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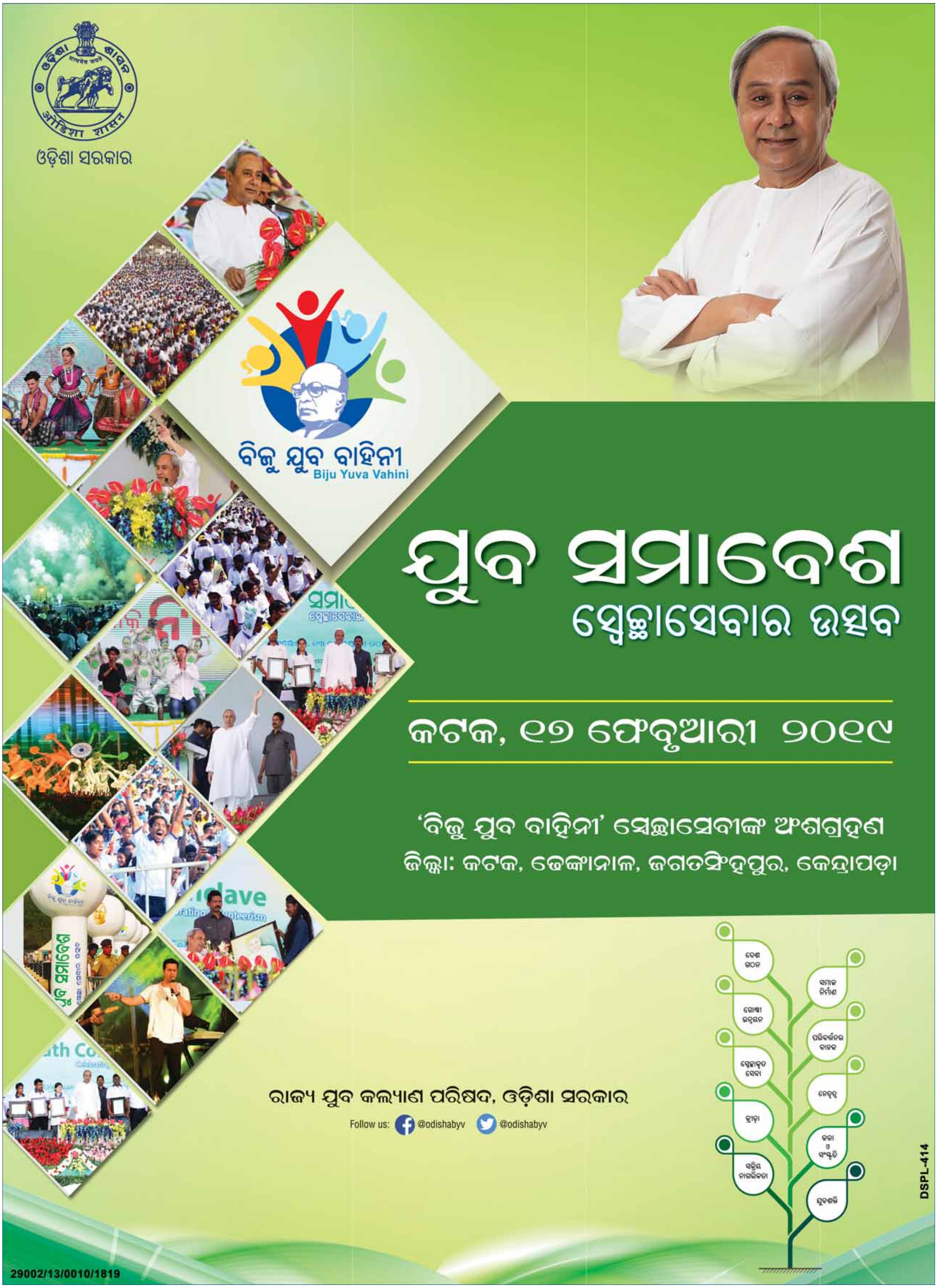

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Biju Yuva Vahini

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DSPL-414

29002/13/0010/1819

CM announces B'patna College as university

- K'handi NRI hails decision
- Naveen opens projects worth ₹1,346 cr in dist

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Digambara Patra, an Associate Professor at the Department of Chemistry, American University of Beirut, thanked Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for announcing the Government Autonomous College Bhawanipatna (GACB) a "Unitary University" during his visit to Kalahandi on Saturday.

"Indeed, the GACB has always kept high standard of education practice in KBK-Kandhamal region. It was among the country's first 52 colleges, the State's first three colleges and the KBK region's first college to receive Potential Center of Excellence (PCE) by the University Grant Commission (UGC). The other two colleges that had received the PCE were the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack and the GM College, Sambalpur.

He said while Cuttack-Bhubaneswar-Khordha region has already many national and State institutions including IIT, NISER, IIIT, AIIMS, five Government universities, five private universities, Brahmapur has multiple numbers of Government institutions, including two universities and the IISER. NIT at Rourkela and IIM in Sambalpur boost number of national institutions in Sambalpur-Rourkela region, which has four Government universities. North Odisha has also two State Universities in Balasore and Baripada.

In contrast, the KBK region comprising 30 per cent of Odisha's geography and 20 per cent of its population has only one Central University of Orissa (CUO) at Koraput.

The two new universities, Rajendra University in Balangir and Bhawanipatna University in Kalahandi would serve the interest of KBK region in this regard, he said.

He demanded that the Chief Minister look into the issue of illegal encroachment of 9.1 acres of Government land given to GACB in 1960s that is hindering development work in the college campus now. Now, transferring of newly built 300-bed Women's Hostel to the college authority is pending by the district authority due to illegal encroachment, he mentioned.

During his visit, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik dedicated the Ret Medium Irrigation project built at a cost of ₹768.46 crores in Kalahandi district. The project would benefit 79 villages.

He inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 38 developmental projects worth ₹1,346 crore.

He also announced that the Bhawanipatna Women's College will have Science Stream, Science lab and other infrastructure facilities for which Rs 5 crore has been sanctioned.

The CM also released Rs 15,000 each to 11,122 women Self Help Groups (SHGs) as seed money, Rs 25 lakhs each to 14 block-level 'Mahasanghs', Rs 3,000 each to 9,836 SHGs as digital empowerment assistance under the ongoing Mission Shakti programme.

Four killed, 8 injured in road mishaps

PNS ■ CUTTACK/KENDRAPADA/SONEPUR

Four persons were killed and eight others injured in three separate road mishaps in Cuttack and Kendrapada and Subarnapur districts.

A person was killed and five others injured when a bus collided with a truck from the behind near the Khaira bridge at Jagatpur in Cuttack district early on Saturday morning. The injured persons were admitted to the SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack.

In another mishap, a person died and three others were critically injured as a pickup van carrying members of a band party hit a cycle and fell into a water body near Chitraptola under the Patkura police limits in Kendrapada district at around 3 am.

The deceased was identified as Bharat Mallick (50) of Mehendipur village. The injured were first rushed to a nearby hospital and later shifted to the SCB Hospital. The incident occurred due to poor visibility for intense fog.

In yet another accident, two youths were killed after the bike by which they were travelling had a head-on collision with a truck on the Sonepur-Balangir road at Badajhinki on Friday evening. The deceased duo was identified as Ranjit Mallick (30) and Parameswar Baghar (25) of Phagunamala village under the Manmunda police stgation in Boudh district.

KIIT Varsity celebrates foundation day

Art of staying relevant vital in present age: Amitabh Ray

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) University celebrated its 15th foundation day here on Saturday.

Ericsson Global Services, India MD Amitabh Ray delivered the Foundation Day Lecture in the presence of a host of dignitaries. Ray said that he started his career as a developer 30 years back and rapidly climbed the corporate ladder to become MD of Ericsson Global Services, India. He said the art of staying relevant and putting context to things are simple secrets of his success.

"Speed of change the human race is going through today is increasing exponentially. In next 20 years, the world will change as much as it had changed in last 1,000 years. This change will primarily be driven by technological changes. The world we are living in is witnessing an increasing velocity of technological changes. In this milieu, the art of staying relevant has become the most important," he elaborated.

Students should be prepared to go through the cycles of learning, unlearning and re-learning, he said advised students to be a good ambassador of this great institution (KIIT).

"The KIIT and the KISS are playing an important role in the fields of education and bringing about social transformation in the country," Ray said.

He congratulated KIIT and KISS founder Dr Achyuta Samanta for lifting thousands of underprivileged children out of poverty through holistic education in the KISS.

Among others, Dr Samanta, KIIT University Chancellor Prof Ved Prakash, VC Prof Hrushikesha Mohanty and Registrar Prof Sasmita Samanta spoke on the occasion.

Punjilal hospitalised

BALANGIR: Punjilal Meher, the sole accused in the Patnagarh wedding gift blast case, was admitted to the Bhima Bhoi Medical College Hospital here on Saturday after he fell sick due to starvation.

Meher was on a hunger strike and had not taken food for the last eight days opposing his shifting to the Balangir District Jail from the Patnagarh Sub-Jail.

Meher has been taken ill due to prolonged starvation, said a doctor at the hospital.

On February 8, Meher had been shifted from the the Patnagarh Sub-Jail to the Balangir District Jail after he allegedly tried to flee from jail premises. He, however, denied the allegation. ***PNS***

INBRIEF

PPT HOLDS PRAYER FOR MARTYRS

Paradip: Officers, employees and workers of the Paradip Port Trust (PPT) paid tributes to the CRPF martyrs by observing a silent prayer for two minutes in front of the PPT Administrative Building on Saturday.

SBI PAYS TRIBUTES TO MARTYRS

Bhubaneswar: A candlelight march was organised on Friday in the administrative office premises of the State Bank of India here to pay tributes to the soldiers, including two from Odisha, who laid their lives in Pulwama. The march was led by SBI CHM Praveena Kala, accompanied by GM DS Mishra. The two martyrs from Odisha Prasanna Kumar Sahu and Manoj Kumar Behera happened to be SBI customers. The march ended with a two-minute silence in memory of the martyrs.

VSS NAGAR BODY CONDEMNS ATTACK ON JAWANS

Bhubaneswar: The Veer Surendra Sai Nagar Unnayan Parishad condemned the terrorist attack on CRPF Jawans in Jammu and Kashmir at a condolence meeting held here on Friday afternoon. Parishan vice-president Er Shiba Prasad Mishra, general secretary Dipllip Dashsharma and others held a one-minute silence for the departed souls. They also expressed sympathies with the bereaved families. Among others, treasurer Maheswar Biswal, joint-secretaries Pratap Kumar Nanda and Nimain Charan Das and executive members Dr Kumuda Mishra, Shital Chandra Mohanty and Bibhuti Swain were present.

RSS HOLDS CONDOLENCE MEET FOR MARTYRS

Bhubaneswar: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), city unit held a condolence meeting and paid tributes to martyred CRPF Jawans here on Saturday. They lighted earthen lamps and held a silent prayer for the departed souls. Members said the attack indicates terrorists' frustration and desperation. RSS functionaries like Tanmay Mahapatra, Dr Basant Pati, Subrat Kumar Tripathy, Jayakrushna Prushti, Pratap Dwibedi, Sukant Dash, Golekh Chandra Das and many others paid tributes.

DAVIANS PAY TRIBUTES TO MARTYRS

Bhubaneswar: The students, staffs and Principal of the DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur offered floral tributes, lit candles and observed a two-minute silence in memory of the Jawans who rendered supreme sacrifice in the terror strike at Pulwama.

NDRF DG VISITS MUNDALI BATTALION

Athagarh: Director General of National Disaster Response Force SN Pradhan visited the Third Battalion at Mundali. During his visit, battalion Commandant Jacob Kispotta briefed Pradhan about the preparedness and training of the elite force. It was followed by demonstration of canine search. Addressing the personnel, Pradhan said that due to proactive role of third battalion NDRF, the confidence of the local community in Odisha and Chhattisgarh has increased manifold and the people feel safe and secure whenever NDRF is deployed during natural calamities. Among others, Deputy Commandant BK Das, Assistant Commandants GS Patel and BK Sahu were present.

Women to be involved in paddy collection: CM

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

To provide further empowerment to women and enhance their role in the State's development, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday announced that women would be involved in paddy procurement henceforth.

He stated this at the Mission Shakti Samabesh held at Bhabanipatna in Kalahandi district. Besides, the Chief Minister announced that a Science stream along with laboratory and other infrastructure would be opened at the Bhawanipatna Government women's college at a cost of ₹5 crore.

Schools hold prayer for martyrs

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The schools across the State on Saturday observed a two-minute silent prayer for the CRPF jawans martyred in the terrorist attack in Jammu & Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Both students and teachers held the prayer to pay homage to the brave-hearts.

On Friday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had appealed to the schools to observe the silent prayer in memory of the martyrs.

Two Odia Jawans Prasanna Sahu of Shikhar village in Jagatsinghpur district and Manoj Kumar Behera of Ratanpur village in Cuttack district were among 42 CRPF troopers killed in the Fidayeen attack in Pulwama on Thursday.

PONZI SCAM

Nasser Khan moves court for bail

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Two days after his bail plea was turned down by the CBI Court here, Fine India chit fund managing director and actor Nasser Khan on Saturday moved the Bhubaneswar Sessions Court seeking bail again.

After his bail plea had been rejected by the CBI Court on Thursday, Nasser was sent to jail till February 27.

Fine India, which had several branches across the country, was allegedly involved in duping crores of rupees by accepting public deposits. The CBI had found evidence that the chit fund scam money was used to produce movie 'Shadow' by the visually challenged actor.

Investors hold demo before ponzi co office in B'pur

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Hundreds of duped investors along with several agents staged a demonstration in front of tainted chit fund company Golden Land Developers at Aska Road here on Saturday demanding return of their money.

It might be mentioned that a director of the company, Jugal Khandual, had managed to flee after hundreds of victims staged a dharna in front of his residence here on Friday

"I had deposited Rs 5 to Rs 7 lakh in the company. The officials of the company threatened to kill us when were demanded our money back," alleged an agent.

A duped depositor said the company officials had assured them to repay their money by selling the assets of the company. But we don't have faith on their assurances.

"The officials of the company are maintaining a lavish lifestyle on our money. We have been moving from pillar to post to get our money," he added.

Brahmapur SDPO Bishnuprasad Pati said the Crime Branch's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has already registered a case against the company and seized some of their assets.

"A few properties of the company have been confiscated and we have asked the investors to hold discussions with us and provide us information regarding the company offices and other assets for appropriate action. The list of depositors as well other information would be shared with EOW," said Pati.

1st Corrigendum to "e" Procurement Notice Identification No. 48 /RWSS/2018-19.

1721-O

Due to some unavoidable circumstances the e-procurement NIT vide Bid identification No.48/RWSS/2018-19 has now been amended with following changes. Reference Memo No. 503 Dt. 08.02.2019.

1. Availability of bid documents in the portal extended up to 22.02.2019 at 11.00 AM to 27.02.2019 up to 5.00 PM instead of 05.00 P.M of 16.02.2019 to 5.00 P.M of 23.02.2019.
2. Clarification Start & end date extended up to 22.02.2019 at 11.00 AM to 26.02.2019 PM instead of 05.00 P.M of 16.02.2019 to 5.00 P.M of 21.02.2019.
3. Opening of tender online extended up to 28.02.2019 at 11.00 AM instead of 25.02.2019 TIME 11.00 A.M. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
RWS&S DIVISION, NAYAGARH

25042/11/0028/1819

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Identification No. EEPH-BLGR– 25 / 2018-19 Dt. 13.02.2019

489-C

01.	Name of work	:	02 Nos
02.	Estimated cost	:	Rs 16.97 lakhs to Rs. 33.99 lakhs
03.	Period of completion	:	90 days
04.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	:	From 11.00 Hrs. of 18.02.2019 to 17.00 Hrs. of 27.02.2019
05.	Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal	:	17.00 Hrs. of 28.02.2019
06.	Date & Time of opening of bids	:	12.00 Hrs. of 01.03.2019
07.	Name and Address of the officer inviting bid	:	Executive Engineer, PH Division, Balangir At-Tulsinagar, Dist-Balangir-767001

Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
P.H. Division, Balangir.

13005/11/0011/1819

Govt. of Odisha e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification Notice No.60 of 2018-19

1700-O

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage bid though e-procurement in double cover system according to norm of e-procurement.

1.	Nature of Work	:	Supplying all labour , material T&P for repair & maintenance of different water supply schemes under Khordha Division .
2.	No. of Tender	:	04 Nos.
3.	Tender Paper Cost	:	Rs. 6000.00
4.	Value of Work	:	From 11.28 Lakhs to 21.74 lakhs
5.	Class of Contractor	:	"D", "C"
6.	Date & time of availability of Bid document in portal	:	19.02.2019 4.00 P.M. to 28.02.2019 Up to 3.00 P.M.
7.	Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	:	19.02.2019 4.00 P.M. to 23.02.2019 Up to 3.00 P.M. during office hour
8.	Date & Time of opening of tender	:	01.03.2019 at 11.00 A.M. in the O/O E.E., RWSS Divn., Bhubaneswar
9.	Time of Completion	:	60 days

10. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the web site : https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in. corrigendum if any shall only be published above web site
11. The Bid cost and EMD to be deposited through online.

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RWS&S DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR

25011/11/0041/1819

NOTICE INVITING TENDER : OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, ODAGAON NAYAGARH (ODISHA), PIN - 752081

Tender Call Notice No. 215 dt. 15.02.2019 E- Procurement Notice No. NAC-ODG-6/2018-19

Tender ID- 2019_ORULB_53718

1	Name of the Work	:	Individual civil Construction and othere Works as per DTCN
2	No. of Works	:	14 Nos.
3	Value of Work	:	Rs.2,67,857/- to Rs.31,25,000/-
4	Class of Contractor	:	D&C
5	Period of Completion	:	60 Days
6	Date of Publication	:	16.02.2019
7	Date and Time of availability of document in the portal	:	From Dt.16.02.2019 at 11 AM to Dt. 23.02.2019 up to 5 PM
8	Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in portal	:	Dt. 23.02.2019 up to 5.00 PM
9	Last date of Submission of original documents in this Office	:	Dt. 25.02.2019 up to 11.00 AM
10	Date and Time of opening Bid	:	Dt. 26.02.2019 at 11.00 AM
11	Name and address of inviting bid	:	Executive officer, NAC, Odagaon
	Further details visit e-Procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in		

Sd/-
Executive Officer
N.A.C., Odagaon

Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation Ltd.
(A Govt.of Odisha Undertaking)
E-Procurement Notice -11 I 2018-19

CAD-1440

No. / Dated :

1.	Name of the tender Inviting Officer	:	Executive Engineer, L.I. Division, Bargarh
2.	Name of the work	:	Power supply, Installation of pump sets and Energisation of 02 Nos. of L.I. Projects and Balance work of 05 Nos. packages of River Lift Projects in different Blocks of Bargarh District
3.	No. of Packages	:	07 Nos.
4.	Tender Amount	:	Varies from 1.28 Lakhs to 32.41 Lakhs
5.	Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal for on line biding	:	from 10.00 hrs dated 21.02.2019 to 17.00hrs dated 28.02.2019.
6.	Last date and time of receipt of bids in the portal	:	up to 17.00hrs. Dated- 28.02.2019.
7.	Last date and time of clarification	:	upto 17.00hrs Dated-27.02.2019.
8.	Date and time of submission of bid documents (hard copies)	:	on dated 17.00hrs Dated-01.03.2019 from 10.00hrs to 17.00hrs.
9.	Date of opening of technical bid (cover-1)	:	at 11.00 hrs. Dated-02.03.2019.

10. Date of opening of financial bid (cover-2) will be informed after evaluation of technical bids.
11. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
12. Subsequent corrigendum / addendum if required shall be available in the above portal.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
L.I. Division, Bargarh

32277/11/0017/1819

EAST COAST RAILWAY
ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Tender Notice No. ST-OT-AMC-EI-KYOSAN-133, Dated : 13.02.2019

NAME OF WORK : PROVISION FOR COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING SYSTEMS, KYOSAN MAKE AT MANCHESWAR STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION IN EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.

Tender Value : ₹33,70,000/-, EMD : ₹67,400/-, Cost of tender document: ₹3,540/-(Including GST 18%).

Bidding Start Date : 27.02.2019, Tender Closing Date & Time : 13.03.2019 at 1500 hrs.

No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website http://www.ireps.gov.in.

Divisional Railway Manager/S&T/ Khurda Road

PR-480/I/18-19

Day temp may rise from Feb 19

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Day temperature is likely to increase from February 19 which may continue up to February 23 with the mercury hovering in the range of 35 to 37 degrees Celsius during the period, said the Centre for Environment and Climate (CEC), SOA University on Saturday.

The sky is likely to be clear from February 17 with night temperature falling by two to three degrees from Sunday, the CEC bulletin said.

It said as the western disturbance is moving fast from west to east, light rainfall with thunder is likely in one or two locations in coastal Odisha.

Dense fog is likely in coastal and adjoining districts from February 19.

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BHUBANESWAR, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2019; PAGES 8+8 ₹3

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USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Modi yet to show his 'dream' hand

Last week Parliament felt like the final days of the school academic year. Everyone, but particularly the Lok Sabha members, was in both a reflective and celebratory mode. Celebratory because the assigned work was finally over – at least for the time being – and reflective because there was no knowing whether they would pass or fail the re-election test in the summer. The Rajya Sabha was unendingly disrupted and did no work because Opposition parties competed among themselves to demonstrate their anti-Government credentials and stall all pending legislation. But even here, there was a note of both concern and anticipation. No one was really sure of the future.

In 2014, when the old Lok Sabha finished its term, there was certainty on one count: that the incumbent Government wasn't coming back to power. Most people expected a fractured Parliament with the BJP having an edge but only the most optimistic expected it to muster a majority on its own.

This week the mood is both similar and different. Conventional wisdom – and the extra bounce in the steps of Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party MPs – suggest that it is going to be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the BJP to replicate its spectacular 2014 showing in Uttar Pradesh, when it won 73 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats. The SP-BSP members and their Trinamool Congress hangers-on believe that the BJP will be completely decimated in India's largest State. The Congress, on the other hand, seems a little more circumspect. It is confident it will do well and much better than 2014 but there is no certainty about numbers. The euphoria over Priyanka Gandhi performing an electoral miracle isn't reflected in the conversations in Central Hall.

It is the BJP mood that is more interesting. If the media is to be believed, the ruling party is on the backfoot and agonising over the imminent loss of power at the Centre. Certainly there are MPs who are worried but the concern is less over the election outcome than with the prospects of securing re-nomination by the party. In 2014, the BJP was a bit casual with giving tickets in seats it considered unwinnable. This was particularly so in Uttar Pradesh. However, thanks to the fierce Modi wave, nearly all of them won. Some have turned out to be good constituency MPs but others have underperformed. This time, to minimise the effects of local anti-incumbency, the party may select new candidates. Predictably, that worries many sitting MPs, although they try and put up a brave face and appear unconcerned.

However, there is one aspect of the Modi messaging that still seems deficient. It is still not entirely clear what hope he is holding out for the future. A successful campaign has to sell a big dream — sometimes even a catchphrase such as achchhe din. As of now the idea of New India isn't being backed up by anything more than a commitment to build on the foundations created over the past five years. Maybe this is something the PM is keeping till the time the formal electioneering begins but this is a gap in the campaign that has to be rapidly addressed

Apart from the uncertainties over ticket distribution, the BJP morale seems quite upbeat. Over the past month, the Prime Minister has been travelling incessantly and speaking at public meetings all over the country. At almost each of his meetings, the crowds have been spectacular and the numbers seem to be swelling each week. Maybe the fact of Narendra Modi drawing big crowds isn't news any longer. However, those who monitor the meetings – and live internet feeds make the task easier – will see that the PM's connect with his audience is immediate and real. His appeal seems intact and, unlike 2014 when he was still an unknown quantity in large parts of India, almost every Indian has a view of him.

So far Modi has been quite unsparing in his attacks on the very idea of the mahagathbandhan and the leadership of the Congress. His assault on the entitlement culture of the dynastic parties is savage. In places such as West Bengal, he has struck a chord by targeting overbearing Chief Ministers such as Mamata Banerjee. Modi has also paid emphasis on his Government's achievements, particularly its record in creating the architecture of a welfare state. Women are being specially targeted by Modi using swachchh Bharat and the cooking gas schemes as ammunition. Anti-corruption is also one of Modi's battering rams against leaders with a reputation for being casual over corrupt practices.

However, there is one aspect of the Modi messaging that still seems deficient. It is still not entirely clear what hope he is holding out for the future. A successful campaign has to sell a big dream – sometimes even a catchphrase such as achchhe din. As of now the idea of New India isn't being backed up by anything more than a commitment to build on the foundations created over the past five years. Maybe this is something the PM is keeping till the time the formal electioneering begins but this is a gap in the campaign that has to be rapidly addressed.

As of now, I see no reason to revise my belief that this is going to be a presidential election.

Pak gives 26/11 brains free access to varsities

LeT no. 2 allowed to deliver anti-India sermons, 'virtues' of jehad at educational institutions

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

In what could further vitiate the security environment in the Indian subcontinent, the Imran Khan-led Pakistan Government has allowed open access to Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) Number 2 and 26/11 conspirator Abdul Rahman Makki in the universities and schools as a motivational speaker to deliver anti-India sermons and 'virtues' of jehad and radicalise the youngsters at a young age. The radicalisation and recruitment of highly educated youths will significantly enhance the strike capabilities of the Pakistani terror groups.

Agencies here apprehend the move will lead to creation of a "network of terror facilitators" in the region for furthering the larger anti-India terror agenda.

In addition to the latest tactic of the Pakistan Government-Army combine, the duplicity of the US that hosts common servers for the Pakistan Army and its terror proxies like LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) has further compounded the security situation in the country. The common server of the Pakistan army and its terror affiliates are a clear link between the two. The US has only done lip service towards the Pakistan-directed terror in India but has always been comforting Islamabad by reiterating that it is a permanent ally. The US has also failed in conducting drone strikes against the LeT and JeM masterminds who have a free run in furthering terror in the region especially against India. Due to the terror hits by the Pakistani jehadi groups, India is one of the top 10 terrorism-hit countries in the world.

A large number of people attend the funeral procession of CRPF jawan Ramesh Yadav, who lost his life in Thursday's Pulwama terror attack, at Masaurhi in Varanasi on Saturday PTI

"The idea of allowing access to Makki to the technical institutes and other educational facilities is to catch them young. Pakistan Army's terror proxies like the LeT and JeM will get a pool of educated students and engineers for inflicting more and more terror hits with an ever evolving sophistication," a senior security official said.

JeM gains ground in South Kashmir

Security forces yet to nab five who sneaked in from Pakistan

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), the Pakistan-based terrorist group which owned responsibility for the attack on the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy in Kashmir on Thursday, has grown in strength in the last few months and at least 40 of its operatives are now active in South and Central Kashmir.

Moreover, out of 11 foreign terrorists neutralised by the security forces in last two months, nine of them were from JeM.

Besides these alarming trends, the security forces are also worried as they have so far not been able to nab at least four to five suspected JeM who sneaked from Pakistan into Jammu region almost a fortnight back.

Some blood trails were found in the fields in Samba region then and a manhunt was launched but so far no luck for the joint team of Border Security Force (BSF), Army and the local police.

Giving these details, officials in the security establishment said on Saturday this is very alarming as JeM terrorists are infiltrating into the Kashmir Valley through Jammu region considered to a "non-traditional" route in terms of infiltration. After sneaking in from the heavily guarded Jammu region, they travel through the 300-km long national highway till Jawahar tunnel in Banihal, the gateway to the Valley, undetected as the vehicles are rarely checked while going from Jammu to Srinagar.

Even as the security forces have managed to neutralise at least 11 foreign terrorists including nine of JeM, alarm bells have started ringing as three encounters near Srinagar in late last month, in which three JeM ultras were killed, took place after they managed to reach the outskirts of the capital by road from Jammu undetected.

CM hikes aid for kin of each martyr to ₹25L

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday announced the enhancement of ex-gratia for next of the kin of Odia CRPF Jawans Prasanna Kumar Sahoo and Manoj Kumar Behera.

They will be given ex-gratia of Rs 25 lakh each instead of Rs 10 lakh, announced by Patnaik on Friday.

The Chief Minister also said the State Government would bear the costs of education of their children.

Besides, he announced that the schools in the native villages of both the Jawans would be named after them.

Earlier in the day, the villagers of Ratanpur under Niali block of Cuttack district had expressed discontentment over the announcement of Rs 10-lakh compensation by the State Government to the kin of Manoj Behera, the lone bread earner in his house.

"The compensation by the Odisha Government is much less than what has been announced by other State Governments. The UP Government has announced Rs 25 lakh, Maharashtra Rs 50 lakh and Assam Rs 20 lakh for their martyrs. As Manoj was the sole bread earner of his family, the Odisha Government should take the responsibility of his family and provide employment to one of his family members apart from increasing the compensation," a relative of Manoj Behera said.

Guard of honour to 2 martyrs at airport

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The bodies of the two Odia CRPF jawans, Havildar Prasanna Kumar Sahoo and Constable Manoj Kumar Behera, who were martyred in the terrorist attack in Pulwama of Jammu and Kashmir, reached here by a special plane on Saturday.

A guard of honour was given to the paratroopers after their bodies reached the Biju Patnaik International Airport here. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Jual Oram, members of the State Cabinet, several leaders cutting across party lines along with other dignitaries, senior officials of the Odisha police and CRPF paid their tributes to the martyrs at the airport.

Later, the bodies were sent to their native villages for cremation with full State honours.

IPS officers donate day's salary to Jawans' kin

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The IPS Officers' Association stepped forward to show solidarity with the two martyred Odia CRPF Jawans' families shortly after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik enhanced the ex-gratia for them on Saturday.

The association, which condemned the Pulwama terrorist attack, expressed deep sorrow and anguish over it and was certain that resolute action would be taken against the perpetrators of the heinous crime.

A resolution was passed in which the association pledged that its members would contribute a day's salary to the welfare fund of the Directorate General of the CRPF as financial aid to the bereaved families of the martyrs.

CAPSULE

27 MORE HOTELS TO SHUT IN NATIONAL CAPITAL
New Delhi: Intensifying its drive against errant hotels, the Delhi Government has cancelled fire safety certificates of 27 establishments for various violations in Karol Bagh area, where a massive fire at a hotel killed 17 people earlier this week.

VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS RUNS INTO TROUBLE
New Delhi: A day after it was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's first semi-high speed train, Vande Bharat Express, ran into some trouble twice on Saturday while returning to Delhi from Varanasi.

DELHI-NCR TO WITNESS RAIN THIS WEEKEND: IMD
New Delhi: New Delhi and adjoining areas may witness more rain in coming week as Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday forecast light, moderate rain for February (Feb) 19 to Feb 22. However, for Sunday, Met predicted hazy like weather due to moderate fog. It was a cloudy and foggy Saturday morning in the national Capital.

Parties put up united face to fight terror

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All political parties on Saturday spoke in one voice and backed the Government in its efforts to fight terrorism following Thursday's deadly attack at the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy at Pulwama in Kashmir and expressed their solidarity with the security forces.

The resolution adopted at the all-party meeting here, however, did not name Pakistan but asserted that India has been facing the menace of the cross-border terrorism which of late, it added, is being actively encouraged by forces from the neighbouring country.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and CPI leader D Raja after attend an all-party meeting on the Pulwama terror attack, at Parliament Library building, in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

Curfew continues on Day 2

PNS ■ JAMMU

Tension prevailed in Jammu for the second consecutive day as district authorities decided against relaxing curfew restrictions following fresh unrest in parts of Jammu. Mobile internet services remained disrupted while normal life was hit hard in the entire region.

Army columns remained deployed in sensitive areas of the city even as small groups of protesters took out marches holding tricolor in their hands and shouted anti-Pakistan slogans.

Tension prevailed in Janipur area where large numbers of State Government employees were accommodated inside Government quarters.

According to reports, a small group of miscreants converged outside the Government apartments after pro-Pakistan slogans were raised by inhabitants living in the Government quarters. Senior district officers along with police officers visited the area to contain the law and order situation.

Army soldiers conduct a flag march during the second day of curfew in Jammu on Saturday AP

Major martyred, was to get married on March 7

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

An Indian army Major who attained martyrdom in an IED blast along the Line of Control (LoC) in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district on Saturday was to get married next month on March 7 in Dehradun.

According to reports, the army officer, hailing from Corps of Engineer, was reportedly defusing an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) when it went off.

8 yrs on, Digha-Jaleswar rly project yet to take off

No reference in this year's Budget stokes resentment in Odisha, WB

UBACHAK MOHANTY ■ BALESWAR

Uncertainty looms large over the fate of much-hyped Digha-Jaleswar railway project, involving the States of Odisha and West Bengal. The 41-km broad gauge line project, including 7 km in Bengal and 34 km in Odisha, is virtually in cold storage even after eight years of Centre's nod.

The budget allocations have been inconsistent and there are no serious efforts by the South Eastern Railway (SER) to take up the project, it is widely alleged.

More pathetically, there no mention of the project in this year's Railway Budget, although the issue has been raised by Baleswar MP RK Jena and Bhograi MLA and HE Minister Ananta Das time and again to expedite the project which would not only give a fillip to the tourism to both the States but would boost the economic activities of the region.

In 2004 efforts were made to construct a rail line between two States which would facilitate tourists to visit exotic nature bestowed vast beaches like the Digha beach of Bengal and Talseri and Udaipur beaches of Bhograi block of Odisha.

The pilgrims would find opportunity to visit famous Shaivite centres at Chandaneswar and Bhusundesawr (considered to be tallest Shiva Linga of Asia) . With sustained persuasions by the State Governments of both Odisha and Bengal, the Centre after according proposal had initially made a budgetary provision of ₹2 crore in 2010-2011 fiscal year. A survey was also conducted in the year by an expert team.

In the subsequent fiscal years , 2011-12 ,2012-13, 2014-15 and 2015-16, while ₹150 crore, ₹2 crore, ₹5 crore and ₹2 crore were earmarked by the Railways respectively, added sources.

Even after eight years of beginning of the project, the progress is dismal for reasons best known to the railway authorities. Bhograi is not only a tourist spot with vast beach stretches with a serene ambiance, like Udaipur and Talseri, the area is a major producer of paddy and high quality betel vines.

Everyday hundreds of tons of betel vine, produced from this soil , are exported to different destinations across India because of its durability and unmatched taste. The rail lines Digha-Jaleswar would be a major factor for bringing in progressive changes in life and livelihood of the people of north Baleswar.

7,500 RARE ITEMS IN KITTY

B'garh lad aims to establish museum in W Odisha

Discusses plan with Guv

RAKESH K JOSHI ■ BARGARH

Satya Ketan Mohanty (40) has a dream to establish a museum in western Odisha. He started collecting the antique artifacts at the age of 17 years and has amassed 7,500 rare items in the last 23 years at his residence at Bargarh.

His 7,500 rare antique items are divided in to 14 sections. He has collection of gold coins from the Ganga dynasty, coins of the Kushna dynasty, more than 100 and above fossils, rare seashells, rare musical instruments, arms and weapons, ornaments of tribal people, more than 350 rocks and minerals, more than 2,000 types of postage stamps, old envelopes, letters, palm leaf manuscripts, around 700 types of herbal dry products, old medal and mementos along with items that go back to the Buddhist period.

In the year 2013, he had the largest collection Indian coins in the world. He has a Guinness World Record to prove it. In 2014, he had one of the largest collections of seashells in the country. Many educational institutions of western Odisha have invited him to display his collection to their students.

He said that he has been spending his total income in collecting the items. While his house is a veritable museum, he has asserted that he will establish a museum in western Odisha in near future on his own which will help the young generation to know about the rich history and culture.

Recently, Mohanty met Governor Dr Ganeshi Lal and discussed about his plan.

Many illegal structures razed

To widen VSS Nagar-Sainik School road

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Many illegal structures and a long boundary wall were demolished near the Prabhuji English Medium School in the VSS Nagar area and near the Sainik School back gate for widening of roads.

The enforcement squad comprising officers and staff of BDA, BMC, R and B and GA Department undertook the evection drive.

Six tin shed shops, six AC shed shops, six tiffin stalls, 11 tin shed houses, five bamboo/ polythene shed shops, seven cabins, six sign boards, 26 extension parts of shops and a 1,190-ft- long boundary wall wear demolished.

BDA Enforcement Officer-II Pramod Kumar Patro, Liaison Officer, Subhransu Sekhar Mohanty and R and B Assistant Engineer, Ramesh Chandra Sahu and Ramakanta Mishra were present.

Brahmapur pays tributes to martyrs

Police, scribes, political leaders, students hold candle rally

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Police personnel, journalists, political leaders, intellectuals, members of various organisations and students held a candlelight rally here on Friday evening and paid tributes to the martyred CRPF Jawans who were killed in terrorists' attack in Pulwama district in Jamu and Kashmir on Thursday.

Participating in the rally, Ex-Servicemen condemned the terrorist's attack on the CRPF cavalcade and said the attackers should be given a befitting reply.

The Brahmapur Press Club held a condolence meeting where SP Pinak Mishra, Additional Vigilance SP Santanu Padhy, SDPO Bishnu Prasad Pati, DSP Ajay Mishra, Bad Kisore Mishra and journalists paid tributes to the martyrs.

In another rally, MLA RC Chyaupatnaik, BDA Chairman Subash Moharana, BJP State president Kahnu Charanpo Pat, Congress district president Dr Trinath Behera, Dipak Patnaik and Pitabas Panda participated and paid tributes.

Besides, Manav Adhikar Surakshya Manch, Ganajm Zilla Bikash Manch, Soundhik Samaj, Teachers-Employees' Association, Marwadi Mahila Samiti, Forum for Ganjam, Roland Pharmacy College and various educational institutes held condolence meetings and paid tributes to martyrs.

Khordha scribes, lawyers pay tributes to martyrs

PNS ■ KHORDHA

The Utkal Journalists' Association, Khordha unit and the Khordha District Lawyers' Association held condolence meetings and paid tributes to the martyred CRPF Jawans, who were killed in terrorists' attack in Jamu and Kashmir on Thursday evening.

The UJA members condemned the attack on the Jawans and held a two-minute silence for the departed souls. UJA district president Prabhat Kumar Mishra, secretary Satyanarayan Paikaray, treasurer Sarat Barik, coordinator Santosh Kumar Choudhury, chief advisor Krushna Chandra Dash, Nayarayan Mohanty, Prasann Swain, Manas Panigrahi, Shyam Sundar Jena and Pratap Das were present.

Similarly, condemning the attack, lawyers sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister to deal with such ghastly acts strongly. Among others, association president Prabhat Kumar Dash, State Lawyers' Association president Bichitra Kumar Badajena, former district president Sisir Kumar Parida, Pranakrushna Dalbehera, Nrusingha Charan Mishra, Sarbeswar Sahoo, Prafulla Kumar Das, Bimal Kishore Das and Sanjay Kumar Satpathy were present.

Grandparents' Day held at DAV P'put

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The children of LKG to Class -II of DAV Public School, Pokhariput, celebrated Grandparents' Day christened as 'Dharohar-3' on its campus on Saturday filled with many colourful presentations where more than 200 grandparents were present.

The event was inaugurated by chief guest SMC chairman Madan MohanPanda. There were many game shows, painting and flower arrangementcompetitions for the grandparents imbued with fun and frolic. Thewinners were awarded at the end.

Speaking on the occasion, school-principal Dr Sujata emphasised on the role of grandparents ininculcating ethical values in the young minds.

"I am happy that my grandchild is learning to value us through thisprogramme. This kind of events should be organized in all schools tobridge the generation gap," said a guest. The celebration wasorganised under the guidance of supervisor of kids wing of the schoolSanghamitra Satapathy. All the supervisors and teachers were present.

Smart City portal bags Geospatial Award

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) bagged the "Geospatial Application Excellence Award" for its web-GIS portal "BhubaneswarOne.in" on the occasion of Geo-Smart India 2019 event held in New Delhi recently.

Minister of State for External Affairs General Vijay Kumar Singh conferred BSCL the prestigious award. BSCL General Manager Saroj Kumar Swain received the award.

The Bhubaneswar One.in was launched by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in May 2016 as the first project which was implemented under the Bhubaneswar Smart City Project. Initiated by Geographical Information System (GIS) Branch of Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) in collaboration with BSCL, the project was developed by ESRI India, which is the pioneer in development of geo-spatial software and application solutions. The ESRI India has developed BhubaneswarOne.in on ArcGIS platform.

Puri 'Voters Sahayata Kendra' opened

PNS ■ PURI

Election Commissioner of India Ashok Lavasa inaugurated a 'Voters' Sahayata Kendra' inside the Puri collectorate on Friday.

The Kendra will operate regularly here till the end of elections in May this year. Lavas in a meeting of officers of various departments, besides the election officials, took stock of the preparedness ahead of the polls.

He reviewed the progress made in preparation a final voters' lists and thoroughly checked the EVM and V-Pat machines. He described the officials about operations of voting machines for an error-free voting. He said that the voters those who have problem in enrolment in the list, their identity cards and corrections of name and address can be solved in the Sahayat Kendra. For any assistance, the voters can dial 1950 toll free to sort out their problems.

Among others, State Chief Electoral Officer Surendra Kumar, Puri Collector Jyotiprakash Dash, ADM Binaya Kumar Dash and Sub-Collector Bhaba Charan Sahu were present.

Condolence held for martyrs in J'suguda

PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA

Jharsuguda Press Club, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, JCI and seven other organisations held a condolence meeting before the Jharsuguda police station and took out a rally in which the Pakistani flag and an effigy of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan were burnt.

Jharsuguda PS IIC Savitri Bal suggested that a fund be raised to support the families of the two Odia martyrs.

Press Club members demanded that Pakistan be given a strong response; and this time, we shouldn't respond with just a surgical strike but a full-blow war.

The gathering comprising hundreds of citizens and activists observed a two-minute silence for the martyrs. Senior Citizen Forum, Chamber of Commerce, Merchants' Association and civil society participated in the event.

Demo held before B'garh DM for land

PNS ■ BARGARH

Over 5,000 landless men and women from different parts of Bargarh district staged a demonstration on Friday in front of the district Collector, pressing for their demand of land.

The dharna was led by Jai Koshal Bhumihina Sangram Samiti's (JKBSS) conveners Ramesh Mohapatra, Bhabani Sahu, Pabitra Deheri and Meriyam Barla. They submitted a memo to the Chief Minister through the Collector, Bargarh.

They alleged that by denying land to the landless, the Government was flouting the Constitutional provisions and laws. They threatened to boycott coming elections if the Government continues to ignore them.

Tribute to martyr Manoj in Nimapara

PNS ■ NIMAPARA

Tribute was paid to martyr Manoj Behera, a former NCC cadet of the Nimapara College and all other Phulwama martyrs. In Nimapara College, a condolence meeting was held and hundreds of students took out a candlelight march. Saraswati Sishu Mandir students and teachers also joined the rally towards the Saheed statue at the Nimapara police station front. Local MLA Samir Ranjan Dash, college Principal Raj Kishore Rath and Lecturerers Pranab Swain, Jagat Prasad Sabat, Rabindra Padhi and Atul Kumar Pradhan, NCC trainer Subrat Mohanty, yoga guru Gaurang Sahu, Jibananda Mohapatra, Basant Patra, among others, were present at the Saheed statue. They condemned Pakistan for encouraging terrorism.

NDRF, ODRAF to hold joint exercise

NDRF DG meets Odisha DGP

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

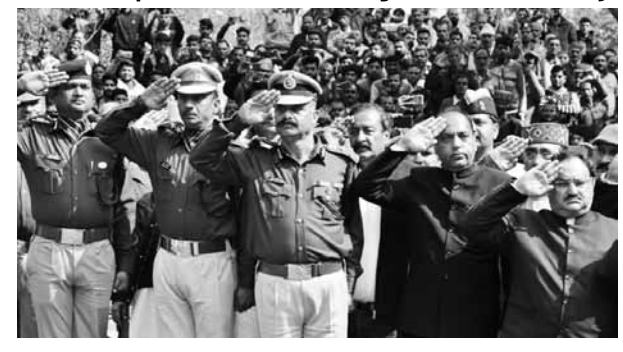
In an effort to ensure effective tackling of natural calamities, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) would conduct a joint exercise before the rainy season, informed Odia IPS officer and NDRF DG Satya Narayan Pradhan on Saturday.

After a courtesy meeting with DGP Dr RP Sharma, Pradhan said the joint exercise would be useful in tackling natural as well as man-made disasters. "ODRAF has expertise in some areas like tackling floods and cyclone (aquatic disasters) and NDRF in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear and as first medical responders. If we can combine our strengths, it can be helpful in handling disasters in a more efficient manner," said Pradhan. Senior officials said the mock drills are likely to be conducted in March.

"As per the disaster mapping done in the last 10 years, there has been a rise in man-made disasters. Be it the fire services, ODRAF or the NDRF, we all have to work together in times of emergency," Pradhan added.

HP CM pays last respect to martyr Tilak Raj

PNS ■ SHIMLA



With hands folded in reverence and head bowed in respect, Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday led the State in paying last respect to Tilak Raj a CRPF personnel martyred in the Pulwama terror attack.

Thakur visited the native village Jandro in Jawali area of Kangra district and prayed his last respect to the martyr Tilak Raj by laying wreath on the coffin.

Forty CRPF personnel were killed and five injured in one of the deadliest terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, when Jaish-e-Mohammed suicide bomber rammed a vehicle carrying explosives into their vehicle in Pulwama district.

Consoling the martyr's father Layak Ram, mother, wife and other family members, the Chief Minister said that martyr Tilak Raj laid down his life for the nation's sake and in this hour of grief, the State government was solidly standing with the family. We will give whatever assistance they require, he said.

The Chief Minister took part in the last journey of the martyr which was held with full state honours at his native village.

Villagers kept chanting "Shaheed Tilak Raj Amar Rahe" and also raised anti-Pakistan slogan.

Thakur said that apart from a financial assistance of Rs. 20 lakh to the kin of the martyr the State government would provide all possible assistance to the family and government employment to the wife of the martyr.

Rajnath reviews country's security

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

PULWAMA TERROR ATTACK

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Narendra Singh Tomar during an all-party meeting on the Pulwama terror attack at Parliament House in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday reviewed the security situation in the country, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, in the wake of Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF jawans killed when an explosive-laden SUV hit the paramilitary convoy two days back.

During the meeting, top security officials briefed the Home Minister about the prevailing situation in the country. The officials gave a detailed account of the security situation, including along the Indo-Pak border to Singh, Home Ministry officials said.

Amid inputs of Pakistani terror groups further exploiting the situation in the backdrop of Pulwama attack, the meeting took stock of the security measures in place to foil any design of the Pak-based terrorist groups to disturb peace in Jammu and Kashmir as well as in hinterland, an official said.

The Home Minister directed the officials to ensure that all possible steps are taken to hunt down terrorists, especially the high value ones currently operating in Kashmir valley, another official said.

Those who attended the meeting include National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba and Director of Intelligence Bureau Rajiv Jain among others.

Forty CRPF personnel were killed and five injured in one of the deadliest terror attacks in Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday, by a Jaish-e-Mohammed suicide bomber in South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Massive protests and candlelight marches were held on Friday in different parts of the country against the attack and curfew was imposed in Jammu city following violence during demonstrations there.

Meanwhile, security of Kashmiri separatists having suspected links with Pakistani intelligence agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) will be withdrawn after an assessment by the Jammu and Kashmir administration, another official said.

'Some elements in Jammu & Kashmir have links with the ISI and the terrorist organisations. Their security should be reviewed'

The security review of all such individuals linked to the ISI will be carried out following a suggestion given by the Central government, he said. The Home Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Government will conduct the review of the security of separatists and will take a decision on withdrawal of protection, an Intelligence official said.

The State Government will do the security review of the separatists as most of them have security being provided by the Jammu & Kashmir Police. The separatists have a major role in vitiating the security environment through their vitriolic speeches and providing shelter to the jeahdis besides channelising terror funds, sources said, adding the NIA is probing terror funding cases against them.

Addressing a Press conference in Srinagar on Friday, Singh had said the security given to people getting funds from Pakistan and ISI should be reviewed.

"Some elements in Jammu & Kashmir have links with the ISI and the terrorist organisations. Their security should be reviewed," he had said.

Forty CRPF personnel were killed and five others injured on Thursday in an audacious terror strike in Jammu & Kashmir when a Jaish-e-Mohammad suicide bomber rammed a vehicle carrying explosives/inflammable gas into buses of a paramilitary convoy in Pulwama district. The ill-fated bus was part of a convoy of 78 vehicles carrying the CRPF personnel from Jammu to Srinagar.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Friday said those responsible for the attack will pay "a very heavy price" and security forces will be given a free hand to deal with the terrorists.

In a hard-hitting speech, Modi said the "blood of the people is boiling and forces behind the act of terrorism will be definitely punished".

High Court stays CIC order to HRD Ministry to revise Bal Shree scheme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

'lack of clarity, transparency and decision making at the district, state and national level which requires a complete revamp and reformulation of the policy'

The Delhi High Court has put on hold the operation of a Central Information Commission order directing the HRD Ministry to re-formulate the Bal Shree scheme for selecting meritorious children from among students who are members of Bal Bhavans in the country.

Justice A K Bhambani stayed the CIC November 19, 2018, direction to the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry till the next date of hearing on May 27.

The court also issued notices to the RTI applicant on whose plea the commission had passed the order and the National Bal Bhavan, which is an autonomous body under the HRD Ministry.

The order came on the ministry's plea, filed through advocate Rahul Sharma, challenging the commission's decision on the ground that the direction was issued without hearing the Government.

The Ministry, also represented by advocate C K Bhatt, contended that the commission could not have issued any direction to re-formulate the scheme when the government was not even a party before the Central Information Commission (CIC).

The commission had directed the ministry to revise the scheme and place it on its website within 60 days of receipt of the order.

The CIC was of the view that there was a "lack of clarity, transparency and decision making at the district, state and national level which requires a complete revamp and reformulation of the policy".

The commission's directions had come while hearing a parent's plea seeking information regarding the Bal Shree awards scheme and the process of conducting district-level selections for the scheme by the Hyderabad district.

According to the HRD ministry's plea, Jawaharlal Nehru in 1956 "founded the Bal Bhavan and the activities started in a tin shed at Turkman Gate, Delhi giving a start to a nationwide mission for creative enhancement of children through playing and doing different activities in a child friendly environment".

MHA asks all States to ensure safety of people from J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

'The villagers have been asked to vacate Kashmiri students from the rented accommodation... In case it is not done the person in whose residence such students are living will be considered as a traitor'

In the wake of isolated reports from some part of the country that students and people from Jammu & Kashmir experiencing threats and intimidation after Pulwama terror attack, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Saturday asked all the States and Union Territories to take necessary steps to ensure their safety and security.

The advisory came hours after Home Minister Rajnath Singh assured an all party meeting of doing the needful for the protection of the Kashmiri students and people who were allegedly threatened after the terrorist attack in Pulwama in which 40 CRPF jawans were killed. The advisory directs all Chief Secretaries and Director General of Police (DGP) of states and Union Territories(UT) to maintain law and order situation.

A Home Ministry official said there have been some reports of students and other residents of Jammu and Kashmir experiencing threats and intimidation. "Therefore, the Home Ministry today issued an advisory to all states/UTs to take necessary measures to ensure their safety and security," the official said.

According to reports, some students from Kashmir putting up in rented accommodations or hostels in Dehradun and Haryana have asked by landlords and administrators respectively to vacate. They have alleged of being harassed after the Pulwama attack. After the reports, authorities from Jammu and Kashmir Police have spoken to the authorities concerned in Dehradun Police. Aapolice spokesperson said in Dehradun, that they are in touch with student representatives from Jammu and Kashmir.

In another video that has surfaced on social media, Mulana village sarpanch Naresh Rana of Ambala district in Haryana could be heard asking villagers to evict Kashmiri tenants. The village head alleged that some Kashmiri students were involved in "suspicious activities". "The villagers have been asked to vacate Kashmiri students from the rented accommodation... In case it is not done the person in whose residence such students are living will be considered as a traitor," the sarpanch is heard saying.

According to reports, half a dozen Kashmiri students have been shifted to the hostel of the Maharishi Markandeshwar Mulana University after the purported video appeared. Vishal Garg, one of the trustees of the university, located in Mulana said a few Kashmiri students of the university had requested him to provide them accommodation in the hostel. They had been provided proper accommodation, he said.

Meanwhile, Superintendent of Police Astha Modi said the matter was being investigated. Around 1,200 Kashmiri students have been studying in various educational institutions in Ambala district while around 120 of them studying in MM Mulana University.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police said anyone from the state who is living outside and needs assistance can contact them. People on social media also posted several helpline numbers (0194-2451515).

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also requested the centre to ensure security for people from the state who are living across the country. Abdullah also met Home Minister Rajnath Singh and apprised the reports of Kashmiri students being harassed and threatened and urged to appoint a nodal officer for the same. "Just met Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh Sb to personally pay my condolences for the tragic deaths in Pulwama on Thursday. I requested him to take all steps necessary to ensure Jammu remains calm (sic),"Abdullah tweeted after his 30 minutes meeting with the Home Minister.

Another former chief minister, Mehbooba Mufti, asked the Home Minister to take steps to prevent intimidation and harassment of students from Jammu and Kashmir.

IAF carries out mega exercise at Pokhran

PTI ■ POKHRAN (RAJASTHAN)

The Indian Air Force Saturday carried out a mega exercise here involving almost all variants of its fighter jets and attack helicopters, in a fire power demonstration near the border with Pakistan.

The exercise came two days after 40 CRPF personnel were killed in a suicide attack in Kashmir's Pulwama by Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said security forces have been given full freedom to retaliate against the attack.

In the Vayu Shakti exercise, the IAF showcased fire power capability of indigenously-developed platforms like Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and efficacy of the Akash surface-to-air missile and Astra air-to-air missile.

Fighter jets and helicopters hit targets during day and night. It was for the first time, the ALH and the Akash were deployed in a military exercise.

The IAF also deployed the upgraded MiG-29 fighter jet in an air-to-ground role during the exercise. A total of 137 aircraft including Su-30s, Mirage 2000s, Jaguars, Mig-21 Bison, Mig-27, Mig-29, IL78, Hercules, AN-32 aircraft participated.

Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat, defence attaches of several countries and top officials of defence ministry also witnessed the exercise. Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, who is an honorary group captain of the IAF, was also present.

Smoke rises from an explosion during an air exercise named 'Vayu Shakti-2019' at Pokhran in Rajasthan on Saturday AP

Didi takes out candle march against Pulwama attack

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

India was united at its hour of grief, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said at the end of a long candle-light march organized by the ruling Trinamool Congresss denouncing the terrorist attack on CRPF personnel in Pulwama in J&K.

Banerjee who led hundreds of her followers from Hazra crossing in South Kolkata to the Mahatma Gandhi statue said terror had no religion and that "we are against any kind of terrorism in any country of the world."

About 44 CRPF jawans were martyred in suicide attack launched by a terrorist of Pakistan-sponsored Jaish-e-Muhammad.

Banerjee said "this is united India," iterating, "we stand united with the families of the CRPF jawans who lost their lives in the line of duty."

Two jawans from Bengal, one from Nadia and the other from East Midnapore martyred in the attack.

A Bevy of TMCF leaders including a large number of women joined Banerjee in the march wearing black badges and covering their faces with black stripes and chanting the slogal\n of "vande mataram."

Banerjee had also asked her party leaders from districts to organize silent marches in the districts and block levels apparently to show solidarity with the families of the martyred jawans.

ED creates STF to probe drug money laundering cases

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Special Task Force (STF) has been created in the ED, The central agency that enforces the PMLA and FEMA laws in the country, to speedily probe money laundering cases emerging from illegal narcotics trade.

Officials said ED Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra has ordered for the creation of the first-ever STF in the agency and it will be headed by a special director-rank officer based at its headquarters in Delhi.

The STF team will comprise of a joint director, deputy directors and others as part of the new setup.

The force will specifically look into past and probable cases of illegal narcotics trade, drug crime syndicates and hawala transactions that have national and international links and such instances will be dealt under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.

The agency estimates that a number of terror financing cases have their roots in the illegal trade of narcotics transport, sale, purchase and smuggling and hence it was decided to work on these cases on priority and with dedicated focus.

The agency over the last one year has also obtained conviction in at least two such PMLA cases which were registered by it after taking cognisance of the predicate offence filed by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) or the police under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The scheme of the anti-money laundering law mandates that the ED cannot independently file a criminal complaint under the PMLA but has to base its FIR on a predicate offence booked by any another law enforcement agency under the IPC or other laws.

All the past cases registered under this category (narcotics and drugs) and those to be taken up in the future will be dealt by the new STF which will have authority to conduct pan-India action, by taking assistance from Enforcement Directorate's zonal and regional offices across the country.

They said the ED is working on over two dozen such cases at present.

The central agency, that functions under the Union Finance Ministry, is empowered to enforce the PMLA and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) in the country.

Western disturbances to impact North-West till month end

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted western disturbances will continue to impact the hills and plains of North-West India right until the end of the month. The continued passage of these disturbances will result in precipitation over hills of North-West India and adjoining plains on almost all days into the last week of the month (February 22-28).

Western disturbance activity has been known to peak in late winter (February). Studies have shown that the western disturbances are more likely to occur during the winter than other months.

February witnessed third western disturbance this year till date. One is expected on Sunday.

These rains will be harmful for the Rabi crop. Hailstorm activity may bring quite loss for the farmers.

"Intense' disturbance is expected to check into the Western Himalayan region from Sunday and extend associated severe weather over the plains during Tuesday next to Thursday.

The hills of Western Himalayas might experience widespread rain/snow with isolated heavy to very heavy falls during this period. Adjoining plains, Central and East India would also receive rains due to the passage of this system', it said.

According to Skymet, after giving widespread rain and thundershower activities over the eastern regions of India like East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand, the focus has now shifted over to West Bengal and Odisha.

Duo untimely rainfall and hailstorm in the past two weeks this month Moderate and heavy rainfall together with hailstorm experienced in some regions of North India this month left wheat and other crops partly damaged even as the rabi planting data released by the Agriculture Ministry indicated a shortfall of four per cent in area as compared to the corresponding week last year. As against 643.6 lakh hectares (lh) planted in the same week previous year, the area covered during the current rabi season stood at 617.8 lh,.

According to Punjab Government, the State experienced widespread moderate to heavy rainfall along with storm and some districts such as Fatehgarh Sahib, Hoshiyarpur, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Patiala, Ropar and Ferozpur reported light hailstorm that damaged some area of wheat, sarson, vegetables and rabi fodder in these districts.

Nearly 10 per cent drop in gram cultivation, reported mainly from Maharashtra, which is hit by a major drought, has affected the overall pulses cultivation, which came to 156.3 lh, nearly six per cent lower than 166 lh in the corresponding week last year.

Winter rice, on the other hand, was down by 14 per cent mainly because of the subdued planting in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

The area covered under winter rice till this week was less than 34 lh as compared to 39.64 lh in the same week last year.

Currently, El Nino neutral conditions are prevailing over equatorial Pacific Ocean and the latest Monsoon Mission Climate Forecast System (MMCFS) output indicates that weak El Niño conditions are likely to develop in the coming months and continue for a short period.

Information Technology Development Agency (I.T.D.A.)
(Department of IT, Government of Uttarakhand)
IT Bhawan, Plot No. IT-07, IT Park, Sahashradhara Road, Dehradun - 248001
Ph: 0135-2608330, email:- diritda-uk@nic.in

Tender Notice No.: 12/ITDA-468/Housekeeping/2018-2019 Dated: 17/02/2019

ETender for Housekeeping Services at IT Bhawan, Sahastradhara Road, IT Park, Dehradun

RFP (Request for Proposal) is being issued by ITDA, Department of IT, Uttarakhand to the firms meeting the qualification criteria, for providing Housekeeping services in IT Bhawan, IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun. The tender document can be downloaded from **www.uktenders.gov.in** from 17/02/2019. The last dale for submission of bid is 06/03/19 upto 1400 hrs. The tender document fee of Rs 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) (non-refundable) through demand draft/Banker's Cheque favouring "Director, ITDA" payable at Dehradun should be submitted along with the Bid. The parties willing to participate in the bidding will have to apply through the Electronic Tendering Procedure (e-Tendering) as per the guidelines issued by Government of Uttarakhand available on the above mentioned web site_under the link "Bidders Manual Kit".
The Director, ITDA reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason.
Ref: 1401/ITDA-468(1)/2019 Date: 16/02/2019 **DIRECTOR**

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WEST)-II
D-BLOCK MOTI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110015

SHORT PRESS NIT NO:64 /WEST-II/(2018-19)

S. NO.	Name of Work	TENDER COST	Earnest Money	Tender fee	Date release of tender in e-procurement Solution	Last Date /Time of receipt of tender through e-procurement Solution
1.	Immprovement of sewereage system by replacing of old main peripheral sewer line by 400 MM dia AND 500 MM DIA DWC SN8 pipe from F-Block to Munshi Ram Bagh Ranjeet Nagar in AC-24 Patel Nagar Under EE (West)II. Tender ID: 2019_DJB_168806_1	2757720.00	5600.0.00	500.00	15.02.2019	21.02.2019 upto 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at http://delhi.govtprocurement.com
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/-
Advt.N0.J.S.V...825/2018-19 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WEST)-II

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No.SSA/CW/RBS-MAJULI/2018-19/489/2018/6087 Dated -14/02/2019

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Siksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process for construction of Residential School Building for boys at Majuli block under Majuli District from registered Contractor under A.P.W.D. (building) of Class – I (A,B &C)], Assam having experience of similar nature of works.

To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class- II (minimum) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on–line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5100/- (Rupees Five thousand one hundred) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/- Mission Director,
SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

sunday pioneer
BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 17, 2019

Govt hikes import duty on Pak goods to 200%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

SLAPPING AN IMPORT DUTY OF 200 PER CENT EFFECTIVELY MEANS ALMOST BANNING THE IMPORTS FROM PAKISTAN, OFFICIAL SOURCES SAID

Taking strong economic action against Pakistan following the Pulwama terror attack, India Saturday raised the customs duty to 200 per cent on all goods imported from the neighbouring country, including fresh fruits, cement, petroleum products and mineral ore.

The decision would significantly hit Pakistan's exports to India, which stood at USD 488.5 million (around Rs 3,482.3 crore) in 2017-18 as it would drastically increase the prices of its goods here.

"India has withdrawn MFN (most favoured nation) status to Pakistan after the Pulwama incident. Upon withdrawal, basic customs duty on all goods exported from Pakistan to India has been raised to 200 per cent with immediate effect," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said in a tweet.

The two main items imported from Pakistan are fruits and cement, on which the current customs duty is 30-50 per cent and 7.5 per cent, respectively.

Slapping an import duty of 200 per cent effectively means almost banning the imports from Pakistan, official sources said. India on Friday revoked the MFN status to Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack. The country invoked a security exception clause of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to withdraw this status. Both the countries are member of this organisation.

India can also restrict trade of certain goods and impose port-related restrictions on Pakistani goods.

Items which Pakistan exports to India include fresh fruits, cement, petroleum products, bulk minerals and ores, finished leather, processed minerals, inorganic chemicals, cotton raw, spices, wool, rubber product, alcoholic beverages, medical instruments, marine goods, plastic, dyes and sport goods.

India granted the MFN status to Pakistan way back in 1996, but the neighbouring country had not reciprocated.

Under the MFN pact, a WTO member country is obliged to treat the other trading nation in a non-discriminatory manner, especially with regard to customs duty and other levies.

In 2012, Pakistan had committed to giving the MFN status to India but retracted later due to domestic opposition. Instead of MFN, Pakistan said it was working on granting Non-Discriminatory Market Access (NDMA) status to India but that also was not announced.

Total India-Pakistan trade has increased marginally to USD 2.41 billion in 2017-18 as against USD 2.27 billion in 2016-17. India imported goods worth USD 488.5 million in 2017-18 and exported goods worth USD 1.92 billion.

During April-October 2018-19, India's exports to Pakistan stood at USD 1.18 billion, while imports were USD 338.66 billion.

India mainly exports raw cotton, cotton yarn, chemicals, plastics, manmade yarn and dyes to Pakistan.

At least 40 CRPF personnel were killed and five injured on Thursday in one of the deadliest terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir when a Jaish-e-Mohammad suicide bomber rammed a vehicle carrying over 100 kgs of explosives into their bus in Pulwama district.

Brickwork Ratings lowers rating of Reliance Capital

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group's three listed companies, including Reliance Capital, witnessed a sharp decline last week following sale of pledged shares by L&T Finance and Edelweiss Group

Reliance Capital Saturday said Brickwork Ratings has revised downward the rating to AA for the company's long-term debt programme, market-linked debentures and subordinated debt, primarily due to delay in monetising the non-core investments.

The company remains confident to be able to monetise some of these assets over the next two quarters and bring down the debt significantly, Reliance Capital said in a filing to stock exchanges.

The rating continues to factor RCap's experienced management, well-diversified and growing business profile of companies (subsidiaries and associates) in the financial services segment, it said.

Shares of Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group's three listed companies, including Reliance Capital, witnessed a sharp decline last week following sale of pledged shares by L&T Finance and Edelweiss Group.

Lenders said that Reliance Group failed to make timely payments leading to sale of pledged shares.

In a separate filing, Reliance Infrastructure Saturday said Brickwork Ratings has moved the rating of the company to 'Issuer not Cooperating; BWR C' category due to non-submission of required information for the review.

"BWR has moved the rating of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd to the 'Issuer not Cooperating; BWR C' category from 'BWR C' due to non-submission of required information for the review even after consistent follow up with the company," Reliance Infrastructure said in a BSE filing.

Business Corner

EVENT ON TRENDS IN MATERIALS MANAGEMENT HELD

BMaterials Management is vital to an organisation's growth. Present and future requirements needed for achieving targets should be planned in advance and Materials should be managed to meet the final goals," Shri. AP Panda, CMD SECL said in the Central Regional Conference on the theme of 'Emerging Trends in Materials Management' held at Bilaspur on the 16th February, 2019. The single day conference was organised by Bilaspur Chapter of Indian Institute of Materials Management at the Courtyard Marriott, Bilaspur. Growing economy and rising customer expectations have mandated quality and speed in final delivery of the product. This largely depends on the materials needed for the process of production.

Govt introduces electronic tracking system for Nepal-bound cargos

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

India has introduced a new trans-shipment procedure using an electronic tracking system to facilitate the transport of Nepal-bound transit cargos from Kolkata, a significant move that will simplify border formalities, reduce transit time, ensure safety of the consignments and boost bilateral trade.

The Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS) was introduced by the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs on Friday, according to a statement issued by the Indian embassy in Kathmandu.

This is a significant step towards automating customs transit facilitation between the two countries and renews the commitment of government of India to improve the transit facilities for Nepalese trade, it said.

This modality has been introduced on a pilot basis on rail routes from Kolkata/Haldia to Birgunj via Raxaul LCS and Biratnagar via Bathnaha Railway Station and Jogbani LCS, it added.

"Under the new mechanism, the need for Nepalese traders to seek permission and file transit declaration is done away with," the embassy said.

The ECTS offers the facility of sealing the containers using high security electronic seals, having tracking functionality embedded in them.

This new modality would immensely benefit Nepalese traders as it would ensure safe and secure transit, simplified border formalities, reduction in transit time and transaction cost and improved shipment visibility, the statement said.

ICAI withdraws announcement on auditor rotation after Govt directive

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chartered accountants' apex body ICAI has withdrawn an announcement regarding applicability of rotation of auditors at companies, following a directive from the corporate affairs ministry.

In a rare instance, the ministry told the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to "immediately withdraw" the announcement and also provide reasons for making such an announcement, according to a letter.

On January 29, the ICAI issued a clarification on applicability of rotation of auditors under the Companies Act, 2013.

Under the Act, implemented by the ministry, certain class of companies are required to rotate their auditors and there is also a cooling off period to be followed by the auditors.

In a communication on Friday, the ICAI said announcement regarding clarification on applicability of rotation of auditors issued on January 29 has been withdrawn.

"The Corporate Laws & Corporate Governance Committee had issued the announcement regarding clarification on the applicability of rotation principles on a company as per Section 139 of the Companies Act 2013 where the

PRCI confers excellence award 2019 at Jaipur

PNS ■ JAIPUR

The 13th Global Communication Conclave, organised by PRCI, at Manipal University Auditorium in Jaipur on Saturday, saw the presence of over 200 Media, Pubic Relations, Advertising, HR & Marketing professionals from India and abroad.

Amid such an august gathering, VK Kalra, a public relations and media specialist, who has contributed to the Indian Media Industry for over 30 years, was conferred with the PRCl Signature Award — The Chanakya Award — by the Public Relations Council Of India (PCRI). With a rich experience in the field of Corpoate Communication, including Public Relations, media and advertising, Mr Kalra had made valuable contributions in image building of leading Corporates like BHEL and NTPC -BHEL Power Projects Pvt Ltd (a joint venture of NTPC and BHEL).

Currently, he is voluntarily associated with the Public Relations activities of Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), which is an Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI); a global association of grassroot organisations that seek to promote the values of peace and respect for all people. Mr Kalra draws his inspiration from his mentor, Dr Daisaku Ikeda, president of SGI.

Sunil Arora Chief Election Commissioner, presents the PRCI Excellence Award, 2019, to PR Professional VK Kalra at the PRCI Global Conclave at Manipal University in Jaipur Pioneer photo

Apollo Hospital offers to treat free injured CRPF troopers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leading private hospital Apollo on Friday offered to treat free injured troopers of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) who survived the terror blast near Awantipora in Kashmir on Thursday.

"We offer to treat the CRPF troopers injured in the terror attack till recovery and rehabilitation at any of our hospitals across the country," said Apollo Hospitals Chairman Prathap Reddy in a statement here.

HCSL begins construction of new yard

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Moving ahead with revival plans for the city-based Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Ltd, the Hooghly Cochin Shipyard Limited (HCSL) Saturday kicked-off the construction of a new yard at Nazirgunge dock.

"The ground-breaking ceremony of the construction of the new yard at HCSL was performed by Cochin Shipyard Ltd CMD Madhu S Nair at Nazirgunge dock in the presence of KoPT chairman, Vinit Kumar and deputy chairman of KoPT S Balaji Arunkumar," a statement said.

Tech Mahindra board to meet on Feb 21

New Delhi: IT firm Tech Mahindra on Saturday said its board will meet on February 21 to consider a share buyback proposal. However, the company did not disclose any other details of the proposal.

"...The Board of Directors of the company at their meeting scheduled on Thursday, February 21, 2019 shall inter-alia consider a proposal to buy-back the fully paid-up equity shares of the company," Tech Mahindra said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that **M/s Angelina Infratech Private Limited** (CIN U70109DL2016PTC299085), having its registered address at Unit No 117 Plot No H-6, 1st Floor Center Wazirpur Neta Ji Subhash Place Pitampura Delhi 110034 entered in an Agreement to sell with us and paid us only the part payment of Rs. 1,71,70,000/- (Rupees One Crore Seventy One Lacs Seventy Thousand only) against the total sale consideration, despite our demand notice having sent to them through registered post. The said Company had undertaken and agreed in the agreement that the timely payment of the sale consideration and allied charges was the pre-condition and essence of the said Agreement; and that in the event of breach thereof, we shall be entitled to cancel the sale and forfeit the entire amount paid by the said Company. Thus, the said Company committed the breach of terms of payment, which were not only material terms but were the very pre-condition and essence of the Agreement. Under the circumstances, we were constrained to cancel/ terminate the said Agreement to Sell and forfeit the amount paid by the said Company. Consequently, the said Company is left with no right or interest in the subject property, and we are free to deal with the same in any manner. We have already communicated the said Company through our email dated 10.01.2019 sent on their email id (saggarsethi@gmail.com) available on the master data of the said Company on the website of http://www.mca.gov.in; and also sent them registered letter dated 10.01.2019 in this regard. We have also pasted a letter dated 12.02.2019 to this effect on the premises of the said Company's registered office address available on the website of http:// www.mca.gov.in. We have also intimated the Registrar of Companies in this regards.

Curo India Private Limited
K-28, Green Park Extension, New Delhi-110016

AXIS BANK

Retail Asset Centre, Delhi: Lower Ground Floor and Upper Ground Floor, Himalaya House, K.G. Marg, Delhi-110001., **Also at:** Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301, **Retail Asset Centre, Ghaziabad:** BF-1A,2,3, 1st Floor, Aditya City Centre, Niti Khand-1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201012.

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ here under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice 2. Date of Possession 3. Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1.Mr. Monish Paul S/o Kishan Chand Paul R/O Flat No 201 2nd Floor Tower T-15 Park Floors BPTP Sec 76 Faridabad Haryana-121003 **Also At: Mr. Monish Paul** S/O Kishan Chand Paul R/O 101 Pace City-1 Sector-37 Gurgaon Haryana-122001 **Also At: Mr. Monish Paul** S/o Kishan Chand Paul House No. 2460,G.F., Sector-16,Faridabad-121001, Haryana **Also At: Mr. Monish Paul** S/o Kishan Chand Paul 94/65 Aggarwal Farm, Mansarovar, Jaipur-302001, Rajasthan **2. Mr. Rajender Kumar** S/O Mr. Budh Ram R/O House No- 2619, Azad Nagar, Mujesar, Sector-24, Faridabad-121004 Haryana	IMMOVABLE ASSET - Fully finished Flat No. T15-201 on Second Floor of Tower 15, having a super area of 1225 Sq. Fts. (113.805 Sq. Mtrs.) situated in Group Housing Project known as Park Floors, Sector-76, Faridabad Haryana, along with the proportionate, undivided, impartible share only in the land underneath the said building in which the said unit is located, together with the right to use and access all common areas, paths, passages, benefits, and advantages, appurtenant whatsoever to the said unit or any part thereof and to hold the same unto and to the use of the Vendee Situated within the revenue estate of Village Fajjupur Majra, Nimka, Sub Tehsil Tiagaon, Distt. Faridabad and bounded as under: East : As Per Title Deed West : As Per Title Deed, North : As Per Title Deed, South : As Per Title Deed	1. 5-Sep-18 2. 13-Feb-19 3. **Rs 3,705,424/-** Interest, incidental expenses and cost

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days' from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 17-02-2019
Place : Delhi

Sd/-,
Authorized Officer,
Axis Bank Ltd.,

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. PC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Gopal Krishan Narang @ Sonu Narang, R/o (1) 14/104, Geeta Colony, Delhi, (2) 07/176, Geeta Colony, Delhi, (3) D-15, Rani Garden, Geeta Colony, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the Offence FIR No. 287/18 dated 14.06.2018 u/s 420/468/471/120B/34 IPC at PS. Harsh Vihar, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Gopal Krishan Narang @ Sonu Narang cannot be found and whereas it has been to shown to my satisfaction that the said Gopal Krishan Narang @ Sonu Narang has absconded (or is concealing himeself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation u/s 82 CrPC is hereby made that the said Gopal Krishan Narang @ Sonu Narang accused of FIR No. 287/18 dated 14.06.2018 u/s 420/468/471/120B/34 IPC is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.03.2019.

DP/6794/NE/18-
(Court Matter)

By Order
Sh. Prayank Nayak
Metropolitan Magistrate-2
Room No. 316, Shahdara, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
Corporate Identity No. UA40109UP2001SGC025867/2358
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun
Tel. No.: 0135-2763672-75 Ext.: 170, 250 Fax : 0135-2761869

Notice Inviting e-Tender

(Tender Identification No' 07/IT/UPCL/2018-19 date: 15 02 2019

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited, Dehradun invites tender from eligible bidders for **"Support of UPCL legacy application (Payroll/FAS/MMS/GPF/EPF) originally developed by M/s Deloitte for a period of 4 months".**

The references for the tender are given below:-

Tender Identification No.	**07/IT/UPCL/2018-19 date: 15.02.2019**
Cost of Tender Document (Tender Fee)	₹1,180.00 (1,000.00 + 180.00) inclusive of GST @ 18%
Earnest Money Deposit/ Bid Security	₹51,000.00 (Rupees Fifty One Thousand only)
Last Date & Time of online request for Tender and submission of tender in online & offline mode	5th March, 2019 upto 11:00 hrs.
Due Date of Opening of Technical Bid	5th March, 2019 at 16:30 hrs.
Due Date of Opening of Financial Bid	To be notified later

Detailed document, eligibility criteria and prescribed format for submission of bids would be available on websites **https://uktender.gov.in** and **www.upcl.org** from 16th February, 2019 onwards. In case any of the above date, is a holiday, the due date shall be the next working day at the same time. Any amendment/corrigendum in the future against the above mentioned tender shall be uploaded at **https://uktender.gov.in** and **www.upcl.org** only.

Superintending Engineer,
(IT & SCADA)

No. : 89 / EE(CM) / UPCL / A-2 Date : 15.02. 2019

"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" Use L.E.D. Bulb to save Electricity. (Toll Free No. 1912) "Pay Electricity Bill Online 24 x 7 from **www.upcl.org** (For information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185/Fax No. 0135-2760911)

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL III, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001

The under mentioned construction equipment will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues, in the matter of **ICICI BANK LTD v/s Ms. Saigaon Infratech Pvt. Ltd. and ANR.**
O.A NO. 903/2017 & Miscellaneous Appeal No – 628/2018

1) A- 64, Ground Floor, Sector- 4, Noida- 201301, Uttar Pradesh
2) B-135, Ground Floor, Sector-2, Noida- 201301, Uttar Pradesh
3) Mr. Neeraj Tyagi, C-13, MIG, Lohiya Nagar, Block- C, Ghaziabad, UP – 201001

1. Description of Asset: hypothecated assets
Model: Paver Finisher/ SF- 1700
Reg No: 100085079
Engine No: 74112894
Reserve Price- Rs. 1,20,00,000/-
EMD- Rs. 12,00,000/-
2. Date and Time of Auction: 26.02.2019 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
3. Auction Venue: SS Warehouse and Logistics, Vehicle Parking Yard, Near Long Life Misrod opp Best Price, Hoshangabad Road, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) Pin- 462047
4. Manager: Krishna Bali (8853989175) and Prince Singh (9644242526)

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids.

Interested bidders shall be required to deposit an Earnest Amount by way of Demand Draft/ pay order payable at Delhi and in favour of ICICI Bank Ltd, Delhi. Successful highest bidder shall have to deposit balance amount within 3 days.

In Case of failure to deposit the amount as mentioned above, the amount of Earnest Money deposited shall be forfeited.

Please note that Sale Confirmation will be subject to Orders to be passed by Hon'ble Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal, Delhi in Misc. Appeal No – 628/2018.

Interested participant/s are requested to participate on 26 Feb 2019 for physical auction or call Bank Manager Krishna Bali and Prince Singh.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Harshita @ Harshu

General public is here by informed that this girl (depicted in the photo) namely: **Harshita @ Harshu,** D/o **Brijmohan,** R/o **D-82, JJ Colony Inder Puri, New Delhi,** has been missing/kidnapped since **16.12.2018.** In this regard DD No. **14-A** Dated **17.12.2018** has been lodged at **PS Inderpuri, New Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Her physical description is as under:-

Sex: Female, **Age:** 20 years, **Height :** 5'3" ft., **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** White Colour T-Shirt & Dark Mungiya Colour Paijama and Cream Colour Plastic Chapple in feet.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO
P.S. Inderpuri, Delhi
Ph. No.- 011-25832201
Mob. No. - 8750871123

Website:http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641
Fax No.: 011-24368639

DP/8105/WD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

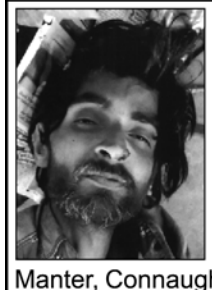
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Komal** W/o **Anuj Sinha** R/o H. No. 475, Pkt.-1, Sec.-A/6, Narela, Delhi has Committed (or is suspected to has committed) the offence under **FIR No. 404/17 u/s 420 IPC & 6 PNDT** Act has been registered at **P.S. Narela, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Komal** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Komal** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Komal** of **FIR No. 404/17 u/s 420 IPC & 6 PNDT** Act has been registered at **P.S. Narela, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **17.03.2019.**

By order
Sh. Vikarm
MM, Room No.116,
1st Floor, Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/2509/RD/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



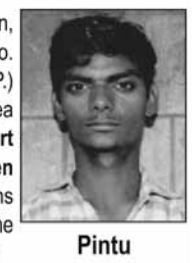
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age:** Appox 35 years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'7", **ID Mark:** A "OM" tattoo on right hand, was wearing Grey Printed Shirt & Grey Pant, was found at Footpath, Tolstoy Marg, Near Imperial Hotel, Jantar Manter, Connaught Place, New Delhi at 07:55 Hrs. In this regard a **DD No. 06-A, dated 13.02.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-23747100,
8750870525

DP/1934/NDD/19

MISSING



Pintu

General public is hereby informed that one person, Namely: Pintu, **S/o:** Sh. Shri Chand, **R/o:** Kh. No. 640, Gali No. 5, Anjali Vihar, Loni, Ghaziabad (U.P.) has been missing since 31.12.2017 from the area of P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi. In this regard, a **report vides DD No. 12-PP, Dated 05.01.2018, has been lodged at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi.** Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the person could not be traced. The description of the missing person is as under:

Name: Pintu, **S/o:** Sh. Shri Chand, **R/o:** Kh. No. 640, Gali No. 5, Anjali Vihar, Loni, Ghaziabad (UP), **Age**: 25 years, **Height:** 5'5" Feet, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Normal, **Complexion**: Shallow, **Wearing:** White-Green Check Shirt, Blue Pant and Black Colour Slipper. If anyone has any information about the missing person, then please inform P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: No.011-24368639
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

S.H.O
P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23823161

DP/8268/N/18.

Trump optimistic about 2nd summit with Kim

Washington: Exuding confidence ahead of his high-profile meeting with Kim Jong-un later this month, US President Donald Trump has said the second summit will be a "very successful one" as he has established a "very good" relationship with the North Korean leader.

President Trump and Chairman Kim are scheduled to meet in Hanoi, Vietnam on February 27 and 28.

The two leaders had met on June 12 last year in Singapore for the first summit. Trump described his first-ever historic meeting with Kim as "really fantastic" and said they had agreed to sign an unspecified document after their "very positive" summit, aimed at normalising ties and complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

"I hope we have the same good luck as we had in the first summit.

A lot was done in the first summit. No more rockets going up. No more missiles going up. No more testing of nuclear (weapons). Got back our remains, the remains of our great heroes from the Korean War. We got back our hostages," Trump told reporters at the White House on Friday.

"We hope we are going to be very much equally as successful. I'm in no rush for speed. We just don't want testing," he said.

Noting that the sanctions against North Koreans remain in place, Trump said both China and Russia were helping the US and he was also working closely with South Korea and Japan.

"But China, Russia, on the border, have really been at least partially living up to what they're supposed to be doing," he said.

"So we will have a meeting on the 27th and 28th of February, and I think that will be a very successful one. I look forward to seeing Chairman Kim. We have also established a very good relationship, which has never happened between him or his family and the United States. They have really taken advantage of the United States. Billions of dollars has been paid to them. And we won't let that happen," said the US President. ***PTI***

UK and Russia hold first talks in over a year

London: Junior foreign ministers from Britain and Russia met in Germany on Saturday in the highest-level contact between the two countries since an alleged nerve agent attack in Britain last March froze diplomatic relations.

Britain's Minister for Europe Alan Duncan held talks with Russia's First Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Titov on the margins of the Munich Security Conference, according to the foreign office in London.

"Alan underlined that we have deep differences, and the Russian state would need to choose a different path and act as a responsible international partner before there can be a change in our current relationship with Russia," it said in a statement.

The meeting is the first between ministers from the two countries following the poisoning of a former Russian spy in the English city of Salisbury on March 4 which Britain has blamed on Moscow.

The attempted assassination of Sergei Skripal, which Britain said was done using a Soviet era nerve agent Novichok, plunged relations to their lowest ebb in decades.

The attack killed a British woman who came into contact with the Novichok, as well as injuring several others including a policeman.

Among a raft of responses, London suspended all planned high-level bilateral contacts between the two countries, and cancelled ministers and members of the royal family attending last summer's World Cup in Russia.

"(The) minister reiterated the UK's and Allies' firm stance in response to the Russian state's reckless use of chemical weapons in Salisbury," the foreign office added in its statement. ***AFP***

Iran says Pakistan backs suicide bombers, ahead of victims' funeral

Isfahan (Iran): Iran's Revolutionary Guards accused "Pakistan's security forces" of supporting the perpetrators of a suicide bombing that killed 27 troops on Wednesday, in remarks state TV aired Saturday hours before their funeral was held.

"Pakistan's government, who has housed these anti-revolutionaries and threats to Islam, knows where they are and they are supported by Pakistan's security forces," said Revolutionary Commander Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari, referring to jihadist group Jaish al-Adl ("Army of Justice").

"If (the Pakistan government) does not punish them, we will retaliate against this anti-revolutionary force, and whatever Pakistan sees will be the consequence of its support for them," he warned.

His comments came ahead of a planned two-day visit to Pakistan — due to begin on Sunday — by Mohammed bin Salman, the crown prince of Iran's regional arch-rival Saudi Arabia.

The general made the remarks in Isfahan City on Friday evening during a farewell ceremony held for those killed.

Jaish al-Adl was formed in 2012 as a successor to the Sunni extremist group Jundallah (Soldiers of God), which waged a deadly insurgency for a decade before it was severely weakened by the capture and execution of its leader Abdolmalek Rigi by Tehran in 2010.

The Wednesday bombing targeted a busload of Revolutionary Guards in the volatile southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan, which straddles the border with Pakistan.

The attack was one of the deadliest on Iranian security forces in recent years and came just days after Iran held more than a week of celebrations for the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, which overthrew the US-backed shah.

Jafari also blasted "the support that the region's reactionary states Saudi Arabia and the Emiratis" maintain for "conspiracies" that he said were ordered by Israel and America.

"We will certainly follow retaliatory measures," he added, without elaborating.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has linked the perpetrators of the attack to "the spying agencies of some regional and trans-regional countries".

Isfahan's major streets were covered with black flags attached to lamp-posts as the city prepared for the funeral and two days of mourning.

Vans fixed with loudspeakers cruised streets, inviting people to attend the ceremony.

"Honourable people of Isfahan, we invite you to attend the funeral of 27 of your brave sons, the martyrs of the homeland's security", the speakers blared, according to an AFP reporter.

The troops killed in the bombing belonged to the Guards' 14th Imam Hussein Division based in Isfahan province, according to Tasnim news agency. Aged from 21 to 52, each will be buried in his hometown after the funeral in Isfahan city.

The assault came as the troops were returning from a border patrol mission on a personnel bus near Zahedan.

Of the 13 wounded in the attack two are in the intensive care unit of an Isfahan hospital.

Sistan-Baluchistan has long been a flashpoint, where Pakistan-based Baluchi separatists and jihadists carry out cross-border raids.

A Revolutionary Guard was killed and five wounded in a February 2 attack claimed by Jaish al-Adl on a base of the Basij militia in the town of Nikshahr, some way from the border.

One of the wounded — Khodarahm Heidari, who was critically wounded in that attack — passed away on Saturday, semi-official news agency ISNA reported.

On January 29 three members of an Iranian bomb squad sent to the scene of an explosion in the provincial capital Zahedan were wounded when a second device blew up as they were trying to defuse it, police said at the time.

And in early December two people were killed and around 40 others wounded in the port city of Chabahar, also in Sistan-Baluchistan, in an attack which Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif blamed on "foreign-backed terrorists" — a reference to Sunni Muslim extremists. ***AFP***

US pullout from Syria risks boosting Russia, Iran influence: Merkel

Munich: German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned on Saturday that Washington's plan to swiftly pull its soldiers out of Syria risks allowing Russia and Iran to boost their role in the region.

Islamic State group fighters have been boxed in to a scrap of land in the battle for their last remaining territory in northeastern Syria and their final defeat is expected imminently.

Once they are defeated, US forces are set to soon withdraw after President Donald Trump in December announced the pullout of around 2,000 troops.

Washington says it will maintain a presence in the region, with Vice-President Mike Pence pledging to carry on the fight.

"The United States will continue to work with all our allies to hunt down the remnants of ISIS wherever and whenever they rear their ugly heads," Pence said, using another name for the jihadists.

But Washington is struggling to convince allies to stay on in Syria after it leaves and Merkel warned of the risks of leaving a vacuum in the region.

"Is it a good idea for the Americans to suddenly and quickly withdraw from Syria? Or will it once more strengthen the capacity of Iran and Russia to exert their influence?" Merkel said at the Munich Security Conference.

Pentagon chief Patrick Shanahan on Friday pledged ongoing backing for the fight against IS — but kept allies guessing as to how that would be achieved once US forces pull out.

Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders said the US had told partners in the global anti-IS coalition that its soldiers would leave in "weeks rather than months".

The decision has stunned allies including France, which contributes artillery and about 1,200 troops in the region, including soldiers who train Iraqi forces.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian asked why the US would create a vacuum in Syria that could benefit its enemy Iran, calling the approach a "mystery".

And the US has won no solid pledges of support for a proposed observer force to stay on in northeast Syria when the US pullls out to ensure the safety of Syrian Kurdish fighters.

A French government source criticised the Trump administration's approach to the withdrawal as "we're leaving, you're staying".

"They're trying to manage the consequences of a hasty decision and making us carry the responsibility," the source said, adding that coalition members were united in rejecting the idea of staying on in Syria when the US leaves. ***AFP***

Distrust of int'l organisations may be behind Brexit

London: The UK referendum vote to leave the European Union (EU) may have been driven by people's distrust of international organisations, alongside the fear of immigration, a study has found.

Researchers from the University of Kent in the UK found that Euroscepticism is not only shaped by attitudes towards immigration and feelings of national identity but also by opposition towards UK involvement in transnational organisations such as the EU.

Supranationalism is defined as the transfer of power from the national to the supranational level, leading to increased dependence on foreign political partners and increased social and cultural exchange.

The team considered study respondents' ideological predispositions, particularly preferences for cultural traditions and loyalty to national authority and a desire for group-based dominance and hierarchy in society to see whether these predicted negative attitudes towards international institutions.

They found that people with higher levels of both these characteristics in their ideological outlook were less supportive of supranationalism, were more Eurosceptic, and found it more important that the UK 'takes back control'.

This manifested itself in a preference for 'prioritising control' in any post-Brexit scenario among those with a negative attitude towards the concept of supranationalism.

This included 'bringing back control of our laws to Parliament' and 'bringing back control of decisions over immigration to the UK'.

Another indicator was age, with older respondents also more likely to have a negative attitude towards the concept of supranationalism. ***PTI***

Erdogan says won't go back on S-400 deal with Russia

Ankara: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey would not "turn back" on a deal with Moscow to buy Russian S-400 missile defence systems in comments published on Saturday.

Turkey's push to buy the systems has raised questions among NATO allies over their compatibility with alliance equipment as well as concerns over the burgeoning relationship between Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"We agreed a deal with Russia on the S-400, so for us to turn back from the deal is out of the question. This is a done deal," Erdogan said, quoted by CNN Turk broadcaster.

The United States in December approved the sale of $3.5 billion in missiles to Turkey, which followed Washington anger over Turkey's intention to buy Russian systems.

Turkey was "open" to buying US Patriot missiles, Erdogan told Turkish journalists on board his plane from the southern Russian city of Sochi after a three-way summit on Syria with his Russian and Iranian counterparts. ***AFP***

Drug 'godfathers' surrender to B'desh police

Teknaf (Bangladesh): Some 102 Bangladeshi meth dealers have surrendered to authorities at a pre-scheduled ceremony in a coastal town, officials said on Saturday, as a Philippines-style anti-narcotics crackdown sows fear among kingpins.

Bangladesh last year launched a "war" on drugs following a proliferation of illegal substances in the South Asian nation of 165 million people, mostly of cheap methamphetamine pills known as "yaba".

Police said 24 yaba "godfathers", as well as lieutenants and peddlers, surrendered to the country's home minister in Teknaf town — the key gateway for smuggling yaba into the country from Myanmar, where the pills are manufactured by the millions.

The dealers also surrendered 350,000 vanilla-scented, small red yaba pills — whose name comes from a Thai word meaning "crazy medicine" — and 30 illegal firearms.

The country's police chief Mohammad Javed Patwary said authorities would advocate for lesser prison sentences for those who had surrendered, and would "assist" them in returning to normal life.

But he promised "harsh upcoming days" for those who had stayed away.

"Those who are in hiding, don't get carried away. You'll not be spared," he told the mass gathering of several thousand locals who came to witness the event.

Teknaf is situated in Cox's Bazar district — home to around a million Rohingya refugees - bordering Myanmar.

Cox's Bazar is flooded with yaba, with many of the Rohingya refugees used as "mules" for carrying the pills.

The pills have become an easy source of income for the Rohingya, some 740,000 of whom have poured across the border since Myanmar launched a military crackdown in August 2017 that the UN has described as ethnic cleansing. ***AFP***

Germany seeks ban on gay conversion therapies

Berlin: German Health Minister Jens Spahn said on Friday he will seek to ban conversion therapies that claim to change sexual orientation.

"Homosexuality is not an illness, which is why it does not need to be treated," Spahn, who is gay himself, told the Berlin daily left-leaning daily Die Tageszeitung (taz).

He hoped that a German law banning such therapies could be adopted by the middle of the year.

Conversion therapies have spread in the United States and have been used by parents of homosexual or transgender adolescents against their will.

Some techniques involve injections of large doses of testosterone, while others apply electric shocks to people as they view images of homosexual acts.

"I do not believe in these therapies, mainly owing to my own homosexuality," said Spahn, who represents the right wing of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative CDU party.

The health minister is counting on support from his colleagues if and when a vote is taken.

"I cannot imagine there is a partisan of conversion therapies in my parliamentary group," he said.

Within the European Union, only Malta and some Spanish regions have banned the practices outright.

In March 2018, a large majority of European Parliament deputies nonetheless adopted a non-binding text that called on member states to outlaw them. ***AFP***

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that (1) Smt. Ritu Pawar, (2) Shri Deepak Pawar & (3) Shri Rajeev Pawar, are the only legal heir of Late Sh. Hoshiyar Singh Pawar S/o Sh. Mohan Ram and Late Smt. Leelawati W/o Sh. Hoshiyar Singh Pawar (previously owned Flat No. 184, Bhagya Laxmi Apptt., Sec-9, Rohini, Delhi-85) and it is notified any person have any claim whatsoever be lodged within 15 days to the appropriate authority, failing which, shall not be binding on our client.

Sd/-
R. K. Bansal (Advocate)
Ph. 9811110501

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that my client DCB Bank Limited, having address 3rd Floor, 7/56, Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 is inclined to grant Loan facility against the Property bearing No. X/2556, Plot No. 02, having area measuring 36.79 Sq. Mtrs. (44 Sq. Yds.) + 36.79 Sq. Mtrs. (44 Sq. Yds.) = 73.58 Sq. Yds., (i.e. 88 Sq. Yds.) alongwith all right to construction upto the last storey. Out of Khasra No. 200, Gali No-8, situated in the area of Village Seelampur, in the abadi of Raghuparpura No. 2, Gandhi Nagar, New Delhi-110031 "said property to Sh. Ravinder Khater & Sh. Rajat Khater in the Firm M/s Chess Creation and M/s Ravi Fashion. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 15 days from the date of this notice on the number mentioned herein below, failing which my client i.e., DCB Bank Ltd., shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Naveen Kumar Verma (Advocate)
9958871432 & 01204231432
thelawport@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of General Public that my client **Vimal Chandra Boro S/o Late R. C. Boro R/o J-1/413, DDA Flats, Kalkaji, South Delhi, New Delhi**-110019 aged 58 years, has debarred and disowned his namely **Ajay Boro alias Kunshal Chandra age 37 years and his wife namely Komal Chandra**, from all his moveable and immovable assets and properties and have severed all his relations with them and they are disobedience and are working against and beyond the control of my client.

In case, any person deals with them in any matter of taking or giving money shall have his/her sole responsibilities and own risk. my client shall not be held liable for any act civil or criminal of his son **Ajay Boro alias Kunshal Chandra** and his **wife Komal Chandra**. My client has severed them from his all properties immovable and moveable henceforth.

Vinay Kumar Bhargava
(Advocate)
Chamber no 445 Dwarka District
Court New Delhi Mob: 9310428341

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No.SSA/CW/KGBV-AUG/2018-19/490/2018/6088 Dated -14/02/2019

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Siksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process for augmentation of infrastructure (RCC G+1) 19 nos. of KGBV Building of Baksa, Barpeta, Charideo, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Kamrup-Rural, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Tinsukia and Udalguri from registered Contractor under A.P.W.D. (building) of Class – I (A,B &C)], Assam having experience of similar nature of works.

To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on–line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 3000/- (Rupees Three thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/- Mission Director,
SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE No.22/CE(SZ)/DDA/2018-19 PART III

On-line item/Percentage rates tenders are invited by **Executive Engineers, SWD-4, ED-7/SZ, ELD-6 DDA, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, SWD-5, DDA, Sarita Vihar New Delhi-110076** on behalf of DDA from the approved & eligible contractors. Date of uploading of tender along with Schedule of quantity is on or before **21.02.2019**. Last date of downloading/submission of tenders is **28.02.2019 up to 3.00 PM**.

1. NIT No. 38/EE/SWD-4/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: M/o completed scheme under Nazul A/c-II/South Zone. **SH:** Maintenance distempering, painting and repairing in staff qtr at Sector-D, Pkt.6, Vasant Kunj. Estimated Cost: ₹ 10,41,200/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 20,824/-, **Time Allowed:** 365 (Three Hundred and Sixty Five) Days.

2. NIT No. 39/EE/SWD-4/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: D/o Aravali Bio Diversity Park at Vasant Vihar. SH:-Repair of nurseries with fencing, leveling and dressing of malba at Aravali Bio Diversity Park. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 18,25,735/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 36,515/-, **Time Allowed:** 75(Seventy Five) Days.

3. NIT No. 40/EE/SWD-4/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: M/o completed scheme under Nazul A/c-II/South Zone. **SH:** Repair and raising of boundary wall at Nangal Dewat. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 16, 26, 708/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 32, 534/-, **Time Allowed:** 40 (Forty) Days.

4. NIT No. 41/EE/SWD-4/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: M/o completed scheme under Nazul A/c-II/South Zone. **SH:** P/F floor tiles and other misc. work at Community Hall C-8, Vasant Kunj. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 9,47,085/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹18,942/-, **Time Allowed:** 30 (Thirty) Days.

5. NIT No. 11/EE/ELD-6/DDA/NIT/2018-19. Name of Work: Up Gradation of Common Area of Community Centre, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar under Nazul A/c-II. **SH:** S.I.T.C of pump sets for Firefighting System. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 18,19,460/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 36, 389/-, **Time Allowed:** 60 (Sixty) Days. **(Specialized Work)**

6. NIT No. 12/EE/ELD-6/DDA/NIT/2018-19. Name of Work: Up Gradation of Common Area of Community Centre, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar under Nazul A/c-II. **SH:** Supply & Installation of P.A./Sound System in Basant Lok. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 10,67,851/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 21,357/-, **Time Allowed:** 60 (Sixty) Days. **(Specialized Work)**

7. NIT No. 13/EE/ELD-6/DDA/NIT/2018-19. Name of Work: Up Gradation of Common Area of Community Centre, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar under Nazul A/c-II. **SH:** Supply & Installation of CCTV Camera (Surveillance) System in Basant Lok. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 10,70,391/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 21,408/-, **Time Allowed:** 60 (Sixty) Days. **(Specialized Work)**

8. NIT No. 10/EE/SWD-5/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: D/o Biodiversity Park at Tilpath Valley. **SH:** Supply of S.T.P. treated water through tankers from STP Mehrauli for Plantation at Tipath Valley Biodiversity Park. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 21,26,597/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 42,532/-, **Time Allowed:** 180 (One Hundred and Eighty) Days. **(Re-Invited)**

9. NIT No. 11/EE/SWD-5/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: Acquisition/Protection of DDA Land. **SH:** To carry out T.S.S of various plots/lands under the jurisdiction of SWD-5/DDA. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 15,16,100/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 30,322/-, **Time Allowed:** 180 (One Hundred and Eighty) Days. **(Specialized work) (Re-Invited)**

10. NIT No. 26/EE/ED-7/SZ/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: Development of Bio-diversity Park Tughlkabad. **SH:** Deployment of security guard for watch and ward in the premises of the Bio-diversity park at Tughlkabad for 35 hect. area. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 14,67,738/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 29,355/-, **Time Allowed:** 365 (Three Hundred and Sixty Five) Days. **(Specialized work) (Re-Invited) (Deposit Work)**

11. NIT No. 35/EE/ED-7/SZ/DDA/2018-19. Name of Work: Protection of DDA Land at South zone. **SH:** Total Station survey of Bio-diversity park at Tughlkabad & other locations as required. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 13,55,900/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 27,118/-, **Time Allowed:** 30 (Thirty) Days. **(Specialized work)**

For details, please visit the website **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** or **www.dda.org.in**. For technical assistance regarding portal during uploading of tender: **cppp-nic@nic.in** or 24x7 helpline number **0120-4001002, 0120-4001005** and **0120-4200462**.

Please give your feedback on DDA apps at Google play

Please Visit DDA's Website at www.dda.org.in or Dial : 1800110332

sunday pioneer
BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 17, 2019

SAINA ROUTS SINDHU

Three-time former champion Nehwal uses powerful smashes to register 21-18, 21-15 win against Sindhu in the tournament decider; Sourabh completes hat-trick of titles

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Saina Nehwal beat PV Sindhu in straight games in the marquee clash of the tournament to retain her women's singles crown at the 83rd Yonex Sunrise Senior Badminton Nationals on Saturday.

The three-time former champion Saina used her powerful smashes to telling effect, registering a 21-18, 21-15 win the summit clash against Sindhu, who herself is a two-time winner.

Earlier, Sourabh Verma completed a hat-trick of titles, claiming the men's singles crown by defeating young Lakshya Sen in straight games.

Saina and Sourabh went home richer by ₹3.25 lakh while Sindhu and Sen received a cheque of ₹1.70 lakh each.

"Sindhu is playing at the highest level for quite sometime and we both are playing well and she is a very tough opponent. It was not a simple match, there were tough rallies and simple errors from her helped me to win," Saina, who has lost to Sindhu only once in international events at India Open 2017 said.

In a repeat of last edition's final in Nagpur, 2012 Olympics Bronze medallist Saina once again had the upper hand over Sindhu during the exciting clash which was witnessed by a capacity crowed at the TRP Indoor stadium.

Saina had also defeated 2016 Rio Games Silver medallist Sindhu at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games summit clash last year.

Sourabh, the 26-year-old from MP's Dhar showed great composure and used his experience to outdo 17-year-old Lakshya for the second time at the senior national finals. He had beaten Lakshya, then 15, in February 2017.

"At 6-6 in first game, I had done unforced errors so I thought if I reduce my mistakes I can make a comeback," Sourabh said.

In men's doubles, second seeded makeshift pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Chirag Shetty clinched the title after beating top seeds Arjun MR and Shlok Ramchandran 21-13, 22-20 in 33 minutes.

Chirag and Pranaav came together after the former's regular partner Satwik Rankireddy was sidelined ahead of the tournament due to an injury. Satwik and Chirag had finished runners-up at the last edition.

For Pranaav, it is his third national title, having won the men's doubles crown along with Akshay Dewalkar in 2013 and 2015 and the mixed doubles title with Prajakta Sawant in 2010.

Manu Attri and Maneesha K later beat top seeds Rohan Kapoor and Kuhoo Garg 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 to claim the mixed doubles crown.

In the women's final, egged on by a vociferous crowd, Saina used her trademark smashes to either finish points or create openings.

Sindhu, on the other hand, lacked precision in her strokes, hit too many mid court returns, and also misjudged the shuttle at the back court.

Saina Nehwal and P V Sindhu pose during the prize ceremony after their final match of the Senior Nationals *PTI*

Sourabh Verma returns a shot against Lakshya Sen during summit clash match *BAI*

OTHER RESULTS

Category	Winner(s)	Runner up(s)	Scoreline
Men's singles	Sourabh Verma	Lakshya Sen	21-18, 21-13
Men's doubles	Pranaav Jerry Chopra & Chirag Shetty	Arjun MR & Shlok Ramchandran	21-13, 22-20
Mixed doubles	Manu Attri &Maneesha K	Rohan Kapoor and Kuhoo Garg	18-21, 21-17, 21-16

"It was a good match and both of us played really well and it is a great feeling to win the nationals in such an atmosphere."
—Saina Nehwal

"Winning the nationals for the first time (in 2011) is always special but this time also it was a great feeling. Lakshya is improving regularly and every time you have to be alert against him. It was my fourth final and third win."
—Sourabh Verma

SINGLES

RAHANE LEADS MUMBAI IN MUSHTAQ T20S

Mumbai: India international Ajinkya Rahane will lead the Mumbai team in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, the domestic T20 tournament, which will be played in Indore from February 21 to 28. The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) announced the 15- member squad on its website after the senior selection committee, led by former India pacer Ajit Agarkar, met on Saturday to pick the team for the T20 tournament. The squad also comprises young opening batsman Prithvi Shaw, who will be returning to competitive cricket after sustaining an ankle injury during a practice game in Australia in November prior to the Test series. Other batting regulars like Shreyas Iyer, Siddhesh Lad, Surya Kumar Yadav and experienced wicketkeeper-batsman Aditya Tare, have made it to the squad. The bowling attack will be led by former India pacer Dhawal Kulkarni.

FAREWELL TO SALA IN ARGENTINA

Progresso: The funeral of Cardiff City striker Emiliano Sala took place in his home village in Argentina on Saturday three weeks after he was killed in a plane crash. A public vigil was held in a gymnasium in Progreso, the modest village in the province of Santa Fe which Sala left as a teenager to forge a career in Europe. The 28-year-old died on January 21 just two days after completing $19.3 million (17.1 million euros) move to the Premier League club from French club Nantes. The single-engine private plane carrying Sala and pilot David Ibbotson crashed in the English Channel near Alderney. Sala had been flying back to Wales after returning to France to say goodbye to his former teammates.

LAHIRI SET TO MISS CUT AFTER POOR SHOW

California: Anirban Lahiri is all set to miss the cut with disastrous seven-over after playing 33 holes on a rain-curtailed second day at the Genesis Open on Friday. Lahiri had a long day as he played 18 holes for the first round along with 15 for the second round. He was lying 133rd after the first round with four-over 76 and slipped further to tied 142nd after Friday. Apart from the wet weather and the cold, Lahiri's putter also went cold as he missed a whole lot, at least five inside ten feet. The story continued in the second round. Meanwhile, Justin Thomas was leading the pack having completed 12 holes in his second round and remained five under.

34 PLAYERS NAMED FOR NATIONAL CAMP

New Delhi: Hockey India on Saturday named 34 players for the senior men's national camp, beginning February 18 at the Sports Authority of India, Bengaluru, to prepare for the season's first tournament — Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Ipoh, Malaysia. The tournament starts on March 23. Hockey India has retained all 18 players in the Indian team that took part at the World Cup last December, for the month-long camp that concludes on March 18. The list also features Sultan of Johor Cup Silver-medal winning India Colts Shilanand Lakra, Suman Beck, Mandeep Mor, Yashdeep Siwach, Vishal Antil and Gursahabjit Singh who had figured in the 34-member camp for the World Cup.

U MUMBA VOLLEY BEAT SPARTANS IN PVL

Chennai: U Mumba Volley defeated Chennai Spartans 3-2 (15-14, 15-8, 15-10, 10-15, 10-15) in the opening match of the Chennai leg of the Pro Volleyball League on Saturday to keep its hopes of a semifinal spot alive. Skipper Dipesh Sinha was the top scorer for U Mumba with 11 points (5 spikes, 2 blocks and 4 serves) and helped the team post its first win. For the Spartans, Rudy Verhoeff equalled his individual points record of 20 in a match (14 spikes and 6 serves) but ended up on the losing side. AGENCIES

Vidarbha's Double delight

PTI ■ NAGPUR

A clinical Ranji champions Vidarbha reasserted their supremacy in domestic arena, beating a star-studded Rest of India to retain the Irani Cup, making it back-to-back seasons of double delight.

Vidarbha has now become the third team after Mumbai and Karnataka to clinch two Irani Cup titles in a row.

Set a tricky target of 280, Vidarbha were well and truly on course at 269 for five, needing only 11 runs for an outright victory. However the two teams decided to shake hands and settle for a draw.

The victory was a testimony to Vidarbha's teamwork as they defeated a Rest of India side comprising Ajinkya Rahane, Hanma Vihari, Shreyas Iyer and Mayank Agarwal without their season's top scorer Wasim Jaffer and pacer Umesh Yadav.

It was another senior Ganesh Satish (87 off 168 balls) and young U-19 international Atharva Taide (72 off 185 balls), who ensured that the Cup will remain in the Vidarbha Cricjket Association's Trophy cabinet.

Also others like opener Sanjay Ramaswamy (42) and Mohit Kale (37) chipped in with handy knocks, while wicket-keeper Akshay Wadkar remained unbeaten on 10.

And their skipper Faiz Fazal would certainly be pleased with the fact that his boys nearly pulled off an outright win chasing a near 300-score on a fifth day track.

Resuming their innings on 37/1, Ramaswamy and one down Taide added 116 runs for the second wicket.

While Ramaswamy stuck four boundaries and a six, Taide was tad more aggressive striking eight fours and a six, as the duo kept Rest bowlers at bay.

After Ramaswamy fell, Satish joined hands with Taide. The two managed to added 30 runs for the third wicket.

But Taide's departure did not deter Satish, who played the sheet-anchor's role to perfection.

During his 168-ball stay at the crease, he hammered the ROI bowlers, nine boundaries and a six. He got able support from Mohit Kale, who hit four fours in his brief but crucial innings.

After Satish, the curtains came down on the hard-fought game, in which Vidarbha emerged triumphant.

Ganesh Satish celebrates his fifty *PTI*

IRANI TROPHY WINNERS

Team	Titles	First title
Rest of India	28	1965-66
Mumbai	15	1959-60
Karnataka	6	1974-75
Delhi	2	1980-81
Railways	2	2002-03
Vidarbha	2	2017-18
Hyderabad	1	1987-88
Tamil Nadu	1	1988-89
Haryana	1	1991-92

☛ Rest of India and Mumbai shared the trophy in 1965-66.

Faisel Features

"We as a team have decided to donate the prize money to the family of the martyrs who lost their lives in Pulwama. This is a small gesture from our team and VCA."
— **Faiz Fazal** (Vidarbha skipper)

Perera's stunner pulls thrilling win

HIGHEST LAST WICKET STANDS IN 4TH INNINGS TO WIN

Runs	Partners	Opp	Venue	Season
78*	Vishwa Fernando/Kusal Perera (SL)	SA	Durban	2018-19
57*	Inzamam-ul-Haq/Mushtaq Ahmed (Pak)	AUS	Karachi	1994-95
48*	Dave Nourse/Percy Sherwell (SA)	ENG	Jo'burg	1905-06

Faisel Features

AP ■ DURBAN

Sri Lanka pulled off a stunning against-the-odds run chase with a record last-wicket partnership of 78 to beat South Africa by one wicket in the first Test on Saturday.

Kusal Perera almost single-handedly won the game with his 153 not out, but No 11 batsman Vishwa Fernando played a crucial role as he hung around for 27 balls for his 6 not out to allow Perera to take Sri Lanka home.

Chasing an unlikely 304, Sri Lanka was 226-9 and looked out of it at Kingsmead with the 10th wicket an apparent formality.

But Perera and Fernando had other ideas and took the inexperienced tourists - written off at the start of the series - to a thrilling victory on the fourth day. Even Dale Steyn and top-ranked test bowler Kagiso Rabada couldn't break their last stand.

Perera scored 67 of those 78 runs for the last wicket and won it with a late cut down to the boundary for four, prompting Sri Lankan players to sprint from the dressing room out onto the pitch to congratulate their match winner. Perera removed his helmet and thrust both arms up in the air to celebrate one of the best innings ever by a Sri Lankan, and one of the team's most remarkable victories.

It was Perera's career-best score, just his second test century, and his first in three years.

Sri Lanka's 304-9 was the third-highest successful run chase in nearly 100 years of Test cricket at the Kingsmead ground in Durban and the partnership between Perera and Fernando a record for the highest 10th-wicket partnership to win a Test. The previous record was 57 by Inzamam-ul-Haq and Mushtaq Ahmed for Pakistan against Australia 25 years ago.

Sri Lanka's scintillating victory also gave it a 1-0 lead in the short two-Test series and ended South Africa's run of seven straight home series wins in dramatic fashion.

Almost nobody thought victory would be possible when South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj had Kasun Rajitha lbw for 1 to leave Sri Lanka 226-9.

At the time, Perera was on 86. But he threw caution to the wind, crunching all five of his sixes in that game-winning last-wicket stand.

PERERA PUT ON 58 FOR THE FOURTH WICKET WITH DEBUTANT OSHADO FERNANDO (37) AND 96 FOR THE SIXTH WICKET WITH DHANANJAYA DE SILVA (48) BEFORE HIS EXTRAORDINARY ASSOCIATION WITH VISHWA FERNANDO

"It was a superman effort. He (Perera) deserves all the accolades."
—**Faf du Plessis**

"I'm a little tired now, I don't know what to say. I did my part but we are winning as a team."
– **Kusal Perera**

Guptill romps Kiwis past B'desh

AFP ■ CHRISTCHURCH

A rejuvenated Martin Guptill wound back the clock with his second century in as many games as a clinical New Zealand clinched their one-day series against Bangladesh in Christchurch on Saturday.

The long-serving opener, who had a disappointing recent series against India, rated his 118 as a more satisfying knock than the unbeaten 117 when he returned to form in the first match against Bangladesh.

"There was a lot of flow and rhythm in that one," he said after New Zealand comfortably knocked off their 227-run target for the loss of two wickets and with 13.5 overs to spare.

"It felt like I got back to where I was a couple of years ago."

Guptill cut, drove and pulled the Bangladesh attack apart as New Zealand cruised to victory and went 2-0 up in the three-match series.

Against India's tight bowling, Guptill was restricted to a top score of 15. But against a less confining Bangladesh attack, he scored freely, with 14 fours and four sixes from the 88 deliveries he faced.

After rolling Bangladesh for 226, Guptill made a flying start in New Zealand's reply.

Mustafizur Rahman claimed the early wicket of Henry Nicholls for 14, leaving Kane Williamson to partner Guptill in a 143-run stand for the second wicket.

When Guptill went in similar fashion to Nicholls, caught on the boundary by Liton Das off Mustafizur Rahman in the 29th over, New Zealand were 188 for two.

Williamson and Ross Taylor then guided the home side to the finish with Williamson not out 65 and Taylor on 21.

After Williamson won the toss and opted to bowl under cloudy skies, the Bangladesh top order again failed to fire.

They were in trouble at 93 for five after 21 overs before Mohammad Mithun (62) and Sabbir Rahman (43) provided some backbone for the innings, putting on 75 for the sixth wicket.

Ferguson finished as the most successful New Zealand bowler with three for 43.

Martin Guptill celebrates after scoring his second consecutive ton *ICC*

Gaurav, Nikhat advance in Strandja Boxing

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commonwealth Games Gold-medallist Gaurav Solanki (52kg) advanced to the men's pre-quarters, while former junior world champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) made the women's quarterfinals of the 70th Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Zareen defeated Italy's Giovanna Marchese in her opening clash, while Solanki got the better of American Abraham Perez. Solanki, also a Gold-winner at India Open and the Chemistry Cup last year, will be up against Kazakhstan's Anvar Muzaparov in the last-16 stage.

Zareen, a multiple-time national medallist, will square off against Belarus' Yana Burym in the next round.

Also advancing to the pre-quarters in the men's competition was last year's Ulaan Baatar Cup Gold-medallist Ankush Dahiya (60kg).

Dahiya claimed a split verdict over Azerbaijan's Sarkhan Aliyev and Macedonian Jasin Ljama awaits him in the round of 16.

In the women's 60kg category, Neeraj defeated Bulgarian Aslahan Mehmedova.

However, the day was not without its share of disappointments either.

Among the men, world championships Bronze-medallist Gaurav Bidhuri (56kg) bowed out following a first-round loss to local favourite Emanuil Bogoev in a split decision.

Another prominent name to make an early exit was former Commonwealth Games Bronze-medallist Pinki Jangra in the women's competition. Jangra was beaten by Filipino Irish Magno in a split verdict.

Two other women boxers, whose campaign ended early were Nupur (75kg) and Neetu (75kg). While Nupur went down to Italian Jessica Galizia 3-2, neetu lost 0-5 to Elena Gapeshina.

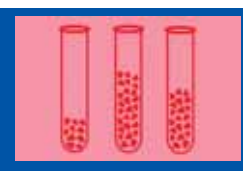
In the men's draw, Ashish Kumar (75kg) and Ashish (64kg) also lost their respective bouts in split decisions to exit on a mixed day for India at the prestigious European tournament.

sunday magazine
February 17, 2019

the pioneer
agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

3 **Just one birthday wish**
Murakami's *Birthday Girl* revolves around a concept that tends to develop an extra layer of complexity with each passing year — birthdays



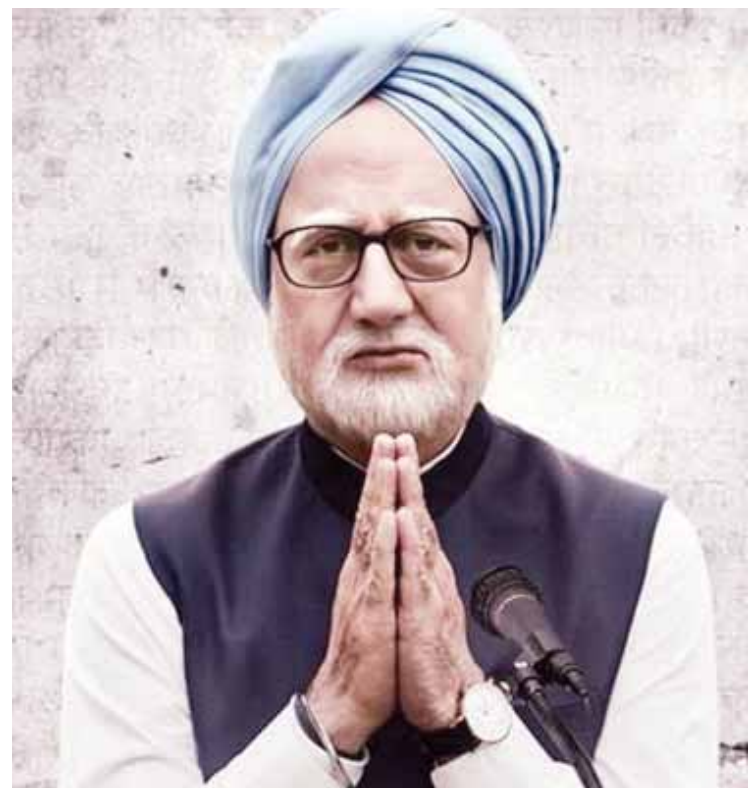
6 **The science of love**
If more people understand the science of love, they will realise how many aspects of it are in our control, and thus lead happier life

7 **The higher plane**
Through meditation, personal transformation, and universal love, human beings can connect with their own soul

No matter what race or religion or nationality or sexual orientation or gender you are, music has the power to unite us
— Lady Gaga

Not long ago, Bollywood aligned itself with the cultural ideology of the ruling party, which favoured a nationalistic revival. This new cinema demanded a sense of national pride in its stories, and the biopic genre fulfils this condition without ruffling many feathers, writes HIMANSHI SHARMA

BOLLYWOOD'S BIOPIC BOOM



On February 9, Rupesh Paul dropped a teaser for his upcoming movie based on the life of Rahul Gandhi titled *My Name is RaGa*. The film is due to be released in April, just in time for the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections. Just two days prior to this, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had released the official film poster of an upcoming Narendra Modi biopic to be directed by Omung Kumar of *Mary Kom* fame. This year has already seen the release of *Thackeray*, a biopic based on the life of Shiv Sena firebrand, the late Balasaheb Thackeray; *The Accidental Prime Minister* directed by Vijay Ratnakar Gutte, which tracks the tenure of Dr Manmohan Singh as the Prime Minister of India between 2004 and 2014; and Kangana Ranaut starrer *Manikarnika* based on the life of Rani Lakshmibai. The phenomenon is not limited to this year either. The year 2018 saw the release of several biopics, including *Pad Man, Sanju, Soorma*, and *Manto*, and the genre has been gaining steady rise for over half a decade now. How do we account for this seemingly sudden surge in the popularity of the genre? Why are Bollywood producers and audiences alike smitten with biopics of late?

Biopics were not a particularly attractive genre for Bollywood producers and directors even less than a decade ago when *Paan Singh Tomar* was released in 2012. They were scattered in Bollywood's neglected "serious" cinema by-lanes: Films that usually steered clear of portraying contemporary political actors, and often chose to portray fictional interpretations of historical figures. Think of *The Legend of Bhagat Singh* (2002), or *Mangal Pandey: The Rising* (2005). Contrast this to Hollywood cinema of the time when the Academy Award for best female actor went to Reese Witherspoon in 2006 for her portrayal of June Carter in *Walk the Line*, and in 2007, to Helen Mirren for her performance as Queen Elizabeth II in *The Queen*. Hollywood's romance with biopics as potential Oscar-bait is an open secret; it allows actors to display their acting prowess in terms of both physical impersonation as well as through nuanced interpretations of the motivations of their real-life counterparts.

In Bollywood, on the other hand, even in the event that the film was based on the real life of a contemporary figure, the film was produced as a drama rather than a biopic. Mani Ratnam's *Guru* (2007), for instance, though rumoured to be based on the life of business tycoon Dhirubhai Ambani, was never promoted as such. And yet, just a decade later, there is a slew of movies based on the real-life stories of sportspersons, film actors, and contemporary politicians, including those who are yet to professionally retire.

One reason for this massive change in the way films are produced and marketed is the shift in public discourse. Popular Bollywood cinema in the recent decades has recalibrated itself; moving away from its position in newly-independent India as an instrumental opinion-shaper, it has adopted for itself a more subdued reflective role. It's no wonder then that earlier films shied away from explicit politics. The spike in NRI movies during this period is not coincidental, as multiple academics have consistently noted. Cinema became a reflection of desires; so when the new middle class, itself a product of globalisation, desired to see the ultimate dream of *desi* mobility against Western backdrops on the silver screen, Bollywood delivered. There was limited scope for meaningful engagement with contemporary politics in such narratives. Indian biopics rarely allow for fancy foreign locales, and so it's no wonder that the Hindi film industry sidelined the genre.

> THIS NEW CINEMA SITUATED ITSELF IN SMALL TOWNS REPLETE WITH STORIES OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPIRATIONS, AND ITS UNIQUE SET OF MORAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL CHALLENGES. THE NATIONALISTIC PROJECT REQUIRES NEAT HEROES AND VILLAINS, IT REQUIRES INSPIRING STORIES OF SURVIVAL, IT INVOLVES MYTHMAKING, BUT ABOVE ALL, IT DEMANDS A SENSE OF NATIONAL PRIDE IN THESE STORIES

The global recession of 2008, while it didn't have much impact on the Indian economy, changed the configuration of Indian politics. With global economy in decline, the momentum of growth and development from the first UPA term dipped. We know the story, of course: A weak Congress embroiled in multiple corruption allegations lost to a much stronger NDA. However, this wasn't merely a change in political Governments. Bollywood aligned itself with the cultural ideology of the ruling party, which strongly favoured an involved nationalistic revival. This new cinema situated itself in small towns replete with stories of social and economic aspirations, and its unique set of moral and infrastructural challenges. The nationalistic project requires neat heroes and villains, it requires inspiring stories of survival, it involves mythmaking, but above all, it demands a sense of national pride in these stories. The biopic genre fulfils these conditions without ruffling many feathers. Think of it this way: *Lipstick Under My Burkha* and *Dangal* both came out in 2016, and both movies tried to capture the many kinds of oppressions that continue to beleaguer women, especially in a small town context. They were both reasonably well made films and both were declared blockbusters, yet while one of them was heavily censored by the Certification Board for being "lady oriented", the other was declared tax-exempt in certain States.

The story of the Indian biopic boom is incomplete without a discussion of profits. 'Critical' cinema in the Indian film industries usually refers to films that do well at the festivals and scoop National Awards, but perform poorly at the box office. They're usually produced at shoestring budgets, and if a film is lucky, it may sometimes do better than just recovering the cost of production. *Shahid* (2013) was made on a budget of ₹65 lakh, its total collection was about ₹3.6 crore; *Paan Singh Tomar* (2012) made on a budget of ₹4.5 crore collected ₹20 crore. These were peanuts, of course, compared to the profits of big-budget movies; *Dabangg* (2010) had an opening day collection of ₹14.5 crore. And yet, in scale with their budgets, these films seemed to be doing quite well. *Manjhi* (2015) earned double its budget of ₹8.5 crore, though Hansal Mehta's widely acclaimed *Aligarh* (2015) — which was released in India in February 2016 — failed to even recover its cost. But 2013 also saw *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*, which grossed over ₹100 crore. Priyanka Chopra starrer *Mary Kom* (2014) garnered both critical and commercial success, earning over ₹56 crore. The commercial success of sports biopics resulted in a flurry of similar films vying to cash in on the opportunity. *Dangal, M.S. Dhoni,* and *Sachin: A Billion Dreams* were made on budgets that were huge compared to *Paan Singh Tomar*, and they all made upwards of ₹50 crore. It's an easy logic to follow — these sport stars are celebrities with huge followings. They ensure quick publicity, assured audience, and therefore, huge profit margins. But big bucks don't just make big profits, they also sanitise.

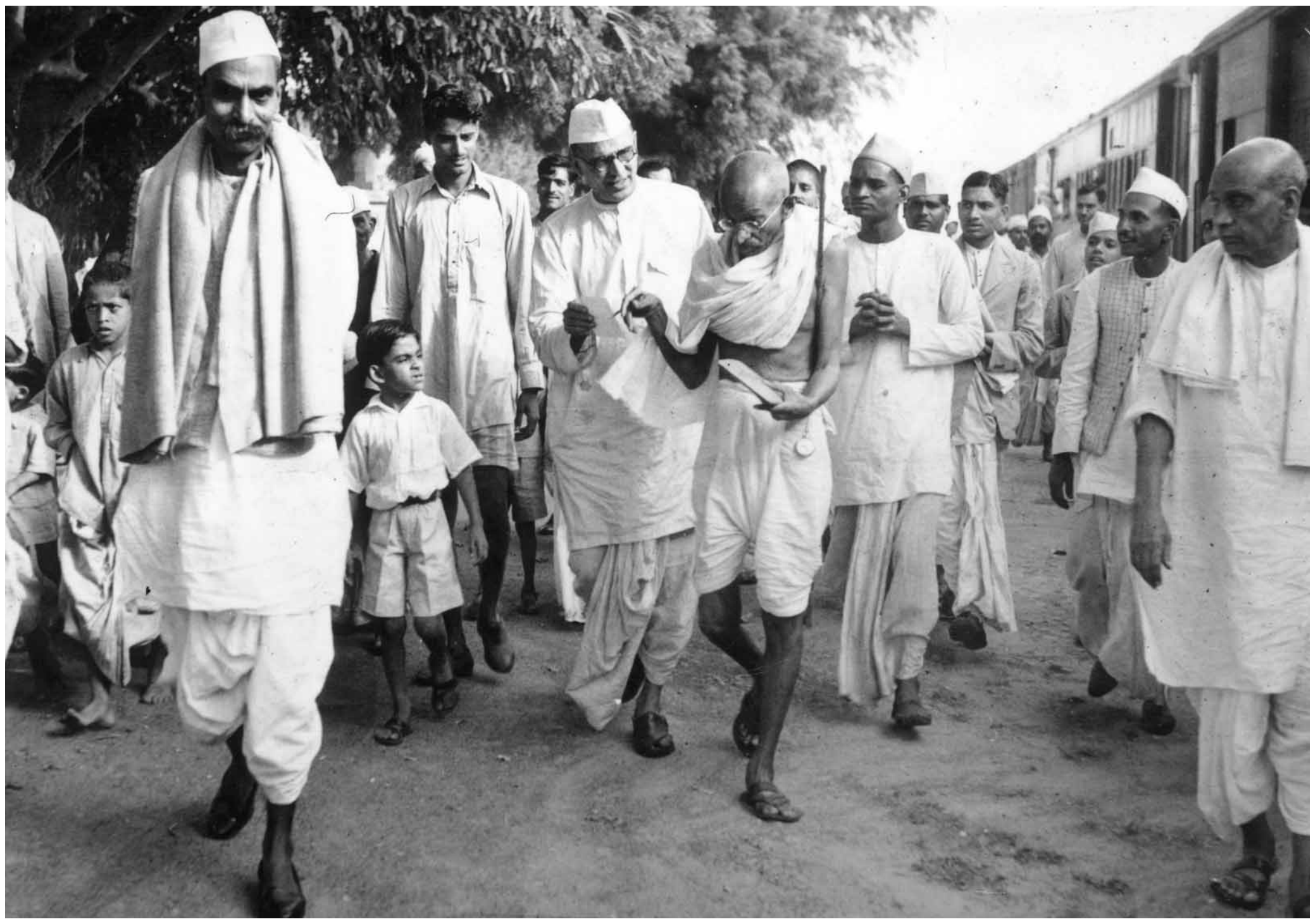
These newer movies may have all been sports biopics, but they were a long way away from the Tigmanshu Dhulia film. *Paan Singh Tomar* was a sportsman who turned bandit due to the institutional indifference of Government machinery towards people in his position. It's a masterful and empathetic insight into the character of a much reviled and feared *baaghi*, an "anti-national" if one was to use the political language of our time. *M.S. Dhoni* and *Sachin: A Billion Dreams* are stories of one-in-million cricket players, who were able to make it in a system that is otherwise stacked against them. You wouldn't know it after watching these films, though. They follow the recognisable format of building a story of rags to riches, or obscurity to fame. They are stories of struggle, personal failures, and efforts that overcome them.

>> p2

WHILE TRAVELLING BY TRAIN TO PRETORIA, GANDHI — DESPITE CARRYING A FIRST CLASS TICKET — WAS THROWN OUT OF THE TRAIN BECAUSE HE WAS AN INDIAN

GANDHI AND HIS INDIA

Aparna Basu's *Gandhi's Vision: Freedom and Beyond* takes a leaf out of Mahatma Gandhi's life and gives readers a sense of the thoughts and actions that led India to Independence and built a base for social development. An excerpt:



The Swadeshi Movement was a result of the Partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon in 1905. Conceived as an administrative readjustment of boundaries, it was overshadowed by political considerations. The movement formally began on August 7 at the historic Town Hall meeting in Calcutta, presided over by Maharaja Mahindra Chandra Nandi and addressed by Surendranath Banerjee. The protest took the form of boycott of foreign goods and the patronage of indigenous products popularly known as swadeshi. All classes of people — zamindars, professional groups such as lawyers, teachers, journalists, doctors, students and women joined the movement.

Rabindranath Tagore announced his plan in September 1905 to observe Rakshabandhan on October 16, the Partition day, and women took part in it. Another rite observed on this day was *arandhan*, suggested by Ramendrasundar Trivedi, asking women not to cook. Women organised swadeshi *bhandar*s and Sarala Devi Chaudhurani, niece of the Rabindranath Tagore, opened Lakshmi Bhandar which sold only *swadeshi* products. Women gave up using imported cloth and smashed their bangles (*churis*). Bipin Chandra Pal addressed women's meetings during his tour of East Bengal in 1907 and the women of Tangail gave a big reception to Surendranath Banerjee when he visited Mymensingh later that year. A women's meeting was organised in the house of the eminent physician Dr Nilratan Sircar to honour the revolutionary Bhupendranath Dutta's mother. A number of women in Barisal gave their savings to the Swadeshi Bhandar Samiti.

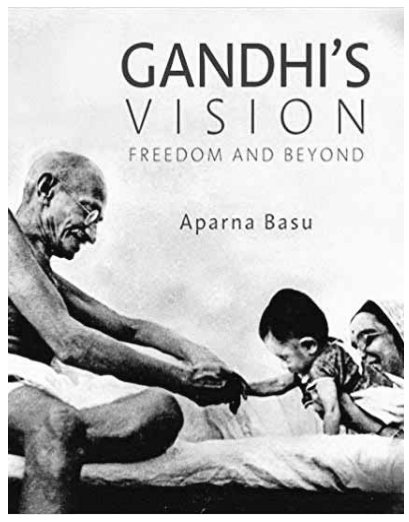
Secret societies had started earlier In Maharashtra, and in Bengal, revolutionary organisations began to develop, mainly owing to the efforts of Aurobindo Ghose. The most important of these was the Anusilan Samiti founded in 1897. It received active help and encouragement from Sister Nivedita. Among others connected with the growth of revolutionary societies were Barindra Ghose (brother of Aurobindo) and Sarala Devi Chaudhurani. Women circulated revolutionary leaflets and helped in maintaining liaison between different revolutionary leaders.

As the movement spread over Bengal, mass meetings were organised where the creed of swadeshi was preached. Bonfires of foreign goods were held and students boycotted Government schools and colleges. 'Bande Mataram', the sacred mantra of Bankim Chandra, became the rallying cry and inspired people with a new sense of patriotism and national consciousness. The president of the Indian National Congress, at its 1906 session held in Calcutta, expressed the demand for swaraj. Aurobindo Ghose declared the attainment of complete freedom as the goal of the national movement. The demand for national education was also a part of the Swadeshi movement. National schools were started and a technical college was opened in Jadavpur. With the annulment of the Partition in 1911, the Swadeshi movement, which had been largely centred in Bengal, petered out.

THE HOME RULE LEAGUE, TILAK AND ANNIE BESANT

Before Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar Tilak was the most widely known Indian political leader. Unlike his contemporary Maharashtrian Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Tilak was a radical nationalist but conservative in his views on social reform. In 1897, plague broke out in Poona and the Government had to undertake segregation and house search. Tilak organised his own relief measures, but criticised the Government for its harsh measures. As a result, he was arrested under Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code on the charge of sedition. He was once again arrested in 1908 on the charge of writing polemical articles intensifying racial animosity between Indians and the British. In June 1914, he was released after spending six years in prison, most of which he had spent in Mandalay in Burma.

On his return, he found the political situation in India very different. Aurobindo Ghose had given up politics for a spiritual life in Pondicherry. Lala Lajpat Rai was away in USA. To conciliate the moderates and avoid any political confrontation, Tilak started the Home Rule League asking, like the Irish Home Rulers, for administrative reforms and not for overthrow of the Government. Annie Besant, an Irish ex-suffragette, an advocate of Free Thought, Fabianism and Theosophy came to India in 1893 to work for the Theosophical Society. She entered Indian politics in 1914 and founded the Home Rule League. She realised that for her movement to succeed, she had to get the support of the Indian National Congress, of both the Moderates and the Extremists. She launched a campaign through her two papers, *New India* and *Commonweal* and organised public meetings and conferences demanding that India be granted self-government on the lines of Britain's White colonies after the War. In 1917, the Government of Madras placed Mrs Besant and her associates BP Wadia and George Arundale under arrest. There was nation-wide protest and many 'Moderate' leaders like Madan Mohan Malaviya, Surendranath Banerjee and MA Jinnah joined the Home Rule League to show their support to Annie Besant. Tilak advocated the use of passive resistance if the Government did not release her. At Gandhiji's instance about a thousand signatures were collected of men who were prepared to defy the internment order and march to the place where Besant was interned. The new Secretary of State, Lord Montagu was much more sympathetic and conciliatory and Besant was released. She was elected President of the Indian National Congress in 1917.



SATYAGRAHA WAS NOT PASSIVE RESISTANCE, BUT ACTIVE OPPOSITION TO ANY FORM OF INJUSTICE. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR READ INTENSIVELY INTO THE GANDHIAN PHILOSOPHY AS A NEW AND POWERFUL WEAPON AGAINST INJUSTICE. BUT THE OPPOSITION HAD TO BE NON-VIOLENT

The announcement of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms divided the ranks of the supporters of Home Rule and the movement gradually lost its strength. In any case, its popularity had been mainly among the urban, English educated intelligentsia. However, it had generated a widespread nationalist atmosphere and created a group of individuals who played an important role in the national movement of the succeeding years, when under the leadership of Gandhi, it became a mass movement.

SEEDS OF SATYAGRAHA AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

It was in South Africa where Gandhi spent twenty years, and evolved a method of political protest which he called satyagraha, which literally means 'truth force' or 'the struggle for truth'. Gandhi described it as 'a force which is born of truth and love or non-violence'. For him, it was the end of a quest for a moral equivalent of war. Satyagraha was not passive resistance, but active opposition to any form of injustice. Martin Luther King Jr read intensively into the Gandhian philosophy as a new and powerful weapon against injustice. But the opposition had to be non-violent.

In his own words, 'Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction'. King recognised Gandhi's legacy of non-violence for the effectiveness of his own campaigns for racial integration. He became Gandhi's greatest disciple by embracing satyagraha as a method of struggle for the emancipation of blacks in America. The Transvaal Government introduced the Asiatic Law Amendment Ordinance which required every Asian man, woman or child above the age of eight to register his or her name with the Registrar of Asiatics. Failure to do so was a criminal offence. In response to the Black Act, a public meeting was held in the Empire Theatre in Johannesburg in September 1906, attended by about 3000 Indians who took a vow to defy the law in a non-violent manner.

Excerpted with permission from Aparna Basu's *Gandhi's Vision: Freedom and Beyond,* Niyogi Books, ₹1,500

FROM PAGE 1

Bollywood's biopic boom

The audience is invited to see themselves in the hero, to imagine that they can achieve the middle-class dream too if only they put in a little more effort, if only they overcome the barriers that hold them back. At the core of these inspirational stories is always the individual; the system is meant to be 'won' rather than questioned or dismantled. The limited budget biopics mentioned earlier do precisely this. Take *Shahid,* for instance, based on the life of the late Shahid Azmi, an Indian lawyer best known for defending cases of persons accused of terrorism. It is a film that uses the biopic genre to bring communalism, Islamophobia, Government overreach, and the dangerous consequences of cruel and draconian laws on the public life, into sharp focus. *Shahid* doesn't just pay homage to Shahid Azmi, it honours his legacy by putting the bravery and perseverance of the individual in perspective by juxtaposing it against an apathetic system.

Both *Shahid* and *Sanju* have scenes from prisons, which bear witness to police violence of suspects, TADA's fallout, and the grim reality of the country's prison system. *Sanju,* however, evokes it to generate sympathy from its audience; the scenes overtly dramatise the pain of one man as if to convey that this treatment was reserved for him (think of the overflowing toilet in his jail cell); it might have even justified the same treatment had it been doled out to an 'actual' terrorist rather than Sanjay Dutt, who was mistaken to be one. *Sanju* doesn't take the opportunity provided to it by the protagonist's life to reflect on the injustice practised in disproportionately withholding bails of the underprivileged; the film's only contention is that its protagonist was denied one. *Shahid* practices restraint but it is able to unpack layers upon layers of violence. In a scene in a police station with Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, who plays Shahid's brother Asif, he requests the police inspector to grant him permission to meet his brother. The conversation gets heated when the inspector denies the requests and abuses Asif; it's a memorable scene that compels you to linger on it. The inspector's ire is not limited to Shahid's TADA charge; he is incensed when Asif speaks to him in English to make a point; it is a moment

that only Hansal Mehta could have visualised. We don't know the social background of the police inspector's character, but we can guess it because he embodies the insecurities of the majority; that a Muslim man would speak to him in English is unacceptable to him. *Shahid* portrays the best of Azmi's life, but it succeeds because it is able to expand itself by linking the story to those of millions of other stories, in and outside the country.

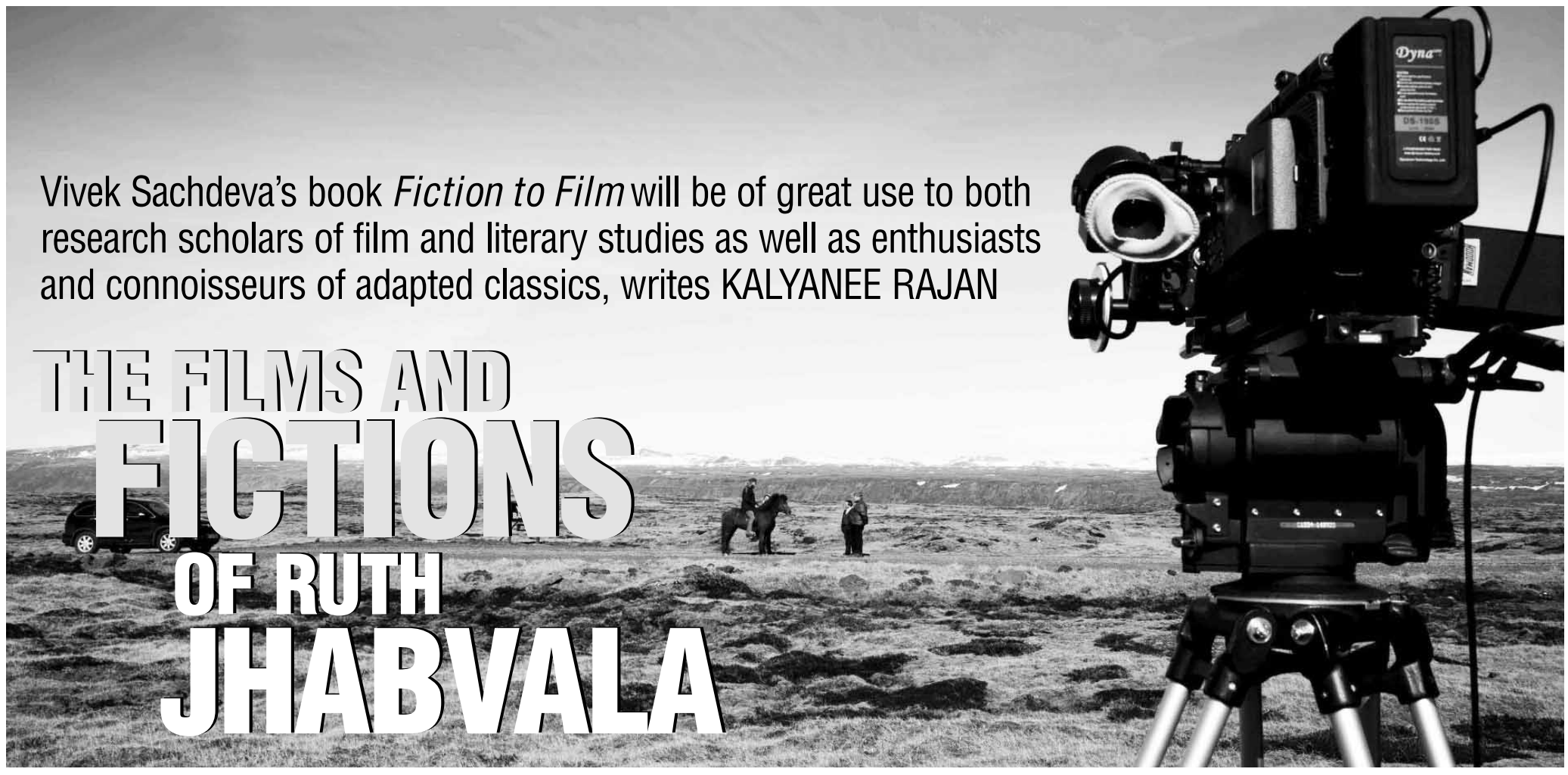
One of the other important losers in big-budget biopics is inclusion. Of the biopics released in 2017-18, only *Pad Man* based on the life of Arunachalam Muruganantham could have claimed to represent an overlooked community in cinematic adaptation. However, as Aswathy Gopalakrishnan notes for *Silverscreen.in*, even that remained unrealised: "All non-glitzy elements have been removed from the story, and that includes Muruganantham himself. His identity as a school dropout from an impoverished family of handloom weavers in rural South India gets modified on screen as an upper-caste man named Laxmikant Chauhan (Akshay Kumar) in a town in Madhya Pradesh. It isn't a minor alteration which can be easily passed in a terribly skewed world where a large section of people are underrepresented or misrepresented in our popular culture."

Dilip Mandal has pointed out how *Manikarnika* doled out the same treatment to the character of Jhalkari Bai, Dalit warrior and Lakshmi Bai's confidante who was instrumental in facilitating the latter's escape from the palace in Jhansi before her final battle. Though *Manikarnika* failed to recover its humongous ₹100 crore budget, the formula has generally worked. I'll use Mike Sholars' words, in context of his critique of *The Imitation Game*, to put it another way: "If the positive outcome of sharing true stories is inspiration, then the negative outcome is the erasure of the struggles and existence of marginalised group and the conflation of entire swaths of the human experience with 'messy details' that can be expunged from a narrative with little consequence. It's one thing to simplify a narrative and quite another to sanitise or sensationalise it."

And what of the increasing number of biopics based on the lives of active politicians? The abysmal trailer for *My Name is RaGa*, and the failure of *The Accidental Prime Minster* to draw audience might suggest that these stories will only have a short run. But let it be noted that the failure has more to do with the lack of compelling storytelling rather than their political bent. It is yet to be seen how Omung Kumar puts the formula to use in his Narendra Modi film. The truth is that while Bollywood may have climbed the bogey of social change and patriotic fervour, these films are more about the actors who star in them rather than the issues they claim to be addressing.

Much like *Chak De! India* and *Pink*, *Pad Man* and *Dangal* exist to put woke credentials in the kitties of established male actors. Fresh stories are rewritten in service of these actors relegating the principle subjects and their stories to the background. With female actors asserting their own power in the industry, the same thing has started happening on the other end of the permissible gender binary. *Mary Kom* had proven that women-centric biopics also make money, and Ranaut's limited success notwithstanding, several similar biopics based on Anandibai Joshi, Laxmi Agarwal, Gunjan Saxena, Jayalalithaa, Saina Nehwal, Teejan Bai are either in works or slated for release this year. The bottom line? Biopics are hot because Bollywood has finally cracked how to sell them.

The writer is an Assistant Professor (Guest) at Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi

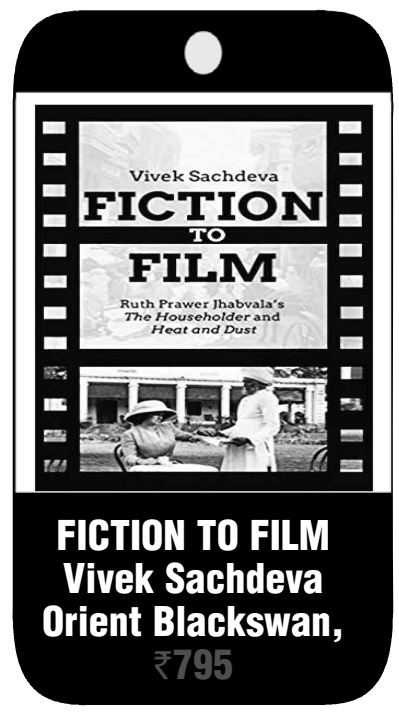


Vivek Sachdeva's book *Fiction to Film* will be of great use to both research scholars of film and literary studies as well as enthusiasts and connoisseurs of adapted classics, writes KALYANEE RAJAN

THE FILMS AND FICTIONS OF RUTH JHABVALA

The print and the visual multimedia as distinct disciplines have traditionally been unwilling partners, in other words, they make strange bedfellows. Both stake claims as the carriers of the absolute truth in its untarnished, complete glory, harbouring a remarkable degree of suspicion for each other. In terms of literature, fiction as a literary text and fiction depicted on screen as cinema, are seldom understood to be quite the same thing: While the written word would claim an enormity which cannot possibly be depicted on screen, verbatim, unless one were to take great liberties with the run-time. Similarly, the on-screen version would plead for a treat for all senses, a more wholesome, multilayered experience over the unidimensional written word. It is easy to spot two literature and film enthusiasts respectively, bitterly arguing over say, the Harry Potter or the Lord of the Rings series. Cinematic adaptations are mere starting points of animated discussions and discourse in proper, winding through the respective strengths of literature and cinema. These are some of the issues that academic, critic and translator Vivek Sachdeva deftly handles in his *Fiction to Film: Ruth Prawer Jhabvala's The Householder and Heat and Dust*.

In his detailed introduction, Sachdeva lays a definitive background for building a case for fiction and film as distinctive texts: He defines the aim of his project as one to study adaptations of novels into films and to note the transformations a narrative undergoes in cinematic form. Talking at length about adaptation, its growth and famous cinematic adaptations in both the Western and the Indian corpus, Sachdeva goes on to discuss "Film as Art". He makes a significant observation in terms of a distinctive feature of canonical literature like that of Shakespeare which had 'something for everyone'— philosophy, wit, melodrama, rhetoric and also spectacle. Cinema which may have its origin in entertainment has over the years through the contribution of filmmakers par excellence, grown into an evolved art form because of the 'timeless works of art in portraying human life in all its bewildering complexity and nuance with rare insight and sensitivity' notes Sachdeva. Drawing upon several crucial interventions by the likes of Raymond Williams, Adorno, Arnheim and Eisenstein's theory of montage, Sachdeva explicates the relation between films and reality: While literary images reach the readers through 'conceptual perception', cinematic images reach directly through perception. Under the interestingly titled section "Pride (in literature) and Prejudice (against adaptation)", Sachdeva cites several directorial exemplars while inferring that "creative filmmakers have used film's mode of communication so innovatively and effectively that what a novel takes pages to describe, a filmmaker has said more in a short scene or two". The nature and scope of adaptation is also discussed in depth, the respective artistic conventions of a novel and a film are analysed. Sachdeva also dwells upon the connotations associated with criticism of cinematic adaptations, which are usually pejorative and highly polarising viz 'deformation', 'bastardisation' to name a few, and the whole debate around fidelity criticism, with the label 'infidelity' drawing from Victorian prudishness and ethical perfidy in particular. He makes a case against the prejudice of parasitism of cinema as an art form which has led to a supposition that films in some way drain or damage the narrative text, be restating how adaptation is "fundamentally a creative process". A dedicated section on "Challenges of Adaptation" looks at two primary vertices: That of the origin of the two respective art forms films and novels, and their respective employment of linguistic tools. Through an exhaustive survey of theories, Sachdeva finds Klein and Parker's model of seeing "adaptation as an interpretation of the original text" stronger in terms of essentially veering away from the fidelity aspect. He proposes looking at the relation between the original and the new text through the lenses of "inter-textuality, translation and inter-mediality", looking at the adaptation as a derivation that is not derivative. The final section titled "Narration in Cinema" is particularly illuminating as it dwells upon the "complex system of relations" to be perceived by the viewer, including the framing of shots, arrangement of material on the basis of space and time, the point of view and narration through modes of long shots, close ups, the treatment of time and so on. Sachdeva seeks to explicate all his observations through a close analysis of celebrated novelist Ruth Prawer Jhabvala's novels *The Householder* and *Heat and Dust* which the author herself helped to depict on screen by donning the hat of a screenplay writer, for the films produced by Ismail Merchant and directed by James Ivory.



FICTION TO FILM
Vivek Sachdeva
Orient Blackswan, ₹795

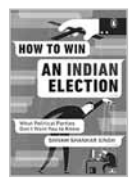
In the succeeding four chapters, Sachdeva presents a comprehensive study and scrutiny of the phenomenal journey of fiction transforming into films. In the first chapter, he methodically deals with the technicalities of story, time (analepsis and prolepsis), focalisation, levels of narration, narrator and kinds of narrators with their respective functions, concluding with characters and characterisation, and space, all written in crisp, jargon-free style of explanation. The next chapter looks at Jhabvala the individual and the writer, her brief biography, also including brief synopses as well as insightful thematic discussion of her primary works such as *To Whom She Will, The Nature of Passion, Esmond in India*. The sub-section titled "The Screenwriter" engages with short overviews of the several films Jhabvala wrote during her fruitful association with Merchant Ivory Productions. The third and the fourth chapters juxtapose the novels and their respective cinematic adaptations, in the manner of an expert, microscopic scrutiny. The conclusion ties up the entire analysis towards proposing a new take on narrative discourse in fiction and film, especially in the Indian context. The exhaustive annexures on the two films and the detailed bibliography testify to the range of research and referencing that has gone into making of this pioneering volume.

The merit of Vivek Sachdeva's Fiction to Film lies in its clinical handling of a subject so mired in contrary points of view, and the insights he draws can be effectively applied to the study of other cinematic adaptations, translations and theatre in general. It must be mentioned that in these times, cinematic adaptations in Bollywood have caught popular imagination with creative adaptations of Shakespeare for instance, by the likes of veteran directors such as Vishal Bhardwaj (*Maqbool, Omkara, Haider*), and Sanjay Leela Bhansali (*Goliyon ki Raas Leela Raam Leela*) among others as cases in point.

The reviewer teaches English Literature at a Delhi University college

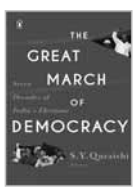
NEW ARRIVALS

HOW TO WIN AN INDIAN ELECTION
Shivam Shankar Singh
Penguin, ₹250



What role do political consultants play in election campaigns? How are political parties using technological tools such as data analytics, surveys and alternative media to construct effective, micro-targeted campaigns? How does the use of money impact election results? What aids in the en masse dissemination of divisive propaganda and fake news? What does it take to win an election in India today? What is the future of politics in the country?

THE GREAT MARCH OF DEMOCRACY
SY Quraishi
Penguin Viking, ₹599



As India gears for its seventeenth Lok Sabha elections in 2019, the Election Commission of India, guardian of the world's grandest electoral experiment, marks the beginning of its seventieth year. This book celebrates seven decades of India's vibrant democracy and the Election Commission's excellence and rigour, with a remarkable collection of essays written by those who have studied India's unique experiment in electoral democracy.

TWICE UPON A TIME
Payal Kapadia
Puffin, ₹199

'All princess stories are the same!' But not this one. This is a story about two girls. Keya just happens to be a princess. Nyla just happens to be a tomboy. Both just want to be themselves. When Princess Keya quits and Nyla shows up to replace her, two worlds collide. Together the girls ruffle dresses and feathers; break vases and traditions; fight dragons and boredom; grow roses and revolutions. So what if there are a few puny princes and snivelling snobs in the mix? Leave it to the girls to rescue everyone-and each other. Boisterous, over the top and wicked funny, this book is for girls who have outgrown princesses.

Just one birthday wish

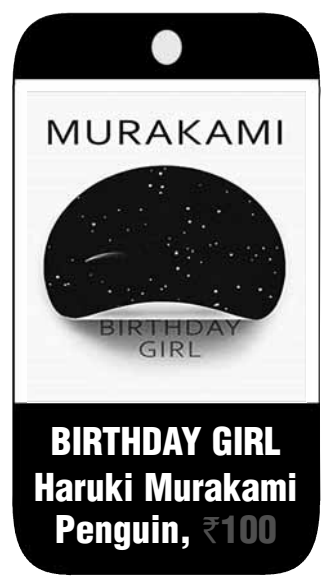
Murakami's recently re-released *Birthday Girl* is just the gift that a grown-up would need on his/her next birthday. In its philosophy as well as writing style, it is a rare literary treat, writes UMANG AGGARWAL

There's almost nothing new about a story that revolves around the idea of the protagonist being granted a fixed number of wishes. Almost inevitably, the story ends with a philosophical lesson that he/she learns in the process of making the wish. Only an author with (Franz) Kafka-like rare skill and thought to add novelty to this. And that's exactly what the book being reviewed offers.

Haruki Murakami, a contemporary Japanese author whose works have been widely translated and celebrated, has often been compared with Franz Kafka. Like Kafka's, Murakami's characters and stories are set in the world that lies somewhere in the middle of that which seems magical and that which seems eerie. Unlike Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Salman Rushdie who create beautiful and strangely believable worlds in the genre of magical realism, Kafka and Murakami retain a sense of enigma in their writings. Their works do not go all the way in making supernatural elements seem 'normal'. Instead, they thrive on an element of incredulity in the stories that they weave. While Marquez and Rushdie would have you believe that their beautiful worlds exist somewhere, Murakami would almost never give the reader the satisfaction of that kind of finality. A nagging but enchanting loose end would follow the reader and make him/ her come back to the novel in search of any clues that he/ she might have missed earlier.

Thriller, romance, fantasy — Murakami's works defy the usual genres that literature is classified into. Instead, they criss-cross through so many genres adapting and refashioning elements from each of them that at best one can say that they have a genre of their own. *Birthday Girl*, the Japanese author's celebrated short story was re-packaged into a novella and released by Penguin less than a month ago. And, it would be safe to say that it is one of the most rewarding Murakami treats.

The short story turned into a novella revolves around a concept that tends to develop an extra layer of complexity with each passing year — birthdays. Grown-ups can pretend that they are over the childish excitement and anxiety that birthdays bring along with them. But to put it plainly, almost no one ever is. The idea of a fresh start each year is as inviting as the idea of looking back at the previous year is daunting. The girl protagonist in the book who resigns to waiting table even on the eve of her 20th birthday as she was "not going to do anything special anyway". Just like her, grown-ups often tell themselves to keep their birthdays "ordinary" and eventless. But just like in the book, fate can choose to interfere at almost any point.In the book, the protagonist has an unusual encounter that seems to be destined to happen. People around her fall unexpectedly ill and practically start making way for her to have an experience which cannot help but think back on even years later. The 20th birthday, which the author chooses, carries extra weight in the sense that it officially marks the end of the teen years in a growing adult's life. It's a milestone that one can cross only "once" in a lifetime. And the author has some rather insightful take on what one should wish for at that juncture — he/ she should 'make' their wish.



BIRTHDAY GIRL
Haruki Murakami
Penguin, ₹100

MURAKAMI WOULD ALMOST NEVER GIVE THE READER THE SATISFACTION OF FINALITY. A NAGGING BUT ENCHANTING LOOSE END WOULD FOLLOW AND MAKE HIM/HER RE-READ

"Just one. You can't change your mind afterwards and take it back." The beauty of Haruki Murakami's writing can be discovered and rediscovered by reading this one sentence over and over again. It's one of the most loaded, deeply meaningful, and deceptively simple sentences that English literature has seen. In the book, on the face of it, the limitation of "just one" is imposed on the number of wishes granted to the unnamed narrator. If one looks at keeping the context of birthdays and birthday wishes in mind, it can even refer to each successive year that an individual is "granted" on his/ her birthday as he/ she gets old. The underlying message here is that with each year coming as an opportunity to "make" our wishes come true, do individuals really need to close their eyes, blow on the birthday candles, and ask for more? That, of course, is just one interpretation. In a larger sense, "just one" can even refer to the number of lives an individual is granted. In that case, the open-handedness of the narrator's conversation with her unnamed friend becomes all the more poignant. "That's because you have already made your wish," the speaker says to the listener when he/ she is unable to come up with one wish that would have been appropriate for his/ her twentieth birthday. In saying that and invoking the idea of "time" playing "an important role," the story opens itself up to an interpretation where "only one" wish refers to what an individual does with the "only" life that he/ she gets. If you have nothing 'special' to do on your next birthday, I would suggest reading or even rereading Murakami's *Birthday Girl*. It beckons the reader into a space that is anything but ordinary.

Eurasian security at stake

NALIN KUMAR MOHAPATRA

The NATO-Russia Council Summit demonstrates the 'misunderstanding' about each other still exists and is accentuating a hostile strategic climate in and around Eurasia

The deadlock between Russia and NATO in the NATO-Russia Council Summit in Brussels has once again exposed the perpetual fissures and this may jeopardise both Eurasian security and global peace.

The Cold War-era global conflict which veered around NATO-Warsaw antipathy to each other is once again resurfacing even after the collapse of the Soviet Union 28 years back. This is happening despite the fact that there is no more a Warsaw bloc. The mutual hostility between NATO and Russia (as a lead member of the former Warsaw pact in the form of inheritor of the former Soviet Union) was fully reflected in the latest NATO-Russia Council meeting which took place in Brussels on January 25, 2019.

The mutual antipathy towards each other has also reflected in the tone and tenor of the Brussels Summit. As reported in the Russian press, lack of unanimity in the Council meeting came to fore when the Russian delegates stated that the United States is keen to accelerate its infamous "Star War programme".

The Russian delegates urged that it will "accelerate arms race" at a global scale putting the security of "Global Commons" at nadir. Another contentious issue which got much attention in the NATO-Russia Summit meeting was on the issue of Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces also known as (INF). The Brussels meeting as expected from many quarters failed to evolve a consensus on the future of nuclear arsenals. The failure of the coordination council of both the adversaries is also generating a lot of hypothetical questions relevant to international security. These are:

a) Is NATO going to tame an assertive Russia in near future?

b) Whether NATO will continue its policy of "encirclement" of Russia?

The antagonism between NATO-Russia which has its roots in the Cold War period took a new turn in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union and emergence of the Russian Federation as its successor. To an utter surprise, the new leadership under Boris Yeltsin guided by the pro-Atlancists forces tried to mend fences with the erstwhile foe and got engaged with the NATO bloc.

In fact the admission of Russia into the NATO's outreach Programme of Partnership for Peace (PFP) along with some other former Soviet Union (FSU) States like Azerbaijan, Moldova and Uzbekistan showed inclination of FSU States to mend fences with their Cold War adversary.

Soon the "honeymoon" between these two fell to a low level and Moscow tried to give a new impetus to its external policy in the form of distancing itself from the Western bandwagon. The stand-off between these two reached to a new low when the latter reignited the "soft tinderbox" of Eastern Europe.

The subsequent NATO onslaught on Kosovo alarmed the strategic thinkers of Russia that the United States may use NATO to orchestrate a Cold War type crisis to checkmate Russia. Subsequent change of leadership in Russia which saw emergence of Vladimir Putin as the new President has had a profound impact on policy towards the West. Unlike his predecessor's inconsistent policy as some analysts put it towards the West (especially in the Yeltsin's first term), Putin, in his foreign policy orientation gave a new teething.

The 9/11 incident, however, brought the two into a common platform to fight against radicalist and terrorist forces in Afghanistan. This resulted in the creation of this institutional forum NATO-Russia Council in 2002. The Council was created as stated in the NATO website for "building bridges with Russia".

The short-lived "bonhomie" between these two soon faded into oblivion (Russia-NATO) when West started showing its real intention in the FSU States. Directly or indirectly it propped up the so-called "Colour Revolution" in some of the FSU States like Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. By propping up its own regimes in three above-mentioned strategically important States reflected the true intention of the United States to bring this space into its orbit. In this venture it used NATO's military might to frighten Russia. Along with this move their real intention was also to get a firm foothold in the natural resources like energy.

Nervousness on the part of Russian leadership to the question of NATO's expansion in the Russian periphery strongly reflected in the Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation 2008. The Concept paper published in the Russian Foreign Ministry website mid.ru highlights that "bringing the NATO military infrastructure closer to the Russian borders on the whole... violates the principle of equal security."

Giving a strong rebuttal to the NATO's expansionist policy in its sphere of influence, as reflected in the Foreign Policy Concept paper, Russia took firm measures which resulted in Russia-Georgia war in 2008 and this contributed to South Ossetia's declaration of independence. This gave a sever jolt to NATO's expansionist policy. Another major flashpoint which contributed to the further deterioration of relations between NATO and Russia was over NATO initiated project, Northern Distribution Network (NDN), to deliver humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

By bringing some of the Russian allies like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, in the NDN fold along with beefing up of the NATO-Ukrainian council, NATO tried to get an upper hand in the Eurasian geopolitics.

However in the post-2014 era the hide and seek game between these two strategic competitors took an ugly turn when Russia annexed Crimea. Calling it as an act of "aggression" by Moscow, NATO tried to frighten the former by stationing its troops across its bases in Eastern Europe, Central Europe and Baltic states. The deployment of missiles by NATO in the periphery of Russia propelled analysts to predict the return of "Cold War syndrome" in the global geopolitics. NATO's apprehension of Russia's action was clearly manifested in the Warsaw Summit of NATO which took place in 2016. The Summit meeting as quoted in the NATO website stated, "Russia's aggressive actions are a source of regional instability."

Using "regional instability" (discussed above) as a precursor, NATO is strategising its policy towards the post-Soviet space. NATO member States despite their own internal rift are quite vociferous in demanding stricter action against Russia as evident from recent speech of President of Ukraine. In spite of internal rift (by the European member states and the United States in NATO over generating fund) which threatened the very existence of this military bloc, this Western body — as reported in the London-based newspaper *Telegraph* dated January 27, 2019 — is "mulling to spend around $100 billion" for member states" security. This demonstrates NATO's preparedness to indulge in perpetual hostility with Russia. NATO's intention of taking on Russia militarily can be evident from the fact that it is conducting a series of military exercises in the periphery of Russia to demonstrate its war preparedness.

Another contentious issue which got attention in the NATO-Russia Council Summit was the reduction of INF. It may be recalled here that the Council for Foreign Relations (CFR) study titled "The Ailing INF Treaty: What to Know" published on January 28, 2019 states that Russia is enjoying an "tactical advantage" over the United States in the possession of INF warheads.

The data of CFR study said, "Moscow has around 6,850 warheads and Washington has only 6,550" of the same. The failure of Brussels Summit resulted in both the United States (being part of NATO) and Russia deciding to withdraw from the INF treaty as stated by policy makers from both the countries. However this may trigger a new kind of "security dilemma" in global politics.

The NATO-Russia Council Summit demonstrated that the "misperception" of both the sides is still there and accentuating a hostile strategic climate in and around Eurasia as evident from recent moves in Ukraine. Similarly for a "sustainable peace" both NATO and Russia should take steps that might reduce mutual hostility.

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PERSPECTIVE

40 years of Islamic Revolution in Iran

YASIR ALI MIRZA

Since the 1979 revolution, international relations and geopolitical equations have drastically changed. Besides stirring up a debate on Islam vs West, it continues to have repercussions on the Islamic Republic's relations with the rest of the world

In the political history of West Asian and North African (WANA) region, the decades of 1970s and 1980s are marked as the years of turbulence. These years witnessed major upheavals in the political arena of Iran as well. The Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979 under the leadership of Ayatollah Sayyid Ruhollah Moosavi Khomeini was one of the monumental events. It was a major development of the 20th century as it comprehensively changed the course of history and politics.

Cultural Shock

At their wits' end, the Western world was fumbling for words to react to this "orientalist" phenomenon as it did not conform to their notion of a "revolution". Cut to present, the revolution has stirred up an intense debate on Islam vs West because the whole idea of modernity has been challenged by the contours of the Iranian revolution. It continues to be a source of bewilderment in the Western world and is often called "rightist", "reactionary", "fanatic', 'irrational' and "regressive".

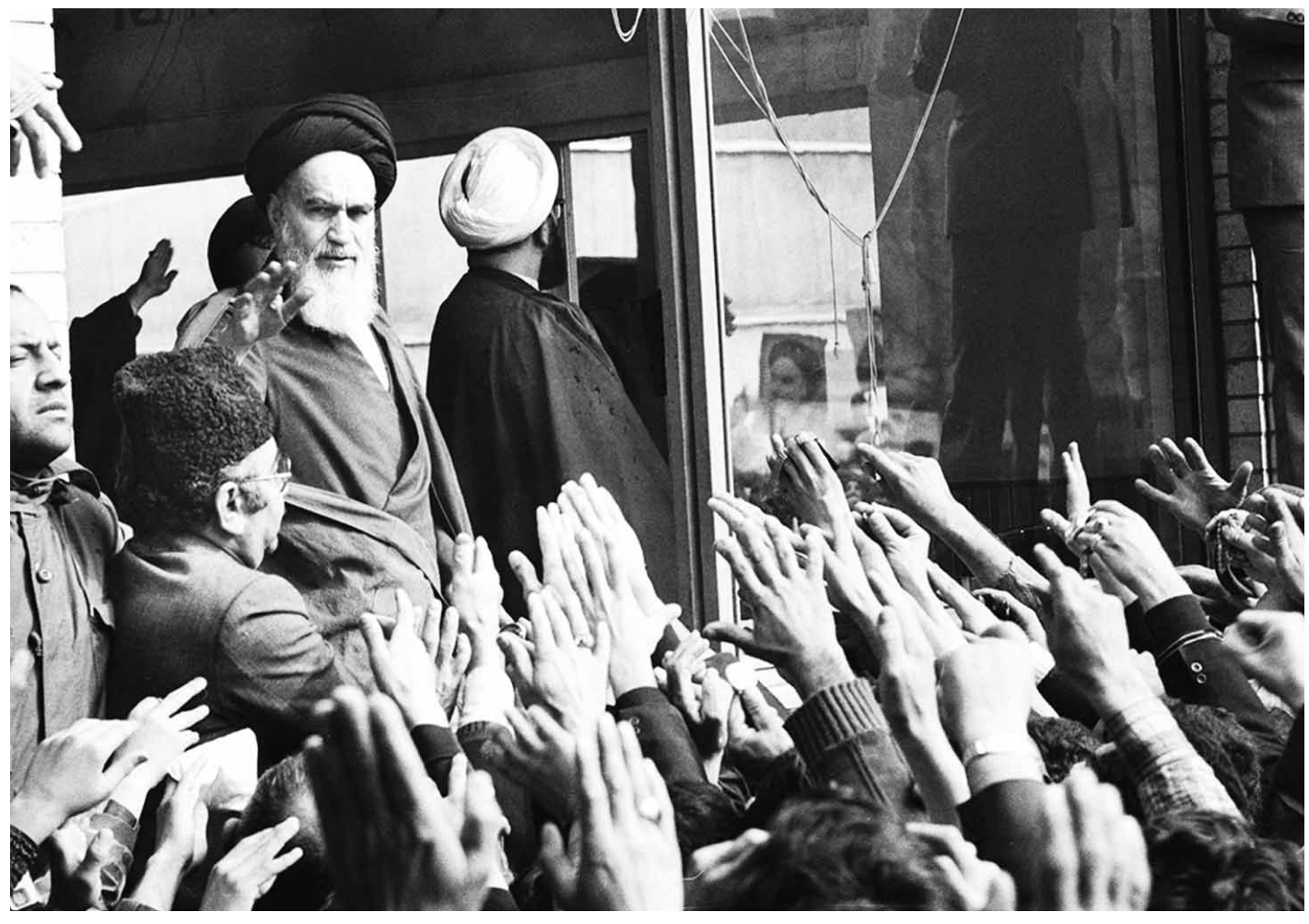
However, in an important book *Shi'ism and Social Protest*, US academician Richard W Cottam has tried to dissect the anatomy of the Iranian Revolution by comparing it with French and Bolshevik revolutions. He is of the view that both the revolutions did not have the populist features as compared to the Iranian Revolution as one-fourth of Iran's population took to the streets against a regime still capable of brutal repression.

The Gathering Storm

Before every political revolution there is an intellectual revolution. To name a few, it was mystic philosopher Ali Shariati, Ayatollah Morteza Motahhari, Jalal Aal-e Ahmad and Ayatollah Beheshti who exhorted people with their intellectual engagements. In Iran the Islamic Revolution has its roots in the trials and tribulations of history. The late 19th century Tobacco Movement and early 20th century Constitutional Movement has been a very important event in awakening the collective consciousness of people. Further the democratically elected popular Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh Government supported by a Shia clergy Ayatollah Sayyid Abol Qasim Kashani was overthrown in a US-backed coup (also called Operation Ajax) had deep impact on psyche of ordinary Iranians. Actually, the sense of anti-Americanism had also roots in that "great betrayal". Upon restoring the monarchy with the help of Britishers and Americans, Shah started more repressive policies by eliminating the dissenting voices. The notorious secret service SAVAK had played major role as henchmen in perpetuating the intimidation and torture of political activists. The bloody events of 15 Khordad in 1963, after which Ayatollah Khomeini was sent into exile, had began to radicalise the Iranian masses against the despotic monarchy. Western countries had more clout over the oil businesses. Despite booming oil remittances the wedge between rich and poor began to make situation worst.

A Road to Revolution

In the last leg of the nationwide mass protests in December 1978, the momentum began to gather each passing day. The religious fervour was very high as it coincided with the commemoration of Martyrs of Karbala in the month of Muharram, which has a central place in Shia religio-philosophical construct. The Iranian ulama have successfully tried Shia symbols to mobilise the masses and created the binary of Imam Hussain vs Yazeed. The streets swelled with frenzied people raising the emotional slogans in crescendo "*Kullo Yaumin Ashura, Kullo Arzin Karbala*" (Everyday is Karbala, Everyday land is Ashura). It was quite evident that any time soon US-backed Shah would no longer ruler of this country. Even the renowned French intellectual Michel Foucault, who went to Iran as an Italian newspaper *Corriere della serra's* correspondent, sensed the popular upsurge that is going to inevitable in Iran.



In this Feb 1, 1979 file photo, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, centre, waves to followers as he appears on the balcony of his headquarters in Tehran. Forty years ago, Iran's ruling Shah left his nation for the last time and the Islamic Revolution overthrew the vestiges of his caretaker Government. The effects of the 1979 revolution, including the takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran and ensuing hostage crisis, reverberate through decades of tense relations between Iran and America AP

Post-Revolutionary Islamic Republic

Na Shah Mee Khwaham, Na Shahpour Mee Khwaham (I want neither Shah, nor Shahpour). This was a proclamation of Ayatollah Khomeini in a massive public reception at Behisht-e Zehra cemetery when he landed on Mehrabad Airport on 1st February in 1979 after fourteen years of exile in Turkey, Iraq and France. Iranian newspapers covered this historic event as *"Imam Aamad"* (Coming of Leader). Iranians welcomed him as a redeemer of their suffering who will lead to their collective salvation. Defying vestiges of Shah's regime on February 11, Imam Khomeini took the reins in his own hand formed Islamic Revolutionary Committees were formed across the country to run the affairs.

After one month, Khomeini constituted a referendum and declared Iran as Islamic Republic and introduced the political system of *Velayat-e Faqih* (Governance of the Jurisprudent). Mehdi Bazargan, who later parted his ways, became first President. In order to consolidate the regime and his grip on power he also formed an elite force called *Pasdaran-e Enghelab-e Islami* or Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), which later cut their teeth in Iran-Iraq War and also played an important role in purging the remnants of Shah. It remains a formidable force in Iranian defence system. After the victory of revolution, the relations between Iran and US administration got worse. President Jimmy Carter showed no goodwill towards the new regime but hostility and threats. The US embassy hostage crisis further added fuel to the fire. In its neighbourhood, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, being bankrolled by Gulf regimes and armed by Western countries, imposed an eight-year devastating war on Iran. The left guerrilla group Mujahideen-e Khalq Organisation (MKO) would also try to trigger a counter revolution. But despite all these stumbling blocks, it came out triumphantly. The commendable fact of these developments is that electioneering process of Presidents and Majles had never been halted despite these entire crises.

International and Regional Geopolitical Implications

The revolution not only profoundly changed Iran and its Government, but also changed how Iran was dealt with by the rest of the world. Beyond the borders it also had the regional and international dimensions. One of the pillars (other was Saudi Arabia) of United States' "Twin-Pillar Strategy" in the region fell down. Western nations and especially the US, whom Iran termed it as *Shaitan-e Bozorg* (Great Satan), were not prepared for the revolution and it was a great surprise to the international community.

The revolution was seen as a great threat to the status quo in the authoritarian and monarchical regimes in the WANA region. Asserting Islam as a major political force and to dislodge the East-West binary being contours of international relations, Iranian revolutionaries had given a call *"Na Sharq, Na Gharb, Faqat Jomhouri Islami"* (Neither East, Nor West, only Islamic Republic). They also exhorted "Mustazifeen" (Oppressed) to take the "Mustakbireen" (Oppressors) out from the power. As Vali Nasr also contends that Iran made Islamism a political force that would change Muslim politics from Morocco to Malaysia.

It inspired the people struggling for self determination and their legitimate rights. Particularly it had a major impact on the Palestinian liberation struggle against the Zionist occupation. The birth of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad movements made possible after the Iranian support. The Iraqi Shia political activists who were bearing the brunt of ruthless repression of Saddam Hussein's regime were also very receptive of Imam Khomeini's clarion call. The underclass Shia of south Lebanon also got inspired by the Islamist fervour and organised a powerful Hezbollah movement against the Israeli occupation. It was that time when the farcical Arab Nationalism had taken hold across the region.

Iran After 40

After 40 years of revolution, Iran has achieved progress almost in every walk of life and made country self reliant. Ayatollah Khomeini's forthright leadership and his undeterred character led the revolution to its accomplishment despite all hardships and adverse circumstances. Similarly after the death of Imam Khomeini in 1989, the incumbent Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hosseini Khamenei successfully carried on his legacy with new vigour and wisdom. He successfully led Iran to a rightful place in comity of nations.

The legacy of the revolution continues to have reverberations even today, and has profoundly shaped politics in the West Asia. Still the Iranian leadership is standing against the war-monger countries like rock solid who are bullying in the names of covert or overt war and harsh economic sanctions.

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ON THE LAST DAY OF THE BUDGET SESSION, MULAYAM SINGH YADAV WISHED NARENDRA MODI A SECOND TERM AS THE PM

Rahul to have the last word on party's LS ticket formula

sunday gupshup

HARI SHANKAR VYAS

The Congress has decided that the Rajya Sabha MPs would not be given tickets for the Lok Sabha polls. MLAs, too, would not get a chance to fight, say sources. The leaders who had fought the Assembly Elections would also be kept out of the race as will the kin of leaders. But the final decision rests with Rahul; if he deems right, he may tweak this formula in select cases

On February 7, Rahul Gandhi met the State in-charges and General Secretaries of the party. Two days later, he called a meeting of State Presidents, leaders of MLAs in States, and Chief Ministers. In the two meetings, Rahul discussed the preparations and strategies for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections. Among other things, the formula for ticket distribution was also decided in the meetings.

It is being said that during the course of discussions, it was decided that the Rajya Sabha MPs would not be given tickets for the Lok Sabha polls. MLAs, too, would not get a chance to fight the Lok Sabha Elections, say sources. The leaders who had fought the Assembly Elections would also be kept out of the race, as will the kin of leaders. Interestingly, there is a catch in this: The final decision rests with Rahul. This effectively means that if Rahul deems right, he may tweak this formula in select cases.

Now the question is how much of this formula will be implemented? Leaders present in the meetings, who did not oppose the formula at the time, are now calling it impractical. Will this strategy send all known faces into oblivion? Will the Congress be able to counter the challenges posed by Narendra Modi and Amit Shah with novices? Sources in the party say many Rajya Sabha MPs are trying to get LS tickets either for their wives or children. The kin of many CMs, former CMs, and State Presidents are gearing up for the upcoming polls. Relatives of many big leaders, such as Kamal Nath, Siddaramaiah, Ashok Gehlot, and Sheila Dikshit, might stake a claim for tickets. Barring some, this is almost certain that almost all relatives of big leaders would get tickets, as will some MLAs.

JYOTIRADITYA'S BIG PLANS

What will be next plan of action of the in-charge of western UP, Jyotiraditya Scindia? People are saying that his wife, Priyadarshini Raje, is gearing up to fight the Lok Sabha Elections from Gwalior. Scindia is an MP from Guna, but Gwalior has been his family's stronghold for the longest time now. His wife has started appearing in public functions and people are desperate to know whether both the husband and wife will contest the elections. However, that would seem highly unlikely since Jyotiraditya will be busy working alongside Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in UP.

Meanwhile, there is buzz right from Madhya Pradesh to Delhi that Jyotiraditya has his eyes set on the CM's chair and that is why he doesn't want to fight the LS polls. It is being said that soon after the elections, his role in State politics will gain prominence. Quite possibly, he will fight the Assembly Elections after ensuring the resignation of a loyal MLA. However, some are of the opinion that he might be sent to the Rajya Sabha or be given the party command in the State. Perhaps, Kamal Nath is apprehensive of a possible upheaval, which is why he has conveyed to the party high command his decision to not leave the Chhindwara seat. Kamal Nath might rope in his son, Nakul Nath, to fight from here. Kamal's wife, Alka Nath, has also been an MP from this seat.

SACHIN PILOT'S STRATEGY

The Congress State President of Rajasthan and Deputy CM, Sachin Pilot, has announced that nobody from his family will fight the Lok Sabha Elections. The current MLA from Tonk was defeated in the 2014 Lok Sabha Elections from Ajmer. Later, when byelections were held in Ajmer, he didn't contest. This seat is vacant. Raghu Sharma, who had won the byelections, has become an MLA and is now a Minister in the Gehlot Cabinet.

However, Pilot has clarified that nobody from his family will fight from this seat. He is said to be eyeing the CM post, which explains his strategy. His mother, Rama Pilot, has been an MP from Dausa. This time also, people were saying that she might contest from Ajmer. Pilot's wife, Sara, is also from a political family; she is Farooq Abdullah's daughter and Omar's sister. It won't come as a surprise if she too jumps on the political bandwagon. If only Sachin hadn't tried to stand out among other party leaders and announced that no one from his family would contest. It's likely that he will start pressure politics soon after the elections.

BIG DILEMMA IN CONGRESS

It seems that Rahul Gandhi has appointed State in-charges and General Secretaries without any deliberations or a thought about the future. Many General Secretaries are likely to contest elections, prompting several questions. General Secretaries and State in-charges are worried for their seats and the big question looms large: Who will lead the elections in States which have been assigned to them? There is no cause for worry in areas where Rajya Sabha MPs have been given charge, but what will happen in States whose in-charges are themselves in the Lok Sabha poll race?

RPN Singh is in-charge for Jharkhand and has to fight the Lok Sabha Elections. State President of Jharkhand, Ajay Kumar, and chairman of the campaign committee, Subodh Kant Sahay, are also set to contest. Who will guide the party there? Umang Singhar — co-incharge of the party in Madhya Pradesh and a Minister in the Kamal Nath Cabinet — might be told to look after election preparations in Jharkhand. In the same manner, Rajiv Satav, an MP from Hingoli in Maharashtra, has been given the responsibility of Gujarat. He also has to take care of his own seat along with Gujarat.

The biggest issue is of KC Venugopal, the MP from Alappuzha seat in Kerala. Earlier, he was in-charge for Karnataka and is now the General Secretary of the organisation. He will fight the Lok Sabha Elections along with the double responsibilities. In-charge of Assam, Harish Rawat, and in-charge of Maharashtra, Mallikarjun Kharge, also have to contest. In contrast, the BJP has appointed such leaders as State in-charges who don't have to fight the Lok Sabha Elections.

A cold chain prayer to prevent vaccine wastage

Vaccines are sensitive and fragile, and hence need to be stored in proper conditions; temperatures and sequence of storage are critical elements for ensuring the potency

Deepak Pal stole a glance at the battered, metal clock. It was just past 9 am. His morning tea would have to wait. He walked up to the ice-lined refrigerator (ILR) and leaned over to read the words imprinted on the glossy flex right above it, on the wall. "*O Mere Bhagwan Roj Teri Daya, Isiprakar Permanent Hame De*," he whispered in Hindi, almost in a trance, the words in Hindi mean "Seeking the kind blessings of the Almighty every day and forever". A ray of light from a half-open window filled the room in a golden hue as he ended the cold chain prayer.

Minutes later, as he settled down to enjoy his cup of tea, Deepak, a Cold Chain Handler (CCH) at Rajpur CHC, of Barwani, a district in Madhya Pradesh, marveled at the power of the cold chain prayer. This was no ordinary chant to appease the Gods, but a powerful mnemonic to help CCHs like Deepak remember the stacking order of vaccines — starting with 'O' as in OPV at the bottom and 'De' for diluent at the top. It has become a part of Deepak's daily routine; to review the guidelines for stacking the vaccines in the top-opening ILRs, in increasing order of temperature, from minus 20 degrees celsius to 8 degrees celsius. The prayer helped him remember this order and the right temperature, protecting the vaccines from damage. What seemed easy today was indeed a struggle a few years ago.

Vaccines are sensitive and fragile and hence need to be stored in proper conditions; temperatures and sequence of storage are critical elements for ensuring vaccines potency. Hence, vaccine storage and management has always been a critical factor for an immunisation programme's success. Before 2014, this was proving to be a challenge, as CCHs like Deepak struggled to remember the vaccine storage guidelines. Despite several trainings to the handlers, errors continued and large volumes of vaccines were being wasted due to incorrect stacking and storing, resulting in financial loss, loss of vaccine potency, and poor immune response. In 2014, when expensive vaccines like Pentavalent, PCV, RVV, IPV were introduced in Madhya Pradesh, there was a call for urgent intervention to set things right. The solution came from Dr Santosh Shukla, the State Immunisation Officer (SEPIO), a veteran in the field of immunisation. Dr Shukla, Joint Director-cum-SEPIO, Madhya Pradesh, an officer who had worked extensively in rural and remote areas of the State, had immense knowledge and understanding of the ground realities, knew they had to quickly find a solution and think outside the box to help CCHs, supervisors, and MPW/LHVs remember the vaccine storage guidelines. Was there a way to help these target audience remember these guidelines? He found the answer in mnemonics, a learning strategy often used in classrooms from his days as a student in medical college. He codified the guidelines using mnemonics in the form of a simple prayer. For the vaccine handlers, this was a ditty they could chant every day, much like the many prayers that were a part of their lives. There was no looking back! Dr Shukla's deep understanding of the handlers, a group of religious-minded people, had saved the day.

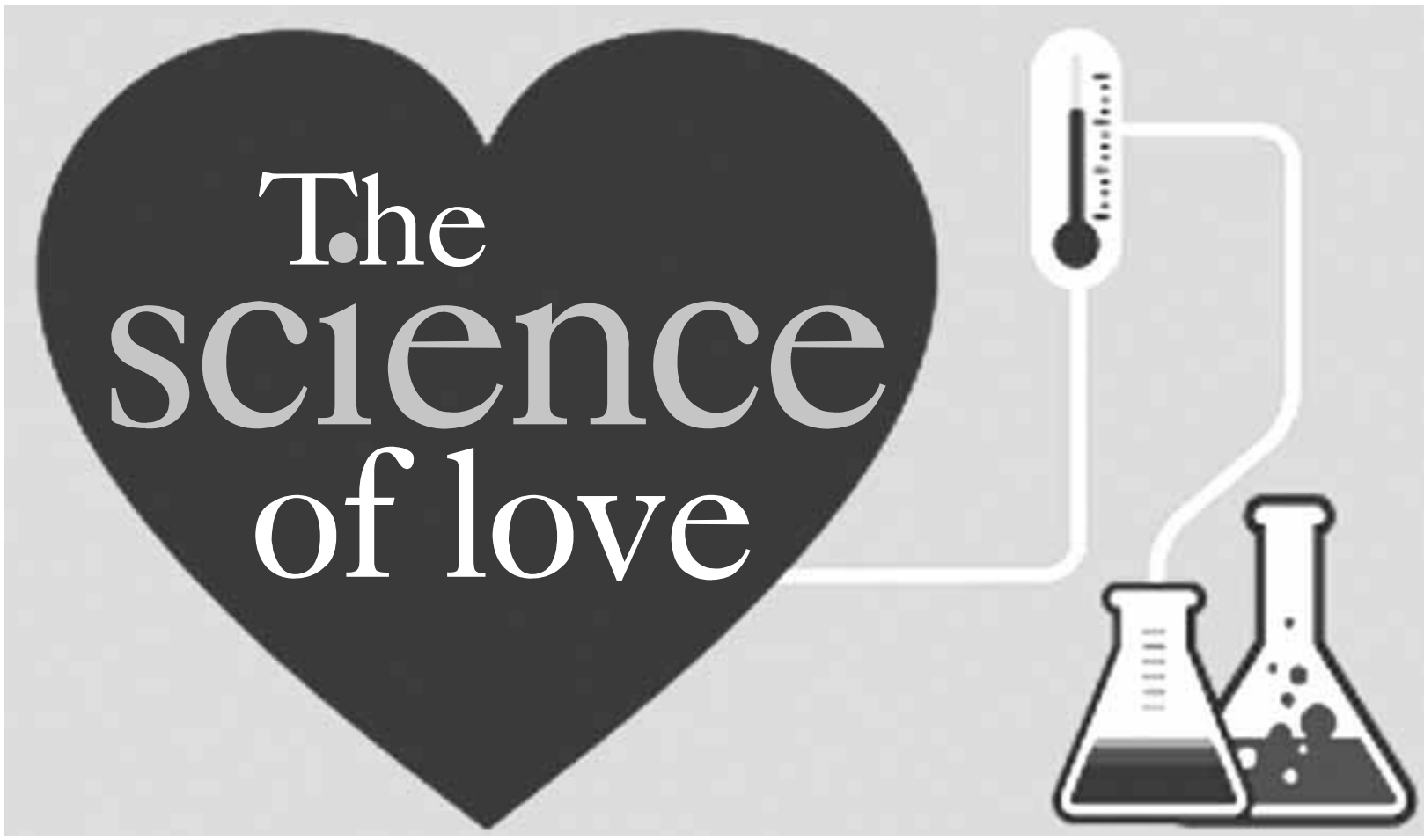
The results were evident from the start — the rate of vaccine wastage started dropping across the State. In a study conducted in the cold chain points of the State in 2015, it was revealed that the cold chain prayer and a mobile application for tracking vaccine storage had together saved ₹9.72 crore worth of vaccine from wastage. This innovative practice was even appreciated by the visiting teams of the Common Review Mission from the Government of India, UNICEF, WHO and dignitaries from other Indian States. Over the years, this practice has been adopted by some other States as well.

Today, cold chain handlers like Deepak working in 1,200 cold chain points of the State start their day by chanting the cold chain prayer. It's a part of their morning ritual. By leveraging the power of religious belief, a simple mnemonic-based prayer has become the soul of cold-chain points of the State. They say a prayer has the power to save lives. This simple chant is a living testimony to that — it may well have saved over a million lives of children in the State from vaccine-preventable diseases. By following a simple step, the providers have been able to ensure that beneficiaries get the full benefit of life-saving vaccines and protection against diseases.

Team Agenda

(Left) Flex imprinted with the cold chain prayer displayed over the ILR of one of the cold chain points in Barwani; Deepak Pal explaining how the prayer helps him memorise the guideline of stacking the vaccines in the tray of a top-open ILR

THE SYSTEMATIC ASSIMILATION POLICY OF CHINA TOWARDS UIGHUR TURKS IS A GREAT EMBARRASSMENT FOR HUMANITY, SAID TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN HAMI AKSOY



What are the essential questions we must ask to ensure a good relationship? BOUDICCA FOX-LEONARD finds out

WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR IN A PARTNER?

Research suggests we don't really know what we want in a partner — for example, speed-dating studies have found that what we say we want is different to what we actually go for. So don't be overly picky. Shared values are more important, in my opinion, than shared interests. Finding someone who also likes chess, or wearing purple clothing, isn't going to be enough. Commitment is far more important than connection; someone who's prepared to put in the hard graft to make a relationship work. Attachment theory comes into it if you are insecure — basically, being with someone secure will make your relationship more likely to succeed. Be conscious that who you choose will change you over time.

IS MONOGAMY NATURAL?

No. Of the 160 countries in a 2009 study, 44 per cent accepted polygamy, at least to some extent. Add to that the high rates of infidelity in many "monogamous" cultures, as well as the number of people who try non-monogamy (21 per cent in a large US study) and monogamy seems to be less "natural" or "universal" than many might believe. It's not the norm in animals either. Out of 4,000 mammal species, only a few dozen are monogamous, and of the world's 300-400 primates, only nine are — our closest living relative, the bonobo, definitely isn't (they seem to have sex at every available opportunity).

WHY DO PEOPLE CHEAT?

So many reasons. Sometimes because their relationship isn't working — but research suggests people cheat even when they're very happy in their relationship. In one study, a hefty 56 per cent of men and 34 per cent of women who had cheated rated their marriage as either "happy" or "very happy". If they were happy, why did they cheat? When asked this question by researchers, people provided a variety of answers, including: fun, career advancement, escapism, a need for conquest and power, exploring sexual identity, a desire for variety, or to combat feeling inadequate. But people also cheat for reasons they're not aware of, for example introducing insecurity into their relationship because they crave independence, or exploring a part of themselves they have denied or buried.

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO WALK AWAY?

First of all, it's important to recognise that love and commitment are, or should be, conditional. And you need to decide what the conditions are. They shouldn't be too stringent but they shouldn't be too lax either. I interviewed philosopher Richard Kraut about this, and he said: "You should be willing to put up with a lot of discomfort and hard work, and a certain amount of self-sacrifice out of loyalty to a friend. "But I would add there is a limit to that, especially if there eventually comes a point where you simply cannot do any more good for a friend and putting effort into this is harming yourself. At that point, loyalty no longer is a virtue." Of course, that may be easier said than done. For those in abusive relationships, for example, not only can walking away be traumatic, difficult or dangerous, but it may also be impossible without support.

DOES LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT EXIST?

No. I think the sort of love that makes relationships last requires time — and with "love at first sight" time isn't there, by definition. I think it has the potential to turn into love, but I think love requires persistence, vulnerability, intimacy. For every person I interviewed who fell in love at first sight and was right, I interviewed more who got it wrong (for example, Sophie, a model I sat next to on a plane, whose boyfriend ended up stalking her and installing spyware on her phone).

SHOULD YOU JUST KNOW IF YOU ARE WITH THE RIGHT PERSON?

No. And I think it's unrealistic to think you have to know. Lots of people I interviewed knew and were then wrong. Lots of people didn't know (like Robert, who came around to fix my boiler and had been married for 42 years), and have long, happy relationships. Attachment theory is a factor — you're more likely to doubt if you're insecure. Doubts can be more a reflection of you than the other person and the relationship.

CAN YOU REIGNITE THE SPARK IN A LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP?

Yes. Evidence suggests that doing new and exciting activities with your partner, being responsive, making them feel desired and valued and spending time with other couples where you have positive, supportive and intimate conversations, can all rekindle sexual desire. So too can trying to meet your partner's sexual needs without expecting an immediate return, and believing that you can be sexually satisfied in your relationship through hard work and effort.

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR LUST TO LAST?

Evidence suggests that lust does dwindle. When researchers interviewed 6,785 people who were married and living with their spouse, 80-98 per cent under 24 had had sex in the past month, compared with 20-50 per cent of people over 75. And by looking at the partners of the people who chose not to say anything about their sex lives, researchers discovered that when people didn't answer, it was usually because they didn't have much sex — suggesting a cultural expectation. Research suggests that the more you encounter something, such as a spouse, the less exciting you find it, or them.

CAN YOU CHANGE SOMEONE'S ATTACHMENT STYLE?

If you're secure, you might be able to slowly make your insecure partner secure. But sometimes you won't be able to (for example, if the avoidant breaks up with you before you get the chance). Attachment style is stable, but can also be influenced by the relationships we're in.

CAN YOU CHANGE YOUR OWN ATTACHMENT TYPE?

Reflection can have a huge impact on attachment. Research looking at women who had experienced a very deprived upbringing found that each one who was highly reflective went on to have a secure child, whereas of those on the other end of the scale, only six per cent did. In other words, mothers who were very reflective were able to prevent insecure attachment from passing to their child.

Attachment styles are robust, but they're not unchangeable. Learning to reflect (both on your own mental states and those of others), to excavate and process any trauma you have suffered, and to regulate your emotions can trump your personal history — even when that history is horrendous. In doing so, you can potentially transform the way you relate to others — and yourself.

DO OPPOSITES ATTRACT?

In attachment theory terms, yes. Because anxious and avoidant often go for each other as they conform to what each person would expect from a relationship. However, when two secure people get together, they manifest as the smug, "we're so happy" couple. If I ruled the world I'd break them up and distribute them among all the anxious people.

IS THERE A THING AS 'THE ONE'?

No. It doesn't make mathematical sense. And I think it's a really dangerous way of looking at love — it makes it all about finding the "right" object, instead of thinking about whether you could work harder at the skill of loving.

CAN YOU BE IN LOVE WITH MORE THAN ONE PERSON?

I think being "in love" really means being "in lust" or "in romantic love". The sort of love that makes relationships last is very different. It's much calmer. Yes, you can lust after more than one person, although my general impression of lust is that it's quite dominating, deliberately so because without it we wouldn't survive as a species. Lust engages the brain's reward system, the same part of the brain engaged when we take cocaine or amphetamines.

Can you have companionate love for more than one person? I think so, yes. At least, polyamorists seem to be able to. I don't think love is a limited resource. But that doesn't mean loving more than one person is easy or solves the problem of the paradox of humans, i.e. that they want novelty and safety all at the same time.

CAN YOU BE HAPPY WITH SOMEONE YOU MET THROUGH AN AFFAIR?

Yes, although the illicit nature of the relationship will make them all the more alluring. And they're unlikely to be quite so appealing when the danger dissipates.

It also depends on the stakes — if you leave children and families behind, it can put a huge amount of pressure on your relationship to last.

The Daily Telegraph

CULTURE LANE

The crisis of 'presidential harassment'

Two days after calling for bipartisanship in his State of the Union address, Donald Trump returned to Twitter to cry foul about Democrats in Congress. The House ways and means committee announced it was preparing to investigate Trump's tax returns, a move Trump decried as "presidential harassment". "You laugh but it's true, folks," Trevor Noah said on the *Daily Show*. "Presidential harassment is a serious crisis that affects one out of every 320 million people in this country."

But credit where credit is due: "One thing that makes Trump so successful is that he knows how to make himself seem like the victim when other people are just doing their jobs." If the press reports on him, it's "fake news". If Congress investigates conflicts of interest, it's "presidential harassment".

"I bet if the cops were chasing Trump he's the kinda guy who would try to call 911 on them," Noah said.

But of all the swirling scandals, Trump seems to be the most worried about his tax returns — an anxiety reflected in recent comments by billionaires, whose staggering wealth elicits increasingly less sympathy from the American public. Though pundits have classified plans to tax the super-rich — those earning over $10m a year — as fringe socialist ideas, Noah cited a Politico poll from MSNBC in which 76 per cent of Americans supported it.

BBC fights to retain Attenborough

The BBC has commissioned three major series on the natural world, as it fights to stop staff who make its popular natural history shows — including David Attenborough — being poached by deep-pocketed rival Netflix. *Perfect Planet, Frozen Planet II and Planet Earth III* will be shown on the BBC over the coming years, building on the success of 2017's enormously popular *Blue Planet II*, which helped push the issue of plastic recycling to the top of the political agenda.

The announcement comes after senior staff left the BBC's Natural History Unit, lured to the commercial sector by the prospect of working for rapidly-growing streaming services, which can offer bigger budgets. Attenborough, who is synonymous with the BBC's natural history output, has already agreed to provide the voiceover for a forthcoming Netflix series named *Our Planet,* which is due to be released in April and has involved 600 crew members filming for four years around the world. Despite its name, the programme is not part of the official BBC Planet series and the similarity is thought to have angered the corporation's bosses.

In an interview with the *Financial Times* published recently, Attenborough said he would still work with the BBC but was enthused by Netflix's global reach, with its programmes made available around the world at the same time.

Louvre Abu Dhabi's exquisite exhibits

The Louvre Abu Dhabi, the first museum to carry the name outside France, has announced that it will display works by the Dutch masters Rembrandt and Vermeer this month. Works by the two artists are part of the gallery's first exhibition of 2019 — Rembrandt, Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age: Masterpieces from the Leiden collection and the Musée du Louvre. The exhibition in the United Arab Emirates capital is dedicated to the renowned Fijnschilders (fine painters) of the Netherlands.

"Rembrandt is a master of the Golden Age," said the museum's head, Manuel Rabate. "He's a universal genius, he's connected to the world."

The exhibition's 95 works include Vermeer's Young Woman Seated at a Virginal and Rembrandt's Portrait of a Man. Study of the Head and Clasped Hands of a Young Man as Christ in Prayer by Rembrandt will also feature, and has been acquired by the museum for its permanent collection.

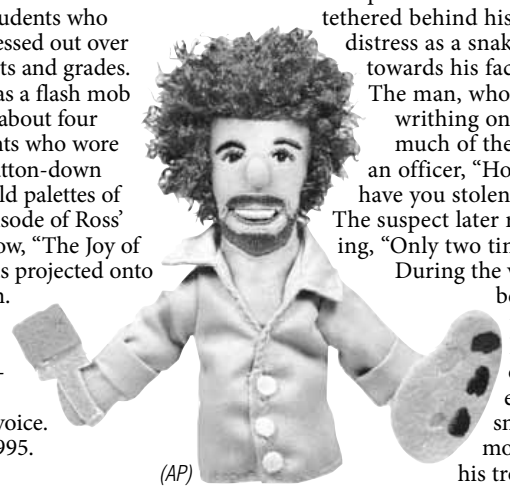
The Louvre Abu Dhabi was opened in November 2017 — nearly five years behind schedule — by the French president, Emmanuel Macron, and Abu Dhabi's crown prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

Marketed as a "universal museum" celebrating cultural exchange and tolerance, the Louvre Abu Dhabi has reportedly cost the UAE about $1bn, including about $500m to use the Louvre brand. Officials have not confirmed the price tag.

ODDLY ENOUGH

TEXAS STUDENTS DON WIGS IN TRIBUTE TO PAINTER BOB ROSS

There were lots of happy little trees at one Texas middle school this week. Art students at Madison Middle School in Abilene donned their curliest wigs and painted little trees onto canvases to pay homage to the late painter Bob Ross. Teacher Brady Sloane tells the Abilene Reporter News that the idea came about because she wanted to reward Advanced Placement students who had been stressed out over recent projects and grades. The result was a flash mob Thursday of about four dozen students who wore wigs, blue button-down shirts and held palettes of paint. An episode of Ross' television show, "The Joy of Painting," was projected onto a large screen. Ross gained a following for his soothing tone and soft-spoken voice. He died in 1995.



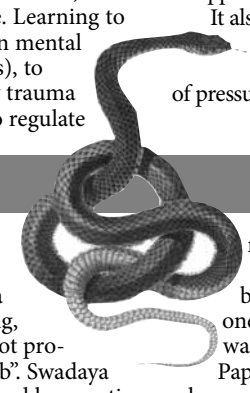
(AP)

INDONESIA POLICE APOLOGISE FOR USING SNAKE IN INTERROGATION

Indonesian police have apologised and pledged disciplinary action after officers draped a live snake around the neck of a suspect to persuade him to confess during an interrogation session in the easternmost area of Papua.

A video circulated online shows a man being questioned about stolen mobile phones seated with his hands tethered behind his back yelling in distress as a snake is pushed towards his face by an officer. The man, who can been seen writhing on the ground for much of the time is asked by an officer, "How may times have you stolen mobile phones?" The suspect later responds by saying, "Only two times."

During the video, a voice can be heard ordering the man to open his eyes and at one stage threatens to put the snake into his mouth and under his trousers.



In a statement, Jayawijaya police chief Tonny Ananda Swadaya issued an apology, saying, "The investigator was not professional in doing his job". Swadaya added that the officers had been acting on their own initiative to try get a confession, saying the snake was non-venomous and tame. "We have taken stern action against the personnel," he said, adding the officers themselves had not physically attacked the man.

Papua police spokesman Ahmad Musthofa Kamal said the case was being investigated by the internal affairs unit and if violations of the law or code of conduct were proven action would be taken. Reports of human rights abuses by security forces often emerge from Papua, where a separatist movement has simmered for decades.

The former Dutch colony, the resource-rich western part New Guinea island, was incorporated into Indonesia after a widely criticised UN-backed referendum in 1969. Veronica Koman, a human rights lawyer focused on Papua, said by text message that using a snake in this way represented torture and was not a one-off incident in the area.

Koman said a snake had also been used in an interrogation of one of her clients, whom she said was a pro-independence activist.

Papua police spokesman Kamal said he was not aware of another case.

(Reuters)

A DYING DISK: WARM WEATHER DETERIORATES RIVER'S WHEEL OF ICE

Maine's giant spinning ice disk may soon meet its end because of unseasonably warm weather. *The Portland Press Herald* reports the disk in the Presumpscot River has lost most of the shape and appearance that made it look like a blue moon. Westbrook spokeswoman Tina Radel says that the disk was on the move Wednesday and that its "time may be limited." The ice disk formed in early January, drawing crowds to the river's edge and attracting attention online. It formed naturally where there is a circular current that creates a whirlpool effect. Radel says a webcam set up by scientists from Brown University that provides time-lapse photography of the disk will remain in operation through the spring.

(AP)

ART EXHIBIT SHOWS IVANKA LOOKALIKE VACUUMING

A new art exhibit at a Washington museum shows an Ivanka Trump lookalike pushing a vacuum cleaner and invites spectators to toss crumbs for her to clean up. The art piece by Jennifer Rubell, titled 'Ivanka Vacuuming', opened February 1 and continues through February 17 at the Flashpoint Gallery. The public is encouraged to "throw crumbs onto the carpet, watching as Ivanka elegantly vacuums up the mess, her smile never wavering."

A large text description of the work hanging on the gallery wall describes Ivanka Trump as "a figure whose public persona incorporates an almost comically wide range of feminine identities — daughter, wife, mother, sister, model, working woman, blonde." It calls the act of throwing bread crumbs onto the carpet for her to vacuum "surprisingly pleasurable."

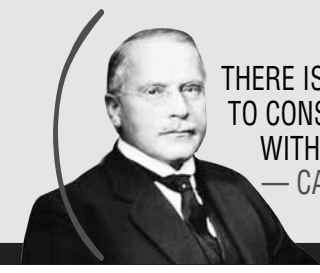
But Ivanka Trump and her brothers Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump criticised the exhibit on Tuesday as a sexist attempt to humiliate her. "Women can choose to knock each other down or build each other up. I choose the latter," Ivanka Trump, a senior White House adviser, tweeted alongside a link to a story on the exhibit.

Trump Jr tweeted, "Sad, but not surprising to watch self professed 'feminists' launching sexist attacks against @IvankaTrump. In their crazed world, sexism is OK if hurts their political enemies."

Eric Trump, on Fox News, called his sister a "powerful woman who has done more for women than probably anybody in Washington DC."

The exhibit is presented by the CulturalDC arts organisation, and Executive Director Kristi Maiselman said her group is always happy to present "timely boundary-pushing installations" like this.

(AP)



THERE IS NO COMING TO CONSCIOUSNESS WITHOUT PAIN
— CARL JUNG

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

GIRLS MORE
PRONE TO ADDICTION?

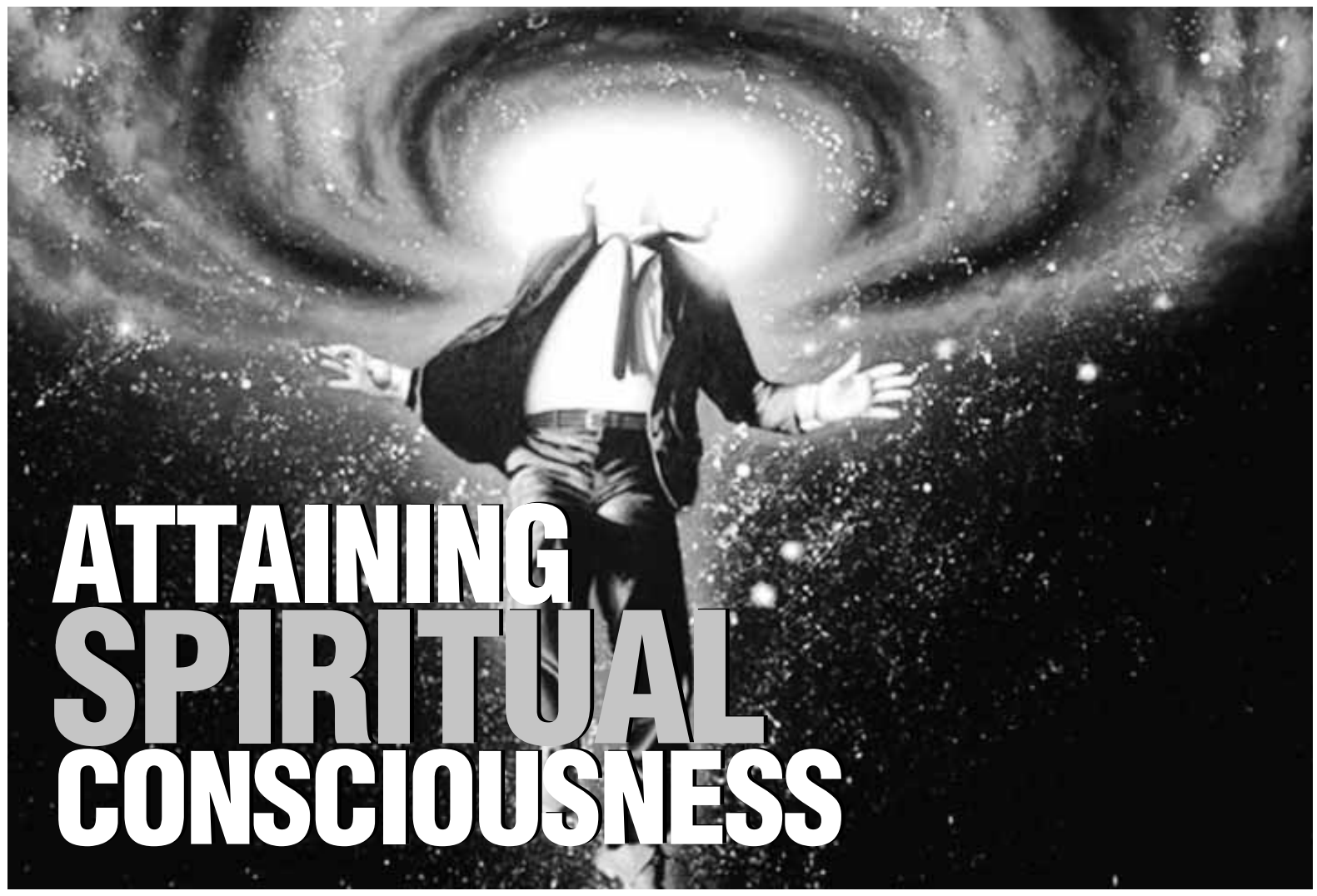
Women's hormonal cycles may not only make them more prone to drug addiction but also more affected by triggers that lead to relapse, a study has found. The research is significant since there are virtually no addiction studies in women that account for these cycles, according to researchers from Vanderbilt University in the US. They point out that women represent a particularly vulnerable population, with higher rates of addiction following exposure to drugs, but addiction studies have primarily focused on the mechanisms underlying these effects in men. The study showed that when fertility-related hormone levels are high, females learn faster, make stronger associations to cues in their environment and are more prone to seek rewards. "Women becoming addicted to drugs may be a fundamentally different process than men," said Erin Calipari, an assistant professor at Vanderbilt University. "It's important to understand this, because it's the first step in developing treatments that are actually effective," she added.

DOES FASTING
AID YOUR METABOLISM?

Apart from losing weight, occasional fasting may also help to boost metabolic activities, generate antioxidants, and help reverse ageing, says a study. Scientists have identified 30 previously unrecorded metabolites whose quantity increases during fasting. We have been researching ageing and metabolism for many years and decided to search for unknown health effects in human feelings, said Takayuki Teruya, lead author. Fasting induces metabolic activation rather actively. Scientists analysed human blood, plasma and red blood cells drawn from four fasting individuals. Results revealed 30 previously-recognised metabolites and 44 new metabolites that had been increasing universally among the subjects between 1.5 to 60-fold within just 58 hours of fasting.

PILL TRUMPS
INSULIN INJECTIONS?

Researchers have developed a drug capsule that could be used to deliver oral doses of insulin, potentially replacing injections for patients with Type-2 diabetes, says a new study. About the size of a blueberry, the capsule contains a single and small needle made of compressed insulin, which is injected after the capsule reaches the stomach. The study showed that the capsule could deliver enough insulin to lower blood sugar to levels comparable to those produced by injections given through skin. They also demonstrated that the device can be adapted to deliver other protein drugs. "We are really hopeful that this new type of capsule could someday help diabetic patients and perhaps anyone who requires therapies that can now only be given by injection or infusion," said Robert Langer. The tip of the needle is made of nearly 100 per cent compressed, freeze-dried insulin. When the capsule is swallowed, water in the stomach dissolves the sugar disk, releasing the spring and injecting the needle into the stomach wall.



ATTAINING SPIRITUAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Through meditation, personal transformation, and universal love, human beings can connect with their own soul, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH

The world we see before us is vastly altered from the world of yesterday. Far more dramatic than the changes brought about by technology are the changes in our perception of the world. Science has broadened our vision to extend from the minutest subatomic particles to the brilliant light radiating from distant quasars. The universe is no longer perceived as solid matter, but dancing packets of ever-whirling energy. Our worldview has shifted from believing in only what one can perceive with the five senses to recognising that there is more than what we see with our physical eyes.

Besides exploring outer space, scientists have begun researching the realm of inner space. We find medical doctors reporting cases of people who had near-death experiences in which they underwent clinical death yet were revived. Dr Raymond Moody's book, *Life After Life*, documents cases in which people who underwent the near-death experience reported similar experiences. In the interim period while they were declared dead many reported leaving the body and finding themselves floating in the room, looking down at their physical body. They could float through the hospital, oftentimes seeing their relatives in the other room and listening to their conversations. A remarkable number of people experienced soaring through a tunnel to a region of Light where they met a benign, radiant being. They experienced transcendent peace and happiness which they found difficult to leave. Even children whose lives were restored following clinical death described this same experience.The number of people who underwent these near-death experiences is so large and the descriptions so strikingly similar that doctors and scientists find it difficult to ignore the possibility that there is more to who we are than our physical body. All who have undergone such an experience came to the same conclusion: There is life beyond our present life.

These findings are corroborated with the experiences of mystics throughout the ages. What seems new to the Western mind has been widely accepted knowledge for centuries in the East. In each religion we find accounts of similar experiences in which one's consciousness can be separated from the physical body. We find extraordinary descriptions of higher states of consciousness in different religions. In Hinduism, we find the ancient story of Savitri, whose husband was taken from her by death. Savitri is said to have left the body, apprehending the angel of death and imploring him to return her husband to life. Such was the power of her love that her husband was revived. In Buddhism, we have the *Tibetan Book of the Dead* that describes in detail the journey of the soul as it departs from this world. Islam describes in detail regions of heaven, hell, and ahraf (purgatory) to which a soul passes after this physical existence is over. In Christianity we have the *Book of Revelations*, rich in description of realms beyond this world. In the Kabbalah of Judaism, a cosmogony of higher planes is described. A deeper study into the heart of each religion reveals a wealth of mystical experiences described by the saints and spiritual adepts. Each in its own time has taught disciples how to transcend physical consciousness and explore spiritual realms.

Spiritual consciousness is our birthright. It is the highest attainment we can achieve in our lifetime. We may have thought that these states were the monopoly of saints, but the experimentation of modern scientists and mystics confirms that the average person may also enjoy spiritual consciousness. There are simple steps to spiritual consciousness. Unbounded joy, happiness, and inner peace await us when we discover the freedom, the exhilaration, and the wonder of enlightenment that comes from attaining spiritual consciousness.

What is spiritual consciousness? It is becoming conscious of the soul and God within us. Most of us are aware of our body, of the thoughts passing through our mind, and of the world around us. This is called body or physical consciousness. But we are more than our body and mind.

> THE SOUL IS WHAT ENLIVENS THE BODY. WHEN THE SOUL LEAVES THE BODY AT THE TIME OF DEATH, THE BODY DIES. BUT THE SOUL DOES NOT DIE. IT IS IMMORTAL. CONSCIOUSNESS AT THE LEVEL OF SOUL, INDEPENDENT OF OUR BODY AND MIND, IS WHAT IS TERMED AS SPIRITUAL CONSCIOUSNESS

We are actually a soul, a conscious entity which inhabits the body. The soul is a part of the Oversoul, whether we call it God, the Creator, Allah, Wah-i-Guru, or Parmatma. It is of the same essence as God. The soul is what enlivens the body. When the soul leaves the body at the time of death, the body dies. But the soul does not die. It is immortal. Just as people who clinically died experienced a continued existence outside their body, so will each of us continue to exist even after the demise of our mortal frame. This consciousness at the level of soul, independent of our body and mind, is what is termed spiritual consciousness.

We do not have to wait until our physical end to know what it is like perceiving life at the level of soul. It is an experience many have enjoyed during their lifetimes and is available to every human being. We have read in the scriptures of various religions about people who had experienced spiritual consciousness. Buddha attained enlightenment under the bodhi tree. St Paul said, "I live; not now I, but Christ lives in me." Bahá'u'lláh, the mystic saint of Persia, said, "O Son of dust, hearken unto the mystic voice calling from the realm of the Invisible ... up from thy prison, ascend unto the glorious meadows above and from thy mortal cage wing thy flight unto the paradise of the Placeless."

These inner experiences are not limited to peoples of antiquity. The first step to spiritual consciousness is learning the art of meditation. The next step is to achieve personal transformation. Finally, inner peace and personal transformation lead to outer peace in the world. By attaining inner peace, we can make a positive contribution to human unity, universal love, and the improvement of all life on this planet.

HIDDENSOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Understanding Rajdharma

Rajdharma or the duty of the king has been a much talked about subject in ancient historical and scriptural texts of India. However, it has often been found missing in the character of many kings from the ancient times to the present ones. Usually, there is much of sermonising about the duty of the *praja* or the subjects who are supposed to observe the laws laid down by the kings. From ancient Indian kingdoms to the modern state, the story has not changed much and the rulers tend to lose track of what their duty is. In the Indian philosophical thought, the kings were supposed to be representatives of God in this world and had a very obligatory role to play in the well-being of their subjects. Legendary kings from history like Vikramaditya or Bhoj have proved what a king was supposed to do for his subjects. Our ancient Indian accounts of the polity of those times were rich treatise on basic principles of statecraft that aimed at good governance. The clichéd jargon Minimum Government, Maximum governance was actually the avowed principle those days which the kings practised. In *Manusmriti,* there is elaborate discussion on relationship between *dharma* or righteousness and ruler of the State. The execution of right duties was the king's basic responsibility and his duties were defined under the concept of Rajdharma. According to Manu, the law giver, God created the king to protect the subjects from anarchy and exploitation of the powerful people. Thus, it was the king's duty to protect the weak from the strong who broke the law. If the verdict of a king is unjust it would be a great sin. A king should be very careful while executing the laws which were supposed to be based on *dharma*. It was to be correlated with morals and ethics. Ideally, the king was seen as a person who would always speak the truth, be a realist, and be well versed in duty and work. If a king is abusing and violating the law, he is punishable. He is supposed to be transparent, duty bound and must follow the code of the *Shastra*s, the book of *dharma*. Humility was supposed to be a desired skill. Manu held that the king should behave like a father towards all citizens and keep them happy. He was repulsive to the idea of king imposing his will on the subjects unscrupulously and ruthlessly. In the *Ramayana*, the essentials of Rajdharma are also imparted to Bharat, the younger brother of Rama when the former goes to meet him during the early period of exile. The discussions between the brothers in the "Ayodhya Kanda" is an enriched discourse on how the king should rule. It details all aspects of a king's duty towards the subjects as well as the State. But the best example of Rajdharma is the story of king Rantideva as narrated in the *Mahabharata*. He was so responsive that anybody with any problem would run to him for help and the king would happily serve him. His belief was that by serving his subjects, he was serving Shri Vishnu, the Lord. Legend goes that he became a favourite with God because of the service he rendered to his subjects. In ancient India, Rajdharma was the welfare of the people or moral duty. Its spirit was to ensure peace, justice and prosperity to the people. The modern day rulers need to take a leaf or two out of the chapter on Rajdharma.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at ppathak.ism@gmail.com

We have been sufficiently equipped

As long as human beings keep faith in God and follow the path He shows, they will never find themselves helpless, says AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

I do not need to remind anyone how challenging this material world is. Beginning with one's stay in the mother's womb, things are tough and one needs to apply oneself to stay afloat. We have to be realistic and act very sensibly.

Where do we begin? We must realise that we all are small entities. No matter how rich or powerful one may become, everyone is helpless in the ultimate sense. When one is born, it is natural that parents look for beautiful features in the child. Do we have any say in that? Same is true of the level of intelligence. Parents, whose children are intelligent, consider themselves very fortunate. Education over, one looks for professional opportunities. How many are able to gain the desired objective? Getting married presents a big challenge. Are you getting the right partner? The richest man has just divorced his wife of twenty five years.

Our challenges do not end with bad marriages; we get helplessly sick, sometimes terminally sick. Same is true of death. One of the richest men died recently despite the best medical facilities available to him. People lose their near and dear ones and can do nothing about it. I have not mentioned lack of resources due to which the majority of the people suffer. All in all, one is well and truly helpless.

But one does not have to be. Is it true? Can all the problems indicated so far be dealt with satisfactorily? Yes, read on and you will agree. The first problem mentioned can be avoided by qualifying for liberation. God has instructed in great detail how this can be achieved. Yes, it may take several births to qualify for this privilege but we can definitely gain it. As far as looks go, one can hope for good features in the next birth if one has been doing mostly pious deeds and has a desire for good looks. As far the present life is concerned, one can radiate charm by being a good person. People are attracted to such personalities.

Good intelligence presents a bigger challenge for the present life. Like good looks, sharp intelligence is how good persons are rewarded by God. This is great for the next birth but all is not lost even for the present life. Many persons manage to gain sufficient expertise in some field even though they are not very intelligent in the conventional sense. In God's creation, there are always ways to overcome any deficiency. As regards professional opportunities, God takes a direct role if approached; He guides. And God, being omniscient knows exactly what will suit a particular person. Bad marriage does present a problem for the present life but God is not helpless; He helps in getting rid of a difficult partner through divorce if he or she cannot be reformed.

Diseases are not foreign to a material body but by eating proper foods, exercising adequately, sleeping sufficiently and having healthy entertainment, one can reduce one's suffering (*Gita*). Those connected with God not only reduce their chances of getting stricken with painful diseases but they also get tolerance power from God, ensuring that one does not get too disturbed by the onset of a disease. The timing of death does present a challenge but devotees of God are not unduly perturbed because they are assured of excellent next births. And as stated by Sanjay in *Gita*, devotees of God are never short on resources.

It may appear difficult, but God has equipped us adequately to deal with all eventualities. He assures those connected with Him of an excellent future; we are never helpless really.

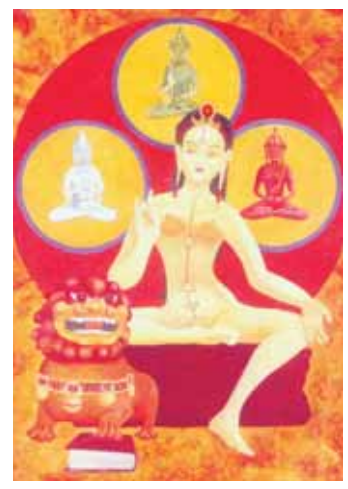
Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA

ARIES March 21-April 19

This week, you are likely to face digestive or intestine-related problems. And health-related challenges will not stop at that as a hectic schedule, travelling and day-to-day challenges are likely to take a toll on your health. Don't avoid these problems or take them lightly. Take some time out and start a fitness plan. On the work front, anxiety and tension could reduce your efficiency level. Decisions regarding the sale of real estate property will need to be taken. New job offers are on the cards. Keep your financial documents updated. Relationship wise, you need to analyse your existing relations and spend some quality time with your partner. Those waiting for approval of relation by elders may face opposition.
Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week, you are likely to feel good about living a healthy and balanced lifestyle. You should pamper yourself with beauty treatments and spa sessions this week. You should try to bring some changes in your workout routine to revive your mood and focus. Career-wise, this week will be good as many big projects will come your way that will prove to be profitable. Self-owned ventures will be successful and people will accept your views. Travelling to a foreign land is on the cards. Those in import and export business may get into productive networking and make a huge profit around this time. Your love life is very interesting and romantic this week. For singles opportunities for new romance is on the horizon. Make good use of it.
Lucky number 13
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Saturday

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

The week is all about taking good care of your health. You will not have to compromise on health issues. Take some time out of your busy schedule to figure out what more you can do to improve your health status. Avoid impulsive and aggressive nature. Professionally, you are moving to a new position. This will make you feel optimistic and hopeful about the future. Financially, the week is good and you will plan for good investment. In your relationship, your heart will push for what you want. Making new friends and friendship turning into love is on the cards. Talk openly to your partner to improve your relationship and build a solid base. Singles may meet their someone special this week.
Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Monday

TAURUS April 20-May 20

You will enjoy determination and will power that will help you to face the health challenges coming your way this week. This will be a good time for you to quit unhealthy food habits like consumption of alcohol, junk and spicy foods. Daily exercise and planned diet will work wonders for you. But at work, you feel stagnated. This could be a wake-up call for you. Changes in form of a job, working environment, working attitude are on the cards. One of the advantages is that this change will be beneficial for you. Changes are foreseen in your relationship as well. There is some change in your partner's behaviour pattern. Take some time out to sort out these changes. A quick decision is very important.
Lucky number 24
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Saturday

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

The week starts on a good note as you may be able to give up some of your bad habits and start leading a healthier lifestyle. Take good care of yourself and your loved ones. Focus on your physical well-being. You are likely to find some spiritual facts that hold more promise and are beneficial for you. On the career front, take a break and also change your perspective. Things will not be as per your expectation; take it easy. This could be a time when you can consider a job change. Financially, you need to understand the unfavourable situation and face it without losing your calm. Relationships will be stable around this time. Some of you may get attracted to an older person. This attraction may not be mutual. So, be prepared and don't lose heart.
Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Pastel colours
Lucky day Wednesday

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, you will need to bring in some speedy changes in your health schedule for a better condition. Females who are expecting are advised to do go for a medical check-up this week so that they are not stressed over petty things in the coming months. Some of you are likely to enjoy a high energy level. This will assist you in leading a healthy life. At the professional front, worrying about your job will not help matters. You need to focus on things which are under your control. Those seeking jobs will need to have an optimistic outlook. Don't hesitate to ask for help. Relationship wise, you will feel blessed and happy as you get full support of your loved ones. Take a stand for your own beliefs.
Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Copper
Lucky day Tuesday

GEMINI May 21-June 20

You will have good health, emotionally and physically. Ensure a positive approach to things. Those awaiting test results regarding health can relax as the news will be good. As the week progresses, you may feel charged up. You may enter new realms in your spiritual exploration. On the career front, you may be rewarded for your work. Those in partnership ventures have fair chances of working for the selfless motives. This week your views and opinions will be heard and respected. Those in a job may experience the pride of accomplishment. Love life looks good as you may plan a vacation to an exotic location. This week you will receive love and affection from others.
Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Thursday

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

The week looks cheerful and positive in terms of your health. You are likely to devote some quality time towards the attainment of your physical and mental well-being. From good nutrition to exercise and relaxation, you will follow everything required to restore your health. Professionally, you have the spirit of cooperation that will help you share cordial relations with everyone. Trust your instincts and connect with your innermost desires. This is a good time for new ventures. Relationship wise, the week is good. Things will speed up in the relationship. Quick decisions taken in hassle mode could give you repentance at a later stage. So, listen to your heart but work with the mind to avoid being in that situation.
Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Friday

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week, pay attention to your diet and exercise routine. Ensure you take time to rest. Those having physical health issues should stay optimistic and remember that things don't stay like this always. If required, do consult a professional health consultant for a better state of health and an anxiety-free life. On the career front, you are likely to make a new connection that could be beneficial for you. Your efforts will be appreciated. Those seeking jobs may expect a call from a distant city. Salary hike is indicated. You will find a new sense of freshness and happiness in your relationships. Love is in the air and the stars are in your favour. So, this will be the right time for you to look for a lifelong partner.
Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Thursday

CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, you should give yourself some time to relax. Do not hesitate as this is the time for you to enjoy good health. The five elements of life will help you attain the balance that will make your life worth living. You may become an inspiration for some. On the career front, expect a hike in your income or reputation. Changing of a job, promotion or transfer are on the cards. Stay positive as this change will work in your favour. Students aspiring for higher education or studying abroad will get a piece of positive news. In your love life, conflicts or arguments are indicated. Your or your partner's aggression may take a toll on your mental health. But, it will be advisable that you relax as this is a temporary phase.
Lucky number 30
Lucky colour Pastel green
Lucky day Monday

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You are likely to follow a new belief system and hence walk on the path of self improvement. Attending religious services is on the cards. You may follow a new diet or workout routine that will again lead you to self-improvement. Professionally, you are shining bright with new ideas. You will work towards improving your social life. That shall be refreshing and will give new hope about the future. Some of you can expect promotion or the beginning of a new and fruitful project. Your productivity level will be very high. Relationship wise, this week is good for you. Tension and worry in this area of life over will come to an end as love and passion are back on track very soon. The week is full of fun, love and laughter. So, enjoy it!
Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Coral
Lucky day Sunday

PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Health will be good. This week, everything will come together and you are in the right place, doing the right thing.You are likely to achieve what you have wished for. The week holds new beginnings that naturally emerge out of the accomplished cycle. To balance your energies, avoid rich food and do not oversleep. This week, career may not be so satisfactory. You will feel uncomfortable in your working environment. Your senior may feel that you are not putting your 100 per cent effort into a project or task. Your honest nature may fetch you some kind of displeasure. Avoid any kind of investment or a new deal in business/property. On the love front, you may be possessive. Those in love may face conflict and a difficult phase. However, a balanced approach will work in your favour.
Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Wednesday

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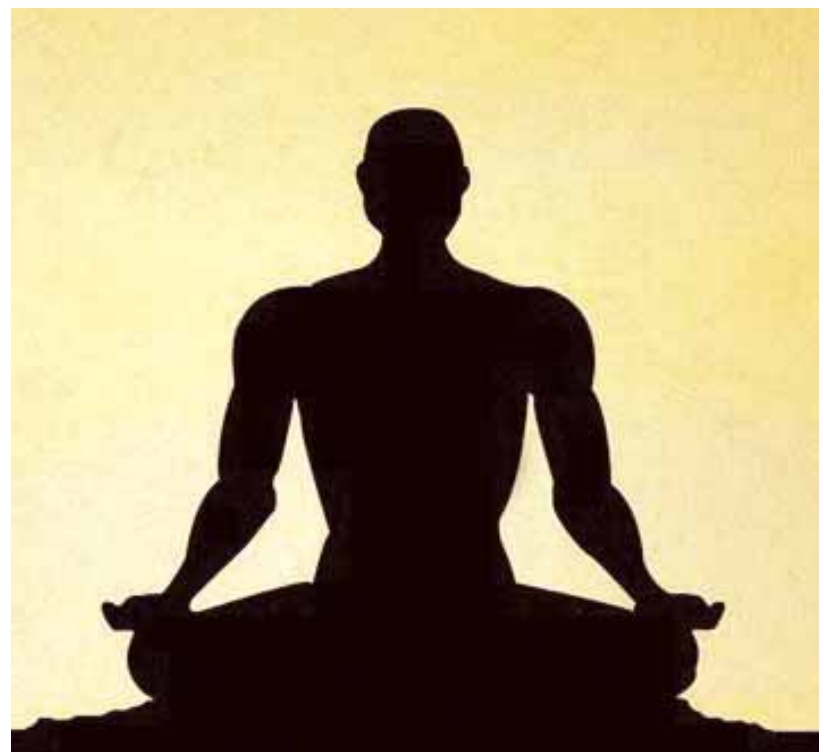
Be the master of your own self

ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Taking off from the previous issue, it comes out that in so far as the question of fate and freewill is concerned, human mind holds the key. All that happens in life begins in the mind which visualises, excites desires, sets the functional mandate of a being, and accordingly gets going. The feel of the fruit of actions, good or bad, or for that matter the experiences had during the run of life too, feed the mind and add up to make its stock memory. That, in turn, influences the future course of life. Going through such successive phases of life, each mind gets preconditioned over a period of time, one way or the other, and that defines the unique character of a being. No wonder, different individuals are found reflecting varying levels of mind-state, according as one is inherently made out.

Ground study suggests that each individual is found reflecting one or the other out of the five different types of mind-state — darkening/ignorant, scattered, gathering up, one pointedness, and concentrated. Those ignorant about living realities of life fall into darkening category. Usually, they move unmindfully to the usual promptings of the in-store memory imprints and resign to fate. Those having a monkey like mind continuously engaged in random thoughts evidently have a scattered mind. Their restive mind doesn't allow the scope to apply proper forethought before taking any call, not to say anything about due diligence. It's difficult for them to fully absorb any fresh educative inputs either. Evidently, they carry equal probability of failure and success in life. A large majority fall under these two categories.

The ones who realise that they were not able to fulfill their aspirational urges because of their own monkey-like mind-traits, put in conscious efforts to reign in their mental flirtations and improve their focus. They first try to bring their mind to a restful state following the method suggested in the previous issue. So, they are able to apply reasons as and when they are able to focus on the issue in hand. But they are not able to remain focused for long. Soon, they get distracted. They then try to regain their focus. This tug of war keeps going on. Such subjects fall under the category of gathering up type. Evidently, on relative scale, such characters are able to perform better than the earlier two types.



To move beyond this stage, one would need to get into the meditation process. The process calls for withdrawing attention from the outer world and turn it inwards. A process of self-reflection begins when you come across your true nature with all its good and bad. Becoming aware thus, you could conscientiously purify your mind of all the negative and inconsequential imprints that are otherwise responsible for disorderliness of mind. It's time now to seek the help of a Guru. Guru will offer you a *mantra* for recitations and an iconic figure to focus upon, depending on the callings of your inner frame of mind. Pursuing the process in all sincerity, over a period of time, your mind gets trained to maintain pointed focus on the iconic figure for a specified period of time. Your mind still gets distracted every now and then. But the relatively you are able to remain focused longer than during the gathering up process, and so is termed as one-pointedness. In the process, the thought process too gets reformed with the help of educative import of the iconic figure. Pursuing the meditation process on a regular process, a stage comes over a period of time when the mantra as well as the iconic figure, both go out of one's reckoning. The seeker's mind then gets fully tuned to the cosmic intelligence, which then spontaneously drives you through. Having arrived at this stage, you become the master of your own mind rather than being its slave. And you are in full control of your own self and at your best. Hereafter, wherever you pay attention, you may intuitively get to the underlying truth, and therefore, shall be able to perceive things in the right perspective. Also, shall be able to put in your qualitative best in all your endeavour.

To sum up, you are empowered to be the architect of your own destiny. So said Swami Vivekananda: "The history of the world is the history of few men who had faith in themselves. Faith calls out the Divinity within you; you can do everything. You fail only when you do not strive sufficiently to manifest the infinite power within."

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