

WORLD 6
VIRUS SPREADS IN S KOREAN CITY
AS THOUSANDS ARE SCREENED

MONEY 7
NEED TO ENHANCE GLOBAL
RISK MONITORING: FM

SPORT 8
KIWIS TAKE 1ST
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USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Disorientation of anti-CAA lobby is understandable

There is little doubt that in her zeal to be wilfully outrageous, the 19-year-old Amulya Leona Noronha seriously embarrassed most of the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act fraternity when she chanted 'Pakistan zindabad' from podium at a protest rally in Bengaluru. Certainly, the alacrity with which the stalwarts of the protest, including AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi, snatched the mike from her indicated the panic.

The disorientation of the anti-CAA lobby is understandable. Since December 13 last year when the protests began, the Muslim community – which has been in the forefront of the anti-Narendra Modi stir – has been at pains to demonstrate that their opposition to the changes in the Citizenship Act is grounded in their status as patriotic Indians. The national flag, the Constitution and photographs of both Mahatma Gandhi and Babasaheb Ambedkar have been generously used in the rallies and extended dharnas. The national anthem too has been lustily sung on innumerable occasions. Under the circumstances, the teenager's invocation of Pakistan – whatever may have been its convoluted underlying logic – was clearly outside a set narrative.

Amulya's zindabad to Pakistan also came within a day of AIMIM national spokesperson Waris Pathan's boast that 15 crore of Muslims have the ability to make 100 crore others tremble – a threat that most people will undeniably view as both menacing and sinister. Add to this earlier utterances by different protesters espousing either a form of sectarian separatism or praising Mohammed Ali Jinnah and it is possible to understand why many people detect a hidden agenda behind the anti-CAA protests.

Arguably, such a conclusion may be unfair. The stalwarts of the anti-CAA have been at pains to link their protests to an exalted 'idea of India'. Someone like Owaisi has sought to reinvent himself and detach his organisation from the inheritance of the Razakars who fought against Hyderabad's integration into India in 1947-48.

Turn to Page 4

Kejriwal not 'Happiness' tour guide for Melania

AAP blames Centre as US Embassy says CM, Sisodia not in invitee list

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Names of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia are missing from the guest list for the February 25 event when US First Lady Melania Trump is scheduled to visit a Delhi Government school in the national Capital to watch "happiness classes" and interact with the students, sources said.

The Delhi Government sources said the US Embassy communicated to the city administration on Saturday morning that the names of Kejriwal and Sisodia do not figure in the list of invitees for the school event. When contacted, a US Embassy spokesperson referred the query to the Delhi Government on the matter.

AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged that the names of Kejriwal and Sisodia have been dropped from the list at the behest of the BJP-led Central Government. "The BJP is claiming that it (Centre) did not ask the US Embassy to drop the names of



Kejriwal and Sisodia from the list. The comments actually indicated that there is something fishy," Bhardwaj claimed. According to the original schedule, Kejriwal and Sisodia

were to welcome Melania at the school and brief her about rationale behind introduction of "happiness classes" as well as the Delhi Government's overall reform initiatives in the education sector, officials said.

"Names of Kejriwal and Sisodia have been dropped from the list of invitees. We do not know who will receive and brief the First Lady about happiness classes when she visits our school," said a Delhi Government official.

Uncertainty about Modi joining Trump's Taj trip

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Just a couple of days before US President Donald Trump's visit to India, confusion prevails over whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi will accompany the Trumps during their visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra on Monday.

Contrary versions emerged from the Indian and American sides on Saturday with sources in New Delhi saying Modi accompanying the Trump family to Agra is unlikely and reports attributing US officials



Security personnel patrol at Mehtab Bagh in Agra on Saturday PTI

stating otherwise.

The Government sources said Modi will not accompany the US President and First Lady Melania Trump to see the Taj Mahal in Agra.

3 women killed in fire accident in Chandigarh

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

Three young women in the age group of 19-22 died when a fire broke out at a house in Sector 32 Chandigarh, on Saturday.

The women were staying as paying guests on the first floor of the building, officials said.

Two of the three girls who died, are from Punjab and one from Haryana. Another two girls who jumped from the PG's roof are injured and admitted in the local hospital.

Sector 34 Police Station In-charge, Inspector Baldev Kumar said that around 34 students were living on rented accommodation in the House located in Sector 32 D, Chandigarh. At the time of the incident, most of the students were out of the House. Five students were pre-

pressed into service to bring the flame under control. It took nearly 15-20 minutes to put out the blaze.

The SHO said three girls were killed in the fire incident and the two who jumped from the building are seriously injured. The deceased have been identified as Muskan, resident of Hisar, Haryana; Riya, resident of Kapurthala, Punjab and Prakshi, resident of Kotkapura. The injured students have been identified as Famina and Jasmine.

The SHO said that as per preliminary examination, fire broke out due to an electric spark. "A team has been formed and they have started investigating the incident. FIR will be lodged against House owner," he added.

Fire Service Officer of Sector 17, Lal Bahadur Gautam said that four fire tenders were

pressed into service to bring the flame under control. It took nearly 15-20 minutes to put out the blaze.

"Fire broke out at around 4 pm and fire department was informed about the incident at the same time. The police rushed to the spot after the fatal fire broke out at the PG. Fire officers after reaching the incident site acted swiftly and stopped the flames from spreading further," the Fire Officer said.

Initially two fire tenders were sent but as the flame was intense, two more tenders were called. "It took around 15-20 minutes to put out the blaze," Gautam said, adding that initially they faced difficulty as smoke engulfed the entire place. "We ensured that the flame did not spread to the neighbouring houses," he added.

Modi is versatile genius: Justice Arun Mishra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge Justice Arun Mishra on Saturday was all praise for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and termed him as an "internationally acclaimed visionary" and a "versatile genius, who thinks globally and acts locally".

Complimenting the PM and Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad for doing away with 1,500 obsolete laws, Justice Mishra said India is a responsible and most friendly member of the international community under the



"stewardship" of Modi.

Delivering the vote of thanks at the inaugural function of the International Judicial Conference 2020 – "Judiciary and the Changing World" at the SC, he said "We thank the versatile genius, who

thinks globally and acts locally, Shri Narendra Modi, for his inspiring speech which would act as a catalyst in initiating the deliberations and setting the agenda for the conference." Justice Mishra, who is third in seniority in the apex court, expressed gratitude to the PM for inaugurating the conference.

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February 26, 2020
Hotel Shangri-La, New Delhi

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

SHOW TIME

Delightfully cute love story



SHUBH MANGAL ZYADA SAAVDHAN
*ing: Ayushmann Khurrana, Jitendra Kumar, Gajraj Rao, Neena Gupta
Rated: 7.5/10

A movie on gay relationships? Most people would balk at even thinking about going to a film that talks about LGBTQI community let alone watch two men kiss each other not once but twice. Even though the Government has decriminalised homosexuality by declaring Section 377 IPC as unconstitutional, the society has yet to come to terms with the love same sex. In their mind, it is not normal love. But like Ayushmann Khurana, who plays Kartik, in the movie rightly said: What is normal? We have grown up on a diet to love stories that talk about love between a man and a woman. We have grown up rote learning Jack and Jill poem. Why did the poem not talk about Jack and Johnny? This is the question that we should all be asking ourselves. Fifty years back, nobody would have thought that there would be a device

that allowed wireless communication. But here we are, totally dependent on our smartphones. This is our normal today. People love their cat/dog. They leave properties to them. We call them crazy but do we shun them? Why can't love between same sex people be normal and why can't families accept it? Like Khurrana's character rightly says: *Roz hume ladaayi ladni padti hai zindagi mein par jo ladaayi parivaar ke saath hoti hai woh saari ladaayi sabse badi aur khatarnaak hoti hai.* *Shubh Mangal...* touches a cord that plus a cord like no other because it is one of the best love stories that Bollywood has made in the recent past, the last being *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* back in 2013. If only the director, Hitesh Kewalya, had released this film on Valentine's Day because the movie is less about homosexuality and homophobia and more about how two people who are in love should stay together rather be caught in a loveless marriage. The banter and funny dialogues between Gajraj Rao (Shankar Tripathi) and

Neena Gupta, his onscreen wife – Sunaina, among the family members, between Rao and Kartik is what makes *Shubh Mangal...* such a delight. What is even cuter and sweeter are the detailing that has gone into Khurrana's character. It is absolutely impossible to miss the nose ring, the pink *dupatta* and the cape he wears while proclaiming from the roof top that Shankar Tripathi is a homophobic. Then there are the brilliant performances by the actors. Khurrana has once again proved that is a great actor. His demeanor and expressions are bang on and such a delight to watch. He is the life and soul of this movie. Then there is Jitendra Kumar who plays Aman Tripathi, Kartik's partner who compliments Khurrana. A special mention here for Rao, Gupta, Manurishi Chaddha and even Maanvi Gargro. While Khurrana helms the movie, the rest of the starcast do their best and make this such a delightfully cute love story. However, if you are a homophobic, stay away!

— Shalini Saksena

This is a sinking ship

BHOOT PART ONE: THE HAUNTED SHIP
*ing: Vicky Kaushal, Bhumi Pednekar, Ashutosh Rana
Rated: 3/10

There are a few genres on which Bollywood should never attempt to make movies. First, of course is comedy. Vir Das has rightly said: Indians have not learnt the art of laughing at themselves. Second, and *Bhoot: The Haunted Ship*, falls under this category is horror. There was a time when Bollywood had some incredible horror movies to its name like *Mahal* and *Bees Saal Baad*. Then came the era of Ramsay Brothers. While these movies had the bhoot, it lacked the scare factor. Not the spine-chilling expression of teenage Damien in *Omen*. One has to understand that everything that goes bump at night and strange clanking noise doesn't constitute horror. That is what ails this latest ghost movie. Bhanu Pratap Singh

may have used a ghost ship to tell his story that already has a history of haunting and the entire crew mysteriously committing suicide, the creepy looking ghost or the victim it has possessed and kept with it for more than 10 years is more on the lines that the bhoot needs psychiatric treatment rather than be exorcised. While Vicky Kaushal may be the only saving grace of this sinking ship, the fact remains why he chose to do this film in the first place given that the storyline and the script of this film is not a patch on the kind of movies Kaushal has picked up in the recent past like *Uri* and *Manmarziyaan*. Sad that Ashutosh Rana who has been in the industry for more than two decades would say yes to this project. There are several lose ends at the climax. If the director was looking at a *Bahubali: The Beginning* kind of end, he failed miserably. Only see this one if you are a horror film fan. — Shalini Saksena



Plan Your Sunday

Colour Me Colour You

Venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
When: February 23, 2020
Time: 10 am to 8 pm

We all look for meaning, we all search for our goals. Is there really a purpose? Are we all one and together or just wandering soul. In this journey of life, I found a little of myself, in water, in brushes, in paints, and in color, I see, a little of you and a little of me.

Expression of feelings and deep emotions through art is a medium for me to find balance in life. Life, which is uncertain and prone to change leaving us to struggle and process complex human behavior and circumstances.

Through a string of emotions that tie us together, I truly see a part of me in you and a part of you in me.

In this exhibit, the artist has used acrylic colors to emulate the innumerable and uncountable emotions, soulful expressions and the beauty, divinity, and rawness of a woman.

Hope that you see in her a little bit of you and a little bit of me.



Around the world in 80 days

Venue: PVR outlets in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai
Date: February 23, 2020

Take a weekend trip down the memory lane with special screenings of the Hollywood Classic, "Around the world in 80 Days (1956)" under PVR's property "The Nostalgic Show". The iconic adventure-comedy drama will be screened at eight locations in four cities today. The Nostalgic Show offers movie buffs an opportunity to enjoy their favourite, handpicked iconic classics on the big-screen. There is an exciting line up of films for this curated show including *Gone with the Wind*, *Bicycle Thieves* and *Stage Coach*. Enjoy handpicked Hollywood classics in your nearest PVR cinema! You can book your seats via PVR mobile app & website.



'Need to have more real stories'

From playing Vishnu to Krishna to Akbar and now a chef, SOURABH RAJ JAIN has donned several hats. He speaks with MUSBA HASHMI about what made him take up the latest role and his favourite pastime, among other things

What made you say yes to the role?

The character, the storyline of course, the concept of the show, and the backstory that my character had intrigued me the most. It was also after my meeting with the producers of the show Rajita Sharma and Vivek Budakoti who are also writers of the show, that I was thoroughly convinced to take it up.

Any similarities that you share with your character?

The one similarity that I share with Neil Oberoi is being passionate about whatever I take up in my field. While Neil is a very passionate cook, I am in real life passionate about my acting and whatever I showcase on screen. So that way, my character and I are very similar when it comes to our careers.

What should the audience look forward to in the show?

I am showcasing myself in a different genre after very long, so that is something the audiences should definitely look forward to. Other than that the backstory that my character has been unveiling through the course of the show has been very interesting, and something that the audiences too would like to know more about.

From Remix to Patiala Babes, how has your journey been?

The journey has been overwhelming, amazing and one that I am extremely proud about. Through the years I have got to experiment with so many different genres, roles and concepts, and as an actor there is nothing better that I could have asked for!

You have explored different genres and have done variety of roles. How did the transition happen?

Experimentation of course! Because as an actor if you don't experiment with and try out new genres and mediums, you are never going to grow or learn. And for me being diverse with my skills in such a field is extremely important.



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What was the most challenging role?

I have done so many roles in the years gone by and to be honest all of them have been challenging. Every role demands a different side of me, so each of them has actually had me experience a different challenge altogether.

A change that you would like to see in the industry for actors or other working professionals?

I feel that our industry needs to open doors to more real concepts and storylines, specially with the youth of today who are always looking out for new things to watch. There has to be a certain section content which caters to them, as they are our biggest critics and the bright future of tomorrow.

Apart from acting what else keeps you busy?

Spending quality time at home with my family is something I always look forward to post shoot.

Upcoming projects?

As of now I am very caught up with *Patiala Babes*, so that's the only thing I am working on at the moment.

TELLYTALE

HIMESH'S PREDICTION COMES TRUE



The finale of India's biggest singing reality show had to be grand and to make this celebration double the cast of the much-awaited movie *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan* graced the stage of *Indian Idol* to boost the morale of our top 5 contestants and promote their movie. Ayushmann, Jitendra Kumar, Neena Gupta and Gajraj Rao was welcomed by the Indian idol team.

Himesh Reshammiya praised Ayushmann for his amazing acting and singing skills. He also remembered that when Ayushmann was hosting a show in 2009 he has predicated something about him. Himesh met him at that time when he came to promote a movie, he foreseen at that time Ayushmann will become a superstar and this prediction of his came true. Himesh was over overwhelmed to meet Ayushmann and wished him all the luck for his movie.

PUJA TO PLAY VAISHNO DEVI

Star Bharat's mythological show *Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishno Devi* — *Kahani Mata Rani Ki* has mesmerised audiences with its amazing story and star cast. Recently, the show has completed 100 episodes. But a big twist is coming in the story of this show. Maisha Dixit, who played the younger Vaishno Devi in the show, left no stone unturned to win the audience with her spectacular performance. The show is set to take a leap and it is going to excite the audience with its more twist and turns. Puja Banerjee will enter the show after the leap where she will be playing the role of elder Vaishno Devi in the show. We will get to see elder Vaishno Devi who will be more powerful and beautiful.

Let me tell you that many popular actresses were being considered for the role of elder Vaishno Devi, for which talented and famous actresses like Diana Khan, Niyati

Fatani, Samiksha Jaiswal and Anushka Sen were approached. Finally, actress Puja Banerjee was finalised for the role. Its shooting will also start from next week. The leap will be aired on the Star Bharat channel from the first week of March.

When spoken to the actor Puja Banerjee said that: "It is a great pleasure for me to be selected for this role. Along with this, many of my old memories have also been refreshed as I had done a mytho show with this channel earlier. The previous role in mytho got me a lot of appreciation from the audience. I wish that history would be repeated again through this show. I hope the audience shower the same love."

RECREATING B-TOWN'S ICONIC JODI

Commitment and dedication are the keys to success & nobody knows it better than the budding talents of Rajshri Productions, Anagha Bhosale, and Ankit Raizada. The actors have been winning the hearts of the viewers with their performance as Shradhdha and Shlok in Star Plus' *Dadi Amma... Dadi Amma Maan Jao* & are pulling out all stops to get their on-screen avatars right.

Recently, the actors had to re-create the iconic and blockbuster *jodi* — Salman Khan and Madhuri Dixit's chartbuster song on the show and we couldn't take our eyes off them from the few glimpses that we had a chance to see. Taking inspiration from Salman Khan and Madhuri Dixit's styling to shaking their legs and imitating the signature steps, the actors did it all!

Commenting on recreating the song, Anagha shares: "It is a dream come true feeling for me. Madhuri Dixit has been my biggest inspiration. Getting to perform on her song and wearing the exact clothes had taken me to cloud nine! Moreover, we had a



very hectic schedule so I had to rehearse the song within a span of 30 minutes and it was quite challenging. I watched the video of the original song several times to gauge Madhuri's expressions and ensured I focused on getting those right while I was shooting for the song."

Adding further, Ankit Raizada shared: "It is literally a different kind of feeling for me as *Hum Apke Hai Kaun* is one of my favorite movies. Additionally, working for the same production, wearing the same clothes and shaking a leg on my biggest inspiration Salman Khan's song *Didi Tera Dewar* was unbelievable for me. Although I know I

cannot match up to his persona and talent, from my side it's a small tribute to my style icon."

"Well, we can't wait to watch the duo's outstanding performance on-screen!"

AN UNMISSABLE NIGHT WITH VH1

VH1 celebrates 40 years of British brilliance at TheBRIT Awards 2020, airing on February 24, 2020 exclusively on the channel. Don't miss out on the best moments from the glitzy awards night:

Billie goes Bond: After a clean sweep at the GRAMMYS, Billie Eilish's performance was the most awaited from a stellar line-up. The starlet from Los Angeles teased audience with a live debut of the new theme song from the upcoming James Bond movie *No Time to Die* creating a frenzy at the O2. Billie signed off the night by taking home the International Female Solo Artist award.

Lewis Capaldi's tribute to his grandmother: Lewis Capaldi's second outing at the BRIT Awards turned out to be historic for him as he swept top awards at the night, winning Best New Artist and Best New Song for his single *Someone You Loved*. He credited his late grandmother for being the inspiration behind the hit single.

Dave's larger than life performance: London-based rapper Dave delivered a rare hip-hop performance as he played the piano while performing to his single *Black*. His versatility left fans speechless. Having led the nomination race with Lewis Capaldi, Dave had much to cheer on the night as his album *Psychodrama* was awarded British Album of the Year.

VARUN SHARES WEIGHT LOSS MANTRA

It's true when they say size does not matter, but fitness does for sure! This has been proved by none other than Television's senior actor, Varun Badola, who has been adored by the audiences for his depiction of Amber Sharma in *Sona Entertainment Television's* show, *Mere Dad Ki Dulhan*. As we all know that Varun was asked to gain 12 kgs for his character, he is also sizing down as his character shifts from a grumpy dad to an ideal partner.

As he works towards his goal of a fit middle-aged man, Varun shares his weight loss and fitness secrets! Following the path of intermittent diet, Varun Badola eats only twice a day without giving up on his favourite yet healthy food. Sharing his weight loss mantra, Varun says: "It's not easy to follow the intermittent fasting, while the rest of the world follows a particular meal time, I have my first meal of the day at 12 pm which is a mix of everything! Between 12 pm to 8 pm I can have a balanced meal and as much as I want. But from 8 pm to 12 pm I can't have anything. It works very well with my shoot schedule. I work out rigorously over the weekend. This has helped me lose a lot of weight in the past one and a half months. And right now it's the ask of the character."

Along with intermittent fasting, Varun is also working out in the gym whenever he gets the time.

SAD, AAP condemn Punjab DGP's statement on Kartarpur corridor

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Opposition SAD and AAP on Saturday condemned Punjab DGP Dinkar Gupta's purported statement on the Kartarpur corridor and sought clarification from Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh within 24 hours.

The Shiromani Akali Dal said if the clarification was not issued, the party will stall proceedings of the budget session of the Vidhan Sabha on February 24.

The Aam Aadmi Party too lashed out at the DGP, terming the statement condemnable and seeking the removal of the top cop.

SAD senior leader Bikram Singh Majithia alleged that DGP Gupta told a national daily that "Kartarpur offers a potential that you send somebody in the morning as an ordinary chap and by evening he comes back as trained terrorist actually. You are there for six hours, you can be taken to a firing range, you can be taught to make an IED".

The DGP also reportedly said some elements based in the neighbouring country were "trying to woo the pilgrims and making overtures to them".

"I condemn the statement

in the strongest possible words. I do not think it is the statement given by the Punjab DGP, I see this coming from the Congress headquarters because this DGP was hand-picked by overlooking several senior officers," alleged Majithia.

Majithia also dubbed the statement a "deep rooted conspiracy" of the Congress to paint every Sikh pilgrim a "terrorist".

"As many as 52,098 pilgrims have so far paid obeisance at the Kartarpur gurdwara. Please check us and see which one of them became terrorist," asked Majithia, alleging that they (Congress) were trying to get the corridor shut.

"If the clarification is not given by Amarinder Singh within 24 hours, we will not allow the Punjab Vidhan Sabha run on February 24," warned Majithia.

AAP MLA and the Leader of Opposition in the state assembly, Harpal Singh Cheema, sought the DGP's removal.

"The statement poses a threat to the country's unity and integrity. The CM should lodge an FIR against him (DGP), put him behind bars and remove him from his



Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia addressing a news conference in Chandigarh on Saturday. Pioneer Photo

post," said Cheema.

Meanwhile, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee chief Gobind Singh Longowal also condemned the DGP's statement and said the corridor gave a message of peace.

"With the DGP's statement, sentiments of Sikhs have been hurt. So far, 50,000 devotees have offered prayers at the

Kartarpur gurdwara and no such instance like what the DGP has said has come to the fore yet," said Longowal in a statement.

Earlier, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh too had repeatedly warned that Pakistan had "nefarious designs" behind the opening of the Kartarpur corridor and had also maintained that while

he was extremely happy as a Sikh at its opening, "the threat it posed to India could not be ignored".

The Kartarpur corridor, which was opened on November 9 last year, links the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan—the final resting place of Guru Nanak Dev—with Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur of Indian Punjab.

No religious connotation in Corridor remarks: DGP Gupta

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Director General of Police, Dinkar Gupta on Saturday expressed "shock and outrage" over his remarks made at an event of a newspaper on February 20, being misunderstood or being willfully misconstrued.

In a statement issued here, Gupta said, "I rejoiced at the opening of the Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor which has fulfilled the decades-old aspirations of millions of devotees like myself all over the world who profess their faith in Guru Nanak Dev Ji and his divine teachings. Their daily ardas for 'khulle darshan-deedar' of religious shrines that remain in post-Partition Pakistan, was finally answered. It was a matter of even greater happiness that it coincided with the 550th Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji".

He said the State Government and all its agencies, including Punjab Police,



worked with great devotion and commitment to successfully observe the historic event. "As the State DGP, I assure that we will continue to strive to work towards facilitating trouble-free access to the holy shrine of Sri Kartarpur Sahib, he said.

In his statement, Gupta also said that, as the DGP of the state, which is faced with continuing battle against violent extremism that continues to be funded and supported from across the border, he cannot over emphasize the need to remain vigilant.

"I only red-flagged the obvious 'potential' for misuse by elements notorious for their hostility towards India and their effort to exploit every opportunity, even the most

pious one, to disturb peace and communal harmony", he said.

Gupta further said that his remarks at the event were strictly pertaining to the security and safety of Punjab and India. There was absolutely no reference to any religion or community in his remarks but simply that some anti-national elements based in hostile neighborhood could misuse and exploit this opportunity and, therefore, "we" need to be vigilant to such potential dangers in the interest of peace and security of the people of the State, who, he said, had already suffered a lot in the past at the hands of terrorism promoted by our hostile neighbour.

The DGP said that he was personally there when the first pilgrim crossed the border at Dera Baba Nanak, to visit Sri Kartarpur Sahib in November 2019. In the four months since, the Punjab Police has facilitated more than 51,000 devotees. We will continue to ensure this.

INBRIEF

MINISTER DHANAK PRESIDES OVER MEET IN BHIWANI
Chandigarh: Haryana Minister of State for Archeology and Museums and Labor and Employment Anoop Dhanak on Saturday presided over the monthly meeting of District Public Relations and Grievances Redressal Committee in Bhiwani. 12 complaints were put up in the meeting, of which nine were settled on the spot. He gave instructions to investigate the remaining three complaints and submit the report in the next meeting. The minister directed public health engineering officials to fix the sewer system, rainwater drainage, drinking water problem and sanitation system in the city. Dhanak also heard to the problems related to electricity, water, banks of about 50 people apart from the grievances placed in the meeting and directed the officials concerned to solve them.

ARYA SAMAJ OVERCOME SOCIAL EVILS: DY SPEAKER
Chandigarh: Haryana Deputy Speaker Ranbir Gangwa on Saturday said that the Arya Samaj is a movement that has overcome social evils in the country. In his address as chief guest at the annual festival organized by Arya Samaj at village Rawalwas Khurd in Hisar district, the deputy speaker said that Arya Samaj has worked for nation-building by emphasizing on environmental protection, de-addiction and women's education, etc. There have been many great personalities in the country who propagated the principles of Arya Samaj. He said food water and shelter are the basic needs of the society, however, education and culture are also necessary. He said that the Arya Samaj opposed caste-system because society cannot progress if we follow the caste-system. He said that first we need to change ourselves if we change then only we can bring a positive change in others.

ROSTER REGISTER FOR RESERVATION IN PROMOTIONS
Chandigarh: Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar (GNDU) has implemented roster register for reservation in promotions after the intervention of the Punjab State Scheduled Castes Commission (PSSCC). Tejinder Kaur IAS (Retd), Chairperson of PSSCC, said that one of the University employee Mahendra Raj had filed a written complaint in this regard before the Commission. Complainant said that the University Authorities was not giving due benefits of reservation to SC employees in promotion as per Punjab Government instructions. The Chairperson said that inquiry was marked to Giyan Chand Diwali, a non-official member of the Commission, who found the facts are correct in the inquiry. She said that Commission directed GNDU authorities to implement roster for reservation as per Government instructions after perusal of the inquiry report. She said that information on the roster register has also been uploaded on the University website.

HPPSC CANCELS WRITTEN TEST FOR LECTURER'S POST
Shimla: The Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (HPPSC) has cancelled a recently held test for the post of Lecturer (School New)-Hindi, its secretary, Rakhi Kahlon, said. The commission took the decision in a meeting on Thursday after it found that some questions from the District Language Officer examination held in 2018 had been repeated in the February 16 test, he said. The HPPSC has decided to re-conduct the test, for which a suitable date will shortly be intimated through its website, Kahlon said. The candidates admitted to the cancelled test will be called to take the re-test, the HPPSC secretary added. Examinees had brought the issue of repetition of questions to the commission's notice.

Babita narrates her father's training, Dangal movie at Playwrite

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The third-edition of Playwrite, Sports Literature Festival of India here witnessed scintillating sports discussions by veterans and youth alike amidst an enthusiastic gathering of sports lovers.

The first session named Olympic Dreams was kick-started by one of the founders of Playwrite - Vivek Atray, a former IAS officer, a motivational speaker and author. The session featured the star behind Aamir Khan's movie Dangal, Babita Kumari Phogat, a renowned female wrestler, who won the gold medal in 2014 Commonwealth Games.

While narrating the stories of her childhood to a packed audience, Phogat remarked that hadn't it for her strict father, she wouldn't have



COMMUNITY PLAYWRITE SPORTS - STORIES - ...

become who she is and perhaps, been confined to the four-walls of the home as a shy girl.

"Dangal movie wasn't an exaggeration. In fact, in reality,

I and my sisters weren't even allowed to attend family weddings by my stringent father, if they came in between our trainings. We had nowhere to escape to, when your own

father is your coach," said Phogat.

Reminiscing her past further, she also mentioned how she would often ask her mother as to why her life's made so

difficult by father. "My mother would just reply, "bas 2 saal aur" (wait for just two more years). This continued until I reached the place where my father wanted me to."

Babita also talked about how people in her own village would taunt her and her sisters for wearing shorts and playing amongst the boys. "However, in such times, my father would just say - 'You just do the hard work, leave everything else on me'".

The next session called 'The Business of Sports' was conducted by Chitranjan Agarwal, co-founder of Playwrite and featured Joy Bhattacharya, a famous sports quizmaster and a part of IPI's Kolkata Knight Riders since 2008.

The third session called 'Hockey: The 70s Show!' saw

the participation of hockey legends like Ajit Pal Singh and Ashok Kumar (son of Late Padma Bhushan, Major Dhyan Chand).

The session was hosted by senior journalist Prabhjot Paul Singh. The event had a surprise guest the great Hockey Legend - Balbir Singh Sr, who managed to make it even when he has not been keeping well since long now. Ashok Kumar and Ajit Pal Singh were both part of the Indian team that won the 1975 Kuala Lumpur World Cup - the last Gold that Indian hockey team ever won.

Citing some of the reasons where Indian hockey team failed in repeating the success story of 1975, both the veterans pointed to the introduction of Astro-turf, which our players and including our authorities were not familiar with at all.

Himachal to host paragliding pre-world cup at Bir-Billing from March 31 to April 5

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The Paragliding Pre-World Cup would be held from March 31 to April 5 at Bir-Billing in Kangra district, R.D. Dhiman, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Tourism and Civil Aviation, Himachal Pradesh, said on Saturday.

A meeting under the chairmanship of Dhiman was held regarding organisation of the Paragliding Pre-World Cup where the official informed that the Paragliding World Cup Association (PWCA) has given their permission to organise the paragliding pre world cup.

Dhiman informed that there would be 100 participants from 28 different countries. He said Bir-Billing is quite popular for this adventurous sports and earlier world level event was organised in the year 2015. "Bir-Billing is one of the best paragliding site in the world", he added.

For the safety and rescue of participants, the arrangement for helicopter has also been made, Dhiman said. The event is being organised by the Department of Tourism and Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Manali.

Rebel JJP MLA Gautam refuses to reply to party's show cause notice

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Rebel Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) MLA Ram Kumar Gautam has refused to reply to the show cause notice issued to him by the party, saying they (JJP) was free to take whatever action they deemed fit against him.

Gautam was served notice by the party for speaking against JJP chief and Deputy chief minister Dushyant Chautala.

The MLA, from Narnaund said, "I have not given any reply... Whatever I have to say, I had conveyed verbally. I always speak truth. I never lie. I speak from my heart and mind and never take back my words. Party is free to take any



action against me."

Gautam had earlier said that he had no regrets about resigning from the post of party vice-president and he is not going to resign from the party.

JJP MLA, who was in the race for becoming a minister after the JJP formed an alliance with the BJP had earlier said that after becoming the Deputy Chief Minister, Dushyant took 11 depart-

ments under his control and forgot the other party leaders.

Upset with the denial of a Cabinet berth in the BJP-JJP coalition government, Gautam had stated, "He (Dushyant) is keeping all the portfolios including industry, excise and taxation, PWD (B&R), revenue and food and supply. There is no limit to their greed. What can we do? He did not share power with anybody else. He made me MLA, but we have made him the Deputy Chief Minister."

Almost a month after Gautam took on his senior party leader Dushyant Chautala for keeping 11 portfolios, the JJP on January 23 sought an explanation from the veteran politician.

Himachal CM inaugurates International Mandi Shivaratri Fair

KISHORI LAL ■ MANDI

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday inaugurated the week long International Mandi Shivaratri Fair by participating in the Pagri Ceremony and Pooja at Shri Raj Madhav Temple in Mandi town, also known as Chhoti (little) Kashi. He also presided over the Sobha Yatra from the temple to Paddal Mela Ground. The festivities will culminate on February 28.

Presiding over the opening ceremony of International Shivaratri Fair at Paddal Ground, he said that it was vital that we respect our tradition and culture as only those societies thrive that respect and love their culture. He said that the Mandi Shivaratri not only reflects the deep faith of the people of their Gods and Goddesses, but it provides an opportunity to the people for socialisation. He said that this fair has also emerged as the major fair for commercial activities.

Thakur said that in the present era of cut throat competition, people usually have little time to participate in the fairs, which was a matter of concern. He said that the state was known as Dev Bhoomi, as

lives of the people of the state are deeply influenced by the local Gods and Goddesses. He said that almost all the villages of the state have their own temple and own deity. He said that Mandi town was also known as Choti Kashi as there are over hundred temples in the town.

He said the state government has spent over Rs 72 crore on providing twenty four hour drinking water supply to the Mandi Town, adding that Shiv Dham would also be developed in Mandi town, besides construction of Heliport to attract the tourists to visiting the town.

Thakur said the government was striving hard to construct International Airport at Balh area of Mandi and added that a multi storey parking would be constructed in Mandi town.

He also announced that trekker hut would also be constructed in the town to facilitate tourists visiting the town. He announced increase of ten percent in the 'Nazarana' of the deities participating in the Shivaratri. He also announced ten percent increase in honorarium of 'Bajantaris' on the occasion.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated exhibition and SARAS Mela at Paddal Ground

on the occasion and also visited the exhibition put up by Information and Public Relations Department, which depicted the journey of all Chief Ministers of the state. Thakur was also handed over the Baton (Torch) by the district administration regarding the campaign the administration has launched regarding 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'.

He released the 'Shivaratri Margdarshika' a booklet on rituals and customs regarding International Mandi Shivaratri. He also released the souvenir brought out by the organising committee.

Deputy Commissioner Mandi cum Chairman Mela organising committee Rugved Thakur said that about 216 deities have been invited to the event this year. He said that the fair is particularly famous as this special fair transforms Mandi town into a venue of grand celebration when all gods and goddesses, of the district assemble here, starting with the day of Shivaratri remain here for seven days till 28th of this month. He also detailed various events being held during the seven day mega event.

The Mandi's Mahashivaratri, a centuries-old festival, starts a day later it ends

in the rest of the country. The celebrations date back to 1526 when the town was founded during the rule of Ajbar Sen. He "invited" all local deities to mark the founding of the new town.

Like the week-long Kullu Dussehra festivities, Mandi's Mahashivaratri also sees a congregation, in which there are both divine and temporal aspects.

Every year, the festival attracts scores of tourists. Many researchers also come here to study local gods and goddesses that arrive in beautifully decorated palanquins amid sounds of trumpets and drums.

During the first day of the festival, Lord Madho Rai, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu and the chief deity, leads the procession. The assembled deities follow him in beautifully decorated palanquins, as per protocol, and assemble at the Bhutnath temple here.

Three such processions, locally called "Jaleb", would be taken out on the opening, middle and concluding days of the festival, organisers said.

Mandi, located on the Chandigarh-Manali national highway, is dotted with more than 80 temples built in typical hill architecture. The prominent temples are those of



Bhutnath, Triloki Nath, Jagannath, Tarna Devi and Jalpa Devi.

The rulers of Mandi were devotees of Lord Shiva. Legend has it that ruler Sen (1499-1534) saw in his dreams a cow

offering milk to an idol of Lord Shiva. His dream became reality because, according to legend, he actually once saw a cow make a milk offering to an idol. That was when the ruler constructed a temple in 1526, the

Bhutnath temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva. The foundation of Mandi town was laid at the same time, and Sen later shifted his capital here.

The administration has since been inviting deities to

the Shivaratri festivities here, ever since the rule of princely states came to an end. The administration also offers an honorarium to the "kardars" (attendants of deities) for participating in the festival.

HP Govt determined to double farmers' income by 2022: CM

PNS ■ MANDI

The State Government has initiated various innovative and ambitious schemes to double the income of farming community by 2022 and rearing of milch animals could play important role in it, Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said on Saturday.

upto 1 lakh liter which need to be increased. He said that in the developed country the base of the rural economy was Animal Husbandry and the farmers by going for best breed of cows could increase their income manifold.

He said the state government was also promoting natural farming so that people could be motivated to rear cattle, adding that the state government has also constituted a Gau Sanraksh Boarding in the state, besides several Cow Sanctuaries were being opened in different parts of the State.

The Chief Minister said that the Lal Bahadur Shastri Government Medical College Ner Chowk, Mandi was fast emerging as the premier Medical College of the region and the state government was committed to strengthen this Medical College. He said the state today has six medical colleges in government sector alone and AIIMS was coming up in Bilaspur district.

Linear Accelerator, HDR Brachytherapy and Planning CT-Simulator for the treatment of various cancers like head and neck, breast, cervix, lungs and lymphoma etc. He said that dedicated chemotherapy, radiotherapy, oncology and palliative care facilities would also be made available in this cancer centre.

Chief Minister also presented cheque Rs 2000 each to the Milk Cooperatives as Assistance on behalf of MILKFED. He also presented Automatic Milk Collection units to farmers on the occasion.

Earlier, the Chief Minister laid foundation stone of Tertiary Cancer Care Centre at Lal Bahadur Shastri Government Medical College Ner Chowk Mandi to be constructed by spending about Rs 45 crore. He also inaugurated PHC building at Leda constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.75 crore.

Rural Development Minister Virender Kanwar said that the Milk Processing Plant would prove a boon to the farmers of the district and also help the farmers to double their income by the year 2022. He also urged the Chief Minister to increase the rate of milk to facilitate the farmers. He also urged the farm-

ers to rear cows of good breed, for which the state government was providing subsidy for purchase of such cattle.

Classifieds

LOST AND FOUND

I, Asha Devi W/o Sh. Harbhans Lal, Panipat Declare that 1 Marla 2.5 Sarsaul/37.50 Sq. yards in favor of Smt. Seema w/o Pragat Singh, Panipat. Sale Deed No. 12704, Dated 05.02.2008 & Sale Deed No. 134/1, Dated 03.04.2007 to my property. Original Documents have been lost. If any person found Pls send it on my address.

I, Gagandeep Kaur W/o Sh. Harpreet Pal Singh R/o House No. 3253, Sector 27D, Chandigarh inform that my deed of conveyance regarding House No. 3253, Sector 27D, Chandigarh has been lost. If anybody find the same please send at the given address.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No.G/171808K Rank BRO VEH/MECH Mohinder Singh S/O Sh. Singh Ram R/o Vill. Patodi, PO Sandwa Distt. Bhiwani, NOW at H. No.30, Manohar Colony Near Sect-16-17, Hisar, have changed my son name in army record from Yash to his real name Yogesh Jatara.

I, Anil Kumar S/o Bachan Dass R/o 165, Harmlap Nagar Baltana have changed my name to Anil Gupta.

I, Harvinder Singh S/o S. Nirmal Singh R/o Village Baj Chak PO Jhianwal Babri Distt. Gurdaspur declare that in school record of my daughter Jaskaranpreet Kaur, my name is wrongly written as Harpinder Singh. My correct name is Harvinder Singh. Concerned note.

I, P.Jhothi Lakshmi W/o No.15473946F Rank DFF Sankar Raju R/o VPO Vandapuli Via Sapru Tehsil Paravur Distt. Madurai State Tamilnadu -625705 at present of Unit 68 ARMD Regt. c/o 56 APO Tibri Cantt. have changed my name from P.Jhothi Lakshmi to S.Jhothi Lakshmi due to wrong name recorded in my husband's service record before Kuljinder Singh Mann Notary Public, Gurdaspur (Pb) dt. 22.02.20.

I, Swati Anil Ghodke W/o No. 15487793F Rank LD Sarode Ramesh Rohidas R/O Village Vahali PO Sawarganah (Ghat) Tehsil Patoda Distt. Beed State Maharashtra 413207 at present of Unit 68 ARMD Regt. c/o 56 APO Tibri Cantt. have changed my name from Swati Anil Ghodke to Sarode Swati Ramesh to wrong name recorded in my husband's service record before Kuljinder Singh Mann Notary Public, Gurdaspur (Pb) dt. 22.02.20.

I, No 4491943W Hav (CIK) Vineshwar, S/o Appunni K. R/o Vileshwar, Tehsil-Hosangudi, VPO Karinthalam, Distt. Kasargod, State-Kerala & Pin - 671314. In my Army Records my Father's name wrongly written Ambunhi K. His correct name is Appunni K.

I, Gulshan S/o Jagdish Lal Khera R/o 655, Model Colony, Kartarpura, Yamuna Nagar have changed my name to Gulshan Khera.

I, Ripin Gera S/O Radhe Shyam Gera R/O H.No 1338/B Mahavir Colony Jatal Road Panipat Declared Ripin Gera And Vipin Gera Both My Name.

I, Dinesh Sharma S/o Sh. Pawan Kumar R/O Shahzad P.O. Sandal Kalan Distt. Sonapat have changed my name from Dinesh S/O Pawan Kumar for future references and should be known as Dinesh Sharma S/O Pawan Kumar.

I, Mukhvir Singh S/o Joginder Singh R/o 3040, Sector 27D, Chandigarh declare that in my PAN card my name is mentioned Mukhvir Singh. Chani correct name is Mukhvir Singh and my father name is mentioned Joginder Singh. Chani correct name is Joginder Singh.

I, Varun Piplani S/o Ajay Piplani R/O Naraingharh Tehsil Naraingharh (Armbala) have changed my name from Varun to Varun Piplani.

I, Dharni Bhalha W/o Manoj Bhalha R/O 98 Shivpuri-A, Colony near Kansapur Yamanagar, Haryana, India-135001 declare that in all documents of my son Yatin my name is written as Luxmi. Dharni Bhalha and Luxmi both are my name.

I, Monika spouse of No 15492835M Rank Ad Name Sangle Raosaheb Maruti R/o Vill Darewad, PO Darewad, Teh & Distt Ahmed Nagar, State Maharashtra hereby declare that I have changed my Date of Birth 29/07/1989 to 29/07/1990 vide affidavit dated 22/02/2020 before Session Court, Hisar.

I, Monika spouse of No 15492835M Rank Ad Name Sangle Raosaheb Maruti R/o Vill Darewad, PO Darewad, Teh & Distt Ahmed Nagar, State Maharashtra hereby declare that I have changed my name from Monika to Monika Raosaheb Sangle vide affidavit dated 22/02/2020 before Session Court, Hisar.

I, Monika spouse of No 15492835M Rank Ad Name Sangle Raosaheb Maruti R/o Vill Darewad, PO Darewad, Teh & Distt Ahmed Nagar, State Maharashtra hereby declare that I have changed my name from Monika to Monika Raosaheb Sangle vide affidavit dated 22/02/2020 before Session Court, Hisar.

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I, Monika spouse of No 15492835M Rank Ad Name Sangle Raosaheb Maruti R/o Vill Darewad, PO Darewad, Teh & Distt Ahmed Nagar, State Maharashtra hereby declare that I have changed my name from Monika to Monika Raosaheb Sangle vide affidavit dated 22/02/2020 before Session Court, Hisar.

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I, Monika spouse of No 15492835M Rank Ad Name Sangle Raosaheb Maruti R/o Vill Darewad, PO Darewad, Teh & Distt Ahmed Nagar, State Maharashtra hereby declare that I have changed my name from Monika to Monika Raosaheb Sangle vide affidavit dated 22/02/2020 before Session Court, Hisar.

I, Monika spouse of No 15492835M Rank Ad Name Sangle Raosaheb Maruti R/o Vill Darewad, PO Darewad, Teh & Distt Ahmed Nagar, State Maharashtra hereby declare that I have changed my name from Monika to Monika Raosaheb Sangle vide affidavit dated 22/02/2020 before Session Court, Hisar.

I, Md Amzor Ali Khan father of No 15490897N Rank Ad Name Md Ajuul Islam Khan R/O Vill Lowgaon, PO Solmari, Tehsil & Distt Nagaon, Assam hereby declare that I have changed my name from Md Amzor Ali Khan to Amzar Ali vide affidavit dated 22/02/2020 before Session Court Hisar.

I, Isa Siddik mother of No 15490897N Rank Ad Name Md Ajuul Islam Khan R/O Vill Lowgaon, PO Solmari, Tehsil & Distt Nagaon, Assam hereby declare that I have changed my name from Isa Siddik to Ayesha Khatun vide affidavit dated 22/02/2020 before Session Court, Hisar.

I, Anusuya Banerjee spouse of No 14651200M Rank Hav Name Prakash Banerjee R/O Vill & PO Parshyampur, Teh Arambagh, Distt Hooghly, State West Bengal hereby declare that I have changed my Date of Birth from 19/03/1983 to 02/06/1983 vide affidavit dated 22/02/2020 before Session Court, Hisar.

I, Ranjana Devi spouse of No 14813031F Rank Hav Name Ram Babu R/O Vill Khairi, PO Sisolar, Teh Maudaha, Distt Hamirpur, State Uttar Pradesh hereby declare that I have changed my Date of Birth from 10/05/1979 to 20/09/1980 vide affidavit dated 22/02/2020 before Session Court, Hisar.

I, Amarjit Kaur W/o No. 4455085N EX Late Hav Balwant Singh R/O Village Fojli Plot, P.O. Pehowa, District Kurukshetra declare that in my husband's service documents record my name wrongly written as Amarjit Kaur instead of Amarjeet Kaur & D.O.B. 20-12-1963 instead of 04-05-1960 & my daughter's name written as Rituraj instead of Baljeet Kaur & D.O.B. 14-06-1983 instead of 07-07-1984. Note all concerns.

I, Amarjit Kaur W/o No. 4455085N EX Late Hav Balwant Singh R/O Village Fojli Plot, P.O. Pehowa, District Kurukshetra declare that in my husband's service documents record my son's name wrongly written as Jatinder Singh instead of Sandeep Singh & D.O.B. 10-09-1984 instead of 12-09-1986 & my second son's name written as Lovjeet Singh instead of Lovejeet Singh & D.O.B. 23-11-1986 instead of 19-08-1988. Note all concerns.

I, Kanwaljit Kaur D/o Sh. Kamal Sohal, R/O House No. 167, First Floor, Phase-1, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab have changed my name to Naveta Sohal.

I, Kanika W/o Chintu Tuli, R/O Anaj Mandi, Pehowa (Kurukshetra) changed my name to Kanika Tuli.

I, Tejbir Singh S/o Joginder Singh R/O B-170, Ranjit Avenue Amritsar hereby declare that Tejbir is my first name and Singh is my Surname. All concerned please note.

I, Paranjit Singh Sandhu S/o Mohinder Singh Sandhu R/O Villa No. 306, Phase-1, Heaven City, Manawala Khurd, G.T.Road, Amritsar have changed my name from Paranjit Singh Sandhu to Parameet Singh Sandhu All Con. PLS. Note It.

I, No. JC-431474W Sub Devinder Singh S/o Late Surjan Singh R/O H.No. 2, Guru Nanak Enclave, Jandepur, Colony, Khandwala, Chheharta, Amritsar Pin 143105 Punjab declare that in my Army Service Record my wife name wrongly entered Inderjeet Kaur. Please Correct it Inderjeet Kaur as per Aadhaar card & Pan Card vide Affidavit No. 18857 Dated 17/02/2020 District Court Executive Magistrate, Amritsar-Concerned Note.

I, Kawaljit Kaur W/o Sarbjit Singh R/O H.No. 144, Suraj Tiari House Wali Gali, Golden Avenue, Chheharta Amritsar have changed my name to Kamaljit Kaur.

I, Sandeep S/O Phool Singh R/O Vill Bakhli, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Changed Name Sandeep Kumar.

I, Beant Singh S/O Dalip Singh R/O Village Jandwala, Po. Mukdi Tehsil And Distt. Ferozpur have Changed My Name As Beant Singh Brar.

I, Akwinder Kaur W/o Beant Singh Brar R/O Village Jandwala, Po. Mukdi Tehsil And Distt. Ferozpur have Changed My Name As Akwinder Kaur Brar.

I, Beant Singh S/O Dalip Singh R/O Village Jandwala, Po. Mukdi Tehsil And Distt. Ferozpur have Changed My Name As Beant Singh Brar.

I, Nirmal Ram Son Of Darshan Lal R/O Village Garupur Tehsil Nawansharh District S.B.S. Nagar Have Changed My Name From Nirmal Ram To Nirmal.

I, Amandeep S/O Surinder Pal R/O Vpo. Musapur Tehsil Nawansharh District S.B.S. Nagar Have Changed My Name From Amandeep To Amandeep Mahay.

I, Pal Singh S/O Sarain Singh R/O Vill. Kahani Singh Wala, Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Pal Singh Dhillon.

I, Ramanpreet Kaur D/O Nirvair Singh R/O Vpo. Daulatpura Niwan Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Ramanpreet Kaur Dhalival.

I, Daljeet Kaur W/O Inderjit Singh R/O Vpo. Manawan, Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Daljeet Kaur Alias Manpreet Kaur.

I, Sandeep Kaur Chana W/O Gagandeep Singh R/O Plot No.90, Street No.2, Guru Nanak Nagar Gill Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Sandeep Kaur.

I, Rajwinder Kaur D/O Jagseer Singh R/O Village Dehrka Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Rajwinder Kaur Bhatti.

I, Sheela Devi Alias Baljit Kaur Kanda W/O Jaskaran Singh R/O Vpo. Sohian Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Sheela Devi.

I, Gurdev Singh S/O Kartar Singh R/O Vpo. Heran Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Gurdev Singh Hehar.

I, Isha Kiran Dhiman W/O Nikhil Sood R/O H.No.-800 Civil Lines Moga Have Changed My Name To Isha Kiran Sood After Marriage.

I, Sannpreet Kaur Alias Sarbjit Kaur Gill W/O Kuldeep Singh R/O H.No.-B-311/6794/4 Street No.-7 Ward No.-9 Near Samrala Chowk Adarsh Nagar Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Sarbjit Kaur.

I, Balbir Singh S/O Ajit Singh R/O Bharwal Road Shivalki Enclave Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Nirmal Singh.

I, Shabnam W/O Fraz Ali R/O Vpo. Kathar Distt. Jalandhar Have Changed My Name From Shabnam To Shabnam Ali, After Marriage.

I, Gurtej Singh S/O Gurjant Singh R/O Vpo. Akila Jalal Distt. Bathinda Have Changed Minor Son's Name Akashdeep Singh To Akashdeep Singh Dhalival.

I, Sohan Singh S/O Kartar Singh R/O Village Deharka Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Sohan Singh Sidhu.

I, Rachpal Kaur Sidhu W/O Sohan Singh Sidhu R/O Village Deharka Tehsil Jagraon Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Rachpal Kaur Sidhu.

I, Navneet Kaur W/O Jaspreet Singh Ghatora R/O H.No.284 Ward-5 Baba Isha Singh Nagar Moga Have Changed My Name To Navneet Kaur Ghatora.

I, Renuka W/O Vijay Kumar R/O St.No.03 Zira Road Ward No.1 New Sodhi Nagar Moga Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Renuka Grover.

I, Sukhvir Singh W/O Nirmal Singh Pawar R/O Vpo. Mukdi (Ferozpur) Have Changed My Name To Sukhvir Singh Pawar.

I, Manjeet Singh S/O Sukhmander Singh R/O Vpo. Lakha Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Manjeet Singh Gill.

I, Elizabeth Parveen W/o Late Supinder Rana R/O 2206, Sector 22-C, Chandigarh, declare that my son Vinesh Rana is out of my control. So I disown him from my moveable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing with him will do so at his/her own risk.

I, Balbir Singh S/o Bharat Singh R/O H. No. 88, Model Colony, Dhana, Chandigarh declare that my son Sandeep Kumar is out of my control. I disown him from my all moveable/immovable property anybody dealing with him at their own risk and responsibility.

I, Shakuntla Devi S/o Late Sh. Sukhbir Singh R/O Vill Salimars Majhara, Sonapat declare that my son Sachin and his wife Jyoti are out of my control. So I disown them from my moveable/immovable property. Any body deals with them at own risk.

We, Sant Ram Deshwal S/o Sada Ram and Smt. Raj Kala Deshwal W/o Sant Ram R/O H.No.116 Sector-15 Sonapat declare that his wife Jyoti are out of my control. So we disown them from my all moveable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them at own risk.

I, Balbir Singh S/o Bharat Singh R/O H. No. 88, Model Colony, Dhana, Chandigarh declare that my son Sandeep Kumar is out of my control. I disown him from my all moveable/immovable property anybody dealing with him at their own risk and responsibility.

I, Balbir Singh S/o Bharat Singh R/O H. No. 88, Model Colony, Dhana, Chandigarh declare that my son Sandeep Kumar is out of my control. I disown him from my all moveable/immovable property anybody dealing with him at their own risk and responsibility.

I, Balbir Singh S/o Bharat Singh R/O H. No. 88, Model Colony, Dhana, Chandigarh declare that my son Sandeep Kumar is out of my control. I disown him from my all moveable/immovable property anybody dealing with him at their own risk and responsibility.

I, Balbir Singh S/o Bharat Singh R/O H. No. 88, Model Colony, Dhana, Chandigarh declare that my son Sandeep Kumar is out of my control. I disown him from my all moveable/immovable property anybody dealing with him at their own risk and responsibility.

I, Balbir Singh S/o Bharat Singh R/O H. No. 88, Model Colony, Dhana, Chandigarh declare that my son Sandeep Kumar is out of my control. I disown him from my all moveable/immovable property anybody dealing with him at their own risk and responsibility.

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J'khand Forest Dept plans safe corridor for tuskers

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Taking firm steps on its ambitious project of tusker corridor, the state forest department has identified several points that are crucial for the easy movement and sustainable living of the elephants in the Dalma sanctuary and, the prominent among them are constructing newer water bodies, solar fencing of the forest area and protection of the green cover on the Jharkhand-Bengal stretch.

"We are working on the project and have identified several points. The water bodies are of prime importance for the sustainable survival of the elephants in the forest cover and we are concentrating our focus much on this subject at the moment," said a forest officer.

He said perennial water sources in the Dalma forest range but several water sources got dried up which led the department to initiate the work again.

"It is not just of reviving the old ponds but we are also identifying sites for the construction of new water bodies on the Jharkhand-Bengal stretch to ensure availability of the water to the elephants round the calendar year," he said.

Though, he did not mention but sources in the Dhalbhum and Seraikela forest department have informed that at a dozen odd sites have been identified for the construction of new water bodies in the forest stretch leading to the neighbouring Bengal.

SHIV KARAN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION GURUKUL MATINDU, SONIPAT

Affiliated with CRSU Jind & Recognized by NCTE. Lecturer in Education-4, 2. Lect. in Pedagogy subject -8, 3. Fine Arts, 4. Physical Education-01, 5. Music-01, 6. Librarian-01, 7. Office Manager-01, 8. Office cum Account Assistant- 01, 9. Office Assistant cum Computer Operator- 01, 10. Store Keeper- 01, 11. Lab Assistant- 01, 12. Lab Attendant- 01. All eligible candidates may send their resume along with self attested photocopies of all documents within 21 days of publication of the advertisement. A copy of the application is also to be sent to CDC office of CRSU Jind.

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF Sh. Simerjit Singh Civil Judge Junior Division, Amritsar. CNR No. PBAS02-0017642019 Next Date: 04-04-2020. Rajni @Darshpreet Kaur W/o Jasvir Singh and D/o Lt. S.Sewa Singh R/O House No. A-2/124, Third Floor, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027. ...Plaintiff

Versus Satwinder Singh & Oth

Suit for separate possession by way partition.

Notice to Defendant: 3. Balwinder Singh S/O Late S. Sewa Singh R/O A/6, Janta Colony Shiva Ji Vihar, Tagore Garden West, Delhi.

In the above titled petition the respondents could not be served. It is ordered that the respondents should appear in person or through counsel on 04-04-2020 at 10:00 A.M.

For details logon to https://highcourthcd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=amritsar.

Simerjit Singh Civil Judge Junior Division, Amritsar.

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF Sh. Simerjit Singh Civil Judge Junior Division, Amritsar. CNR No. PBAS02-0003532019 Next Date: 27-03-2020. Puranjat Agro Foodrains Corporation Ltd. Amritsar having its office at 154-A, Ranjit Avenue now at Rani Ka Bagh, Amritsar through its Senior District Manager.

Versus Ranjit Singh

Execution. Notice to: 1. Ranjit Singh son of Shri Mukhtar Singh resident of Village Hassu, P.O. Desu Malkana, Tehsil Dabwali, Distt. Sirsa (Haryana).

In the above titled petition the respondents could not be served. It is ordered that the respondents should appear in person or through counsel on 27-03-2020 at 10:00 A.M.

For details logon to https://highcourthcd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=amritsar.

Simerjit Singh Civil Judge Junior Division, Amritsar.

COURT NOTICE

Civil Courts, Ludhiana. In the Court of Sh. Vikrant Kumar Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ludhiana. PUBLICATION NOTICE UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 CPC. CNR NO.: PBLD02-007105-2018 Peshi: 07-03-2020. Nazir Singh. M/s Nature Farms and Real Estates Pvt. Ltd. Suit for Recovery of Rs. 3,37,500/-

Notice to: 1. M/s Nature Farms and Real Estates Pvt. Ltd. Registered office -J-32, 1st Floor, Nagaigarh Road, Farnesh Nagar, New Delhi through its Chief Managing Director (Neeja) @ Neeja Thathal; 2. M/s Nature Farms and Real Estates Pvt. Ltd. 2nd Floor, Danik Bhaskar Sector 25, Chandigarh through its Chief Managing Director (Authorized Signatory) 3. M/s Nature Farms and Real Estates Pvt. Ltd. Head Office 9, Sunder Nagar, Hanumangarh Road, Abohar-152116 through its Chief Managing Director (Authorized Signatory); 4. M/s Nature Farms and Real Estates Pvt. Ltd. White Enclave Kohara road, Sahnewal, Ludhiana 141120 through its Director/Manager/Authorized Official; 5. M/s Nature Heights Infra Ltd. Registered & Head Office 9, Sunder Nagar, Hanumangarh Road, Abohar-152116 through its Chief Managing Director (Authorized Signatory) 6. M/s Nature Heights Infra Ltd. White Enclave Kohara road, Sahnewal, Ludhiana 141120 through its Director/Manager/Authorized Official; 7. M/s Nature Heights Infra Ltd. Registered & Head Office 9, Sunder Nagar, Hanumangarh Road, Abohar-152116 through its Chief Managing Director (Authorized Signatory) 8. M/s Nature Heights Infra Ltd. White Enclave Kohara road, Sahnewal, Ludhiana 141120 through its Director/Manager/Authorized Official.

In the above titled petition it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendant(s) respondent(s) above named cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence, this proclamation under order 5 rule 20 CPC is hereby issued against him/ them and should appear personally or through their counsel on 07-03-2020 at 10:00 am.

Take notice that, in default of his/ her appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in his/ her absence. Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 13-02-2020.

For details logon to https://highcourthcd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ludhiana

Civil Judge (Senior Division), Ludhiana

COURT NOTICE

Civil Courts, Ludhiana. In the Court of Sh. Vikrant Kumar Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ludhiana. PUBLICATION NOTICE UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 CPC. CNR NO.: PBLD02-007105-2018 Peshi: 07-03-2020. Gurdeep Kaur. M/s Nature Farms and Real Estates Pvt. Ltd. Suit for Recovery of Rs. 3,37,500/-

Notice to: 1. M/s Nature Farms and Real Estates Pvt. Ltd. Registered office -J-32, 1st Floor, Nagaigarh Road, Farnesh Nagar, New Delhi through its Chief Managing Director (Neeja) @ Neeja Thathal; 2. M/s Nature Farms and Real Estates Pvt. Ltd. 2nd Floor, Danik Bhaskar Sector 25, Chandigarh through its Chief Managing Director (Authorized Signatory) 3. M/s Nature Farms and Real Estates Pvt. Ltd. Head Office 9, Sunder Nagar, Hanumangarh Road, Abohar-152116 through its Chief Managing Director (Authorized Signatory); 4. M/s Nature Farms and Real Estates Pvt. Ltd. White Enclave Kohara road, Sahnewal, Ludhiana 141120 through its Director/Manager/Authorized Official; 5. M/s Nature Heights Infra Ltd. Registered & Head Office 9, Sunder Nagar, Hanumangarh Road, Abohar-152116 through its Chief Managing Director (Authorized Signatory) 6. M/s Nature Heights Infra Ltd. White Enclave Kohara road, Sahnewal, Ludhiana 141120 through its Director/Manager/Authorized Official; 7. M/s Nature Heights Infra Ltd. Registered & Head Office 9, Sunder Nagar, Hanumangarh Road, Abohar-152116 through its Chief Managing Director (Authorized Signatory) 8. M/s Nature Heights Infra Ltd. White Enclave Kohara road, Sahnewal, Ludh

Avoid non-essential travel to Singapore: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India and China indulged in blame game on an IAF plane not getting permission to evacuate Indians from the coronavirus-hit regions there, New Delhi on Saturday issued a fresh advisory asking flyers to avoid non-essential travel to Singapore. It also said screening at airports is now being planned for flight passengers coming to India from Kathmandu, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia from Monday.

India's assertion that China was "deliberately delaying" permission to the IAF plane was refuted by the Chinese embassy. Official sources said Japan, Ukraine and France have been allowed to operate flights between February 16 and 20 but India's request has

not been approved.

An IAF transport plane C-17 is yet to fly to China to bring back Indians and carry relief material for people affected by coronavirus there. However, a Chinese embassy spokesperson said the current epidemic situation in Hubei province is complicated, and the prevention and control of Covid-19 has entered into a critical stage. "There is no such thing as China deliberately delaying granting flight permission," spokesperson Ji Rong said.

India was to send its military transport aircraft to Wuhan, the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak, on February 20 but the plane could not take off as permission was not granted.

Sources said, Indian nationals stuck in Wuhan are

waiting to be brought back home and the uncertainty over evacuation is causing them mental stress and anxiety. The aircraft was to carry a large consignment of medical supplies to China and bring back more Indians from Wuhan.

Sources said, while the Chinese side continues to maintain that there was no delay in granting permission for the flight to go, the clearance has 'inexplicably' not been given.

In a letter to President Xi Jinping earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed India's solidarity to the people and Government of China in meeting the challenge of the coronavirus outbreak and offered to provide assistance to the country.

India then put together relief supplies in pursuance of

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK



Modi's commitment as a token of India's solidarity, particularly in the 70th year of the anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"These supplies have been offered even as India faces

tremendous shortage itself, given our ethos of helping others in their hour of need," said a source aware of the issue. The relief items include gloves, surgical masks, feeding pumps and defibrillators based on the requirements as indicated by

the Chinese side.

"The Chinese side always attaches great importance to the health and safety of Indian nationals in China, and provided assistance and convenience for the return of Indian citizens," Ji further said in reply to the query.

"We are carefully assessing the ground situation, as prevention work requires. Competent departments of the two countries are keeping communication and coordination in this regard," she said.

India's national carrier Air India has already evacuated around 640 Indians from Wuhan in two separate flights. According to estimates, over

100 Indians are still living in Wuhan.

Indian nationals in Wuhan continue their long wait for the flight. The delay is causing them and their family members in India tremendous mental anguish, said the sources.

They said relief and evacuation flights from other countries including by France are allowed to operate by China but the permission has not come through in India's case.

"Are they not interested in Indian aid provided as our token of support? Why are they creating roadblock in evacuating our nationals from Wuhan and putting them under hardship and mental agony?" said a person aware of the issue.

On February 17, India had announced that it will send C-17 Globemaster, with medical supplies to Wuhan, and bring

back its nationals as well as citizens from all neighbouring countries.

As regards the travel advisory, currently, passengers from China, Hong Kong, Thailand, South Korea, Singapore and Japan are screened at 21 designated airports in the country for a possible exposure to the novel coronavirus. Universal screening at airports is now being planned for flights from Kathmandu, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia from Monday, the health ministry said. The decision was taken during a review meeting chaired by the Cabinet Secretary to take a stock of the status, actions taken and preparedness of states and Union Territories regarding management of novel coronavirus here on Saturday, the Ministry said.

Keep aside identities, think as one nation: BJP to Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday hit out at the Congress over its scepticism about US President Donald Trump's visit to India asking the Opposition party, why it is unhappy when the country's stature is being raised globally. The BJP said there are times when political parties should keep aside their identities and "think as one nation".

The BJP's counter came a day after the Congress said Trump's visit should not become an extension of the US presidential election campaign but yield concrete results for India. The visit should not be reduced to a photo opportunity or a PR exercise that would devalue the importance of Indo-US partnership, the Congress had said.

Addressing a Press conference at the BJP headquarters

here, party spokesperson Sambit Patra said Trump's visit will be a landmark moment in the Indo-US relationship and advised the Congress to "start taking pride in the nation's achievements". "This is a meeting of the world's largest and oldest democracies and it should be celebrated," he said adding, "There are times when political parties should keep aside their identities and think as one nation."

Underlining that Trump himself has said multiple times that India is a hard bargainer, Patra said the Congress should not be worried about India's interests.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hardwork, India's relations with other countries have further strengthened from Sochi to Mallapuram, he said. Taking a dig at the Congress, Patra asked if 10

Janpath (residence of party president Sonia Gandhi) had allowed former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to develop Prime Minister Narendra Modi-like rapport with international leaders.

Trump's visit will be a landmark moment in Indo-US relations and the Congress should "start taking pride in the nation's achievements", he added.

Responding to the Congress' questions about what the country will gain from this visit, Patra said the latest defense equipment and the deals that the US was offering to India were never offered during the UPA regime.

Patra said close cooperation with the White House has ensured that India remains at the front and centre of Trump's strategic blueprint.

Priyanka raises question on funding of panel formed to oversee US Prez visit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday raised questions over the funding of the committee formed to oversee various programmes during US President Donald Trump's Ahmedabad visit on February 24. She wondered what the Government is "hiding under the guise" of the committee.

"₹100 crore is being spent on the visit of President Trump. But this money is being spent through a committee. The members of the committee do not know that they are its members. Does the country not have the right to know which Ministry gave how much money to the committee? What is the Government hiding under the guise of the committee?" the Congress general secretary tweeted.

The Congress also took a swipe at the 'Donald Trump Nagrik Abhinandan Samiti' with a parody advertisement on its official Twitter handle. The poster read 'hiring now' for job of "waving at US President Donald

Trump". It also said that the vacancies were 69 lakh and remuneration would be "achhe din".

The committee headed by Ahmedabad mayor Bijal Patel held its first meeting at the Circuit House in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

The formation of the committee, first announced as Donald Trump Nagrik Abhinandan Samiti by Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar, had drawn flak from the Congress.

Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala had asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to explain who all are in this Samiti.

"Why is Gujarat Government spending ₹120 Crore for a 3 hour event organised by an unknown Pvt entity? India values its visiting dignitaries but pl note- Diplomacy is serious Government business & not a series of photo-ops & event management tactics," Surjewala asked.

The Congress had said the Trump visit should not become an extension of the US presidential election campaign but yield concrete results for India.

Bharat Ratna demanded for freedom fighter Savarkar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 'Savarkar Darshan Pratishtan' has demanded 'Bharat Ratna' for freedom fighter Veer Savarkar. The organisation announced a two-day All India Conference starting February 26 on Savarkar's life, thoughts, ideas and philosophy titled— 'Akhil Bharatiya Swatantrayir Savarkar Sahitya Sammelan' where the demand for Bharat Ratna was made in the presence of several Union Ministers including Home Minister Amit Shah.

The objective of the conference is to highlight the relevance of Savarkar's thoughts in present context. "His persona and deeds are incomparable in the history of modern India. His commitment to the cause of freedom struggle and ideological perspective has made him a great person. He was source of inspiration for millions of freedom fighters of India," said Ravindra Sathe, Secretary,

Savarkar Darshan Pratishtan in the presence of former governor of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and president organising committee, OP Kohli.

BJP President JP Nadda will be the Chief Guest at the Inaugural session on February 26 and the session will be presided over by Union Minister Nitin Gadhkari. Tourism Minister Prahlad Patel will be Guest of Honour in the programme and valedictory address will be given by Home Minister Amit Shah on the concluding day on February 27.

"Now, it is the time to understand and propagate ideas, thoughts and contribution of Veer Savarkar. This national convention will certainly help not only to understand him better but his philosophy as well," said Dr Sanjeev Tiwari, Joint Secretary, Organising Committee. He said the organization will demand for a Bharat Ratna for Savarkar.

Manmohan: 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' misused to construct militant India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an apparent attack on the ruling BJP at the Centre, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said that nationalism and the slogan of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' are being misused to construct a "militant and purely emotional" idea of India that excludes millions of residents and citizens.

Addressing a gathering at the launch of a book on Jawaharlal Nehru's works and speeches, Singh said that if India is recognised in the comity of nations as a vibrant democracy and, if it is considered as one of the important world powers, it was the first Prime Minister, who should be recognised as its main architect.

Nehru had led this country in its volatile and formative days when it adopted a democratic way of life, accommodating divergent social and political views, Singh said. India's first Prime Minister, who was very proud of Indian heritage, assimilated it, and harmonised them into the needs of a new modern India, he said.

"With an inimitable style, and a

multi-linguist, Nehru laid the foundation of the universities, academies and cultural institutions of Modern India. But for Nehru's leadership, independent India would not have become what it is today," Singh said.

"But unfortunately, a section of people who either do not have the patience to read history or would like to be deliberately guided by their prejudices, try their best to picture Nehru in a false light. But I am sure, history has a capacity to reject fake and false insinuations and put everything in proper perspective," he said.

The book 'Who is Bharat Mata' contains selections from Nehru's classic books Autobiography, Glimpses of World History and the Discovery of India; his speeches, essays and letters from pre and post independence years; and some of his most revealing interviews. It was first brought out in English and now its Kannada translation has been released.

"It is a book of particular relevance at a time when Nationalism and the slogan of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' are being misused to construct a militant and purely emotional idea of India that

excludes millions of residents and citizens," he said.

Singh also extensively quoted Nehru, saying he had asked, "Who is this Bharat Mata?, whose victory you wish?"

"The mountains and rivers, forests and fields are of course dear to everyone, but what counted ultimately is the people of India... Spread out all over vast land," Singh quoted Nehru as saying.

Nehru makes a very significant and time relevant remark on the dangers of leadership falling into a trap and getting removed far away from the common people whom they are supposed to serve, Singh said. "Conceit, like fat on the human body, grows imperceptibly, layer upon layer and the person whom it affects is unconscious of the daily accretion.

Fortunately, the hard knocks of a mad world tone it down or even squash it completely, and there has been no lack of these hard knocks for us in India. The school of life has been difficult one, and suffering is a hard task master," he quoted Nehru as saying.

Manipur varsity V-C dismissed over irregularities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has dismissed Manipur University Vice Chancellor Adya Prasad Pandey following complaints of financial and administrative irregularities.

The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry on Friday dismissed Pandey after in an inquiry report he was found indulging in "financial and administrative irregularities, including misconduct, dereliction of duties, abuse of power and lack of commitment, causing great harm to the academic environment and bringing the varsity into disrepute". Pandey was placed under suspension in 2018 after violent protests erupted on the varsity's campus which led to prolonged shutdown of the institute.

"The President of India, on consideration of facts and materials available on record and reply submitted by Adya Prasad Pandey... In exercise of the power conferred upon him in terms of sections 13 of Manipur University Act, 2005, has been pleased to dismiss him from his post with immediate effect," the HRD Ministry order stated.

Thackeray requires briefing on citizenship rules: Tewari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and gave a thumbs up to the amended citizenship legislation, Congress leader and former Union Minister Manish Tewari on Saturday said Thackeray requires a briefing on Citizenship Amendment Rules — 2003. Thackeray had also called on Congress chief Sonia Gandhi where the controversial CAA was discussed.

"CM Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray requires a briefing on CAA — 2003 to understand how NPR is basis of NRC. Once you do NPR, you cannot stop NRC. On Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), he needs to be reacquainted with design of Indian Constitution that religion cannot be basis of Citizenship," he said.

Thackeray's stand on the Citizenship Amendment Act



(CAA) and National Population Register (NPR) has become a bone of contention among the allies in Maharashtra, as the Congress and the NCP are opposed to the measures.

Tewari's remarks came a day after Thackeray met Modi and said that nobody should feel threatened by the CAA or NPR as these measures are not meant to drive away anyone from the country.

Thackeray made the remarks at a Press conference held after his meeting with Prime Minister on Friday, the first after he took over as the Chief Minister. "We discussed CAA and NPR," Thackeray said, adding he has come to

understand the role of the Centre in the NRC.

Accompanied by his son and a Minister in his Cabinet, Uddhav met Sonia and held discussions on the current political situation and CAA-NPR-NRC. This was the first meeting of Thackeray with Sonia Gandhi after the formation of the coalition government in Maharashtra. AICC general secretary in-charge of Maharashtra Mallikarjun Kharge and Shiv Sena leaders Aadiya Thackeray and Sanjay Raut were also present during the meeting.

The meeting came soon after Thackeray asserted that one does not have to fear the CAA and no one will throw out of the country due to NPR, soon after meeting Modi. He said an atmosphere is also being created in the country that the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is dangerous people have to queue up to prove their citizenship.

Indians hailed critical verdicts despite apprehensions: PM

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said 1.3 billion Indians have disregarded apprehensions and "wholeheartedly" accepted recent critical judicial verdicts which were subjects of global discussion.

Speaking at the inaugural function of the International Judicial Conference 2020 - 'Judiciary and the Changing World' at the Supreme Court, Modi spoke about recent crucial judgements, in an apparent reference to path-breaking verdicts including in the politically-sensitive Ayodhya case.

The Prime Minister said no country or society in the world can claim to achieve holistic development without gender justice and referred to laws on transgenders, 'triple talaa' and on the rights of 'Divyang' (persons with disabilities). He said the government has also taken steps to give rights to women in military service and in providing paid maternity leave for 26 weeks. He also hailed the Indian judiciary for redefining environmental jurisprudence to strike a balance between development and ecological protection.

Modi, while emphasising on the use of technology and the internet, said it would help in procedural management of courts and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister for Law & Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad, Chief Justice of India Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde and other dignitaries at the International Judicial Conference 2020, in New Delhi on Saturday

would benefit the justice delivery system to a large extent.

He also referred to synchronisation of artificial intelligence with human wisdom and said it would bring "speed to delivery of justice".

In addition, in the changing times, issues like data protection, cyber crimes pose new challenges for the judiciary," he said in his inaugural address.

"In recent times, there have been some critical judicial judgements and decisions which have been the subject of global discus-

sion. Before these judgements were delivered, several apprehensions were being expressed about the consequences. But look what happened! 1.3 billion Indians wholeheartedly accepted the judicial verdicts," Modi said.

He said it is going to be a decade of remarkable changes across the world which will impact all frontiers, be it society, economy, or technology, and these changes need to be rational as well as just and fair. Talking about the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi, the

Prime Minister said, "Gandhi's life was dedicated to the cause of truth and service, which are the foundational tenets for any system of justice and as you all know, he was himself a barrister and belonged to the fraternity of lawyers".

Hailing a vibrant judiciary, legislature and executive, the PM said, "Respecting each other's jurisdiction and dignity, these three pillars of the Constitution have resolved various challenges faced by the country on several occasions.

"We are proud of having developed such a rich tradition in India. In the last five years, various institutions of India have further strengthened this tradition".

He also referred to the Centre's endeavour in repealing 1,500 archaic laws and said, "Speed has been demonstrated not only in doing away with irrelevant laws but also in enacting new legislations aimed at strengthening the social fabric".

The Indian Constitution guarantees gender justice under the provisions of the right to equality, Modi said, adding that India is "among few nations which has ensured the right to vote for women since independence". PTI

ASCI upheld complaints against 248 ads out of 408

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Several advertisements featuring celebrities like cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Bollywood star Ajay Devgn, actress Shilpa Shetty have been found to making misleading and false claims.

Bollywood star Ajay Devgn's ad for Dabur Babool Ayurvedic Paste and Hindustan Unilever's (HUL) campaign for Rexona Whitening were among the marketing efforts found as "misleading". Similarly, cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni's ad for Orient Electric found misleading by Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

According to ASCI, the Dabur campaign on television and Youtube had a message in Hindi which alleges that ordinary white toothpastes are cheating consumers and the cheating will stop by using its toothpaste. "The advertisement featuring celebrity Ajay Devgn was considered misleading. The advertisement also denigrated the entire category of 'calcium containing white' toothpastes while implying superiority of their ayurvedic toothpaste," it said.

In the case of HUL, an ad for Rexona Whitening Roll-On in

Bengali claimed the product can help get rid of dark underarms in five days was "inadequately substantiated and misleading", the ASCI statement said. Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare campaign for 'Moov Advance Diclofenac Gel' with claims of being '#1 Doctor recommended active for acute pain relief' was also considered misleading, it said.

Orient Electric's advertisement featuring legendary cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni was found to be "misleading by implication". "It was observed that while the advertisement claims to have 'flicker control technology', it visually depicts 'no flicker' or absence of any flicker," ASCI said on Orient ad. The advertisement's claim "Lifvast Inverter and batteries have 25% faster charging and provides 25% extra backup" featuring cricketer Dhoni was also inadequately substantiated.

Taking a strong note of misleading advertisements on Television, Print, Youtube and other social media platforms, the ASCI has probed complaints against 408 and upheld 248 while 137 were promptly withdrawn by the advertisers.

A television ad shows a police-

137 ads promptly withdrawn by the advertisers

man riding the Platina with a barber riding pillion and shaving the policeman. The entire act was put up to showcase the ride comfort of the vehicle with the narrative of a 'Makhkhan Jaisi Ride' concept. "It was observed that the protagonist - a policeman in uniform who himself should be abiding by traffic rules, shown performing such stunts was inappropriate. The TVC shows dangerous practices, stunts in normal traffic conditions which manifests a disregard for safety," it said.

A complaint against a drama serial promo indicating the protagonist doing self-harm by stifling her neck with a cloth (dupatta) was also upheld. "The drama serial's promo contains a specific visual of the female protagonist stifling her neck with a cloth (dupatta) and then turning her body in upside down position. Such visuals shows a dangerous act (indicative of self-harm) with a disregard for safety and it is likely to encourage minors to emulate such an act which could cause harm or injury," ASCI added. VLCC Health Care's print and television ad claim 'Add figure to your shape in just one session' was not substantiated with treatment efficacy data, it said.

Virus spreads in S Korean city as thousands are screened

Seoul: South Korea on Saturday reported an eight-fold jump in viral infections in four days to 433, most of them linked to a church and a hospital in and around the country's fourth-largest city, where health workers scrambled to screen more than 9,000 worshippers.

There's concern that the death toll, currently at two, could grow. Virus patients with signs of pneumonia or other serious conditions at the Cheongdo hospital were transferred to other facilities, 17 of them in critical condition, Vice Health Minister Kim Gang-lip told reporters.

He said that the outbreak had entered a serious phase, but still expressed cautious optimism that it can be contained to the region surrounding Daegu, where the first case was reported on Tuesday.

In some positive news, China said Saturday the daily count of new virus cases there fell significantly to 397, though another 109 people died of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new virus. Most of the new cases and all but three of the deaths were in Hubei province, where the outbreak started.

The new figures, along with an upward revision of Hubei's earlier count, brought the total number of cases in mainland China to 76,288 with 2,345 deaths. China has severely restricted travel and imposed strict quarantine measures to stop the virus from spreading.

Of the 229 new cases in South Korea, 200 are from Daegu and nearby regions, which have emerged as the latest front in the widening glob-



Medical workers wearing protective gears carry a patient infecting with a new coronavirus to a hospital in Chuncheon, South Korea on Saturday

DEATH TOLL: 2,345 TOTAL CASES: 76,288

al fight against the virus.

By Saturday morning, the city of 2.5 million and nearby area accounted 352 cases, including the two fatalities in the Cheongdo hospital.

The central government has declared the area as a "special management zone" and is channeling support to ease a shortage in hospital beds, medical personnel and equipment.

"Although we are beginning to see some more cases nationwide, infections are still sporadic outside of the special management zone of Daegu and North Gyeongsang Province," Kim said during a briefing. He called for maintaining strong border controls to prevent infections from China and elsewhere from entering South Korea. AP

WHO sounds alarm over Africa virus preparedness

Addis Ababa: The World Health Organisation warned on Saturday that African health systems would be ill-equipped to respond to the deadly coronavirus outbreak should cases start to proliferate on the continent.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called on African Union member states "to come together to be more aggressive in attacking" the virus, known as COVID-19. "Our biggest concern continues to be the potential for COVID-19 to spread in countries with weaker health systems," Tedros said during a meeting of African health ministers at AU headquarters in Addis Ababa. AFP

G20 Ministers weigh virus risks at Saudi meeting

Riyadh: Finance ministers and central bank governors from G20 nations weighed the potential impact of the coronavirus epidemic on the world economy as they met in Riyadh Saturday for a two-day gathering.

At the meeting in Saudi Arabia, the first Arab nation to hold the G20 presidency, financial leaders from the world's top 20 economies are also seeking consensus on ways to achieve a global taxation system for the digital era.

The gathering comes amid growing alarm over the new coronavirus as Chinese authorities lock down millions of people to prevent the spread of the disease, with major knock-

on effects for the global economy.

The virus has now claimed 2,345 lives in China, cutting off transportation and forcing businesses to close their doors.

The impact of the epidemic could see a "V-shaped" trajectory, with a sharp decline in China's GDP followed by a sharp recovery, but the situation could have more dire consequences for other countries as the impacts spill over, said IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva.

At the core of discussions at the gathering is an action plan to shield the world economy — already facing a slowdown — from the impact of the outbreak, said French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire. AFP

2nd death sparks fears, lockdown in Italian towns

Codogno (Italy): Streets were deserted and residents warned to keep out of an emergency room on Saturday in an Italian town placed under lockdown as a second death from coronavirus sparked fears throughout the region.

"No entry" read the sign on the emergency room in the small town of Codogno with a population of 15,000 where three people have already tested positive for the virus, including one 38-year old man now on life support.

On Saturday, Italian news agency ANSA reported a second death from the virus in the Lombardy region, where Codogno is located.

It came one day after the death of a 78-year-old retired bricklayer from the Padua area in the nearby Veneto region, who was the first local person in Europe to die from the coronavirus.

ANSA reported that the new victim was a woman. No further information was immediately available.

Italy's Health Minister said that the man who died on Friday, Adriano Trevisan, had been admitted to hospital 10 days earlier for an unrelated health issue.

He was one of two people in the Veneto region with the virus, where another confirmed case overnight in a 53-year old man brought that number to three, president of the Veneto region, Luca Zaia told Rai24 news. AFP

US says Russia behind huge virus disinformation drive

Washington: Thousands of Russian-linked social media accounts have launched a coordinated effort to spread alarm about the new coronavirus, disrupting global efforts to combat the epidemic, US officials told AFP.

The disinformation campaign promotes unfounded conspiracy theories that the United States is behind the COVID-19 outbreak, in an apparent bid to damage the US image by seizing on international health concerns, they said.

False personas are being used on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to advance Russian

talking points and conspiracies, including suggesting that the CIA is behind the virus that has claimed more than 2,300 lives, mostly in China.

"Russia's intent is to sow discord and undermine US institutions and alliances from within, including through covert and coercive malign influence campaigns," said Philip Reeker, the acting Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia. "By spreading disinformation about coronavirus, Russian malign actors are once again choosing to threaten public safety by distracting from the global health response," he said. AFP

Iran now says 5 dead out of 28 infected

Tehran (Iran): Iranian health authorities on Saturday reported a fifth death from the new virus that emerged in China, and said the fatality was from among 10 new confirmed cases of the virus in Iran.

So far, 28 cases have been confirmed in Iran, including the five who died.

People are being treated for the virus in at least four different cities, including the capital, Tehran, where some pharmacies had already run out of masks and hand sanitizer. Other cities are Qom, Arak and Rasht. The virus loomed over a nationwide parliamentary election in Iran on Friday. Many voters went to the polls wearing

face masks. Health ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour made Saturday's announcement for the latest figures on state TV, but did not specify when the fifth death occurred.

Two people had died earlier Friday from COVID-19, the illness caused by virus. Authorities reported two deaths previously this week.

Jahanpour said that of the 10 newly detected cases, two were in the capital of Tehran and eight were in the city of Qom. That's where the first two elderly patients died on Wednesday. He said the two patients in the capital had visited Qom or had links with the

city. Minoos Mohraz, an Iranian health ministry official, had said Friday that the virus "possibly came from Chinese workers who work in Qom and travelled to China." She did not elaborate.

A Chinese company has been building a sharp power plant in Qom. World Health Organisation officials have said that China's crackdown on parts of the country bought time for the rest of the world to prepare for the new virus. But as hot spots emerge around the globe, including in South Korea and Iran, there has been trouble finding the first patient who sparked each new cluster. AP

If peace comes: Afghans dream of life after war

Kabul: With a partial truce under way Saturday and a deal between the US and the Taliban likely on the horizon, Afghans are daring to dream of the war ending and their country finally opening up.

The "reduction in violence" agreed by the Taliban, the US and the Afghan security forces comes ahead of a possible deal between the insurgents and Washington which would see the US pull thousands of troops out of Afghanistan.

While the move is fraught with uncertainty, it marks a potentially historic step in the country's more than 18-year-old war.

Afghans have been sharing their hopes for peace on social media, tagging posts with hashtags in Dari and Pashto — Afghanistan's two main languages — that translate to #IfPeaceComes and #WhenThereIsCeasefire.

"In the past 15 years, people have not been able to travel on highways safely. The Taliban stop them, kill them or kidnap them," Ramin Mazhar, a popular poet who helped spread the hashtags, told AFP.

If the reduction in violence holds, Mazhar said he would go to Nuristan, an inac-



A man reads a local newspaper about peace talks in Kabul on Saturday

cessible province in the northeast of the country.

"I want to go to Nuristan, run, laugh, sing, dance, whistle and eat yogurt," he said.

"I want to touch its green hills, crazy rivers and blue sky. I want to climb its trees, and know its pigeons."

Afghanistan was once a popular destination on the "hippie trail" that saw foreigners from across Europe travel to the country by bus en route to India in the 1960s and 1970s.

Tourism was all but destroyed following the Soviet invasion in 1979 that led to over 40 years of continuous fighting

and instability. Few Afghans have been able to visit areas outside of their immediate home ever since, while millions have relocated to urban areas or moved abroad.

The desire to see more of the country is strong.

Afghanistan is home to stunning mountain ranges like the snow-capped Hindu Kush along with verdant, remote valleys and swaths of pristine desert.

However with the Taliban controlling or contesting approximately half of Afghanistan, only small pockets of the country are accessible. AFP

Partial truce mostly holds across Afghan on first day

Kabul: A partial truce marking a potential turning point in Afghanistan's gruelling war appeared to be holding Saturday, with only isolated attacks threatening to mar a process that drew jubilant civilians across the shattered country onto streets to celebrate.

The Taliban, US and Afghan forces have all agreed to a so-called "reduction in violence", marking only the second lull in fighting since the US-led invasion of 2001.

"It is the first morning that I go out without the fear of being killed by a bomb or suicide bomber. I hope it continues forever," Kabul taxi driver Habib Ullah said, while in other parts of the country people danced in the streets after the truce kicked in at midnight. However, in Balkh province in the north, Taliban fighters attacked a district headquarters near the provincial capital of Mazar-i-Sharif, killing two Afghan soldiers, a local official told AFP. There were also reports of a sep-

arate incident in central Uruzgan province.

General Scott Miller, who leads US and NATO forces in Afghanistan, did not directly address those incidents, but stressed that Western forces would continually monitor the situation. "We've stopped our offensive operations as part of our obligations," Miller told reporters. In the event of any breaches of the truce, Miller said the US would communicate with the Taliban through various channels set up in Doha, where the insurgents have a political office. "As more days go on we will have a better understanding of what trends are," Miller said.

"Very clearly this is a conditional effort, this is a trial period." The partial truce is expected to set the conditions for Washington and the insurgents to sign a deal in Doha on February 29 that could, ultimately, pull US troops out after more than 18 years and launch war-weary Afghanistan into an uncertain future. AFP

Iran's hard-liners take early lead in Tehran after vote

Tehran: Iranian state TV on Saturday announced the first partial results from the country's parliamentary elections, indicating a strong showing by hard-liners in the capital Tehran, although authorities have not released full results or the all-important turnout figure.

Voters had limited options on Friday's ballot, as more than 7,000 potential candidates had been disqualified, most of them reformists and moderates. Among those disqualified were 90 sitting members of Iran's 290-seat parliament who had wanted to run for re-election.

Although the final tally was still not released, a lower-than-usual turnout would signal widespread dissatisfaction with the state of the economy and the ways in which the government has handled a range of crises.

State TV, without providing the number of votes, announced the names of the leading candidates in Tehran's 30 parliamentary seats. All were hard-liners led by Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, who is expected to be the next

parliament speaker. Looming over the election was the threat of the new coronavirus. Many voters headed to the polls with face masks on, and some pharmacies ran out of masks and hand sanitizer amid the election-day rush.

So far, there have been five coronavirus deaths from among the 28 confirmed cases in Iran, including two deaths on election day. Another fatality was reported on Saturday, although the exact time was not specified.

By comparison, the 2016 parliamentary election saw 62% turnout. On Friday, election officials kept the polls open an extra five hours in an effort to boost turnout. Iran's leadership and state media had urged people to show up and vote, with some framing it as a religious duty.

A parliament stacked with hard-liners could tilt public policy debates away from engagement with the United States.

Tensions between Washington and Tehran have been high since 2018, when President Donald Trump with-

drew the US from Iran's nuclear agreement with world powers, and imposed sanctions that have forced Iran's economy into recession. Iranians have seen the price of basic goods skyrocket, inflation and unemployment rise and the local currency plummet.

The economic woes faced by ordinary Iranians fueled anti-government protests in November. International human rights groups say at least 300 people were killed in those protests.

A more hard-line parliament could also favor expanding the budget of the Revolutionary Guard Corps. The Guard's elite Quds Force, responsible for the Islamic Republic's campaigns abroad, was formerly led by Iran's top general, Qassem Soleimani. He was killed by the US. Airstrike in January.

That strike led to a tense confrontation in which Iranian forces accidentally shot down a Ukrainian passenger plane after it took off from Tehran, killing all 176 people on board. Most of those killed were Iranian. AP

Prince Harry, Meghan agree to drop 'royal' from their new branding

London: Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have agreed to drop the use of the word "royal" from their future branding as a financially-independent couple.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex were in talks with the Buckingham Palace team handling their transition away from frontline royal duties, with some complications around the use of Sussex Royal as the phrase to be associated with their charitable work and other causes going forward.

"While the Duke and Duchess are focused on plans to establish a new non-profit organisation, given the specific UK Government rules surrounding use of the word 'royal', it has been therefore agreed that their non-profit organisation, when it is announced this spring, will not be named Sussex Royal Foundation," a spokesperson for the couple said in a statement, issued to address the ongoing media speculation over the issue. "The Duke and Duchess of Sussex do not intend to use

'Sussex Royal' in any territory post spring 2020. Therefore, the trademark applications that were filed as protective measures, acting on advice from and following the same model for The Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (Prince William and Kate Middleton), have been removed," the spokesperson said.

The spring 2020 deadline refers to March 31, unveiled earlier this week as the formal date from when the couple will cease to formally represent Queen Elizabeth II and make their move to Canada, where they are expected to be based and travel to the UK "regularly". Harry, 35, and Markle, 38, are currently living in a mansion on Vancouver Island in Canada with their nine-month-old son Archie. Harry remains sixth in line to British throne and will retain his military ranks of Major, Lieutenant Commander and Squadron Leader but will not use his honorary military positions or perform any official duties associated with these roles. PTI

South Sudan's rival leaders form coalition Government

Juba: South Sudan opened a new chapter in its fragile emergence from civil war Saturday as rival leaders formed a coalition Government that many observers prayed would last this time around.

A day after President Salva Kiir dissolved the previous Government, Opposition leader Riek Machar was sworn in as his deputy, an arrangement that twice collapsed in fighting during the conflict that killed nearly 400,000 people.

Kiir declared "the official end of the war, and we can now proclaim a new dawn." Peace is "never to be shaken ever again," the president said, adding that he had forgiven Machar and asking for Machar's forgiveness, to applause. He called on their respective Dinka and Nuer ethnic groups to do the same.

The world's youngest nation slid into civil war in 2013, two years after winning a long-fought independence from Sudan, as supporters of Kiir and Machar clashed. Numerous attempts at peace failed, including a deal that saw

Machar return as vice president in 2016 — only to flee the country on foot months later amid fresh gunfire.

Intense international pressure followed the most recent peace deal in 2018. Pope Francis in a dramatic gesture kissed the feet of Kiir and Machar last year to coax them into putting differences aside. Saturday's ceremony began with a presentation to them of that photo as a reminder.

Exasperation by the United States, South Sudan's largest aid donor, and others grew as Kiir and Machar in the past year pushed back two deadlines to take the crucial step of forming the coalition government. But with less than a week before the latest deadline Saturday, each made a key concession.

Kiir announced a "painful" decision on the politically sensitive issue of the number of states, and Machar agreed to have Kiir take responsibility for his security. On Thursday, they announced they had agreed to form a government meant to lead to elections in three years' time — the first vote since

independence.

"Finally, peace is at our doorstep," a reporter with the U.N.-backed Radio Miraya declared from Bor in long-suffering Jonglei state. In Yambio, youth with flags were reported in the streets. "I rejoice with the South Sudanese, especially the displaced, hungry and grieving who waited so long," the archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, tweeted.

Hugs and applause followed Machar's swearing-in. He thanked the pope and others and vowed to South Sudanese to work together "to end your suffering."

Even as citizens breathed a careful sigh of relief, aid groups, analysts and diplomats warned of major challenges ahead. In a likely sign of caution, no heads of state aside from Sudan's leader, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, attended the swearing-in.

"While much work remains to be done, this is an important milestone in the path to peace," the US Embassy said in a message of congratulations. AFP

Twitter suspends 70 pro-Bloomberg accounts for breaking rules

San Francisco: Twitter said on Friday it suspended 70 accounts for spam-like posts supporting Democratic presidential hopeful Michael Bloomberg, whose campaign has hired hundreds of people to promote him on social media.

"We have taken enforcement action on a group of accounts for violating our rules against platform manipulation and spam," a spokesperson for the platform said. Some of the accounts are now banned while others can be re-authorized once the users behind them verify they are in control, Twitter said.

The Wall Street Journal revealed Wednesday that the billionaire former New York mayor has hired around 500 people in California at \$2,500 a month to regularly post messages supporting him on social media and to send text messages to their friends. The technique blurs the lines between political advertisement and promotion by ordinary activists on social media networks, which are grappling with how to handle political content and prevent abuse. AFP

France begins shutting down oldest nuke plant

Fessenheim (France): French state-owned energy giant EDF on Saturday began shutting down the country's oldest nuclear power plant after 43 years in operation.

EDF said it had disconnected one of two reactors at Fessenheim, along the Rhine near France's eastern border with Germany and Switzerland, at 2:00 am (0100 GMT) in the first stage of the complete closure of the plant.

The second reactor is to be taken off line on June 30 but it will be several months before the two have cooled enough and the used fuel can start to be removed.

The removal of the fuel is expected to be completed by the summer of 2023 but the plant will only be fully decommissioned by 2040 at the earliest. Shutting down Fessenheim became a key goal of anti-nuclear campaigners after the catastrophic meltdown at Fukushima in Japan in 2011.

Experts have noted that construction and safety standards at Fessenheim, brought online in 1977, fall far short of those at Fukushima, with some

warning that seismic and flooding risks in the Alsace region had been underestimated.

Despite a pledge by ex-president Francois Hollande just months Fukushima to close the plant, it was not until 2018 that President Emmanuel Macron's government gave the final green light.

"This marks a first step in France's energy strategy to gradually re-balance nuclear and renewable electricity sources, while cutting carbon emissions by closing coal-fired plants by 2022," Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said earlier this week.

France will still be left with 56 pressurised water reactors at 18 nuclear power plants — only the United States has more reactors, at 98 — generating an unmatched 70 per cent of its electricity needs.

The Government confirmed in January that it aims to shut down 12 more reactors nearing or exceeding their original 40-year age limit by 2035, when nuclear power should represent just 50 per cent of France's energy mix. AFP

Efforts of banks under PCA frameworks are being monitored: Das

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has said four banks under the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework are taking efforts and they are being monitored.

Currently, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), Central Bank of India, UCO Bank and United Bank of India are under this framework, which puts several restrictions on them, including on lending, management compensation and directors' fees.

"We would like them to improve their performance and come out of PCA as quickly as possible. We are engaged with

the banks. We are monitoring it. They are taking efforts. Banks are required to take several actions to come out of the PCA, and that is being monitored," Das told PTI in an interview.

Recently, the Government announced capital infusion of ₹11,521 crore into these four banks, with IOB getting the highest amount of ₹4,360 crore. Central Bank of India got ₹3,353 crore, UCO Bank ₹2,142 crore and United Bank of India ₹1,666 crore.

Besides, LIC-controlled IDBI Bank too received additional capital of ₹4,557 crore through the first supplementary demands for grants approved by Parliament in



December. Last year, the RBI removed five banks — Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Allahabad Bank and Corporation Bank —

Currently, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), Central Bank of India, UCO Bank and United Bank of India are under this framework, which puts several restrictions on them, including on lending, management compensation and directors' fees

from the PCA framework in two phases after capital support from the government that resulted in improvement in their financial parameters.

The capital infusion helped these lenders meet requisite capital thresholds and reduce their net NPA levels to below 6 per cent.

the government, the governor said, the RBI has advised the lenders to take special measures to ensure that the normal activities do not face any disruption.

"The normal activity in terms of loan sanction in terms of recoveries and other activities are affected because of the merger process. So, and we are monitoring that, we will monitor that," he said.

Last year in August, the government announced the consolidation of ten public sector banks (PSBs) into four mega state-owned lenders. As per the plan, United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce would merge with Punjab National Bank, making the proposed entity the second

largest public sector bank (PSB).

It was decided to merge Syndicate Bank with Canara Bank, while Allahabad Bank with Indian Bank. Similarly, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank are to be consolidated with Union Bank of India.

In April 2019, Bank of Baroda in a first three-way merger exercise amalgamated Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with itself. The SBI had merged five of its associate banks - State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Travancore and State Bank of Hyderabad and also Bharatiya Mahila Bank with itself effective April 2017.

Centre pays ₹50,850 cr to farmers under PM-KISAN scheme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday said it has disbursed ₹50,850 crore to farmers so far under its landmark scheme PM-KISAN, enabling them to meet farm input cost and household expenses.

The agriculture ministry shared the progress made under the scheme, ahead of its first anniversary on February 24. The PM-KISAN was formally launched on February 24 last year by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.

Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of ₹6,000 per year, in three equal instalments, directly into the bank accounts of the farmers, subject to certain exclusion criteria relating to higher income status.

"February 24, 2020 is the 1st anniversary of starting of a new Central Sector Scheme, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-

KISAN)," an official statement said.

The scheme was launched to provide income support to all landholding farmers' families across the country and enabled them to meet expenses related to agriculture as well as domestic needs, it added.

"The Central Government has already released more than ₹50,850 crores till now," the ministry said.

Total number of beneficiaries covered under the scheme is about 14 crore, based on estimates from the Agriculture Census 2015-16.

As on February 20 this year, 8.46 crores farmer families have been given the benefits. The scheme is effective from December 2018. The cut-off date for identification of beneficiaries with regard to their eligibility was February 1, 2019. The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiaries rests with the state /UT governments.

The scheme initially pro-

vided income support to all small and marginal farmers' families across the country, holding cultivable land up to 2 hectares. However, its ambit was later expanded to cover all farmer families in the country irrespective of the size of their land holdings.

Affluent farmers have been excluded from the scheme such as income tax payers in last assessment year, professionals like doctors, engineers, lawyers, chartered accountants etc and pensioners drawing at least ₹10,000 per month (excluding MTS/Class IV/Group D employees).

All installments falling due on or after December 1, 2019 are being paid only on the basis of Aadhaar authenticated bank data of beneficiaries to ensure genuine beneficiaries and avoid duplication in payments, except in Assam and Meghalaya besides the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, which are exempted from this requirement till March this year.

Need to enhance global risk monitoring: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday emphasised the need to enhance global risk monitoring and explore the scope for policy co-ordination to deal with such risks.

Speaking at G-20 Finance Ministers and central bank governors meeting in Riyadh, she called upon all the member countries to enhance their efforts aimed at empowering women, youth and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

"Finance Minister Smt @sitharaman called upon the G20 to enhance global risk monitoring and explore the scope for policy co-ordination to deal with such global risks," a tweet by the Finance Ministry said. Sitharaman was the lead speaker during the session on "Enhancing Access to Opportunities for All" in the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting on Saturday.

"Finance Minister Smt

@sitharaman emphasised that growing inequality has slowed down the pace of inter-generational mobility globally. She pointed out that identifying the causes and developing solutions require co-ordinated policy solutions," the ministry tweeted.

The Minister also highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the Indian government for empowering women such as 'Stand Up India' and STEP scheme.

She emphasised the risk and collateral free MUDRA scheme for SME segment in the meeting, the ministry said.

Sitharaman held bilateral talks with her counterparts from other countries and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development officials on the sidelines of the G20 event.

She expressed empathy with the people of China, suffering from the coronavirus epidemic and extended India's support in this hour of need, the ministry said in a tweet.

India needs pro-business, not pro-crony policies: CEA

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India has some distance to go in fully shifting from pro-crony to pro-business policies, Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian said on Saturday.

It will be the pro-business policies that will enable the "invisible hands of the market" and also take the country to the goal of USD 5 trillion GDP, he added.

"Pro-business policies are those that enable fair competition in the country. We have some distance to go in terms of enabling that fully. Pro-crony policies on the other hand just help incumbents and that is something that we have to stay away from in enabling the invisible hands of the market," he said at an alumni conference of his alma mater IIT-Kanpur here.

Indian policymaking has been criticised for favouring crony capitalists in the initial decades after Independence, till the country shifted gears by adopting liberalisation in 1991.

Subramanian said after the CAG's report on telecom spectrum allocations came out in 2011, investor returns from "connected companies", a euphemism for crony firms, have been very low as compared to the broader indices.

The problem with cronyism is that it is not better business models and processes which drive the growth, he said, adding that we should always aim for "creative destruction" where the incumbents are challenged.

In a critique of the dominant policy choices in the initial decades after Independence, Subramanian said "the trust with socialism did not deliver the trust with destiny", referring to first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's famous speech when India attained freedom.

He also made a strong case for not depending only on recent work in economics to make policy choices and neglecting age-old texts like the Arthashastra.

"Scholarly work isn't

something that was written in the last 100 years but dates back millennia," he said.

The Arthashastra stresses on ethical ways of creating wealth, he said, adding that we need to focus on creating trust in the markets as well.

If governance standards have to be increased in the country, there has to be a greater focus on disclosing related-party transactions, the CEA said. The comments come in the wake of frauds like the one at non-bank lender DHFL.

Ireland an alternative to UK for Indian firms eyeing EU base post Brexit: Irish envoy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Post Brexit, Ireland can be a suitable alternative to the United Kingdom for Indian businesses looking at having a base in the European Union (EU), the Irish envoy here said on Saturday.

Ambassador Brendan Ward also said that there has been a surge in interest by companies from India for setting up a base in Ireland, where, as of now, 100 Indian firms have a presence, even as the bilateral trade between the two countries stood around Euro 4 billion annually.

"Ireland is a committed member of the EU and we work through the partnership which exists between the EU and India, while at the same time we have our own strate-

gic approach. Sometimes India is a little overshadowed by China and Japan and part of my work here and my team here in India is to raise awareness of India in Ireland and particularly among Irish business people and investors. At the same time, Ireland is rather little known in India and an important role for us is raising that awareness," Ward told PTI.

"One major factor that we have to deal with is that the United Kingdom has exited EU and for many Indian businesses thinking of a location for presence in Europe, the UK would have been the first choice. Now, a lot of them are looking at Ireland," he said, on sidelines of an education fair where Ireland promoted itself as a destination for higher studies for Indian students.

'Vivad se Vishwas' scheme: Cases in arbitration abroad eligible: I-T dept

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Income tax cases being arbitrated abroad will be eligible to be taken up under the proposed 'Vivad se Vishwas' scheme to settle disputes between the taxpayer and the tax authority, the department said on Saturday.

The I-T department issued advertisements in leading dailies saying the scheme was a "golden opportunity... To settle income tax disputes, bridge the trust deficit in cases of disputes and minimise tax-related litigation."

The public message spells out the main features of the scheme proposed by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech on February 1, like the eligibility, disputes covered and payment terms. Under the eligibility head, the department said appeals and writs filed on

or before January 31 this year will be allowed to be taken up under the scheme.

Other eligibilities are: Orders for which time for filing appeal has not expired on January 31; cases pending before dispute resolution panel (DRP) or where the DRP issued direction on or before January 31, 2020 but no order has been passed; cases where assessee filed revision and in raid cases where disputed tax is less than Rs 5 crore in a year.

It added that disputes where the payment has already been made shall also be eligible; appeals or writs filed by taxpayers or the department and cases in arbitration in India or abroad.

The scheme, it said in the advertisement, will cover all disputes related to tax, penalty, interest, fee, tax deducted at source (TDS) or tax collected at source (TCS). Talking about

the payment of taxes under the scheme, it said for remittances made on or before March 31, 100 per cent of the disputed tax is to be paid (125 per cent in search cases) and if appeal relates only to disputed penalty or interest or fee then 25 per cent of the disputed penalty or interest or fee is to be paid.

If the payment is made beyond March 31 but by the end date of the scheme on June 30, then 110 per cent of disputed tax is to be paid (135 per cent in search cases) such that it does not increase total demand.

If the case relates to appeal only on disputed penalty or interest or fee then 25 per cent of the disputed penalty or interest or fee is to be paid under the scheme by March 31.

This amount will be 30 per cent if payment is made beyond after March, 31 but before June, 30.

FDI to be retail's next growth driver in India: Deloitte

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Pitching for increased foreign direct investment in multi-brand retail sector, global management consulting firm Deloitte has said that the move would expand the share of organised retail in the country, thus contributing towards consumption-led growth of the economy.

In its latest thought leadership publication titled, Retail FDI in India, Deloitte has highlighted the growing relevance of foreign direct investment (FDI) and the government's openness on FDI in retail trade in the country.

According to the publication, the FDI-led

expansion of retail would not only boost consumption but would also provide the country's mom-and-pop stores access to latest technologies that would form key to further growth of the sector. About 70 per cent of Kirana stores in big cities and 37 per cent of Kirana stores in tier II cities want to enable themselves with new technology. Availability of latest tools brought by global entities would thus help local businesses as well.

Retail trading witnessed a year-on-year increase of 98 per cent in FDI inflows in FY19. The foreign investments increased from \$224 million in FY18 to \$443 million in FY19.

WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. C78-1-117-VPU-12925-01-2020 dated 20/02/2020
The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Mumbai Division, DRM office building, Ground Floor, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008 for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender for leasing of parcel space in additional Parcel Van (VP) of 23 tonnes capacity in train no. 12925/12926 on round trip basis on payment of lumpsum rates for a period of 05 years.

Sr. No.	Train No.	Name of Train	From To and back	Frequency	Reserve Price per round trip (in ₹)	EMD (in ₹)	Guarantee Amount for commencing the contract in time (in ₹)
1	12925/12926	Paschim Express	BDS-ASR	Daily	2,28,535/-	4,00,000/-	10,00,000/-

Note:- Reserve price is exclusive of development charges and applicable Goods & Service Tax presently @ 2% and 5% respectively. The percentage of charges is subject to revision as advised by Railway Board from time to time.
Date & Time of submission of Tender: up to 15:00 Hrs on 20.03.2020 (through online www.ireps.gov.in only). Date & Time of opening of Tender: at 15:30 Hrs. on 20.03.2020.
Like us on [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on twitter.com/WesternRly

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Dinesh Kumar**, S/o: Ram Khilavan, R/o Jhuggi D-293, Brar Square, Naraina, New Delhi, Age: 15 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Build: Thin, wearing Yellow colour Jacket, Blue colour Jeans, Red colour Cap on head with Black colour School Bag and White colour Shoes in feet, has been missing from his house since 29.01.2020 at 10:00 AM. In this regard a FIR No. 98/2020 U/s 363 IPC, dated 01.02.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Naraina, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/05/WD/2020

SHO
P.S. Naraina, New Delhi
Ph: 011-25891181,
25892010, 8750871122

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
INDIAN AIR FORCE
AIR HEADQUARTERS
E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, ONLINE BIDS on prescribed tender form UNDER TWO BID SYSTEM are invited from firms who are registered with ANY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION on Defence procurement portal using their personal digital signature and developed sources for supply of the following item.

Details are as under:-

Description and specification	PROCUREMENT OF IAF PUBLICITY ITEMS (SKAT) Specification as per RFP
Tender ID	2020_IAF_327368_1
Tender Reference No.	Air HQ/55208/1/PO-3 (Pub) dated 21 Feb. 2020
Period and terms of delivery	As per RFP terms and conditions
Online Bid submission start date and time	27 Feb 2020 at 1000 Hrs.
Online Bid submission end date and time	05 Mar 2020 at 1030 Hrs.
Address of the website for bidding	www.defproc.gov.in
Time and date for opening of Online bids	06 Mar 2020 at 1100 Hrs.

davp 10802/1/0065/1920

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male namely **Munna Lal**, S/o: Bhola Thakur, R/o: Unknown, was found on 19.02.2020 at about 11:15 AM at Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi but was later referred by Private Ambulance to R.B.T.B Hospital, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 14A, dated 19.02.2020 has been lodged at Police Station, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. Dead body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi mortuary for 72 hrs for identification. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Munna Lal, Age: 58 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Build: Medium, Wearing: White kurta, black jacket and white dhoti.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
DP/4334/RLY/2020 Ph.: 011-23961522, 8750871303, 9968056370

BUSINESS CORNER

MIN REVIEWS PASSING OUT PARADE AT CISF RTC
New Delhi: In a colourful passing out parade, 1160 trainees 4th Batch of 518 Assistant Sub-Inspector/LDCE (506-Male & 12-Female) and 11th Batch of 642 Assistant Sub-Inspector/Direct (570-Male & 72-Female at CISF Regional Training Centre (RTC), Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu passed out. Hon'ble Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Shri Rajesh Ranjan, DG, CISF, Senior Govt. Officers, Dignitaries from Police, CAPFs, Indian Navy, NDRF, Senior Officers from CISF and various other organizations were present on the occasion. MoS for Home took the salute and reviewed the Passing out Parade. In his welcome address, T Vikram, IPS, Inspector General, South Sector presented a report on the training activities. He complimented the trainees for their sincerity and dedication and hoped that the rigorous training imparted at the Training Centre would make them stand in good stead in their professional career. He also elaborated the expanding roles of CISF and correspondingly the wide spectrum of specialized training imparted at RTC Arakkonam.

Argentina's economy shrank 2.1% in 2019, says official
AFP ■ BUENOS AIRES

Recession-hit Argentina's economy shrank by 2.1 per cent in 2019, the state statistics institute said on Friday. The institute said the economy contracted by 0.3 per cent in December compared to the same period in 2018.

Argentina has been in recession since mid-2018 as poverty and unemployment are on the rise and inflation surpassed 50 per cent over the last year. Already in 2018, GDP had dropped by 2.5 per cent.

The news comes at a time when Argentina is attempting to renegotiate almost \$200 billion in debt in order to stave off a damaging default. The International Monetary Fund ended a week-long mission to the South American country on Wednesday, after which it said Argentina's total debt of USD 311 billion, worth more than 90 per cent of its GDP, was "unsustainable."

Public Notice
N. B. I. INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CO. LTD. 21 Strand Road, Kolkata - 700 001
Notice is hereby given that the share certificate No. 3583 with Discriptive No(s) 275061-275260 in respect of Fdo No R0067 Registered in the name of MR. RAJHEE MOHAN SHARMA is/are reported to be lost and the company has received application for issue of duplicate share certificate(s). If no objection for any interested person is received by the company's registers Maheshwari Datamatics Pvt. Ltd., 23, R.N. Mukherjee Road, Kolkata 700001, within 15 days from the publication hereof the company will proceed to issue duplicate share Certificate(s) to the applicant(s).
Dated 23-02-2020

WESTERN RAILWAY
CONSTRUCTION OF 2 LANE ROB
Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Ratlam (MP), invites offer through E-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in under single packet system for the following tender:-
Tender No: RTM/DY/CE(C)/ROB/7 (LC 102).
Name of work: Construction of 2 lane Road Over Bridge (1x36.00m) + (1 x 18.00m) effective span (o o m p o s i t e g i d e r s) a t k m : 692/23-25 in lieu of L-xing no.-102, between Ratlam-Nagda section of Ratlam Division, Western Railway. NIT Cost: ₹ 6,25,83,443.56. EMD: ₹4,63,000/-. Bid submission closing date: 16.03.2020 at 15:00 Hrs. Bid opening date: 16.03.2020 at 15:30 Hrs.
Like us on [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

Kane keeps Kiwis ahead

Williamson's leads charge with gutsy 89 after Ishant's triple strike

Ishant Sharma's lion-hearted bowling effort met its match in Kane Williamson's elegance as New Zealand ended an attritional second day of the opening Test against India with a slight upper-hand, here at Basin Reserve on Saturday.

After another lower-order collapse that saw get India bundled out for 165, Ishant, coming straight back from an ankle injury, took three for 31 in 15 overs despite Williamson's effortless 89 in New Zealand's day-end score of 216 for 5.

New Zealand now lead by 11 runs.

Mohammed Shami (1/61 in 17 overs), during his final spell of the day, removed Williamson, who couldn't check an uppish drive. Henry Nicholls' (17 off 62 balls) struggle seemed to have hampered Williamson's rhythm.

During the final hour, Ravichandran Ashwin (1/60 in 21 overs), who also bowled beautifully throughout the day, relieved Nicholls of his agony with a delivery that had drift and a hint of turn as India skipper Virat Kohli snapped the low catch at second slip.

Williamson looked good as he hit some delightful strokes square off the wicket. The square drive on the rise off Jasprit Bumrah (0/62 in 18.1 overs), followed by a cover drive, showed his class.

In all, the New Zealand skipper hit 11 boundaries off 153 balls.

Bumrah, in particular, was punished by Williamson. Either Bumrah bowled too full and drivable length deliveries or too short that even Rishabh Pant failed to gather the ball over his head.

This was where Ishant came into the picture. While he was lucky to get opener Tom Latham out with



Kane Williamson returns to pavilion after he was caught out by Ravindra Jadeja off Mohammad Shami on second day of 1st Test at Basin Reserve

"We have confidence that we can make a comeback. That has been the speciality of this team."
— ISHANT SHARMA

"If we can carry on tomorrow (Sunday) morning, get a couple of partnerships together and try and build that lead, then going into the second innings it will be nice."
— TIM SOUTHEE



Poonam Yadav celebrates after wicket ICC/Twitter

Aus win will give India huge confidence: Mithali

PTI ■ SYDNEY

India's demolition of a formidable Australia in the Women's T20 World Cup opener will give them a huge boost going forward, said star batswoman Mithali Raj, who also lauded leggie Poonam Yadav for her magical performance.

Poonam took four for 19 to help India complete a 17-run victory against defending champions Australia on Friday. "Everyone has been talking about how much batting depth Australia have, yet they couldn't chase 132," Raj, a former India Test and ODI captain, said.

"India will take so much confidence from that victory, but this World Cup is still very open. The match between Australia and India proved how competitive the tournament will be. It proves it does not matter where you stand in the ICC rankings."

"We will be seeing more of the same drama yet. This victory proves every team has a chance," said Raj, who has retired from T20 cricket.

The 37-year-old veteran batswoman said "the opening match definitely lived up to the hype of the tournament".

"It was a whirlwind. There were so many ups and downs. It was a great start to the tournament not only because India beat the defending champions on home soil, but also because of how the game progressed altogether."

"At no point could you say it was going in one side's favour. First we saw our early wickets fall, then we recovered and Australia had to chase 132 before their middle-order collapsed. India and Australia both took the game their own way at different points which made it fascinating for spectators to watch."

Raj said Poonam's spell was the turning point.

a delivery drifting on leg-stump, the other opener Tom Blundell (30) had a typical Ishant dismissal written all over it.

The ball was full on the off-

stump channel and jagged back enough to find the gap between his bat and pad.

"Actually, the wicket became slow. It had tennis ball bounce at

the start but when we bowled, there was no seam movement available," Ishant said after the end of the day's play.

Williamson and Taylor then

had a partnership of 93 runs during which New Zealand also got the lead before Ishant, coming back for his third spell, bowled one that reared up from good length and

NZ vs Ind (1st Test, Day 3)
Live from 4:00am IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK



Ishant comes to Bumrah's defence: 'Funny how perceptions change quickly'

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

India's seniormost player Ishant Sharma finds it "funny" that people are questioning Jasprit Bumrah's "ability" just after a few matches, ignoring his performances over the past two years. "It's funny that perceptions changed after one innings.

For two years, we have always taken 20 wickets, myself, Boom (Bumrah's nickname in Indian dressing room) and Shami along with Ash or Jaddu (at home). How can people question on the basis of one innings (Test)?"

Ishant asked while defending his colleague. "I don't think anyone doubts Boom's ability. Since his debut, what

he has achieved for India, I don't think anyone should raise any questions," said Ishant. Bumrah also had support from New Zealand pacer Tim Southee, who called him a "world class bowler" and found nothing wrong in his execution.

"I don't think there's anything wrong. He is a world-class bowler. He is obviously coming back from injury, but he is a quality player, and we know a great performance is never far away when you're a quality player," Southee said.

Agar takes hat-trick

JO'BURG: Left-arm spinner Ashton Agar took a hat-trick as Australia crushed South Africa by 107 runs in the first T20I at the Wanderers Stadium on Friday.

Steve Smith, back in South Africa for the first time since the 2018 ball-tampering scandal, hit a top score of 45 for Australia, who made 196 for six after being sent in.

South Africa made a bad start against the pace of Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins before Agar's triple strike sent them hurtling to their all-time lowest T20 total of 89. It was also the host country's biggest defeat in the format.

Man of the match Agar finished with career-best figures of five for 24. AFP

WAR AGAINST MAFIA



CRACKDOWN ON FOOD ADULTERATION, SPURIOUS GOODS & MATERIALS AND DRUG MAFIA

A Historic Movement in Madhya Pradesh



Kamal Nath
Chief Minister
Madhya Pradesh

Chief Minister Kamal Nath leads from front as citizens join charge to free the state from the clutches of malafide profiteering at cost of human health and life.

New Sand Policy of MP comes down on illicit sand mining

Besides destroying the organized mining racket, the policy earned a five-fold increase in mining allocation revenues for the state exchequer. Sand Mining Revenue touches Rs. 1234 crore from the previous Rs. 200 crores. Altering characteristics of the River and Riverbed, illegal mining causes irreparable damage to the ecosystem.

Action Against Spurious Farm Supplies

State-wide crackdown on those involved in the trade of spurious or adulterated fertilizers, seeds and pesticides. District level inspection teams collected and tested nearly 7000 samples. 1313 fertilizer shops and godowns inspected as part of campaign. Action initiated against 110 errant traders.

Anti-Drugs Campaign

- ❖ Massive awareness campaign reaches Schools, Colleges, Hostels.
- ❖ Over five lakh youths contacted as part of campaign in 2019.
- ❖ In a concerted drive against drug peddlers, 3270 cases resulted in the arrest of 4051 accused.
- ❖ 11.71 kg brown sugar seized from 426 accused.
- ❖ 171 kg opium seized from 134 accused.
- ❖ 9310 kg cannabis confiscated from 2903 accused.
- ❖ 6 kg hashish found in possession of 24 accused.
- ❖ 34875 kg poppy shell powder found with 339 accused.
- ❖ 1,13,448 units of chemical drugs seized with 121 accused.

SHUDDH KE LIYE YUDDH

Utilising powers conferred by the Constitution of India, Chief Minister Kamal Nath has taken up the fight against food adulteration as a top priority for his government. The constitution of India describes improvement of public health as one of the primary responsibilities of the State. Adulterated foods cause havoc on Public Health. While victims suffer

ailments ranging from bouts of food poisoning to heart ailments, continuing intake of contaminated edibles also leads to diseases like Cancer and a host of Renal complications. Besides destruction of citizen health, the adulterated food industry stresses public health and welfare budgets as most victims belong to socially and economically weaker sections.

Fight Against Food Adulteration



Highlights

- ❖ Formation of Division-level Flying Squads.
- ❖ Strengthening picketing at interstate borders.
- ❖ Consultations with citizens and traders in every district to create awareness for anti-adulteration campaign.
- ❖ 12089 samples of milk products, edibles and Pan Masala collected.
- ❖ 117 FIRs lodged against errant manufacturers.
- ❖ 42 offenders booked under stringent National Security Act (NSA).
- ❖ Rs. 24 Crore worth spurious goods confiscated.
- ❖ Rs. 25 Lakhs worth adulterated edibles destroyed.
- ❖ 835 cases filed.
- ❖ Rs. 4.56 Crore Penalty levied.

Umeenden Rang Layi, Tarakkie Muskurai



Mughal prince with a heart

Avik Chanda's book offers a view on the life and times of Dara Shukoh, the designated heir of Shah Jahan



Shiva: Existence personified

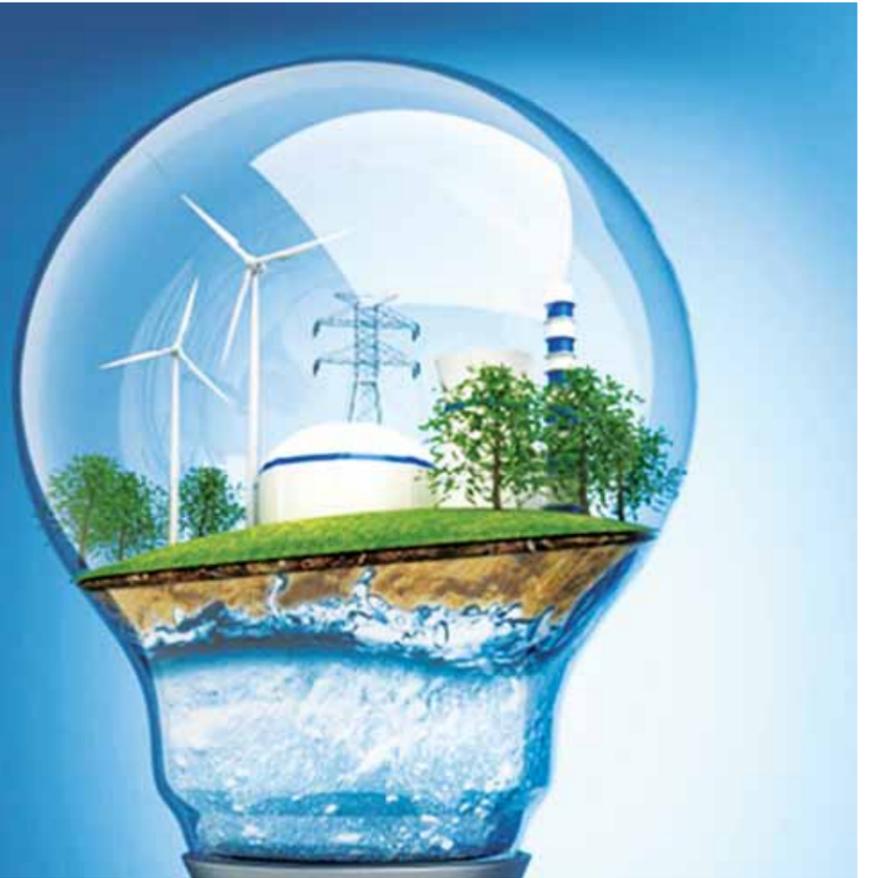
The concepts underlying Shiva can be seen in different perspectives — as Adi Guru, Nataraja and metaphysical being

The most important lesson I've learned in this business is how to say no. I have said no to a lot of temptations, and I am glad I did
— Penelope Cruz



Over the past two decades, India's approach takes into account the political, economic, social and environmental issues and concerns under which the energy security policy is being pursued today, writes DR ASHOK SHARMA

INDIA'S QUEST FOR ENERGY SECURITY



Energy security has been significant to the economic transformation, global prosperity and well-being of the human kind. Energy security will continue to be detrimental to the existing life and much more crucial to the developing countries than the developed world. The world's demand for energy grew by 95% in the last 40 years and the future demand, estimated to be more than 90%, to be because of huge growth in demand from India and China. These resources are finite, and the direct links between energy supply and economic growth have pushed the issue of energy security at the core of the policy debate with a considerable impact on the geopolitics.

India, one of the fastest growing major economies, is also the fastest growing energy consumer in the world. And set to become the most populous nation, it is not well endowed with energy reserves. India has mammoth task of meeting its economic and social developmental goals, and lift its millions of people out of poverty. The country has no option but to strive for sustained growth rate of 8-10% to achieve this. India's economy in all likely will continue to supersede the growth rate of all other major economies in the world in the foreseeable future. The demand for energy in the coming years will accelerate further as India embarks on manufacturing through Modi Government's much vaulted 'Make in India' programme, developmental projects and access to electricity to all. Consequently, energy security has emerged as one of the salient policy issues over the past decade and a half, and the successive Indian governments have emphasised on addressing the impending energy crisis challenges.

In the past, India's energy security has been narrow in its approach, mainly aimed at managing supply. But over the past two decades, India's energy security policy has evolved and approach is much more inclusive which takes into account the political, economic, social and environmental issues and concerns under which the energy security policy is being pursued today internationally. India's quest for energy security could be seen under the framework of four 'A's: availability, accessibility, affordability and acceptability, which is to make energy accessible to all the sections and sectors at an affordable price in a socially and politically acceptable carbon-controlled environment.

India's more than 50% of energy needs is derived from domestic stocks of coal, mainly for the electricity. Coal shall remain India's most important energy source and critical to its growth for the decades ahead. However, the percentage of coal in India's energy mix

will decline in the future. India, with 17% of the world's population, has just 0.8% of the world's known oil and natural gas resources. Today, oil accounts for 36% of the country's primary energy use. This figure is set to rise both in absolute and in percentage terms.

India's domestic production is not sufficient to meet its demand. As a result, India already imports 80% of its crude oil needs. Without new and substantial domestic discoveries, imports will continue to increase. By contrast, natural gas currently provides only 8% of India's primary energy supply, and most of that gas comes from domestic sources, onshore and offshore. But the position is likely to change drastically as India plans towards the world average for the use of natural gas.

To promote oil and gas production at domestic level, the Indian Government has been taking several steps which range from encouraging the Indian companies to increase their domestic activities and widening its engagement with multinational companies, broadening opportunities for them to participate in oil and gas exploration in India. Also, to stimulate the investments and development in the exploration of hydrocarbon sources of energy, some of the steps have focussed on regulatory changes, a transparent gas pricing policy and redevelopment of uneconomical assets. The domestic efforts have also seen a concerted focus on exploring various alternative sources of energy which are infinite, renewable and environment-friendly. The government has given a massive push in this regard in the energy production through solar energy, wind power, hydroelectricity power, and biomass, and nuclear energy.

At the domestic level, the challenges are puzzling and often at odds such as increasing energy access, building a smart system for drawing investment in energy infrastructure and pricing of energy to facilitate the economic and environmental competence. Unlike the past policy of self-reliance, India's energy policy has shifted to position itself to address its new dependence on international markets, diversify its sources of energy abroad, look for alternative sources of energy, and increase its domestic production which continues to be in line with its earlier commitment to self-sufficiency. India's domestic exploration and production push is not very promising. As a result, India continues to rely on the foreign sources for its energy needs especially for petroleum.

Since increased domestic production alone will not be sufficient to meet the projected needs for either oil, gas or coal, India is also expanding its efforts abroad. Eventually, this has made energy security one of the top foreign policy

priorities. Despite the Indian government's emphasis on domestic production of coal and efforts to diversify the sources of energy, the demand for imported coal is likely to continue. India's energy demand, both for consumer and industry, cannot be done in the near future without the help of imported coal. There is no substantial proof that India can address its energy demand without the use of imported coal to supplement its domestic supply. For example, the energy security has been an important aspect of India-Australia relationship in which import of Australian high calorific value coal remains crucial.

Subsequently, energy security has emerged as one of the top foreign policy priorities of the Modi Government. This becomes significant as Modi Government embarks to make India a manufacturing hub through its much vaulted 'Make in India' initiatives. Energy security's primacy in Modi government's foreign policy is reflected in his record number of high-profile foreign visits during which he has been cutting energy deals with energy rich countries.

India's energy security pursuit becomes more challenging with the growing concerns of global climate change and political instability in the energy rich regions of the world. India has been relying mainly on coal and petroleum for its energy sources. India's move towards renewable energy sources will not be sufficient for its mounting energy demand. India has to look towards an energy sources with less carbon emission and provide base load power. In this context, gas and nuclear energy figure significant. Gas is less carbon emitting source of energy. India's gas utilisation is far below the world average. Modi government has also given priority to enhance the gas utilisation and move towards gas based economy. India is planning to set up gas pipelines for import of gas from its neighbouring nations. A number of gas pipelines are proposed and are in the construction phase. Majority of them involve intense geopolitics as some of the proposed gas pipelines will pass through Pakistan and China.

Since the two-thirds of India's oil imports come from one single region, that is, the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries, India is following in the footsteps of other major oil-importing economies and making significant efforts to obtain supplies from sources outside the Gulf. In addition, the possibility of disruption from unseemly political instability, religious extremism, terrorism, and threats to supply lines have pushed India to look for new hydrocarbon destinations abroad.

India has taken steps to diversify its hydrocarbon exploration in the regions

of Latin America, Africa, Caspian Basin, Russia and in the waters of Indo-Pacific region.

Problems of diversification of energy sources for India arises from the political volatility, geopolitics of these regions and above all it puts India in the direct competition with China particularly in the Non-Middle Eastern and Non-Gulf region as the new destination of energy source which further sparks a geopolitical competition and adds more complexities to an existing competitive and often conflicting India-China relationship.

Nuclear energy has the potential to become an important source of India's energy mix given its economic affordability in the long run and environment friendly. Currently, nuclear energy makes up around 3% of India's energy mix and has the potential to become 20 to 25% of India's energy mix by 2050. The lack of enriched uranium, light water reactors, and advanced technology hampered India's nuclear energy capability. But after the conclusion of India-US nuclear agreement, India's nuclear apartheid ended and unchained India from the technology denial regimes of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Act of 1978 which came in the wake of India's first atomic test in 1974. The nuclear deal was aimed to help India to meet its looming energy crisis by enabling it to access to safeguarded nuclear fuel, advanced light water reactors and civilian nuclear technology.

The India-US nuclear deal pushed the energy security to the core of India's foreign policy. After the India-US civilian nuclear deal, India has sealed the civilian nuclear agreements with a number of countries including France, Russia, Canada, Australia, Japan and the UK. Given India's non-signatory status of Nuclear-Non-Proliferation Treaty, for any country dealing with India in nuclear energy and technology trade becomes an issue of a mutual trust and confidence which required delicate diplomacy from India. Though aimed to address India's energy security, the US-India nuclear deal was viewed by China as part of the United States' grand strategy to contain the growing power and influence of China in Asia. As a result, the Chinese and Pakistani lobbying along with 'Nuclear Ayatollahs' put a concerted lobbying effort to block the nuclear deal at Capitol Hill, though failed. The India-China energy geopolitics resurfaced during India's bid to membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) recently. China used its clout and prerogatives to block India's case for the inclusion in the NSG. The nuclear energy is significant for India's efforts to shift to an environmentally friendly energy sources and alternate sources of energy sources.

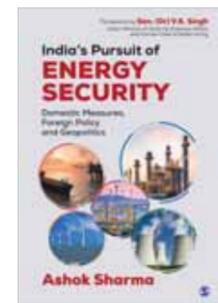
India's push towards renewable energy has been remarkable which is reflected in Modi Government's schemes to give a boost to renewable energy sources. But even the renewable energy sources are not free from the competitive geopolitical environment. India-China energy geo-politics is also reflected in renewable energy space. Renewable energy's geographic and technical characteristics are fundamentally different from those of coal, oil and natural gas. Though still in the formative stage, international norms are being built towards the renewable energy, and India-China energy geopolitics will enter this new energy space as both are striving to influence the renewable energy space. The inevitability of renewable energy is undeniable and countries are gearing up for an increased share in their energy mix.

Those that dominate the markets in these new technologies will likely have the most influence over the development patterns of the future. As other major powers find themselves in climate denial, China and India both are moving to use and exploit the global renewable energy space, though China is ahead.

India is emerging as a new normative player in the renewable energy regime. Prime Minister Modi has pursued unwavering commitment to energy security by constructing 175 GW of renewable capacity by 2022 and India is committed to its unflinching commitment to combat global warming irrespective of what happens in the rest of the world. Prime Minister Modi being awarded the "Champion of Earth" by the UN Secretary General in 2018 is additional power to India's growing normative leadership in this new energy source regime that translates into geopolitics as it helps India to enhance its image internationally.

India's energy policy is being pursued in a much more inclusive manner in its domestic and international settings to address its fast-growing energy demand in a competitive geo-political environment. India energy exploration abroad in the new regions is putting in direct competition with with China. Unlike the US-Soviet Union energy geopolitics, the India-China energy competition has been mostly confined to the commercial and diplomatic level tussles, though both remain vulnerable to conflicts which may get aggravated due to their competitive and conflicting relations and the emerging strategic geometry in the Indo-Pacific region.

— Dr Ashok Sharma is a Visiting Fellow at the University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy and the author of the book 'India's Pursuit of Energy Security: Domestic Measures, Foreign Policy and Geopolitics' (Sage Publications, 2019)



ENERGY SECURITY HAS EMERGED AS ONE OF THE TOP FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES OF THE MODI GOVERNMENT. THIS BECOMES SIGNIFICANT AS MODI GOVERNMENT EMBARKS TO MAKE INDIA A MANUFACTURING HUB THROUGH ITS MUCH VAULTED 'MAKE IN INDIA' INITIATIVES. ENERGY SECURITY'S PRIMACY IN MODI GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY IS REFLECTED IN HIS RECORD NUMBER OF HIGH-PROFILE FOREIGN VISITS DURING WHICH HE HAS BEEN CUTTING ENERGY DEALS WITH ENERGY RICH COUNTRIES





THE CHIEF REASON FOR GOING TO SCHOOL IS TO GET THE IMPRESSION FIXED FOR LIFE THAT THERE IS A BOOK SIDE FOR EVERYTHING
— ROBERT FROST

Avik Chanda's book, *Dara Shukoh: The Man Who would be King*, is an ideal read, not only for aspiring historians but also for those interested in Indian history, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Mughal prince with a heart

A frequently heard complaint from a section of Indian historians is that vested interests have played havoc with the sub-continent's history, traditions and culture. If one goes through the history books taught in the Indian schools and universities, it will be found that those lamenting over the tampering of India's history are not exaggerating. Some sections of the country's valuable history have been suppressed from the new generation, especially from those who were born after 1950.

How many among those who were born after 1950 are familiar with the great Maratha ruler Shivaji, the valiant fighter Tantia Tope, the great social reformer Mahatma Phule, the all time great of the 19th century South India by name Chattampi Swamikal and his colleague Sree Narayana Guru?

We cannot put the entire blame for distorting history upon previous regimes alone. It is a strategy deployed since time immemorial to misinterpret historical facts by groups with vested interests. "History is written by victors," Sir Winston Churchill, former British Prime Minister who is known for his erudition and knowledge had said. In modern times, it was proved by the British colonialists. The best example is Louis Mountbatten's decision to destroy even the last vestiges of victory symbols of the Japanese army from Singapore and Malaysia.

"After re-taking Singapore, Mountbatten's (who was the Supreme Commander, South East Asia during Second World War) first act was to order the demolition of the war memorial honouring slain heroes of the Indian National Army. The INA War Memorial at Singapore to commemorate the "Unknown Warrior" was started on July 8, 1945 at Esplanade Park. It was razed to the ground by Mountbatten's allied troops when they reoccupied the city. Demolishing memorials, war memorials and other revered symbols of defeated people is habitual Christian triumphalism as is desecrating the tombs of the rulers of conquered people," writes Radha Rajan, one of the highly respected thinkers of our times.

Most Indians are not really serious about learning history. They are not even bothered about recent history as can be seen by the attitude of the new generation towards the dark days of



emergency declared by the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975.

I was shocked to see the larger than life flex boards with pictures of Fidel Castro and Che Guevara greeting the delegates of Indian Science Congress during the 2009 Indian Science Congress held at Thiruvananthapuram. There were no pictures of Sir C V Raman, Prof J C Bose, S N Bose and the likes who took Indian science to new heights. But for ISRO, which co-sponsored the event, there would not have been a single picture of that prince of Indian Space Science, Vikram Sarabhai.

This is not the case with science alone. How many among our new historians are familiar with the works of the great Acharya Ramesh Chandra Majumdar, whose seminal work the

eleven-volume *History and Culture of Indian People* preserve and protect the great history of this great nation from getting tampered by the evil designs of people following imported and outdated ideologies?

Dara Shukoh, son of Shah Jahan, was the unsung hero of the Mughal Dynasty. Dara, the eldest son of Shah Jahan lived only up to the age of 44 years but left indelible marks in the history of the sub continent.

What makes him dear to the people in Mughal empire was his tolerance towards other religions and humane nature, unlike his younger brother Aurangzeb, who went on to become the Mughal ruler presiding over the kingdom till the ripe age of 89!

Aurangzeb was known for his hatred

towards Hindus and went on demolishing and destroying the Sanatana Dharma and its symbols like temples, ashrams and monasteries. Though the secularists tried to portray him as a philanthropist by hiring the services of Audrey Truschke to come out with a volume by name *Aurangzeb: The Man and Myth*, it fell all flat as she could not counter the eye witness accounts of Francois Bernier (a European physician and traveller in Shah Jahan's court) and Niccolao Manucci (a military strategist for Dara, who continued to work with Aurangzeb after the fall of the former).

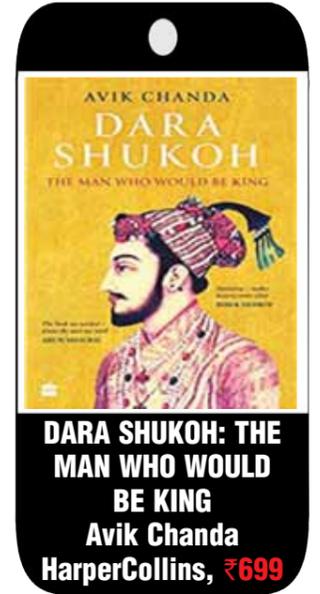
Dara in his brief tenure as prince had got the Vedas and Upanishads translated into Persian and French and that itself speak volumes about his compassion for anything that originated in the

sub continent. Who in India would have heard about Bernier and Manucci if it had not been for S L Bhyrappa who in his famous work *Aavaran* told the readers about the official eye witness accounts of these two Europeans?

Avik Chanda, a business advisor with degrees from Delhi School of Economics, has taken from where Bhyrappa left.

Chanda's book "*Dara Shukoh: The Man Who Would Be King*" is a refreshing experience. Chanda gives the readers a bird's eye view on the life and time of Shukoh, the designated heir of Shah Jahan. Even as a young prince, Shukoh wanted the common man to know more about the Islamic saints and for that he opted words instead of swords unlike Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan. "What Dara

was striving for was not linguistic and literary brilliance but a tone of simplicity, an idiom that would induce faith in the reader who was a common man," writes Chanda (Page 51). Thus was born *Safinat-ul-Aulia*, an account of the lives of over 400 saints!



DARA SHUKOH: THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING
Avik Chanda
HarperCollins, ₹699

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The account of Dara Shukoh once again underlines the fact that the Muslim invaders who occupied the thrones in New Delhi and elsewhere in the subcontinent chose this land only to loot and proselytise. The Sufi saints were Islamic evangelists who went ahead with their mission by singing about love and preaching the message of anarchy. Despite the fact that he belonged to the Mughal dynasty, Dara had some civility in his heart unlike his forefather Babar or sibling Aurangzeb. Those who are out to paint Aurangzeb with divinity may need more self styled historians like Audrey Truschke because we have writers like Avik Chanda for digging out the truth.

Dara Shukoh: The Man Who would be King is an ideal work not only for aspiring historians but for general readers interested in Indian history.

NEW ARRIVALS

MISSING IN ACTION: THE PRISONERS WHO NEVER CAME BACK
Chander Suta Dogra
HarperCollins India, ₹699

The story of India's soldiers missing in action is one that remains unfinished, a spillover of the wars with Pakistan. These are men who went missing in enemy territory while on daring missions during the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars. The nation has forgotten them, though successive governments continue to make token acknowledgements about their missing status. Over the last five decades, there have been scattered reports offering information piecemeal, but this is the first time the saga has been fully told. The result of years of research, the book unearths startling revelations that shed new light on the subject.

SO ALL IS PEACE
Vandana Singh-Lal
Penguin, ₹499

A richly atmospheric, deeply claustrophobic story with a stunning denouement, of two women confronting the everyday realities of their city and country. *So all is Peace* provides an unflinching insight into love, lust, fear, grief, and the decisions we make, through a cast of sharply drawn characters brought together by an unspoken wrong.

BIRDS IN YOUR BACKYARD & BEYOND
Arthy Muthanna Singh, Mamta Nainy, and Kaustubh Srikanth Red Panda, ₹299

An easy handbook on bird-watching for children and the uninitiated - take the journey with Binee into the magical world of birds. Colourful illustrations and information, interesting nuggets of information, practical things you should know and much more!

Raghupati Raghav on the Banjo

'There is no such thing as a wrong note as long as you can sing it,' Pete Seeger said, his gentle tone immediately endearing him to an audience that had spilled, recalls SHANTANU DATTA in his book. Excerpt:

They all sang along. With Pete Seeger it is difficult not to.

Embellishing his selection with high-note harmonies by grandson Tao Rodriguez, Pete strummed his banjo and guitar to strike up the ever-popular *If I had a hammer* question, reminiscent Jose Marti's *Guantanamera*, count 1,2,3 on the *Vietnam Song* and run through the *Midnight Special*. In between there were stories, lots of laughter, more stories and a knee-slapping, foot-stomping jingle that had the 77-year-old bringing the house down with thunderous applause.

And they all sang along. The money tune came next. It was zesty, what with Tao's free-wheeling harmonies aided by the snappy guitar rhythm: *...Money can still be handy too (but) let's not allow 'king money' to rule.*

The audience, essentially 30-plus, was loving it. 'How does he do it?' 'What energy, it's amazing...' were all that the chattering classes could manage.

But it was truly magical. How could one man, 77 years old, and helped only by a guitar and a grandson, captivate his listeners thus? And that too when there are none of the now-generation psychedelic pyrotechnics, no multi-coloured lights and no fancy bass-boosting sound system.

The truth is Pete doesn't need all that. He never did. For having spent over five decades

directing music towards social change for peace, equality and decency, his philosophy was always about heart-and-soul, and about the power of simplicity. No wonder they always sing along.

During the early '60s, after he was able to reorganise the Newport Folk Festival to use profits to help folk performers, he privately published *How to Play the Five-String Banjo* but refused to copyright the book because the 'banjo belongs to everyone'. Pete's humanity was so unusual it seemed threatening. Always a popular target of the US witch-hunt-he was sentenced to prison and blacklisted during the McCarthy era-particularly suspicious was his custom of learning songs from every country where he gave concerts.

Back at Siri Fort, Tao held on to this tradition as he rendered an Argentinian song about god, war and the future. Pete was on harmony this time as the grandson's soul-stirring high-pitched singing had the audience fall head over heels. A standing ovation was the young man's reward.

A slow and soft tune on Pete's recorder helped the ever-cooperating audience hum one note for effect, which was then followed by what the Guru had picked up from an Indian student, *Ram Dhuun*. Tao dwelled on the high notes once again as Pete celebrated his comeback.

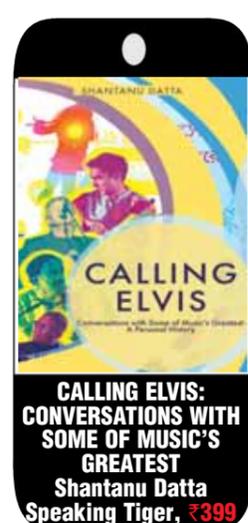
Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram/Patita Pavan Sita Ram...
And they all sang along.



WE SHALL OVERCOME: Pete Seeger by E.P. Unny (author's personal collection)

Over two hours had slipped by rather quickly. By then there were more songs with tabla player Ashim Chakraborty join-

ing the duo. But the audience was getting restless. Some of the favourites were yet to come. 'Turn, Turn', someone screamed



CALLING ELVIS: CONVERSATIONS WITH SOME OF MUSIC'S GREATEST
Shantanu Datta
Speaking Tiger, ₹399

from the far corner of the balcony. 'Last Train to Nuremberg, Garbage', it went on. Amidst all the shouts for encores, chief guest Ustad Amjad Ali Khan presented the customary floral tributes on behalf of hosts, Indian Council for Cultural Relations. And as Pete thanked the 'wonderful singing audience', he obliged with The Anthem.

We shall overcome, We shall overcome, someday Oh deep in my heart I do believe We shall overcome someday...

And they all sang along.

I learnt that song in Bangla in the '70s as a ten-year-old while living on a college campus on Belforta Road in Bhawanipore, hearing students sing it with zest, welcoming a group of families from Bangladesh who had fled the war of 1971 and had been sheltered there, courtesy my aunt, the principal of Belforta Basic Training College. Not sure if I grasped its true import then, but as the years passed I realised how my mother and I could well have been among them. Not fleeing war, but finding ourselves without a roof over our heads after life in Agartala took an unexpected turn.

That song, anthem really, would be heard on various occasions in Calcutta; at student marches protesting too few teachers in government colleges, at Left Front political rallies against the bourgeois Press or funnily enough, at residents' meetings to demand, not eight-hourly, but four-hourly, water supply from Calcutta Corporation and at a Dharamtala sit-in defence of the Bengali's inalienable right not to work and enforce a state-wide shutdown (bandh). Calcutta still loves a good protest. We had to take it on our stride. Still do.

But Delhi is way different. *Calling Elvis: Conversations with Some of Music's Greatest: A Personal History*, written by Shantanu Datta is published by Speaking Tiger

Trump's jamboree in Delhi for regional equations

The American national interest is served by US President Donald Trump's visit to New Delhi as both the nations are striving hard for a newly discovered "ally-hood" which might be a step towards a closer and a more fruitful relationship, as, an aftermath of President Trump's visit to New Delhi which can be considered as significant summitry with all its ebullient expectations.

It was President Trump only, in the run up to the National Security Strategy Document in 2017, who declared that India needs to assume novae roles in the international system going by its rising pelf, geo-economic influence and strategic might. This gels well with the avowed ordering principle of "Vishwa guru" which India adheres to as a functional aspect of its foreign policy though the dictum needs much more of an elaboration in the light of the ebb and flow of the tide of International Relations. Such an American perception will be the key theme when President Trump visits New Delhi.

Perceived in the context of President Trump's visit, a few pointers need to be elucidated. The foremost being the step which is much awaited in New Delhi that the US ought to disown the arch antagonist Pakistan and a kind of a reassurance to New Delhi can be given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, though all military aid has already been curtailed to Islamabad. Secondly, New Delhi will air its concern about the outbreak of

coronavirus and also as an attendant fact, China's extended ministration in the Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) region and the Malacca straits should be another theme to be deliberated upon by the summittees.

Also, PM Modi can insist upon President Trump that in the case of other peaceful nuclear explosions (PNEs) and in the context of the Civilian Nuclear Liability Bill, more of a clearer comprehension can be reached between the twin nations in New Delhi, which falls in the criterion of the of PM Modi being a "Good Friend," as elucidated by President Trump in one of his latest statement on the soil of the United States of America. Also, the Indian negotiators can look forward to a novae appreciation of the fact that India has waged a successful war against terrorism and a more practical and reflective collaboration can be materialised between New Delhi and Washington in tougher times to come. The deliberations might include the trade differences in relation with stents, knee implants, information and communication technology products along with the cess which the United States imposes on the sale of Harley Davidson bikes in India.

Perceived in such an interesting and illuminating light, the entire world looks forward to the upcoming jaunt of President Trump to New Delhi as both he and PM Modi share special chemistry with each



other as has been evident during their various rendezvous. The Indian support to President Trump can be the order of the day on February 24, 2020, in relation to his electioneering in the American homeland. The summitry need not be dwelt upon as a promotional election event for President Trump, but, as a significant course corrective in the larger spectrum of the relationship between both the nations.

All in all and in toto, the negotiators from India and the United States are engaged fervently to reach a micro trade deal before President Trump lands in Delhi. If a well nuanced trade and investment quid pro quo is not arrived at by the twin interlocutors then a fledgling trade alliance is on

cards as a prologue to the President's jaunt to New Delhi. Such a biz takeaway will be the cognizant quid pro quo in the commercial tryst with each other. Also, despite the divergences in the context of aluminum trade and the retaliatory Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), both the heads of Governments are well suited to negotiate hard for trade deal in lines with the characteristics of shared values, democratisation and attendant principles of a liberal trade ecosystem. Also, President Trump would do well to heed the concerns of PM Modi. Also, as an attendant fact the United States is expected to discuss the idiom of protectionism which the New Delhi denotation is adhering to in the light of a cyclical domestic

downturn in the Indian economy. The US-based GSP refers to through the instrumentality of the US Customs and Border Protection that, "The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) provides duty-free treatment to goods of designated beneficiary countries. The programme was authorised by the Trade Act of 1974 to promote economic growth in the developing countries and was implemented on January 1, 1976." It has been observed that a trade fight overshadows the dictum of the larger Strategic relationship in the specificities of the Trump-Modi meet in the Raisina Hill. The strategic collaborative exercise has germinated between both the nations since the last decade but this strategic partnership in the

context of the Asiatic Space and the Indian Ocean Rim nations is all set to be discomfited in the aftermath of a trade war like scenario between India and United States of America.

The US Trade representative, Robert Lighthizer is already negotiating a hard ball Indian negotiating side to ramp up the Presidential visit with a prized micro deal to serve it up for the American electorate which is also in the larger protectionist national interest of President Trump's blue collar America. The Indian concern at the Trump-Modi itinerary might be the chances of reprisals that New Delhi might have to confront if all do not go well with the larger trade talks in New Delhi. The allegation from the American industry and corporate is that India is still evading the liberal trade regime and ratcheting up the guillotine of strait-jacketed protectionism. The Foreign Policy, FP trade report, contends and informs us that President Trump is more concerned with the trade imbalance which the United States trade structure has with India and China, but that might be truer with the People's Republic of China, then, with India. As a recent U-turn, President Trump has indicated that no big trade deal will be signed between both the nations in his visit to India though his negotiators had done the spade work before the President's visit, which comes as a rude shock to the twin negotiating sides being engaged in trade negotiations. Though, the trade

deal which will be limited in context, aims to achieve waivers for the American farm products along with the homeland's dairy products, the refusal to ink trade deals points at the underlying tensions between both the nations. The US President has stated that he is looking forward to a limited trade deal while the wholesome agreement can wait for the future which might not augur well for New Delhi.

Apart from the trade optics of the Trump-Modi summitry, the diplomatic factoid of Xi Jinping ceremoniously inking trade agreements with Myanmar and establishing a deep water port in Myanmar, is a stately and crafty striving to sideline both India and the United States in the Indian Ocean Rim. It also aims at isolating India, which does not augur well for the United States, which now feels the squeeze of an overtly aggressive Chin in the contested waters of Indian Ocean. This theme, along with the threat for an Indo-US détente, might turn out to be a key part of deliberations in the President-Prime Minister summitry in New Delhi on February 25. Still, the epithet of being the "Tariff King" which the American President has utilised for India reflects the expected concessions from the side of the New Delhi fence as an aftermath of the February summitry.

(The writer teaches at International Relations and International Organisations, IIPA, New Delhi)

The entire world looks forward to the upcoming jaunt of President Trump to New Delhi as both he and PM Modi share special chemistry with each other as has been evident during their various rendezvous



MANAN DWIVEDI

PERSPECTIVE

Syrian endgame solidifies Assad's grip

Is there an alternative form of coalition, minus Assad, which can govern unstable Syria? It seems unfeasible, as the US and major powers involved in West Asia have seen the disasters that unleashed in countries such as Libya, Egypt, Yemen, and particularly in Iraq, after the departure of their longest-standing autocrats



MAKHAN SAIKIA

The Syrian war is just going to complete nine years of devastation, displacement and a new power play in the restive West Asian region. The war that started in 2011 has witnessed for the first time the direct involvement of Russia at an equal pace against the US-led coalition. Though Bashar al-Assad has been threatened by anti-Government forces since the beginning, he has managed to survive till date. Now only the last rebel redoubt of Idlib is yet to be brought back to the fold of Government forces.

The biggest challenge is ending the ongoing civil war. It is one of the most serious humanitarian disasters in recent political history of the world, with the gravest refugee predicament since the World War II. More than half a million people have so far lost their lives. Almost half the population of Syria has been displaced. The number of refugees who have fled the country now exceeds five million, including more than 2.5 million children.

Turkey continues to host the largest chunk of refugees numbering nearly four million.

Looking at the current scenario in Syria, a completely war-ravaged nation, the worst comes for the internally displaced and for the refugees as they all would keep fighting for their survival. Normally a refugee is a person who is forced to leave his home and his country because his life and liberty are in danger. But the 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees describes a refugee as one person who "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country".

However, this typical definition of refugees have been broadened to include people who are forced to leave their countries because of widespread violence, war and foreign occupation that has put



In this Feb 9, 2020, file photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrian Army soldiers flash the victory sign in the village of al-Eis, in Aleppo province, Syria. Syria's civil war has long provided a free-for-all battlefield for proxy fighters. But in its ninth year, the war is drawing major foreign actors into direct conflict, with the threat of all-out confrontations becoming a real possibility

their lives at risk in their own homeland.

As of today, the Syrian refugees have crossed over to countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, North Africa, Iraq, Egypt, the US, Canada and to large parts of Europe. And out of the total refugees those who are asylum seekers are about a million. And a large number of them are in Germany and the rest of them are spread across Sweden, Canada and in the US.

The cumulative loss to gross domestic product from the starting of the war, i.e. 2011, through the early part of 2017 has been estimated by the international agencies, including the World Bank, to an amount of \$226 billion. So far there has been no definitive cost of reconstruction worked out, but the Assad regime has wishfully mentioned it as near-

\$400 billion. Thus, rebuilding Syria would be a daunting task both for the Syrian Government and international aid agencies.

Today the victory of the Assad regime over the rebel forces across Syria is a reality. Mainly, the rebel-held strongholds and large swaths of territories in the southern parts of Syria have been retaken by the Government forces in recent months. The main cities under the Government control are Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Latakia, Tartus, Palmyra and Albu Kamal. And the Free Syrian Army (FSA) — a loose organisation of armed brigades — was formed in the beginning of 2011 by defectors from the Syrian Army. Also many disgruntled civilians who want to topple the Assad's family rule had also joined the FSA. But what is striking is that since

the battle of Aleppo, the FSA has been only able to retain its control over limited areas in north-western Syria. The main area that it controls is the Idlib province wherein the final battle now is between the rebels and the Government forces. On the other hand, the Kurdish forces have occupied much larger areas, than any other forces, which include Raqqa, Quamishli and Hasakah. In fact, reclaiming Raqqa from the grip of ISIS was a historic win for the Kurdish Army. After the battle of Raqqa, the ISIS has been confined to an area near Albu Kamal.

Unfortunately, these areas are surrounded by the Assad forces from the west and the Kurdish from the east. And the rest of rag-tag militias who are battling the Syrian Army for their survival are Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, Iran backed

Hizbollah and the Syrian Democratic Forces, largely dominated by the Kurdish Peoples Protection Units known as the YPG.

So far, more than five series of ceasefire agreements have been concluded between different parties, including the US, Russia, Jordan, Assad Government and the major rebel groups. It first started in 2016 by the UN known as the Geneva Syria peace talks. In fact by February 26, UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2268 that demanded all parties to comply with the terms of the agreement. As no single party had adhered to the terms of the deal violence surfaced once again. By the end of September 10, the US and Russia concluded deal bringing ceasefire between the Assad Government and an American

backed coalition of rebel groups. Both the parties and their allies violated the deal hence the war took an ugly turn.

The third peace agreement signed between Turkey and Russia in Astana led to complete ceasefire across Syria. This effort continued despite the non-participation of the ISIS, YPG and the al-Nusra Front and constant eruptions of violent clashes in different parts of Syria.

The fourth ceasefire effort came into being on May 6, 2017, among Russia, Turkey and Iran in Astana to divide Syria into four de-escalation zones. However, some rebel groups alleged that the intention behind the truce is simply to divide Syria into several sectarian zones so as to escalate the crisis. In a way, such partition would allow the Damascus to divide the anti-Government forces and pound on them separately. And by July 2017, the Trump Administration, Moscow and Amman (Jordan) made an effort to broker a peace deal in southern Syria. This agreement is valid despite continuous exchange of fire between the Government forces and various rebels.

The war in Syria is definitely going to wind down. The reason behind is that the rebels are fast losing their grounds. Among them the most powerful ISIS which is almost dying down with its leader's death and mostly breaking down to splinter groups with diverse aims and objectives.

This is accompanied by constant reinforcements from Russia with man and material towards the Government forces. And in a situation where in America is busy preparing for the next round of presidential polls, Trump is hardly sparing anytime for a definitive solution in war-torn Syria. But the Kurdish stronghold in the North of Syria is going to continue unless there is a global understanding to either recognise their homeland or to completely vanquish them, provided Washington backs such a deal. All the anti-Government groups have now consolidated in the Idlib province. The sad part is that

all of them do not have a feasible strategy to fight the Russian-backed Assad forces which might lead to a sure victory for Assad.

Finally, since the end of the Cold War, what we have seen is that ceaseless efforts lead to end of most of the wars along with warring groups laying down their arms. With other major conflicts and international hot spots rising such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Nigeria, Yemen, etc, the Syrian issue has been substantially moved to the sidelines despite having serious refugee problems spanning from the West Asian region to Europe. Besides, the efforts to bring the warring groups and major powers to the negotiation table are seemed to be stalled. What is ultimately pushing Assad to near victory is the fast rising symptoms of fractured insurgency. On the other hand, the Government forces over the period of almost nine years have regained its strength despite having major debacles in the past.

Now what lies ahead for Assad? Is he going to continue in the seat of power? Minus Assad, is there an alternative form of coalition that can continue holding onto the current level of stability in Syria? Certainly, Assad would continue for now. Simply put this seems not possible as the US and major powers involved in West Asia have seen the disasters that unleashed in countries such as Libya, Egypt, Yemen, particularly in Iraq, after the departure of their long held autocrats. Keeping this in mind, Assad must continue and his immediate removal could herald total anarchy in Syria. Clearly, no plausible alternative is emerging to Assad regime as most of the splinter rebel groups do not agree to a common agenda of governance. Their only aim is to have control over their own territory and assets, and fighting the corrupt Assad regime is just an excuse. Therefore, the brutal war may come to an end sooner or later, permanent peace seems to be elusive in Syria.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)



MEDITATION IS PAINFUL IN THE BEGINNING BUT IT BESTOWS IMMORTAL BLISS AND SUPREME JOY IN THE END — SWAMI SIVANANDA



YOUR WEEK AHEAD



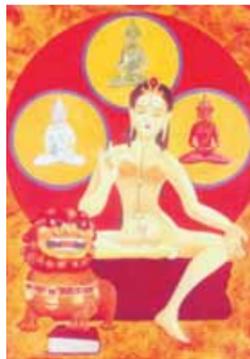
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

Bring positive changes in your lifestyle, and make efforts to improve your health situation. You need to exercise under an expert or go for nutritional education to make sure that you are eating better. Outdoor activities will draw your attention. At work, you will receive admiration from superiors and colleagues. The working environment will be friendly, cohesive and that would increase your efficiency. Promotion/hike in salary is indicated. Work on improving your knowledge and skills. On the personal front, you are strong, courageous and confident. At home, your domineering attitude could irritate others, and you may find yourself alone. This is the time to tame your tongue and bring compassion and concern for the loved one.

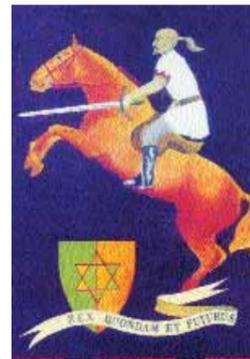
Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Your physical strength is beyond comparison this week and you must be aware of it. Some of you may embark on an overseas trip or may get an opportunity to work, study, or live overseas for an extended period of time. You will encounter new experiences and welcoming hosts who will support you unconditionally. Overall, this is a good week. On the career front, an enhanced status, promotion or designation is on the cards. You can take important decisions related to your career as you are in a very sound and grounded position. The abundance of energy and self-confidence will give you a boost to move ahead. On the personal front, you may meet a romantic person. A good news is expected to come your way. Be open to exploring your feelings.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 19

You will enjoy good health and vitality this week. Those who are dealing with a serious illness, a new health modality or a healer will prove helpful. Stay positive and expect the best. It is important to share your spiritual understandings with others. Your life will improve immensely if you reach out. Career-wise, learn to delegate responsibilities, especially if you are overloaded with work. A dilemma at the workplace will demand action or decision. Analyse all available information before you arrive at a conclusion. In love, you are likely to question whether you and your long-term partner should stay together. You may choose to go your separate ways. Singles, this may be the time when you finally commit to settling down.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

Your health will be very good. You will feel exceptionally well and upbeat about your future. You need to consider ways to maintain your good health. You will enjoy peace, joy, and prosperity this week and would be filled with positive energy. Those who have recovered from a serious ailment must follow their routine consultation. On the career front, you need to watch out for any cheating. Make sure you are doing things the right way, and then you will have nothing to worry about, even if someone is out to get you. In the matters of heart, you are not very vocal about your feelings. If you love someone, express it. Your introvert and individual personality is definitely not helping you get closer to someone you love. Trust your instincts.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You need time and quiet to connect with your soul and energies around. Health, vitality and inner vibrancy will fill you with energy and inspiration. Creative ideas will occupy your mind. Career-wise, there could be a moment which begs you to bring about some desirable changes. Those of you who are not satisfied with the current job, switching to a new job is likely. Good news: the job you find will be better than the previous one. Transfer to a desired place or changing locations are a possibility. On the personal front, you may come across an analytical mind. Make sure not to get pulled into silly debates. Do not ignore your loved ones. Take time out for them and show your concern. Let the heart speak louder than the mind.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Let go of the past and any wrongs that you perceive were done to you, mainly if you are dealing with chronic medical issues. Letting go of your need to be right will go a long way towards helping you to feel better. Think positively. You may find yourself exploring ideas and spiritual directions that you never thought would appeal to you. Career-wise, you may be inspired to start a new creative project, take up an art class, or even dance. You see new potential in allowing your creativity to flow. To those looking for a job, a suitable job offer matching with your profile may surprise you. For those in a committed relationship, it is best to handle situations in a traditional way. Those feeling suspicious about their partner, make a point to talk about it even if it is difficult.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

You will enjoy happiness, good health and worldly pleasures. You tend to be enthusiastic. Carefully weigh and consider what others ask of you. You might consider taking a long holiday. Some of you may travel abroad. Some may even choose to stay at home in order to rejuvenate yourself. Practicing yoga, meditation, cosmic healing or learning new interests is on the cards. Professionally, things are good. Don't take your initial success for granted. Enjoy what you have for the moment. Business is lucrative. On the relationship front, you need to analyse whether you are being realistic in love. Don't spend too much time in self-pity or wishing your life away. Put your anger in check.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Work towards good health and vitality. Plan your routine. Those of you who like to dwell in solitude, it would be a good idea to reach out to others. At work, good news is indicated. You will get the benefits from the choices that you make. An 'out-of-the-blue' opportunity may arise. Your company may send you on a foreign assignment. This is a good time for those in the export and import business. You have the potential to crack the most difficult competitive exam and face the interview with confidence, if you have applied for a job. On the love front, those who are committed, you may find your workload or that of your partner interfering with the relationship. Make time and space for the relationship, regardless of your jobs, otherwise, things will suffer.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You are a quiet and keen observer this week. Your perception about life will change sensing the positivity around. You will feel healthier than ever. Things will move along well, and hope will emanate – with good cause. Avoid obsession/passion this week. On the career front, you want your time and space. Take rest to emerge from those difficult times, perhaps the trauma of losing your job or financial and health worries. Stress and conflict with your colleagues will overpower you. This is not the time to make decisions, particularly when you are at your vulnerable most. In love, happiness and compassion is on the cards. The start of a new relationship, be it a friendship or a romance will bring a smile to your face.

Lucky number 2
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This is the time for self-improvement. Be creative in your work and avoid stress. Follow a good diet and take adequate rest. Tensions of the past would ease off. Listen to your body and work accordingly. The spiritual journey proves to heal this week. Career-wise, this is a very good time to start planning long term, even if you are very young. Plan to work methodically. An intriguing business opportunity will come along this week. The investments you made in the past will fetch you good returns, and with interest. In love, confusion will prevail. Think calmly and carefully about what your deal-breakers are in a relationship. Be honest with yourself first, and then be honest with your beloved.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

With your experience and maturity, you will be able to take charge of your life. Instead of being innovative, you need to adapt to the existing set of beliefs and systems that are already in place. Any new theory or fashionable trends will not work for you this week. On the career front, a foreign assignment may come up. There's a good chance that you are working far too hard for recognition and money. This is the time to remind yourself of your real value. In relationship, messages of love and affection will come your way. You will feel pampered and wish to rejuvenate yourself this week. Those who are single, a new suitor with whom you have a lot in common, and who is also very adventuresome, may enter your life. Exciting times ahead.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Do not run away from reality. It does not suit your personality. If dealing with a health issue, you need to look for another healthcare practitioner. Look for treatment outside your purview. Plan a vacation to natural surroundings to rejuvenate yourself. Avoid stress. On the career front, share your responsibilities as you may feel overstressed. Share your thoughts with your friends. Reflecting on the past will help you prepare for the next phase. Review your past experiences and mark your learnings. All the pieces of the puzzle of your life are finally coming together. On the personal front, true love, balanced partnership, commitment, and all good things that most of us hope for in love and relationship, are yours to savour!

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Lord Shiva: Existence personified

This Friday, Hindus celebrated Shivaratri dedicated to Lord Shiva, popularly seen as one amongst the God-trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh (another contextual naming of Shiva). Hindus apart, who revere Him in highest esteem, Shiva now seems to be extending His charm even in the scientific world. He, now in his dance form (Nataraja), is prominently displayed at Perth laboratory, known for its particle accelerators engaged in exploring what they term as "God Particle." For, in their perception, Shiva's dance symbolises the play and interplay of cosmic energy streams, which progressively evolved into the manifest plural world. The concepts underlying Lord Shiva can be seen in different perspectives. For meditators, He remains the Adi Guru. In Nataraja form, he remains the guiding spirit of the classical dancers. Kashmir Shaivism carries on its metaphysical perception around Shiva. To me, He comes out as 'Existence personified'.

A look at two imageries associated with Shiva in togetherness, presents a unified picture of the world process, encompassing the whole gamut of creation, sustenance and recycling. In the

first picture Lord Shiva is seated in meditative posture on Mount Kailash. He is shown having lunar crescent over his head, almost bare bodied with just the private part covered with tiger skin. His poison fed blue neck is encircled by venomous snake. River Ganges flows down his matted hair locks. He is seen holding a trident in one arm, Damru (double headed hand drum) in another, rosary in the third, and the 4th palm in blessing mode. Being in meditative posture symbolises reflecting on the churning within, on the prospects of creation. As the rosary keeps circling, the life cycle keeps moving in succession. The blessing mode implies that all existences draw succour out of his inexhaustible potential.

In the second imagery, Lord Shiva, mounted on a bull, has in his entourage multitude forms of existences, some of them even weird and invisible. To name a few, divine beings, humans, devilish existences, animals, birds, goblins, and even invisible existences such as ghost etc. Symbolically, his entourage is indicative of the multipolar manifest world with all its enormity and diversity. This particular symbol stands for the dynamic world ever on the move at its own pace,



as would a bull moving at a constant pace mean. While pulling a cart, the bull moves unprovoked at a constant pace and would not stop in the way till it reaches a place designated for being fed and taking rest. After a while, the bull again takes the journey forward, and then finally reverts back to its normal place of abode after completing the voyage. The manifest world too, after being on the run for a specified time, reverts back to the primal source to acquire a restful state, when it gets recharged once again. Following which, out of the seeds of life withdrawn into primal-source, fresh creation cycle takes off.

Mount Kailasa, is one of the high peaks in the Himalayan range to which lot of perennial rivers are sourced, including the Ganges. It, thus, is closest to the cosmic world, simultaneously having all round view of life down below. Lord Shiva, with lunar crescent over the head, read together with his place of abode, the Himalayan range having in store perennial rivers, is symbolic of eternity, infinity.

The presence of lunar crescent symbolises the convergence of all nature driven forces. For, Moon's luminosity is drawn out of the light extended by the Sun, as well as all the planets and stars up above in the cosmos. But before all light

drawn thus, flows down the line, Moon does its own stamping by turning them into an amiable form. Moon, thus, symbolises convergence of all nature driven energy streams.

With the play of Damru, the equilibrated state of the primal source gets shaken, when the primal sound note O? comes into play. Now going by the scientific perception, once there is entropy (disorder), it multiplies in geometric progression. So, it happened following excitation of O? sound. In the process, first came into play Energy-trinity — Sata, Rajasa, and Tamasa. Trident, it may kindly be noted is symbolic of Lord Shiva's creative power — the three phalanges of the trident branching out of the base rod imply three dimensions of energies emanating from a singularity. The random mutation of the three that followed, led to multitude of differentiated energy streams. The harmony and sympathy of these differentiated energy streams that followed, led to all creations, first up above in the cosmos.

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