

## 12 DEAD IN PAKISTAN BUS BLAST:

Beijing said nine Chinese workers were among 12 people killed Wednesday by a bomb attack on a bus in Peshawar and called for severe punishment, but Islamabad blamed the explosion on a "gas leak".

## RBI BARS MASTERCARD :

RBI imposed restrictions on Mastercard from onboarding new domestic customers on its network from July 22, 2021 onwards. The action has been taken for violating norms on storage of payment systems data.

## DELHI HC ADJOURNS MEHBOOBA'S PLEA TO AUGUST 13:

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday adjourned the hearing on the plea filed by ex- J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti challenging the vires of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

## PM IN VARANASI TODAY:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting Varanasi on Thursday and will inaugurate Rudraksh Convention Centre, which has been constructed with Japanese assistance and lay foundation stones of multiple projects.

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**1** After PM expresses concern over Covid violations, MHA asks states to take steps to control crowds

**2** Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla in his letter has reminded the states and UTs that any increase in the R-factor above 1.0 is an indicator of rapid spread of Covid-19 and therefore, the authorities concerned should be made responsible for ensuring Covid-appropriate behaviour in all crowded places



# 'R' FACTOR A MATTER OF CONCERN

**Kolkata:** A day after PM Narendra Modi expressed concern over the massive crowds at hill stations and marketplaces, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Wednesday wrote to all states and Union Territories asking them to take steps to control crowding and shed off complacency as the R-rate of Covid infections is rising in many states. It has also asked them to make officers personally responsible for any laxity.

"With the decline in the number of active cases, States and UTs have started re-opening the activities in a gradual manner... However, blatant violations of COVID norms have been observed in several parts of the country, especially in public transport and at hill stations. Massive crowds are also thronging the market places, violating norms of social distancing.

## CORONA CATASTROPHE

INDIA  
**38,792**  
new cases

**624**  
new fatalities

UTTAR PRADESH  
**90**  
new cases

**02**  
new fatalities

## HOME SECY ASKS CHIEF SECYS TO FOCUS ON 5-FOLD STRATEGY

**New Delhi:** Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla in his letter directed Chief Secretaries and Administrators of State/UTs on Wednesday to continuously focus on the five-fold strategy for effective management of COVID-19 i.e. Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination and adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour. Asserting that the second wave of COVID is not yet over, the letter said, "We ought to remember that while the reach of vaccination is increasing considerably, there is no room for complacency and hence COVID appropriate behaviour must continue in line with our philosophy of 'Dawai bhi, Kadaai bhi.' Bhalla also advised people to guard against complacency.

## Nandigram loss: HC admits Didi's plea, asks EC to preserve records

**Kolkata:** Admitting West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's petition for hearing, the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday directed that notice be served upon Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari, whose victory from Nandigram in the assembly elections was challenged by her. Justice Shampa

Sarkar directed that Banerjee's election petition will be taken up for hearing on August 12. The judge directed that in the meantime, notice be served upon Adhikari.

Justice Sarkar held that as per a report received by her bench from the high court ad-

ministration, the election petition was filed in compliance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act. The court also directed the Election Commission to preserve all records and devices related to the polls in Nandigram.



## Piyush Goyal appointed Leader of House in RS

**New Delhi:** BJP leader and Union Minister Piyush Goyal was on Wednesday appointed as the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, an elevation that makes him the face of the government in upper house. With the ruling BJP not having a majority in Rajya Sabha, Goyal will be tasked with navigating various political

## KISHOR WELCOME TWEET AND DELETE

**New Delhi:** Congress leader Archana Dalmia on Wednesday tweeted that poll strategist Prashant Kishor had joined the grand old party. Her tweet welcoming Kishor was deleted minutes later. Dalmia, who is considered a close aide of Rahul Gandhi, has not clarified on her now-deleted tweet. **More on P6**

## Afghan's future can't be its past, peace talks only answer: EAM

**New Delhi:** Presenting India's view on the evolving situation in Afghanistan at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers Contact Group meeting at Dushanbe Wednesday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Kabul's "future cannot be its past."

In the backdrop of Taliban claiming to have control over 85 per cent of Afghanistan's territory as the US looks to complete withdrawal of its troops from the country by August 31, Jaishankar said the world is against seizure of power by violence and force, adding that such actions are not legitimate.

The EAM further pressed for peace negotiations, asserting that this was the only answer to the situation.

## Delhi riots: Loopholes in probe, FIRs wrongly clubbed, remarks HC



Police did investigation in the most callous, farcical manner, High court

**New Delhi:** Dismissing Delhi Police's revision petition against an order directing it to register an FIR on a Ghonda resident's complaint, which alleged that he was shot in the eye during Northeast Delhi riots, a Delhi Court has said that police have sought to create a defence of the accused in a different FIR, and that officers have "miserably failed" in their statutory duties in the case. Imposing a cost of Rs

25,000 on Bhajanpura police station's SHO and his supervising officers, Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav has sent the order to the Commissioner of Police "for bringing to his notice" the level of investigation and supervision in the matter, and also asked him to take remedial action. The facts and circumstances of the case reveal "a very shocking state-of-affairs," said the judge. **Turn to P6**

## PM Modi to inaugurate slew of projects in Varanasi today

**New Delhi/Varanasi:** Ahead of his visit to Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday shared details of many projects he will inaugurate there and asserted that his government's vision is to build quality infrastructure in the holy city for the coming generations. **Turn to P6**



## YOGI'S EX-GRATIA RELIEF FOR FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO DIED ON PYAT POLL DUTY

First India Bureau

**Lucknow:** Families of 2,020 government employees who died of Covid-19 during the Panchayat poll duty will finally get Rs 30 lakh each in compensation from the Uttar Pradesh government, more than a month after the State cabinet cleared the proposal.

The ex-gratia for the deceased government staff was increased from Rs 15 lakh to 30 lakh in the state cabinet



CM Yogi addressing audience at the Baba Gambhirnath Auditorium in Gorakhpur from where he inaugurated various developmental projects sure to benefit the region.

net meeting headed by chief minister Yogi Adityanath on May 31.

The issue was first raised by a teachers' body that had claimed

that over 1,600 teachers and workers of the Basic Education Department had died in UP since the first week of April due to Covid-19 and 90 per cent of them were on panchayat poll duty.

Additional Chief Secretary (Panchayati Raj) Manoj Kumar Singh said that 3,092 applications had been received under revised protocols for determining death on duty from Covid and 2,020 cases were recommended as **Turn to P6**

## CRUCIAL READ

### GOVT CALLS ALL-PARTY MEET ON JULY 18

**New Delhi:** Ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi has called an all-party meeting on July 18. Prime Minister Modi is likely to be present during the meeting. **P6**

### 'FARMER DIED OF HEAD INJURY IN R-DAY VIOLENCE'

**New Delhi:** The farmer, who died in the Republic Day violence that broke out during the tractor rally against the Centre's farm laws, succumbed to a serious head injury, not a bullet, a panel of doctors who studied the man's post mortem report has confirmed. The report was studied by doctors of the Maulana Azad Medical College in Rampur and has been submitted to the Delhi Crime Branch. CB also showed CCTV footage of incident to the family members on the orders of the court.

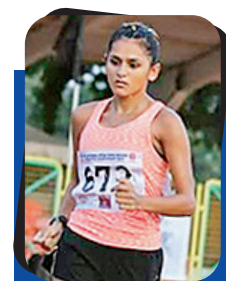
### SC TAKES COGNISANCE OF KANWAR YATRA

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday took suo motu cognisance of news on Uttar Pradesh government's decision to allow "Kanwar Yatra" amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and sought responses from the state as well as the Centre on the matter.

### NOT A CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: PAWAR

**Mumbai:** NCP chief Sharad Pawar has ruled out contesting the Presidential election due in 2022, sources in his party said on Wednesday, an assertion coming in the wake of speculation about the veteran politician becoming the opposition nominee for the top post. The sources said Pawar (80), a multiple-time CM of Maharashtra and a former Union minister, has rejected media reports about him becoming a candidate in the Presidential election. **More on P6**





## PRIYANKA GOSWAMI

Priyanka Goswami is a track athlete who will represent India in women's 20km racewalking at the Olympics. The 24-yr-old qualified for the Tokyo Olympics by clocking 1:28:45s at National Race Walking Championships in February which is National record.

## COACH'S ADVISE BROUGHT HER TO RACE WALKING

Priyanka Goswami has made a phenomenal mark as a racewalker in a very short span. Born on March 10, 1996, the race walker would be competing in the 20km race walk event. She hails from Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh. Since a very young age, Priyanka was interested in sports. While in class 6, she underwent training in gymnastics for 6 months for fun; and then enrolled in athletics in class 9. Back then she diligently worked to participate in a district-level competition, but couldn't qualify. Her coach then suggested she try for the walking category. Priyanka followed her coach's advice and secured third medal in race-walking.



## SHIVPAL SINGH

Shivpal Singh will be representing India in Javelin Throw at Tokyo Olympics. He won a silver medal in 2019 Asian championship with a personal best throw of 86.23m. He qualified for Olympics with a throw of 85.47m at e ACNW League Meet in South Africa.

## BEST...FROM THE FAMILY OF JAVELIN THROWERS

Shivpal Singh is a resident of Hingutarghar village under Dhanapur block of Chandauli district in Uttar Pradesh. His father Ramashray Singh is working with the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC). Shivpal has inherited the sport of javelin throw. His father Ramashray Singh, uncle Shivpujan Singh and Jagmohan Singh himself are also javelin throwers. Shivpal Singh's uncle Jagmohan Singh is employed in the Indian Navy and has also been a coach of javelin throw. After that he went out with his uncle. At the age of 18, Shivpal's joined the Air Force under sports quota. At present, Shivpal's posting is in Hindon Airbase.



## ANNU RANI

Annu Rani will be representing India in the javelin throw at Tokyo Olympics. She has a personal best throw of 63.24m which she threw at Federation cup in Patiala. The qualification mark is 64m but she will go through to the Tokyo Olympic based on rankings.

## ALL SET TO STEP OUT IN THE OLYMPICS AND MAKE A MARK

Hailing from Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh, Annu Rani is a javelin thrower who has become the first Indian woman to cross 60 metres and make it to the World Athletics Championship. In 2021, she created a national record in javelin throw with her incredible throw of 63.24 metres. Born on August 28, 1992, Annu was honoured as the Sportswoman of the Year in athletics 2020 for her outstanding feat in 2019. Coming from a humble agricultural family background, this exceptional sportswoman's childhood dream was to step out of the village and make a mark of her own. She has been overcoming obstacles and proving her mettle remarkably.



## LALIT KR UPADHYAY

Lalit Kumar Upadhyay is a hockey player who will be representing India in men's hockey at Tokyo Olympics. He plays as a forward in the Indian team and made his senior International debut in 2014 and was also part of the 2014 men's world cup.

## LALIT TO ADD EDGE TO INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM

Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, born on December 1, 1993 in Varanasi plays as a forward for India. He has also played for Kalinga Lancers in Hockey India League. Lalit made his debut for the senior team of India in 2008 in the Eight nation tournament, Malaysia. Lalit has had a recognizable contribution to the Indian team. He transformed from a young inexperienced lad to a talented individual. The Varanasi boy has been involved in multiple international competitions for India. He has participated in the 4 nation tournament in Malaysia in 2009, Hong Kong invitation tournament in 2010, Muscat (Oman) league 2012 and Europe international tour, Holland 2013. Lalit had a huge role to play in the 2017 Men's Hockey Asia Cup which was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

# READY FOR TOKYO



CM Yogi interacting, through a virtual mode with players going to represent India in Tokyo Olympics on Wednesday in Gorakhpur.

# CM MOTIVATES UP'S MEDAL HOPEFULS

## YOGI INTERACTS WITH TOKYO-BOUND PLAYERS OF UP, ASKS SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE SPORTS INFRA BETTER

First India Bureau

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday interacted with the UP contingent of athletes who will be taking part in the upcoming Olympic Games in Tokyo and wished them best of luck in their respective

stream.

A total of 10 athletes from the State have been selected and the UP CM spoke to each and every one of them including their parents, who were also present on the occasion. Hailing their fighting spirit as an inspiration amid Covid-19 crisis, the Chief Minister in his one-hour interaction motivated and encouraged them while communicating with each of the ten athletes and their respective guardians. "It is inspiring that despite the pandemic, you all continued your practices. The devotion that you all have towards your game and the perseverance that you all possess is admirable and should

also be adopted by the upcoming generations," he said. CM Yogi started the conversation by speaking with race walker Priyanka Goswami and javelin thrower Annu Rani. Both Priyanka and Annu told the CM about their struggles and how they were preparing for the Tokyo Olympics.

On being informed that Priyanka has been continuing her practices in Bangalore because of absence of a Synthetic Turf Field in UP, CM Yogi Adityanath assured her to equip the state with all required resources and well-trained coaches for promotion of Sports Culture in Uttar Pradesh.

"The talented players of our state have been deprived of adequate resources for long, however, our government is leaving no stone unturned to provide all necessary assets to the sports persons in order to promote sports activities for them to shine nationally and internationally," he said adding that, "I would urge all you talented athletes to aid the government and Department of Sports to develop the state into a place suitable for all athletes to polish their skills." Every Village in Uttar Pradesh to have a Sports Ground and an Open Gym.

"Every Village in UP will soon have a sports ground and an open gym which will motivate the youth to stay fit and develop a passion for sports," he added. The Sports Department, Department of Rural Development, Department of Urban Development, Department of Panchayati Raj and Department of Revenue have been working collectively to foster the sports industry in the state and efforts are also underway to provide special 'sports kits' to every budding athlete.

## KEY NOTES FROM CM YOGI'S INTERACTION

- In a response to Shooter Mairaj Ahmad Khan who has been in Italy for practices, CM Yogi Adityanath asked him to visit the state in his homecoming after the mega event and inspect the Shooting Range being set up in Lucknow and Varanasi
- CM Yogi assured track athlete Priyanka Goswami to equip the state with all required resources and well-trained coaches for promotion of Sports Culture in Uttar Pradesh.
- The CM further asked all the athletes to frame their suggestions into a well-detailed proposal for the state government to work accordingly and develop Uttar Pradesh as a 'Sports Hub'.



## SAURABH CHAUDHARY

Saurabh Chaudhary, is a sport shooter who will be representing India in the 10m Air Pistol individual & 10m Air Pistol mixed team event at the Olympics. He has won gold medals in events such as ISSF World cup, Youth Olympics, Asian games etc.

## SAURABH CHAUDHARY IS INDIA'S BEST SHOT IN OLY

Hailing from Uttar Pradesh's Meerut district, 19-year-old Saurabh Chaudhary is one of India's one of the best shots at the Olympic podium finish. He was born in Kalina village of the region. He comes from a family of farmers living in Yamuna and Gangatic plains of the Western Uttar Pradesh region. His father's name is Jagmohan Singh Siwach. He took up shooting at the age of 13 and has practiced daily ever since without a fail. During his early days, he used to travel 15 km each way on buses to his club run by Aryan Gateways Sports Foundation. His coach Amit Sheoran identified his talent and groomed him from grassroot level. At the age of 19, Chaudhary is all set to make the country proud.

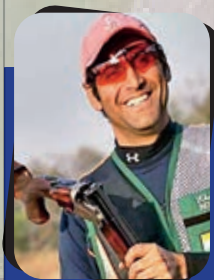


## SATISH KUMAR

Satish is an amateur boxer who will represent India in Olympics in the +91kg category and won bronze medals in 2014 Asian games and in 2018 Commonwealth games. He defeated Otgonbayer Daivii in the Asian Boxing Olympic qualifiers.

## SATISH LOOKS TO PUT HIS BEST 'PUNCH' FORWARD

Ace Indian boxer Satish Kumar etched his name in history books by becoming the first pugilist from the country to qualify for the Olympic Games in the super heavy weight category (91 kg and above). The Tokyo bound boxer comes from a family of farmers. He hails from Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh. Following the footsteps of his elder brothers, Satish joined Indian Army as a teenager and it was during his service days when he discovered his true finding. Satish picked up boxing and started his professional training at the age of 19. He was initially trained by the coaches in the boxing camp at the Kumaon Regiment and started competing on the national stage at the age of 21.

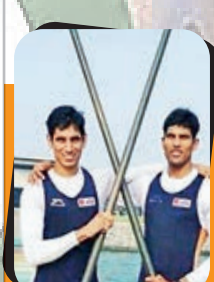


## MAIRAJ KHAN

Mairaj Ahmad Khan is a sports shooter who will be representing India in men's skeet at the Tokyo Olympics. In 2016 Rio Olympics, he was the first-ever Indian skeet shooter to qualify for the Olympics and this will be his second Olympics.

## WITH SHOOTING IN HIS DNA, MAIRAJ AIMS FOR GOLD

Mairaj Ahmad Khan was born into an affluent shooting family, as his father, brother and uncles were state-level trap shooters. Despite being surrounded by professional shooters, a young Mairaj fell in love with cricket and dreamt of playing for India one day. But, cricket could only remain a weekend hobby and he soon started shooting after finishing college in 1998. Mairaj became a professional shooter and won his first gold at the 2007 National Shooting Championship in Delhi. He went on to bag the gold medal again in 2009, 2010, and 2016 editions of the championship. Mairaj made his international debut during the ISSF World Cup at Lonato, Italy in the year 2003. For almost a decade (2005 to 2015) he participated in 15 ISSF World Cups held in 22 nations but didn't win any medals.



## ARVIND SINGH

Arvind Singh will be pairing up with Arjun Lal for this event and this pair qualified for the Tokyo Olympics in men's lightweight double sculls event after finishing second in the final race of the Asia Continental Qualifying in Tokyo.

## JOINING ARMY UNLEASHED HIS PASSION FOR ROWING

Born in a humble farming family from Khabra village of UP, Arvind joined the rowing team after he completed his Army training in April 2016. Along with his fellow Army trainee Arjun Lal Jat, he decided to team up for rowing training in Lightweight Men's Double Sculls category. The duo was the reserves at the 2018 Asian Games, when Indian team of Rohit Kumar and Bhagwan Singh received bronze in lightweight double sculls. Arvind and Arjun received their first boost of confidence when they won silver in 2019 Asian Championships. Raising hopes for Tokyo 2021 Olympics, the team finished second and ahead of much stronger teams like Uzbekistan.




Panchayat Polls: Women outshine men, capture 53.7 % seats

First India Bureau

Lucknow: Women have breached yet another male-dominated bastion – the recently concluded Panchayat polls, where they have bagged 53.70 % of the total seats overshooting the one third quota fixed for them. Altogether 31,212 women have won the election for the post of Gram Pradhan, 447 for block pramukh and 42

for the post of district panchayat chairperson in the panchayat elections this year, according to the data available with the state election commission. This is for the first time in the history of UP, when such a large number of women have won panchayat elections. Women have won 31,212 out of 58,176 village head posts, claiming 53.7% of the seats and outnumber-



Kalpana Gujjar, educated village head of Badagaon village of Agra, flaunts a smile. —FILE PHOTO

CM YOGI's INITIATIVE

Initiatives undertaken by CM Yogi to raise women's awareness and involve them in developmental process have played vital role in their victory in the elections.

their share of up to 24 posts as per the one-third reservation norm for women while men have won only 33 seats. Women's representation in these ministerial level posts is 56 %. Women have excelled in winning block chief's posts also, claiming victory on 447 of the 825 seats. Here also men lag behind women with 378 seats. Women and men have won 54.2% and 45.8 per-

cent of the block chief's seats respectively. Overall, women's representation in the panchayats of the state is 53.7, which far exceeds the one-third reservation for them. It is to be noted, that even after having 50 % reservation in many states, the average representation of women in the country is only 36.87 %. Educated females too contested these elections. Kalpana Singh Gurjar, the first-time elected village head of Badagaon village of Agra, believes that educated women should join politics if the circumstances of the family are favourable as they can think better for the society. A total of 3521 women self-help groups in the state too contested panchayat elections for various posts, out of which 1534 have won.

Health services to be bettered to reduce infant, maternal deaths

YOGI-LED GOVT TO REDUCE IMR IN UP BY HALF WITHIN 10 YEARS

First India Bureau

**Gorakhpur:** The state government will expand facilities for institutional delivery and care of infants in hospitals. The move is aimed at stabilising the population in the state and reducing maternal and infant deaths in a time-bound manner, to achieve the target of the New Uttar Pradesh Population Policy 2021-2030, which was recently unveiled by CM Yogi Adityanath.

Provisions have been made for ensuring health services for all and for paying special attention to pregnant women, infants, sick newborns and children who are severely malnourished. The new policy has set a target of reducing the neonatal mortality rate of infants that takes place within 28 days of their birth from 32 to 22 by 2026 and to 12 by 2030.

Along with this, a target has also been set to bring down the under-five mortality from 47 to



CM Yogi listens to the issues faced by people at the Janta Darbar organised at Gorakshnath temple in Gorakhpur on Wednesday.

35 by the year 2026 and to 25 by the year 2030. According to the 2015-2016 report of National Family Health Survey-4, out of every thousand children born in the state, 52 newborns died in urban areas and 67 in rural areas, whereas, 62 children died in urban areas and 82 in rural areas per thousand children under the age of five years. In last four years, the state government made significant efforts in reducing

CM YOGI HAS A 'BIG HEART'

Uttarakhand minister Subodh Uniyal on Wednesday said UP CM Yogi Adityanath has a "big heart" and will not mind his government's decision of cancelling the Kanwar Yatra amid fears of third Covid wave. "We should have faith in religion but that doesn't mean we can play with lives. The IMA had warned of a third wave. Even the PM had expressed concern over it. The decision to cancel Kanwar Yatra has been taken in larger public interest," Uniyal told reporters in Dehradun.

the birth rate, maternal mortality rate and infant mortality rate, however, it is still less than the national aver-

age. In 2016, the fertility rate in UP was 3.3, while the national average was 2.6. As a result of the sustained efforts

of the UP government, the fertility rate now stands at 2.7, while the national average is 2.3.

**Maternal Mortality Rate is 197 today compared to 258 in 2016, whereas the national average is 113. As far as IMR is concerned, UP's IMR was 52 in 2015 and 2016, which is now 43. The new policy aims to bring down the gross fertility rate among women to 2.1 by 2026 and to 1.9 by 2030.**

Tehsil Divas now on Saturdays



ACS (Info) Navneet Sehgal

First India Bureau

**Lucknow:** Additional Chief Secretary (Information), Government of UP Navneet Sehgal has informed that the Tehsil Diwas which till now was being held on every Tuesday in every district of Uttar Pradesh has been rescheduled and will now be held on Saturday in state. However, the Additional Chief Secretary further informed that the Thana Diwas which till has been held on Saturday would continue to be held as before. The Tehsil Diwas would be held on first and third Saturday while the Thana Diwas would be held on second and fourth Saturday.

Foundation of 133 projects laid by CM in Gkp



CM Yogi laying foundation stone of projects in Gorakhpur.

First India Bureau

**Gorakhpur:** CM Yogi Adityanath said that there should be no politics on development.

"Development is an important component that drives economic growth, better infrastructure, and raises the living standards of the people. It will help in making India self-reliant," he said at a function in Gorakhpur to lay foundation stones of 133 projects. Stating that it is important to use money in the right direction for the development as it is a game-changer for the citizens and there is no alternative for development, the CM said adding that once cleared no project should be left incomplete.

He laid foundation stones of 133 projects worth Rs 80 crore in Gorakhpur Rural, Bangaon, Sahjanwa Assembly Constituencies. **The UP CM urged the citizens to follow the mantra of SMS (Social distancing, Mask and Sanitiser). "Corona may be on the verge of being wipe out from the State but still everyone should precaution and adhere to SMS to keep infection at bay," he said.** Appreciating the monitoring committees for



CM Yogi said children who have lost their parents due to Corona, such children or their legal guardian will soon 4,000 in their bank account under the 'Mukhyamantri Bal Seva Yojana.'


UP CM said that a special drive to facilitate people to get their Ayushman Bharat cards, which provide cashless healthcare worth Rs. 5 lakh per family per year, from July 26.

CM Yogi has instructed officials to ensure speedy disposal of complaints received during the 'Janata Darshan' programme.

their hard work, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, "We respect to the members of monitoring committees who were working selflessly to save the people of rural areas from the coronavirus infection," adding, "The mantra of 'Trace, test and Treat' given by Prime Minister worked as the boon for the nation."

NEWS IN BRIEF


RADHA MOHAN COUNTERS SP CHIEF'S WORDS



Radha Mohan Singh

**Ballia:** Reacting to SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's comments where he said that he does not trust UP Police, BJP's UP-incharge Radha Mohan Singh, said, "The people have seen the dispensations of Mulayam Singh Yadav and Akhilesh Yadav, and they have full information about those governments."


UP GOVERNMENT EXTENDS TERM OF YEIDA CEO



Arun Vir Singh

**Lucknow:** The UP government on Wednesday extended the term of the chief executive officer (CEO) of Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), Arun Vir Singh, for a year till July 14, 2022. Singh is also the CEO of the Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) that is developing the airport at Jewar.

STATE GOVERNMENT TO UPGRADE MADARASA EDUCATION: SAIFI



UP Minority Commission chairman Ashfaq Saifi

**Meerut:** Uttar Pradesh Minority Commission chairman Ashfaq Saifi said aspirants have to read other subjects like science, mathematics and English if they want to become IAS, IPS, Doctor or Engineer. He said that state government was going to make Madrasa education more high-tech.

NRIs to invest 1045 cr in UP

First India Bureau

**Lucknow:** Sidharth Nath Singh, Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Investment and NRI said that the state government's efforts during the Corona pandemic period have resulted in the state receiving investment proposals to the tune of Rs. 1045 crores from 32 NRIs



Sidharth Nath Singh

who have their roots in Uttar Pradesh. Siddharth Nath Singh on Wednesday reviewed the work undertaken by

the Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) set up at Khadi Bhawan. The Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) was set up to attract investments from overseas Indians and with the help of it a data of 3064 NRIs was prepared with the help of 116 Indian Embassies which has helped in receiving investment proposals by establishing meaningful dia-

logue with these NRIs. He added that under the Specified Skilled Workers Program in Japan, 3.14 lakh skilled workers will be given job opportunities which includes 35 thousand skilled workers of the state.

These skilled workers will be given training in Japanese language along with skill development.

CHITRAKOOT CONCLAVE

RSS for Bundelkhand as new state, Chitrakoot as capital

Sources privy to discussion said that RSS was of the view that development of Chitrakoot, other parts of the region was not possible without a separate state

First India Bureau

**Chitrakoot:** With UP fast heading towards 2022 assembly elections the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) has given agenda to the supporters of separate Bundelkhand state in UP.

RSS at its Chitrakoot conclave said that "Chitrakoot should be made the capital of the new state". The Sangh indicated the division of the state with the



CM Yogi feeding cattle at Gorakshnath Temple premises.

formation of Bundelkhand carving out of UP and MP.

According to information the RSS taking up the issue at "Chin-

tan Shivir" at Chitrakoot said the organisation would discuss the matter with the BJP governments in UP and MP as Bundelkhand falls in both states.

Pointing out that Chitrakoot is as important as Ayodhya as Lord Rama lived here for quite a long time outside his home deserved proper development. The Yogi Adityanath government has already undertaken

massive plan for the development of Ayodhya. The RSS leaders at the chintan shivir said if the two state governments agreed Chitrakoot should be included as the capital and developed accordingly. Chitrakoot is in both UP and MP sides as there is only a road dividing the town between the two states. This is for the first time Chitrakoot has been pushed as capital of the new state



# JAYA, VIJAYA, BHARAT AND MAHABHARAT -2

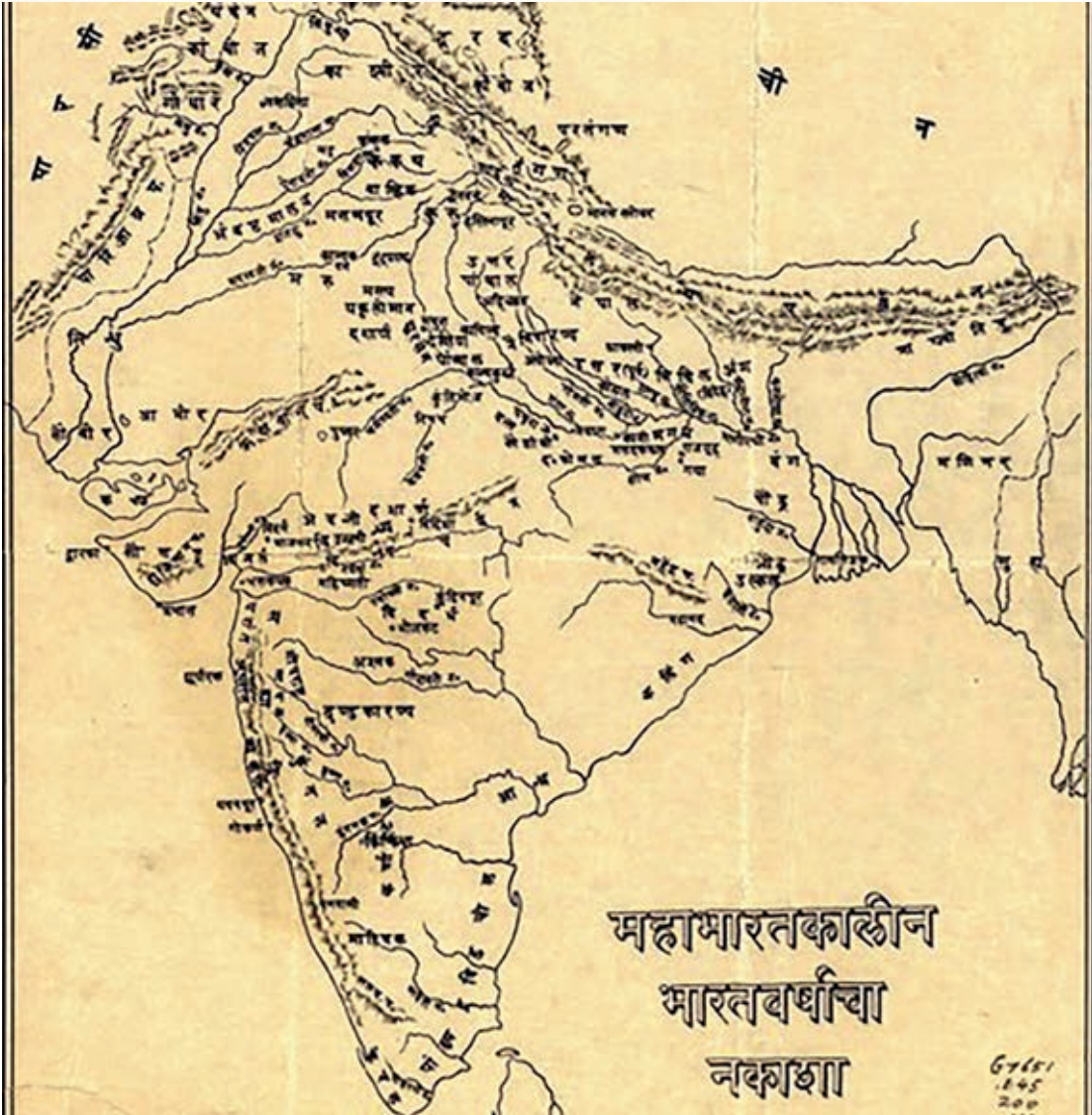


**DR SANJEEV CHOPRA**  
The writer is a historian, public policy analyst, and Festival Director of Valley of Words, a literature and arts festival based out of Dehradun. Till very recently, he was a member of the IAS and posted as the Director of LBS National Academy of Administration

This week, we shall talk about the twenty-one armies on the Pandava side. Together they constituted seven Akshauhinis (divisions). The Kauravas managed to raise an even larger army of eleven Akshauhinis. Therefore, it was not just the number – but also the battle formations that played the critical role, and it also shows how advanced the military statecraft was. But for the column today, let us list the armies – and then we will also try to indicate on the map where these kingdoms were located with reference to the Indian subcontinent today.

The twenty one armies included the Panchalas, the Somakas, Kumtirastra, Cheddi, two Matsyas-, Karusha, Kekaya, Pandya, Chola, Chera, Kasi, Ashmaka, Kulinda, Patanchchara, Srinjaya, Malla, Ashwamedha, Vrishnis, Dravida, two Nishad kingdoms, one faction of the Kamboj, Ulluka, Kumara, Prabhadraka, Rakshasa and Nagas. We therefore see that both the armies received support from all corners of Bharat – in the case of Pandavas - their allies stretched from the Ulluka and Kamboja kingdom in the North to the Dravidas in the South, Rakshasas and Nagas in the east, besides of course the Yadavas, whose territories extended from Mathura to Dwarka.

The foremost ally of the Pandavas were the Panchalas. The Panchala territory was adjacent to the Kuru territory – the area corresponding to the large tract from Kurukshetra and including Indraprastha and Hastinapur. The Kurus were close to the banks for the Yamuna – etymologically the term Yadav comes from Yamuna – but their territory also touched the Ganga. Panchalas occupied the territory between the Ganga and the Saryu rivers. Panchalas were the closest among all the allies of the



Pandavas in the Kurukshetra War. Panchala prince Dhrishtadyumna was the commander-in-chief for the whole of the Pandava army. Srinjayas and Somakas were tribes allied to the Panchalas by kinship, and connected to the various branches of the same royal lineage. They lived in the various provinces of the Panchala kingdom. Moreover, the Somaka prince Sutasoma was the son of Bhima, the second Pandava. The Prabhadraka tribe were also an extended arm of the Panchalas – they were a guerrilla force - an elite group employed in the Kurukshetra War and made excellent bodyguards to the army commanders.

The Matsya kingdoms of Virat and his relatives – corresponding to the present-day Rajasthan with parts of Madhya Pradesh were also fighting on the side of the Pandavas. The fact that his daughter Uttara was married to Abhimanyu made them a

Together they constituted seven Akshauhinis (divisions). **The Kauravas managed to raise an even larger army of eleven Akshauhinis.** Therefore, it was not just the number – but also the battle formations that played the critical role, and it also shows how advanced the military statecraft was

firm ally of the Pandavas. Sisupala, the ruler of Cheddi which corresponds to present day Gwalior was initially aligned to the Kauravas because of his strong enmity with Krishna, but after – but after Sisupala's death, his son Dhrishtaketu was on the side of the Pandavas.

Like the Cheddi rulers, Kekayas had initially supported

the Kauravas, but the arrogance and greed of Kauravas made them switch sides. The Kekaya territory corresponds to Dera Ghazi Khan, the Punjab frontier of Pakistan Likewise, Vrihanta, the king of their northern neighbors Ulluka – although a part of the Bahalika federation – next to river Ravi (then called Iravati) chose to side with the Pandavas. The Kamboja tribe also aligned themselves with the Pandavas and sent six thousand of their ace soldiers to the battlefield of Kurukshetra.

One must bear in mind that the Kauravas were the dominant ruling dynasty and had longer and deeper relations as Dhritrashtra and Duryodhana had been rulers for decades, compared to the Pandavas – who had just stepped into the world of sovereigns, and were dependent more on goodwill and Dharma – rather than realpolitik.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

## PANDEMIC FEAR GOES AS COVID CASES RISE



Crowded hill stations and marketplaces may have helped tourism sectors and businesses but the rush of people wanting to shake off boredom has made the threat of 3rd wave look real. Scenes from hill stations chock-a-block with tourists moving around without masks made PM Narendra Modi warn against complacency. During an interaction with CMs of eight north-eastern States, PM said that 3rd wave can be prevented only if “we remain cautious”. He also pointed out that the cases were rising in some parts of the country. In the last 24 hours 38,792 fresh Covid cases and 624 new fatalities were recorded in the country. The death count has now risen to 411, 408. But do people take these numbers with the seriousness they deserve? Probably nobody seems to care as

If Covid-19 has to be defeated it is necessary for **people to take all precautions** and it is equally important for the Centre to be **transparent about availability and distribution of vaccines**

many more die in road accidents. The Union Health Ministry, however, would not like us to be so careless and “stop talking about the third wave as a weather update”. Apart from the behaviour of the people, the politics between Centre & States over shortage of vaccines. Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Jharkhand have complained of vaccine shortage but, like his predecessor Harshvardhan, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandavia has rebutted the charge.

### IN-DEPTH

## PRASHANT KISHOR MEETS GANDHIS, MEDIA IN A TIZZY



Prashant Kishor, the political strategist who helped Mamata Banerjee retain power in West Bengal, has once again fuelled speculations about his future role. The last time he grabbed headlines was when he met Sharad Pawar sparking rumours of an opposition alliance for 2024 elections. Subsequent denials by Pawar and other opposition leaders put the rumours to rest. Kishor went silent after that. Now he is back and the media is once again abuzz about what is up his sleeve. His recent meetings with Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rahul Gandhi are being seen as his growing proximity with the grand old party and a possible important role for him. This comes not long after Kishor had criticized the Congress for its indecisive leadership. “The party must realize that it has a problem and then do something about it,” he said in an interview. It is possible that Kishor has been able to make the Gandhis realize what ails their party.

**SPIRITUAL SPEAK**  
*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*  
—Bible

**TOP TWEET**  
Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi @naqvimukhtar  
  
Prominent people from across the country, working in social, religious fields, met me at New Delhi to thank PM Shri @narendramodi Ji for on-going world's largest Corona vaccination drive in India to ensure good health and well-being of all sections. #LargestVaccinationDrive

Piyush Goyal @PiyushGoyal  
  
Under PM @NarendraModi ji's leadership, the #JaJeevanMission has achieved new benchmarks. In more than 1 lakh villages & 50,000 Gram Panchayats, every family is now getting regular clean tap water supply enhancing the quality of life in rural India.

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# NATIONAL AYUSH MISSION TO CONTINUE TILL MARCH 2026

**New Delhi:** The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the National AYUSH Mission, as a centrally sponsored scheme from April 1 2021 to March 31, 2026, with a financial implication of Rs 4607.30 crore.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday addressed media-persons on the decisions taken by the Union Cabinet, which met on Wednesday. Thakur informed that there will be a change of nomenclature and mandate of the North Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine (NEIFM) as the North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Folk Medicine Research (NEIAFMR).

“The continuation of National AYUSH Mission will strengthen Ayurveda and other traditional,” Thakur said.



PM Narendra Modi holds a meeting with new Union Cabinet at his official residence, in New Delhi on Wednesday. —PHOTO BY ANI

## CABINET EXTENDS BY 5 YRS. SCHEME FOR DEVELOPING INFRA FOR JUDICIARY

**New Delhi:** With several courts still functioning on rented premises, the Union Cabinet Wednesday approved a five-year extension for a centrally sponsored scheme for developing infrastructure for the judiciary, a statement said. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been in operation since 1993-94. An official statement said that in the extended term, it would continue from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026 during which Rs 9,000 crore would be spent with the Central share of Rs 5,357 crore, including Rs 50 crore for the Gram Nyayalaya Scheme.

### OTHER DECISIONS

- Cabinet approves MoU between India, Russia on cooperation on cooking coal
- Cabinet approves continuation of RoSCTL on export of apparel, made-ups
- Cabinet approves MoU between India, Denmark on health, and medicine.

## Ahead of Parl session: All-party meeting to be held on July 18



BJP National President JP Nadda meets party workers at the party's headquarters, in New Delhi on Wednesday. —PHOTO BY ANI

**New Delhi:** Ahead of the monsoon session of Parliament, Bharatiya Janata Party's Parliamentary Party Executive meeting is scheduled to be held on July 18, sources said. According to them, a separate meeting of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) floor leaders is also scheduled for the same day.

The information comes a day after senior BJP leaders met on Tuesday to deliberate

on the party's strategy for the monsoon session of Parliament which begins on July 19.

Sources said the meeting took place at the residence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and was attended by BJP chief JP Nadda, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Dharmendra Pradhan, Bhupendra Yadav, Pralhad Joshi, Arjun Ram Meghwal. Twenty senior BJP leaders attended the meeting, sources said.

## CRUCIAL READ

### BAGHEL TAKES JIBE AT JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA, CALLS HIM AS 'SALEABLE'



**Nagpur:** Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday took a jibe at his former party colleague and now BJP MP Jyotiraditya Scindia over the latter's inclusion in the Union Cabinet as Minister of Civil Aviation and termed him as 'saleable'.

### RAMESH BAIS TAKES OATH AS JHARKHAND GOVERNOR



**New Delhi:** Ramesh Bais on Wednesday took oath as the 10th Governor of Jharkhand, succeeding Draupadi Murmu. The Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court, Justice Ravi Ranjan, administered the oath of office and

### 19TH TRIPURA GOVERNOR SATYADEV ARYA TAKES CHARGE



**New Delhi:** Haryana Governor Satyadev Narayan Arya, who was last week transferred by the President of India, on Wednesday took over as the 19th Governor of Tripura, succeeding Ramesh Bais, who has been shifted to Jharkhand. The

### NOMINATIONS FOR 2022 PADMA AWARDS OPEN TILL SEPTEMBER 15



**New Delhi:** Online nominations/recommendations for the Padma Awards (Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri) to be announced on the occasion of Republic Day, 2022 is on. The last date for nominations for

### INDIA, MALDIVES REVIEW BILATERAL RELATIONS, MUTUAL COOPERATION



**New Delhi:** In a telephonic conversation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on Wednesday took stock of the overall bilateral relations and the ongoing substantive cooperation between the two

## Farmers' protest at Parl will be peaceful: Tikait

**New Delhi:** Ahead of the planned protest of the farmers outside Parliament on July 22, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait on Wednesday said the protest would be "peaceful" despite the country witnessing violence on Republic Day when protestors reached Red Fort as a part of their 'tractor rally' protest. The protest will be held between the scheduled dates of the monsoon session, which is said to commence on July 19



and conclude by August 13. "It will be a peaceful protest. We will sit outside the Parliament while proceedings will continue in the House," Tikait told ANI.

## Centre to states: Dno't file cases under Sec 66A

**New Delhi:** A little over a week after SC had termed the continued use of Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 as "a shocking state of affairs", the MHA on Wednesday asked states and UTs to direct all police stations under their jurisdiction not to register cases under the repealed section of the IT Act.

It also advised that cases lodged in states and UTs under Section 66A should be immediately withdrawn. —PTI

## 'Silent performer' & 'troubleshooter' Yadav being groomed for bigger role in BJP?

Anita Hada

**New Delhi:** BJP, which has yet again sounded its poll bugle as the UP assembly elections are a few months away followed by several other states, is faced with a dilemma.

The dilemma is not regarding its poll strategy or choosing strong contenders, rather it is one where the party is facing difficulty in finding the perfect replacement for perhaps one of the sharpest minds in the party's arsenal who

is not only a trouble-shooter but also prefers to work in relative obscurity, without coming in the limelight.

The individual is Bhupendra Yadav who was recently included in the Modi cabinet and as a result he has had to vacate his place, as the general secretary and Bihar Incharge, in the party.

The million dollar question is to whom will the party's national president JP Nadda now entrust the responsibility that Yadav was performing! It is not merely



Bhupendra Yadav

finding a replacement for Yadav's two positions but goes beyond that. While Amit Shah trusted Yadav to the hilt, similarly JP Nadda also gave him several responsibilities for about

## IN THE COURTYARD

### HC ISSUES NOTICE ON PLEA ON CRYPTO CURRENCY ADVT

**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notices to Centre, SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) and others regarding crypto-currency advertisements. The court notice came over a plea seeking direction to take effective steps and issue appropriate guidelines/rules against Indian crypto-asset exchanges advertising on national television without adequate standardized disclaimers. The Plea stated that crypto-currencies are inherently riskier than other equity products.

### PLEA SEEKING REFUND OF BOARD EXAMS FEE

**New Delhi:** The High Court here on Wednesday asked the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and other respondents to treat as representation, a plea seeking direction for the refund of Classes X and XII examination fees that were cancelled this year due to the ongoing COVID-19.

### SC AGREES TO EXAMINE FRESH PLEA CHALLENGING SEDITION LAW

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Thursday agreed to examine a fresh plea by a former army officer challenging the Constitutional validity of the sedition law on the ground that it causes "chilling effect" on speech and is an unreasonable restriction on free expression, a fundamental right. A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana, A S Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy directed the petitioner to serve a copy of the plea to the Attorney General K K Venugopal. The plea, filed by Major-General S G Vombatkere (Retd) submitted that Section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code, which deals with the offence of sedition, is wholly unconstitutional.

## Pak LeT Commander neutralised in J&K

**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir police on Wednesday said that three terrorists have been neutralised in an encounter, including Pakistani LeT Commander Aijaz alias Abu Huraira.

According to a press release, two AK-47 rifles, one pistol, and other war-like stores were recovered from the encounter site.

On receiving specific intelligence from Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) about the presence of terrorists in the



built-up area of New Colony, Pulwama, an operation was launched by troops of Panzgom, Pulwama based Rashtriya Rifles Battalion, JKP, and CRPF at 11:55 pm on July 13, a press release stated. —ANI

## Delhi court sends journalist Sharma to judicial custody

**New Delhi:** A Delhi Court on Wednesday sent Rajeev Sharma, a journalist arrested by Enforcement Directorate for alleged leakage and supply of sensitive information to Chinese intelligence officers, to judicial custody. Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana on Wednesday sent Sharma to judicial custody for 14 days at the request of ED. Hearing on bail was adjourned to July 16 as ED sought more time to file a reply. —PTI

## LAC STANDOFF

# Visibly Impacting Relation: Jaishankar

Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, agreed on calling a meeting between senior military commanders

**New Delhi:** India and China have agreed that solving the border row should be prioritised as "a prolongation of the existing situation was not in the interest of either side", the government said today in a statement after a meeting between Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. "...It was visibly impacting the relationship in a negative manner," the government said in the



Dr. S. Jaishankar holds a bilateral meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister & State Councilor, Wang Yi —PHOTO BY ANI

statement, referring to the border situation. Mr Jaishankar and

Wang discussed "outstanding issues" along the Line of Actual Con-

trol in the meeting in Tajikistan that lasted an hour. Both also agreed on calling a meeting between senior military commanders from both sides.

The discussions between Mr Jaishankar and Wang took place at the Foreign Ministers' meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, an eight-nation regional grouping that primarily focuses on security and defence issues. —PTI



CRUCIAL READ

THAKUR LAUNCHES OFFICIAL SONG ON INDIAN CONTINGENT AT TOKYO GAMES

**New Delhi:** Sports Minister **Anurag Thakur** on Wednesday launched the 'Cheer4India' song of the country's Olympic contingent and urged the public to wholeheartedly rally behind its athletes during the Tokyo Games. Grammy Award winner composer A R Rahman and young singer Ananya Birla collaborated to present the official song of the Indian contingent for the Tokyo Olympics, titled Cheer4India: Hindustani Way.

HOW PANKAJA MUNDE CAMP UNREST COULD IMPACT BJP, MAHA POLITICS

**New Delhi:** After 3 days of protests that saw many BJP workers resign in the Beed region of Maharashtra, party national secretary **Pankaja Munde** addressed her supporters Tuesday, asking them to withdraw their resignations and asserting that "my leaders are PM Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP prez J P Nadda."

KERALA GUV FASTS IN PROTEST AGAINST DOWRY, ATROCITIES

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Kerala Governor **Arif Mohammed Khan** on Wednesday morning began a day-long fast at his official residence Raj Bhavan to raise awareness on the injustice of the practice of dowry and atrocities against women. The fast was scheduled from 8 am to 6 pm on Wednesday, as per Raj Bhavan sources. This may be the first time in Kerala's history that a Governor is fasting for such a social cause. The fasting protest campaign was initiated by various Gandhian organizations.

AIIMS trains nursing staff to brace for third Covid wave

**New Delhi:** As part of its efforts to prepare for a third possible COVID-19 wave, nurses at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi are undergoing a three-day training programme at the hospital's pediatric department.

The rotational training programme began on July 12 and was done in 3 batches over 3 days, as per sources. They added that training will be imparted to nurses from all wards of the hospital's COVID-19 department. AIIMS Delhi College of Nursing is coordinating the programme. During the devastating second COVID-19 wave earlier this year, the country saw children getting affected, of which a few were severely affected. Pediatric departments of hospitals also reported post-COVID symptoms in children, especially MISC (Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children), for



A crowded market after ease in COVID-induced lockdown restrictions, in Mumbai, Wednesday, July 14, 2021.

—PHOTO BY PTI

which hospitals had to pay special attention.

A few weeks ago, a joint survey by the WHO and AIIMS found that sero-prevalence was 55.7 per cent in the below 18 years of age group and 63.5 per cent in the 18+ age group. A Lancet India Task Force had also earlier commissioned an advisory, highlighting the planning, protocol & policy guidelines for pediatricians, ahead of a likely 3rd wave of Covid-19 that is speculated to impact children. —ANI

OVER 39.59 CR VACCINE DOSES PROVIDED SO FAR

**New Delhi:** Health Ministry on Wednesday informed that 39,59,21,220 COVID vaccine doses have been provided to States and Union Territories so far. Of this, the total consumption including wastages is 38,07,68,770 doses as per data. Till date, 38,76,97,935 vaccine doses have been administered so far.

USELESS STATEMENTS BEING MADE TO CREATE PANIC: HEALTH MINISTER

**New Delhi:** Union Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** on Wednesday denied the claims of vaccine shortage & said that for July, the availability of doses has been increased to 13.50 crore. The health minister said that "useless statements are being made only to create panic among the people." "Regarding the availability of vaccines, I have come to know from the statements of various state governments and leaders. This situation can be better understood by an actual analysis of the fact," he said.



Delhi HC directs CBSE to decide on fee refund



**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed CBSE to decide within eight weeks if it would refund the examination fees taken for class 10 and class 12 board examinations as they have been cancelled due to the COVID-19. Justice Prateek Jalan ordered CBSE to consider as representation a petition by Deepa Joseph, mother of a Class 10 student studying in a CBSE affiliated school, who had paid Rs 2,100 as examination fee. CBSE's decision would be open to challenge if Joseph is not satisfied, the court clarified as it disposed of petition.

PK 2.0: After Bengal, will Kishore succeed in Punjab?

**New Delhi:** Post 2014 general election, PM Modi became the epicentre around which the 'formal politics' of the nation revolved. And while Modi climbed steps of popularity, one after the other, there was a far lesser known individual (at that time) whose popularity was about to sky rocket in the days to come.

As soon as word spread that a young and astute Prashant Kishore was the brain behind Modi's electoral campaign, therein emerged another 'epicentre' for 'informal politics' in the nation. Kishore, in his nearly 7 years of 'lime-light politics', has traded hands with JDU, TMC, and a host of other parties but perhaps the biggest political development came when Congress started cosy-ing up to him, with Punjab CM Amarinder Singh appointed him principal advisor ahead of assembly election.

Sources reveal that during the meet Rahul



Prashant Kishore

was accompanied by Priyanka Gandhi, KC Venugopal and Punjab Congress Incharge Harish Rawat. Although it was being said that the meeting was regarding

Punjab elections but later this was mooted by inside sources. After his appointment as advisor to CM Amarinder Singh, Kishore met several senior Congress leaders from the region to gauge the waters. However, what is interesting to note here is, after marking a thumping victory for TMC in West Bengal, Kishore had called it a day saying he will stay away from politics now. It was then said that he may float his own party and although he did not

praise any party, he continued to meet leaders. When recently he met NCP Supremo Sharad Pawar, word spread that Kishore may try to weave together a third front or at least bring the different leaders to one platform/consensus. But so far, 'claims' of Third front have fallen short and it is said that Kishore will focus only on Punjab region and on how to counter the problem posed by Sidhu before Congress's 'Captain'.

Cong to corner govt on Covid, Rafale; Adhir to continue as leader in LS

**New Delhi:** Amid speculation over Congress looking to replace Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury in Lok Sabha, PTI on Wednesday reported that he will continue as the leader of the lower house.

Congress will seek to corner the government on the issues of Covid mismanagement, border disputes with China, farmers' agitation, the Rafale deal and fuel prices in the upcoming session of Parliament,



with party leaders Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Mallikarjun Kharge leading the charge in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha respectively. Chowdhury will lead the

charge in the Lok Sabha.

Sources said the issues to be raised during the monsoon session of Parliament starting July 19 were discussed at a meeting of the Congress parliamentary strategy group on Wednesday, which was chaired by party chief Sonia Gandhi and attended by former prime minister Manmohan Singh and former Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

Not a candidate for Prez election, says Sharad Pawar

From Pg 1...

**Mumbai:** NCP chief Sharad Pawar has ruled out contesting the Presidential election due in 2022, sources in his party said on Wednesday, an assertion coming in the wake of speculation about the veteran politician becoming the opposition nominee for the top post.

The sources said Pawar (80), a multiple-time CM of Maharashtra and a former Union minister, has rejected media reports about him becoming a candidate in the Presidential election. According to the sources, Pawar feels election result for someone contesting against the candidate of a party which has overwhelming numbers in Parliament will be a foregone conclusion. Apparently, poll strategist Prashant Kishor's two meetings with Pawar a few days ago & his (Kishor) re-



Sharad Pawar

cent meetings with Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka and Rahul Gandhi fuelled speculation in the media that these meets explored the possibility of the Maharashtra politician becoming opposition candidate for India's highest office. A source from the NCP, which is part of the coalition that rules Maharashtra, however, said Pawar has termed these reports as "false" and ruled out jumping into the Presidential poll fray.

Pawar has said he did not have any discussion over the Presidential poll or about the 2024 general elections with Kishor.

FROM PG 1

YOGI'S EX-GRATIA...

eligible for compensation. "There are an additional 10 to 20 cases which will be forwarded to the state advisory board on Covid. Once they confirm the eligibility, their families will also receive compensation," he said.

Under the earlier definition of 'death on duty', the government had identified 74 government employees who died of Covid and non-Covid reasons. The rules stated that compensation would be given only if the

employee died on duty or during travel to and from place of duty, which factored in a day or maximum two, depending on how far the employee travelled. However, various employees' associations protested and claimed that more employees had succumbed to Covid while on duty.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed the chief secretary and Panchayati Raj officials to request the Election Commission to amend rules to reflect the impact of the pandemic. The state

cabinet on May 31 approved the changed rules under which ex-gratia would be granted if Covid death took place within 30 days of the date of election duty.

PM Modi to...

During the visit to his parliamentary constituency, Modi will inaugurate a wide range of development works worth over Rs 1,500 crore. He said these projects will further boost "ease of living" for the people of Kashi, the ancient name of Varanasi, and Poorvanchal.

Piyush Goyal...

a replacement for Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who leads the party in Lok Sabha. Top sources in the Congress have said that Rahul Gandhi might replace Chowdhury. The monsoon session of Parliament begins on July 19 and both these appointments need to be made soon.

Delhi Riots: ...

In October 2020, a Metropolitan Magistrate (MM) had ordered Delhi Police to register an FIR on Mohammad Nasir's com-

plaint within 24 hours.

Since no FIR was registered, he had moved the court. MM Richa Manchanda last year said that the facts of the case disclose commission of cognizable offence and ordered registration of an FIR.

The police in response had submitted that an FIR already stood registered with regard to the incident of rioting in which it was mentioned that Nasir and six more persons had suffered gunshot injuries on the said date.

Centre asks states not to file cases under scrapped Section 66A of IT Act

**New Delhi:** A little over a week after the Supreme Court had termed the continued use of Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 as "a shocking state of affairs", the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Wednesday asked states and Union Territories to direct all police stations under their jurisdiction not to register cases under the repealed section of the IT Act.

It has also advised that cases lodged in states and UTs under Section 66A should be



immediately withdrawn. Last week, the apex court had termed the continued use of Section 66A by law enforcement agencies of various states despite the provision being struck down by the court in 2015 — as "a shocking state of af-


fairs" and sought a response from the Centre.

Section 66A empowered police to make arrests over what policemen, in terms of their subjective discretion, could construe as "offensive" or "menacing" or for the purposes of causing annoyance, inconvenience, etc. It prescribed the punishment for sending messages through computer or any other communication device like a mobile phone, tablet, & a conviction could fetch a maximum of 3 years in jail.




CRUCIAL READ

BANK MANAGER  
ATTACKED WITH  
AXE; CRITICAL




Lucknow: A man attacked a woman with axe on her head in LDA Colony under Sarojini Nagar area. Police said that Radha Singh, bank manager in Bank of India, had scuffle with neighbour Santosh Sharma. After some heated arguments Santosh attacked Radha with an axe. She was severely injured in the attack and rushed to the hospital where her condition was critical.

KALYAN SINGH'S  
CONDITION  
IMPROVING



Lucknow: The health condition of former CM Kalyan Singh, admitted at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences here, is "improving consistently", the hospital said in a statement Wednesday. The 89-yr-old Singh, who has also served as a governor of Rajasthan, was admitted to the hospital's ICU on July 4 due to an infection and reduced consciousness level.

ORDINANCE  
FACTORY STAFF  
GUNNED DOWN



Ghaziabad: Two bike-borne assailants with mask on their faces gunned down an ordinance factory worker here in Ulkhalarsi village under Muradnagar police station area. In indiscriminate firing, the nephew of the deceased was also severely injured. Police said the criminals opened fire on Rishi Chaudhary at his residence.

Accused were associates of Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind group that has links with Al-Qaeda

ATS NABS 3 MORE SUSPECTS

Janardan Misra & Sumit Awasthi

**Lucknow:** On testimony of arrested terrorists on July 11, UP Anti-Terrorists Squad (ATS) interrogated three more suspects who confessed to their involvement in planning terrorists' activities. Following this ATS arrested the three accomplices associated with Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind terrorists' organisation connected with Al-Qaeda.

ATS sources said the accused were identified as Shakeel, resident of Wajeerganj area, Mohammad Mustaqeem resident of Mandi village in Muzaffarnagar district and Mohammad Mueed, a native of



Arrested terror accused Shakeel, Mohd Mustaqeem and Mohd Mueed

New Haiderganj area in Lucknow.

Sources said ATS was searching for Shakeel from past three days and several raids were conducted in different areas to nab him. ATS team arrested Shakeel near Buddha Park in here on Wednesday. He was an e-rickshaw driver and investigations about his connections

were underway.

It was also reported that some people from minority community opposed the arrest of Shakeel and created ruckus in Wazeerganj

BRAINWASHING  
TACTICS

Probe has found that 'handlers' of terrorists were brainwashing and radicalising them through video messages. Minhaj and Masiruddin had responsibility to distribute the video to others for further radicalisation. They had plan for blasts with the help of radical followers at many places.

MOBILE  
REVEALS

Though family members of the arrested claim their wards are innocent, information recovered from the mobile phones and social media platforms indicate that they were anti-national elements.

ing interrogation they revealed that they were planning serial explosions in Lucknow and major cities including Ayodhya, Mathura and Kashi before August 15 IB and other probe agencies have also warned for terrorists attacks in UP before August 15 following which state and Central agencies were on alert.

CM Yogi hailed ATS and appreciated team for actions before time while Opposition parties questioned on proceedings of security forces. Samajwadi Party (SP) president expressed doubts on UP police while BSP supremo said stern actions must be taken against culprits.

4 miscreants held for duping 12K Americans

First India Bureau

**Kanpur:** Kanpur police have arrested four miscreants who burgled more than 12,000 American citizens through software hacking. The leader of the gang was a software engineer and excelled in mobile phone hacking.

Police sources here said that Kanpur crime branch team raided at an International Call Centre office on Kakadev area and arrested four persons from there. Police have recovered mobile phones, computer hard disks, ATM cards of several banks and other documents from arrested accused.

Initial investigations revealed that arrested accused used to send virus in victim's mobile phone and demanded money to clear it.



MODUS OPERANDI

Arrested accused were identified as Munendra Sharma, Sanjeev, Jikuralla and Suraj Suman. Munendra Sharma was software engineer from Pune University and he was leading the gang. Explaining the modus operandi of the gang, the police said they used to call the victim to hack their mobile phone and then demanded money to repair it after infecting the phone with virus.

Man shaves wife's head, throws her out of house

Ajay Sharma

**Bahraich:** In a shocking incident in a village of Bahraich district, greed of dowry made a man beat up his wife, tie her hands and feet and shave her head before pushing her out of the house.

The victim alleged that her husband and in-laws used to continuously harass her for dowry. Amjad Ali, a resident of Banke district of Nepal, had married his daughter Basirun with Sirtaj, a resident of Samokhan village under Thana Matora area here, about 5 years ago.

From the time of marriage, the woman claimed that she was harassed for dowry. Her husband crossed all limits of inhumanity against non-fulfillment of his demand for a motorcycle and Rs 1 lakh in dowry by tying her hands and feet with a rope before shaving her head. As per the victim, when she reached Matora police station to register a complaint along with her family members, the police called her father-in-law and left him.

The victim Basirun told that her husband had been harassing her since marriage demanding a motorcycle and Rs 1 lakh in dowry. However, when she went to the police station to seek justice she failed to get help. However after the matter went viral, the police of Matora police station came into action and registered a case against the accused husband and his mother under the sections 498A / 323/504/506/509 and 3/4 of DP Act and started investigations in the case.

90 NEW CASES, TWO FATALITIES

First India Bureau

Lucknow: Ninety more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday, raising the infection count to 17,07,585, while the death toll climbed to 22,704 with two fresh fatalities.

The latest two deaths were reported from Sultanpur and Meerut, a government health bulletin said on Wednesday.


Ninety fresh cases were reported in the state in the past 24 hours, while 134 persons were discharged after recovery, Additional Chief Secretary, Health, Amit Mohan Prasad said.

The number of recoveries in the state has reached 16,83,453, he said.

The active cases as of now stand at 1,428, Prasad said.

So far, over 6.13 crore samples have been tested for COVID-19 in the state, including 2.56 lakh on Tuesday, he further added.

COVID-19  
UPDATE



17,07,585

TOTAL CASES

90 CASES  
IN A DAY

22,704

TOTAL DEATHS

2 DEATHS  
IN A DAY

16,83,453

TOTAL RECOVERED

134 RECOVERED  
IN A DAY

1,428

ACTIVE CASES

10 MAX  
CASES IN  
LUCKNOW

AAP LODGES CORRUPTION PLAINT

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh has complained to the police against Medical Education Minister Suresh Khanna and some officials, alleging Rs 58-cr corruption in the purchase of medical equipment in anticipation of the third covid wave. He complained to Lucknow's Hazratganj Kotwali police.

Agra sizzles at 39; rains lash parts of UP

First India Bureau

**Lucknow:** Barring state capital Lucknow, light to moderate rain and thundershowers occurred at multiple places in UP, while various pockets in western part of the state received heavy rainfall in the last 24 hours, the Meteorological Department said on Wednesday.

Rainfall has been reported from Deoband (in Saharanpur district),



Dhampur (Bijnor), Muzaffarnagar Teh (Muzaffarnagar), Tulsipur (Balrampur), Sadabad (Mahamaya Nagar), Kairana

(Shamli), the MeT Department here said. The day temperatures rose appreciably in Bareilly, Jhansi, Agra divisions; fell appreciably in Meerut division and there was no large change in the remaining divisions of the state, the local MeT office said.

It said the day temperatures were above normal in Gorakhpur, Prayagraj, Lucknow divisions; above normal in Varanasi, Ayodhya, Bareilly, Jhansi, Agra divisions and normal in the remaining divisions.

Agra recorded 39.1 degrees Celsius, the highest temperature in the state, while Fatehgarh registered the lowest temperature at 19.4 degrees Celsius.

The department predicted that rain and thundershowers are very likely at isolated places on Thursday.

Rain and thundershowers are very likely at many places in east UP and at a few places in western parts on Friday and at most places on Saturday, it forecast.

NO EXCUSE

Pvt schools bound to give info under RTI: Info commissioner

Private schools did not provide information under the Right to Information Act-2005 on the grounds that they were not funded by the state

First India Bureau

**Lucknow:** All private schools in Uttar Pradesh fall under the purview of the Right to Information Act and are obliged to provide information sought under it, according to a ruling by State Information Commissioner Pramod Kumar Tiwari.

He passed the order while disposing of the application of Sanjay

THE RULE BOOK SAYS...

Pvt schools so far contented that they were outside the purview of the Act. The commission propounded that after the passage of the Right to Free and Compulsory Child Education Act in 2009, all such schools are covered by the above Act, and Uttar Pradesh Right to Free and Compulsory Child Education Rules-2011. Certain information mentioned in Form-1 and 2 is required to be given to the District Education Officer.



Sharma Vs Information Officer/Chief Secretary, Government of UP, Lucknow on Wednesday. A copy of the order has been sent to CS RK Ti-

wari with the request to direct private schools to appoint Public Information Officers.

It is noteworthy that appellant Sanjay Sharma had filed a second appeal in the State Information Commission, Lucknow under the RTI Act in respect of two reputed private schools of Lucknow to Information Officer/ Chief Secretary, Government of UP, Lucknow.

In accordance with the law laid down by the Supreme Court in the DAV College Trust and Management Society and others Vs. Director of Public Instruction and others case, if the development authority of a city provides land to a private school at concessional rates, the school will be considered adequately funded by the state.

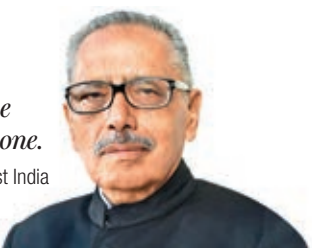
It is noteworthy that private schools did not provide information under the Right to Information Act-2005 on the ground that they were not funded by the state.





A person who has nothing but knowledge will always hold same sort of power over one who has none.

—Jagdeesh Chandra, CEO & Editor-in-Chief, First India



Apex Court says citizens are completely perplexed as state allows religious yatra from July 25

## SC NOTICE TO CENTRE, UP ON ALLOWING KANWAR YATRA

First India Bureau

**Lucknow:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday took suo motu cognisance of Uttar Pradesh government's decision to allow 'Kanwar Yatra' amid the COVID-19 pandemic and sought responses from the state as well as the Centre on the matter.

A bench headed by Justice RF Nariman referred to the statement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that not even a bit of compromise can be made on COVID-19 containment and said the citizens were perplexed about the happenings in view of the fact that as the Uttar Pradesh government has allowed the religious 'yatra' commencing from July 25.

"We are a little disturbed given today's headline in a newspaper about the Kanwar yatra which is likely to be held from July 25," a bench headed by Justice Rohinton Nariman was quoted as saying by legal news website LiveLaw.

In neighbouring Uttarakhand, the state government has cancelled the Kanwar Yatra, fearing that the huge gathering of devotees from



Devotees taking out Kanwar Yatra.

—FILE PHOTO

### IN GOOD FAITH

The Yatra see devotees, mainly from UP, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, walk long distances to collect water from the Ganga in Haridwar to offer it at their local Shiv temples. These devotees, criss-cross several states to reach Haridwar.

towns and cities of north India could lead to a fresh surge in infections.

"We wish to know what the stand of the respective governments. The citizens of India are completely perplexed. They don't

know what is going on," Justice Nariman said to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

Earlier this year, the Uttarakhand government in the hill state faced severe criticism for going ahead with Maha Kumbh as a devastating second wave hammered India. "We discussed with higher officials and with officials from neighbouring states and decided that we will not hold Kanwar Yatra at this time. A variant has been found in Gadar-pur so we don't want to make Haridwar the center of COVID," Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said.

## Can courts enter executive domain on C-19? SC to examine

First India Bureau

**Lucknow:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it would examine how far constitutional courts can venture into issues related to Covid management that are exclusively in the domain of the executive. The top court said that the courts need to respect the demarcation of power given under the Constitution even though the objective was in fairness to everybody. It said that the court will examine whether at all the Allahabad High Court needed to tread in this arena and whether it's 'Ram Bharose' comment was justified.

The remarks of a bench of Justices Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheshwari came while hearing an appeal against the Allahabad High Court order relating to management of the COVID-19 situation in Uttar Pradesh in which it had said that the entire

healthcare system in villages and small cities of the state was "Ram bharose" (at God's mercy). The bench said, "What we want to lay down is how far a constitutional court can venture into an issue like this. Whether at all the High Court needed to tread on this arena?"

Despite the objective being in fairness to everybody we have to respect the demarcation. How far 'Ram Bharose' comments justified". Justice Saran said "There were questions like how many ambulances are there, how many oxygen beds are there. We don't want to comment on these questions."

Justice Maheshwari also said that there are certain issues which are the domain of the executive and moreover at the time of crisis everybody has to proceed cautiously and to take note of what is to be done by whom.

## Small parties gearing up for 2022 assembly polls

First India Bureau

**Lucknow:** While the major parties have become active in their preparations of the upcoming assembly elections in the state, the small parties with their caste-based vote bank and who have been standing up against these big parties, have also begun their preparations.

The small parties have joined hands in order to fight the already established parties with the front created by Om Prakash Rajbhar along with 10 other parties being a prime example of this. Badrinarayan, director of the Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Social Sciences, Prayagraj who has been studying about the parties dependent on caste-based vote banks said that the advantage of an individ-



Anupriya Patel



Om Prakash Rajbhar

ual based caste-based party is felt only when the base vote of the bigger party is strong otherwise the coalition between the small and the big party wont work. He took the example of the alliance between Mahan Dal and Congress in 2019 which came to a cropper because the vote bank of Congress itself was not great.

Badrinarayan said the Apna Dal in the 2017 elections had joined hands with BJP enabling it to win 40% votes and 9 seats while Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldev

Bharatiya Samaj Party won 4 seats with 35 percent votes. In the elections of 2012 SBSP and the Apna Dal contested elections alone and got only 5% and 4.86% votes respectively, with the SBSP not winning a single seat while Apna Dal's Anupriya Dal went on to become an MLA from Rohini in Varanasi. The difference is visible in both the cases because the big parties already have a permanent vote bank of 20-25% votes and the addition of the small parties vote bank can ensure victory to them.

### GOING GREEN



ACS to Chief Minister SP Goyal planting a sapling at Butler palace during the inspection of luxurious seven story building there. OSD to CM Abhishek Kaushik and Dr VK Singh State Property Officer were also present.

## Alert in Agra after Al Qaeda men held



Two Al Qaeda terrorists arrested by ATS in Lucknow last week.

First India Bureau

**Agra:** A high alert has been sounded in Agra, after two Al Qaeda terrorists were arrested in Lucknow last week.

Security arrangements have been tightened in the city of Taj Mahal. After Kashmir, UP seems to be the centre of attention for Pakistani terrorists as the ones arrested in Lucknow recently have given the Intelligence Bureau (IB) information about their activities in several districts of the state.

Strict vigilance by the government and intelligence agen-

cies, though, seems to have thwarted terrorists and their plans so far. However, with the state going into elections soon, any threat of terrorism could create panic among the citizens.

The security agencies fear that there could be a terrorist attack in Agra. A search was conducted on several trains on Wednesday.

RPF Commandant PK Panda said not just the railway station, but the outer circulating area has also been secured and this tight security shall continue till August 15.

## SP holds meet to chalk out poll strategy

First India Bureau

**Lucknow:** The Samajwadi Party, gearing up for the forthcoming assembly elections in UP. A glimpse of this was witnessed in the meeting called to review the party defeat in Panchayat elections. In the meeting held at SP headquarters, along with national president Akhilesh Yadav along with Professor Ram Gopal Yadav, considered to be party's think tank was also present.



During this meeting, discussions were held on the strategies for 2022 elections and opinion was sought from legislators and office bearers regarding election manifesto by big leaders.

### ANALYSIS

In this four-hour long meeting, party leaders discussed about defeat in the Panchayat elections. Some senior leaders of the party accused BJP of dishonesty

Some leaders suggested to include laptop in the manifesto once again to which party bigwigs gave their consent while some leaders said presently the youth was concerned about employment and if the

party made a big promise about employment in the manifesto, the same would prove beneficial. An MLA from West UP said a big announcement should be made about families of those who died due to Corona to which the big leaders resolved to ponder over seriously.

Accusing the BJP of dishonesty, they said that BDC members were picked up from their homes when many proposers were not present on the spot.

## NCR establishes cyber cell at Prayagraj

First India Bureau

**Prayagraj:** With an aim to collect digital evidence and use cyber investigative techniques, the North Central Railway (NCR) has established a cyber cell in its Headquarters at Prayagraj.

An official of NCR on Wednesday said the new cyber cell is equipped with modern devices such as desktop, laptop, laser printer, camera,

writer blocker, imaging tool, forensic falcon, CDR, IPDR and dumped data analyzer etc. The cell will be managed by an inspector along with three other staff. General Manager of NCR, V K Tripathi said it will enable the Rail Protection Force personnel to work more effectively, as digital evidence has gradually become a very important tool in the investigation process.

### DUAL ROLE

## Amrita Soni to head commercial tax department

Ahtesham Siddiqui

**Lucknow:** The Government has given the additional responsibility of Commissioner of Commercial Tax department to IAS officer Amrita Soni, who is presently placed on the post of Secretary of Housing and Urban Planning department in state.

As per reports, the decision was taken by the state government as IAS officer Minishty

S, Commissioner of Commercial Tax department is suddenly going on leave due to medical reasons and till she returned all responsibilities of her department will be looked after by Soni.

Sources further informed that the relations between the Additional Chief Secretary of Commercial Tax department and the Commissioner of Commercial Tax department were not very cordial



Amrita Soni

due to difference of opinion in some cases,

which could have been the probable reason for Commissioner of Commercial Tax department Minishty S going on Medical leave.

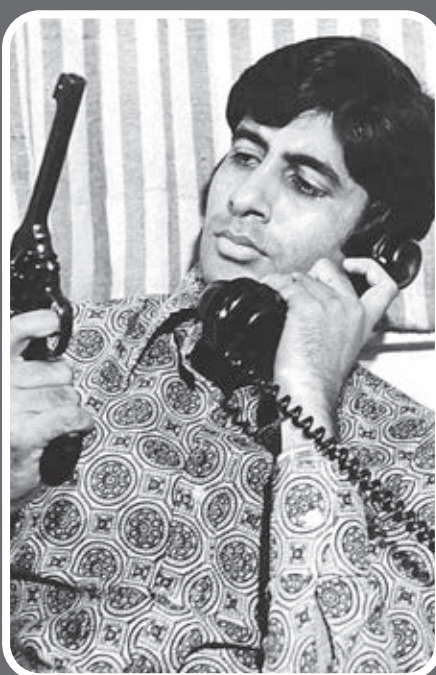
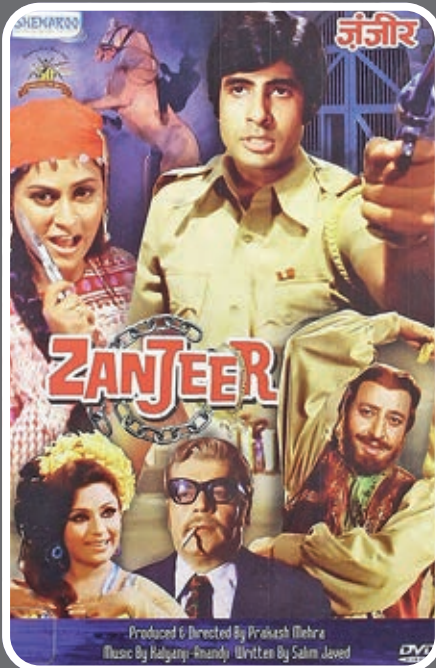
It may be mentioned that presently there are more than a dozen IAS officers in the Uttar Pradesh bureaucracy who have responsibility of more than one department while there are many such officers in state who sitting idle waiting for a good posting.

### BK MAURYA IS PROMOTED AS DG



BK Maurya, a 1990 batch IPS officer from Uttar Pradesh, has been promoted as Director General. IPS Bijay Kumar Maurya has been carrying out the responsibility of ADG Logistics Department from September 26, 2019. He had done a good job while being posted in the capacity of ADG (Railway).





# DEMONS THAT BIND US!

THIS THROWBACK THURSDAY WE BRING YOU A CULT FILM WHICH GAVE US OUR SUPERSTAR WHO STILL RULES OUR HEARTS AND THE IDEA OF 'AN ANGRY YOUNG MAN' BUT ZANJEER WAS MUCH MORE!



ANITA HADA  
anita.hada@firstindianews.com

**Z**anjeer is one of my favourite movies for many reasons, I found the young angry brooding Amitabh very sexy. Finally, a hero who does not sing or dance around trees or for that matter breaks into songs, he seethes with anger. He was vulnerable as he battled his nightmares, a lawman he walked the thin line between law and lawlessness.

That the movie catapulted Amitabh to stardom is the stuff of Bollywood history but more importantly, it gave lakhs of youth an idol to look up to, a justification of the frustration and anger they were dealing with.

But I fell in love with the angry ball of fire when he finally succumbs and gives a tender shy smile like the dawn after being artfully 'wooded' (I cannot think of a better word) by Pran, in one



of his finest roles second to his persona in Upkaar.

From starting a relationship with "Jab tak baithne ke liye na kaha jaaye, sharafat se khade raho," wherein Amitabh kicks the chair from under Pran then going on to Yaari hai imaan mera as he wins the Khan's respect, loyalty and friendship, the chemistry was a joy to watch.

In fact, apart from this hummable song and Deewanein hain Deewana ko na ghar chahiye, Zanjeer has no songs worth mentioning.

The second song is the backdrop of the blossoming unspoken love between the angry young inspector and Jaya, who plays a critical eye-witness

whose conscience is woken up jarringly by Amitabh.

Jaya plays a wildcat who falls in love, she has a strong but small role as has Om Prakash, the police informer. Ajit, the villain brings his usual aplomb to the role with his dapper style and Bindu is the perfect moll! But Zanjeer is about Amitabh and it's Amitabh all the way. His inner turmoil was depicted with depth and restraint, nowhere does he go overboard or make the character a stereotype. His anguish as the demons run uncontrollably within even as he tries to settle into a 'happy married life' touches a chord in us. His raw gripping performance remains his best to date.



YOUR DAY

Horoscope by Saurabhbh Sachdeva

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To Receive the Most Exclusive News from the Power Corridors of Uttar Pradesh.

Aries

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

Do not misunderstand the motives of someone trying to help you. A friendly bet with a friend or a colleague may turn into a fight, so be careful. Will power, will be your key to remain in shape. An exciting time lies ahead as travelling with friends is foreseen. You are set to grow professionally.

Taurus

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Praise of a family member by someone will make you proud. Getting unwell due to changing weather cannot be ruled out for some. You may need to monitor your finances closely. You are likely to win the day on the professional front by your original ideas.

Gemini

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Some of you may feel the home environment serene and restful. There is a fair chance of some property getting allotted to you. Good opportunities are likely to appear on the academic front. Good health is assured through own efforts. A healthy bank balance will allow you to buy a major item.

Cancer

JUNE 22 - JULY 22

A new plot, house or apartment can be acquired by some. Be more assertive in dealing with workplace issues, otherwise you can be taken for granted by others. Joining an online exercise routine is indicated and will prove beneficial. Those trying to boost income may figure out newer ways.

Leo

JULY 23 - AUGUST 22

Positive steps may be required to be taken to restore perfect health. It will be in your interest to speed up a financial transaction. You will come out with flying colours in a competitive situation on the academic front. Appreciation for the work done on the professional front is there for some.

Virgo

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22

Getting quality time at home will help in focussing on activities that appeal to you. Your efforts at work will be richly rewarded by getting noticed. A balanced diet will be the first step in achieving good health. Help people out as much as you can as monetarily you face no problems.

Libra

SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22

You may find it difficult to convince a family member regarding something you want to achieve. Clarity of mind and retentive power will help you forge ahead on the academic front. Some of you can safely say goodbye to depression, as positivity enters your life once again.

Scorpio

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 22

Your performance may leave you feeling good today on professional or academic front. A diet plan adopted recently will suit your system well. Maintain confidentiality regarding a property deal being negotiated by you. A chance for an outing with lover finally arrives.

ABOUT CAULDRON SISTERS

Ratika & Richa Khetan, two Sisters, started Cauldron Sisters in 2015. It started as an exotic food gift hamper business, but their love for food encouraged them to start culinary workshops, food deliveries, and slowly and gradually it turned huge as restaurants and cafes started approaching them for consultancy.

Before this generation began devouring edible blossoms decorated on their birthday cakes, we've had our share of 'eating flowers' with Gulkand, Sherbets, traditional teas, etc. decades ago. Knowingly or unknowingly, we've all been consuming edible flowers. Major East Asian countries have an age-long tradition of using blossoming parts of plants in their teas, something extensively used for medicinal purposes. In India, our favourite Paan has Gulkand in it. Honestly, the list of flower-usage in cooking is long, so here we're with the names of ten commonly found flowers that are consumable by humans!

HIBISCUS

The use of hibiscus in culinary in the southern part of India is very prominent. Lentil curries containing hibiscus are delicacies. It is also used to prepare relishes, jams, jellies, and tea, and can be eaten raw in salads as well! It has a hint of bitterness to it with a unique citric flavour. It is also used to flavour food items as it provides a sweet-sour flavour to fruit cakes, chutneys and rum-based drinks. Apart from being delicious, the hibiscus flower is also beneficial in lowering blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

DANDELION

Dandelions are dreamy. We can't stop visualising its seeds floating in the air – like how we see in the movies, so romantic! But, did you know they are edible, too? The entire plant – leaves, stems, flowers, and roots are highly nutritious and consumable. The flowers have antioxidant properties and are rich in nutrients like vitamins A, K, calcium and iron. Since they have a slight bitter-

Sagittarius

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 21

A new health routine may start giving health benefits right away. You gel well with a new acquaintance. Opportunities to further your career will come only if you make efforts. Self-discipline may help you achieve peak physical fitness. Financial scene is likely to stabilise.



Flower Power In Our Kitchen:

10 Edible Blossoms To Know About

ness to them, they're often blanched or sauteed before use. The flowers are used to make jelly and wine, and can also be eaten raw in salads or (roots are used) made a tea of.

LAVENDER

The beautiful fragrance of lavender is the reason it is infused in food items. Lavender flower is often baked into goods or infused in syrups/liqueurs/herbal teas. It is also dried and mixed with dry spices and herbs. The sweet fragrance has a lemony note to it which can quickly become overpowering, hence, it is suggested to begin adding lavender in the food with a closed fist.

HONEYSUCKLE

Honeysuckle has been vital to practices of traditional Chinese medicine for centuries. The flower, along with its extract, is ingestable and used in the treatment of various skin and inflammatory conditions. The fragrance of honeysuckle is pleasantly sweet and its nectar is used to make syrups, jams and jellies. The flowers are either used raw in salads and/or steeped in hot water to make tea.

ROSE

In India, almost each one of us has tasted 'Gulkand' (a jam-like substance made of rose petals). Gulaab-Jal (rose water) is also something you make out of fresh roses and is used in desserts and for beauty purposes. The petals of roses can be eaten raw, used to garnish and are also candied. Brewing rose into tea blends may help intensify the flavour and fragrance of the beverage. The benefits of consuming rose also include maintaining a healthy cholesterol level, reducing inflammation, soreness and being a



natural coolant.

SQUASH BLOSSOM

Zucchini is not just a fancy squash for pricy salads, its flowers are as useful as the squash itself with a subtle zucchini fragrance but a taste that's nothing like the squash. The male flowers (since female flowers will grow into squash) can be eaten raw in salads or as a garnish.

CHAMOMILE

Anybody who suffers from insomnia or disturbed sleep have heard of consuming chamomile tea. It has been used in traditional medicines (mainly in east Asia) for centuries now. Chamomile is said to reduce anxiety that eventually aids in improved sleep quality. The flavour is slightly sweet with earthy notes.

BANANA FLOWER

Like its fruit, the flower of banana is beneficial and delicious, too! It's eaten raw in salads and often cooked in curries and soups. There are several popular east and



south Indian dishes that use banana flowers in their recipes. Being a high source of protein, vitamin C and fibre, it is extremely nutritious.

LOTUS

The national flower of India is also a delicious, edible, and widely used blossom across the globe. From flower to its stem and even roots, every part of the lotus plant is consumable. The root aka kamal kakkdi (in Hindi) is usually used to make spiced side dishes, pickles and sabzis with thick gravy. The lotus flowers seeds are used as modern popcorn, and the flower itself is brewed into teas for various medicinal purposes. Lotus is a good source of potassium and protein.

MINT

Mint must be the most used household flavour around the world. Adding a bit of mint to beverages in the summers is, hands down, the most refreshing thing to do. What one might miss out on is the fact that mint flowers, much similar to the



avoid the overpowering taste of mint leaves. Talking about the health benefits, mint is known for being a natural coolant and providing calming effect when ingested.

FACE OF THE DAY

SHRUTI YOGI, Model



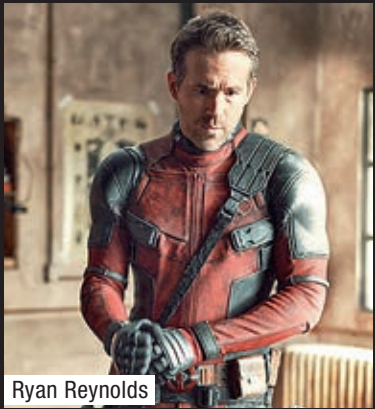
## Quarantine: A nightmare for Ed Sheeran



Ed Sheeran

**E**d Sheeran has been forced to self-quarantine for the second time at his Suffolk home for not less than ten days in accordance with the UK guidelines, after coming in close contact with a COVID-19 case. He attended the Wembley game with Kate Middleton and Prince William where they enjoyed a well-spirited match between their home team and Germany. Therefore, for the second time the Bad Habits singer has been asked to self-isolate for few weeks. —Agency

## Reynolds and Taika promote 'Free Guy'



Ryan Reynolds

**F**ree Guy will hit the theatres on August 13 starring Reynolds and Taika Waititi. To promote the upcoming film, starred actors came together in their comic-book character avatars of Deadpool and Korg to create a hilarious reaction video. Ryan Reynolds' Deadpool made a smashing Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) entry, not in the conventional but in a comical approach that has created a buzz. —Agency

## Jason and Olivia break silence



Jason Sudeikis and Olivia Wilde

**A**ctor Jason Sudeikis finally broke his silence on his split with long-time partner Olivia Wilde. The 45-year-old Ted Lasso star split with Wilde in November 2020. Soon after their split, Wilde was rumoured to be dating Harry Styles. About the public nature of the split, Jason said, "That's an experience that you either learn from or make excuses about. You take some responsibility for it, hold yourself accountable for what you do, but then also endeavour to learn." —Agency



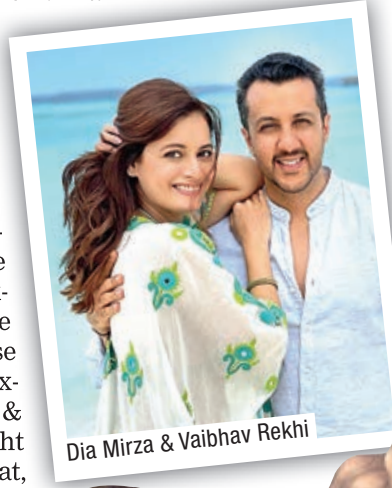
Sharon Stone

# Welcome baby boy!

**D**ia Mirza and husband Vaibhav Rekhi have announced the birth of their son Avyaan Azaad Rekhi. Born prematurely, Dia revealed that she had a complicated delivery via an 'emergency C-section'. Dia penned down a heartfelt note on Instagram to welcome her newborn.

"To paraphrase Elizabeth Stone, 'To have a child is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body.' These words perfectly exemplify Vaibhav & my feelings right now. Our heartbeat,

our son Avyaan Azaad Rekhi was born on May 14th. Having arrived early, our little miracle has since then been cared for by tireless nurses and doctors in the Neonatal ICU", wrote Dia. —Agency



Dia Mirza & Vaibhav Rekhi

Dia Mirza

**A** film remake that has been in the headlines since reports started coming in is of the Malayalam hit, Helen. Reportedly, Janhvi Kapoor is headlining the film and it was supposed to go on floors originally back in June. However, owing to the second wave of

## KICK OFF SHOOT?

COVID 19, several restrictions were imposed on travel and hence, the shooting was postponed. Now, as per a report, the shoot with Janhvi for the Hindi remake may kick off in the month of August. —Agency



Janhvi Kapoor

## Next Project

**T**he romantic comedy helmed by Luv Ranjan had begun shooting in Delhi at the beginning of the year. The film's shooting was halted due to the outbreak of the second wave of Coronavirus. However, as the situation gets better, the country and Bollywood crawl back to normalcy. Tuesday began with some hustle for Shraddha Kapoor and Ranbir Kapoor as they jetted off to shoot for Luv Ranjan's next. The film is yet to be titled as of now. —Agency



Shraddha Kapoor



KL Rahul and Athiya Shetty

## KL RAHUL BOWLED OVER BEAUTY?

**I**ndian cricketer KL Rahul and Bollywood actress Athiya Shetty's relationship rumours have been doing the rounds. Their social media engagement and pictures together speak a thousand words. It seems like things are now getting serious between the two. Just before heading to the World Test Championship Final in England, Rahul had reportedly listed the actor as his partner and communicated the same to the BCCI. The couple has taken on the limelight with their posts. —Agency

## Is #KimAnder TRENDING?

**A**ctress and model Kim Sharma and India's former tennis representative Leander Paes seem to be the latest love birds in Bollywood.

The duo are either sparking romance rumours or indirectly making it official on the gram as a couple of photos from their recent Goa vacation seem to have surfaced. Earlier, the paparazzi have

spotted Kim and Leander Paes exiting their Pilates class together or stepping out for a grocery run. While the duo have largely kept it low key, it looks like they are now ready to come out in the open and wear their hearts on their sleeve. Kim and Leander have been holidaying in Goa and recently visited the celebrity hotspot restaurant Pousada By The Beach. —Agency



Kim Sharma

# SHARON STONE RETURNS

**A**lmost after seven years, one of Hollywood's longest-serving and highest-profile celebrities, Sharon Stone, will return as a host for the 27th edition of the annual amfAR (American Foundation for AIDS Research) Cannes Gala event on July 16. The annual event will take place outdoors at Villa Eilenroc and consist of an exclusive dinner, auction, multiple performances and a fashion show curated by French fashion editor Carine Roitfeld. —Agency



