

MONEY 6

BREXIT TO HELP GLOBAL GROWTH, SAYS LAGARDE

WORLD 7

HONG KONG DECLARES WUHAN VIRUS OUTBREAK AN 'EMERGENCY'

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sunday pioneer

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9 honoured with Shaurya Chakra Prez OK's 409 gallantry awards to armed forces on Republic Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nine personnel, six from the Army and three from Central Paramilitary Forces (CAPF), were awarded Shaurya Chakra, the third highest peacetime gallantry medal, on the occasion of the Republic Day. In all, the President approved 409 Gallantry and other defence decorations for the armed forces personnel. Also, President's Police Medal will be conferred on

over 1,000 police personnel for gallantry and distinguished service. These include four President's Police Medals for Gallantry; 93 President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service, and 657 Police Medal for Meritorious Service. In the list of police personnel listed for the honour, the Jammu & Kashmir Police has the maximum names at 108, followed by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at 76.

Squadron Leaders Siddharth Vashisht and Ninad Mandavane, pilots of Indian Air Force (IAF) Mi-17 helicopter that was accidentally shot down in Budgam on February 27 last year, were posthumously awarded Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry). Last October, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadouria acknowledged the helicopter crash was a case of friendly fire and was a "big mistake."

MOU signed to enhance efficiency in health services of State

Bhopal: In order to enhance efficiency in health services of Madhya Pradesh, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance & Policy Analysis and George Institute for Global Health-Sydney (Australia). The Director General of the Institute R Parshuram and Director of George Institute Amit Khanna signed the MoU. The Director General, Parshuram said that both the institutes together will improve the health services in the state. Research will also be encouraged in this field. He further mentioned that under the MOU research based intervention and changes including

other works will be done for prevention of non-contagious diseases, enhancement in efficiency of medical staff and to bring down deaths occurred in road accidents. The Director Finance of George Institute Khanna said that we are working in health sector in many states. He asserted that health is the top most priority of his institute. The Principal Adviser of the Institute Madan Mohan Upadhyaya said that research is important to tackle the growing challenges of deaths due to snake bite, high blood pressure and non-contagious diseases. The Chief Adviser Mangesh Tyagi, Girish Sharma and other Officers were present on the occasion. **Staff Reporter**

The Pioneer wishes its readers Happy Republic Day. As the offices of The Pioneer will remain closed on January 26, the next edition will be published on January 28.

CAPSULE

PADMA FOR JAITLEY, SUSHMA, FERNANDES
 New Delhi: Former Union Ministers Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj and George Fernandes Olympian boxer Mary Kom and former Mauritius PM Anerood Jugnauth awarded the Padma Vibhushan. Former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar have been awarded the Padma Bhushan.

RAJ ASSEMBLY PASSES RESOLUTION AGAINST CAA
 Jaipur: Rajasthan Assembly passed a resolution urging the Centre to repeal the CAA.



USUALSUSPECTS
 SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Constitution sacred, but Bharat Mata more sacred

The 70th anniversary of the Indian Republic is, to my mind, an occasion for satisfaction more than celebration. Yes, there are always the celebratory facet, as befits a traditional national holiday. But that is only to be expected. What is far more important is the quiet satisfaction that comes with the awareness that the path we chose after Independence has, the occasional hiccup notwithstanding, worked reasonably well. This is not to say that other systems of public life would have been less rewarding. There was a strong case for the Constituent Assembly to adopt a presidential system with in-built federal features. Adopting such a system would not have compromised stability. Indeed, given the type of challenges India faced in the first decades after Independence, a presidential system would probably have made policy choices more purposeful. It may even have worked to the advantage of Jawaharlal Nehru who often complained that his world view and his priorities were insufficiently understood by the other stalwarts of the Congress.

Counter-factual history is always an interesting intellectual game. However, it is also purposeless. The fact is not merely that India opted for a Westminster model and a bicameral Parliament but that other alternatives weren't seriously considered. That is not surprising. In the aftermath of Independence and with the world just about recovering from a devastating World War, single point leadership was viewed with suspicion. Maybe rightly so. Many of the former colonies that won freedom after 1947 quickly shifted from a parliamentary to a presidential system, with consequences that were undesirable.

India didn't change course - although Indira Gandhi tried to in 1976 at the height of the Emergency - and it hasn't really suffered. Maybe the policy choices under a presidential system would have been more emphatic and, consequently, economic progress would have been more marked. However, in hindsight, that had less to do with the parliamentary system than with the flawed policy options exercised. The alternative, less-statist options that were proffered by stalwarts, could well have been accommodated within a parliamentary system. More to the point, a parliamentary system encouraged the development and consolidation of a party system that has certainly added to the democratic spirit. A presidential system may have done quite the opposite.

In any event, the role of a Constitution should not be over-stated. A Constitution is a valuable and, indeed, indispensable document without which a country can be held hostage to individual flights of whimsy. However, a Constitution stipulates the rules governing public life. It is important to have these rules as they delineate a Lakshman Rekha and defines self-restraint.

A Constitution, in the case of India, however, has its limits. India isn't a treaty state as many European and African countries are. There was an India before the Queen's Proclamation of 1858 and there was an India even before the Moghul kings set up a mighty empire. The boundaries of the state may have been defined by conquest and treaties but India as a nation - and a civilisational entity - had an autonomous existence, independent of the multiple kingdoms that existed in the subcontinent. The term 'sacred geography' is just one version of an India that operated at the level of a cultural entity.

The importance of stressing this on the 70th anniversary of the Indian Republic is obvious. There is an intellectual and political current in the country that would have us believe that the Constitution is the first and final word defining our national life. Without undermining its colossal importance in any way, it is necessary to affirm that Indian nationhood existed well before a Constitution was even imagined. It is a nationhood that, unlike European nations, isn't based on the commonality of either language or a structured faith. It is based on cultural assumptions.

The term Hindu has often been used to define India. If used in a sense that proceeds on the belief that Hinduism is a codified religion with an established church and hierarchy, it would be wrong. India possesses a broadly shared culture that is loosely speaking described as Hindu. But it is a culture that cannot and should not be codified. Secularism was sought to be codified in 1976 by including the term in the Preamble. The results have been disastrous. There have been more disputes centred on secularism after 1976 than there were in the period 1950-1976, when secularism existed as an understanding. The challenge India faces today is not one of a dysfunctional Constitution. The worry stems from an attempt to detach nationhood from citizenship and reduce India to a juridical tract, a plaything for clever lawyers and those who want to take culture away from our public life. The trend should and must be resisted. Bharat Mata holds the Constitution in one hand. What she carries is important and even sacred. But no more important and sacred than Bharat Mata herself.

5 die as coaching centre caves in

10 hurt as 4-storey building collapses in Delhi's Bhajanpura

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A four-storey building housing a coaching centre collapsed in Northeast Delhi's Bhajanpura on Saturday evening, killing five people, including four students, and injuring 10 others. Around 30 minor students were attending classes on the first two floors of the coaching institute, when the roofs of the upper two floors caved in, trapping the students under debris, officials said.



Rescue works underway after an under-construction coaching centre building collapsed in Bhajanpura area of New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

The deceased has been identified as Kirti (10), Deeshu (14), Krishna Bharti (9), Farhan (6), all students, and Umesh (30). They were declared brought dead at the Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital. Deceased Umesh was the younger brother of Shankar, who owns the building and runs the coaching centre.

"The fourth floor of the building was under construction when suddenly the upper two floors of the building collapsed. Some of the students were rescued by locals, while 13

others were rescued by the fire department and police," a senior DFS official said, adding a call regarding the tragedy was received at 4.30pm.

Laxmi, the mother of deceased Krishna and injured Nitin, said, "My children were studying there from past six months. They should not have moved them to the third floor as we heard from the other locals that the construction material was there. I lost my son Krishna and Nitin is injured. He is admitted at the GTB hospital." Arif Sultan, father of

deceased Farhan, said, "My daughter who is in Class VIII called me to inform about the incident. I rushed to the spot. I climb up the stair and I myself took out my child from the debris after around one and a half hour. He was not breathing. We took him to hospital where he was declared brought dead."

Taking note of the incident, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted: "Receiving bad news from Bhajanpura. Praying to God for everyone's safety. I will reach the spot soon."

R&R package for SCB project oustees announced

- ₹1 lakh to each family for transport expenses
- ₹1 lakh for relocation of religious establishment, club

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday approved a rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) package for the people who would be displaced for the renovation project of the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

The project aims at transforming the State's premier medical institution into a world-class hospital as per the decision, the Government would directly acquire the land owned by the individuals in an approved process for the project by paying them compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Government would provide Rs 1 lakh of financial assistance to each family for expenses towards transport and other emergency services.

The residents of the houses constructed in unauthorised manner have also been included under the package.

"Each affected family will be provided Rs 50,000 and will be allowed to construct their own houses on their expenses for a temporary period at the land belonging to the Cuttack Municipality Corporation (CMC) and the

district administration," said a release from the Chief Minister's Office.

The families would have to vacate the houses after being rehabilitated under the housing project carried out by the Government. The displaced families sheltered at temporary houses would be provided food for a maximum period of eight days. The CMC would make all arrangements for transport of the belongings of people for their relocation.

Besides, the Government announced to provide financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh to vendors and fish sellers registered under the CMC for their relocation apart from making a system to refund their security deposits.

The authorities would also allot places to the street vendors in the CMC vending zones on a priority basis.

The Government would also compensate the people who have built shops at their own lands under the Land Acquisition Act. The CMC authorities would bear transport expenses of the affected shopkeepers by paying them Rs 1 lakh each in two phases.

For unauthorised shops, the Government would pay Rs 30,000 each to the affected vendors while the street vendors would receive Rs 20,000 each for their relocation.

Bhopal gas tragedy activist awarded PadmaShri posthumously

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The 'voice' of thousands of 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy victims, Abdul Jabbar, the social activist fought for justice for the victims of the world's most infamous industrial disaster for almost 35 years, is one among the recipient of PadmaShri, posthumously.

'Jabbar Bhai' as he was fondly known to Old city residents, had breathed his last on Nov 14, 2019, due to ailments he suffered during 1984 tragedy.

The MP govt in acknowledgement of his selfless services to humanity had conferred him with Indira Gandhi Social Service Award after his demise.

He was 27, did odd jobs including illumination of movie hoardings when the catastrophe had struck the city on the intervening night of December 2 and 3 in 1984. The city was asleep, so as Jabbar, on a chilly night when Methyl IsoCyanate leaked from Union Carbide plant. After sensing the red chilli-like odour of the gas, Jabbar swung into action taking his mother to safety and rode around 40km to Obaidullaganj.

After leaving his mother at Rajendra Nagar area, he returned to his colony - just 1.5 km away from the plant - to fulfil his duty towards local residents. Jabbar, however, lost his

mother and elder brother on the fateful night.

On the personal front, he lost almost 50% vision in his eyes and had serious lung ailments due to the gas leak.

He, however, took up the fight against Union Carbide in the courts for adequate compensation for around 5 lakh victims and 25,000 who died (as per official records).

In 1987, he had set up Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangthan, a survivors' organisation demanding sustenance allowance and compensation for the victims, especially widows of the gas tragedy victims. In his lifetime, he imparted vocational training to

around 5,000 survivor women so that they could earn a livelihood for their families.

Apart from several agitations organised in Bhopal, he organised protest marches in the national capital, making quite a stir in Parliament.

After the compensation was doled out in year 1989 (though survivors still term it insufficient), Jabbar started focusing on skill development of those who were left with physical ailments after the tragedy. In all these years, Jabbar helped over 5,000 women get jobs through training imparted at his Swabhiman Kendra (an economic rehabilitation centre) in Old city.

Wishing you a Happy 71st Republic Day

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SHOW TIME

Interesting ode to comeback women

PANGA
*ing: Kangana Ranaut, Jassie Gill, Richa Chadda, Neena Gupta, Yo Yo Honey Singh
Rated: 8/10

Panga is an ode to comebacks after motherhood and to women who give up blossoming careers, celebrityhood and presence to nurse their children and families. That their is a disclaimer that it is a purely fictitious story, takes away the mirth attached to sporting movies. But having said that, Kangana kind of glides into the role of a yesteryear kabaddi captain now engrossed in raising her cute child and coter husband, at the expense of the international kabaddi mat and a career all her own. She makes the movie and her character entirely believable though you might want to credit director Ashwini Iyer for not even once playing to the gallery.

The movie and its music comes with a *Dangal* kind of rustic influence though this is Bhopal not Haryana that the action is centred around. The film holds on to the chords of sensitivity not just for the woman who gave it all up for her premature child but also for the gentle relationship she has with her husband and the scenario from where she is drawn out to dream again, to perform again, this time against all odds.

The pace of the movie is slow and steady and despite the fear of it getting hijacked by ennui, Iyer keeps her calm and let's the proceedings fall out of the home and the stadium



without much of a fuss. Richa Chadda as Kangana's friend and co-player now turned coach, is a breeze adding interesting moments to the film whenever it starts to flag. However, the role of this straight

speaking Haryanvi girl, is slim in the film and that makes you yearn for some more flesh on her being than the footage permits.

Same is the story with Neena Gupta who could have been much

more than a *laddoo*-making nani she is reduced to being in the film. a word about Jassie Gill. He is cool as the side spouse. It is Kangana all the way to yet another performance of the day.

Crackling dance performance

STREET DANCER 3D
*ing: Prabhu Deva, Varun Dhawan, Shradha Kapoor, Nora Fatehi
Rated: 6/10

If one is looking for a story that is a little beyond dancing, love thy neighbour and how one think of others and their plight, then *Street Dancer 3D* is not the film that will hold one's attention for long. But this doesn't mean that the movie has nothing to offer.

There is some great dancing. Those who are far removed from this art form, it will amaze them no end to where

dancing stands today — from flips to head spins that will spin your head to break dance steps that one would have thought would actually break bones.

Then there is the music and songs. It is a film of dance, so yes, there are some noteworthy music and songs that will remain with you till the next chartbuster is released. Then there is Varun Dhawan, Shradha Kapoor and Nora Fatehi. It goes without saying Varun Dhawan is a great dancer, he is most certainly give Tiger Shroff a run for his moves. Nora Fatehi is



fantastic. But the surprise here is Shradha Kapoor. Her size zero and moves are truly great. Efforts of choreographer Rahul Shetty

needs to be lauded. The icing on the cake is the presence of Prabhu Deva all through. Usually his appearance is in bits and pieces and only a few dance moves. There is a treat waiting for all those who are his fans and love the way he dances. *Street Dancer 3D* holds ground, even though have been better dance movies by Hollywood.

— Shalini Saksena

नगर पालिका परिषद, छतरपुर
की ओर से समस्त नगरवासियों को गणतंत्र दिवस की आलोक चुनौती

हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

- नगर को साफ स्वच्छ रखने में हर नागरिक अपना सहयोग करें
- करो का भुगतान समय पर करें
- जल का सदुपयोग करें, इसे व्यर्थ न बहायें
- घर का कचड़ा, कचड़ा गाड़ी में ही डालें।
- 1800233240484 पर 24 घंटे में शिकायत का निराकरण करायें।
- SWACHHATA MOUD APP डाउनलोड करें एवं शहर की समस्याओं को शिकायत करें।
- 12 घंटे में समस्या का समाधान पाएं।
- स्वच्छता को अलख जगाकर स्वच्छता सर्वेक्षण में छतरपुर को अग्रतम बनाएं।

अरुण पटेलिया
मुख्य नगरपालिका अधिकारी
नगर पालिका, छतरपुर (स.प्र.)

गणतंत्र दिवस की आलोक चुनौती

अतीत के सुनहरे पलों के साथ भविष्य के आगमन का उत्सव

यूनिफन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया की ओर से

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Plan Your Sunday

Double Bill Dance Concert
Venue: CD Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi
Date: January 26, 2020
Time: 7 pm

Vani Bhalla Pahwa is the senior-most disciple of Guru (Padmashree) Smt Bharati Shivaji, and was amongst the first students who began training under her since inception of her dancing years. She is presenting a repertoire of some soulfully beautiful and lyrical compositions choreographed by my Guru Padmashri (Smt) Bharati Shivaji, in a style she has grown and evolved with over several years, and which is so unique in its identity and grace.



The evening's performances will be a combination of items highlighting the distinctly characteristic body movements of Mohiniyattam, along with *abhinaya*. Double Bill Concert Series is a series where IIC presents two styles in an evening. There's Kathak before Vani Bhalla Pahwa.

Cup to a Cop
Venue: Coffee Culture outlets
Date: January 26, 2020

There's nothing like a hot and steamy cup of coffee on a cold winter day! To celebrate the culture of coffee with the spirit of the nation on the 71st Republic Day, Coffee Culture has launched honouring the real heroes of the nation through the 'Cup to a Cop' Campaign. Serving cappuccinos to the police officers on the road, the campaign pays tribute to the police officers who work day in and out to protect our nation selflessly.

In India, every cop serves for more than 800 citizens. Their constant efforts, bravery, and undying spirits largely goes unacknowledged. This Republic Day, Coffee Culture is thanking the police officers of India across 20+ cities and treating them with cups of joy as a gesture of gratitude.

Commemorating India's Constitutional republicanism, Coffee Culture is celebrating Republic Day serving encouraging the customers to be a part of the drive and contribute to serving a cup of creamy goodness to all the officers present on the road. The customers can contribute to Coffee Culture's nearest CC outlets or be a part of the 'Cup to a Cop' drive and celebrate their day with the community of coffee lovers.

Creating elements of the local culture, Coffee Culture is known for great coffee, delicious food and creating spaces for connecting with the local culture.

Oscars Film Festival
Venue: PVR Cinemas outlets
Date: Till January 30, 2020

PVR brings a lineup of acclaimed & Oscar nominated English films, as we countdown to the most elite award ceremony of the year — the 92nd Academy Awards. Celebrate the best in cinema at your favorite entertainment destination

OSCAR'S FILM FESTIVAL AT PVR

17th JAN TO 30th FEB, 2020

ENJOY UNINTERRUPTED SHOWS OF THIS YEAR'S BEST & BIGGEST OSCAR NOMINATED MOVIES

Ford V Ferrari, 1917, Bombshell, A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood, Frozen II- 2D, Knives Out and Star Wars: The Rise of the Skywalker are few of the films that will be screened as a part of the multi-city film festival.

लोकसभा का उत्सव

लेकरवा 35 वीं वर्ष

26 से 30 जनवरी, 2020 • सायं 7.00 बजे से रवीन्द्र भवन परिसर- भोपाल

समारोह का शुभारंभ डॉ. विजयलक्ष्मी साधु जंत्री, संस्कृति, विकिस्वा शिक्षा एवं आयुष विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश करेंगी.

आप सभी सादर आमंत्रित

मध्यप्रदेश शासन, संस्कृति विभाग का आयोजन

26 जनवरी: अलंकरण, गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह, पेटेड में ध्वजोत्थान, प्रतिक्रियाओं और जलियों के साथ स्वतंत्रता दिवस

27 जनवरी: देसांतर, अलंकरण, गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह, पेटेड में ध्वजोत्थान, प्रतिक्रियाओं और जलियों के साथ स्वतंत्रता दिवस

28 जनवरी: देसांतर, अलंकरण, गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह, पेटेड में ध्वजोत्थान, प्रतिक्रियाओं और जलियों के साथ स्वतंत्रता दिवस

29 जनवरी: देसांतर, अलंकरण, गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह, पेटेड में ध्वजोत्थान, प्रतिक्रियाओं और जलियों के साथ स्वतंत्रता दिवस

30 जनवरी: देसांतर, अलंकरण, गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह, पेटेड में ध्वजोत्थान, प्रतिक्रियाओं और जलियों के साथ स्वतंत्रता दिवस

26 से 30 जनवरी, 2020: रिव्यू मेला, गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह, पेटेड में ध्वजोत्थान, प्रतिक्रियाओं और जलियों के साथ स्वतंत्रता दिवस

'Design makes life excellent'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A week-long academic workshop on Sustainable Heritage Development organised under the joint venture of the International Centre for Inclusive Cultural Leadership, Anant University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat and the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, concluded on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Amareshwar Galla, Director, International Centre for Inclusive Cultural Leadership, Anant University, said that design makes life excellent. The work of heritage conservation has been mainly done by the people of the community.

Design is an important source to achieve an outcome at organisational or social levels that involves engagement, personal connections, interactions, partnerships.

Ethics provides an ethical, reversible and socially responsible approach to community engagement that is responsible for understanding community needs, ideas, and expectations, facilitating strong relationships between community members.

Besides, Galla said that Australia is the only country in the world where heritage conservation work is done by the

communities and for that, subsidy is also provided. In each country, various heritage works are being done, but no one pays attention to its maintenance. At the same time, in today's time, the construction of various valuable heritage is being done through the local vendors, rather than by the experts of the said art, thereby eliminating the originality of that art. He laid special emphasis on studying contemporary planning and architecture in the context of Indian culture.

He pointed out that the buildings built by British architects have given special attention to the characteristics of other cultures along with their local culture inherited.

At last, 25 Interns (architects, engineers, designers, artists) gave a presentation their observation and suggestions about the Tribal Habitat and Rock Art Heritage open air exhibition through slideshow.

The conduct, assessment and conclusion of the program were given by Dr. P. Shankar Rao (Assistant Keeper, IGRMS) and the vote of thanks was presented by Dr. S. K. Pandey (Assistant Keeper of IGRMS). On the occasion, the officials of IGRMS and students were present in a large number.

26-yr-old youth stabbed to death outside Central Jail premises at Gandhi Nagar



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Fueled by old enmity, a 26-year-old youth was stabbed to death by two miscreants outside Central Jail premises at Gandhi Nagar under Gandhi Nagar police station area on Saturday.

The deceased, identified as Raja Khan, was stabbed multiple times with a sharp-edged weapon by the two accused identified as Salman and Waseem.

The injured youth was rushed to a hospital where he was declared dead. The deceased was a resident of Ashoka Garden.

Police were informed and a police team reached the spot and after preliminary investigation, the body was sent for the post-mortem.

In the initial investigation, profuse bleeding was found due

to multiple stabbing.

During the investigation, police found that on Friday Raja had a fight with the two and later in the morning on Saturday, Raja had gone to meet Gufran who is serving jail term. The two accused had also gone to meet their acquaintance serving jail. When the two found him, they attacked him with a sharp-edged weapon and escaped from the spot.

The police have registered a case under section 302 of the IPC and have started further investigation. The deceased and the accused had fought earlier too but the reason of the fight remained unknown and would be investigated.

Till the filing of the report, the police were not able to trace the killers. Police said that the search for the miscreants has been intensified.

Jail inmate attacked with sharp-edged weapon

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 36-year-old jail inmate was attacked with a sharp-edged object at Central Jail under Gandhi Nagar police station area on Saturday.

According to the police, Shadab Chambal was attacked by Shahrugh over old enmity in their barrack during the day on Saturday. Shadab was rushed to a hospital inside the jail premises and is reportedly stable.

Police said that the victim is close aide of notorious criminal Mukhtar Malik and had a verbal spat with the accused Shahrugh. The verbal spat soon turned violent after Shahrugh attacked Shadab with a sharp-edged object in his face and got injury in his cheek.

The on-duty jail guards intervened and separated the two and later a complaint was lodged by jail guard Virendra Singh against Shahrugh of attacking the victim with a sharp edged object.

After the preliminary investigation, the police have registered a case of attacking with sharp edged object and have started further investigation.

Police suspects that the two engaged in the fight due to

The on-duty jail guards intervened and separated the two and later, a complaint was lodged by jail guard Virendra Singh against Shahrugh of attacking the victim with a sharp-edged object

old enmity. Shadab is member of Mukhtar Malik gang who is absconding for long. Shadab was released after providing treatment at the hospital inside central jail premises.

During the investigation it was found that the attack was an act of retaliation after Shahrugh and his aides were attacked earlier.

The two groups have fights which was over due to dominance in areas of the state capital and later in the jail they have fights over dominance in the jail. After the incident vigil has been increased and security has been tightened.

IN BRIEF

CM EXTENDS REPUBLIC DAY GREETINGS TO PEOPLE
Bhopal: Chief Minister Kamal Nath has extended Republic Day greetings to the citizens. In his message, he has said that the Republic Day is an occasion to repose faith in the constitutional values. He said that since adoption, the Constitution has become India's Soul. It is duty of every citizen to keep the Soul pure, keep it away from ills and properly safeguarded. He said that the body cannot survive long with suffering Soul. The Chief Minister said that excellent health of body and soul is a pre-requisite for progress and prosperity. He called upon people to discharge constitutional duties and keep on strengthening the republic.

STUDENTS GETTING 'PREAMBLE' LESSON
Bhopal: The Preamble to the Constitution of India is being taught in all Government schools across the State starting from Saturday. The Preamble was read in the presence of State Law Minister PC Sharma in Rajiv Gandhi School, Bhopal on Saturday. The Government of Madhya Pradesh had earlier decided that every Saturday, in all schools of Madhya Pradesh, there will be a recital of the preamble of the Constitution. Sharma said, "The children will know about the constitution of Ambedkar. They will know that the constitution is not to be tampered with and the fact that Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, and Christians are all one." Tomorrow is January 26, which is Constitution Day. It is the best constitution in the world. Hence, on the orders of the Chief Minister, a constitution lesson was taught in Rajiv Gandhi Government School," he added.

SC TO HEAR ENHANCED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT
New Delhi: The Supreme Court will hear on January 28, a petition filed by the Central Government seeking an enhanced settlement amount from Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) and reimbursement of relief and rehab expenses incurred by State and Centre after the Bhopal gas tragedy. A five-judge Constitution bench will hear the petition, which was filed in December 2010, from Jan 28. The petition seeks additional compensation of ₹ 7,413 crores and a re-examination of the apex court's February 14, 1989 judgment which fixed compensation at USD 470 million. The Central Government reportedly stated before the Supreme Court that the earlier settlement was based on incorrect assumptions on the number of deaths, injuries, and losses. The Bhopal gas tragedy, touted as the world's worst industrial disaster, had claimed the lives of over 15,000 people after the deadly methyl isocyanate gas leaked from the Union Carbide India Limited pesticide plant on the intervening night of December 2 and 3, 1984.

Combat Cyclothon held at Mhow

PNS ■ MHOW

Army War College Mhow organised Combat Cyclothon at Mhow to commemorate 71st Republic Day and mark the beginning of celebrations of AWC Golden Jubilee, which will be celebrated on April 21, 2021.

The event was conducted in following categories- Ultra Cycling (200 KM) -Jan 24, 2020, Josh Cycling (100 KM) -Jan 24, 2020, Amateur Cycling (Jam Gate & Back, 56 KM) -Jan 25, 2020 and Fun Cycling (Patal Pani & back, 18 KM) -Jan 25, 2020.

The Cyclothon was heavily subscribed by veterans, ladies, gentleman and children. Around 1600 persons participated including 655 school going children. The age group of participants varied from five years to 70 years.

Cycling has evoked high interest in Mhow with this event and the active Cycling Clubs of Mhow, like "Gears and Bears Cycling Club" of Army War College, which was conceived and brought into being by Lt Gen Dushyant Singh, PVSM, AVSM, Commandant, Army War College, was at the forefront of organising and participation in the event.

The Ultra Cycling category (200 KM) was subscribed with 50 participants and first position was bagged by Sachin Kumar Singh, who completed the route in 8 hr, 27 min, 15 sec. He was awarded with a Firefox Bicycle.



Pankaj Pardeshi and Ajay Yadav stood second and third respectively. To motivate the cyclists, Lt Gen Dushyant Singh participated in the Ultra Cycling, event finishing the route in 9 hr 32 min making it in Top-10.

The Josh Cycling of 100 KM evoked a high josh in the cycling from ladies. The participants travelled on Mhow - Manpur - Ratlam highway to pedal the route. Nb Sub Gurdip Singh stood first in this category by completing the route in 4 hr, 8 min, 28 sec and was awarded with a Firefox cycle. Col Jaideep

Sengupta, VrC, Retd and Capt Gulshan Kumar bagged second and third position respectively Usha Singh, President Family Welfare Organization, Army War College also participated in the event and successfully completed it.

The Amateur category of 56 KM was flagged off by Lt Gen Milind Bhurke, VSM, Commandant MCTE at 7 am on Jan 25, 2020 with 172 participants. Traversing the scenic beauty of interiors of Madhya Pradesh, the cyclists travelled to the Heritage site of Jam Gate.

Mixing pleasure with the competition, Ramkrishna Patel stood first in the event. Rifleman Ravi Gurung came in second and Maj SK Dey stood third.

Fun Cycling had the participation of 1300 cyclists from school students, NCC cadets and ladies. The cyclists went through the fold of grounds, enjoying the outskirts of Mhow and relishing the greenery around.

While enjoying the music of military band, peppy songs and scenic beauty of the 300 ft waterfall at Patal Pani, the cyclists paid

homage to the legendary Tanya Bheel, the tribal Robin Hood.

Chief Guest Sumitra Mahajan, Former Lok Sabha Speaker, gave away the prizes for all events. While addressing the gathering, she said the Army and Society has a very strong bonding and the training activities of institutes at Mhow reinvigorate the human soul and body, motivating us to rededicate us to the nation. She praised the Army War College for taking monumental step of organising this cycling event, rekindling the appreciation towards cycling and introducing this sport to our new generation of children. She highlighted that Indore has been a Cycle city 50 years ago and is again moving in that direction now. She complimented Lt Gen Dushyant Singh and Usha Singh for their accomplishments in the Cyclothon, where both of them completed 200 km and 100 km event in excellent timings and proving that age is just a number while any goal can be successfully achieved through sheer grit, dedication and passion.

Commandant Army War College felicitated the felicitators of the event by presenting memento to Rajesh Kumar, CGM, SBI, Naveen Saini, Proprietor, Bhanwarilal Mithaiwala and Mahesh Karda, Proprietor, Cycle World Indore. At the end Col Vivek Bhat was felicitated for the excellent conduct of the event by his team of officers, JCOs and other ranks.



Governor Lalji Tandon giving away voter identity cards to fresh voters at 10th National Voter's Day programme at Minto Hall in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Girl raped on false promise of marriage

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 19-year-old girl was sexually exploited for the past two years on the promise of marriage at Chola Mandir area. A case was registered after the victim lodged a complaint with Chola Mandir police on Friday.

According to the police, the victim was sexually assaulted by the accused, Sahilendra

Kushwaha, for the past two years as the two used to stay in a live-in arrangement.

The victim came into contact with the accused around three years ago and was lured by the accused of marriage in the year 2018 and later, they moved in a rented apartment in Chhola Mandir police.

The two developed relationship in 2018. The victim and

accused used to work with a marketing company.

Later, when the victim pressured him for marriage, the accused threatened her of life and escaped from his house. The victim informed her mother and they approached Chhola Mandir police and lodged a complaint on Friday.

The accused is still absconding.

State Govt to release 186 prisoners on Republic Day



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On Republic Day, the State Government will release total 186 prisoners including 5 women prisoners serving life sentence in various jails of the State. The Minister for Home and Jail Bala Bachchan told the

prisoners to be released on the Republic Day to leave the crime world after their release and work for the happiness of their families.

All the prisoners being released on the Republic Day have been punished under the crime of murder (Sec.-302 of IPC). They have served the sentence from 14 years to 20 years. The remaining punishment of these prisoners has been pardoned by the state government. Impunity has not been granted to the prisoners punished for rape and POCOS cases. The prisoners being released on the Republic Day have been given training of tailoring, carpentry, black smith, masonry, building material manufacturing etc. during their detention in jails to enable them to earn their livelihood after release.

The prisoners to be released are 20 of Central Jail-Ujjain, 13 of Satna, 27 of Gwalior, 11 of Badwani, 8 of Hoshangabad, 22 of Jabalpur, 23 of Rewa, 17 of Sagar, 3 of narsingpur, 23 of Indore and 19 of Central Jail-Bhopal.

Meanwhile, on the occasion of Republic Day, the President of India has honoured Deputy Jail Superintendent-Bhopal of Madhya Pradesh Priyadarshan Shrivastava with Vishisht Seva Medal. Along with him, the Assistant Jail Superintendent of Sabalgarh Sub-Jail Shalendra Kushwaha, Assistant Jail Superintendent of Central Jail-Rewa Sanjeev Kumar Nayak, Head Guard of District Jail-Datia Amjad Khan, Head Guard of Central Jail-Satna Ramesh Ojha and Health worker of Central Jail-Narsinghpur Sandhya Dhushiya have been honoured with Sarahnaiya Seva Medals.

Congratulating and extending best wishes the honoured jail employees, the Home and Jail Minister Bala Bachchan said that their dedication and honesty towards duty are inspirational. He hoped that the medals given to them this year will boost morale of jail officers and employees.

Salesman hit and robbed of mobile phone



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 35-year-old auto mobile salesman was hit and robbed of mobile phone by two bike-borne miscreants at Hamidia road under Hanumanganj police station area late in the night on Friday.

The victim, Ajay Sharma was hit and robbed of his mobile phone.

According to the police, the victim was hit by one of the bike borne hit him and snatched his mobile phone he was talking over.



A youth holds a tri-colour during a boat ride at Upper Lake on the eve of Republic Day in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Four injured in road accident

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Four persons were injured after a school bus and city bus collided at 7 number stop in the early morning hours on Saturday.

The collisions were massive and school bus turned upside down and skidded for few metres before ramming into foot path.

Fortunately, at the time of the accident, no students were in the bus as it was on its way to pick the students while in the city bus there were only two passengers.

The school bus bearing registration number MP04A9125 was hit while city bus bearing registration number MP46D0229 while trying

to overtake and hit school bus in middle part which turned the school bus upside down.

The driver of city bus escaped the spot while cleaner was rushed to JP hospital.

The driver of the school bus Mahesh Yadav said that the city bus was speeding and tried to overtake and hit the school bus.

Yadav sustained injuries in his head and escaped with injuries, his condition is reportedly stable.

Owner of the bus Antony who operates J & J Tour and Travels told that the bus is attached with the school. At the school practical exams are undergoing and school bus was on its bus to pick students of Old city area.

Kasturba College of Nursing
Habibganj, BHEL, Bhopal
(Affiliated to M.P. Medical Sciences University, Jabalpur)

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from suitable candidates having qualification and experiences as per INC's Norms for appointment of Tutors (three posts) and Assistant Professor (One Post) for Kasturba College of Nursing under college code - 28 of the University. Applications with complete details/ Biodata affixing a Passport size photograph, copy of self attested testimonials/ experience certificates along with a demand draft (non refundable) for Rs. 200/- drawn in favor of BHEL Shiksha Mandal A/c of Kasturba College of Nursing should reach to "The Secretary, BHEL Shiksha Mandal, MGM Dispensary Building, D-Sector, Piplani, Bhopal - (M.P) PIN- 462022 before 4.00 PM on/ before 10.02.2020. For details please visit BSM website www.bsmbhopal.com Any amendments / Corrigendum to the advertisement will be available on BSM website only.

Secretary
BHEL Shiksha Mandal

कार्यालय संयुक्त संचालक एवं अधीक्षक
हमीदिया चिकित्सालय, भोपाल

क्रमांक./क्रय शाखा, भंडार/ह.चि./2020 भोपाल दिनांक .../01/2020

निविदा आमंत्रण

हमीदिया चिकित्सालय में वर्ष 2020-21 तक की अवधि के लिए हमीदिया चिकित्सालय भोपाल (म.प्र.) में आक्सीजन एवं नाईट्रस ऑक्साईड गैस को विभिन्न क्षमता के खाली सिलेंडरों में गैस भरने संबंधी ई-निविदा दिनांक 20.02.2020 को दोपहर 12 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है।

उपरोक्तनुसार निविदा संबंधी विस्तृत जानकारी ई-पोर्टल www.mptenders.gov.in पर दिनांक 18.01.2020 से उपलब्ध है। निविदा में परिवर्तन संबंधी जानकारी भी पोर्टल पर देखी जा सकती है जिसका पृथक से प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।

संयुक्त संचालक एवं अधीक्षक
हमीदिया चिकित्सालय, भोपाल

G-22065/20

CORRECTION OF NAME

The general public is informed that earlier I was known as Gourav, now my name has changed to Gourav Halduniya, so in future, now I will be known and recognized by this name.

GOURAV HALDUNIYA
Father Rajesh Halduniya
Address: 1249 B Vidur Nagar Ahirkhedhi House No. 145, 2 and Indore Madhya Pradesh 452009



Minister for School Education, Prabhuram Chaudhary, going through an exhibition during his visit to Government middle school at Neelbad, in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

BJP, BJD in blame game over airport mishap

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Hours after a portion of the Link Building at the airport here collapsed on Friday night, major political parties got involved in a blame game on Saturday. While the BJP saw some connections between the ruling party and the contractor who was awarded the construction work, the BJD, while terming the incident as unfortunate, asked the BJP not to politicise the issue.

BJD spokesperson Sasmith Patra said, "We demand that the family of the man killed in the incident get adequate compensation and the injured get treatment free of cost. Unlike the BJP, the BJD doesn't get involved in politics." Patra demanded that a detailed probe be carried out into the incident and action be taken against the persons

responsible for it.

BJP State spokesperson Golak Mohapatra said, "Surprisingly when our party has not issued any statement on the mishap, the BJD has started pointing fingers towards us. When a portion of Bomikhal bridge collapsed a few years back, we had hit the streets. The then Works Secretary was given a BJD ticket to contest from the Sambalpur Lok Sabha constituency during recent polls."

Mohapatra asked whether there is any connection between airport work contractor Dilip Khatai and the BJD or any bureaucrat is having links with the contractor. "It seems the BJD is trying to shield the contractor. A probe should be launched to find out the contractor's connection with the ruling party and what other contracts he has bagged."



TV actress and State icon of Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission, Divyanka Tripathi Dahiya, with her husband Vivek Dahiya poses for a selfie during a programme organised on National Voter's Day at Minto Hall in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Desert Locust in Punjab: No immediate threat but vigilance needed



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA

In what could be an alarming sign for the farmers of Punjab, presence of locust hoppers in small numbers or groups (of five to 20 hoppers) have been found in districts of Fazilka, Sri Muktsar Sahib and Bathinda.

The surveillance by the scientists of Punjab Agricultural University at PAU Regional Research Station at Abohar and officials of the State department of Agriculture has revealed the presence of the locust hoppers, a Government statement said on Saturday.

The statement said these hoppers in small number or groups do not cause any economic damage to agricultural and horticultural crops unless they appear in swarms that comprise of hundreds of thousands of these hoppers.

"Recent surveys have confirmed the presence of locust hoppers in small numbers in Villages of Gumjal, Dangarkhera, Punjab, Panniwala Mahala, Arachiki, Bhangarkhera, Roopnagar, Bareka, Bakainwala, Hariपुरa, Khuian Sarvar of district Fazilka and in Raniwala, Midda, Aspal, Virk Khera, Bhagars and some other villages of Sri Muktsar Sahib," the statement said.

Officials said the current excursions of desert locust hoppers are well monitored and suitable control measures are in place. They said these small non-breeding adult hopper groups do not carry serious threat and are not expected to cause economic damage to crops.

The farmers have been advised to be vigilant for the

desert locust in their areas and need not to panic or opt for spraying of pesticides. "Whenever and wherever the population of desert locust is found exceeding the economical threshold level (10,000 adults/ha and 5-6 hoppers/bush), immediate control measures are pressed into operation by the LWO and State department officials," the statement said.

Locust hoppers are easily identifiable; the young immature adults being pink in color while the old ones become dark grey or yellow with dark purple to black mandibles.

Dr PK Chhuneja, Head Department of Entomology at PAU Ludhiana, said the current spotting of locust hoppers in small numbers in Punjab do not carry serious threat but we need to guard against fresh incursions from across the border, in view of expected post-winter temperature rise and availability of crop vegetation over large contiguous area.

"The farmers of border districts of Punjab need to be more vigilant and inform the PAU or State department of Agriculture officials or the nearest Locust Circle office for any new incursions of desert locust, so that control measures, if required can be taken up to control the menace," he said.

Officials said Locusts are the short-horned grasshoppers with highly migratory habit, marked polymorphism and voracious feeding behavior. India has not witnessed any full blown locust cycles after 1962, however, during 1978 and 1993, large scale upsurges were observed. They said localised locust

The statement said these hoppers in small number or groups do not cause any economic damage to agricultural and horticultural crops unless they appear in swarms that comprise of hundreds of thousands of these hoppers

breeding has also been reported and controlled during the period 1998, 2002, 2005, 2007 and 2010. Since 2010, situation remained calm and no major breeding and swarm formation have been reported. However, solitary phase of desert locust has been reported from time to time at some locations in Rajasthan and Gujarat. The Locust Warning Organization (LWO) undertakes regular surveys in the scheduled desert area of Rajasthan and Gujarat to monitor the presence of desert locust and ecological conditions.

During the survey, an assessment is made to determine, if the locust numbers have crossed the economic threshold level (ETL) which is 10,000 adults per hectare and 5-6 hoppers/bush that may require control.

50th Statehood day: HP CM presides over function

5% DA announced

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Giving a gift to the employees and pensioners of the state on the 50th Statehood day, Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday announced 5 per cent DA for them from July 1, 2019. This would ensure financial benefit of over Rs 250 crore to the employees and pensioners.

Presiding over the function, he said the Golden jubilee year of the Statehood would be celebrated by organising 51 programmes throughout the year in different parts of the State to trace its developmental journey, urging people to be part of this celebration.

The Chief Minister hoisted the National Flag and took

salute from the march past by contingents of Police, Homeguards, NCC cadets, NSS Cadets, Scouts and Guides and school Children. Assistant Superintendent of Police Ashok Rattan led the Parade.

Thakur also unveiled the Golden Jubilee Plaque on the occasion to mark the 50th Statehood day. He said the State during these 49 years has witnessed unprecedented development in all spheres, credit of which goes to the active support and cooperation of the people of the State besides able leadership provided by the successive Governments.

He said the present State Government completed two year in the office on December 27, 2019, and significant efforts were made to provide benefits

of developmental schemes to all areas and sections of the State by launching innovative and new welfare and development oriented schemes.

Thakur referred to new schemes such as Jan Manch, Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline, Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana, Himcare and Sahara, pointing out that these have yielded good results and Himachal Pradesh has emerged as the second best State in the country in overall performance due to effective implementation of welfare schemes. The State has achieved first place in the 'State of the States' Award in the fields of education and health, he added.

Expressing concern over the increasing cases of drug abuse particularly amongst the youth, Chief Minister said

that the State Government has taken concerted steps to check this social vice.

He said that for this the active participation of every citizen is required.

The Chief Minister also honoured the participants of cultural programme and Parade Commanders on the occasion. A colourful cultural programme was also held on the occasion.

Irrigation and Public Health Minister Mahender Singh Thakur, MLAs Inder Singh, J.R. Katwal, Subhash Thakur, Rajinder Garg, Chief Secretary Anil Kumar Khachi, Director General of Police SR Mardi, Director Information and Public Relations Harbans Singh Brascon, amongst others attended the function.

Republic Day: Multi-layered security chain in place

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

As the Steel City gears up to celebrate Republic Day, security has been beefed up in the city. The district level main function would be held at Gopal Maidan, Bistupur and the flag hoisting will take place at 9:05 am. Various committees were constituted comprising officials of civil and police administration to review the preparedness as far as rehearsal, tableau demonstration and logistics at the venue of the main function are concerned.

East Singhbhum deputy commissioner Ravi Shanker Shukla said that the parade for Republic Day main function would be held at the Gopal Maidan.

Students from as many as 20 schools would be taking part in the rehearsal of the parade along with units of Rapid Action Force (RAF), Jharkhand Armed Police (JAP) and district police.

These apart, tableaux would be presented by civil organizations, NGOs and social organization, corporate sectors and public sector undertakings during the march past to be held after flag hoisting scheduled at 9.05 am on January 26.

There would be no-entry restriction for heavy vehicles on January 26 from morning to night (6 am to 10 pm). According to sources in district administration the national flag would be hoisted this year by deputy commissioner at Gopal Maidan.

The city has been wrapped up in a multi-layered security chain on view of Republic Day. Though Intelligence reports have not specified any particular threat perception, a general alert has been sounded across the city.

Over a thousand police personnel have been posted in and around the city and at all vital installations as part of the beefed-up security measures on the eve of Republic Day.

Adequate police personnel have been posted in around the Gopal Maidan, the venue of the main republic day celebrations in the city.

Chaibasa, Lohardaga case: BJP holds silent protest

PNS ■ RANCHI

The State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday held a silent protest near Raj Bhavan against the State Government's action, in which it prevented a delegation of BJP to meet with the family members of victim.

A delegation of BJP leaders also submitted a memorandum to Jharkhand Governor Draupadi Murmu in this regard.

The State BJP showed aggressive stance against the State Government with allegations of deteriorating law and order after Hemant Soren became the Chief Minister of Jharkhand. BJP leaders led by former Chief Minister Raghubar Das, the State BJP Chief, Laxman Gilua and almost all MLAs of the party participated in the protest. The BJP leaders also submitted a memorandum to Governor Draupadi Murmu, protesting against the mass massacre of seven tribals at Gudri in Chaibasa and stone pelting on a rally in support of the Citizenship Amendment Act in Lohardaga took place Thursday.

Rajya Sabha MP, Sameer Oraon, Senior BJP leader and Ranchi MLA, CP Singh, former Legislative Assembly



A delegation of Bharatiya Janata Party leaders led by State president Laxman Giluwa meets Governor Droupadi Murmu at Raj Bhawan in Ranchi on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Speaker Dinesh Oraon, Lohardaga MP Sudarshan Bhagat and Neera Yadav among the prominent faces of the party who were present at the Rajya Bhavan in a one-day silent protest. The party demanded to the Governor that the whole issue should be investigated by a High Level judicial committee.

Former Chief Minister, Ragubar Das said on the occasion that Chief Minister Hemant Soren had given clear indication after holding his first Cabinet meeting. "The

government has fueled the anti-national forces which has involved in the killing of innocent tribals. The Government which is saying that it is pro tribal but massacre of tribal taking place in the Government," he added.

The BJP leaders, who were holding placards in their hands, demanded the arrest of the accused.

A delegation of BJP MPs was going to meet the families of the slain tribals on Friday which was prevented by the State Police at

Karaikela in Chaibasa District. Citing security, Section 144 has been imposed in the area. Angered by this action of the Administration, the investigation team staged a protest near Karaikela under Sonuva Police Station. The MPs shouted slogans against the State Government. After this they sat on Chakradharpur-Ranchi National Highway 75, which blocked the jam for one and a half hours. After seven hours of sit-in, the BJP leaders finally had to return.

Uttarakhand Guv, CM greet people on Republic day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Governor of Uttarakhand, Baby Rani Maurya, and Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat greeted the people of the State on the occasion of the 71st Republic day. In her message, the Governor said that the Uttarakhand is also completing 20 years of its creation this year. Terming women as the axis of development of the State, she said that State Government is providing ample opportunities of employment to women.

She said that the State has also taken the task of dou-

bling the income of farmers by the year 2022.

In his message on the eve of the Republic day, CM said that the State Government has inculcated the mantra of Trade, Technology and Tourism given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is following the path of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas'.

He said that the State Government is committed to ensure that the all the schemes are common person centric and officials have been directed clearly on it.

The CM said that in accordance with the basic aspiration

Meri Yatra App launched by CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched 'Meri Yatra' app devised by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) on Saturday. Appreciating the App the CM said that the App should also include information about special places of the State. He said that updates about places

of tourist interests and the disaster management would be available in the App.

The commandant of SDRF, Tripti Bhatt said that an effort to provide information and services simultaneously has been made in the App. She claimed that many more features would be added in the App.

of people during creation of a separate State, effective measures are being taken to stop migration and bringing improvement in the life of the person standing last on the social pyramid.

He added that growth centres at the level of Nyaya Panchayats are being set up so as to provide self employment opportunities to the rural youth.

For wholesome development, centres of excellence are being created at schools, colleges and Universities.

In his message, the CM also reiterated his commitment towards making

Uttarakhand free from corruption, ensuring cleanliness of Ganga, water conservation and sanitation. He said that the State has taken a target to link all the villages with roads.

Rawat said that though Uttarakhand is a small mountainous State but it is contributing effectively in the ecology and economy of the country.

The growth rate of the State is better than that of the country and at ₹1,98,738 per capita income of Uttarakhand is ₹72,332 more than PCI of India.

He claimed that long pending work on construction of

Dobra Chanthi Bridge in Tehri would be completed before March this year. He added that under Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana, a health cover of ₹5 lakh is provided to every family in one year and the State Government has completed the task of providing electricity to every household. Highlighting the effort of his Government to remove malnutrition, Rawat said that officers have been encouraged to adopt such children.

He said that 5.5 Lakh farmers have benefited from the loan provided under PM Kisan Nidhi Yojana.

The Government has also

started a "farm machinery bank scheme" for the farmers under which 80 percent subsidy is being provided.

The State has benefited from the Investors summit and projects worth ₹18,000 crore have been grounded so far.

The CM also mentioned the pine needle and biomass based power production schemes in his statement.

He said that "home stays" are becoming the source of income for the villagers and the State Government is developing 13 theme-based destinations in all 13 districts.

REPUBLIC DAY

Gallantry awards for over 1K cops

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over 1,000 police personnel will be conferred President's police medal for gallantry award and distinguished service on the eve of Republic Day. These include four President's Police Medals for Gallantry; 286 Police Medals for Gallantry; 93 President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and 657 Police Medal for Meritorious Service. In the list of police personnel listed for the honour, the Jammu & Kashmir Police have the maximum names at 108 followed by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at 76.

The tally for the Union Territory police, involved in counter-terrorist operations in the Kashmir Valley, also includes three President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG), out of the total four of top category decorations announced this time.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, three from Jammu and Kashmir Police and one from CRPF will receive the highest honour. Both the forces are engaged in counter terror operations in newly-created union territory. Abdul Jabbar (IPS), Gh. Hassan

Sheikh (Deputy Superintendent of Police) and Asif Iqbal Qureshi (Constable) from Jammu & Kashmir and Late Constable Utpal Rabha (Posthumous) will receive the highest police gallantry award for their valour during counter terror operations.

Out of 286 police personnel who will receive second highest honour for valour - Police Medal for Gallantry, total 105 personnel from Jammu & Kashmir Police and 75 from CRPF will receive the medal. Jharkhand Police has been given 33, Odisha police 13, Delhi Police 12, Maharashtra Police 10, Chhattisgarh eight and Bihar Police get seven Police Medal for Gallantry.

CBI Joint Director DS Shukla, an ace investigator who headed a team that deported the first Indian national from the UAE besides cracking several cases, is among 28 officers of the agency who have been awarded the President's and police medals for meritorious service. Deputy SP Ramaswamy Parthasarathy, who famously climbed the walls of former Finance Minister P Chidambaram's bungalow in Jor Bagh to arrest

him in the INX Media case, has also been conferred with the medal. Superintendent of Police Binay Kumar of special crime unit, who has a knack of solving complex murder cases including infamous Kherlanji murders of 2006, Pawanraje Nimbhalkar murder, Rinehskhem Kharsohnoh murder case of Meghalaya, Kavita Rani murder case of Meerut has been awarded Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

According to the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), 15 officials were awarded the police service medal on the eve of Republic Day. Second-in-command-rank officer Ratan Singh Sonal, Section Officer C Durai Raj and deputy inspector general AS Rawat and Nishith Chandra were among the officials decorated with the distinguished and meritorious medal. Inspector General DK Dimri, DIG SK Sharma and second-in-command-rank officer RK Joshi were also among the recipients of the medal.

According to the ministry, 29 CISF officials, including five from the fire wing, have been decorated with different police service medals on the eve of the Republic Day. The

awardees include senior Commandant Vishnu Swarup, Commandant HK Brahma and Assistant Commandant Abdus Salam. Officers awarded the distinguished service medal include Deputy Inspector General Sanjay Prakash, Assistant Commandant Harish Singh Karmyal, Assistant Sub Inspector Rajender Babu. Five officials have been decorated with the fire service medals including ASs Rashpal Dass and Darmiyam Singh.

A total 93 police personnel will receive President's Police Medal (PPM) for Distinguished Service and maximum are from Intelligence Bureau with eight medals. Four SSB personnel have been awarded the PMG this Republic Day for killing a dreaded Naxal commander in Jharkhand who was wanted for fatally ambushing an SP-rank officer of the state in 2013.

Four officers & personnel of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been awarded with the Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

A total 657 personnel receive Police Medal for Meritorious Service and maximum are from Uttar Pradesh police with 72 awards.

Raj becomes third State to pass resolution against CAA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress-ruled Rajasthan on Saturday became the third State to pass a resolution urging the Centre to revoke the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) even as the party announced its plans to move a resolution in the Assembly in Kerala, where, interestingly, it is in Opposition, to seek Governor Arif Mohammad Khan's recall for "violating" all democratic principles and "publicly questioning" the pride of the legislature. The Government said the passing of the resolution is a conspiracy to divide the country and is not acceptable, the BJP accused the ruling Congress of pursuing appeasement politics.

Governor Khan welcomed the recall plans but said whatever he did is part of his duty as per the Constitution and as interpreted by the Supreme Court also. The Governor's statement came hours after the leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala said the party will move a resolution in the Assembly seeking his recall. Chennithala said that he has given a notice to Speaker P

Sreeramakrishnan seeking his permission to move the resolution in the Assembly under the rule 130 of the legislative business.

Left-ruled Kerala and Congress-ruled Punjab were the first two States to pass such a resolution. The Rajasthan Assembly passed by voice vote the resolution urging the Centre to repeal the CAA. The resolution also asked the Centre to withdraw the new fields of information that have been sought for updation in National Population Register (NPR), 2020.

"It is evident that the CAA violates the provisions of the Constitution. Therefore, the House resolves to urge upon the government of India to repeal the CAA to avoid any discrimination on the basis of religion in granting citizenship and to ensure equality before law for all religious groups of India," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal said while moving the resolution in the House. Congress-ruled Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are likely to follow suit soon even though a section of party leaders like Kapil Sibal, Salman

Khurshid have pointed to the futility of such exercises.

Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria questioned the right to challenge the Act in the State Assembly. "The Congress should stop doing appeasement and vote bank politics," he said.

Union Minister Gajendra S Shekhawat said the passing of resolution in Assembly amounts to murdering the democracy. "Assemblies are going beyond limited autonomy granted by Constitution by passing these resolutions. This is a conspiracy to divide the country and is not acceptable." For his part, reacting to Chennithala's remarks, Khan said: "Everyone is entitled to their opinion. I am the constitutional head of the state. It's my duty to advise, counsel, encourage and warn the government. It's part of my duty as per the Constitution and as interpreted by the Supreme Court also."

Khan also ruled out any confrontation with the government, but reiterated that the state's move to approach the apex court against CAA without informing him was not right.

India, Brazil ink 15 pacts, unveil action plan to broadbase ties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the objective to give a boost to ties between the two countries, India and Brazil on Saturday signed 15 agreements and unveiled an action plan to further broadbase strategic ties after talks here between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Jair Messias Bolsonaro, who is the chief guest for the Republic Day parade on Sunday.

The action plan includes two countries firming up specific goals for deeper cooperation in areas of defence and security, trade and commerce, agriculture, civil aviation, energy, environment, health and innovation and vowed to work together to conclude an agreement to deal with international terrorism.

The major focus of the talks between Modi and Bolsonaro was on boosting bilateral trade and investment as both the large economies were hit by global economic slowdown.

In this backdrop, the 15 agreements will provide for cooperation in a wide range of areas including oil and gas, mineral resources, traditional medicine, animal husbandry, bio-energy and trade and investment. Terming Brazil a valuable partner in India's economic growth, Modi, while summing

the outcome of his talks with Bolsonaro, said "Your visit to India has opened a new chapter in ties between India and Brazil." "Despite geographical distance, both India and Brazil are together on various global issues as there is convergence in our views," Modi said in his media statement in the presence of Bolsonaro.

Bolsonaro said the two countries have further strengthened the already strong ties by signing 15 agreements which will provide for cooperation in a range of areas.

STREAMING, SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

RS panel suggests separate adults section

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh-headed Adhoc Committee of the Rajya Sabha has recommended separate adult section on streaming platforms like Netflix and social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook where under-aged children could be disallowed. It said social media platforms should also have mechanism for age verification and restricting access to objectionable/obscene material.

The Committee recommended 40 changes including in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act), 2012 and the Information Technology Act, 2000, Indian Penal Code and making monitoring apps mandatory on all devices to prevent sexual abuse of children and to contain access to and transmission of child pornography content on the social media.

The Committee sought inclusions of a clause in the POCSO Act, 2012 under which

advocating or counseling sexual activities with a person under the age of 18 years through any written material, visual representation or audio recording or any characterisation is made an offence under the Act.

It also sought another clause to be inserted in the POCSO Act prescribing a Code of Conduct for intermediaries (online platforms) for maintaining child safety online, ensuring age appropriate content and curbing use of children for pornographic purposes. The Committee recommended a new section be included in the IT Act 2000, providing for punitive measures for those providing pornographic access to children and also those who access, produce or transmit Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM). The Committee also recommended that social media sites and apps are required to issue age restriction warnings at the point of account creation/sign up that advises parents not to assist minors in the creation of underage accounts.

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REMAIN NON-VIOLENT WHEN FIGHTING FOR CAUSE, PRESIDENT TELLS COUNTRYMEN

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of protests against the new citizenship law, though without directly referring to it, President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday urged people, particularly the youth, to remain non-violent when fighting for a cause and stressed on the need to "hold fast to constitutional methods" of achieving social and economic objectives.

In his customary address to the nation on the eve of 71st Republic Day, Kovind cited

Mahatma Gandhi's gift of 'Ahimsa' (non-violence) to the humanity and said that his talisman for deciding whether an act is right or wrong "applies to the functioning of our democracy".

Stressing that both the government and the opposition have "important roles to play", the President said "while giving expression to their political ideas both must move forward in tandem to ensure that development of the country and welfare of its people are promoted consistently".

Earlier, on the occasion of the 10th National Voters Day, Kovind lamented that there are some voters who do not understand the importance of their right to exercise franchise and reminded them that in several countries people had to struggle to get it. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu and other leaders across the country extended their greetings to the people on the day with the theme being "Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy".

Nepal offers to mediate between India, Pakistan

Kathmandu: Nepal on Saturday became the first South Asian nation to offer to "mediate" between India and Pakistan over Kashmir and cross-border terrorism with a Nepal Government source underlining the importance of dialogue between the two arch-rivals to resolve their differences that could also lead to the revival of the SAARC.

Tensions between India and Pakistan have spiked since India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu & Kashmir in August last year. India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian envoy. "Peaceful talks and discussions are the best ways to resolve any problems. There may be contradictions and differences but it can be resolved through dialogue. If necessary, we can play the role of the mediator as Nepal is an independent, neutral and peace loving country," the source said here.

The source, however, said that better solution to resolve the issues would be to develop better dialogue between two countries.

"We can be instrumental,



but it will be better (for the two sides) to develop direct contact," the source told a group of visiting Indian journalists.

Earlier this week, US President Donald Trump repeated his offer to "help" resolve the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan during his meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

New Delhi maintains that there is no scope for any third-party mediation between India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

"When we come together, sit together and share views then things will be resolved. In every situation, we have to sit together and try to resolve the problem otherwise things can be deteriorated," the Nepalese source said.

Expressing concern over the uncertainty prevailing over the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit, the source said the eight member grouping should be revitalised and misunderstandings should be removed.

"SAARC is not dead. It is alive. Only thing is that we have not met. Hope we can revive it," he said.

The last SAARC Summit in 2014 was held in Kathmandu, which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The 2016 SAARC summit was to be held in Islamabad. But after the terrorist attack on an Indian Army camp in Uri in Jammu & Kashmir on September 18 that year, India expressed its inability to participate in the summit due to "prevailing circumstances". PTI

SSB stops allowances to troops for 2 months due to paucity of funds

New Delhi: Border guarding force SSB has put on hold payment of arrears and other allowances to its troops for January and February owing to "paucity" of funds, official sources said on Saturday.

All arrears will be released to the employees in March, they said.

They said the headquarters of the paramilitary force here has alerted all its formations in the country that the funds are "hardly sufficient" to pay the regular salary of the staff for the months of January and February, therefore no other bills for the about 90,000 personnel strength force will be entertained.

According to a latest order accessed by PTI, the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has informed its field units that no arrears of pay or allowances like leave encashment claims will be given for January and February due to paucity of funds.

Owing to this condition, the order issued on January 23 under the 'most immediate' category said "no other claims except regular (salary) bills of January and February will be entertained".

When contacted, officials said while the salary of the force personnel will "absolutely" be not affected for the current and the next month, all arrears will be released to the employees in March.

"This is a routine and temporary exercise done to tide off fund crunch at times. It has happened in the past as well. All arrears and other payments will be cleared by March," a senior official said. Last year, a delay in Government sanction of additional funds of Rs 800 crore for the CRPF had prompted the paramilitary force to order temporary stopping the ration money allowance (RMA) for its troops. PTI

Anyone who opposes BJP's agenda of hate dubbed as Urban Naxal: Rahul Gandhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday hit out at the Centre alleging that anyone who opposes the ruling BJP's "agenda of hate" is dubbed as an "Urban Naxal".

A day after the Centre handed over the Bhima-Koregaon case to the NIA, Rahul attacked the central agency saying its "stooges" can never erase "the symbol of resistance". "Anyone who opposes the MOSH agenda of hate is an 'Urban Naxal'."

"Bhima-Koregaon is a symbol of resistance that the Government's NIA stooges can never erase," he said on Twitter.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) took over the probe into the 2018 Koregaon-Bhima violence on Friday, a day after the Maharashtra Government held a review meeting with senior Pune police officers to take a call on pursuing the matter.

Cong OK's new office-bearers of U'khand State unit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday nodded the formation of a jumbo Pradesh Congress Committee for Uttarakhand with 22 vice presidents, 31 general secretaries and 98 secretaries.

The new committee was approved by Congress president Sonia Gandhi after she accepted the recommendations made by senior party leaders in-charge for the state and in consultation with senior leaders from the state.



Sunil Gulati has been made the new Treasurer of the Uttarakhand PCC.

Among the 90 special invitees to the committee are former chief minister Harish Rawat, Indira Hridesh, Kishore Upadhyay and others.

The Uttarakhand PCC is headed by MLA Pritam Singh.

Human chain in Kerala against CAA today

Thiruvananthapuram: While the country will celebrate its 71st Republic Day on Sunday, Kerala will witness a massive protest led by the CPI(M) led Left Democratic Front in the form of a State-wide human chain, demanding withdrawal of the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act.

The LDF has organised the 620 km long human chain from Kasaragod in north Kerala to Kaliyakkavilai in the southernmost part of the state and expect about 60 to 70 lakh people to participate in it.

The human chain will be formed at 4 PM following which the preamble of the Constitution will be read out.

"All the leaders of the ruling front will join the chain at various parts of the state."

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will join the protest in Thiruvananthapuram.

We will read out the preamble of the Constitution and then take an oath to protect the Constitution," LDF convener A Vijayaraghavan had said.

Senior CPI(M) leader S Ramachandran Pillai will be the first link of the human chain at Kasaragod, while M A Baby will be the last link at Kaliyakkavilai.

"We have invited all the prominent personalities in the state from all walks of life. We also expect UDF leaders to join us in the fight to protect the Constitution," Vijayaraghavan had said.

The Left front has been in the forefront of anti-CAA protests in Kerala and had organised various protests across the State. PTI

Padma Vibhushan for Jaitley, Sushma, Fernandes posthumously; Parrikar given Padma Bhushan

New Delhi: Former Union Ministers Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj and George Fernandes, Olympian boxer Mary Kom and former Mauritius Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth were among seven prominent personalities awarded the Padma Vibhushan on Saturday, the Home Ministry announced.

Famous classical bhajan singer from Varanasi Channulal Mishra and Vishvateertha Swamiji Sri Pejavar Adhokhaja Matha Udipi, who passed away recently, have also been given the highest Padma award - Padma Vibhushan.



Former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, industrialists Anand Mahindra and Venu Shrinivasan, Olympian badminton player PV Sindhu, former Nagaland Chief Minister SC Jamir and Jammu & Kashmir politician Muzaffar Hussain Baig have been awarded the Padma Bhushan, a Home Ministry statement said. The awards are announced on the eve of Republic Day.



Jaitley, Swaraj, Fernandes, Parrikar and Vishweshwara Teertha Swami have been awarded posthumously, the officials said.



This year the President has approved conferment of 141 Padma awards including four duo cases (in a duo case, the award is counted as one), the statement said.



"Thirty four of the awardees are women and the list also includes 18 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 12 posthumous awardees," it said.

Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards - are conferred in three categories - Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

Sixteen people have been given the Padma Bhushan and 118 the Padma Shri.

Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of high order and Padma Shri for distinguished service in any field.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the Padma awardees, saying they include extraordinary people.

"Congratulations to all those who have been conferred the Padma Awards," he tweeted.

From Bollywood, filmmakers Karan Johar and Ekta Kapoor and actor Kangana Ranaut have been awarded Padma Shri.

Singers Suresh Wadkar and Adnan Sami, as well as veteran TV actor Sarita Joshi have been conferred with the fourth highest civilian award of the country. Six sports persons including cricketer Zaheer Khan, current Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, former Indian men's hockey player M P Ganesh, shooter Jitu Rai, former Indian women's football team captain Oinam Bembem Devi and archer Tarundeep Rai have been given Padma Shri.

Naukri.Com founder Sanjeev Bikhchandani, industrialist Bharat Goenka, technocrat Nemnat Jain have been conferred the Padma Shri. The award has also been given to Lucknow-based historian and journalist Yogesh Praveen and Assam-based historian Jogenendra Nath Phukan have been awarded Padma Shri. There are 21 'unsung' heroes who were given Padma Shri this year including Jagdish Lal Ahuja, who serves free food to patients and attendants outside PGI hospital in Chandigarh; Mohammed Sharif from Faizabad, who has performed last rites of over 25,000 unclaimed bodies and veterinarian from Assam Kunal Konwar Sarma who is known for treating elephants. Seventy-two-year-old Tulasi Gowda from Karnataka, who earned the sobriquet "encyclopedia of forests" because of her vast knowledge of diverse plants species in spite of lacking formal education, has also been given the award, it said.

Trade Ministers discuss priorities for WTO's June ministerial meet

Davos: Trade Ministers from 35 member countries of the WTO, including Piyush Goyal from India, met here on the sidelines of the WEF 2020 to discuss priorities and preparations for the June ministerial meeting of the global trade body.

The informal gathering of the WTO members and the WTO General Director Roberto Azevedo was held on Friday at the invitation of Swiss

Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin. The group met to discuss and define their priorities for the 12th WTO ministerial conference to be held from 8 to 11 June 2020, at Nur-Sultan in Kazakhstan, a post-meeting statement said. It said the meeting on the fringes of WEF Davos summit was attended by 35 members of the WTO, who represent a wide spectrum of trade policy interests. **PTI**

Govt nominates Dabash Panda on SBI board

New Delhi: The Government has nominated Dabash Panda, special secretary in the Finance Ministry, on the board of State Bank of India.

Panda has been appointed as director in the central board of the bank with immediate effect, SBI said in a regulatory filing on Saturday. He replaces Ravi Mittal, who has been elevated as secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. A 1987-batch Uttar Pradesh cadre IAS officer, Panda served in various capacities in both State and Central Government. **PTI**

Brexit to help global growth, says Lagarde

PTI ■ DAVOS

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said global growth is likely to get a boost from abating uncertainties on trade issues in the wake of new pacts being signed.

Speaking here at a session on the global economic outlook on the last day of the WEF 2020 on Friday, the former IMF chief said uncertainties have abated on issues like trade and Brexit, and it is likely that income growth and low unemployment will eventually be reflected in prices.

"Trade has been dramatically low recently and didn't help growth much. So we are delighted to see trade agreements being negotiated and completed. I believe this will remove uncertainties the world over," she said.

"I think the distribution of benefits and costs as a result of trade diversion remains to be seen because it is not going to be win-all arrangements. There will be some downside effect and we at ECB are measuring where the chips



Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank, speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

The US also expects the second phase of negotiations for a trade deal with China to begin soon.

"The European Central Bank has launched a broad strategic review, the first since 2003, to revisit the bank's processes and policies and to recommend structural changes," Lagarde said, committing to delivering the outcomes of this review at the next annual meeting.

ICICI Bank posts over two-fold rise in Q3 profit at ₹4,670 cr

PTI ■ MUMBAI

ICICI Bank on Saturday reported an over two-fold rise in its consolidated net profit at ₹4,670 crore for the December quarter, helped largely by the Essar Steel recovery and a jump in its core income.

The Mumbai-headquartered bank, the country's second biggest private sector lender, had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹1,874.33 crore in the corresponding three months of the previous fiscal. On standalone basis, its net profit jumped to ₹4,146 crore during the December 2019 quarter from ₹1,605 crore in the year-ago period.

Its core net interest income grew 24 per cent to ₹8,545 crore on a 16 per cent domestic advances growth and a 0.37 per cent expansion in net interest margin to 3.77 per cent.

Other income growth was 18.77 per cent to ₹4,043 crore, with the core fee income increasing 17 per cent, the bank said.

Gross slippages came at Rs 4,363 crore for the reporting quarter, highest during the fiscal year, but the recoveries from assets like Essar Steel and a ₹2,000 crore write-off ensured that the same was down on a net basis.

Its president Sandeep Batra said two well-rated accounts – a troubled broking company and a south-based industrial group – led to the spike in

DCB Bank Q3 net profit up 12.3% at ₹96.70 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Private sector lender DCB Bank on Saturday reported an increase of 12.31 per cent in its net profit at ₹96.70 crore for the third quarter ended December 2019.

Its net profit was ₹86.10 crore in the October-December period a year ago, DCB Bank said in a BSE filing.

DCB Bank's total income was up 13.66 per cent at ₹990.89 crore during the quarter under review as against ₹871.78 crore in the corresponding period a year ago.

Net interest income increased 9.86 per cent to ₹323 crore as against ₹294 crore for the same period last fiscal year.

While non-interest income marginally declined to ₹93 crore against ₹94 crore.

Just like its smaller peer Axis Bank, the bank has also classified an exposure to a telco as below investment grade, which led to the increase in the overall BB and below book to ₹17,403 crore after two consecutive quarters of a reduction.

Its overall exposure to the sector has been stable at 1.8 per cent and includes two top companies, he said, adding no extra provision has been taken on account of this.

Batra said the bank's core operating profit excluding the impact of the benefit was up 23 per cent at ₹7,017 crore, seeking to drive the point of a healthy overall growth for the bank.

EU, 16 WTO members sign pact for interim appeal arrangement

Davos: The European Union and 16 WTO members including China and Australia have signed a pact to develop a multi-party interim appeal arrangement at the global trade body. The arrangement, signed on Friday on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting, will allow the participating WTO members to preserve a functioning and two-step dispute settlement system at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

This initiative was launched in mid-December 2019 by the EU and a number of other WTO members following the effective paralysis of the WTO Appellate Body due to the blockage of new appointments since 2017.

EU Commissioner for Trade Phil Hogan said: "This statement testifies to the high importance that the EU and the participating WTO members attach to retaining a two-step dispute settlement process in WTO trade matters. The multi-party appeal arbitration arrangement will guarantee that the participating WTO members continue to have access to a binding, dispute settlement system among them."

"Let me underline again that this remains a contingency measure needed because of the paralysis of the WTO Appellate Body. We will continue our efforts to seek a lasting solution to the Appellate Body impasse, including through necessary reforms and improvements," he added.

The multi-party interim arrangement will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding. It will secure the participating WTO members (Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the European Union, Guatemala, Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Singapore, Switzerland, and Uruguay) an effective and binding dispute settlement process for potential trade disputes among them. **PTI**

WESTERN RAILWAY
IMPROVEMENT OF FOB, ROB & RUB BRIDGES
Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400008. Invites E-tender as per details given as follows: Tender Notice No. & Date: BCT/19-20/358 dtd 22.01.2020. Work and location: Virar-Surat section: Improvement of important, major, minor, FOB, ROB & RUB bridges. (Two Packet System). Approx. cost of Work: ₹ 14,22,20,097.60. EMD: ₹ 8,61,100/- Date & Time of submission: on 25.02.2020 at 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: on 25.02.2020 at 15:30 hrs. Note: Please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered. Like us on Facebook.com/WesternRly19

BEFORE THE SOLE ARBITRATOR
MS.C.DEEPA NANDHINI, ADVOCATE
CLAIM PETITION NO. CDN/DFS/035/2019
M/s. Daimler Financial Services India Pvt Ltd ...Claimant
Vs.
Mr. Jitender Singh & Another ...Respondents
To
1. Mr. Jitender Singh
House No.99, Back Of Dayal Market, Village Alipur, Delhi, New Delhi - 110036.
2. Sudesh,
House No. 99, Back Of Dayal Market, Village Alipur, Delhi, New Delhi - 110036.
Please take notice that in the above Claim petition No.CDN/DFS/035/2019 which is pending on the file of the Learned Arbitrator MS.C.DEEPA NANDHINI, the Learned Arbitrator ordered on 30.12.2019 notice to both of you, for the hearing dated 12.02.2020. Therefore make it convenient to appear before the Learned Arbitrator on 12.02.2020 at 4.00 PM, at 'B7, Shaw Wallace Building, 1st Floor, No.336, Thambu Chetty Street, Chennai-600 001' either in person or through counsel, failing which the case will be heard in your absence.
M.ARUNACHALAM, COUNSEL FOR CLAIMANT

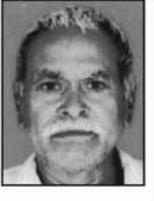
PUBLIC NOTICE
All concerned are informed that I am owner Smt. Maya W/o Sh. Bijendra R/o H.No. 186, Kalish Nagar, Gausshala Fatka, Ghazabad, U.P. In addition to the said house, I am the only owner of Kharsa No. 18 of Agricultural Land Khata No. 154, Village Bahupur. The will of all the above mentioned properties was registered in my favor by Mr. Budh Prakash S/o Late Sh. Khemchand R/o H. No. 186, Kalish Nagar, Gausshala Fatka, Ghazabad U.P. in Sub Registrar Ghazabad, Vide Registered Book No.1, Volume No. 35, Pages 358 to 362 and Document No. 244 and I am currently the sole owner of the above movable and immovable property. If anyone has any objection in this regard, then in 30 days, you should either submit written objection with the evidence to the concerned department. In case of no objection within 30 days from the date of this advertisement, action will be taken to grant transfer permission as per rules. Please crop to publish the above information in newspapers, the information is completely true
Smt. Maya W/o Sh. Bijendra

BEFORE THE SOLE ARBITRATOR
MS.C.DEEPA NANDHINI, ADVOCATE
Claim Petition No. CDN/DFS/053/2019
M/s. Daimler Financial Services India Pvt Ltd. ...Claimant
Vs.
M/s RV Sui Generis Consultant Private Ltd And Another ...Respondents
To
1. M/s. RV Sui Generis Consultant Private Ltd., Represented By Its Director: Mr. Ritesh Varma, No. 73, World Trade Centre, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110 001.
2. Mr. Ritesh Varma, No. 73, World Trade Centre, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110 001.
... 1 & 2 Respondents
Please take notice that in the above Claim petition No.CDN/DFS/053/2019 which is pending on the file of the Learned Arbitrator MS.C.DEEPA NANDHINI, the Learned Arbitrator ordered on 30.12.2019 notice to both of you, for the hearing dated 12.02.2020. Therefore make it convenient to appear before the Learned Arbitrator on 12.02.2020 at 4.00 PM, at 'B7, Shaw Wallace Building, 1st Floor, No.336, Thambu Chetty Street, Chennai-600 001' either in person or through counsel, failing which the case will be heard in your absence.
M.ARUNACHALAM, COUNSEL FOR CLAIMANT

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: S.No.; Tender No.; Name of the work; Tender value (₹); Cost of tender document (₹); Earnest money (₹); Period of completion (in months); [01]; Engg/40/2019-20; Preparation of CLW Township Digital Drawing, Workshop Digital Drawing, digital form both in soft and hard type along with Auto CAD training programme to the Technical Staff at Engineering Drawing Office at CLW/CRJ; 3,25,062.86; 1,000.00; 6,500.00; 03 months. [02]; Engg/51/2019-20; Renovation of Dy.CMM building and RB inside workshop at CLW/CRJ; 30.35, 272.43; 3,000.00; 60,700.00; 10 months. [03]; Engg/52/2019-20; Emergent renovation of K.G. Hospital, CLW/CRJ by providing false ceiling and ancillary works; 17,15,122.20; 2,000.00; 34,400.00; 05 months. NOTE: (i) Date of closing-27.02.2020 at 13.00 hrs. (ii) Complete details can be seen in the Railways website www.ireps.gov.in & www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in (iii) Contact Number : 9136640202
Divisional Engineer
Siddh-291 CLW/Chittaranjan
Like us on : www.facebook.com/clwrailways

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General public is hereby informed that an male person was admitted due to illness in Dr. RML Hospital on 17.01.2020 and during the treatment he has been declared dead by Doctor Dated 23.01.2020. In this regard Case DD No. 02-A Dated 23.01.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Inderpuri, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under Name Jagdish Moriya S/o Chote Lal R/o F-378, Budh Nagar, Inderpuri, Delhi Age: 75 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Sallow, Face- Oval, Built-Medium, Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.



SHO
P.S. Inderpuri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25832201
8750871123

FORM G - INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(Under regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1 Name of the corporate debtor	V.A.M. Resorts And Hotels Private Limited
2 Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	18-12-1998
3 Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated/registered	Registrar of Companies, Kanpur, India, under the Companies Act, 1956
4 Corporate identity number/limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U55101UP1998PT024082
5 Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Opp. Apex College Vid Vyas Puri, Meerut-Dehradun By Pass Road Meerut-250103 (UP)
6 Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	24-10-2019
7 Date of invitation of expression of interest	26-01-2020
8 Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(n) of the Code is available at	It will be provided on request to email: vammrsois@gmail.com
9 Norms of insolvency applicable under section 23A are available at	Same as stated in (9) above
10 Last date for receipt of expression of interest	10-02-2020
11 Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	20-02-2020
12 Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	25-02-2020
13 Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	06-03-2020
14 Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	25-02-2020
15 Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information	All the eligible prospective resolution applicants will be sent the documents to their email id. For further information the applicants shall request the resolution professional to his email id.
16 Last date for submission of resolution plans	26-03-2020
17 Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional	In Electronic form, supported by speed post or by hand delivery in sealed covers followed by an email confirmation
18 Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval	07-04-2020
19 Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Ashish Singh IBBI/PA-002/JP-ND0416/2017-18/11230
20 Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Ashish Singh Reg Adr: Flat No. 515, Baghban Apartment, Pocket Gh-2 Sector-28, Rohini, New Delhi National Capital Territory Of Delhi, 110042 Email ID: ashishsinghcs@gmail.com
21 Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	811, 8th Floor, Aggarwal Mellinum Tower-1 Near B1W, Netaji Subhas Place, Pitampura New Delhi-110034. Email Id: vammrsois@gmail.com
22 Further Details are available at or with	Ashish Singh ashishsinghcs@gmail.com
23 Date of publication of Form G	26-01-2020

Date: 25-01-2020 Resolution Professional
Place: New Delhi Reg No: IBBI/PA-002/JP-ND0416/2017-18/11230

BEFORE THE SOLE ARBITRATOR
MS.C.DEEPA NANDHINI, ADVOCATE
CLAIM PETITION NO. CDN/DFS/055/2019
M/s. Daimler Financial Services India Pvt Ltd ...Claimant
Vs.
Mr. Vipin Goel ...Respondent
To
Mr. Vipin Goel, Shivam Jewellers, C-6/2, 2nd Floor, Industrial Area, Lawrence Road, New Delhi - 110 035.
Also At: No. 461, Ground Floor, Kohat Enclave, Pitam Pura, Delhi, Pitampura - 110 085.
Please take notice that in the above Claim petition No.CDN/DFS/055/2019 which is pending on the file of the Learned Arbitrator MS.C.DEEPA NANDHINI, the Learned Arbitrator ordered on 30.12.2019 notice to the Respondent, for the hearing dated 12.02.2020 at 4.00 PM, at 'B7, Shaw Wallace Building, 1st Floor, No.336, Thambu Chetty Street, Chennai-600 001' either in person or through counsel, failing which the case will be heard in your absence.
M.Arjunachalam, Counsel for Claimant

BEFORE THE SOLE ARBITRATOR
MS.C.DEEPA NANDHINI, ADVOCATE
CLAIM PETITION NO. CDN/DFS/048/2019
M/s. Daimler Financial Services India Pvt Ltd. ...Claimant
Vs.
M/s. Shree Jee Traders & Another ...Respondents
To
1. M/s. Shree Jee Traders Represented by Its Partner Mr. Animesh Kumar Gupta No. 2529, Chaman Wara Tiak Bazar New Delhi - 110 006
2. Mr. Animesh Kumar Gupta, C-185, Nirman Vihar Shakarpur, New Delhi - 110 092, Delhi.
... 1st & 2nd Respondents
Please take notice that in the above Claim petition No.CDN/DFS/048/2019 which is pending on the file of the Learned Arbitrator MS.C.DEEPA NANDHINI, the Learned Arbitrator ordered on 30.12.2019 notice to both of you, for the hearing dated 12.02.2020. Therefore make it convenient to appear before the Learned Arbitrator on 12.02.2020 at 4.00 PM, at 'B7, Shaw Wallace Building, 1st Floor, No.336, Thambu Chetty Street, Chennai-600 001' either in person or through counsel, failing which the case will be heard in your absence.
M.ARUNACHALAM, COUNSEL FOR CLAIMANT

Non-life insurers can offer standard health policies before April 1

IANIS ■ CHENNAI

Indian insurance regulator has permitted non-life insurers to sell the standardized health insurance policy prior to April 1, 2020. In a circular dated April January 24, 2020, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) said insurers can offer the 'Arogya Sanjeevani Policy' - the standard health insurance policy before April 1, 2020.

The insurance regulator has said general insurers and stand-alone health insurers selling health insurance policies should offer 'Arogya Sanjeevani Policy' on or before April 1, 2020.

After delay, Supertech delivers 200 units in Noida's Romano project

PTI ■ NOIDA

Real estate group Supertech has said it handed over possession of 200 units in its residential project Romano to buyers on Saturday.

The flats handed over are in B2 Tower of Romano located in sector 118 of Noida and range from 2BHK to 4BHK, costing ₹50 lakh to ₹1.50 crore, the group said.

"The coming year promises to be one where the real estate sector soars to new heights and all the investments made by the sector in terms of technology and initiatives to improve transparency come to

Country's first Super Fab Lab inaugurated by Kerala CM

Kochi: The country's first Super Fab Lab, which will give a major push to the hardware industry in the country and the only such facility outside the U.S., was launched at the Integrated Startup Complex of the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) here on Saturday.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the facility through remote control from Palakkad, where he attended a function at the Government Polytechnic College. **PTI**

BEFORE THE SOLE ARBITRATOR
MS.C.DEEPA NANDHINI, ADVOCATE
CLAIM PETITION NO. CDN/DFS/051/2019
M/s. Daimler Financial Services India Pvt Ltd. ...Claimant
Vs.
M/s. Adwik Homes Private Limited & 2 Others. ...Respondents
To
1. M/s. Adwik Homes Private Limited, Represented by its Director Mr. Sharad Singhal, D-550, Gali No. 5, Ashok Nagar, New Delhi - 110093.
2. M/s. Vinayak Steel, Shop No. 7, Plot No. 1, Hoti Lal & Sons Mkt, Amri Nagar, Ghaziabad - 201 001.
Uttar Pradesh. ... Respondent 1 to 3
Please take notice that in the above Claim petition No.CDN/DFS/051/2019 which is pending on the file of Learned Arbitrator MS.C.DEEPA NANDHINI, the Learned Arbitrator ordered on 30.12.2019 notice to 1st and 3rd Respondents, for the hearing dated 12.02.2020. Therefore make it convenient to appear before the Learned Arbitrator on 12.02.2020 at 4.00 PM, at 'B7, Shaw Wallace Building, 1st Floor, No.336, Thambu Chetty Street, Chennai-600 001' either in person or through counsel, failing which the case will be heard in your absence.
M.ARUNACHALAM, COUNSEL FOR CLAIMANT

POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU & KASHMIR

E-tenders are hereby invited by Police Hqs, J&K, from Original Manufacturers or their authorized dealers having proper authorisation of the manufacturer to quote against the tender for the supply of **Weapon Safety and Tracking System** as indicated in the detailed SBD & BOQ. The download of NIT shall start on 22.01.2020 at 11:00 hours. Tenders shall be submitted online on J&K Government e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in before 03.02.2020 upto 1800 hours. The tenders (technical bids only) will be opened online on 05.02.2020 at 11:00 hours at Police Headquarters, Gulshan Ground Gandhi Nagar Jammu. Pre bid Meeting will be held at PHQ Gandhi Nagar Jammu. J&K on 28.01.2020 at 15:00 hrs. In case of unforeseen circumstances, the date of opening will be next working day or else as notified separately. Detailed tender documents with terms and conditions are available on J&K Government e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in. Sd/- (Mubassir Latif) J.K.P.S. AIG (Provision & Transport) No: DIPPJ-1266/19 For Director General of Police, J&K, JAMMU Date: 24.01.2020

WESTERN RAILWAY
VARIOUS WORKS AT UDHNA/UKAI SONGHAD - JALGAON SECTION

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	WORK AND LOCATION	Approx. cost of work ₹	EMD in ₹
1	BCT/19-20/359 dt: 24.01.2020	Udhna-Jalgaon Section: Reconditioning of Tongue rails, SEJ and Slide chairs etc., under ADEN-Vyara section	₹ 2,91,828.80	₹ 5,800/-
2	BCT/19-20/360 dt: 24.01.2020	Ukai Songhad-Jalgaon section: (i) TSR 2.586kms, 2/TRR(P) 0.235kms (3) Providing ballast siding a Ranala station.	₹ 2,52,24,856.16	₹ 2,76,100/-
3	BCT/19-20/362 dt: 24.01.2020	Ukai Songhad -Jalgaon Section: (i) Providing boxes and pushing for LHS in lieu of LC No. 142 under ADEN-Amalner section. (ii) Providing drainage and approaches roads at LC No. 142 under ADEN-Amalner section.	₹ 4,11,25,632.18	₹ 3,55,600/-
4	BCT/19-20/363 dt: 24.01.2020	Ukai Songhad -Jalgaon Section: (i) Providing boxes and pushing for LHS in lieu of LC No. 140 under ADEN-Amalner section. (ii) Providing drainage and approaches roads at LC No. 140 under ADEN-Amalner section. (iii) Providing drainage and approaches roads at LC No. 141 under ADEN-Amalner section. (iv) Providing drainage and approaches roads at LC No. 142 under ADEN-Amalner section.	₹ 8,22,51,264.35	₹ 5,61,300/-
5	BCT/19-20/364 dt: 24.01.2020	Ukai Songhad -Jalgaon Section: (i) Providing boxes and pushing for LHS in lieu of LC No. 145 under ADEN-Amalner section. (ii) Providing drainage and approaches roads at LC No. 155 under ADEN-Amalner section. (iii) Providing drainage and approaches roads at LC No. 145 under ADEN-Amalner section. (iv) Providing drainage and approaches roads at LC No. 155 under ADEN-Amalner section.	₹ 8,22,51,264.35	₹ 5,61,300/-

Sr. No. : 1 to 2: Date & Time of Submission : On 20.02.2020 at 15.00 hrs. Sr. No. : 1 to 2: Date & Time of Opening : 20.02.2020 at 15.30 hrs. Sr. No. : 3 to 5: Date & Time of Submission : On 28.02.2020 at 15.00 hrs. Sr. No. : 3 to 5: Date & Time of Opening : On 28.02.2020 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed tender conditions please visit www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered.
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Parmest Singh S/o Late Mr. Dharmender Singh & Mrs. Hajinder Kaur W/o Mr. Jagjeet Singh in absolute ownership of Property Bearing No. A-42 (Old No. WZ-33) Kharsa No. 1402 residential colony known as Sharda Puri Doha where Mr. Parmest Singh by virtue of registered relinquishment deed dated 08.01.2020, having registration No. 198 & Mrs. Hajinder Kaur by virtue of registration No. 21557, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to take a loan from our client (Fullerton India Credit Company Limited), if anyone has any objections over the said property, & its ownership/pledge. Kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, Second Floor, 23 Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-15 Ph: 011-4112327-28. kumarandassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

WESTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM NO. 2
To Advertised Tender Through E Mode Notice No. WTR/17/2019/04 Dated 19.11.2019. Item No. of tender notice : 1. Tender No.: 196033, Description of Item : CMS Crossing RDSO drg. No. T-4220. Item to be modified : Closing Date. From : 27.01.2020 (Revised). To : Tender Cancelled. Uploaded on our website www.ireps.gov.in
Like us on : Facebook.com/WesternRly

Hong Kong declares Wuhan virus outbreak an 'emergency'

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong on Saturday declared a new coronavirus outbreak as an "emergency" - the city's highest warning tier - as authorities ramped up measures to reduce the risk of further infections.

The announcement came as city leader Carrie Lam faced criticism in some quarters over her administration's response to the crisis.

Of the five people who have tested positive for the virus in Hong Kong so far, four arrived via a newly built high-speed train terminal which connects with the mainland.

That led to calls from some medical experts and politicians to limit, or even halt, arrivals from China, the epicentre of the outbreak with 41 people dead.

Lam held emergency meetings with health officials on Saturday morning after returning from Davos.

"Today I declare the lifting of the response level to emergency," she told reporters.

Schools and universities, which are currently on a Lunar New Year break, would remain closed until 17 February, Lam said.

All mainland arrivals to Hong Kong will now need to sign health declaration forms, she added, while public events including a new year gala and next month's marathon, would also be called off.

"We haven't seen serious and widespread infections (in Hong Kong), but we are taking this seriously and we hope to be ahead of the epidemic," Lam said.

Ho Pak Leung, a microbiologist at the University of Hong Kong, said closing the mainland border would be the "single most effective measure" in containing the virus.

Transport links with the mainland should be re-opened



Passengers wearing protective face masks enter the departure hall of a high speed train station in Hong Kong on Friday. China expanded its lockdown against the deadly new virus to an unprecedented 36 million people and rushed to build a prefabricated, 1,000-bed hospital for victims on Friday as the outbreak cast a pall over Lunar New Year, the country's biggest, most festive holiday

"when the epidemic is controlled, when HK officials are awake, when there are enough masks and hand rubs for all Hong Kong citizens," he wrote on his Facebook page.

Hong Kong has a recent experience of deadly viral outbreaks. Nearly 300 people were killed by SARS in 2003, a tragedy that left a profound psychological impact on one of the most densely populated places on earth.

The city's ability to combat the crisis was hampered by moves in mainland China to cover up and play down the outbreak, leaving a lasting legacy of distrust among many Hong Kongers.

Animosity towards the mainland has intensified in recent years as Beijing tightens political control over the semi-autonomous territory.

The outbreak also comes at a sensitive time for Lam, who has record low approval ratings after seven months of pro-democracy protests.

"We must stand united so

that we can prevent and control the disease," she said, in a nod to the political unrest.

The often violent protests have battered Hong Kong's reputation for stability and helped tip it into recession, with the recent virus outbreak compounding the city's economic woes. Hospitals are already struggling with the winter flu season, but officials are isolating anyone with a history of that and those exhibiting respiratory tract infections that look similar to the virus.

So far some 300 people have been tested and monitored for the virus.

Quarantine centres have been set up in remote holiday parks for anyone found to have come into close contact with people who tested positive.

On Saturday, officials announced a newly built but still-empty public housing block would be used for medical staff on the frontline who did not want to risk returning to their families.

'Nobody can leave': Trapped Wuhan residents stock up

AFP ■ WUHAN

Police at a roadblock on the outskirts of Wuhan turned away cars trying to leave the virus-stricken city on Saturday, as other anxious residents trapped inside spent the Lunar New Year stocking up on masks and medical supplies.

Authorities have prevented anyone from leaving Wuhan, the city of 11 million people at the heart of the viral outbreak which has so far infected nearly 1,300 people and killed 41 others.

AFP saw a steady trickle of cars approaching the roadblocks around 20 kilometres (12 miles) east of the city centre on Saturday morning, only for police in fluorescent jackets wearing masks to tell them to turn around.

The barricade, at one of the tolls for highways exiting the city, was blocked with red and yellow plastic barriers and cones.

"Nobody can leave," a policeman told AFP.

A stray dog ran across the empty road in front of the roadblocks, which were shrouded in grey fog and drizzle.

AFP journalists only saw two vehicles allowed to pass the roadblock, including a white van which an officer said was "buying medicines" and would later return to the city.

Authorities extended transport bans to 17 other cities around Wuhan in a gargantuan effort to control the SARS-like virus, restricting travel for around 56 million in Hubei province.

While there are restrictions on anyone leaving Wuhan, a few people were allowed to enter the city through the barricade: Desperately needed medical workers whose holidays were cut short to help overwhelmed hospital.

An empty bus was allowed to pass the roadblock into Wuhan after showing documentation to the police at the roadblock.

China to build 2nd new hospital to treat coronavirus cases

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Saturday announced plans to build a second hospital within half a month to treat more cases of the deadly coronavirus as the fast spreading virus continues to wreak havoc in the country and abroad with 41 people dead and more than 1,300 infected, dampening the Chinese New Year celebrations.

The confirmed cases for the first time crossed the 1,000 mark and rose sharply to 1,287 as of Friday with 237 people in critical condition battling for their lives in China, the National Health Commission said on Saturday.

Almost all provinces, including Beijing, are reporting steady rise in the number of cases mostly of people who travelled from Wuhan, the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak.

The pneumonia situation had resulted in 41 deaths,

including 39 in central China's Hubei province and one in north-eastern province Heilongjiang, the health commission said on Saturday.

Additionally, a total of 1,965 suspected cases have also been reported, it said.

China on Saturday said it will build another 1,300 bed makeshift hospital in Wuhan in the next 15 days in addition to the 1,000 bed hospital being built in the city in 10 days, state-run People's Daily reported.

The feverish pace at which the hospitals are being built indicate that China apparently is preparing to treat far more patients considering the speed at which the virus is spreading.

The virus has spread to Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Nepal, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and the United States as of Thursday.

Japan on Friday reported a second confirmed case.

A Chinese doctor reportedly died of the novel coronavirus on Saturday morning, the first fatality among health workers since the pneumonia-like illness first surfaced in late December, state-run China Daily quoted online news website Paper.cn as saying.

Liang Wudong, a 62-year-old doctor with the otolaryngology department who treats conditions in the ear, nose and throat at Hubei Xinhua Hospital, was suspected of contracting the new virus on January 16. The hospital that he works is in Wuhan.

On Jan 18, he was transferred to Hubei Jinyintan Hospital, which has received the majority of infected patients, and died at about 7 am on Saturday, the report said.

Previously, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission said on Tuesday that 15 medical workers were confirmed as contracting the virus, with one suspected case.

Chinese man suspected of coronavirus admitted in Pak hospital

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan health authorities on Saturday said a Chinese national suspected of coronavirus was admitted in isolation at a medical facility in Multan in Punjab province.

Feng Fen, 40, was living in a camp with Chinese workers near Multan after returning from China's Wuhan city 10 days ago. Feng was brought to



Nishtar Hospital on Friday night, National Institute of Health officials said.

"One suspected case is admitted in isolation in Multan right now. His clinical condition is stable and it does not seem to be a case of novel coronavirus. Relevant samples have been taken," the NIH said.

Earlier this week, Pakistan setup counters at the airports to screen passengers coming from China for coronavirus.

Thousands of Chinese nationals work in Pakistan on

various projects including under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Many Pakistan students study in China.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Aisha Farooqui said there were approximately 28,000 Pakistani students all over China. "In Wuhan alone, there are close to 500 Pakistani students," she said, adding that around 1,500 traders from Pakistan travel to China frequently.

The death toll due to the coronavirus rose to 41 in China with 1,287 confirmed cases, China's National Health Commission announced on Saturday. Of the confirmed cases, the condition of the 237 persons is critical.

The coronavirus has caused alarm as it is similar to SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) which killed hundreds of people across mainland China and Hong Kong in 2002.

SENATE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL Democrats conclude opening arguments

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

House impeachment managers on Friday night concluded their argument before the Senate to remove US President Donald Trump from office, saying he misused his position and indulged in obstruction to the Congress.

The house managers closed their marathon 24-hour argument spread over three days with an impassioned plea that the trial be fair.

The ruling Republican Party enjoys 53-47 majority in the 100-member Senate. Democrats, who have majority in the House, have alleged that the Republican leadership in the Senate will be partisan during the trial.

"I implore you - give America a fair trial. She's worth it," said Chairman of the House



Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Adam Schiff. Trump is only the third president in American history to have been formally impeached by Congress.

From Saturday, Trump's attorneys would begin presenting their defense. Like the House managers they too have 24 hours over the next three days for their argument in

support of the president.

Trump has asked the Senate to dismiss both the charges against him. He argues that he has done no wrong.

In his concluding argument, Schiff outlined what he thinks Trump's attorneys will say.

"So what do all these defenses mean? What do they mean collectively when you add them all up? What they mean is under Article 2, the president can do whatever he wants. That's really it, stripped of all the detail and all the historical, what they want us to believe is the president can do whatever he wants under Article 2, and there is nothing you or

the House can do about it," Congressman Schiff asserted.

On Saturday, Trump's team would present their argument for three hours.

"I guess I would call it a trailer, kind of coming attractions would be the best way to say it. Obviously, we have three hours to put it out so we'll take whatever time is appropriate during those three hours, kind of layout with that case will look out like, but no, next week is where you'll see the full presentation, but there will be plenty to see," Trump's personal attorney Jay Sekulow told reporters. In an interaction with the media, he slammed Schiff.

"Adam Schiff just said that this idea of the solicitation of foreign interference is deplorable," he said.

"I wonder if he thought that about the fact that the Clinton campaign had sought when it's completely corroborated, it's uncontested, that (the) Steele dossier is utilising both supposedly assets that a former British spy had in Russia to get information on the president then candidate. Was that not foreign interference? Was that

not an attempt for foreign interference?" he asked.

The Steele dossier is a private intelligence document pertaining to alleged misconduct, and co-operation between Trump's presidential campaign and the Russian government during the 2016 election.

"So you can get on your horse and act haughty and proud about it,

but you know what? Let's look at what the evidence says. And here's what the evidence says. There was foreign involvement, but let's not forget where it originated from. Let's not forget, and we haven't even begun to put on our case yet. We still will not begin until, actually, tomorrow morning. But I want you to think about this. Where did that foreign intelligence come from? Foreign information come from?" Sekulow asserted.

"It came from connections from the Federal Bureau of investigation, the number three, whose wife happened to work for Fusion GPS, who happened to be hired by the DNC to happen to do an investigation on Donald Trump," he argued.

Iranian FM: Tehran still willing to negotiate with US

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran is not ruling out negotiations with the United States even after an American drone strike that killed a top Iranian general, the country's foreign minister said in an interview released Saturday.

Mohammed Javad Zarif told Germany's Der Spiegel magazine that he would "never rule out the possibility that people will change their approach and recognize the realities," in an interview conducted Friday in Tehran.

There has been growing tension between Washington and Tehran since in 2018, when President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the nuclear deal with Iran. The U.S. has since reimposed tough sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy.

But Zarif suggested Iran was still willing to talk, though reiterated his country's previous demand that first the U.S. would have to lift sanctions. "For us, it doesn't matter who is sitting in the White House, what matters is how they behave," he

said, according to Der Spiegel.

"The Trump administration can correct its past, lift the sanctions and come back to the negotiating table. We're still at the negotiating table. They're the ones who left."

Trump has maintained that the 2015 nuclear deal needs to be renegotiated because it didn't address Iran's ballistic missile program or its involvement in regional conflicts.

Iran condemns 'inhuman' US treatment of its nationals

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran condemned Saturday what it called the "illegal and inhuman" treatment of its nationals by US border security officers, after reports a student was deported despite having a valid visa.

"Such absolutely discriminatory measures that only happen over people's race, nationality or religion are against international human rights laws and principles," foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said.

"These individuals were questioned by America's border security over their politi-

cal views and beliefs, and their social media accounts were forcefully entered," he said in a statement.

US media reported on Monday that an Iranian student headed to a Boston university had his visa cancelled at the airport and was deported by immigration officials.

Tensions have soared between Tehran and Washington since a US drone strike killed Iranian general Qasem Soleimani in Baghdad on January 3.

Iran retaliated five days later by launching a wave of missiles at US troops stationed in Iraq.

Turkey quake kills 22

Rescuers scramble to find survivors

AFP ■ ELAZIG

Rescue workers raced against time Saturday to find survivors under the rubble after a powerful earthquake claimed 22 lives and left more than 1,000 injured in eastern Turkey.

The magnitude 6.8 quake struck on Friday evening, with its epicentre in the small lake-side town of Sivrice in Elazig province, and was felt in neighbouring countries.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu said 39 people have been rescued alive from collapsed buildings in Elazig province, with a further 22 people estimated to be trapped under the rubble. He said the death toll had risen to 22.

Among those found alive was a pregnant woman who was rescued 12 hours after the quake hit, state news agency Anadolu said, while an AFP correspondent saw an individual saved 17 hours later.

Nearly 2,000 search and rescue personnel were sent to



Rescuers search for people buried under the rubble on a collapsed building, after an earthquake struck Elazig eastern Turkey on Saturday. Emergency workers and security forces distributed tents, beds and blankets as overnight temperatures dropped below freezing in the affected areas. Mosques, schools, sports halls and student dormitories were opened for hundreds who left their homes after the quake

the region while thousands of beds, blankets and tents have been provided, the Turkish presidency said. The rescue efforts have been taking place in freezing temperatures as wood and plastic were burned to keep crowds warm.

Hundreds of people were anxiously waiting on the other side of police barriers including a man who gave his name as Mustafa.

"I have three relatives in that building: one man, his wife and her mother. They are still under the rubble," the 40-year-old told AFP. "May God help us, we can do nothing but pray." I was home during the earthquake. It lasted for so long, it was like a nightmare. I froze in the living room when it happened, my wife and our two children were screaming and running around," he said.

Global airline passenger fatalities decline sharply

IANAS ■ NEW YORK

Around the globe has declined sharply over the past decade as new research has revealed that the fatalities rate is now one death per 7.9 million passenger boardings, compared to one death per 2.7 million boardings during the period 1998-2007, and one death per 1.3 million boardings during 1988-1997.

The commercial airline fatality risk was one death per 750,000 boardings during 1978-1987, and one death per 350,000 boardings during 1968-1977, said the study published in the journal Transportation Science.

"The worldwide risk of being killed had been dropping by a factor of two every decade," said study author Arnold Barnett, Professor at Massachusetts Institute of

Technology (MIT) Sloan School of Management.

"Not only has that continued in the last decade, the (latest) improvement is closer to a factor of three. The pace of improvement has not slackened at all even as flying has gotten ever safer and further gains become harder to achieve," Barnett said.

The new research also revealed that there is discernible regional variation in airline safety around the world.

Nations housing the lowest-risk airlines are the U.S., the members of the European Union, China, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Israel, showed the results.

The aggregate fatality risk among those nations was one death per 33.1 million passenger boardings during 2008-2017.

For airlines in a second set of countries, which Barnett

Libya says oil shutdown caused over \$255 million in losses

AP ■ CAIRO

The closure of Libya's major oil fields and production facilities has resulted in losses of more than USD 255 million in the six-day period ending January 23, the country's national oil company said Saturday.

The closures came when powerful tribal groups loyal to military commander Khalifa Hifter earlier this month seized several large export terminals along the eastern coast as well as southern oil fields.

Hifter controls the eastern and much of the southern part of the country.

The moves were meant to challenge Hifter's adversaries in the west, the UN-backed, but weak rival Government that controls the capital, Tripoli.

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
COLLECTORATE COMPOUND, RUDRAPUR, DISTT. UDHAM SINGH NAGAR
Ref no. 179/NVida54 Date: 25.01.2020

E-TENDER NOTICE

- Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF EKLAHYA AAWASIYA VIDHYALAY AND APPURTENANT WORKS AT BAZPUR, DISTRICT-UDHAM SINGH NAGAR
- Estimated Cost- Rs. 1089.93 Lakh
- Period of Completion- 09 Month
- Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 27.01.2020 (12.00 hrs)
- Last Date / Time of receipt of bids in the portal: 11.02.2020 (17.00 hrs)
- Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 13.02.2020 (12.00 hrs)
- Name and Address of the Officer Inviting bid: Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (Udhamsingh Nagar).
- Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 01.02.2020 (11.00 to 13.00 hrs) Rudrapur.
- For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uttarakhand.gov.in

Project Manager

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
COLLECTORATE COMPOUND, RUDRAPUR, DISTT. UDHAM SINGH NAGAR
Ref no. 177/NVida52 Date: 25.01.2020

E-TENDER NOTICE

- Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF MODEL GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGE, KICHHA DISTRICT - UDHAM SINGH NAGAR
- Estimated Cost- Rs. 903.04 Lakh
- Period of Completion- 09 Month
- Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 27.01.2020 (12.00 hrs)
- Last Date / Time of receipt of bids in the portal: 11.02.2020 (17.00 hrs)
- Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 13.02.2020 (12.00 hrs)
- Name and Address of the Officer Inviting bid: Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (Udhamsingh Nagar).
- Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 01.02.2020 (11.00 to 13.00 hrs) Rudrapur.
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OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
COLLECTORATE COMPOUND, RUDRAPUR, DISTT. UDHAM SINGH NAGAR
Ref no. 178/NVida53 Date: 25.01.2020

E-TENDER NOTICE

- Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING FOR EKLAHYA AAWASIYA VIDHYALAY AT KHATIMA, DISTRICT - UDHAM SINGH NAGAR
- Estimated Cost- Rs. 1012.24 Lakh
- Period of Completion- 09 Month
- Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 27.01.2020 (12.00 hrs)
- Last Date / Time of receipt of bids in the portal: 11.02.2020 (17.00 hrs)
- Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 13.02.2020 (12.00 hrs)
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Project Manager

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Home favourite Nick Kyrgios went five sets to ensure an Australian Open showdown with Rafael Nadal on Saturday as a series of shocks caused carnage in the women's draw.

Kyrgios survived the longest match of his career to beat Russia's Karen Khachanov 6-2, 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (6/8), 6-7 (7/9), 7-6 (10/8), collapsing on his back after the fifth-set tie-breaker.

"That was insane — I've got no words to show I'm feeling right now," he said, after the 4hr 26min marathon marked by his trademark tweeners and exchanges with the umpire.

"This is just epic man, I don't even know what's going on. My legs feel about 40 kilos each."

The outspoken Aussie now heads into a last-16 clash with Nadal, with whom he has history after calling him "super salty" following criticism from the Spaniard last year.

"Whatever happens between us, he's an amazing player, he's arguably the greatest of all time," said Kyrgios.

Top seed Nadal had a comparatively easy ride against his Davis Cup teammate Pablo Carreno Busta, racing through 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 in what he called his "best match of the tournament so far". While the men's Big Three of Nadal, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic are all still alive, it's a different story in the women's competition where six of the top 10 seeds crashed out in the third round.

After Serena Williams and title-holder Naomi Osaka fell by the wayside on Friday, second seed Karolina Pliskova bombed on Saturday with a 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/3) defeat to Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova.

"I was about 40 percent today of my game," lamented the Czech.

RESURGENT MUGURUZA

Switzerland's Belinda Bencic, the sixth seed, won only one game against Estonia's Anett Kontaveit, the world number 31, as she went down 6-0, 6-1.

And a resurgent Garbine Muguruza, a two-time Major-winner, thrashed fifth seed Elina Svitolina 6-1, 6-2. Tenth seed Madison Keys lost to Maria Sakkari on Friday.

"I was very concentrated and focused on what I wanted to do, it all went fast my way," said Muguruza, who raced through the first set in just 23 minutes.

Croatian 19th seed Donna Vekic also crumbled to lower-ranked opposition when she lost 7-5, 6-3 to Poland's



Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, left, is congratulated by Karolina Pliskova after winning their third round singles match

AP

Against all odds

Pliskova, Svitolina, Bencic join top 10 biggies on way back home as shocks continue rattle Aus Open

Iga Swiatek, who is returning from a stress fracture in her foot.

However, Wimbledon champion Simona Halep stayed on course with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva.

"I'm sure that for you guys (media) it's a little bit of shock when the top-10 players are losing," said Halep, shrugging off the exodus of top seeds.

"But it's life and we cannot be 100 percent every day."

The Romanian fourth seed will now play Belgium's Elise Mertens, who won in three sets against Cici Bellis — ending the American's Grand Slam return from long-term injury.

Angelique Kerber, the 2016 cham-



Bopanna, Nadiia progress in mixed doubles

MELBOURNE: India's Rohan Bopanna and his Ukrainian partner Nadiia Kichenok moved into the mixed doubles second round on Saturday.

The Indo-Ukrainian pair beat Lyudmyla Kichenok of Ukraine and Austin Krajicek from USA 7-5, 4-6, 10-6 in one hour and 15 minutes.

They will next take on American Nicole Melichar and Brazilian Bruno Soares.

Bopanna was supposed to pair up with compatriot Sania Mirza but the latter pulled out due to a calf injury.

Veteran Leander Paes is also competing in the mixed doubles with Jelena Ostapenko. **PTI**



pion, beat Camila Giorgi 6-2, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3 to set up a meeting with Pavlyuchenkova, the Russian 30th seed.

Elsewhere, Germany's Alexander Zverev dismissed Fernando Verdasco 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 to set up a last-16 clash with Russia's Andrey Rublev, who remained unbeaten this year with his 2-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) win over David Goffin.

Austrian fifth seed Dominic Thiem came through 6-2, 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4 against Taylor Fritz, Gael Monfils beat Ernests Gulbis 7-6 (7/2), 6-4, 6-3 and Stanislas Wawrinka, the 2014 champion, progressed when John Isner retired in the second set.

SINGLES

PRAJNESH SECURES DIRECT ENTRY

PUNE: India's top singles player Prajnesh Gunneswaran will lead the home challenge at the Tata open Maharashtra after securing a direct entry into the men's singles main draw following the withdrawal of Poland's Kamil Majchrzak. Ranked 123, Prajnesh was initially placed second behind Go Soeda in the alternatives list but since the Japanese also withdrew from the tournament, it cleared Prajnesh's passage into the ATP 250 event, starting February 3.

GHOSAL ENTERS PITTSBURGH OPEN S/F

PITTSBURGH: India's Saurav Ghosal has progressed to the semi-final of the Pittsburgh Open with an easy win over Cesar Salazar of Mexico here. The Indian, seeded second, defeated his sixth seeded Mexican rival 11-8, 11-6, 11-8 in the quarter-final of the PSA World tour event. Another Indian who was in fray, Ramit Tandon crashed out in the first round.

ANAND BEATS FIROUZJIA, JUMPS TO SIXTH

WIJK AAN ZEE: Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand gave a fine endgame lesson to young Alireza Firouzja, jumping to joint sixth position at the end of 11th round of Tata Steel Masters here. With his second victory, Anand clawed his way back to a fifty percent score and will now hope to end the tournament on a high. At just 16 years, Firouzja is less than one third of Anand's age, and the Indian ace showed that the Iranian still has a lot to learn.

JORDAN TO HOST OLYMPIC BOXING QUALIFIER

LAUSANNE: An Olympic boxing qualifier, which was cancelled in China following the outbreak of a deadly virus that has claimed 26 lives, will be held instead in Jordan. The International Olympic Committee's Boxing Task Force (BTF) announced that the Asian/Oceania qualifying event for this summer's Tokyo Olympics will be held in Amman from March 3-11. "The event, originally planned to take place in Wuhan, China, from February 3-14, was rescheduled after the joint decision by the BTF and the Chinese Olympic Committee to cancel the competition due to the developments regarding the coronavirus outbreak reported in the Chinese city," said an IOC statement.

HI NAMES 32 PLAYERS FOR CAMP

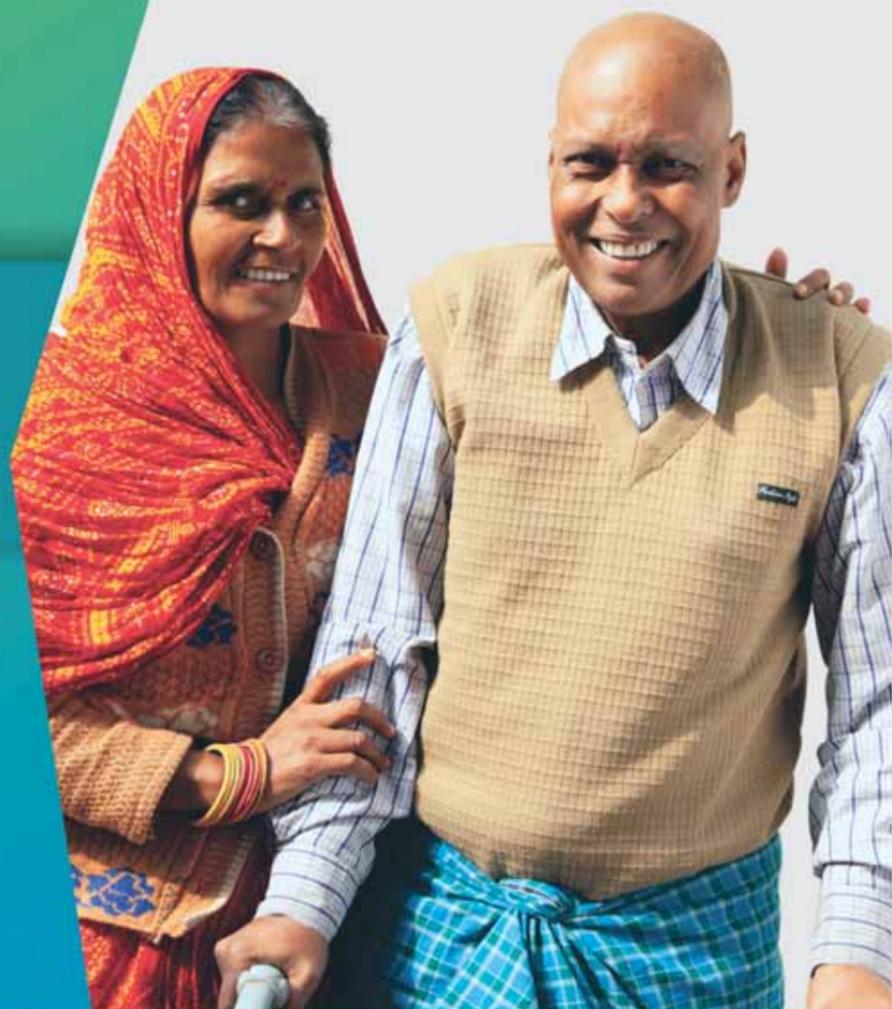
NEW DELHI: Dragflicker Varun Kumar returned to action after recovering from a nerve injury as Hockey India on Saturday named 32 players for the men's National Coaching Camp ahead of next month's FIH Pro League tie against World Champions Belgium. After making a good start to their maiden campaign with impressive wins over the Netherlands, the Indian men's team will regroup for the Camp in Bhubaneswar ahead of their tie against Belgium to be held February 8 and 9. The Core Group remains a mix of experienced and young players.

INDIAN WOMEN'S BEGIN NZ TOUR WITH 4-0 WIN

AUCKLAND: Skipper Rani Rampal struck twice as the Indian women's hockey team started its first tour of the Olympic year with a confident 4-0 victory over New Zealand Development squad here on Saturday. Besides Rani's double, Sharmila and Namita Toppo also sounded the board, while the hosts drew a blank. "In the beginning we struggled a bit with the jet lag but after that we played a very controlled game and created a lot of opportunities," said Chief coach Sjoerd Marijne after match. **AGENCIES**



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the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

The terracotta land

Temples of Maluti in Jharkhand bear testimony to India's rich yet hidden heritage

2



4

Habit tendencies and work

Old habits die hard, unless the thought-seeds to which they are rooted, are properly resolved

Once you figure out who you are and what you love about yourself, I think it all kinda falls into place
— Jennifer Aniston



Zillion dreams, a billion schemes, a million memes, but caught in slipstreams. This is how DR DEBASHISH SENGUPTA sums up the:

LIFE OF A ZENNER

A radio buzzing in a corner, the transmission is unclear, the signal seems to be wavering. I adjust the antennae that we have fixed near the roof of the room. The voice on the side becomes better. By this time, I had repeated this ritual several times. However, the crackling commentary of the cricket match on the other side made up for all the hard work and irritation. Both my younger brother and myself are stuck with the radio for the whole day. Our parents are not at home. My mother wanted to call our grandma and therefore she went to the post office to book a trunk call. It would take few hours of waiting before her turn comes and she can speak over the government run public land phone, before returning home. We had the whole day to ourselves. It took longer than expected for our parents to come back home. They could not find a taxi near the post office and had to walk for nearly a kilometre before they found a transport. Poor mom, she had to cook the dinner after a long day. Meanwhile, India had lost the match. We spent the whole evening helping our mom in the kitchen. Another uneventful day had come to an end. But we had some excitement coming-up. Sunday was just a day away when we will catch another episode of 'Star Trek' and by that time we should also be getting a letter from my cousin brother who was sharing our secret encryption code, as he had promised in his last letter. This was to prevent elders from finding out the contents of our letter. And yes, he was also sending some photos from his recent vacation...

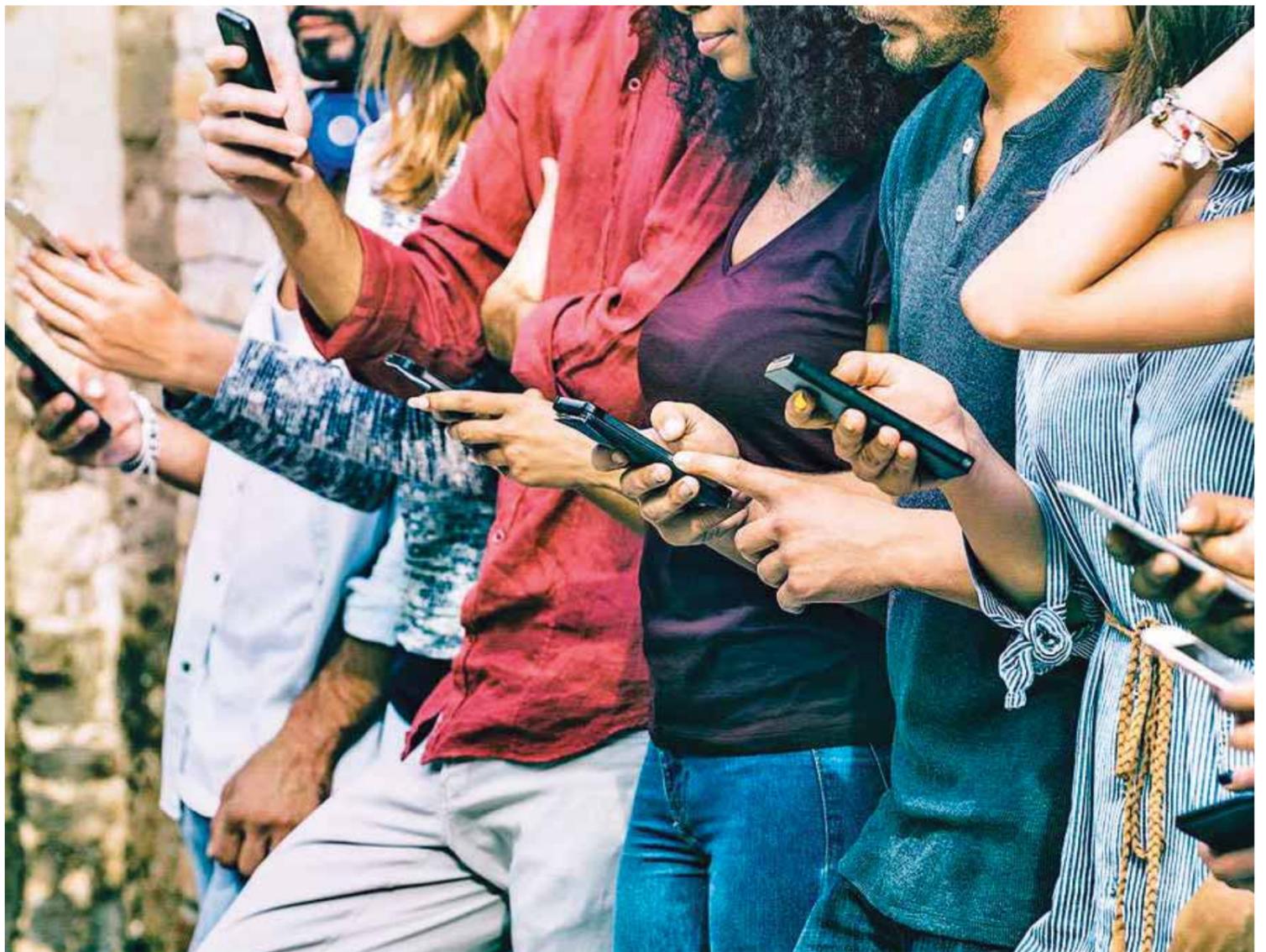
When I tell this childhood story of mine to my son, after listening to me with rapt attention, he tells me that there are technical flaws in my story. What? Technical flaws! I find his expression amusing, he finds it even more. He asks me: 'Why were you listening to the radio and not streaming live cricket over the Internet? Why did your parents go to the post office to make a call and not use their mobile to make a video call? Why did your parents not call an Uber instead of walking a long distance? Why didn't you order food over an app instead of letting your tired mom cook the dinner? Why did you wait for Sunday to watch your favourite show and not stream it over Netflix? And why were you waiting for days for a letter instead of using WhatsApp or Instagram?'

Not his fault, how will his generation that has been born in the cradle of technology and rocked by social media handles understand the times when we were children. They were born in a transformed world where on one hand rapid advancements in technology have opened the realm of possibilities, including space tourism, whereas on other hand the same technology threatens our very existence.

On one hand, the world has been brought closer than ever before with networks that defy limits of distance, and on the other hand, it has been fragmented by economic, political and religious conflicts. Everyone has more friends than before, yet there is dearth of human connection. Today, they take more photos than Kodak films would ever allow, share them over Instagram, yet they will never know the nostalgia of opening an old dusted photo album.

Zeners or Generation Z, born year 2000 and after are a unique generation, shaped by transformed times. Their formative years are shaped by a world that offers them tremendous opportunities and tools on the plate, yet the uncertainty and volatility of the same makes them highly vulnerable. How do you otherwise explain the contrasts, when a 17-year-old boy discovers a planet on the third day of his NASA internship but on the other hand a 12-year-old girl kills herself after being severely cyberbullied.

Ronit has so much information on



his tablet that he can crack the most challenging quizzes, yet all that matters at the end of the day are his grades in school where he finds no use of his knowledge of the world.

The high potential, high intelligence and high ability of this generation is true on one hand, but in the world that they live in, they find their homes changing, pressures mounting and the world becoming more predatory. They find themselves prey to anxiety, depression and vulnerable to poor mental health. Their susceptibility is often disproved by many terming it as jitters of growing-up, but such people fail to count the transformed environment that actually magnifies their challenges.

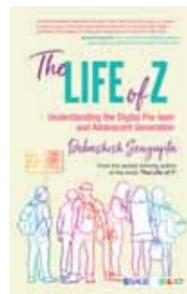
While writing the book 'The Life of Z: Understanding Digital Pre-Teen and Adolescent Generation' I had the opportunity of talking to countless zeners, their parents, teachers, tutors, child counsellors, child psychologists, pediatricians and I came across such contrasting stories. There are a group of school children who have turned their school project into an entrepreneurial journey while there are many others struggling to realise their dreams because they find low acceptance of their ideas with their elders.

There are also parents like Subalaxmi who after understanding the aptitude and personality of her child has dared to homeschool him, and her son, Akash, has excelled in many ways including being invited by a well-known scientist to work in his lab. There are parents like Mukta and Sudhanshu, who have supported their

five-year-old daughter in her pursuit of art and their five year old daughter Kamakshi's name has entered the India book of records for being the youngest Mandala artist. Interviewing Bollywood celebrity kids like Jannat Zubair (of TV series *Phulwa* fame), Ricky Patel (*Tubelight* with Salman Khan), Jineet Rath (*Talash* with Aamir Khan) their life stories are interesting and filled with insights on parenting this modern generation. But, I also came across parents torn apart by trauma whose only twelve-year-old son killed himself in Bangalore, depressed by bullying and his inability to share his anxiety; another parent who lost their child who killed himself unable to cope with a relationship stress.

Being a parent of a teenage zener myself, and in the profession of teaching and dabbling with social psychology, I can understand that parenting, teaching or counselling the zeners is not at all an easy task. This generation is nothing like we were as kids or even what millennials were when they were growing-up. They live in a different time, grow in a different environment and mature early in many ways, yet are susceptible to falling prey to online and offline predators.

There is a need to understand them and their life issues that are often complex. Without doing the same, the path is that of ignorance. Recently I came across a message shared in zest on a WhatsApp group. It read: "Today's 13-year olds have relationship stress. When I was that age, I used to close the fridge door slowly to see how the light goes off." This was shared by a



ZENERS MAKE CLOSE TO 32% OF THE WORLD POPULATION AND TOGETHER WITH MILLENNIALS HOLD THE KEY TO OUR FUTURE. ANY SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS IN UNDERSTANDING THEM WILL BE CATASTROPHICAL, TO SAY THE LEAST



40-something person, parent of a zener. Some thought this was funny, but frankly I do not find it funny at all. This is just an evidence of how less we understand this generation.

I would not blame the zeners, or their parents, teachers or whoever manages them. Often, we are ourselves confused or our thoughts are not integrated and zeners get confused by the varying voices. Take little Ishaan's example. He studies in an alternate school. Ishaan loves reading story books. But of late his mother has told him that she will not buy him story books as they need to care for the environment and save paper. Ishaan does not quite like reading story books on a digital reader. Anyways, he studies everything academic on the tablet and even writes his notes on that, plays games on mobile, but when it comes to story books, he like them printed. He has read in his books that environmental sustainability means not adding non-biodegradable wastes, keeping the surroundings clean and recycling wherever possible. Ishaan did not quite fathom how buying story books is not caring for the environment and is quite vocal about his disagreement.

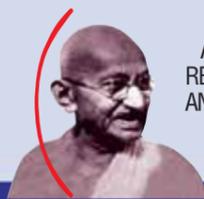
During his recent visit to the pediatric ophthalmologist, the doctor told him to reduce exposure to digital devices as it is not good for his eyes. He hardly knows what it is to write with a pencil or a pen as he uses stylus instead. He remembers a physician who visited his school for medical check-up of kids told his class that writing is not only important to have a

good handwriting, but it is also like an exercise that strengthens finger muscles and improves general health condition. Ishaan does not know whether to believe his mother or his teacher or his doctors.

Who do you really blame here? Hard to tell. But one thing is absolutely clear that the older generation has to assume responsibility. The contrasting stories also make it clear that right understanding and right guidance of the older generation can do wonders, but failure is seldom an option. The parents/teachers have to stop projecting their childhood or their issues on the present generation pre-teens and adolescents; make a concerted effort to understand the times that they live, empathize with them and their life issues; and then manage them. Only then the efforts will be synchronised at home, at school and in the society at large, and we will be able to connect with this generation and raise them to be functional happy adults.

Zeners make close to 32% of the world population and together with millennials hold the key to our future and the future of this planet and human civilization. Any short-sightedness in understanding them will be catastrophic, to say the least.

The writer is an award-winning author of the book, 'The Life of Z: Understanding Millennials as Employees and Consumers'. His latest book 'The Life of Z: Understanding Digital Pre-teen and Adolescent Generation' (SAGE India) released recently on Amazon



A NATION'S CULTURE
RESIDES IN THE HEARTS
AND IN THE SOUL OF ITS
PEOPLE
— MAHATMA GANDHI



Spectators gathered along Rajpath to witness the Republic Day parade on January 26, 2015 were surprised to see the tableau of Jharkhand. Ever since the state was formed, it was perceived to be the land of jungles and a rich tribal culture. Beyond that were its industrial cities like Jamshedpur and Bokaro, but largely, it remained unexplored.

The 2015 tableau of Jharkhand was a re-creation of a few terracotta temples and the face of an unknown Goddess enshrined in one of those temples. It created a huge wave of interest among the audience present, as well as those who watched the televised version. For many, it was their introduction to the terracotta temples of Maluti, a small village in Dumka district of Jharkhand. Up till now people were only familiar with the Bengal terracotta temples. This small village Maluti has 72 terracotta temples, most of which are embellished with exotic panels of baked clay.

Few months later, Maluti attracted attention once again, when in newly built Ranchi airport, tourism department of Jharkhand placed a huge poster of Maluti with an objective of encouraging tourism in this almost unknown heritage village. Today, Maluti is counted among the unique heritage spots of India.

No where else can one find an instance where within a radius of 1,150 ft, a few generations of zamindars have built more than 100 terracotta temples instead of palaces and pleasure chambers. Even in Bengal, a state that houses several world class terracotta temples, there is no such distinctive a village. Incidentally, Maluti is just a few kilometres from Bengal border and its dwellers speak Bengali and not Hindi. The village cult and customs are more Bengali than Jharkhand.

Though not much information or knowledge is available on these temples, the local folklore/legend has it that this place was known as Mallahati, a zone owned by Malla dynasty that ruled Bishnupur of Bengal. It is the same place that houses many world famous terracotta temples.

The place, it is believed, derives its name from a local Goddess named Moulakshi, who has no reference in Hindu mythology. It is assumed that this Goddess came from Tantrik cult of Buddhism in which she is described as elder sister of Tara. Later, she may have been adopted by the Hindus as their Goddess and started attracting devotees. Based on this information, many believe that this place was once influenced by Vajrayana Buddhism, in which shadow of Tantrik cult is said to be profound.

A website claims Adi Shankara visited this place when he was touring India in his mission of re-emerging Hinduism over Buddhism. The conversion of a Buddhist Goddess into a Hindu Goddess may be a testimony of that forgotten past.

Legend has it that in the 15th century, a new rule was established by an orphan named Baj Basanta, who got a huge tax free land/property as gift, courtesy the then Sultan of Bengal, Alauddin Hussain Shah (1495-1525).

It is said that once during his hunting expedition, Sultan lost his pet falcon and was deeply depressed. Basanta, the village

MALUTI: JHARKHAND'S OWN TERRACOTTA LAND

Dating back to the 15th century, temples of Maluti in Jharkhand bear a testimony to India's rich yet hidden heritage, writes SOMEN SENGUPTA

boy, salvaged the falcon and got the bird back to the Sultan. Happy to have his falcon back, Sultan rewarded Basanta with a sizable land. The boy thus got famous as Baj Basanta.

Baj Basanta founded his capital at a place named Dumra. His several generations ruled the area as prominent tax collecting landowners.

In 1680, Baj Basanta's great grandson, named Rajchandra, was killed in a battle with another king of Rajnagar in Birbhum. Following the incident, his four sons shifted their capital to Mallahati. They found the place to be very peaceful. Once settled, the family branched into four and started expanding by building a plethora of temples. It is believed that all four branches started founding temples instead of building palaces and pleasure houses.

Gradually, in the next 200 years, a time came when it was found that the village had 108 temples dedicated to various Hindu Goddess and almost all decorated with exceptionally beautiful terracotta panels. Today, only 72 temples can be found in Maluti. Rest are either grounded or in a dilapidated condition.

These 72 temples are situated in 4 clusters in the village and one needs to take narrow lanes and beaten tracks to visit all. It is a different matter that the village is very small and thinly populated, and so it does not take much time to visit all clusters. Poor maintenance and lack of public awareness has marred the charm of the place to a great extent.

The first cluster is known as *Madhyam bari*. The second and third clusters are located very close to each other and appear as one. They are known as temples of *Rajbari* and *Sikhir bari*. The last group of temples which are in equally bad condition is known as *Chayer taraf*. Apart from these temples, there is a hexagonal *rasmancha*.

While all temples were originally embellished with terracotta, due to weathering and random defacing of walls, many of these temples lay painfully bare now. In many temples, panels are continuously crumbling. The temples have developed cracks and wild vegetation grows uncontrolled. In a few temples, walls are defaced



LEGEND HAS IT THAT IN THE 15TH CENTURY, A NEW RULE WAS ESTABLISHED BY AN ORPHAN NAMED BAJ BASANTA, WHO WAS GIFTED A HUGE TAX FREE LAND/PROPERTY BY THE THEN SULTAN OF BENGAL, ALAUDDIN HUSSAIN SHAH (1495-1525)

with writings and cattle roam inside. Some temples are still in use and hundreds of people continue to cause damage to its rich artworks. During Diwali, on occasion of *Kalipuja*, fairs are organised at temples clusters, attracting large crowds. These fairs are yet another cause of continuous damage to the temples.

The beauty of the terracotta panels found on the walls of Maluti temples is distinct from the panels found on the walls of the various temples of Bengal. In Bengal, apart from mythology and epic references, various social aspects also feature in terracotta panels, whereas in Maluti stories of Ramayana appears to be the main theme.

The central arch and its surrounding areas are all decorated with the battle sequence of Lord Ram and ten-headed Ravana. In some panels, Ram is shown on the shoulder of Hanuman, whereas, in some temples the same warrior is shown fighting on his feet. In some panels, Ram sports a manly moustache. In a similar manner, Ravana is also visualised in different forms and shapes. He has his usual ten heads and ten hands but his postures are distinctive different and vary from temple to temple.

While Ram is accompanied by Laxman and Hanuman, Ravana is followed by demon warriors elegantly dressed up and spirited. The panoply and shoes of Ravana in every temple are beautiful and distinctive. In some panels, Ravana can also be seen fighting alone on foot.

Some of the divine figures are very unique and not commonly found in other terracotta temples. Musicians, flying demons, foot soldiers with naked swords etc are in plenty on each front wall of temples. Social sequences like a royal man on a palanquin, worshipping, goat sacrifice and so on are also found aplenty.

The numbers of panels on the side walls and back wall, however, are unusually few and appear to have been removed. A row of small chariots is carved under every figure of Ram and Ravana. These rows of chariots are placed just on the apex of main entrance and again, those are very richly decorated with warriors fighting with deadly weapons, either on horses or elephants. Beautiful floral designs with various hindu motifs are etched all over the wall.

Mahishasurmardini Durga is another common feature to be found on these terracotta decorated temples. Here, she mounts an animal which neither looks like a lion nor a horse. However, some panels depict excellent horse statues. In some panels, she appears with Laxmi and Saraswati on her either sides and in some, she is depicted by herself.

Even though these temples are largely believed to be made of terracotta, there is a contention that these panels may actually be carvings on a very soft type of sandstone, locally known as *phool pathar*. Which is a possibility because in Birbhum district of Bengal, some temples are actually decorated with *phool pathar* and are commonly confused for terracotta.

The locals have also been using the hexagonal roof less *rasmancha* (platform) to celebrate Holi and *Raas Utsav* of Radha-Krishna, which is causing considerable harm to the structure.

Temples of Maluti follow the Bengal school of temple architecture but sadly not much variation found in that. Most of the temples are made in *charchala* style, that has

single pinnacle with four sides slopes. Only a few temples are made of *atchala* and *deul* style. So a monotony grips while taking a tour. However, the thrill of photography sees no bound of satisfaction when one gets to capture a plethora of similar looking temples in a single frame.

As for now, the temple village of Maluti is a victim of sheer negligence from the government side. The village remained lost to world and even to the people of its own state, the undivided Bihar, as well as Bengal even before 1979 when ASI official named AK Sinha first undertook a project on this village and submitted a detailed report of his work.

Despite this report, no basic minimum amenities were built in Maluti and the place did not find mention in any of the tourism promotional literature. In 2009, Global Heritage Fund surveyed this village and marked it as one of the fastest vanishing heritage of the world. Even after that, no major Government fund was sanctioned to protect these temples.

It is heartening to see that the present government is atleast making that effort to promote it as a unique heritage site of the state. At an individual level, a local resident named Gopaldas Banerjee who has been observing the gradual decline of the heritage has done excellent work to record and protect these temples. As someone born and bred in the village, Banerjee had heard various legends and stories from his early childhood and has penned several authentic books on the subject. He was recently felicitated by Jharkhand Government for his work of recording history.

The temples of Maluti are a burning testimonial to India's rich yet hidden heritage and if proper protection and exposure is not given these beautiful structures, all will be lost. Their dilapidated condition is only worsened by overgrown vegetation and massive water leakage from the roof and the walls. A few of the temples have already crumbled owing to neglect and many are awaiting the same fate. Though some restoration work has started recently, but no amenities can still be found for the tourists. It would be a pity if these temples are lost — a sin beyond pardoning.

Planning to travel overseas? Be well-insured

Not many are aware that there exist a variety of customised travel insurance plans that offer region or risk-specific cover, writes ROHAN KUMAR

When travelling abroad, travel insurance is no longer considered optional. Escalating costs of healthcare, theft and loss combined with availability of affordable insurance makes it a no-brainer.

Take an example of a couple honeymooning in Thailand with plans for sightseeing and adventure sports. While a regular insurance would cost a few hundred rupees, any health emergency and evacuation could end up costing tens of thousands of dollars. Hospitals, even in Asia, can easily cost US\$ 500 a day. Stolen papers, wallets, baggage — stories all too common for most travellers — are also covered in most plans. In the case of such travels, care should be taken to ensure that accidents during adventure sports are covered in the policy they purchase. A variety of customised travel plans are region or risk-specific, like

it is mandatory for an individual to have a Schengen travel insurance policy or a health insurance plan along with the Schengen Visa. Schengen travel insurance policies generally include benefits like emergency medical expenses, repatriation, accidental bodily injury, death or permanent disability, extended protection for the family, etc in Schengen countries. Meanwhile, to provide an effortless globe-trotting experience to senior citizens there is comprehensive travel insurance that has additional benefits like cashless medical services, medical concierge services, state-of-the-art health care facilities, distress allowance, etc. Many travellers are unaware that their travel insurance can be extended if their stay is prolonged. Different insurers offer specific extension periods depending on the travel destination and the type of traveller. There are niche products in the



market as well, depending on the kind of travel you are planning: coverage for races and adventure sports like bungee jumping, mountaineering and parasailing, plans that cover medical costs pertaining to pre-existing conditions by offering a waiver to the exclusion, kidnapping etc are some of the value add-ons available for policies. We're hearing of policies that will cover "cold feet cancellation" for guests heading to a destination wedding, or inconveniences related to being hijacked — a daily benefit if you are delayed in reaching your destination due to this.

A good idea when choosing insurance policies is to first take a look at what is covered in your existing plans — sometimes your homeowners or renters' policies will cover valuables, or your health insurance will cover emergencies abroad. Next, look at any risks you are taking on the trip(s) you are covering (scuba

diving, hiking, cruises may require a niche policy), and then choose a policy that covers them all.

Another thing to consider while buying a travel plan is to keep an eye out for the deductible. The deductible is the amount that the policyholder agrees to pay if they need to make a claim. The insurance company then reimburses the costs over and above that amount. With most travel insurance policies, the deductible is applied to emergency medical care costs. It may also extend to baggage or trip cancellation/interruption coverage. Insurers usually offer a range of deductible amounts. Generally, higher the amount, the greater the discount on the premium. So, adding a deductible is especially beneficial for people paying high premiums — e.g., those staying abroad for months at a time. The growing trend is for policies that have a zero deductible, meaning there will be no out-of-

pocket expenses if a claim is filed with the insurance company. In countries with extremely high medical costs, like the United States, finding an insurance plan with a zero deductible is always wise and almost imperative.

In the event of buying insurance online (obviously the most convenient option), the customers should consider checking the travel insurance coverage, quote for the travel duration, claim settlement ratio and ease of contacting customer care. Fine print matters — accidents under the influence of intoxicants are not covered, acts of war or terrorism are often not covered — but for all purposes, if you don't have time to go through the various checklists, remember that the important thing is to be covered.

The writer is an insurance expert; CEO & co-founder, Toffee Insurance

Right-green coalition in Austria unviable

Sebastian Kurz, the youngest Chancellor of Austria at the age of 33, has just taken over as the Chancellor of the country for the second time. The People's Party, known as Österreichische Volkspartei (ÖVP), he represents, is primarily a centre-right political party. However, it regards itself as a progressive centre party which is the successor of the Christian Social Party, established way back in the 1890s. In fact, the ÖVP came into being immediately after the reestablishment of the Republic of Austria in 1945.

Kurz became active in the politics of the ÖVP since the age of 16. As a law student in Vienna, he was elected to the post of the chairman of the youth wing of the party. By 2011, he left his studies to join as a junior Interior Minister and rose up to the rank of Foreign Minister in 2013, only at the age of 27. In 2015, when the whole Europe was plagued by massive immigration from war-torn nations of West Asia, he proposed a plan for immediate integration of these immigrant communities into the mainstream. But then he was all in praise for Hungary's fire-brand populist leader and Prime Minister Victor Orban. That was the time he was all against absorbing more immigrants from the troubled regions of West Asia and North Africa, such as Syria, Iraq, Libya, etc.

Also, Kurz credited Orban for closing the Balkan immigration route in 2016. It must be noted here that though the opposition in Hungary accuses him of backsliding when it comes to democratic freedoms, but he has remained undeterred in his shaping of a new polity what he likes to call as "illiberal democracy". However the critics simply brand it as a semi-authoritarian state. With this kind of a liking, Kurz has fully endorsed a strong right turn in Austrian politics and of course change of tactics in coming elections.

Afterwards, he was elected chairman of the ÖVP in May 2017. Surprisingly he led the party to victory by garnering more than 31 per cent of the votes and became the Chancellor with the support



Vice Chancellor Werner Kogler, left, from the Austrian Green party, and Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, right, from the Austrian People's Party, ÖVP, attend a cabinet meeting at the federal chancellery, in Vienna AP

from the far right FPÖ party from December 2017 to May 2019. His coalition government fell only when his coalition partner and his leader Heinz-Christian Strache were rocked by the historic Ibiza gate scandal. Therefore, the party this time has dropped its former coalition partner, the FPÖ. The ÖVP was forced to stay away from this tie-up as the leader of the FPÖ, Strache, was caught offering bribe to a woman who posed as the niece of a Russian oligarch. And all these took place in Ibiza, one of the Balearic Islands of Spain located in the Mediterranean Sea. The Ibiza gate trimmed

down the voting share of the party to only 16 per cent, a sharp fall from 26 per cent in the last elections. The ÖVP has won 37 per cent of the votes, up from 31 per cent from the last election.

It is interesting to know the policies and programmes of the party as they are simply going to shape the future of Austria. The party is insisting on an immediate ban on the Identitarian Movement (also called as IBOe) once launched by the far-right. In fact, it came into light even before the general election in September. Further the ÖVP leader August Woginger repeatedly remind-

ed his party colleagues and the Austrian public that the ban on the Identitarian Movement would be a condition for making the next coalition Government of the country. The IBOe is famous for its anti-immigration agenda. But it has faced crisis as its leader Martin Sellner is accused of receiving money and exchanging e-mails with the suspected perpetrators of gun attacks on mosques in New Zealand, in which 51 people died.

Thus finally, the ÖVP has stitched an unlikely coalition with the Green Party, headed by Werner Kogler. Interestingly, the Greens achieved a historic

win in this election by getting more than 13.9 per cent of the votes. But ironically, Kurz has been stressing for a proper centre-right coalition deal since the beginning of the snap poll that was held in September 2019. In that case, the FPÖ could have been the logical partner to deal with and form a government of their mutual interests. On the other hand, the FPÖ was seriously disturbed by internal differences. And the party also indicated in the recent past that it could very well go back and take the position of an opposition party.

Further, the old coalition i.e. ÖVP-SPO (Social

Democratic Party) that survived the most parts of the post-World War II period seemed to be completely unviable today. This coalition is deeply unpopular among the Austrian electorate today, particularly among the youngsters. At the same time, Kurz, the new chairman of the party, has been criticising the new power-sharing system developed by both these parties as Proporz. Hence, there was no option left for Kurz, except aligning with the Greens.

For the first time in Austria, a female majority Government has come to power this month. And in the

Cabinet of 17 Ministers in this Conservative-Green Government, 9 are women ministers. Kurz calls this coalition as the "best of both worlds". But some say that it would be difficult for him to survive such an unusual tie-up. The reason behind is that how such a coalition of centre right and centre left would survive? It would be difficult for both the parties to further their own interests. There are high chances that their supporters and sympathisers would soon be disillusioned in the days to come. The ideological gap between the Greens and the ÖVP is too big. The ÖVP has a set agenda to cut taxes, deregulate, and reduce public expenditure whereas the Greens would like to go for new taxes on inheritance, carbon emissions and capital gains, want to engage in huge public infrastructure projects for building public transportation networks across the country. Again the Greens will find it really difficult to support Kurz on issues like tough stance on illegal immigration, slashing public funds for refugees and deporting asylum applicants upon receiving a negative notice even if they have jobs and successfully integrated with the Austrian society. Both the parties have strong differences over education and welfare reforms. His going with the Greens is a critical misreading of his long-term strategies. The ideological flexibility that he is displaying at the moment is simply overstated. He will simply pay for it in the near future. Many thought he is raising an illiberal democracy of Orban type in Hungary. But instead, it seems he is trying to cling to power even with the help of the Greens. His brand of politics may soon lose steam. And if cracks appear in the partnership, this will once again push Austria into a new uncertainty only.

Whatever it may be, people in Austria are just thinking 'schau ma mal' i.e. Let's see. It is very apparent that it is a coalition that Kurz never wanted and many say that it is unlikely to last.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

Chancellor Sebastian Kurz has picked up where he left off, but this time with the Austrian Green Party. But how long the strange bedfellows can work together to stay in the Government is anybody's guess as stakes are high for both, the People's Party and the Green party



MAKHAN SAKIA

New coronavirus as dangerous as SARS? No clarity yet

Novel (new) coronavirus (termed "2019-nCoV") — a new strain of virus from China — has the world on edge because it's a close cousin to viruses that killed hundreds in separate outbreaks. While it's too early to tell if this latest threat will prove as deadly, health authorities are drawing on lessons from that grim past.

WHAT'S THE LINK

The new virus comes from a large family of coronaviruses, some causing nothing worse than a cold. But in late 2002, a coronavirus named SARS erupted in southern China, causing a severe pneumonia that rapidly spread to other countries. It infected more than 8,000 people and killed 774 — and then it disappeared, thanks to public health measures.

In 2012, another coronavirus dubbed MERS began sickening people in Saudi Arabia. It's still hanging around, causing small numbers of infections each year. The World Health Organization has counted nearly 2,500 cases of MERS in the West Asia and beyond, and more than 850 deaths.

So far, deaths from the new virus have been a small fraction of the roughly 1,300 confirmed infections, most of those cases in China.

WHERE DO THESE VIRUSES COME FROM?

SARS and MERS came from animals, and this newest virus almost certainly did, too. The first people infected visited or worked at a seafood market in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

SARS initially was traced to civet cats sold in a live animal market, but later scientists decided it probably originated in bats that infected the civets. People can catch MERS from infected camels, although again, bats likely first spread that coronavirus to camels.

That animal-to-human jump is a huge concern for all kinds of viruses. Every so often, new strains of bird flu make the



Shoppers wearing face masks exit a supermarket in Wuhan in central China's Hubei province on Saturday AP

jump from Asian live poultry markets to people, for example.

"These wildlife markets are a risk," said Dr Ian Lipkin of Columbia University, who assisted the WHO and China during the SARS outbreak and advises Saudi Arabia about MERS.

HOW SIMILAR ARE THEY?

Experts can't yet tell whether the new virus called 2019-nCoV — it stands for

"novel coronavirus" — is more like SARS or MERS. Genetically, they're all closely related but "they really are different viruses," said Dr Anthony Fauci, infectious diseases chief at the US National Institutes of Health.

One indication of a virus' danger is how easily it spreads from person to person. Unlike SARS, "it looks like it doesn't transmit through the air very easily and probably transmits through close contact,"

said Dr David Heymann, who headed WHO's global response to SARS.

And while it's too soon to be sure, Heymann said the new virus appears most dangerous to older adults who have other health problems.

Complicating matters, if this new virus is fairly mild, it may be harder to stem the spread. That's because people who aren't sick enough to see a doctor and thus don't learn they should be isolated could

keep spreading it, noted Neil Ferguson of Imperial College London, who has consulted for WHO. Nor is there any way to know yet how often people become infected but show no obvious symptoms.

"We may see more mild cases as the surveillance intensifies," WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic said Friday in Geneva. "So the issue is not so much really numbers that we know will go up."

HOW WILL PEOPLE KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

Since symptoms are similar — fever, cough and in more severe cases shortness of breath or pneumonia — it'll take a medical test to tell. There is one, but health authorities in China, the US and elsewhere are working to make it more widely available. Given that it is flu season in China, too, it's "all the more impressive that they were able to recognize this outbreak quickly," Dr Brian Garibaldi of Johns Hopkins University said.

Precautions that hospitals often use for flu season and for other infectious diseases should help for this, too, Garibaldi added. For example, in many US hospitals people are given masks if they arrive with a fever and cough during flu season. And a legacy of the 2014 West Africa Ebola outbreak — which also resulted in infected travelers — is that doctors and hospitals are supposed to ask about recent foreign trips.

HUNTING VACCINES

While there is no vaccine — or specific treatment — for SARS or MERS, Fauci said it is technically possible to create a vaccine against this new virus. NIH did develop a potential vaccine candidate for SARS. It proved safe in a small first-step study in people but never was tested further because by then, the outbreak was ending.

This time around, scientists have more of a head start. Just weeks after the first unusual pneumonias were reported, Chinese scientists mapped the genes of the viral suspect and shared them with world health authorities.

Now, NIH is among several groups working to create a vaccine for the new virus, using newer and faster technology than was available during SARS. Fauci hopes to begin first-step safety tests in about three months, but something ready for real-world use would take far longer. AP



EACH YEAR ONE VICIOUS HABIT DISCARDED, IN TIME MIGHT MAKE THE WORST OF US GOOD — BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



YOUR WEEK AHEAD



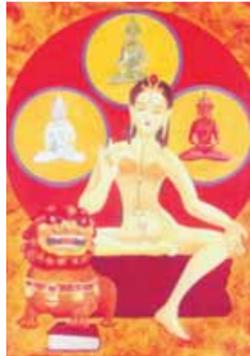
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

Your health remains good. Your theory of prevention is better than cure will work well. You are inspired, motivated and have strong will power to turn a situation in your favour. With a tremendous amount of energy and stamina, you can work non-stop and finish the pending tasks. Your workaholic approach will attain favour of your seniors. Your potential is being recognised which will work as motivation for you. Those seeking love, this week your search for the right partner will come to an end. There will be a true bonding between you and your partner. This is the right time to talk to each other and sort out the problems for a smooth relationship. Married couples will enjoy the time and cherish some memorable moments.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Be positive is the mantra for this week. Those facing physical problems, be careful about your diet. Make sure to exercise/do yoga, eat healthy and take proper rest. Even if you are feeling demotivated and disengaged, do not cut yourself off from the world. Seek help from a trusted person in your family or friend circle to come out of your current state of mind. Things will go well in your career. You may experience a sense of calm and emotional connect with other colleagues at work. This is a make or break period in your relationship. Evaluate everything and be very clear about what you want from life and your relationship and make a decision accordingly. Those seeking a new relationship need to decide about how they are going to approach it.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 19

Healthwise this is not a great time for you. This week is full of anxiety, stress and worry. Make sure you have a balanced diet, exercise and fluid intake. Meditation and breathing exercises are particularly useful to you. Take time out to practice some. Work-wise, you will have a pleasant time. You may bond with colleagues and enjoy a social get-together with them. The work environment is positive and you may expect a promotion. Those seeking a new job will be successful. Love life should go well. Those facing challenges in their relations need to maintain a balanced and welcoming attitude. Those looking for a new relationship, be confident, go out and mingle with others. Things are sure to work in your favour.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you have to be alert as there are chances of health issues popping up. Maintain a positive attitude at all times. Manage your stress level and get enough rest to heal both physically and emotionally. You may face some difficulties on the career front. Your feelings or ego may get hurt at your work. Be optimistic and face the challenges with an approach that the consequences will make you learn something new about life. Those looking for employment should probably look in a different direction or a different field. Those in a relationship, may have to face some issues. Do not stress over things and give yourself and your partner some time and space to deal with the problem. Those who are single, you have to wait for the right time to meet a suitable partner.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Monday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Health is satisfactory this week. You are advised to practice meditation and positive thinking. Doing so would work wonders for you. Those who are down with health problems or some illness should not lose heart. Take care of yourself and allow yourself to get in touch with your inner strength to heal faster. This week, work front seems to be disturbed as it is full of worries and anxiety in relation to some project work. Keep reminding yourself to not worry, stay positive. Leave aside the anxiety and focus on what you can control. Those seeking employment should do what they can to get their desired job. Be strong in your relationship with others. Some issues may pop up. You need to give space to yourself and your partner to sort out the differences.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You will have plenty of opportunities to entertain yourself and spend quality time. This will be reflected on your health. Others will feel positive vibes in your company. On the career front, something good is likely to happen. The issues you were facing in the last few days will get over now. You may find support in your colleague or a friend. This is an apt time to discuss service matters with your boss, and your ideas will be valued and executed for the benefit of the organisation. If you are in the line for promotion, it may come to you soon. Family plays a major role in your success. Romance is in the air. Those seeking love will meet someone of their liking. Existing relations demand your attention and time. Plan a vacation to make your partner feel important.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Your health will be good. Keep up with your meditation and yoga routine as it will keep you connected to your soul. Those dealing with health issues, need to take things seriously and take proper medication. Some of you may work yourself to exhaustion and stress may take a serious toll on your body. Give yourself a break. Your work front looks good and you may experience happiness and satisfaction at work. Those awaiting interview results will get good news. You seem to be on the right track but don't get carried away. Those who have commitment phobia, need to introspect. It is very important to have a healthy conversation when faced with problems. Don't avoid any issues in your relations and because it will only make things worse.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week take a break from health worries and stress. Practice meditation in calm surroundings and do some spiritual thinking. This will help you develop mental strength. Don't push yourself in any task as it might have an adverse effect on you. This is the time to count your blessings. At work, things are good. Those who are not happy, stay calm, as new opportunities are waiting to open doors. A personal transformation will help you have a deeper understanding of yourself and others. Your relationship seems to be in an uncomfortable zone. Either you or your partner is going through a tough time. Examine your relationship and give your support to your partner to make the relationship work. Don't lose hope. Your time will come, just take rest and relax.

Lucky number 5
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will feel physically, emotionally and spiritually charged. Things are in their right place. Those suffering from heart and BP related issues would recover fast with the help of proper medical attention and their own will power. Monetary gains are on the cards. Those thinking of venturing out into a business or an expansion, go ahead. You will be successful. You may meet an influential person who could prove highly beneficial in your career. Those in services may gain higher status/position. Love demands your attention, which probably you won't be able to pay much. Your partner may get annoyed, so balance between work and love. Married life is blissful and enjoyable.

Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Pastel Blue
Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Maintain balance to have good health. Make sure you eat well, get adequate sleep and exercise the right amount. This week you seem to be enthusiastic about your work. You will show the right amount of confidence and take on new projects. A word of caution though. Be careful to not rush into things. You have the tendency to be impulsive. Think before you make any decisions. Travel on account of your work is indicated. Good news for those who are awaiting results of an interview. You will rejoice in friendship and harmonious relationships. Some of you will be celebrating an occasion with your partner. In case of stress, spend some quality time with your friends and family.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You will witness a high level of energy and vitality this week. This will keep you active. Just make sure to take out time for adequate rest as well. Women who are planning to start a family, good news is in the offing. Enjoy this time of good health. On the work front, you may get involved in a conflict or disagreement with others. This might be due to your own behaviour. If you are trying to complete a task with disregard to its impact on others, you might end up being a loser. Make sure your behaviour is impeccable. Either you or your partner is working very hard in your jobs, this might be interfering with your relationship. For a smooth relationship, spend some quality time with each other. Single seeking love, should also prioritise their life.

Lucky number 5
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Your health is not the best this week. Watch out for seasonal ailments. Drink plenty of water and avoid tea, coffee, or any kind of addiction. Focus on meditation and yoga for rejuvenation and healing. Career-wise you will feel a sense of accomplishment. Those seeking jobs will get a call from the company they have been aspiring for. Your family and friends' support will boost your morale. Property matters will be solved as per your wish. In a relationship, avoid conflicts and confrontations which are likely to occur during this week. Love may face objection as your family members may not favour your love or don't like your relationship. A rift in the family might make you upset. You may have a confrontation with the elders/mother to defend your relationship.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Sunday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Habit tendencies can derail venture

Picking up threads from the previous issue, let us now look at the prognosis of the young man's endeavour since his session with me. He was advised to reflect upon his inner frame of mind in a meditative mode, identify the inherent fault lines, acknowledge them, and make necessary amends from the root level through fresh educative inputs. He did reflect for a while, but not in a meditative mode. In fact, he used to seek guidance on how to modify his conduct. As also, on how to relate to his parents so as to keep them in good humour. The saner side of him was then driving his thought process, as would Jupiter beneficially aligned to mind signifying Moon may mean. He, thereafter, began consciously evading getting into unnecessary argument with his parents, unlike earlier when he would react to everything. That helped improve his relationship with parents over a period of time, but not without intermittent bouts of aggression. His habit tendencies would then temporarily overtake his thought process. But after offending them, he would regret, seek clarification on where and why he went wrong, and as

advised, say sorry to mend fences. Remember, habits die hard, and would not spare you unless the thought-seeds to which they are rooted in the inner realms of mind, are resolved from the base level. That is only possible through self-reflection in meditative mode. Otherwise, when caught unguarded, the inherent tendencies will come into immediate play, and evidently to one's detriment. On work front, he was not contented with just his family business, which being considerably big demanded full-time engagement. His sense of insecurity played heavy on his mind, coming as it may with the Sun placed adverse to Saturn. The trigger was, not being named a director in the company, whereas his first cousins were inducted into the board of his uncle's company. He felt that he was being denied his due. He was afraid that because of temperamental differences with parents, he would be deprived of his legacy. It could not register in his mind that they were in fact grooming him in a way that before he was handed charge, he gets time and space to get over his attitudinal limitations, so that he could lead



with prudence and patience. The man in hurry wished to hurriedly create something of his own. True to his nature, he was toying with many entrepreneurial ventures. For, mind signifying Moon is posited in a Mercury owned sign, a planet identified with multiplicity. He was advised to take up one project at a time, take it to its logical end, stabilise it, before getting into another venture. But given his habit, he kept arguing to prove his point and won't listen. He tried to enter into partnership with one start-up company that was assisting him in one of his projects. But the promoters refused. That raked up his ego, as would the Sun placed adverse to Jupiter imply. He could not digest refusal and thus got trapped in his own bind. In reaction, he rushed through partnership with another start-up company that was also assisting him in his project, just with the intent to outsmart the other company. Made disproportionate investment despite stiff resistance from his associates. Later, he realised that the return he expected may take some time. He forgot that any maiden venture has to go through mean down time before giving returns. He then lost his nerves. Following which,

he on the strength of money power began playing all tricks in his hand to take over the company, which met with stiff resistance from the original promoters. Eventually the partnership broke off and he lost heavily. If all that would not be enough, he spent heavily in branding himself. His illusionary perceptions made him ignore all advice to wait till his venture took off well, as would the Sun opposite mischievous Neptune imply. Being young, he had enough time in hand for image building. But he was in a hurry to rough shoulders with the bigwigs in the Business world. In the process he went out of proportion to pay a hefty sum to become a member of an International organisation. Now, because of economic downturn, on completion of his project, his product line is not moving on expected lines. Consequently, he is now under severe financial pressure, making it difficult to push through his product in the market. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025 Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com