



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, center left, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, left, Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, center right, and Japan's Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi attend their two plus two security talks at Iikura Guest House in Tokyo, Japan. Defense and foreign ministers from the U.S. and Japan are meeting to discuss their concern over China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region as the Biden administration tries to reaffirm engagement with its key regional allies.

## Countries halting AstraZeneca vaccine

PARIS, MAR 16 (INS INDIA): A dozen countries, including France, Italy and Germany, have suspended AstraZeneca's Covid-19 shots because of fears over blood clots and other possible side effects.

Ahead of Tuesday's World Health Organization experts meeting, the company has insisted there is no risk and the WHO has said countries should continue to use the vaccine.

Denmark is the first country on March 11 to say it will suspend use of the AstraZeneca vaccine as a precautionary measure over fears of blood clots in vaccinated people.

Iceland and Norway follow the same day, temporarily suspending use.

On Monday, a health worker in Norway dies of a brain haemorrhage after receiving the vaccine, though no direct link to the jab has been established, health authorities say.

It is the second such fatality within a few days in the country.

On Friday, Bulgaria suspends the use of the vaccine as it investigates the death of a woman with several underlying conditions who recently received the jab.

An initial probe had suggested the woman died from heart failure and an autopsy found no link with the vaccination.

Thailand abruptly delays the start of its rollout of the vaccine, stopping Premier Prayut Chan-O-Cha from getting the first jab.

And the Democratic Republic of Congo, also due to start administering the vaccine, postpones its campaign citing "precautionary measures".

Ireland and the Netherlands join the list Sunday, followed by Indonesia and then Germany, Italy, France, Slovenia, Spain and Latvia on Monday.

Announcing its decision, the German health ministry says a closer look is necessary after the reported blood clotting incidents in Europe.

Late Monday, Venezuela's vice-president also said the country would not approve the vaccine for use, citing "complications" those inoculated had experienced.

The first suspension of a batch of the AstraZeneca vaccine is announced by Austria on March 8, following the death of a 49-year-old nurse from "severe bleeding disorders" days after receiving it.

Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Luxembourg also suspend the use of doses from the same batch, which has been delivered to 17 countries and included one million vaccines.

Italy's medicines regulator on March 11 also bans the use of a batch as a precaution, triggering a similar decision from Romania. And on March 14, Italy's northern Piedmont region suspends use of the vaccine after the death of a teacher who had received it the day before, with a national postponement coming a day later.

## Sweden pauses AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccinations

STOCKHOLM: Sweden's health agency said on Tuesday it was pausing vaccinations against COVID-19 using AstraZeneca's vaccine as a precautionary measure.

Germany, France and Italy said on Monday they would stop administering the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine after several countries reported possible serious side-effects while the World Health Organization has said there was no proven link. "The Swedish Public Health Agency has decided to suspend the use of AstraZeneca's covid-19 vaccine until the European Medicines Agency's investigation."

## US, Japan warn against 'destablising behaviour' by China

TOKYO, MAR 16 (INS INDIA): US and Japanese foreign and defence ministers warned Tuesday against "coercion and destablising behaviour" by China after top-level talks in Tokyo.

Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken are in Japan on the first leg of their first overseas trip, looking to strengthen regional alliances in the face of rising Chinese influence.

In a joint statement issued after bilateral and joint talks with their Japanese counterparts, they warned that "China's behaviour, where inconsistent with the existing international order, presents political, economic,

military and technological challenges."

"The ministers committed to opposing coercion and destablising behaviour towards others in the region," they added.

Both sides also expressed "serious concerns about recent disruptive developments in the region", directly referencing recent Chinese moves.

The talks come with US President Joe Biden's administration looking to reset regional alliances after the tumult of the Donald Trump era.

Austin and Blinken are also consulting regional allies as part of a review of Washington's policy towards North Korea, which lashed

out at the administration earlier Tuesday.

The ministers' joint statement called again for Pyongyang's "complete denuclearisation" warning North Korea's arsenal "poses a threat to international peace and stability".

But Blinken refused to offer any comment on remarks from Kim Jong Un's sister, who warned Washington against "struggling to spread the smell of gunpowder on our land from across the ocean".

"We're looking at whether various additional pressure measures could be effective, whether there are diplomatic paths that make sense, all of that is under review," Blinken said.

## Democratic-controlled US House to vote on citizenship path for 'Dreamers'

WASHINGTON, MAR 16 (INS INDIA): The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives is due to vote on two immigration bills that would provide a path to citizenship for millions living illegally in the United States, including farmworkers and younger immigrants known as "Dreamers."

The bills are an effort to take targeted steps forward while congressional leaders discuss President Joe Biden's comprehensive immigration plan, and initial procedural steps could come as early as Tuesday. Republicans are shifting their focus to attacking Biden over a new surge of arrivals at the US-Mexico border.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, said on Sunday the surge of migrant children arriving at the border was a "humanitarian crisis" aggravated by the "broken system" of restrictive immigration left behind by former President Donald

Trump. But Republicans have charged the influx is the result of Biden's reversal of some hardline Trump policies, with House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy labeling it the "Biden border crisis" during a trip to the border on Monday.

The first immigration bill expected in the House this week would offer an eventual path to citizenship to "Dreamers," those immigrants living in the United States illegally after entering as children. It would also help recipients of temporary migration protections that allow immigrants from several disaster- or conflict-hit countries to live temporarily in the United States.

The measure, sponsored by Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard, could help make over 4.4 million people eligible for permanent US residence, according to the Migration Policy Institute. It

passed the House once already, in 2019, with 237 votes; seven of those were Republicans.

The second bill, sponsored by Representative Zoe Lofgren, would put about a million undocumented farmworkers on a path to citizenship, a Democratic aide said. It has a Republican co-sponsor, Representative Dan Newhouse. Thirty-four Republicans voted for the measure when it last passed the House in 2019.

Neither bill was taken up in the Senate when it had a Republican majority. With Democrats now holding narrow control of that chamber, they hope to be able to attract some Republican support.

But Senator Lindsey Graham, one of the leading Republicans in past talks on immigration, said he was doubtful bipartisan progress could be made on legislation before the latest spike in border arrivals has been halted.

"I think it's gonna be really hard to get a bipartisan bill put together on anything that has a legalization component until you stop the flow," Graham told reporters on Monday evening.

Democrats last month formally introduced Biden's sweeping immigration overhaul in Congress, a measure that would provide a path to US citizenship for an estimated 11 million immigrants in the country illegally. It faces long odds to passage as no Republicans have supported it publicly and it is unclear whether all Democrats back the approach.

"I think Speaker Pelosi has discovered that she doesn't have support for the comprehensive bill in the House," said the Senate's No. 2 Democrat, Dick Durbin, who also chairs that chamber's Judiciary Committee. "And I think that indicates where it is in the Senate as well."

# Rashtriya Lokniti Party started for the reconstruction of the nation

New Delhi: Today we envisage a society and nation where even the last person of the society realizes that he also has an important role and stake in every development of the country. The euphoria of democracy and the emancipation of its sweat in the upliftment of the nation, only then the Ram-state of Lokshahi will be established in the true sense. A society that guarantees respect for elders, protection of women and golden future of navigators with transparent leadership, modern technology and noble intentions was to said Deepak Pandiya, Rashtriya Lokneeti Party's Convener. He said that where the government is not in the ego of the donor and the public as the petitioner, But the government should discharge its responsibility and ensure that all the necessary facilities are available to the doorstep of every citizen. On the occasion of the launch of the Rashtriya Lokneeti Party, the national officials of the Rashtriya Lokneeti Party were unanimously selected, including



Brigadier B. K. Khanna as Chief Convener, Deepak Pandia Convener Admin, renowned financial expert and former Sr. Public sector banker Sh. M.K. Sharma as Convener Finance, Dr. L. C. Sharma was appointed as Mentor and Renu Negi as Convener Media Relations. The party's National Advisory Board includes renowned Election Technology provider ELECTION AWAAZ's Managing Editor J. P. Singh, Sr. Media Correspondent and

Ex Director ALL INDIA CONSUMER COUNCIL Sh. Alok Kumar, IAS Retired Gautam Marwah, Padma Shri Bharat Bhushan Tyagi and Brigadier Vinod Dutta. Brigadier Khanna is an international personality, he has rendered his services to the country by staying in the army. M. K. Sharma said that today's conditions have changed so much that all areas including education, health, administration, agriculture, industry,

including individuals, family, society, have become completely new and different. In such a situation, politics based on our age-old administrative structure has proved completely meaningless.

The aim of our party is to bring door to door services with new reforms in Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Education and all other divisions so that people can function with 100 percent capacity in their services, employing 15

people from the same area in each Panchayat. Those who will provide every service at home, uniform arrangements, fee structure and other facilities in government and private schools are also to be made equal. It is a big truth that India is the largest democratic republic in the world, which we are also proud of. But a country should be considered democratic only when there is good governance established through democracy, otherwise it would be a

daydream. J. P. Singh said that if the system is changing then why should we not change, along with the leaders, the rating of citizens should also be fixed, when other countries can do it, why should we not.

The party's agenda is absolutely right, it is going to set a new direction. He gave the example of Prashant Manti Bhartoya Janaushdhi Pariyojana which is lacking mass acceptance in the country due to doctors not prescribing Generic drugs due to large multi-national drug companies mafia like hold and inducements prevalent through their system.

This is gross violation of Supreme Court directions to Medical Council of India, the regulator of doctor's practicing certificate. JP Singh further stressed on the usage of IT and artificial intelligence methods to be implemented right from the beginning of effective utilization of data which is already existing with the govt.

## Around the World

### Not 'hiding the ball' on Russia

Seoul: Speaking to the microphones intentionally this time, President Barack Obama on Tuesday assured he had no hidden agenda with Russia for a second term, seeking to contain a controversial gaffe that bounded all the way to the campaign trail at home and back again. Obama got caught on tape Monday telling Russian President Dmitry Medvedev that he would have more room to negotiate on missile defense after getting through a November election, presumably expecting to win and not have to face voters again. Obama's Republican rivals back home pounced, accusing him of secretive plotting and dealing over American national security. So one day later, with Medvedev at his side again, Obama tried some on the record candor and humor to put it all to rest. The president's explanation: He wants to work with Russia on the deeply divisive issue of a missile defense shield in Europe, knowing only by building trust first on that matter can he make gains on another goal of nuclear arms reductions. And there's no way to expect progress during the politics of this election year, so he is already looking to 2013. "This is not a matter of hiding the ball," Obama said, well aware of criticism erupting at home. "I'm on record." Still, Obama had not meant for his initial political assessment to be heard. It was picked up by live microphones during a meeting with Medvedev and soon shot around the world. "This is my last election," Obama was heard telling Medvedev, Russia's outgoing president. "After my election, I have more flexibility." Obama showed up at a nuclear security summit ready to clarify his caught-on-tape words even at the risk of overshadowing his message for a second day. He fielded a question but failed to address the presumptuousness of plotting out 2013 strategy with Russia when, in fact, he must win election again for any of that to matter. For Russia, the issues of nuclear weapons reduction and the proposed missile shield are related. Russian fears of new U.S. missiles at its doorstep in Europe have helped to stymie further progress on nuclear arms reductions after a breakthrough agreement two years ago. Obama said he wants to spend the rest of this year working through technical issues with the Russians, and said it was not surprising that a deal couldn't be completed quickly. "I don't think it's any surprise that you can't start that a few months before presidential and congressional elections in the United States, and at a time when they just completed elections in Russia, and they're in the process of a presidential transition," Obama told reporters. He spoke after making a separate announcement on nuclear security. The president also sought twice to dispense with the controversy with a dash of humor. Before taking his seat at the nuclear summit, he caught Medvedev's eyes and said "Wait, wait, wait, wait." Obama then covered up his microphone and jest, enjoying a hearty laugh and handshake with the Russian leader. And when he decided to offer his explanation about the flap, Obama said, "first of all, are the mics on?" Obama's candid remarks Monday illustrated the political constraints that hem in any president who is running for re-election and dealing with a congressional chamber — in this case, the House — controlled by the rival party.

## 17-min Christchurch carnage live-streamed via app for extreme sports

LONDON, MAR 16 (INS INDIA): A gunman who killed 49 people at two New Zealand mosques live-streamed the attacks on Facebook for 17 minutes using an app designed for extreme sports enthusiasts, with copies still being shared on social media hours later.

The live footage of Friday's attacks was first posted to Facebook and has since been shared on Twitter, Alphabet Inc's YouTube and Facebook-owned Whatsapp and Instagram. Facebook, Twitter and

YouTube all said they had taken steps to remove copies of the videos. Facebook said it had deleted the gunman's accounts "shortly after the livestream commenced" after being alerted by police. But videos of the shooting on all five platforms remained up to 10 hours after the attacks.

The shootings show how the services they offer can be exploited by extremist groups, said Lucinda Creighton, senior advisor to the Counter Extremism Project. The gunman filmed and shared the

attacks using a mobile phone app called LIVE4, which allows users to broadcast directly to Facebook from personal body cameras, according to the app's developer. The app is usually used to share videos of extreme sports and live music, but on Friday the footage recreated the carnage of a computer game, showing the attacker's first-person view as he drove to one mosque, entered it and began shooting randomly at people inside. Alex Zhukov, founder and chief technology officer of

LIVE4 developer VideoGorillas, said the LIVE4 services transmitted footage directly to Facebook and his company did not have the ability to review it first.

New Zealand's department of internal affairs said people posting the video online risked breaking the law. "The content of the video is disturbing and will be harmful for people to see," the department said. "We are working with social media platforms, who are actively removing this content."