

WORLD 7
HONG KONG DECLARES WUHAN
VIRUS OUTBREAK AN 'EMERGENCY'

LANDMARK 5
GALLANTRY AWARDS FOR
OVER 1K COPS

SPORT 8
PLSKOVA, SVITOLINA
OUT OF AUS OPEN

CHANDIGARH, SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 2020; PAGES 8-4 ₹3



sunday pioneer

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26 JANUARY
HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY



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.

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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.

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



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

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

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; 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 has the maximum names at 108, followed by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at 76.

Squadron Leaders Siddharth Vashisht and Ninad Mandavgane, 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 Bhaduria acknowledged the helicopter crash was a case of friendly fire and was a "big mistake."

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Coronavirus: 7 more under observation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seven more people who returned from China have been kept under observation following screening for possible exposure to novel coronavirus.

The Prime Minister's Office on Saturday reviewed India's preparedness to deal with the deadly syndrome and mounting global concern over growing number of cases in the neighbouring countries.

At a meeting chaired by PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to the PM, Health Ministry officials presented and updated about response measures being undertaken.

Nirbhaya convict moves SC against 'no' to mercy plea

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mukesh Kumar Singh (32), one of the four death-row convicts in the 2012 Nirbhaya murder and gang-rape case, on Saturday moved the Supreme Court seeking judicial review of the rejection of mercy petition.

"A petition has been filed under Article 32 for judicial review of the manner of rejection of the mercy petition in terms of the judgment of the SC in Shatrughan Chauhan case," said Vrinda Grover, who is representing Mukesh.

Earlier, a Delhi court rejected charge that Tihar jail didn't hand over documents to convicts to file mercy pleas.

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.



लिबर्टी परिवार

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गणतंत्र दिवस

की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं




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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. Tat 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 cuter 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 Haryana 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 when 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

Double Bill Dance Concert

Venue: CD Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi
When: January 30, 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.

Mira Bhayandar Food Festival

Venue: JP North Garden City, Mira Road, Mumbai
Date: January 26, 2020
Time: 4 pm to 10 pm
Ticket: ₹100

As the winter chills are still on and cravings for a variety of scrumptious food items hit harder during this season, one of the biggest food carnivals Mira Bhayandar Food Festival 2020 powered by IP Infra and curated by Things2do in Mumbai is scheduled to take place over this weekend. The event promises to offer around 50+ curated dishes, breweries, grooving music, DJ performances, engaging games, and much more! One gets an opportunity to dig into *garam garam chole bhature*, momos, and pancakes or challenge it, with slurps of frozen popsicles and creamy ice creams. Involve in fun workshops, get yourself a drink, go crazy shopping, or just dance through as brilliant DJ's spin their magic at this exclusive event. All roads for a fun time lead to the Mira Bhayandar Food Festival and you've got to be there. There is lots of mazzza lined up for you, including 50+ delectable F&B brands, five hand-picked pop-up stalls and curated games & workshops.

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 with 'Oscars at PVR Film Festival'. During the month-long event, PVR will screen 18 Oscar nominated & winning films across 27 cinemas in 14 cities. *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.



ACTORSPEAK

Being an actor our responsibility to be aware what is happening in our society and spread awareness in society whenever possible. I keep on writing inspiring poems which will evoke patriotism in people towards the country. I believe in cleanliness and I always carry a small dustbin in my car. Whenever I am traveling, I put collect all the waste in it. I am celebrating Republic Day and Independence Day both since school days. I still remember every republic day in the morning we used to go for *prabhat feri* — all of us used to walk in the school area with our flag.



— Paritosh Tripathi

Being an actor I feel we are much responsible to spread awareness in our society. Because people follow us and it becomes easy to send a message through us. In our show *Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah* we always try to bring in important issues like save water, cleanliness, girl education and others. I believe in speaking up about anything that you feel is wrong.



— Neha Mehta

HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY

January 26 always brings back various memories of a time, when as children we used to dress up to be a part of the flag hoisting ceremony and actually realised the value that this day holds in India's history. Being a proud Indian, I have always had deep respect for our Indian culture and the values that have been inculcated in us over the years. However, I feel that we are still miles away from being the kind of nation that can make every Indian proud to be a citizen of India. As an Indian, I pledge to extend a hand towards the development of women and several orphaned children of our country in the smallest ways that I can. Via small measures, I pledge to bring about a change in the perception and mentality of today's society towards its women and how they can help our nation progress.



— Shubhangi Atrre

Being patriotic is synonymous with celebrating the important milestones of the country and Republic Day is one such day, but let's not limit our patriotism to just this day. Today I pledge that as a responsible citizen I will stand up against any injustice that happens before me, be it the most trivial of matters. We need to aim at making India the most amazing and

beautiful nation that we all dream of. My fondest memories of this day were that of when we used to celebrate in school. We would dress in tricolour uniforms and put up performances filled with skits and dances.

— Sarika Bahrolia

Republic Day holds a special place in not only my heart but in the heart of every Indian. This is the historic day when our Indian constitution came into effect. As a kid, I got to know what the day is about, but as an adult is when I realized the true importance of this special day. Just like my show, I also want to spread the message of education and equality across the country.



— Akshit Sukhija

For me, Republic Day is a reminder of equality. As a kid, we would participate in patriotic song competitions in school. I remember this one time when our class won. Although I am not a good singer, I remember singing with all my heart. Even today whenever I listen to a patriotic song, it fills my heart with pride. I wish to see a day when there is complete gender equality across the country.

TELLYTALE

VEENA LESSONS FOR MANISHA



The recently launched mytho show *Jaanani Maa Vaishno Devi - Kahani Mata Rani Ki* on Star Bharat is being well liked by the audience. In this show many secrets of Maa Vaishno Devi are revealed. How was the mother born? What is the purpose of her birth on earth? Why is she called Papanashini? Viewers are getting answers to all these questions with the help of this show. In the upcoming track, the answer to the most important question is going to be given to the audience, as why is Mata Vaishno Devi is called Jyotnawali? Vaishnavi meets the three *devis* and learns their knowledge. Meanwhile, Manisha Rawat, who is essaying the role of Maa Saraswati is learning *veena* for an upcoming track. The actress has shared her interest for the love of music and is really excited to play this role. When spoken to her she said: "I feel privileged to play the role of Maa Saraswati who is known for so many things. And now that I got this opportunity to play *veena*, I am able to learn something new. In the upcoming track I will be teaching Vaishnavi to play *veena*. I thought to learn it by myself, at least the basics."

mom both are from South Delhi. So on the sets both *Kavita ji* and I connected really well and became each other's favorite. Both of her daughters are almost of my age as well as our Hindi accent is exactly the same. *Kavita ji* and I help each other during the preparation of the scene. Like every other mom she keeps on telling me to eat proper food and stop dieting." Harsh further shares "We always spend quality time with each other because we are shooting most of the time together. She takes great care of me on the set, so I never feel that my mom is not here in Mumbai with me."

TUNE IN TO THE LION KINGDOM

Animal Planet has been dedicated to bringing to the fore incredible stories from the animal kingdom. Taking yet another step in this direction, starting January 27, at 9 pm, the channel is all set to premiere an incredible 10-part series *The Lion Kingdom* which will take viewers at the forefront of



India's battle with the deadly Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) which threatened to wipe out the last of the surviving asiatic lions in the world living in the wilds of the Gir National Park. Produced by film-maker Upma Bhatnagar, Executive Producer and Director, Optimum Television, The Lion Kingdom features renowned veterinary surgeon Steve Leonard as the series host.

STORY OF KARTIK & PURNIMA

Star Bharat which always brings alive some of the most endearing stories is all set to bring back romance with their new fiction show *Kartik Purnima*. The show narrates the sweet love story of Kartik and Purnima. The show will explore the intertwined lives and worlds of two vivacious, fresh and diverse personalities — Kartik and Purnima. Actor Harsh Nagar is playing the protagonist and actress Kavita Ghai is playing his mother. Harsh is playing the role of a doctor for the first time. Recently, Harsh said he is emotionally connected to his both real and reel life mother. Harsh shares: "My real mom and reel

PRATIBHA RANTA TO PLAY CHAHAT

Zee TV's next primetime offering *Qurban Hua* is an intense drama about two young, passionate individuals, caught in a crossfire of destiny and on a mission driven by the love and pride of their family. Despite being two completely different people hailing from starkly different backgrounds and cultures, Neel and Chahat are about to sacrifice the single-most important and



intimate relationship of life and tie the knot with each other, without a trace of love that forms the foundation of any marriage. While he is burning with the fire of revenge for his sister's death, she is single-mindedly determined to clear her *abbu's* name as she's convinced he's had no role to play in the death of Neel's sister. The question, then, is - What lengths will they go to for the love and pride of their family?

Zee TV has roped in debutant Pratibha Ranta, who is currently pursuing a graduation degree in film making, to play the role of Chahat. Chahat is an open-minded, compassionate girl, who wants to work for the benefit of the poor people. An ambitious person, Chahat wants to be a top doctor, just like her *abbu* and treat the underprivileged. In fact, she has more faith in humanity than in any religion. The 24-year-old also believes in action over discussion and though she is extremely beautiful, it is her intelligence that will grab everyone's attention. However, her world turns upside down when her father has to pack his bags and escape from the city after the blame for the death of Neel's sister begins to pose a threat to his life.

ROHIT SHETTY IS BACK WITH KKK 10

Disciplinarian Rohit Shetty is gearing up to experiment with the contestants fear in Colors' *Khatron Ke Khiladi Season 10* (KKK) this time in Bulgaria. The theme is Daar Ki University, it's going to be the biggest institution where the contestants going to be students and Rohit Shetty will be their teacher. The contestants will be given different types of task to experiment with. The show will air in February end. The contestants who will be a part of the show are Karan Patel, Dharmesh, Shavin Narang, Balraj, Karishma Tanna, Ada Khan, Amruta Khanvilkar, Rani Chatterjee, RJ Malishka and Tejashwi Prakash.



World TV premiere of Saaho

All set to up the *josh* today is the World Television Premiere of the biggest action blockbuster of the year *Saaho*. Directed by Sujeeth, *Saaho* showcases a power struggle amongst the crime lords to rule over the underworld. This action entertainer gives the audience an opportunity to see the *Bahubali* superstar Prabhas step away from his royal prince *avatar* to don the role of a swanky undercover agent. With a gripping storyline and hair-raising action sequences, this movie marks the debut of Prabhas in Bollywood opposite the stunning Shradha Kapoor. The movie also features Chunky Pandey, Neil Nitin Mukesh and Jackie Shroff in crucial roles. So, this Sunday, get ready to witness the ultimate battle between the underworld and police with the biggest action thriller of the year *Saaho* at 8 pm only on Zee Cinema. The film ropes in some of the best names in the industry like Shankar-



Ehsaan-Loy, Guru Randhawa, Tanishk Bagchi and Badshah to create a fabulous jukebox for the movie. With songs such as *Psycho Saiyaan*, *Enni Soni*, *Bad Boy* and *Baby Won't You Tell Me*, the music album of *Saaho* went on to be a chartbuster. Comprising of a catchy dance number like *Psycho Saiyaan*, to including *Enni Soni* which was labelled 'the love anthem of the year', to the beautiful diva Jacqueline Fernandez grooving to *Bad Boy*; the music album made sure listeners had the songs on loop.

Juliana Harkavy gets nostalgic

With the finale episode of *Arrow* airing on January 29, 2020, on Colors Infinity, the show that spawned the *Arrow* verse, gave us some of the most interesting twists in the last few episodes. However, one of the most surprising changes was for Dinah Drake *aka* Juliana Harkavy. In the recent episode, we learnt that she woke up in the future following Oliver's funeral in 2020 and that she discovered that Dinah Drake didn't exist in this new reality. The cliffhanger has kept us counting the days till the final episode. Juliana Harkavy opened her heart out on how she felt on the first day of shoot for the final season. She reminisces: "I am always terrified on my first day of work, no matter how long I've been working on a show. That was the primary feeling I felt. And then, there was almost a sense of nostalgia. You want to make it special and you want to make it count because you know the show won't be there forever." Juliana further expressed about the evolution of her character through the series when asked about her character Dinah's relationship with Zoe Ramirez, "I love their relationship, although I haven't seen how it progresses into season eight at this point. It's such a lovely relationship for Dinah, though."

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 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,

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

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

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

Dangarkhera, Punjab, Panniwala Mahala, Arachiki, Bhangarkhera, Roopnagar, Bareka, Bakainwala, Haripura, Khuian Sarvar of district Fazilka and in Raniwala, Midda, Aspal, Virk Khera, Bhagsar 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 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.

Officials said immature/maturing adults/swarms of desert locust have been observed in some districts of Rajasthan and Gujarat since last month. "Appearance of locust in winter months is a new phenomenon and may be linked to climate change events," the officials said.

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



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

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

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.

CORONAVIRUS

Docs' panel to be stationed at Amritsar airport starting tomorrow

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Government on Saturday asked all district hospitals to put in place necessary arrangements to tackle any emergent situation in view of the outbreak of novel coronavirus (nCoV) in China, and said a team of doctors will be stationed at the Amritsar international airport starting Monday for screening passengers.

"A panel of doctors will be sitting at the Amritsar international airport from Monday onwards (for screening of passengers). If any passenger comes with symptoms will be

WHAT IS A CORONAVIRUS?

Coronaviruses are common, and typically cause mild respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose. Some are more dangerous. SARS, which infected more than 8000 people, was responsible for 774 deaths during an outbreak that began in 2003. MERS, which was first identified in 2012, is even more deadly — around 34% of people infected with the virus die

screened at that place and if required, next steps will be taken," said Dr Gagandeep Singh, State Programme Officer, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (Punjab).

"We have two international airports — Amritsar and Mohali. There is no flight (from China) at Mohali but Amritsar airport does have some connecting flights which have halt

at China and Hong Kong.

"Our civil surgeons have taken meeting with the officials concerned at both airports and they have been alerted," he said.

Amritsar was among 12 designated airports in the country where the Centre had issued advisory for coronavirus.

He said advisory would be displayed at the airports for passengers for self-reporting of their illness. "If symptoms are



WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF THE NEW VIRUS?

People who have been diagnosed with the virus tend to have a fever and cough, and some have difficulty breathing. The symptoms appear to set in at some point between two days and two weeks after the person has been exposed to the virus, according to health authorities

there, then passenger will be examined," he added.

Singh said all the district hospitals and medical colleges had been alerted for putting in place the necessary arrangements.

They had been asked to have separate isolation wards and ventilators support.

Little response to Punjab bandh called by radical Sikh outfits

Chandigarh: The "Punjab bandh" call given by radical Sikh outfit Dal Khalsa and SAD (Amritsar) against the CAA and the NRC evoked lukewarm response in most parts of the state barring Amritsar on Saturday.

Markets and commercial establishments remained opened in most parts of the state as protesters at a few places faced opposition from shopkeepers for trying to forcibly down the shutters of their shops.

Protesters carrying black flags and placards against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) took out protest marches and raised slogans against the BJP-led government

at the Centre.

The impact of the shutdown call was visible in Amritsar as traders kept their shops and commercial establishments shut.

The protest remained peaceful, officials said.

Carrying placards that read "Punjab Rejects CAA, NRC" and raising slogans against the Union government, the demonstrators, led by Dal Khalsa president H S Cheema and spokesperson Kanwar Pal Singh assembled at Bhandari bridge and took out a protest rally.

Cheema said by observing the "bandh", the people of the state had registered their protest against the CAA and NRC, the RSS' agenda of "Hindu

Rashtra" and also reiterated that Punjab would not be part of a "theocratic Hindu state".

Terming the law as "divisive and discriminative", Kanwar Pal Singh said accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of "suppressing" the voices of protesters.

"We are determined to contest and challenge the government's autocratic attitude," he said. He added the Government had "betrayed" Sikhs by not releasing prisoners who had served their sentence. The Dal Khalsa leaders said a large number of Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs participated in the protest and spoke in one voice against CAA. PNS

Survey to ascertain exact number of persons with disabilities in Himachal

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The Himachal Government will conduct a survey in the state to ascertain the exact number of persons with disabilities, Rajiv Saizal, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister said while presiding over the first meeting of HP State Advisory Board on Disability.

Saizal said Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur was very sensitive towards the problems of disabled people.

He said the government was implementing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 and its rules have already been framed.

Minor gangraped in moving car, 2 arrested in Panipat

Chandigarh: Even as Haryana on Friday observed National Girl Child Day, the same evening a shocking news came to light from Panipat where a 15-year-old girl was allegedly gangraped in a moving car by two youths in Model Town area. Four persons are reported to be allegedly involved in this crime, two of them have been arrested. Talking to *The Pioneer*, the Panipat Superintendent of Police Sumit Kumar on Saturday said that as per preliminary inquiry, two accused who are adults, identified as Ashish and Vishnu were allegedly involved in gang rape of the minor and both have been arrested. After lodging an FIR, Police are investigating the case to find out the involvement of other two persons who were also allegedly involved in the same crime.

The SP said two accused Ashish and Vishnu have been booked under Section 365 (Kidnapping) and 376-D (Gang Rape) of IPC and also under Section 6 of the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act. The police have also recovered the car used in the crime. The Police officer said that she has been admitted in the hospital and her statement would be recorded before the magistrate on Monday. A team led by a woman sub-inspector has been formed and they are investigating the case thoroughly. "Things will become clearer after thorough investigation," the Panipat SP said.

Police sources said in a state of unconsciousness, the minor was thrown near a park late on Friday evening. When the accused youth was throwing the minor student from the car, a few people saw it and caught the two youths in the car. She was then admitted to a local hospital. The victim did not return after attending a tuition class on Friday. The family members searched for her and later they came to know that she was found lying unconscious in the Model Town area.

Police sources said the victim went to her tuition at around 5 pm on Friday. One of the youths known to her called her near DAV park to celebrate a birthday. Four youths, who were having liquor in a car, forced her to take liquor and she fainted. She was later taken by two youths in a car and allegedly raped in the moving vehicle. After committing the crime, the accused left the girl near the park where her scooter was parked.

Ironically, despite claims of the State administration of taking measures to check crimes against women, it is only increasing. The Women's Commission of the state received seven complaints of gang rape from various parts of the State over the last six months. As many as 99 rape cases were reported at Commission from April 15 to December 15. PNS

CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION
WISHES ALL A VERY

26 JAN | HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY

Let us come together to celebrate the unity and harmony of our glorious nation

Khattar calls on management of pvt schools to assist in improving standards in Govt schools

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Saturday called upon the management committees of private schools to assist in improving the educational standard of government schools by adopting the schools in their surrounding areas.

Addressing the gathering after laying the foundation stone of the new building of Lions Public School near village Dhankot in Gurugram, he said education has a major role to play in character building. He said the State Government is making conscious efforts to raise the educational standards in the State while the private institutions are also contributing to the same, so both the government and private institutions are partners in this task

and have the same objective.

He said that the management of private schools should adopt neighbouring government schools and help them improve their standard of education. He made it clear that the resources at government schools will be provided by the state government while the pattern would be that of private schools. For this, he has instructed the officers concerned to sign MoUs with the management of the private schools. He said that some private schools in Karnal have also adopted 50 government schools and said that other institutions should also come forward to adopt government schools in other districts.

The Chief Minister said that the Congress Government's 'No Detention Policy', according to which no student should be declared as

failed until Class 9 had led to a decline in the standard of education in the government schools. He informed that the present government took cognizance of this and started conducting monthly tests, which has led to an improvement in students.

Khattar said loan will be provided to help children pursue higher education, adding that the education loan facility will be available soon to students for pursuing higher education without giving collateral guarantee.

He informed that two centers are being run in Jhajjar and Panchkula to prepare talented children of government schools for competitive examinations. He said that around 200 children of these centers appeared in the IIT pre-mains, of which 72 have been selected. This is

He said the State Government is making conscious efforts to raise the educational standards in the State while the private institutions are also contributing to the same, so both the government and private institutions are partners in this task and have the same objective

a good start. Giving 3 D's formula to the students, the Chief Minister said that they should work hard with Dedication, Discipline and Determination. Mr. Manohar Lal said that tomorrow's India depends on today's students. At the same time, he called upon the teachers to work on improving the learning level of students, of whatsoever caliber he or she is.

24-hr uninterrupted power supply in another 201 Haryana villages

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana's power distribution companies Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (UHBVN) and Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (DHBVN) have started supplying 24-hours uninterrupted electricity to another 201 villages in the State.

With this, total number of villages on 24-hour supply reaches 4463, which is nearly two-third of the total number of villages.

A spokesman of DISCOMS said that UHBVN is supplying round-the-clock electricity in 2637 villages through its 528 feeders. Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had launched 'Mhara Gaon-Jagmag Gaon' scheme in 2015.

Under this scheme, old power cables in the village are replaced with new armoured cables, old and non functioning meters are replaced and villagers are urged to pay the outstanding electricity bills.

As soon as the line loss decreases, supply to the village is increased in a graded manner leading finally to uninterrupted supply on urban pattern.

Currently hundred per cent villages in nine districts - Panchankula, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar, Gurugram, Faridabad, Sirsa, Rewari and Fatehabad - are getting 24-hour electricity supply as part of 'Mhara Gaon-Jagmag Gaon' scheme.

Constitution sacred, but Bharat Mata more sacred

From Page 1

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 overstated. 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 that Bharat Mata herself.

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

We Inder Mohan Son of Late Guran Ditta Mal and Manorma Rani Wife of Inder Mohan Resident 651 Sector 7 Panchkula declare that our son Chandan Kumar and his wife Diksha are out of our control. So we disown them from our moveable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them will do so at his/her own risk.

I, Pardeep Kumar S/o Late Shri Jailli Ram, R/o Plot no 455, Phase-2, Ramdarbar, Chandigarh declare that my daughter Riya is out of my control. So I disown her from all my moveable/immovable properties. If anybody deals with her will do so at their own risk.

We, Mohd.Wahid S/o Mohd. Samsudin and Momiya W/o Mohd.Wahid # 2234, MauliJagan Chandigarh declare that our Son Mohd.Sagir and his wife Shenaz Khatoun are out of our control. We disown them from moveable/immovable properties.

I, Satinder Kumar S/o Late N.D. Munjal, House-18, Sector 11-A, Chandigarh declare that my son Vandeer Munjal and his wife Amanpreet Kaur out of my control. I disown them from my moveable/immovable Properties and I have no relation with him and his wife, anybody deals with them at their own risk.

I, Shiv Kumar / Shiv Dayal S/o Arjun Singh, R/o H. No.1136, Shiva Ji Colony, Karnal declare that my daughter Deepika is out of my control. I disown her from my moveable, immovable property. Anyone deal with her at own risk.

We Chanderpal S/O Chote Lal And Phoolwati W/O Chanderpal R/O House No.234, Street No.2, Ward No.3, Dalip Singh Nagar Khanna (Ludhiana) Have Disown My Married Son Harinder Kumar And His Wife Sonam From All M Properties, As Those Are Out Of We Control, Anybody Dealing With Them At Their Own Risk.

ਮੇਰੀਆਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਰੋਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਜ਼ਿਲਾ ਬੁਢਲਾਡਾ ਅਤੇ ਰੋਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਜ਼ਿਲਾ ਮੁਕਤਸਰ ਹਾਲ ਵਾਸੀ ਧੌਲਾ ਤਰੀਲੀ ਬਾਬਾ ਬੁਢਲਾਡਾ ਜ਼ਿਲਾ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ ਇਹ ਸਿੱਖਾਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਕੁਝ ਸੁਭਵਿੱਚ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਉਹ ਸੁਭਵਿੱਚ ਕੋਰ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਰਿਣੇਦਾਰ ਨਾ ਹੋਣ ਕਰਕੇ ਮੈਂ ਇਹਨਾ ਦੋਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੌਨ-ਅਫੌਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਾਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਇਹਨਾ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣਾ-ਦੇਣਾ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਸਬੰਧਿਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Seema Babbar D/o Sh. Gopal Dass Rana R/O Flat No.6A First Floor Surya Homes, Peer Muchalla Zirakpur have changed my name to Urvasi Babbar.

I, Sukhbir S/O Baru Ram R/O Near Sarkari Dairy, VPO Pabnawa, District Kathiwal, have changed my name to Sukhbir Singh.

I, Jyotjeet Kaur W/o No. 15201931-M Sahib Masih R/O VPO Allwal Arian Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur declare that in Army record of my husband my name and date of birth are wrongly recorded as Jyoti and 03.03.1993. My correct name and DOB are Jyotjeet Kaur and 16.03.1995. Jyoti and Jyotjeet Kaur is one and the same person i.e myself. Concerned note.

I, Sonia W/o Pritpal Singh R/o # 5801, GH 4-A Jaiyayu Vihar, near police station, Sector 20, Panchkula Haryana have changed my name to Soriana.

I, Simranjit Kaur W/o Harlovedeep Singh R/O Village Kalkat PO. Sham Chaurasi District Hoshiarpur (Pb.) declare that passport No S9312403 My Place of birth Spelling wrongly Entered Malwal but Place of birth Correct Spelling Malhawal.

I, Payal W/o Gourav Dang R/O 139, New Hamida Colony, Yamunanagar have changed my name to Payal Dang.

I, Ritu Rani D/o Sh. Bharat Bhushan R/O Ward No. 7, Ladwa, Tehsil Ladwa, District Kurukshetra have changed my name from Ritika Gupta to Ritu Rani. Note all concerns.

I, JC No. 275784X Ex Sub. Tek Chand S/o Late Sh. Surjit Ram R/O H.No. 833/5, Vasiat Colony, Kurukshetra, Tehsil Theanesar District Kurukshetra declare that in my service documents record my daughter's name wrongly written as Kirti Sharma instead of Kirti. Note all concerns.

I, Rohit Kumar S/o Raj Pal R/o 133.Near Hindu School,PWD Rest House, VPO Sadhaura,Distt. Yamuna Nagar. Have Changed my Name from Rohit Kumar To Rohit Bakshi.

I, Bal Krishan S/o Sh. Ram Singh R/o New Bahadur Chand Colony, Near Girde wala Peer, Karnal have changed my name from Bal Krishan to Bal Krishan. In future I will be known as Bal Krishan.

I, Rambha Choubey W/o Sh. Amresh Choubey R/o H.No. 20, First Floor, Gali No. 3, Dayanand Colony, Model Town, Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Rambha Devi to Rambha Choubey for all future purposes.

I, Sahil Kumar S/o Surjit Singh VPO Kauntempur Distt. Pathankot have changed my name from Sahil Kumar to Sahil Surname Kumar.

I, SUP E/W 2 GS 160010H Balbir Singh BWM GREF, Pathankot Declare that in my service record name of my wife is Kamlesh read Kamlesh Saini instead of Kamlesh. My son name as service record Rahul also amended to read as Rahul saini instead of Rahul.

I, Gurraj Singh S/o Mahender Singh R/o Vpo Jodhkan, Tehsil & Distt. Sirsa (Haryana) have changed my name from Gurraj Singh to Gurmej Singh. All concerned please note.

I, Bakshish Singh S/o Gurmej Singh R/o Vpo Jodhkan, Tehsil & Distt. Sirsa (Haryana) have changed my name from Bakshish Singh to Bakshish Singh. All concerned please note.

I, Tanu Bai Spouse of No.15617241A, Rank Nk, Rajesh Parmar R/O Village Malviya Nagar, Po-Rasulpura, Tehsil-Mhow, District Indore, Stae Madhya Pradesh, Pin-453446, Have Changed My Name From Tanu Bai To Tanu Parmar. As Those Are Out Of We Control, Anybody Dealing With Them At Their Own Risk.

I, Deepak Kumar Garg S/o Mohinder Kumar Garg R/O H.No. 429 Sector 13, Urban Estate, Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Deepak Kumar S/o Mohinder Kumar.

I, Shiwani W/o Komal Garg R/O H.No. 429 Sector 13, Urban Estate, Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Shiwani Garg, after marriage.

I, Mohinder Kumar Garg S/o Ram Chander Garg R/O H.No. 429 Sector 13, Urban Estate, Kurukshetra, have changed my name to Mohinder Kumar S/o Ram Chander.

I, Shyona W/o Sukhbir R/O Near Sarkari Dairy, VPO Pabnawa, District Kathiwal, have changed my name to Sona Devi.

I, Vikas Singh S/o Balbir Singh R/O H.No. 24, Sirsamsa Colony, Village Sirsamsa, Theanesar, Kurukshetra, declare that I have changed my name from Vikas to Vikas Singh.

I, Mrs. Pinki Rani Nagar W/O Sh. Pardeep Kumar Nagar R/O H. No. 3700/371-2, Rampura Mohalla, Hisar Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Kum. Pinki Rani To Mrs. Pinki Rani Nagar For All Future Purposes.

I, No.115124778Y Ex Hav Swinder Singh S/O Sh Gurmej Singh R/O Village- Butter Kalan Tehsil/Distt Gurdaspur State Punjab. Have Changed The Name Of My Son Gursevek Singh To Gursevak Singh.

I, Pooja Sareen W/o Sudhir Kumar R/O EE-132, Flat No. 4, Bagh Karam Baksh, New Railway Road, Jalandhar Have Changed My Name To Pooja Prashar. After Marriage.

I, Sarika D/o Ravi Singh Taank R/O VPO Khan Khana, Teh. Banga, SBS Nagar Have Changed My Name To Sarika Kaur (Surname Kaur).

I, Komal Gosain W/O Vinay Vohra R/O H.No. 217 S.G Enclave, Naushehra Nangli, Majitha Road Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Komal Vohra After Marriage.

I, Dharm Singh S/O Virsa Singh R/O Near Guru Amar Dass Mission Hospital Goindwal Sahib Distt. Tarn Taran. Have Changed My Name To Dharampreet Singh.

I, Harvinder Singh S/O Sardar Singh R/O H.No.490,Gopal Vardha Verka, Amritsar have changed my name from Harvinder Singh to Harvinder Singh.

I, Palwinderjit D/O Rattan Singh W/O Surinder Singh R/O Baba Deep Singh Avenue Gali No. 5 Phase-2 Nangli Bhatha Fatehgarh Churian Road Amritsar. Have Changed My Name To Palwinderjit Kaur.

I, Kawaljeet Kaur W/o Harpal Singh R/o H.No.331, Namdev Colony, Sultanwind Road, Amritsar have changed my name to Kawaljit Kaur. All concerned please note.

I, Rajni Bala Thukral W/O Rajinder Thukral R/O Ward No 5 Makhu Tehsil Zira Distt Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Rajni Thukral.

I, Rajinder Kumar S/O Raj Kumar R/O Ward No 5 Makhu Tehsil Zira Distt Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Rajinder Thukral.

I, Nirmal Singh Khosa S/O Nand Singh R/O Vpo Kot Karor Kalan Distt Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Nirmal Singh.

I, Neeraj Bansal W/O Sh. Rishu Kumar R/O St.No.07, Kalgidhar Colony, Rampura Phul Distt. Bathinda Change Of Name Neeraj Garg.

I, Kuldeep Kaur Sandhu D/O Gurpreet Singh R/O Jalal, Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Kuldeep Kaur.

I, Aarvi Verma S/O Ram Singh R/O H.No. 127-G S.B.S. Nagar Pakhowal Road (Ludhiana) Pb, India, changed my name from Gagandeep to Aarvi Verma.

I, Jc-451220 A Nb(Rt) Gari Sankar want to change my son name as Himanshu Bhardwaj Instead of Himanshu erroneously recorded in army record.

I, Sweta Biswas Spouse No. 15147213A Rank Hav Name Arup Mandal R/O 282 Med Regt Co/05 APO and R/O Vill-Kulgachhi Po, Khaspur Teh-Tehatta Distt. Nandia, WB Pin-741660, have changed my name from Sweta Biswas to Sweta Mandal. affidavit No. AG 297781, Dated: 22.01.2020

I, Jaswinder S/O Chanan Singh R/O Vpo. Sohail Jagi Teh. Shahtkot (Jalandhar) Pj, changed my name to Jaswinder Singh.

I, Satwinderjit Singh Waraich S/O of Bakshish Singh Residing at Vpo Chabba Tehsil & Distt. Amritsar-143001 Punjab have changed my name Satwinderjit Singh Waraich to Satwinderjit Singh.

I, Arminderjit Singh S/O Parmjit Singh R/O Vill: Assal Teh-Patti (Tarn Taran) Punjab-143416 have changed my name to Arminderjit Singh to Arminderjit Singh Sandhu.

I, Ram Kishan S/O Hans Raj residing at C-310 Vill: Kangniwal Po, Hazara Distt. Jalandhar-144025 Punjab, have changed my name Ram Kishan to Ram Krishan.

I, Gurdev Kaur W/o Shankar Dass R/O New Arya Nagar Kartarpur (Jalandhar) Pb, India, changed my son name from Harjinder to Harjinder Sondhi.

I, Sarbjit Singh S/O Mohinder Singh R/O H.No. 589, New Azad Nagar, Malwal Road Ferozepur City have changed my name to Sarbjett Singh.

I, Veerpal Kaur W/o Bohar Singh R/O Vill-Roran Wala Teh-Jalalabad West District Faisalka have changed my name to Virpal Kaur.

I, Sunil Kumar S/O Kuldip Lakhra R/O Vill: Mitra Teh-Phillaur (Jalandhar) changed my name to Sunil Lakhra.

I, Neeru Malhotra W/O Pardeep Kumar R/O MRM Road, Guru Colony, Machiwara Khias (Ludhiana) Have Changed My Name To Neeru Bala.

Disclaimer

The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the contents for the advertisement (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own.

Classified Advertisement Contact : 94174-19351

9 honoured with...

From Page 1

On the morning of February 27, as fighters jets of India and Pakistan were engaged in a dogfight over Naushehra sector, a day after the Balakot air strike, the Mi-17 crashed in Budgam shortly after take-off from Srinagar killing all six personnel onboard and one civilian on the ground.

The Court of Inquiry ordered to investigate the crash confirmed that it was shot by Israeli origin ground based Spyder surface to air missile system of the IAF.

The Air Chief Marshal had also said disciplinary action will be taken against two officers involved and those who lost their lives will be declared battle casualties.

It is informed to General public that Anil Kumar s/o Dhooop Singh Urban Estate Jind has lost conveyance Deed No.4297 Dated: 23-02-1988 of house no. 373 Urban Estate, Jind on in favor of Sh. Dalp Singh S/o. Birbal, which has been reported with Police Vide DOR No.132300621900534 dated 10-12-2019. If Any Person has Objections then file replies along with proof of ownership within 15 days before the undersigned. After lapse of stipulated period, no claim will be accepted regarding above said property. Anil Kumar Mob 95412 02777

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bishan Parkash S/O Sh. Ram Swaroop, R/O Barwala, Distt. Hisar declare that my property Registry No. 1756 was lost on 20.10.2019 near about 12:50 at Bus Stand Barwala, which was not found after searching. I have reported lost property report in Haryana Police Citizen Services under application no. 13229011200012. If anyone find above said property, please inform at ICICI Bank, Bhupender Kumar Advocate Mob. 8295949881.

PUBLIC NOTICE

All the general public is informed that the Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. Branch Office Karnal issue a motor Governate book containing the following details: Name: Gauravtara from 55177 to 551800. Each concrete had 4 copies and the Governate book was empty. This book has been lost. Whose FIR no. is 132310532000214. If anyone misuses this book then the company will not have any responsibility whatsoever, whether it is self damage or loss of third party.

PUNJAB & SIND BANK

BRANCH : KOT MANGAL SINGH, AMRITSAR SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas the undersigned being the "Authorised Officer" of Punjab & Sind Bank, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of the Security Interest Act (2002) in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice on the date mentioned against account calling upon the respective borrowers / guarantors to repay the amount as mentioned against account within 60 days from the date of notice / date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower / guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice hereby given to the borrower / guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13(4) of said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rule on the date mentioned against account. The borrower / guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the Property and any dealing with the Property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab & Sind Bank, for the amounts, other charges, costs and interest thereon.

Table with columns: Name of the Demand Notice, Date of the Possession, Amount Outstanding. Includes entries for Smt. Harjinder Kaur, W/o Hoshair Singh, and Gaurantor Hoshair Singh S/o Mahinder Singh.

Description of the Immovable Property : One House bearing Private no. 18, 18m, Phase-III, bearing Kharsa no. 2202 area measuring 111.50 sq. yards, situated at Sultanwind Urban Shamal Town, Abadi Akash Vihar, Amritsar, vide Sale deed dated 01-08-2012 duly Registered with the Office of Sub Registrar Amritsar-1 vide Document no. 4313, Bahi no. 1, Volume no. 11522, Page 8485, in favour of Mrs. Harjinder Kaur W/o Sh. Hoshair Singh and bounded as per sale deed: 20' Gali, West : Plot no. 11, North : Plot no. 17, South : Plot no. 19

Date: 26-01-2020 Place: Amritsar Sd/- Authorised Officer

Will not let cities become concrete jungles: Soren

No construction work without permission on Govt land



Chief Minister Hemant Soren visits a swimming pool that he inaugurated during a programme in Dumka on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Chief Minister Hemant Soren while wishing the people of Jharkhand on the eve of Republic Day, said that this day should be taken as a pledge. So that with people's cooperation, the Government can accept the challenges presented as an opportunity to make Jharkhand a better and developed State, he said addressing people in Dumka on Saturday.

The CM told the officials of various departments in Dumka to send a list of vacant Government land, old and dilapidated Government buildings in the cities. No construction work will not be done on Government lands without the permission of the government, he said.

Soren has reiterated the resolve that the cities of Jharkhand will not be allowed to become concrete jungles. "If we remain united, no one can spoil the harmony here. I hope that the people of the State would be an integral part of the State and help the government," he said.

"We have got many challenges. History is witness to one thing that we have been constantly moving ahead of the challenges. I have accepted the challenges this time too. It is taken as an opportunity. It is just the beginning. There are many things to be done. We will complete the development plans with complete sincerity so that we can make Jharkhand the dream of the people of Jharkhand," said the CM while addressing people at the inaugural function of the swimming pool in Dumka.

The Chief Minister said that for the development of Jharkhand, where there will be need of a talk, it will be done. Where work needs to be done, there will be only focus on work. The government does not believe in populist promises but talks of turning its intentions into reality," he said.

The CM said that the sub-capital Dumka has been his work place, but unfortunately the area is still very backward. Proper development of Santhal Pargana area is his priority. The inauguration of the swimming bridge is a beginning in this direction. In the coming days, people will be provided all the necessary basic facilities and plans will be implemented for the development of the area.

BEFORE THE SOLE ARBITRATOR

MS.C.DEEPA NANDHINI, ADVOCATE CLAIM PETITION NO. CND/DFS/046/2019 M/s. Daimler Financial Services India Pvt Ltd ...Claimant

Mr. Yadvinder Singh & another ...1st Respondents

To Mr. Yadvinder Singh, Vill Dholan Majra Tehsil Morinda, Rupnagar Morinda- 140 101, Punjab.

Please take notice that in the above Claim petition No.CND/DFS/046/2019 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 1st Respondent, 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

This is to inform & seek objections, if any from general public that the Mr. Yesh Raj Setia has left from heavenly abode on 23.06.2015 and he was the alteece of 100% ownership of Plot No. 1119 & 134, Type 'Plot' in the project known as "Rosewood Estate" situated at Village Gulabgarh, Tehsil Derabassi, District SAS Nagar (Mohali), Smt. Har Devi Setia the wife of the said deceased had obtained a WILL duly notarized declaring her as the sole legal heir for the above mentioned properties of the said deceased. Any person or entities including any bank, societies/ or financial institution having any claim, right, title or interest in the above said properties in any manner whatsoever by way of sale, gift, lease, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, possession, easement, attachment, license, maintenance or otherwise howsoever, shall bring the same to the notice of the undersigned in writing with supporting documents / evidence within a period of 21 days from the date of this notice failing which such claim if any, shall be considered to be waived, abandoned and it shall be presumed that no person or entities including societies / bank / financial institution has any claim of any nature in respect of the said properties and any subsequent claim shall not bind us in any manner.

DIRECTOR Gupta Builders and Promoters (P) Ltd. (SCO 196-197, Ground Floor, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh - 160022)

THE BUDHEWAL COOP. SUGAR MILLS LTD. BUDHEWAL (DISTT. LUDHIANA)

TEL No.: 0161-2848662, E-mail: budhewalcs@gmail.com E-TENDER NOTICE

1. SALE OF SUGAR E-tenders are hereby invited for sale of M-30/S-30 grade sugar of production season 2018-19 & 2019-20 on all working days, same will be opened on the same day. There is no need to become nominal member of the Mill.

For participating in the above e-tendering process, the bidders shall have to get themselves registered with https://eproc.punjab.gov.in and get user ID, Password, Class-3 and Class-2 Digital Signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process. For any clarification/difficulty regarding e-tendering process flow, please contact us on 0172-2970263/ 0172-2970284/0120-4001002/ 0120-4200462/ 0120-4001005/0120-6277787 E-Mail: id-eproc@punjab.gov.in. Detailed Notice Inviting Tenders for sale of Sugar, Sugar Sale Policy and other terms & conditions are available on website: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. Corrigendum/Addendum/Corrections, if any will be published on the e-tendering of Punjab Govt. website. The Committee reserves the right to accept, reject any or all tenders, without assigning any reason. GENERAL MANAGER

R. S. MEMORIAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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B.El.Ed.: Principal/HOD-1, Perspectives of Education-5, Mathematics & its Pedagogy-4, Social Science & its Pedagogy-4, Science & its Pedagogy-4, Hindi & its Pedagogy-2, English & its Pedagogy-2, Health and Physical Education-1, Fine Arts-1, Performing Arts-1, Linguistics-1

B.Ed.: Principal/HOD-01, Perspectives of Education-4, Pedagogy

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 Nimbalkar 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-led 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.

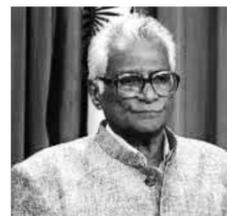
Famous classical bhajan singer from Varanasi Channulal Mishra and Vishvateertha Swamiji Sri Pejavar Adhokhaja Matha Udipi, who passed away recently, have also been given the highest Padma award - Padma Vibhushan.



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.

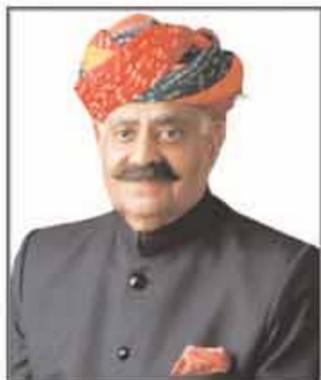
From Bollywood, filmmakers Karan Johar and Ekta Kapoor and actor Kangana Ranaut have been awarded Padma Shri.

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. Sathyannarayan Mundayoor, known as Uncle Moosa of Arunachal Pradesh, who has been promoting education and reading culture in remote areas of Northeastern states for last four decades; Abdul Jabbar aka 'voice of Bhopal' (posthumously), known for fighting for the cause of victims and survivor of 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy; and Usha Chaumar, a Dalit social worker working in the field of sanitation in Rajasthan, have also been given the award. PTI

REPUBLIC DAY - 2020 MESSAGE

Message of Hon'ble Governor of Punjab And Administrator, Ut Chandigarh



SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE

Fellow citizens,

On the auspicious occasion of our 71st Republic Day, I extend my heartiest greetings and felicitations to all the Indians living in Punjab and abroad. I also send my greetings to the brave personnel of our armed forces who are guarding and defending the borders of our country thereby protecting the unity and territorial integrity of the Nation.

When India attained freedom on 15th August 1947, we did not have an instrument of governance of our own. We waited till 26th January, 1950 when the Indian people gave to themselves a Constitution to secure for all its citizens, justice, liberty, equality, and gender and economic equity. We promised to promote fraternity, dignity of the individual, and unity and integrity of the nation. On that day, we became the largest democracy of the world.

The unprecedented contribution of Punjab to the cause of Freedom of our country is unmatched in the history of the world. The great martyrs Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Lala Lajpat Rai, Shaheed Udham Singh, Kartar Singh Sarabha, Dewan Singh Kalepani and many more who shed every drop of their blood and had languished in jails, have left a rich legacy for all of us, which demands boundless love and respect for our motherland besides firm commitment to preserve India's glory.

We are also grateful to our Kisans, mazdoors, industrialists and traders for their unstinted support in taking the state to the path of progress and prosperity. Punjab, being predominantly an agricultural state, pioneered the Green Revolution towards India's self-reliance in food security.

This is, indeed a proud moment for each one of us this year, as the 550th Parkash Purb of first Guru, Guru Nanak Dev Ji is being celebrated all over the world. Yearlong celebrations and many welfare schemes have been initiated to commemorate the Parkash Utsav. Let us practice the preaching of Guru Nanak Dev Ji - SARBAT DA BHALA (Welfare for all) and also KIRAT KARO, NAM JAPPO AND WAND CHAKKO.

Let us all strengthen our resolve to wipe out the menace of drugs from our state dealing the issue with an iron hand with a Motto "NA KARUNGA NA KARNE DOONGA. The Universities, Colleges and other Educational Institutions, NGOs, Voluntary Organisations and parents should come together to work on one common agenda of making Chandigarh and Punjab drug free. Seven northern States Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir and Chandigarh have already set up a joint working group to check the interstate flow of drugs.

In the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, we have a dynamic, dedicated and determined leader who reflects the aspirations and hopes of over a billion people. Hon'ble Prime Minister has given a clarion call to all of us, to evolve India that is inclusive, vibrant in growth opportunities and a strong leader in the comity of nations. Hon'ble Prime Minister's pioneering development initiative has ushered in a new era in the development of India.

I would also urge the people to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi by focusing on Prime Minister's Jal Shakti Abhiyaan which has been launched in the Country to conserve water. Transparent and corruption free governance is the hallmark of the present government and we all have to adhere to.

I call upon the people of Chandigarh and Punjab, Civil & Police Officers, Ex-Servicemen, Youth, Doctors, Academicians, Intellectuals, NGOs, Voluntary Organisations and Media to resolve to take our country to new heights with a new fervour and new energy.

To remain truthful in a country like ours is imperative. We swear by 'Satyameva Jayate', which is inscribed in our national emblem. It means "truth wins". Our scriptures say: "God is Truth and Truth is God". We must always stand for truth as only then can victory be ours. Sach or truth is the only basis of our progress. Truth was there at the beginning of the universe. Truth alone will be there at its end and it is the foundation of our existence. Swami Vivekananda once observed (quote): "You can get rid of everything for the sake of truth, but you cannot get rid of truth" (unquote).

We have also to make a firm resolve to enrich our national life, in our personal capacities, by performing our duties with sincerity, commitment, devotion and dedication, keeping the interest of our country.

Let us on this Day, renew our pledge to collectively work hard to protect and preserve the unity and sovereignty of our great country and to contribute our might, for the accomplishment of our goals in different fields of endeavour.

I once again wish you all, a very Happy Republic Day.

JAI HIND

Committed To Protecting The Spirit Of India



Captain Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab

The 71st Republic Day has come at a critical juncture in the nation's journey. India's core Constitutional fabric today stands at the risk of being shredded by a strongly divisive agenda being promoted not by external forces but, unfortunately, by its own rulers. What is at stake is the very foundation on which rests the country's infallible strength, with a spate of divisive and destructive moves, including the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the National Register of Citizens (NCR) and the National Population Register (NPR), striking at the roots of our Constitutional Preamble, which we had always believed to be indestructible. Frankly, no true Indian can be immune to the dangers of these moves, and I am confident that the wave of public opinion against them, as reflected in the surge of humanity that has come out on the streets to brave the bullets in protest against these contentious laws/documentation, would eventually succeed in ensuring their non-imple-

mentation. After all, what is India without its strength of unity in diversity? Such a thought negates the very idea of India, and we Indians are committed to protect our nationhood at all costs. The hundreds of thousands of men and women, young and old, fighting the CAA, NCR and NPR are a testimony to this commitment.

We, in the Punjab Government, have also decided to oppose these disruptive laws tooth and nail, and are preparing to move the Supreme Court to get them nullified. The Punjab Vidhan Sabha has already passed a resolution against the CAA, which is clearly discriminatory and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution. I look forward to the apex court holding the legislation, whose idea I personally find akin to the ethnic and religious cleansing of Hitler's Germany, as Constitutionally invalid, and barring its implementation till it is suitably amended to make it inclusive for all communities. We, the citizens of India, want to welcome all the persecuted Sikhs, Hindus, Buddhists, Parsis, Muslims, Jews and others who have been a part of our history and progress, with equal warmth, and without discrimination.

In fact, for us Punjabis, the CAA and NCR are against the ideology propounded by our founder Guru, Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji, whose 550th birth anniversary we are currently celebrating, and all the other Gurus, including Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Singh ji, whose 400th birth anniversary we are getting ready to commemorate. How can we allow the philosophy of our Gurus to be violated by such a disruptive legislation, and that too when we have just witnessed the landmark opening of Kartarpur Corridor to facilitate 'Khule Darshan Didar' of the historic Sri Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara across the

border? Punjab has a long history of fighting injustice, and we will continue to fight CAA/NCR/NPR, till the Central Government agrees to include communities currently left out of its purview. I am actually quite surprised that the central government should be spending its resources and energy on such acts at a time when the nation is facing so many critical challenges, such as a depressed economy, large-scale unemployment, etc.

With renewed investor confidence due to our industry friendly policies, our government has received investment proposals of Rs. 57,735 crore on ground, with potential to create 1.89 lakh jobs in the state. Concerted efforts to revive industry in the state led to setting up of numerous major industrial projects, including state-of-the-art hi-tech cycle valley at Dhanansu in Ludhiana and a modern industrial focal point at Nabha under the modified industrial infrastructure upgradation scheme.

Another area of priority for our government has been the state's law and order, which had hit an all-time low under the previous regime, with gangsters on the loose and people of the state living under a blanket of fear. The blanket has now lifted with a perceptible decrease in crimes and as many as 13 'A' category gangsters neutralized. Apart from these, 31 terrorist modules have been busted and 151 terrorist arrested with the seizure of more than 1000 illegal weapons. The recent recoveries of drones being used to carry arms and drugs across the border is, of course, a matter of concern but our security agencies, with the help of central forces, have successfully thwarted the designs of those behind these activities and will continue to do so.

Similarly, the Special Task Force set

by our Government in 2017 has proved very effective in tackling the drug menace.

To give further impetus to medical education and research in the state, the new Government Medical College at SAS Nagar is all set to begin classes during the academic session 2020-21. In addition, the Govt has approved a project for establishment of a new Medical College at Kapurthala, attached with the existing district Hospital.

Villages being integral to the state's progress, we are in the process of repairing the rural link roads, as well as bridges. In addition, our Government has undertaken a massive plan for upgradation of infrastructure in grain and vegetable markets across the state at an expenditure of Rs. 675 crore to ensure better marketing facilities to the farmers.

To ensure overall development of the underprivileged sections of the society, the State Government plans to provide 14,953 free EWS houses to homeless SC/BC families under Punjab Shehri Awaz Yojna and Pradhan Mantri Awaz Yojana, for which Deputy Commissioners have identified 6047.24 acres of land. Under the Housing for All Scheme, the State Government is constructing 13,000 houses.

These initiatives are aligned with the vision of our forefathers and the founding fathers of our Constitution, whose principles we today pledge to protect and nurture for as long as the spirit of India shines across the globe. Let us, today, also pledge to ensure that the Constitutional principles that have guided the nation's progress through all these decades continue to be the beacon light, as we move towards a brighter and better future, led by the inalienable and inviolable values enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution.

26th January

Heartiest Greetings on 71st Republic Day

"Seventy years ago, we made a tryst with our future. We pledged ourselves to the Constitutional values ingrained in the nation's core. Today, amid the growing dangers to these principles of secularism, federalism, equality and pluralism, let us rededicate ourselves to those deep-rooted fundamentals of our Constitution that have successfully guided us through the decades. Let us, on this Republic Day, reaffirm our commitment to upholding the spirit of India's inalienable ideology."

Capt. Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab

REPUBLIC DAY - 2020 MESSAGE

India is a beautiful country. Let us join hands for its progress at this Republic Day; One Nation, one Vision and one Identity.

I, on behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of The Citizens Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd, Jalandhar extend my sincere greetings and best wishes to all our members and esteemed customers on the auspicious occasion of 71st Republic Day.

I feel proud to inform that with the active support

of people; the bank is progressing by leaps and bounds and has achieved new heights in the field of banking. The bank has crossed the business of Rs. 1100 crores with the deposit of Rs. 802 Crores, Loan and Advances of Rs. 394 Crores and own funds are Rs. 75.49 Crores as on 31.12.2019. The bank earned the profit of Rs. 8.45 crores during the financial year 2018-19.

I want to assure that the bank is committed to provide best possible services

to its members and customers as per their expectations.



K.K.Sharma
Chairman

Citizens Bank
The Citizens Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd.

8.35%
Rate of interest for Sr. Citizens

Competitive rate of interest on advances

Financial Position as on 31.12.2019 (Rs. in lakh)

Share Capital	Rs. 1678.52	Loans & Advances	Rs. 39420.47
Own Funds	Rs. 7549.16	Total Business	Rs. 119619.20
Deposits	Rs. 80198.73	Profit (2018-19)	Rs. 845.84

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.

Animosities 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 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. 179N/vid54 Date: 25.01.2020

E-TENDER NOTICE

- Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF EKLAVA 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 (Udham Singh 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.uttartenders.gov.in

Project Manager

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
COLLECTORATE COMPOUND, RUDRAPUR, DISTT. UDHAM SINGH NAGAR

Ref no. 177N/vid52 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)
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Project Manager

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
COLLECTORATE COMPOUND, RUDRAPUR, DISTT. UDHAM SINGH NAGAR

Ref no. 178N/vid53 Date: 25.01.2020

E-TENDER NOTICE

- Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING FOR EKLAVA 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)
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Project Manager

AFF ■ 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 team-

mate 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

Against all odds

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



just 23 minutes.

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

BOPANNA WIN

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.

Men in Blue look to extend advantage



PTI ■ AUCKLAND

India are unlikely to change a winning combination but a few changes in the bowling department won't come as a surprise when the visitors take on New Zealand in the second T20 at the high-scoring Eden Park today.

Jasprit Bumrah was the only bowler on either side to concede less than eight runs per over at the peculiar shaped ground with short boundaries in the series opener on Friday.

Both Mohammad Shami (0/53 in 4 overs) and Shardul Thakur (1/44 in 3 overs) were taken to the cleaners with New Zealand batsmen using their pace to collect boundaries at will.

Since Shami is expected to retain his place in the playing eleven, Thakur might make way for Navdeep Saini. However, Saini, with his extra pace, too could go for big runs at the small ground.

It remains to be seen whether India stick to three specialist pacers and two spinners combination or bring in an extra tweeker in Kuldeep Yadav to partner Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravindra Jadeja. Washington Sundar is the other spin option India have.

If India do play an extra tweeker, all-rounder Shivam Dube will be third fast bowling option.

Considering the conditions, Jadeja and Chahal had done a decent job on Friday, conceding 50 runs off 36 balls and taking a wicket each.

Additionally, Chahal and Kuldeep are yet to play together since the ODI World Cup ended. With the batting bearing a settled look, the team management might be keen to take a punt on their reunion.

On the batting front, Virat Kohli was a pleased skipper as the much scrutinised middle-order delivered for the team under pressure. Shreyas Iyer solidified at his position at number four with an unbeaten 58 off 29 balls.

It was a near perfect start of the tour for the away team which chased down 204 with relative ease to go 1-0 up in the five-match series.

Ahead of the Indian team's departure, there was concern about constant shuffling, much like the ODI experimentation ahead of the 2019 World Cup.

Iyer's form has put paid to all that chatter. The batsman has figured in all of India's 12 T20s since September last year, averaging 34.14 in 11 innings with two half-centuries and strike-rate 154.19. With his match-win-

ning temperament at Eden Park, Iyer has stitched down a spot in the batting line-up for good.

As Manish Pandey and Dube alternate in finishing duties, aided by K L Rahul's wicket-keeping skills, India's T20 batting line-up finally seems set in the short term barring unforeseen changes.

New Zealand were left pondering about a shortage of 10-15 runs to their total as well as missed chances in the field that allowed the visiting batsmen to get away with a high scoring rate.

Partly, it also had to do with India's surprisingly quick adaptation to the awkward conditions on offer at Eden Park.

In turn, the Black Caps themselves now have to come to terms with India's adaptation if they are to prevent an early 2-0 lead within three days. India had also won here in February 2019, albeit it was a three-match T20I series they had eventually lost 1-2.

Irrespective of the result, the tide seemed to turn for the hosts in terms of their batting form. Senior batsmen Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor defied recent criticism to score attacking half-centuries. It complimented their top-order's runs, albeit they only finished with a par score.

India won key battles during their innings in that new batsmen at the crease were able to maintain the momentum previously generated. It is something New Zealand cannot simply fix with a change in personnel. As such they will be hoping the likes of Colin de Grandhomme and Tim Seifert to come good.

There is a school of thought in the hosts' camp that Williamson should open the batting in T20 cricket, thus taking advantage of the powerplay overs. Given the lightning start provided by openers Martin Gupthill and Colin Munro, this seems infeasible for the next game, at least.

New Zealand expect to field the same eleven, avoiding any temptation to take a look at all-rounders Scott Kuggeleijn and Daryl Mitchell.

Both teams enjoyed a day off on Saturday in lieu of the tight schedule and sterner battles ahead.

Eden Park was only an estimated 60 per cent full on Friday despite New Zealand Cricket anticipating more gate collections owing to the Indian team's popularity.

It remains to be seen if the scheduled late-starts (7.50-8 pm local time) continues to have an impact on match attendances during this T20I series.

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...

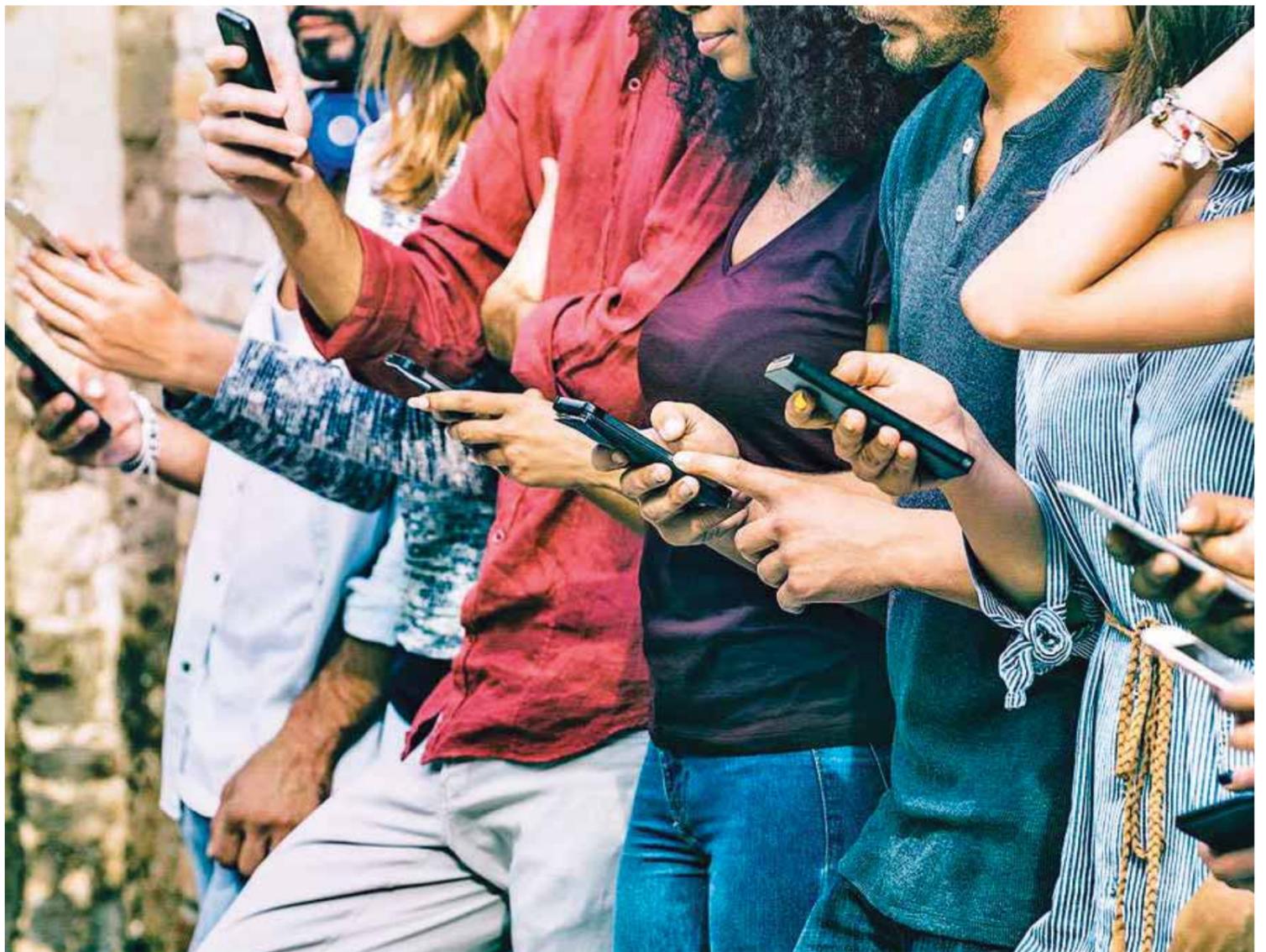
When I tell this childhood story of mine to my son, after listening to me with rapt attention, he tells me that there are technical flaws in my story. What? Technical flaws! I find his expression amusing, he finds it even more. He asks me: 'Why were you listening to the radio and not streaming live cricket 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.

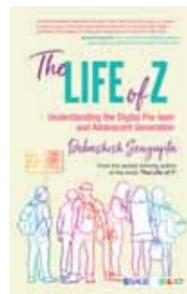
While writing the book 'The Life of Z: Understanding Digital Pre-Teen and Adolescent Generation' I had the opportunity of talking to countless zeners, their parents, teachers, tutors, child counsellors, child psychologists, pediatricians and I came across such contrasting stories. There are a group of 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.

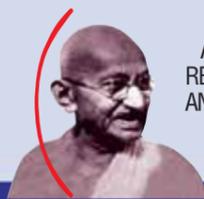
During his recent visit to the pediatric ophthalmologist, the doctor told him to reduce exposure to digital devices as it is not good for his eyes. He hardly knows what it is to write with a pencil or a pen as he uses stylus instead. He remembers a physician who visited his school for medical check-up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



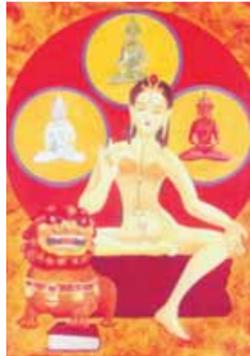
MADHU KOTIYA



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