey hair were less than the amount of wisdom he carried on his head. You asked him any thing and he had the answer. Such spontaneous knowledge and information is rare in this Google era where everything moves at speed of giga bytes. An encyclopaedia in his own, Sanjay Bohra was a born journalist. People know him can't imagine him doing anything else but voicing his candid views and opinions, be it World Cup victory of India or demolition of Babri. His views remained independent and unbiased till last. I have never seen him getting influenced by anyone, even if he is left alone with his opinion.

At 51, Bohraji left the world. It was too little time to discover and explore the unlimited potential he had. He was a rare gem in journalistic field, who had equal flair for writing in Hindi as well as in English. And he had equal mastery in nuances of Rajasthani language as well.

Bohraji had literature and journalism in his blood. His father Rajendra Bohra was an eminent writer and media professional having working with BBC, London, Doordarshan and All India Radio. Bohraji was no less talented. Like father like son, he also got associated with all these prestigious organisation at early stage of his career before adding more media brands to his credit.

A rare journalist of this era, Bohra was equally good in print, broadcast and TV journalism. Whether it was interview of all time English cricket all rounder Ian Botham for Sky TV or discussion with Mangniyar musicians in rustic Marwari, Bohraji never had twisting tongue.

A classical example of reverse brain drain, Sanjay Bohra started his journalistic career from London with SKY TV, BBC and Sunrise Radio in mid 90s. Then after spending few years, he came back to Jaipur and vernacular dailies like Dainik Bhaskar and Rajasthan Patrika before joining English daily Hindustan Times. He wrote on various topics including sports, business, politics, business of politics and all



Sanjay Bohra was a journalist who had command of all subjects, be it sports or politics. He could write excellently in both English and Hindi and was a man with journalism in his blood. The void left by him will always remain, it is a great tragedy for his family, his friends and the world of journalism that he was snatched away so young by the cruel hands of fate. May God grant peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family.
— Jagdeesh Chandra

other social aspects. His in-depth knowledge about Rajasthan politics, tradition, culture and geography has made him "the man to be wooed" for Delhi journalists whenever the focus was on Rajasthan.

An idealist, Sanjay Bohra was not a journalist by chance. He designed his career; what if he had to say "No" to a secured government job in All India Radio. He never compromised with his ethos and ideals which he had developed during his career span of over 25 years. Whenever, time came to comprise his self re-

spect, he sacrificed his coziness and chose to wander in quest for unbiased hard core professionalism.

Never wary of trying out new, Bohraji tested his abilities in social sector also when he quit journalism for some time to find happiness in the world of children. His short stint with Save the Children made him a better professional and added some more hues in his journalistic canvas. After that, he worked with many news organisations like DNA, Asian Age, Decan Chronicle, Swaraj Express and news portals like The Print and Newsplatform.

His illustrious career will always be remembered in contemporary journalism in Rajasthan. As a mentor, he has groomed many journalists who are working in leading media houses. A strong advocate of following journalistic protocols and processes, Bohraji never misquoted and never reported anything on hearsay. He never wrote unless he personally verified the facts. For young journos, Sanjay Bohraji will always remain an inspiring soul.

I express deep grief over the demise of senior journalist Shri Sanjay Bohra. May God grant peace to the departed soul and give his family the power to bear this loss.
—Governor Kalraj Mishra



Ashok Gehlot @ashokgehlot51

Sad to learn about the passing away of senior journalist Sh. Sanjay Bohra. His contribution in the field of journalism shall always be remembered. My heartfelt condolences to his family members & friends in this hour of grief, may God give them strength. May his soul RIP. #Rajasthan.

Sachin Pilot @SachinPilot

The news of untimely demise of senior journalist Shri Sanjay Bohra ji is very sad. Bohra's invaluable contribution in the field of journalism will always be remembered. May God grant peace to the departed soul and support to family.

Vasundhara Raje @VasundharaBJP

The journalism world has suffered a great loss due to the demise of Shri Sanjay Bohra, a senior journalist, whose impeccable writings has shown the mirror of truth to the society. I pray to God to grant peace to the departed soul and power to the bereaved family to bear this loss.

Dr. Raghu Sharma @RaghusharmaINC

I deeply condole the demise of senior journalist Shri Sanjay Bohra. Shri Bohra was active in the field of journalism for the past 30 years. Sanjay Bohra, who has worked with Dainik Bhaskar, DNA and many other reputed media institutions, has always been the centre of journalism. Bohra's journalism always centred around giving prominence to issues of general public. I pray to God for the peace of the departed soul and the strength to his family to bear this trauma.

Harry and Meghan: In pursuit of wealth and luxury

We all know what the British press can be like and it was destroying my mental health," Prince Harry said in a recent interview for "The Late Late Show With James Corden." Was he kidding? Destroying his mental health? How exactly? By expressing opinions on his behavior? Or deciding whether he has acted selflessly or not? Or speculating on his motives for relocating to California? Harry just keeps providing new raw material. Even in his most meaningless moments, he can offer an off-the-cuff remark that contrives to evoke the sympathy of some and the outrage of others.

ous mental illness, such as schizophrenia, major depression or other functional impairments, will be upset by Harry's cavalier description of his response to the media attention he and his wife Meghan habitually receive.

When the duke and duchess of Sussex grumble about their lack of privacy and condemn the media for the moral decay they appear to symbolize, they should ask whether they are having to pay for the audacity of trying to disguise their own moral decay with a flagrantly cosmetic show of trying to live a private life. This is a couple that has designed its own mission to escape a life of unlimited privilege and comfort — but with a modicum of public duties to fulfill — in order to pursue a life of extravagant luxury and incalculable



wealth. These things come at a price, and here it is this: People will pronounce judgment on you. That's it.

PLAYING THE VILLAINS Of course, in order to so, people need evidence. And that's where the media come in. They act as the public's proxy: They represent us, acting on our behalf, have our authority to

invade your privacy, probe your personal life and investigate your affairs, even in a hostile or critical way. The Sussexes want to stay in our minds. So they need a media they have recently called "toxic" like they need antiperspirants — useful but often containing aluminum (a toxin).

A little over three years ago, when they announced

their engagement, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle pulled ahead of George and Amal Clooney and Barack and Michelle Obama in the best-loved couples' stakes. Now, they're only just edging Fred and Rosemary West. Their anemic ubiquity isn't their own fault, of course. They can't help it if the media chronicle their exploits thoroughly. All the same, they might try a little harder not to play the villains quite so perfectly.

The barely believable timing of the upcoming interview with Oprah Winfrey only days after Meghan won her privacy case against the Mail on Sunday could not have been dreamt up. A woman who cares so fervently about her private life and was prepared to go to court to defend it, promises to discuss marriage, motherhood, life as a royal and how she is handling

"intense public pressure" in front of several million TV viewers. Even if the audience falls short of those 90 million worldwide who watched Oprah's interview with Michael Jackson in 1993, it will still be colossal. (In the UK alone, nearly 23 million watched Martin Bashir's 1995 interview with Diana, princess of Wales, Harry's mother, of course.) This is exactly why we are all drawn to the couple. They invite us to be judge and jury, and there's something quite satisfying about judging others. "Disgraceful! Shame on you! Good for you!" We applaud people we like, deplore those we dislike, and sometimes just feel indignant. We take our reward from all types of pronouncement. This is why Harry and Meghan have become so satisfying.

SOURCE: FAIR OBSERVER



Piyush Goyal @PiyushGoyal

Scientific researchers are uncovering how the visionary & decisive leadership of PM @ NarendraModi ji resulted in swift Government action leveraging India's strengths to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. World now needs to learn from India's success.

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank @DRPNishank

@DRPNishank #NEP2020 also lays great emphasis on building our sense of pride towards our culture as well as the establishment of our ancient knowledge, skills, & values. Happy that NIOS is trying to incorporate all the major elements of #NEP2020 in its syllabus.



There are two mistakes one can make along the road to truth...not going all the way, and not starting. —Buddha



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FINANCE MINISTRY MULLING SLASHING TAXES ON PETROL, DIESEL

Decision by mid-March; govt wants oil prices to stabilise before cutting taxes

New Delhi: With petrol and diesel prices skyrocketing, the Union finance ministry is mulling to cut excise duties on petrol and diesel to cushion the impact of record high domestic prices, Reuters reported citing three government officials close to the discussions.

The Nirmala Sitharaman-led ministry has started consultations with some states, oil companies and the oil ministry to find the most effective way to lower the tax burden on consumers without federal finances taking a big hit, the sources said. "We are discussing ways in which prices can be kept stable. We will be able to take a view of the issue by mid-March," said one of the sources. Government wants oil prices to stabilise before cutting taxes.



Congress Women Wing staged a protest against a price hike on LPG gas, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. —PHOTO BY ANI

FUEL PRICE HIKE: YOUTH CONGRESS STAGES PROTEST

New Delhi: Youth Congress workers on Tuesday staged a protest outside the petroleum ministry over rising prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas. Hundreds of Indian Youth Congress activists assembled outside the petroleum ministry office with placards in their hands and raised slogans against the central government. The police, meanwhile, arrested a few of the protesters to control the situation. —ANI

KHRA WORKERS TONSURE HEADS

Kochi: Kerala Hotel and Restaurant Association (KHRA) workers on Tuesday tonsured their heads to show their protest over rising prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas. The workers carried begging bowls in their hands as a part of their protest in front of the Indian Oil Corporation's office here.

AUTO DRIVERS BEAR BRUNT OF HIKE IN CNG PRICES

New Delhi: The Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), the firm that retails CNG to automobiles and piped natural gas to household kitchens, on Tuesday, increased prices of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in Delhi and the NCR, leaving auto drivers in the lurch.

Kangana, sister move top court to transfer cases



New Delhi: Hindi film actor Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel have moved the Supreme Court seeking the transfer of criminal cases pending against them in various courts of Maharashtra to Shimla in Himachal Pradesh.

Ranaut and Chandel claimed that they face a threat to life if the trials proceed in Mumbai, because of the personal vendetta of Shiv Sena leaders against them. Ranaut in her plea said that looking at the threat perception, she was granted Y-plus category of CRPF security by Home Ministry.

KARNATAKA HC REFUSES TO STAY PROCEEDINGS

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday refused to stay the proceedings initiated against actress Kangana Ranaut by a Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) at Tumkur, which had on October 9, 2020, directed the jurisdictional Police Station (Kyathasandra) to register FIR against her for her tweet on farmers opposing the agri laws. Ranaut had moved the Karnataka High Court seeking to quash an First Information Report registered against her. —PTI

Pest mgmt: Rice Research Institute develops device



Cuttack: Scientists of ICAR-National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, have developed an Alternate Energy Light Trap (AELT) device for checking pests in agricultural fields and got a patent for the invention.

The automated device was invented by Dr Shyamaraman Das Mohapatra, Principal Scientist, Entomology and Dr Mayabini Jena, former Principal Scientist and Head of Crop Protection Division of ICAR-National Rice Research Institute. It can help the farmers to identify insect types that lurk in the field and manage them.

"There are two models of the AELT. The bigger valued at around Rs 8,800 can be used on farmland of about one hectare while the mini version

costing Rs 4,100 can be used for land under one acre. We have shared the patent with a Maharashtra-based company and the commercial production of the device will start soon," Dr Mohapatra said

He said: "With this new invention, we can save crops worth thousands of crores worldwide and can also save the life of people from pesticides used in farm lands to kill insects."

The AELT device includes a light trap unit for attracting the flying insects, a collector unit coupled with the light trap unit for receiving the lured insects from the light trap. It is an economical and eco-friendly insect trapping method and efficient enough to handle a large number of insects. —ANI



IN THE COURTYARD

SC asks: Safe for 14-yr-old to terminate 26-week pregnancy?

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the medical board of a government hospital in Haryana to examine if it would be safe for a 14-year-old girl to terminate her 26-week pregnancy.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India SA Bobde has asked the medical board to submit its report by next week on abortion of the girl. The top court will next hear the matter on



Friday. The 14-year-old girl, in her plea, has stated that she was raped by her cousin leading to an unwanted

pregnancy. She approached the apex court seeking permission to terminate her 26-weeks pregnancy. —ANI

SC adjourns hearing in Mullaperiyar Dam case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned the hearing in the Mullaperiyar dam maintenance and safety issues case till March 9, after the Union of India (UOI) sought more time to file its reply in the case.

The UOI today sought more time to file its reply in the case, after which a bench of the Apex Court, headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar and also comprising Justice Dinesh Mahesh-

wari, allowed the prayer of the UOI and deferred the hearing till March 9, Tuesday. "We adjourn the hearing of the case till March 9," the bench of the Apex Court, led by Justice Khanwilkar said, today. SC was hearing Mullaiperiyar dam case involving maintenance and safety of it.

Mullaperiyar dam, exists on Periyar river, issue involved the ongoing water legal dispute between TN against the Kerala governments.

S Jaishankar's election plea: SC adjourns hearing

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of petitions challenging the election of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to Rajya Sabha from Gujarat.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde adjourned the hearing as letter for adjournment was circulated in case. One of the petitions against Jaishankar has been filed by Congress leader Gaurav Pandya. The pleas have also

raised the issue of Election Commission's (EC) power on issuance of separate notifications for holding bypolls for casual and regular vacancies in Rajya Sabha. The pleas related to 2019 Rajya Sabha bypoll on two seats from Gujarat and both seats were won by BJP candidates.

On February 4 last year, the Gujarat High Court had dismissed the plea of Gaurav Pandya against Jaishankar's election to RS.

Delhi court upholds order against BJP leaders in defamation case

New Delhi: A sessions court has dismissed the plea by two Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders Vijender Gupta and Kapil Mishra challenging magistrate order in a criminal defamation complaint filed by Environment Minister Imran Hussain for allegedly leveling false allegations against him in tree felling permission matter.



The court on Monday upheld the magistrate order which had ordered the framing of notice against Delhi

BJP leaders after noting that there is no illegality and impropriety in the magistrate court's order. Earlier, ACMM Harvinder Singh ordered of framing of charges against them and stated that "the notice for offence punishable under Section 500 IPC read with Section 34 IPC needs to be put against all three accused persons."

ECI eases deadline for objections to party registration

New Delhi: The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday announced a reduction in the notice period for the registration of new political parties in the four poll-bound states and the Union Territory of Puducherry from 30 days to seven days, keeping in view the difficulties caused by the restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the existing guidelines, a political party seeking registration has to submit an application to the commission within 30 days of the date of its formation. The applicant is asked to publish the party's proposed name in two national dailies and two local dailies on two days. Objections with regard to the proposed registration of the party have to be submitted within 30 days of the publication of the notice. EC said, "It has been brought to notice of EC that in view of prevailing restrictions on account of COVID, there was dislocation and delay in moving applications for registration, which in turn led to delay in registration as a political party.

SPEED NEWS

GOA GOVERNOR ADMINISTERS OATH TO STATE CIC

Panaji: Goa governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari administered the oath of office to Vishwas Ramnath Satarkar as SCIC and Sanjay Narayan Dhavalik as State Information Commissioner (SIC) on Tuesday. According to the state government, Koshiyari administered the oath of office to SCIC and SIC in the presence of CM

Pramod Sawant. According to a statement issued by the state government, Director of Information and Publicity Sudhir Kerkar read out the order of appointment of SCIC and SIC. Chief Secretary Parimal Rai, Secretary of Information and Publicity Mihir Vardhan and other officials were also present at ceremony.

PULWAMA ADMN INSTALLS TRACKING DEVICES ON VEHICLES

Pulwama: The district administration of Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama has installed GPS tracking devices on vehicles of Municipal Committees besides Geo tagging of collection and dumping sites to ensure strict vigilance over

the movement of these vehicles. "The District Administration has installed the tracking devices in all the vehicles including trucks, dumpers, JCB's, Hoppers etc available under the offices of Municipal Council Pulwama," said sources.

KERALA HC ASKS POLICE NOT TO ARREST ACCUSED TEACHER

Kochi: The Kerala high court directed the police not to arrest a woman maths teacher, who is accused of fracturing the hand of a Class 10 student by beating with a cane. The court issued this directive while hearing an anticipatory bail plea filed by the teacher. A bench of Justice Shircy V heard the bail plea filed

by the accused teacher Mariamma KV. The Aluva police in Kerala have registered FIR against a government school teacher for allegedly brutally hitting a student with a cane in school. The incident took place at the Kuttamassery Higher Secondary School in Aluva, Kochi on February 17.

INDIA SEES HIGHEST NO. OF LOCAL FLYERS SINCE MAY 2020

New Delhi: The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on Monday informed that the number of domestic passengers on February 28 has risen to 3,13,668 and is the highest since the resumption of domestic flights on May 25

last year. "Number of domestic passengers on February 28, 2021, rose to 3,13,668 on 2,353 flights. This is the highest since the resumption of domestic flights on May 25, 2020," said Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri today.

Love Jihad bill introduced in MP Assembly



Bhopal: The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh on Monday introduced in the assembly a Bill that replaced an ordinance brought to check religious conversions through marriage or by any other fraudulent means. The bill replaced the ordinance, cleared by the cabinet in December and promulgated in January, which had provisions of 10 years imprisonment in some cases and hefty fine for violators. —PTI

COVID-19: 12,286 FRESH CASES, 91 DEATHS IN LAST 24 HOURS

The new fatalities include 30 from Maharashtra, 18 from Punjab and 13 from Kerala

New Delhi: India's COVID-19 cases rose to 1,11,24,527 with 12,286 new infections being reported in a day, while the recoveries have surged to 1,07,98,921, as per data by Union Health Ministry on Tuesday.

The death toll increased to 1,57,248 with 91 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,07,98,921 which translates into a national COVID-19 recovery rate of 97.07 per cent, while the case fatality rate has dropped 1.41 per cent. The active



THE MOST INFECTED STATES

Total active cases stand at 1.68 lakh with five states accounting for 84.16 per cent of active infections, while 6 states & UTs have a weekly positivity rate higher than the national average of 2%. Maharashtra & Kerala alone account for 67.84% of total active cases. 6 states & UTs including Maharashtra, Kerala, Goa, Chandigarh, Punjab and Gu'arat have a weekly positivity rate higher than the national average of 2 per cent.

caseload was recorded at 1,68,358 which accounts for 1.51% of total infections, data stated. India's tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on Au-

gust 7; 30 lakh on August 23; 40 lakh on September 5; & 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28; 70 lakh on Octo-

RAVI SHANKAR, KAMAL HAASAN GET VACCINATED

New Delhi: Union minister and senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad was administered the first dose of anti-coronavirus vaccine in Patna on Tuesday for which he paid Rs 250. He said all the Union ministers have decided to voluntarily pay the price fixed for the vaccine. Also, actor-turned-politician Kamal Haasan on Tuesday received the first dose of the anti-Covid vaccine in Chennai. —PTI

'WHY IS MODI GOVT CHARGING PEOPLE FOR VACCINE?'

MUMBAI: Former Maharashtra CM and senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan on Tuesday questioned the central government's decision to charge for COVID-19 vaccine in phase-II that began on March 1. In phase-II, people over the age of 60 and over the age of 45 with co-morbidity can get inoculated at the designated centres by paying Rs 250. In a press conference, Prithviraj Chavan said that in phase-I, the union government had procured 1.65 crore doses of vaccine at a cost of Rs 210 per dose. —PTI

Council of Medical Research, 21,76,18,057 samples have been tested up to March 1, of which 7,59,283 were done on Monday. —PTI

'Make In India' epitomises challenges in trade with India, says US report

Washington: The Biden administration has told the US Congress that India's recent emphasis on import substitution through the "Make in India" campaign has "epitomised" the challenges facing the bilateral trade relationship.

In its 2021 Trade Policy Agenda and 2020 Annual Report, the US Trade Representative (USTR) said that during 2020, the US continued its engagement with India to try to resolve long-standing market access impediments affecting



'CAN'T ALLOW CHINA TO DOMINATE'

Washington: A top American lawmaker urged the Biden administration to stand by India in view of the Chinese cyber attack on India's power grid system as reported by a US-based company that monitors such malicious activities by the state actors.

US exporters. "While India's large market, economic growth, and progress towards develop-

ment make it an essential market for many US exporters, a general and consistent trend of

trade-restrictive policies has inhibited the potential of the bilateral trade relationship. Recent Indian emphasis on import substitution through a 'Make in India' campaign has epitomised the challenges facing the bilateral trade relationship," USTR said to Congress.

The objectives of the US in this negotiation included resolution of various non-tariff barriers, targeted reduction of certain Indian tariffs, and other market access improvements, it said. —PTI

IMD: Hotter than usual summer likely in North

New Delhi: Day temperatures are likely to be above normal in north, northeast, parts of east and west India, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. However, it has forecast a likelihood of below normal temperatures in the south and adjoining central India.

"During the upcoming hot weather season (March to May), above normal seasonal maximum (day) temperatures are likely over most of the subdivisions of north, northwest and northeast India, few subdivisions from east-



ern and western parts of central India and few coastal subdivisions of north peninsular India," the forecast said.

There is a probability forecast for above maximum temperatures in Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Gujarat, coastal Maharashtra, Goa and coastal Andhra Pradesh. —PTI

Women face strongest bias at workplace across Asia-Pacific

New Delhi: Even though 66 per cent of people in India feel that gender equality has improved compared to their parents' time, working women in the country still contend with the strongest gender bias across Asia Pacific countries, according to LinkedIn's Opportunity Index 2021 report released on Tuesday.

When asked about their reasons for being unhappy with opportunities to advance in



their careers, one in five (22 per cent) working women in India said their companies exhibit a "favourable bias" towards men at work when compared to the

regional average of 16 per cent. LinkedIn commissioned independent market research firm GfK to conduct this research between January 26 to 31. —ANI

Stop state-sponsored cross-border terrorism: India tells Pakistan

Geneva: India on Tuesday hit out at Pakistan, a country in dire economic situation but provided pensions to dreaded and listed terrorists out of state funds, and asked Islamabad to stop state-sponsored cross-border terrorism.

Using its Right of Reply at the ongoing 46th Session of the Human Rights Council in response to a statement by Pakistan's representative, India said



Pakistan should also end institutionalised violation of human rights of its minority and other communities in the country.

India also slammed Pakistan for deliberately misusing the Council for its malicious propaganda against the country. —PTI

POWER Gallery

HARYANA DGP MANOJ YADAVA GETS ONE YEAR EXTENSION

Haryana DGP Manoj Yadava has been granted one year extension in tenure beyond Feb 20, 2021. Yadava, a 1988 batch IPS officer, was appointed as director-general of Police (DGP) on February 21, 2019 for two years though he has more than four years to retire. He has extensive experience as a top administrator. He also has served as additional director in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for several years.

CHETAN B SANGHI TRANSFERRED TO DELHI

Chetan B Sanghi, Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, is transferred to Delhi. He is a 1988 batch IAS officer of AGMUT cadre.

TWO IAS OFFICERS OF AGMUT CADRE SHIFTED

Ashish Chandra Verma has been shifted from Arunachal Pradesh to Delhi and Dr. Sharat Chauhan to Arunachal Pradesh on repatriation from deputation. Both are 1994 batch IAS officers of AGMUT cadre.

8 IPS OFFICERS GET NEW ASSIGNMENTS IN DELHI GOVT

As many as eight IPS officers have been transferred and posted to different places in Delhi Government. Accordingly, David Lalrinsanga has been appointed as Special CP/P&L, while Devesh Chandra was posted as Special CP, Security. Similarly, Sagar Preet Hooda has been appointed as Joint CP, Special Cell; O P Mishra as Joint CP, Licensing; A V Deshpande as Additional CP/SPUWAC; Geeta Rani Verma as Additional CP/AP and Romil Baniya was posted as Additional CP/GA.

DR SUPRIYO DE APPOINTED AS OSD TO PRIME MINISTER

Dr Supriyo De has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, Niti Aayog on loan basis. Dr De is an IRS-IT officer.

VICE ADMIRAL ATUL KUMAR JAIN TAKES OVER AS CISC

Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, PVSM, AVSM, VSM has taken over as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC).

SECOND CRPF DG GETS POST RETIREMENT ASSIGNMENT

Dr A P Maheshwari is the second DG of CRPF who got the post retirement assignment just after the retirement. Soon after his retirement on Feb 28, the next day he joined as Advisor to LG, Puducherry. RR Bhatnagar was also appointed Advisor to the LG, J&K after the retirement as DG, CRPF in December 2019.

MANPREET VOHRA APPOINTED HIGH COMMISSIONER TO AUSTRALIA

Manpreet Vohra, presently Ambassador of India to Mexico, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Australia. He is a 1988 batch IFS officer.

JUSTICE AP SAHI TO HEAD NATIONAL JUDICIAL ACADEMY

Justice AP Sahi, former Chief Justice of Madras High Court, has been appointed Director of National Judicial Academy (NJA), Bhopal. He will succeed Justice (retd) G Raghuram.

KUNTE IS CHOICE OF CM UDDHAV THAKRE ?

Insiders say that Pravin Pardeshi was the choice of Sharad Pawar and Aditya Thakre but CM Uddhav Thakre preferred Sitaram Kunte for the post of Chief Secretary Maharashtra. Kunte is 1985 batch IAS officer.

NO EMPANELMENT FROM NAGALAND AT SECRETARY LEVEL

There is a lone IAS officer of 1989 batch in Nagaland, but this name did not feature in the empanelment list for holding Secretary and Secretary equivalent posts in Government of India.

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FROM PG 1

Yogi Shows No... cow smuggling are rampant in the poll-bound state in order to cater to "appeasement politics". Addressing a rally in Malda district, Yogi Adityanath said, "Durga Puja gets prohibited in Bengal today and cow slaughter is forcefully started during Eid. People's sentiments are toyed with through cow smuggling. The state government remains silent. Now, there is an attempt to ban the slogan of 'Jai Sri Ram' and attacks are executed." Accusing the ruling TMC of practicing ap-

peasement politics, Yogi Adityanath said, "Love jihad is being executed here. We have made a law against it in Uttar Pradesh. But in West Bengal, there is appeasement politics. As a reason, the state government is unable to stop cow smuggling and love jihad. These dangerous activities will show results in the time to come." "The national leadership of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and every worker of the party has come here to connect to the Bengali brothers and sisters to re-establish the identity

of Bengal and carry forward a new change through this. West Bengal has always been a land of cultural nationalism in India. It has been the land of the revolution for India's freedom struggle. Today it hurts us and the entire country when we see an environment of anarchy here," stated the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister.

INDIA SHINING...

For thousand of years, our ports have been important trading centres. Our coasts connected India to the world," the Prime Minister said af-

ter inaugurating Maritime India Summit 2021 through video conferencing. During the event, Prime Minister Narendra launched the Sagar Manthan- Mercantile Maritime Domain Awareness Centre and e-book of maritime vision 2030, which is aiming to make the Indian maritime insutry at par with the top global benchmark in the next 10 years.

Unemployment due...

an economic think tank aligned to the Congress ideology in poll-bound Kerala, Dr. Singh said temporary measures by

the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India to paper over the credit problem cannot blind us to the looming credit crisis ahead that could affect the small and medium sector. "Unemployment is high and the informal sector is in shambles, a crisis precipitated by the ill considered demonetisation decision taken in 2016," he said at "Pratheeksha 2030". The summit was organised to launch a Vision Document, a framework of ideas for development of Kerala well in advance of the State elections.

Indian economy... He was apparently referring to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's move to nationalise banks. Panagariya, who is currently a Professor of Economics at the Columbia University, said the country's GDP growth in October-December 2020 quarter returned to a hair's breadth above its level a year ago.

Emergency was...

In a conversation with Kaushik Basu, professor in the Cornell University in the US and India's former chief economic advisor, Gan-

dhi said he is all for internal democracy in the Congress, which fought for India's independence, gave the country its Constitution and stood for equality. Asked about his views on the Emergency, he said, "I think that was a mistake. Absolutely, that was a mistake. And my grandmother (Indira Gandhi) said as much." Asked about Indira Gandhi announcing elections at the end of the Emergency, the former Congress chief said there is a fundamental difference between what happened during the Emergency,

which "was wrong", and what is happening in the country now. "The Congress party at no point attempted to capture India's institutional framework and frankly, the Congress party does not even have that capability," he said.

India adds...

ArceleorMittal's Lakshmi Mittal (\$19 billion), Serum Institutes Cyrus Poonawalla (\$18.5 billion), Hinduja Group's Hinduja Brothers (\$18 billion) and Sun Pharmaceutical's Dilip Shanghvi and family (\$12.5 billion).

With panchayat poll bugle blown, stage set for quota list release

Political parties across Uttar Pradesh are going to test their waters in these elections

First India Bureau

Lucknow: The preparations for the three-tier panchayat election in Uttar Pradesh have reached the final stage with the announcement of the reservation lists. The reservation list for posts of village head, block head and ward member have been released including Lucknow, Unnao, Deoria.

The districts for which the reservation list have not been released, will be released on 3rd March.

Appeals against reservation lists will be entertained till 8th March. The appeals will be collected on 9th March and will be disposed of by 10th or 11th March. The final reservation list will

be announced on 16th March and the moral code of conduct will be implemented by March 26th.

The preparations for the Panchayat elections are going on in full swing after the direction from Allahabad High Court. The government after fixing the cycling formula, has finally announced the reservation for various posts.

The Panchayati Raj Department has announced the reservation allocation for the posts of Gram Panchayat Pradhan, Gram Panchayat Member, BDC Member, Block Head and Zila Panchayat Member.

The partial delimitation was the reason for the delay in the reservation allocation of the



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

Zila Panchayat wards. The Panchayati Raj Department's team has been following every rule stated in the order of the government while making the reservation list. Once the announcement of reserva-

tion list has been announced, a person who has objection with the list can appeal within 5 days from the announcement of reservation list. The appeal will be settled in a time period of 3 days and then the final

reservation list will be released after all the appeals have been taken care of.

In Uttar Pradesh, all the parties have been gearing up for the panchayat elections. The candidates who are busy

wooing people are now waiting for the announcement of the election dates. The panchayat elections this time around will have to be conducted before the commencement of the state board exams which are to begin from 24th April. The government has already issued a detailed guideline regarding the reservation for the three-tier panchayat elections. The villages that have never been reserved are being reserved this time around and the reservation for the other villages is being done on cycle basis.

Teams constituted by the DMs of all districts are busy in preparing the list of reservation for the posts of Gram Panchayats, Zilla Panchayat members, BDC posts.

Akhilesh Yadav to 'social engineer' Dalits, Brahmins



Akhilesh Yadav at a press conference in Lucknow.

—PHOTO BY SUMIT KUMAR

First India Bureau

Varanasi: The Samajwadi Party which has been riding the Muslim-Yadav factor till now has come up with plans to bring the Brahmin and Dalits into their fold for the upcoming 2022 elections in Uttar Pradesh.

Akhilesh Yadav has been subtly giving the message of Hindutva is also involved in social engineering in the recent times.

The mantra has been made the theme by SP party Chief Akhilesh Yadav to give a political message in the elections. The song is produced and directed by Ravi Yadav.

The video song has flashes of images of Akhilesh Yadav visiting and worshipping in all the religious places. The song has images of SP Chief worshipping Lord Buddha in the Sita temple in Chitrakot

Akhilesh led SP has adopted a new mantra of "Nai Hawa Hai, Nayi SP Hai"

and in the Shravasti. The song also had pictures of Akhilesh offering prayers at the Ajmer Sharif Dargah and also his involvement in the Guru Tegh Bahadur's Martyrdom Day program.

Akhilesh Yadav has taken upon himself to change the image of the Samajwadi Party before the 2022 elections which is why he can be seen visiting various religious places. Even during his three day long visit of Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh Yadav had offered prayers at the Sankat Mochan Temple, the Vindhachal Darbar and Sant Ravidas Temple.

While Priyanka wins hearts, Rahul's statements cause dissent in UP Congress

First India Bureau

Varanasi: Priyanka Vadra has been sweating as the state in-charge of Congress in order to save her forefather's legacy in Uttar Pradesh.

The recent comment of Priyanka's brother and prominent Congress leader Rahul Gandhi about North Indians has broken the heart of many. People who have felt the brunt of criticizing the party are keeping mum but people who are known to stand up for their opinions are seen openly criticizing Rahul Gandhi's comments.

Congress MP, Rahul Gandhi lost his traditional Lok Sabha seat of Amethi to BJP's Smriti Irani during the last Lok Sabha election. He was though elected from the Kerala constituency of Wayanad and in his recent visit to Kerala had questioned the understanding of North Indian while praising the South Indians for

CRITICAL RAHUL

Rahul, elected from Kerala's Wayanad constituency in his recent visit over there questioned the understanding of North Indians while praising the South Indians.

their understanding of issues. The comments have caused a murmur among the workers who are afraid of being expelled just like the 10 senior Congressmen for disagreeing with the decision of Priyanka Vadra, the National General Secretary of Congress.

Some party lead-



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited Ravidas temple, Seer Goverdhan.

ers who are not afraid though have spoken about the comments like MLA Aditi Singh from Congress stronghold and party president Sonia Gandhi's parliamentary constituency, Rae Bareli said that Rahul Gandhi as a national leader should not make such divisive comments.

Another MLA from Rae Bareli, Rakesh Singh expressed concern that previously controversial comments by Congress leaders about Ram temple and article 370 have hurt sentiments of workers as well as people.

PROTEST AGAINST PRICE HIKE



Samajwadi Party workers including Nahid Lari (in yellow) staged a protest against rising prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas in Lucknow on Tuesday.

—PHOTO BY SUMIT KUMAR

Delhi flyover lane kept open for three hrs

First India Bureau

Varanasi: Soon after reopening the Ghaziabad border the Delhi police had closed the flyover lane after 3 hours.

The barricades were removed to allow the passage of ambulance in the morning but even after the ambulance, the lane was not closed for other vehicles for 3 hours.

The Delhi police though soon after closed the flyover lane which forced the drivers to use alternative routes from Delhi to Ghaziabad, Meerut and Hapur.

The opening of the UP Gate at the Ghaziabad border proved to be a relief for the people living in the districts of Western Uttar Pradesh including those in Delhi.

As soon as the flyover lane was opened for people going from Delhi to Ghaziabad via the UP Gate, thousands of cars were seen taking the fast lane to their destination.

Police said that the flyover lane was opened for ambulance but was kept open for public for three hours before it was closed again.

CBI conducts search ops in illegal coal mining case

First India Bureau

Lucknow: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday conducted search operations at several places in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in connection with an alleged illegal coal mining and transportation case in the Asansol-Raniganj belt of West Bengal, sources said.

The anti-corruption branch of the CBI raided premises of people in the two states, who it are suspected have links with Anup Majee alias Lala, the prime accused in the case,



Representative picture.

against him.

The CBI on November 28 last year carried out a massive search operation in a number of locations in four states -- West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh - after registering a case against Majee.

The CBI team on February 23 visited the residence of Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee and examined his wife Rujira and her sister Menaka in connection with the case.

The MP is West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew.

PRICE FOR CROSSING PATHS

The Hell has no fury like an IAS officer rubbed the wrong way. And nobody knows this better than two affluent businessmen at the receiving end of this civil servant, whose path they had dared to cross once. The reasons are too personal to merit a public scrutiny. But power corridors in the State capital are abuzz

with the "act of vendetta" unleashed by this powerful bureaucrat to settle his score. With their SOS to higher-ups and 'backdoor' negotiations having failed to bring any respite, the harried duo knocked on the doors of the judiciary for the 'selective' inexorable onslaught against them, which they claimed had almost ruined them financially and brought them on the brink of penury.

Reporter's Diary

Ironically, the 'coercive' move was lapped up by the local media, spoon-fed as they were by the one-sided official narrative doled out to them. Some even branded poor blokes as kingpin of a notorious crime syndicate.

Mercifully, the court came to their rescue and passed a restraining order. If sources are to be believed, the respite will be short-lived as the 'scorned' officer is bidding his time to make the next move.

—Tariq Khan

BJP MLA GOES ROGUE IN POWER LUST

Power, when gets to head, becomes dangerous to handle. This is exactly what has happened with a Bharatiya Janata Party MLA in Uttar Pradesh

who was caught on tape asking a group of women why the government should bear the expenses of their children's education as it is the women who produce them. The mudslinging remarks came when a group of women

approached Auraiya MLA Ramesh Diwakar for fee waiver in private schools during a public interaction in his constituency on Sunday. "Bachchey aap paida karo aur rupiya hum dein (you produce the children, and we give the money)," the BJP MLA told the women who came to him for recommending a fee waiver. Surrounded by women, the MLA further goes on to say, "For what are the government schools? No

fee is charged there." "Paisa humse mangne aati ho, ki wahan sifarish kar do (you come to us for money and recommendation)," he says, adding the government gives everything food and clothes. One of the women present in the the crowd is also seen reacting to this. She reacted to the comments of the the MLA and said that it is the public who has elected him for representation.

—Vishal Srivastav



Sharjah flight makes med emergency landing in Pak

First India Bureau

NEW DELHI: An IndiGo flight from Sharjah to Lucknow made a medical emergency landing in Karachi on Tuesday morning after a passenger onboard fell sick and later died. According to the airline, flight 6E1412 from Sharjah to Lucknow was diverted to Karachi due to a medical emergency. "Unfortunately, the passenger could not be revived and was declared dead on arrival by the airport medical team," the airline said in a statement.

An official of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority said the landing permission was granted to the Captain of the Lucknow-bound IndiGo flight 6E1412 after an elderly passenger – identified as 67-year-old Habib ur Rehman – fell seriously ill. "The passenger sadly expired on the plane even though the Indian aircraft was given permission to land at the Karachi airport," the official said.

In a statement, IndiGo said the passenger who had the medical emergency could not be revived and was declared dead on arrival by the airport medical team. "We are deeply saddened with the news and our prayers and wishes are with his family," it added. The airline said the flight coming from Sharjah to Lucknow was diverted to Karachi.

Pre poll exercise: Yogi govt to showcase 4-yr achievements

With eye on 2022 polls, party will launch door-to-door campaign from March 19

Shishir Awasthi

Lucknow: The BJP set in motion plans for Mission-2022 by coming up with a budget which many termed as a progressive one. These plans will now be further enhanced by organising programmes across the state in the celebration of four years of the Yogi government. The Yogi government will launch a campaign to showcase the achievement of the government from door to door on March 19. While presenting the final budget, the government had put forth five big political messages in the budget to keep its core agenda Hindutva and its urban core vote bank, along with youths, farmers and women. The programmes organised for the celebra-



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

tion of four-year tenure of the state government will focus on farmers and steps taken to provide employment. It will showcase how the Yogi government helped the labourers during the Corona period with financial assistance and continued the development work during this time. The BJP is carrying out Mis-

GOVT'S FOCUS ON FARMERS, YOUTHS

The programmes organised for the celebration of four-year tenure of the state government will focus on farmers and steps taken to provide employment to the youths of Uttar Pradesh

sion-2022 at a rapid pace as the elections in the state are round the corner. The BJP high command are focusing on the 5 poll-bound states. Top leaders are confident of forming government in three out of the 5 states. Though, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his leaders will have to

work hard to remove the resentment in the farmers due to the farm laws, in youths due to rising inflation, increase in the price of diesel and petrol and unemployment. It is to be seen whether BJP tackles these issues head on or fall back to the tried and tested method of politics of Hindutva. The Yogi government is considering the panchayat elections as a rehearsal for the assembly elections going to be held next year. The government has come up with many plans for the development of the rural area as about Rs 712 crore has been allocated for Panchayati Raj. The state government has also launched many schemes for the uplift of women through schemes like Mahila Samarthi Yojana and Mission Shakti.

60 med colleges to be affiliated with ABVMU

First India Bureau

Lucknow: About 60 government and private medical colleges and dental colleges and some 300 paramedical institutes will soon come under one umbrella of the prestigious Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University work on which is in full swing. The Yogi Government has already allocated Rs 1,000 crore for the varsity. The CM has directed the concerned authorities to complete the work of ABVMU by the end of 2021 so that affiliation to other medical colleges of UP can also be considered.

Along with this, the students' facilities will also improve. In the first phase of the ABVMU, other medical colleges will be offered affiliation. In this regard, the draft has been created by the institute and concerned authorities. The second phase will include admissions of the MBBS students. The university is being built at the cost of over Rs 200 crore, for which the Government has made available 50 acres of land for the construction. An administrative block will also be built in an area of 20 acres.

—FILE PHOTO



CONVOCATION CEREMONY



Governor Anandiben Patel awarding degree to a student during the convocation ceremony of the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi, on Tuesday. The governor awarded degrees to 14 students and presented medals to 57.

After babus, now EC names 24 IPS officers for 5 states

First India Bureau

Lucknow: After deputing 54 IAS officers of UP Cadre as the Election Observers in the five poll-bound states of Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, the Election Commission has now announced the list of 24 IPS officers of UP Cadre who will be discharging their duty as Election Observers in the assembly polls in these five states. The commission will also provide online

training to these 24 IPS officers on March 3. The IPS officers selected from 1990 to 2007 batches. The Commissioner of Lucknow police DK Thakur and Police Commissioner (Law and Order) Naveen Arora have also been assigned the Election Observer's duty. The IPS officers selected for the duty are Manmohan Kumar Bashal of 1990 batch, Brij Bhushan, Abhay Kumar Prasad, Prem Chand Meena of 1991

batch, Ashutosh Pandey, Amitabh Thakur of 1992 batch, Prem Prakash of 1993 batch, LV Antony Dev Kumar, Raja shrivastava, Dhruva kumar Thakur of 1994 batch, Ram Kumar, Ravi Joseph Lokku, Raj Kumar of 1995 batch, Vijay Prakash, DRN Ravindra, Navneet Sikera of 1996 batch, Naveen Arora, BR Meena of 1997 batch, Amit Chandra, Piyush Mordia, Sanjeev Gupta of batch 1998, Dharmavir of 2002 batch.

Three minor girls missing in Shahjahanpur, found in Rishikesh hotel, say police

First India Bureau

Shahjahanpur: Three minor girls who had gone missing after leaving home for their school were traced to a hotel in Uttarakhand's Rishikesh on Tuesday evening, police said. Two of the girls aged 15 and one 10, from separate localities in the Sa-

One of the girls had told her family that there was a programme at the school

dar area but studying in the same school, had left home on Monday, senior police official (City) Praveen Kumar said. He said one of them

was carrying Rs 2,500 and another had taken Rs 2,700 and clothes with her. A police team sent to Uttarakhand traced them to a hotel room in Rishikesh. The girls told police that they left home as they wanted to achieve something and make a name for themselves, senior police official S

Anand said, adding that their family members have identified them. Anand said the girls told police that they had first gone to the railway station in Shahjahanpur but as there was no train available at that time, they boarded a bus for Haridwar from where they reached Rishikesh.



Dr Aditya Tripathi showing tumor removed from girl.

Kanpur doc removes 15kg tumor from girl

Sumit Awasthi

Kanpur: A huge tumor weighing 10-15 kg has been removed from a teenage girl. Dr. Aditya Tripathi of SIS Hospital & Research Center, Kanpur took up the case of a 16-year-old girl who was suffering from ovarian cancer. No doctor was ready to operate on the girl due to the high risk. According to Dr. Tripathi, the girl was not able to drink, eat or walk due to tumor's pressure on the stomach.

Dr. Tripathi along with his team performed two-hour long complex surgery and was able to successfully take out the tumor. Dr. Aditya's face lit up with joy as soon as the operation was completed successfully and the girl is now in healthy condition. Dr. Aditya though confessed that the surgery was a challenge in itself and that 15% of the population is reportedly suffering from ovarian cancer.

POSTS INCREASED

Graduation list out, now state has 545 IAS officers

Ahtesham Siddiqui

Lucknow: Graduation list of IAS officers of UP Cadre has been announced. The state is now having 545 IAS officers. The Central government has added 16 new posts for the IAS officers of UP Cadre. IAS officers of UP cadre get 353 senior posts and 16 IAS officers of batch 2020 have also

been posted in UP. The 2020 batch officers are currently undergoing training in the Mussoorie. The Appointment Department of the Government of Uttar Pradesh has released the graduation list of 2021 of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers. In the new graduation list of IAS officers the numbers of posts have increased



by 16 and currently stand at 357 posts. While the post of Sec-

BHAGWATI YADAV SUSPENDED
CM office on Tuesday suspended Bhagwati Yadav, joint secretary in Social Welfare Department. Bhagwati illegally switched the construction company.

retary of Government has been increased by 2 to 46 posts at the same time a post has been increased in the Member (Judicial) Board of Revenue. There also has been formation of news posts in Commissioner & Director, Industries, Director, NHM UP- 1 Post, Secretary UPIC, Director General School Education, Director, State Agriculture Produce Markets Board UP, Additional Mission Director NHM UP, State Mis-

sion Director/ ACEO, UPRLM, Director State Nutrition Mission UP, Additional Cane Commissioner (Administration), CEO Rural Road Development Agency, Director UP New & Renewable Energy Development agency, Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) UP, Director, Women Welfare UP and 2 posts as VC in Lucknow and Ghaziabad.

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY
MARCH 3, 2021

First India



City First



ELEGANCE IN DAAMANN

City First announces the very first opening designer of The Fashion Connect Season-9, to be held on March 20, in Dubai!



KARISHMA GWALANI
karishma.gwalani@firstindia.co.in

The Fashion Connect, one of the biggest single-day event in North India, is going big this with its very own Dubai edition, to be held on 20 March at Oaks Ibn Battuta, Dubai and we think it is time to make the most awaited disclosure- announcing the designers; so presenting to you, the very first grand opening designer- Daamann by Mohit Falod!

Mohit Falod, who entered the world of glamour and high fashion 22 years back, is driving the fashion industry with his elegant silhouette chic cuts accompanied by an impeccable finish. Mohit introduced his studio in 2010, in Jaipur and established a brand name 'M.M Falod' for designer spectrum globally.

"While growing up, I was inclined towards artistic stuff. Although I had no formal training in the field of fashion designing, my mother was my biggest in-

spiration." Mohit shared.

What makes 'Daamann' stand out is the signature style where they use semi-precious stones and kalamkari embossed work. He believes in interpreting the old age traditions and culture with the perfect mix of modern and contemporary designs. He offers bridal and groom collection and ensembles with innovative style, following the 3 c's - Cut, Cloth, and Creativity.

"We will be launching our Spring-Summer Collection, 'Panchtatva' at the Fashion Connect' Season-9, Dubai Edition," the designer said. He has designed costumes and dresses for various Bollywood celebrities such as Raveena Tandon, Sunny Leone, Awez Darbar, Prachi Desai to name a few.

The accredited designer has created magic by his speciality of work using the entire gamete of legendary gotta patti work, Swarovski, ivory, ceramic, semi-precious stones, Belgium sequences sprays, kalamkari, gold foil and 'Aari Resham' rosette work.

Mohit Falod and Anjula Falor



Mohit Falod with Karishma Tanna

Sunny Leone



Models showcasing the designs of Daamann by Mohit Falod





Dismantling Autocracy

Tweet by Tweet



RIA ARYA
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In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.
—Martin Luther King Jr

Between 1945-1949, a series of 13 trials underwent in Nuremberg, Germany, the aim of which was to try those accused of Nazi war and the systemic wiping out of the Jews in Germany. The defendants, who included Nazi Party officials and high-ranking military officers along with German industrialists, lawyers and doctors, were indicted on such charges as crimes against peace and crimes against humanity. What's significant about these trials is that most pleaded not guilty, claiming they were just following orders'.

In July 1961, Yale University psychologist Stanley Milgram did a series of social psychology experiments to measure the degree of obedience towards authority figures. Participants were led to believe that they were assisting an unrelated experiment, in which they had to administer electric shocks to a learner. These fake electric shocks gradually increased to levels that would have been fatal had they been real.

Shockingly (pun unintended), the study found a surprisingly large number of subjects followed the instructions, albeit reluctantly. Milgram noted "The extreme willingness

of adults to go to almost any lengths on the command of an authority constitutes the chief finding of the study and the fact most urgently demanding an explanation. Ordinary people,

simply doing their jobs, and without any particular hostility on their part, can become agents in a terrible destructive process".

Six whole decades later, Milgram's observations remain eerily accurate for the situation at hand. At a time when the largest protest ever witnessed by mankind is taking place in the capital, the longest-lasting internet blackout has only just been removed, political prisoners remain in jail despite pro-

moting peace and rioters and inciters find their way to the parliament, a tweet by an American pop star, an 18-year-old environmental activist and two actresses grabs an IT cell by the collar.

Within hours, accounts are suspended, mobs rise to burn effigies and shout slogans, any opposition is discredited via agents of slut-shaming, charges of sedition, or just asked to go to Pakistan. A gradual pattern is seen, one that takes a step ahead from democracy and settles on what seems to be an elected au-

torcracy. Dissent in any form has not been curbed in the country since the Emergency of '74. It almost feels like we're all standing in front of Tyler Durden as he explains the rules of Fight Club. What is troubling are the statistics of human rights violations, not just towards the anti-nationals and the urban Naxals, but also towards anyone who dares to ask a question, to submit a point of view to the contrary, who wants a dialogue. An entire community is labelled Khalistani; an entire state of people de-

manding freedom labelled terrorists; those in power go ahead and commits crimes, and destroy public property in the name of safeguarding the nation; a news channel editor (for the love of God, not a journalist) goes on air in the evening and demands the nation knows – in truth, the nation knows nothing. The nation is being fed hate, bigotry, intolerance, repression, and it is taking it all. It is taking it all for what plagues it is "if not this then what". If not this, then anything. Anyone.

When we talk of dissent,

of revolution, of inquilab, what we forget most often is that the oppressor will take you to a classroom and teach you new things, but he will never teach you how to overthrow him. At a time like this, it becomes one's duty to educate oneself, to voice an opinion, to demand better.

In the words of poet Ramneek Singh, "agar aaj sawaal nahi poochhe toh kal jawaab nahi de payenge", and in the words of Gorakh Pandey, "wo darte hain, ki ek din nihathe aur gareeb log unse darna band kar denge".



FACE OF THE DAY

SIMRAN SHARMA, Audit Professional

YOUR DAY
Horoscope by Saurabh Sachdeva

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ARIES
MAR 21 - APR 20

You remaining on the saving mode will help you strengthen your financial front. Your innovative ideas on the professional front are likely to be well received. Spirituality will have a special allure for you. Good health will keep you fit and energetic. You are likely to expand your social circle.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Job prospects for those freshly out of professional institutes are set to brighten up soon. A positive outlook will help you throw out the negativity within. You will manage to ignore distractions and interruptions at work to complete a pending task in time.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23 - DEC 22

Sticking to workout routine may benefit you on the health front. New opportunities will be seized on the professional front. Meeting relatives at a marriage or party cannot be ruled out. Accompanying someone you click with is likely to make your business journey entertaining.

TAURUS
APR 21 - MAY 20

A long journey may prove to be both tiring and uncomfortable. A major purchase may make a dent in your savings, but will help in keeping up with the jonnesses. Speculation may not be profitable and you can very well burn your fingers.

VIRGO
AUG 24 - SEP 23

Satisfaction is foreseen for the image conscious people trying to achieve perfect figure and physique. You will succeed in surmounting the odds to get a stalled job back on the tracks. Your efforts on the academic front will keep you sane. You will be cheerful today.

CAPRICORN
DEC 23 - JAN 20

Focussing on your career graph at this juncture will be a step that will take you far. A rethink is in order for those going in for a heavy investment. Recovering a loaned amount from someone will not pose much difficulty. You will manage to defuse tensions prevailing at home.

GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUNE 21

A profitable day for entrepreneurs is envisaged. You may be played upon for spending on someone else's needs and desires. Health matters gain priority and will motivate for achieving total fitness. Homemakers are likely to enjoy the day in the company of neighbors.

LIBRA
SEPT 24 - OCTOBER 22

This is the day to play your winning card on the professional front. A lot of time may be wasted in socialising, but you will love every moment of it! Time is ripe for investing in a scheme you have been considering for long. Your upbeat mood will brighten the day.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21 - FEB 19

Balancing act between home and office will remain most smooth for working women. You succeed in putting an ambitious project on the tracks and cross all hurdles in making it a success. Love beckons and promises to give immense joy and fulfillment. Homemakers can exceed budget.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Homemakers will get a chance to implement their ideas. You are likely to be recognised for your efforts on the professional front. Some of you can be invited for guidance or consultancy. Chance of a raise is possible for some. Timely and correct decision will help you.

SCORPIO
OCT 23 - NOVEMBER 22

You will put in extra efforts to complete a task entrusted to you. Your academic aspirations may take some time to get realised. A contentious property issue may not show any signs of getting sorted out amicably, so have a backup plan ready.

PISCES
FEB 20 - MARCH 20

It is one of those days when you will feel satisfied with whatever you do today on the social front. Those seeking love may not get lucky, but persistence will pay! Those in the rat race may find it difficult to pip the rivals at the post. A friend or relative can touch a sensitive nerve.

Wonder Woman alum Gal Gadot recently announced that she's pregnant and expecting his third child with hubby Yaron Varsano! The 35-year-old actress announced the news through a cute Instagram photo, the pic she chose showed her husband and their two daughters, Alma, 9, and Maya, 3, holding her baby bump. Congratulations to the happy family on the wonderful news of their third child!

Good News



...her post

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Jessica Biel

American actress Jessica Biel who has been a prominent face in Hollywood celebrates her birthday today! She won the Young Artist Award for her role in the drama film Ulcer's Gold. He received further recognition for her lead role as Erin Hardesty in the horror film The Texas Chainsaw Massacre. Biel has since starred in such films as The Rules of Attraction, Blade: Trinity, Stealth, The Illusionist, I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry, Valentine's Day, The A-Team, New Year's Eve, Total Recall, and Hitchcock. We admire her contribution and wish her all the best for today!

—Agency



Gal Gadot



Amber Heard

Fired?

Hollywood actress Amber Heard has not been fired from the upcoming sequel to the superhero film franchise Aquaman, contrary to reports last week that suggested that the 34-year-old star has been sacked from her role. Prominent journalist Ryan Parker, without giving details, confirmed that the reports about Heard being firing from Aquaman 2 were "inaccurate". This is not the first time that reports of Heard not returning to the DCEU franchise have surfaced.

—Agency

TIME FOR ONE MORE



Hilaria Baldwin with her kids



Shraddha Kapoor

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CELEBS!

CITY FIRST

The Bollywood world rejoices today as three of the most beloved stars celebrate their birthdays, and, we couldn't be more excited!

Born to one of the most iconic figures, Shraddha Kapoor has built her name in the industry. She is among the most followed Indian actresses

on IG. Known for his amazing vocal runs, Shankar Mahadevan is a prominent figure, he is a part of the most famous trio Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy. He excels in presenting a classical twist in his modern

beats. The man who makes us cry with his soul melting performances, Prateek Kuhad, whose song Cold/Mess stills makes us resonate with our heartbreaks, also celebrates his birthday today. We wish them all the best!



Prateek Kuhad

Shankar Mahadevan



Tara Sutaria

Hollywood star Alec Baldwin welcomed his sixth child with wife Hilaria Baldwin on Monday, just months after their youngest son was born in



Alec Baldwin

September 2020. The 62-year-old actor's spouse took to her Instagram handle and shared a picture that she said was clicked by him. The picture showed her lying in bed with her 6 children, including the newborn whose name or gender has yet not been revealed.

—Agency

POSTER OUT



Poster of the movie

Tara Sutaria's massive fan following got a big surprise this morning as producer Sajid Nadiadwala released the first look poster of his upcoming movie Tadap. The movie will feature Tara in the lead and also marks the debut of Suniel Shetty's son Ahaan Shetty. The first look poster of the movie took over the social media by a storm and the entire showbiz world welcomed Ahaan wholeheartedly for his debut film.

—Agency

SPOTTED!

—PHOTOS BY MUKESH KIRADOO



Tamannaah Bhatia



Urvashi Rautela



Baba Siddiqui



Sajid Khan



Shaan



Jay Bhanushali and Mahhi Vij with their daughter Tara



Sohail Khan



Mandira Bedi

Bollywood celebs Tamannaah Bhatia, Sohail Khan, music director Sajid Khan, politician Baba Siddiqui, Jay Bhanushali, Mahhi Vij with their daughter Tara Bhanushali, Mandira Bedi were spotted on Tuesday to attend a private wedding in Jaipur. Urvashi Rautela was in town for the shoot of her upcoming movie while singer Shaan was captured at the airport as he returned to Mumbai.

SUMMER CALLING

Wanderlust feeds the soul & when it comes to summer outings, people don't shy away from going that extra mile to reach out to their own self!



MONICA PRABHAKAR
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As Dalai Lama once said, once a year, go somewhere you have never been before. It's the backpacking through mountains and walking on beaches at sunset that feeds the human soul.

Travelling is a way of life for some, need of the hour for others and a little getaway to enjoy the summers. City First, in an exclusive conversation with some of the travel enthusiasts to hear their views.

Bharat Arora, a globe-trotter said, "A few of my absolute favourite destinations this summer has to be Ladakh, Auli, Chopta and Mukhteshwar. These are some offbeat places away from the hustle-bustle of city life, which we all are trying to escape from time to time.

He added, "Travelling unravels so much in you that you did not even know you had in the first place. It's wonderful makes you realise



Bharat with his friends in Ladakh



Shalini Kanaujia



Shalini with her husband at Taj Mahal



Bharat Arora in Auli, Himachal Pradesh

that you are such a tiny part of this universe and there is so much to know so much experience."

But what if mountains are not your call-

ing? You have one of the seven wonders of the world, a road trip away!

Shalini Kanaujia, a vagabond, says, "I believe Agra is the perfect summer getaway for

Lucknowites, as it is just 4 hours away from Lucknow to standing in front of one of the seven wonders, Taj Mahal. For me getting to know its history is a beautiful

feeling in itself. One can see the magnificence of Mughal Architecture at Agra Fort and grab some lunch at 'Oberoi Amarvilas' in itself is a beauty."

FELICITATIONS!



Governor Anandiben Patel appreciated the efforts of students for preserving the classical routes at Bhatkhande Music Institute, Lucknow on the occasion of its tenth annual convocation on Monday. She also felicitated the toppers and conferred degrees to students.

—PHOTOS BY SUMIT KUMAR

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY!



—PHOTO BY MUKESH KIRADOO

The animals and plants that live in the wild have an intrinsic value and contribute to the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic aspects of human well-being and sustainable development. On the occasion of World Wildlife Day, City First gives you a glimpse of the migratory vulture at Vulture Sanctuary, situated in Jorbeer village of Bikaner, Rajasthan.

SAD DEMISE!



Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath mourned the demise of senior journalist Dilip Awasthi. He expressed his condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the departed soul.

ANNIVERSARY!



PPS Veerendra Kumar and his wife Kanchan Lata celebrated their wedding anniversary on Tuesday. The couple has shared this journey for the past twenty years and has expressed gratitude for each other on this special occasion. We wish them all the best!

HAPPY B'DAY!



(From top) IAS Uday Bhanu Tripathi and IAS Sushil Kumar Patel celebrated their birthdays on Tuesday, March 2. We wish them all the best!

#LARGESTVACCINEDRIVE!



Union Cabinet Minister Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey got vaccinated at Yashoda Hospital, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad on Tuesday.

SAMPURN SAMAADHAN DIVAS!



District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash addressed the citizens at Bakshi Ka Talab during Sampurn Samaadhan Divas on Tuesday. He gave strict orders to the officers for the speedy redressal of problems.

MISSION SHAKTI ABHIYAN!



Setting its focus on Mission Shakti Abhiyan, Development Authority organised a webinar on Tuesday to promote safety, respect and independence among women. Dr Seema Singh Katiyar, Dr Kusum Kamal, D K Thakur and Varsha Verma were present to share their views during the webinar.

SURPRISE VISIT!



As the State Government has decided to start the Government Primary Schools from this month, Commissioner Raj Shekhar surprised the students, faculty, headmaster and the staff by visiting them at the primary school of Khehra Katari, Kalyanpur Block, Kanpur on Tuesday.

FAST-FOOD TRUCKS!



To douse the hunger pangs of the passengers thronging the Lucknow airport, the CCS Airport administration has come up with a flurry of fast-food trucks. The trucks are loaded with promise of delivering better and quality fast food. The customers may avail these services, not just inside, but outside the airport as well.

DEATH ANNIVERSARY!



Today, we remember the legendary Urdu poet Firaq Gorakhpuri, as we celebrate his death anniversary. He became a symbol of ethnicity, Indian culture and diversity through his art. To quote the legend himself, "Koi samjhe to ek baat kahun, ishq taufeeq hai gunaah nahil!"

TENNIS TOURNAMENT!



Adit Sinha from the USA striking the ball in a match against S D Prajwal from India during the International Tennis Tournament held at Vijyant Khand Stadium in Lucknow on Tuesday.