

Combat Cyclothon held 'Design makes life excellent'

PNS ■ MHOW

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

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

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

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

The Ultra Cycling category (200 KM) was subscribed with 50 participants and first position was bagged by Sachin Kumar Singh, who completed the route in 8 hr, 27 min, 15 sec. He was awarded with a Firefox Bicycle. Pankaj Pardeshi and Ajay Yadav stood second and third respectively. To motivate the cyclists, Lt Gen Dushyant Singh participated in the Ultra Cycling, event finishing the route in 9 hr 32 min making it in Top-10.

The Josh Cycling of 100 KM evoked a high josh in the



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cycling from ladies. The participants travelled on Mhow - Manpur - Ratlam highway to pedal the route. Nb Sub Gurdip Singh stood first in this category by completing the route in 4 hr, 8 min, 28 sec and was awarded with a Firefox cycle. Col Jaideep Sengupta, VrC, Retd and Capt Gulshan Kumar

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

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

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

Fun Cycling had the participation of 1300 cyclists from school students, NCC cadets and ladies. The cyclists went through the fold of grounds,

enjoying the outskirts of Mhow and relishing the greenery around. While enjoying the music of military band, peppy songs and scenic beauty of the 300 ft waterfall at Patal Pani, the cyclists paid homage to the legendary Tanya Bheel, the tribal Robin Hood.

Chief Guest Sumitra Mahajan, Former Lok Sabha Speaker, gave away the prizes for all events.

While addressing the gathering, she said the Army and Society has a very strong bonding and the training activities of institutes at Mhow reinvigorate the human soul and body, motivating us to rededicate us to the nation.

She praised the Army War College for taking monumental step of organising this cycling event, rekindling the appreciation towards cycling and introducing this sport to our new generation of children. She highlighted that Indore has been a Cycle city 50 years ago and is again moving in that direction now. She complimented Lt Gen Dushyant Singh and Usha Singh for their accomplishments in the Cyclothon, where both of them completed 200 km and 100 km event in excellent timings and proving that age is just a number while any goal can be successfully achieved through sheer grit, dedication and passion.

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

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

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

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

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

Ethics provides an ethical, reversible and socially responsive

approach to community engagement that is responsible for understanding community needs, ideas, and expectations, facilitating strong relationships between community members.

Besides, Galla said that Australia is the only country in the world where heritage conservation work is done by the communities and for that, subsidy is also provided. In each country, various heritage works are being done, but no one pays attention to its maintenance.

At the same time, in today's time, the construction of various valuable heritage is being done through the local vendors, rather than by the experts of the said art, thereby eliminating the originality of that art. He laid special emphasis on studying contemporary planning and architecture in the context of Indian culture.

He pointed out that the buildings built by British architects have given special attention to the characteristics of other cul-

tures along with their local culture inherited.

At last, 25 Interns (architects, engineers, designers, artists) gave a presentation about their observation and suggestions about the Tribal Habitat and Rock Art Heritage open air exhibition through slideshow. The conduct, assessment and conclusion of the program were given by Dr. P. Shankar Rao (Assistant Keeper, IGRMS) and the vote of thanks was presented by Dr. S. K. Pandey (Assistant Keeper of IGRMS). On the occasion, the officials of IGRMS and students were present in a large number.

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I, Patelia Jashodaben Kamallesh Kumar W/o Army No 4580744X SEP Patelia Kamallesh Kumar Babu Bhai R/o 9 Mahar, Upar Camp Anarwala Dehradun C/o 56 APO declare that in my husband's service record my name has been recorded as Baria Jashodaben which is incorrect. My correct name is Patelia Jashodaben Kamallesh Kumar and it should be updated.

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8. कुड़ेदानों व अन्य स्थलों पर कूड़ा न जलाएँ न जलाने दें।
9. पालिका द्वारा संचालित डोर दू डोर कूड़ा एकत्रीकरण में पालिका को सहयोग प्रदान करें।
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Governor, CM greet people on Republic day

Governor Baby Rani Maurya to unfurl national flag at Parade ground today

CM Rawat highlights achievements of his Government on eve of the Republic Day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

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

She said that the State has also taken the task of doubling the income of farmers by the year 2022.

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

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

The CM said that in accordance with the basic aspiration of people during creation of a separate State, effective measures are being taken to stop migration and bringing improvement in the life of the person standing last on the social pyramid.

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

For wholesome development, centres of

Meri Yatra App launched by CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

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

available in the App.

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

The State president of BJP, Bansidhar Bhagat, I G Sanjay Gunjyal and others were present on the occasion.

excellence are being created at schools, colleges and Universities.

In his message, the CM also reiterated his commitment towards making Uttarakhand free from corruption, ensuring cleanliness of Ganga, water conservation and sanitation. He said that the State has taken a target to link all the

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

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



than PCI of India.

He claimed that long pending work on construction of Dobra Chanthi Bridge in Tehri would be completed before March this year. He added that under Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana, a health

cover of ₹5 lakh is provided to

every family in one year and the State Government has completed the task of providing electricity to every house hold. Highlighting the effort of his Government to remove malnutrition, Rawat said that officers have been

encouraged to adopt such

children. He said that 5.5 Lakh farmers have benefited from the loan provided under PM Kisan Nidhi Yojana. The Government has also started a "farm machinery bank scheme" for the farmers

under which 80 percent subsidy is being provided.

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

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

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

The Union Government has released an amount of ₹1,200 crore for development of Tehri Lake.

Expressing happiness at environmental clearance for the Jamrani multipurpose project, CM said that the project would become life line for Tarai Bhabhar region.

The CM also felicitated 21 officers and employees for excellent performance in their respective fields on the day.

Team Pritam announced after a long wait

The jumbo list has names of 242 congressmen



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After a long delay, the much-awaited Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) was finally announced on Saturday.

The list of the office bearers of the PCC was released at New Delhi by the general secretary of All India Congress Committee (AICC), K C Venugopal after approval of Congress president Sonia Gandhi. The jumbo list has names of 242 congressmen. In the new PCC, 22 leaders have been assigned the post of Vice President. Senior leaders like Rajendra Singh Bhandari, Ranjit Singh Rawat, Mahendra Pal, Mayukh Mahar, Vijaypal Sajwan, Vikram Singh Negi, Madan Bisht, Ganesh Godiyal, Suryakant Dhasmana, P D Bhatt, S P Singh Engineer, Aryendra Sharma, Dharendra Pratap, Sarojini Kaintura, P S Chauhan and Narayan Pal have been assigned the responsibility of vice president.

The PCC would have 31 general secretaries, the prominent among them being, Vijay Saraswat, Proff Jeetram, Sanjay Paliwal, Yashpal Rana and Bhuwal Kapri. Sunil Gulati has been named as treasurer while 98 leaders most of whom young ones have made secretaries. Senior leaders like Harish Rawat, Indira Hridayesh, Kishore Upadhyaya, Pradip Tamta, Brahmswaroop Bharamchari, Govind Singh Kunjwal, Prakash Joshi, Manish Khanduri, Karan Mahra, Lt Gen (retd) TPS Rawat, Manoj Rawat and Surendra Singh Negi have been made special invited members of PCC. The party has made 51 special invited members.

The political observers opine that the PCC is a balanced one with party taking care of different factions.

Expressing happiness at the announcement of new PCC, Vice President Surya Kant Dhasmana said that aspirations of all parts and sections of the State have been taken care of in the PCC. Another Congress leader Mahesh Joshi said

PCC effect: MLA Harish Dhami announces resignation

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The internal fissures of the State Congress widened on Saturday after announcement of the new PCC. Dharchula MLA, Harish Dhami, aggrieved at being made secretary announced his resignation from the post offered to him. It is learnt that Dhami was angry as his name figured last (98th) in the list of secretaries.

Announcing his resignation on his facebook post, Dhami who is a staunch supporter of former Chief Minister Harish Rawat said that he would tender his resignation on Monday and added that soon he would leave the party too.

that the Congress party under leadership of Pritam Singh would win the next Assembly election in the State.

Pritam Singh was appointed as PCC chief in May 2017 after the severe drubbing the party faced at the hands of BJP in the Assembly elections in the State.

In these two and half years, Singh was not able to select his new team in the PCC and continued to work with the old PCC team that was chosen during the time when Kishore Upadhyaya was PCC President.

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Another Congress leader Mahesh Joshi said that the Congress party under leadership of Pritam Singh would win the next Assembly election in the State



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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 Soylu 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

IANS ■ 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. 179Nivida54 Date: 25.01.2020

E-TENDER NOTICE

- Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF EKLAHYA AAWASIYA VIDHYALAY AND APPURTENANT WORKS AT BAZPUR, DISTRICT-UDHAM SINGH NAGAR
- Estimated Cost- Rs. 1089.93 Lakh
- Period of Completion:- 09 Month
- Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 27.01.2020 (12.00 hrs)
- Last Date / Time of receipt of bids in the portal: 11.02.2020 (17.00 hrs)
- Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 13.02.2020 (12.00 hrs)
- Name and Address of the Officer Inviting bid: Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (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.uttarakhand.gov.in

Project Manager

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
COLLECTORATE COMPOUND, RUDRAPUR, DISTT. UDHAM SINGH NAGAR
Ref no. 177Nivida52 Date: 25.01.2020

E-TENDER NOTICE

- Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF MODEL GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGE, KICHHA DISTRICT - UDHAM SINGH NAGAR
- Estimated Cost- Rs. 903.04 Lakh
- Period of Completion:- 09 Month
- Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 27.01.2020 (12.00 hrs)
- Last Date / Time of receipt of bids in the portal: 11.02.2020 (17.00 hrs)
- Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 13.02.2020 (12.00 hrs)
- Name and Address of the Officer Inviting bid: Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (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.uttarakhand.gov.in

Project Manager

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
COLLECTORATE COMPOUND, RUDRAPUR, DISTT. UDHAM SINGH NAGAR
Ref no. 178Nivida53 Date: 25.01.2020

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Top seed Nadal had a comparatively easy ride against his Davis Cup 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

Against all odds

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



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 Elna Svitolina 6-1, 6-2. Tenth seed Madison Keys lost to Maria Sakkari on Friday.

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

Croatian 19th seed Donna Vekic also crumbled to lower-ranked opposition when she

lost 7-5, 6-3 to Poland's 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.

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समाज कल्याण निदेशालय, उत्तराखण्ड

दिव्यांगजनों हेतु विशिष्ट पहचान पत्र (Unique Disability ID (UDID) सूचना

समाज कल्याण विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड एवं सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय, दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग, भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली के निर्देशानुसार उत्तराखण्ड के सभी दिव्यांगजनों की विशिष्ट पहचान को चिन्हित किये जाने, दिव्यांगजनों हेतु संचालित विभिन्न कल्याणकारी योजनाओं का लाभ तत्काल प्रदत्त किये जाने, एकरूपता एवं पारदर्शिता बनाये जाने के उद्देश्य से दिव्यांगजनों के लिए विशिष्ट पहचान पत्र (यूडीआईडी) बनाये जाने हैं। इस हेतु सभी दिव्यांगजनों व उनके परिवारजनों तथा दिव्यांग कल्याणार्थ कार्य कर रही संस्थाओं से निवेदन है कि दिव्यांगजन के निम्न प्रपत्रों को जिला समाज कल्याण अधिकारी या जिले के मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी (CMO) कार्यालय में स्वयं या किसी भी अन्य माध्यम से जमा करवायें, जिससे कि इन्हें कम्प्यूटर में स्कैन कर अपलोड किया जा सके:-

- 1-दिव्यांगता प्रमाण पत्र की छायाप्रति
- 2-आधार कार्ड की छायाप्रति
- 3-नवीनतम एक पासपोर्ट साईज फोटो
- 4-एक सादे कागज में अभ्यर्थी के हस्ताक्षर या पहचान चिन्ह (अंगूठा निशान आदि)

इन कागजात के कम्प्यूटर में अपलोड होने के पश्चात मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी (CMO) द्वारा दिव्यांग प्रमाण पत्र का अपने रिकॉर्ड से भी वेरिफिकेशन किया जाएगा। इसके पश्चात प्रक्रिया के तहत लगभग 15 दिन में UDID कार्ड को बनवाकर लाभार्थी के आधार में दिए गये पते पर स्वतः ही डाक द्वारा पहुँचा दिया जाएगा।

इस UDID कार्ड के निम्न लाभ हैं:-

- 1-पेंशन योजनाओं का लाभ
- 2-कृत्रिम अंग/उपकरणों का लाभ
- 3-परिवहन की बसों में यात्रा
- 4-शादी अनुदान
- 5-रेलवे में कंसेशन
- 6-उच्च शिक्षा में आरक्षण का लाभ
- 7-केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार की अन्य योजनाओं का लाभ

अतः सभी दिव्यांगजनों से अनुरोध है कि अपने UDID कार्ड शीघ्र बनवायें। UDID कार्ड बनाने हेतु किसी भी प्रकार की फीस/शुल्क नहीं लगता है।

UDID कार्ड की अधिक जानकारी एवं सहायता के लिए श्री विकास गुप्ता, राज्य समन्वयक, उत्तराखण्ड मोबाईल नं०- 9780606547 अथवा ई-मेल udiduk9@gmail.com या किसी भी जिला समाज कल्याण अधिकारी कार्यालय में सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

निदेशक
समाज कल्याण उत्तराखण्ड
हल्द्वानी-नैनीताल

पत्रांक :- 3628
दिनांक :- 25 जनवरी 2020

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर श्रीमती बेबी रानी मौर्य राज्यपाल, उत्तराखण्ड का प्रदेशवासियों के नाम संदेश

आकाशवाणी उत्तराखण्ड के सभी स्टेशन तथा 100.5 FM देहरादून पर
26 जनवरी, 2020 - रात्रि 8.00 बजे

दूरदर्शन केन्द्र, देहरादून
26 जनवरी, 2020 - 1.00 बजे अपराह्न

सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा जगहगत में जारी।

पत्रांक : 3628/20, एन.ए.ओ.कॉम्प्लेक्स (विभाग) देहरादून : 25 जनवरी, 2020



उत्तराखण्ड शासन



जनवरी

71^{वें} समस्त प्रदेशवासियों को गणतंत्र दिवस की हादिक शुभकामनाएँ

राष्ट्रीय पटल पर बनाई पहचान

- राष्ट्रीय फिल्म पुरस्कार में उत्तराखण्ड को मिला 'मोस्ट फिल्म फ्रेंडली स्टेट' का पुरस्कार।
- 'खाद्यान्न उत्पादन में उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन के लिए मिला 'कृषि कर्मण' पुरस्कार।
- स्वच्छ भारत मिशन में उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन के लिए उत्तराखण्ड को मिले 07 पुरस्कार।
- 'बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ' अभियान में ऊधमसिंह नगर जिले को चुना गया देश के सर्वश्रेष्ठ 10 जिलों में।
- राष्ट्रीय जल पुरस्कार में कोसी नदी पुनर्जन्म अभियान के लिए अल्मोड़ा को उत्तर जोन के अन्तर्गत चुना गया सर्वश्रेष्ठ जनपद।
- नीति आयोग द्वारा उत्तराखण्ड को पूर्वोत्तर एवं पहाड़ी राज्यों की श्रेणी में सर्वश्रेष्ठ 03 राज्यों में चुना गया।
- प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना के अन्तर्गत सड़क निर्माण में उत्तराखण्ड देश के सर्वश्रेष्ठ 03 राज्यों में।

कनेक्टिविटी से सफर होगा आसान

- ₹ 12 हजार करोड़ ऑल वेदर रोड़ परियोजना का कार्य प्रगति पर।
- ₹ 16,216 करोड़ ऋषिकेश-कर्णप्रयाग रेलवे लाईन का कार्य प्रगति पर।
- भारत का सबसे लम्बा मोटोरेबल 440 मीटर लम्बा डोबरा चांटी पुल आवागमन के लिए तैयार।
- लोक निर्माण विभाग ने 2019 तक 1800 कि.मी. मार्गों का निर्माण 2100 कि.मी. पुनर्निर्माण तथा 176 पुलों का किया निर्माण। 300 से अधिक गाँवों को जोड़ा सड़क से।
- ₹ 500 करोड़ के रोपवे प्रोजेक्ट पर कार्य प्रारम्भ।
- जौलीग्राम एयरपोर्ट होगा अन्तराष्ट्रीय स्तर का, प्रदेश में विकसित किये जायेंगे 13 हेलीपैड।

विकास की नई राह

- 40 वर्ष बाद ₹ 2584 करोड़ की जमरानी बांध परियोजना को मिली स्वीकृति।
- दून स्मार्ट सिटी के लिए केन्द्र ने किये ₹ 1400 करोड़ स्वीकृत।
- टिहरी झील के विकास के लिए केन्द्र ने किये ₹ 1200 करोड़ मंजूर।

रिस पलायन पर फोकस

- पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में ग्रोथ सेन्टरों की स्थापना।
- 3900 जैविक क्लस्टरों में काम शुरू।
- पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में डाक्टर्स की संख्या पहले से दोगुनी।
- पहाड़ों में हेम स्टे परियोजना से मिलेगा रोजगार रूकेंगा पलायन।
- पहाड़ों में सौर ऊर्जा एवं पिरुल प्रोजेक्ट से रूकेंगा पलायन।
- सड़क, रेल, एयर कनेक्टिविटी व रोपवे से सफर होगा आसान।
- 2019 के राज्य स्थापन सप्ताह पर 'मेरे सैनिक-मेरा अभिमान', 'रेबार: आवा आपुण घौर', 'मेरे युवा-मेरी शान', 'फिल्म शूटिंग का नया डेस्टिनेशन: फिल्म कॉन्क्लेव', 'मातृ शक्ति: महिला सम्मेलन' व 'भारत-भारती उत्सव' का किया गया आयोजन।

आगामी समय में होंगे भव्य कार्यक्रम

- कुम्भ मेला, 2021 में आर्येण देश और दुनिया के 12 करोड़ श्रद्धालु।
- अप्रैल, 2020 में देहरादून में होगी वैलनेस समिट।
- 2021 में उत्तराखण्ड में होंगे राष्ट्रीय खेल।
- उत्तराखण्ड एडवेंचर समिट मार्च-2020 में।
- ओली में होगी नेशनल स्कींग एवं स्नोबोर्ड चैंपियनशिप फरवरी-2020 में।

युवाओं के लिए खुली नयी राह

- सरकारी नौकरियों में भर्ती के लिए विशेष भर्ती अभियान प्रारम्भ।
- 'मुख्यमंत्री प्रतिभा प्रोत्साहन योजना' के तहत टॉपर छात्रों को सभी कोर्सेज में 50 प्रतिशत फीस की स्कालरशिप।
- सुमाड़ी में एन.आई.टी. के स्थायी कैम्पस का किया गया शिलान्यास।
- देहरादून में कोस्टगार्ड भर्ती सेन्टर और नेशनल लॉ यूनिवर्सिटी का हुआ शिलान्यास।
- डोईवाला में सीपैट किया गया प्रारम्भ। 100 फीसदी मिलेगा प्लेसमेन्ट।
- अल्मोड़ा में सेन्टर ऑफ एक्सीलेन्स ऑन नेचुरल फाइबर की होगी स्थापना।
- पौड़ी में एन.सी.सी. एकेडमी को मिली स्वीकृति।
- देहरादून में देश के पहले ड्रोन एप्लीकेशन प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र एवं प्रयोगशाला की हुई स्थापना।

मातृशक्ति का हुआ सम्मान

- महिला स्वतंत्र सहायता समूह को बिना ब्याज के 5 लाख रुपये तक का ऋण।
- महिलाओं की सहायता के लिए 'सखी' वन स्टॉप सेन्टर लागू।
- प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वन्दना योजना उत्तराखण्ड के सभी जनपदों में की गई लागू।
- मातृ मृत्युदर 84 अंकों की कमी के बाद 285 प्रति लाख से घटकर 201 प्रति लाख।
- कैदारनाथ में 'देवभोग प्रसाद योजना' के अन्तर्गत करोड़ों रुपये का प्रसाद महिला समूहों द्वारा बेचा गया, 625 मन्दिरों में प्रसाद योजना का होगा विस्तार।
- लिंगानुपात में सुधार के लिए उत्तराखण्ड देश के शीर्ष 10 राज्यों में।

निवेशकों की पसन्द बना उत्तराखण्ड

- इन्वेस्टर समिट के बाद ₹ 20 हजार करोड़ का निवेश धरातल पर।
- 11 हजार से अधिक उद्यमों की हुई स्थापना।
- 80 हजार से अधिक लोगों को मिला रोजगार।

गरीबों के लिए वरदान बनी अटल आयुष्मान योजना

- राज्य के समस्त परिवारों को एक साल में 5 लाख रुपये तक निःशुल्क चिकित्सा सुविधा।
- अब तक 37 लाख 20 हजार बने गोलडन कार्ड।
- अब तक 1,21,600 मरीजों ने कराया इलाज।
- अब तक ₹ 114.5 करोड़ की धनराशि सरकार द्वारा की गई इलाज पर व्यय।
- अब तक 174 निजी एवं सरकारी अस्पताल सूचीबद्ध।

किसान हूये खुशहाल

- 2022 तक किसानों की आय होगी दोगुनी।
- राज्य के 8.38 लाख किसानों को मिली किसान सम्मान निधि।
- उत्तराखण्ड में जैविक खेती के लिए किया गया एक्ट लागू।
- 1.52 लाख हैक्टरेज में हो रही जैविक खेती, 3.50 लाख किसान जुड़े जैविक खेती से।
- किसानों के लिए कृषि ऋण 0 प्रतिशत ब्याज पर, 2.5 लाख से अधिक किसान हूये लाभान्वित।

हमारा प्रयास

ईमानदारी, विकास और विश्वास



71^{वें} गणतंत्र दिवस के शुभ अवसर पर आप सभी को हादिक शुभकामनाएँ।

मैं इस अवसर पर बाबा साहिब डॉ. भीमराव अम्बेडकर सहित उन सभी महान संविधान निर्माताओं को भी शत-शत नमन करता हूँ जिन्होंने विभिन्न जातियों, धर्मों व क्षेत्रीय विभिन्नताओं के होते हुए भी हम सभी को एकता के सूत्र में पिरोने वाला संविधान दिया। आईये, गणतंत्र दिवस की इस पावन बेला पर हम सभी संविधान के मूलभूत आदर्शों की रक्षा एवं राज्य तथा राष्ट्र के सर्वांगीण विकास के लिए संकल्पबद्ध हों।

जय हिन्द, जय उत्तराखण्ड।

त्रिवेन्द्र सिंह रावत
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड



सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा जनहित में जारी

महिला हेल्पलाइन नं. 1090 | किसान कॉल सेंटर नं. 1551 | सी.एम.हेल्पलाइन नं. 1905

www.uttarakhandinformation.gov.in | UttarakhandDIPR | DIPR_UK

चाइल्ड हेल्पलाइन नं. 1098 | आयुष्मान उत्तराखण्ड हेल्पलाइन नं. 104 | आपदा कॉल सेंटर नं. 1070

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...

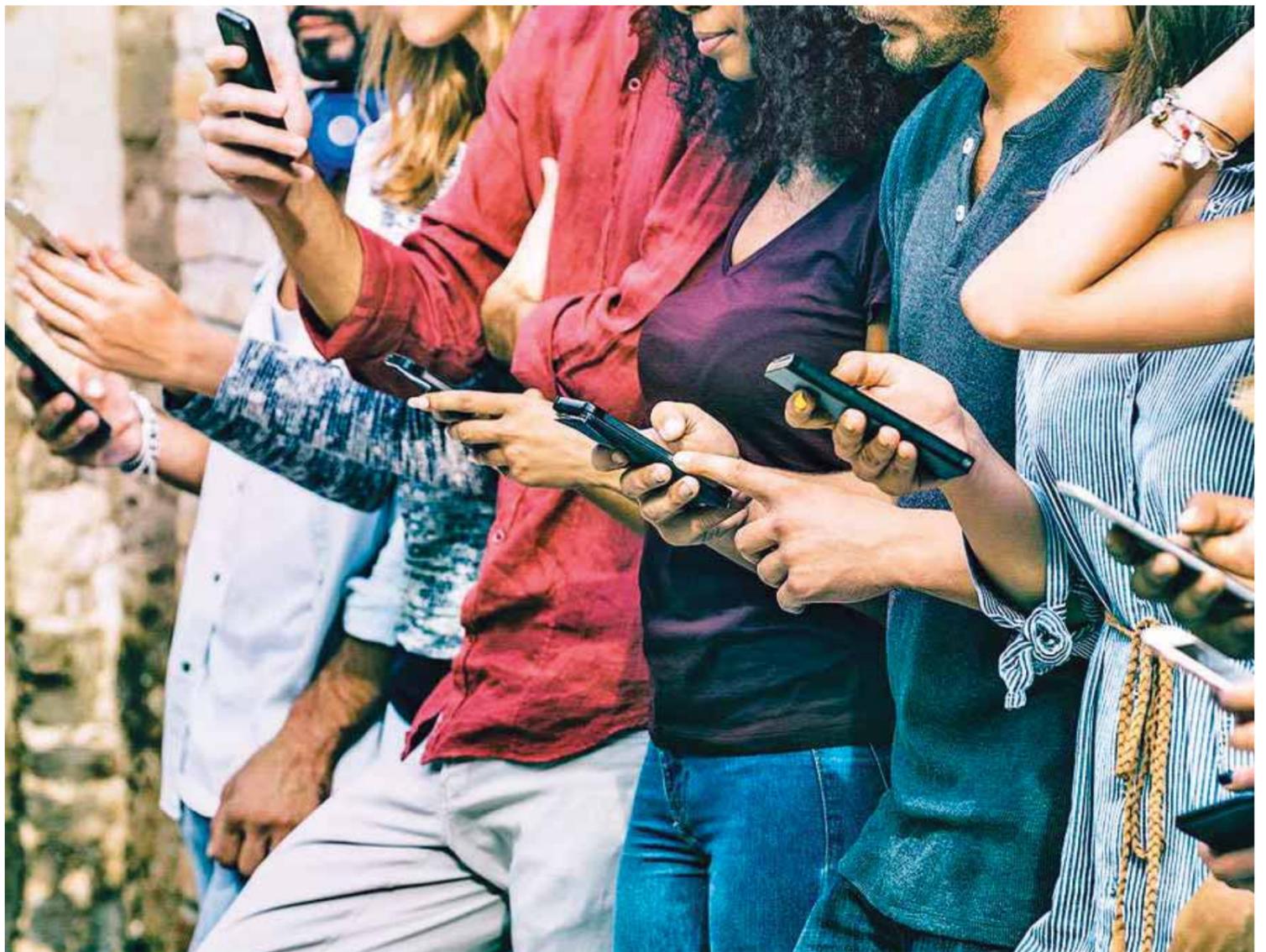
When I tell this childhood story of mine to my son, after listening to me with rapt attention, he tells me that there are technical flaws in my story. What? Technical flaws! I find his expression amusing, he finds it even more. He asks me: 'Why were you listening to the radio and not streaming live cricket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

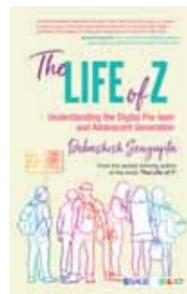
While writing the book 'The Life of Z: Understanding Digital Pre-Teen and Adolescent Generation' I had the opportunity of talking to countless zeners, their parents, teachers, tutors, child counsellors, child psychologists, pediatricians and I came across such contrasting stories. There are a group of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

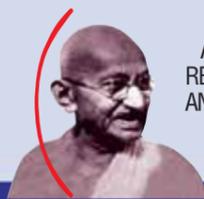
During his recent visit to the pediatric ophthalmologist, the doctor told him to reduce exposure to digital devices as it is not good for his eyes. He hardly knows what it is to write with a pencil or a pen as he uses stylus instead. He remembers a physician who visited his school for medical check-up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

Whatsoever 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



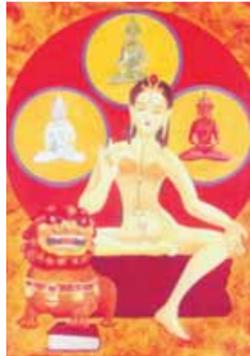
MADHU KOTIYA



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