

MONEY 6
PETROL, DIESEL PRICE HIKED
FOR SECOND DAY IN A ROW

WORLD 7
PAK COURT JAILS 2 MORE
AIDES OF 26/11 BRAINS

SPORT 8
HAMSTRING IS FEELING
ABSOLUTELY FINE: ROHIT

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USUAL SUSPECTS
SWAPNA DASGUPTA

Fair distribution of Covid shots must

Last Thursday, India became the second country after the United States to reach the 9 million Covid-19 mark. This is not an achievement, although policy makers may take solace in the fact that it took 22 days for the deadly infection to travel from 8 million to 9 million. The earlier travel time for a million had at one time touched 11, 12 and 13 days.

It is hardly worth reiterating that we have by no means crossed the danger mark. As the experience of Europe clearly demonstrated, it merely takes the people a small relaxation of vigil for the pandemic to resume its rampage. This was also the case with Delhi, India's national Capital, where the pre-Dussehra festivities led to all the gains of the monsoon season being wiped out. It is unknown if the foul air of the city resulting from the burning of stubble in neighbouring States played a part in the Covid-19 spike, but certainly the air people inhaled didn't help.

However, it is difficult to make generalisations about mass gatherings — usually religious festivals — acting as super-spreaders. The Onam festival in Kerala certainly pushed up the numbers of the infected in a State that once claimed to lead the way in pandemic management. Yet, curiously, the secular festival of democracy in Bihar which experienced mass political rallies and zero social distancing, didn't have any visible impact on the spread of the coronavirus.

In West Bengal, the great fear was that the week-long festivities centred on the Puja would create a health crisis. The fear was legitimate since the ruling party in the State often conveyed the impression that celebrations took precedence over all other considerations. However, the High Court stepped in with draconian restrictions that the people — with the exception of a small group of the reckless — by and large adhered to. This week the High Court once again stepped in by imposing restrictions on the Chhathi Puja, popular among the large Bihari community in the State.

The intrusive role of the judiciary has often attracted criticism on the grounds that the judges are encroaching on the business of the executive. This is not the place to assess judicial activism, even at a time of pandemic. What is more important is that, despite the widespread fear of Covid-19, there is a growing mood of exasperation in people at the restrictions that have been in place since March this year.

Part of this impatience stems from boredom, especially among the young. However, more of it can be attributed to the growing belief that Covid-19 is not guaranteed to be a killer disease. No doubt the aged and those with respiratory ailments are most at risk but others seem to get away reasonably lightly.

Then there is the concern with the serious economic consequences of the disruption of normal life. Apart from the slowdown and job losses, there is a legitimate belief that the greater the delay in getting back to normal life, the more will be the economic sufferings. In such situations, there is inevitably a temptation to bank disproportionately on Government handouts. But there are limits on how much a Government can mitigate sufferings of every individual. However, to be fair, as the Bihar election demonstrated, the exacting demands on the Government haven't become overwhelming. Yet, sooner or later the economic devastation will have political consequences.

No wonder all eyes, all over the world, are on the pharmaceutical companies engaged in finding a vaccine that will ward off the virus. Almost every progress, whether in Oxford or somewhere in Russia, is being closely monitored. So far the results of the tests have been very encouraging and there is an expectation that people will start receiving the miracle jabs by January 2021.

Although Indian companies have negotiated agreements with multinational pharmaceutical giants for the supply of the vaccine, it is still uncertain when adequate supplies will be available in the country. It is certain that the relief over the availability of the vaccine will be coupled with fissures over who gets to the top of the queue. This is an important matter since non-availability of a vaccine that is bound to be in short supply — at least temporarily — will create political complications for any Government, not to mention rampant allegations of nepotism and even profiteering. Having braved the pandemic for nearly a year, the last problem the country must overcome is the fair distribution of a cure whose demand is certain to far exceed supply.

Stop backing terror, India tells Pakistan

Delhi summons Pak envoy to register protest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded security forces for neutralising four Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists in Nagrota, India on Saturday summoned Pakistani envoy here to register its protest over Islamicists' continued backing of terror activities emanating from its soil.

Reiterating its demand that Pakistan must fulfil its international obligations not to allow any territory under its control to be used by terrorists, Pakistan's Charge d'Affaires Aftab Hasan Khan was told that the huge cache of arms, ammunition and explosive material indicated a detailed planning for a major attack to destabilise the peace and security in Jammu & Kashmir to derail the polls to Local District Development Councils.

Registering its protest, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the attack was prevented due to the alertness



of the Indian security forces.

"India reiterated its longstanding demand that Pakistan fulfil its international obligations and bilateral commitments not to allow any territory under its control to be used for terrorism against India in any manner. It was demanded that Pakistan desists from its policy of supporting terrorists and terror groups operating from its territory and dismantle the terror infrastructure operated by terrorist outfits to launch attacks in other countries," the MEA further said.

It also added that the Indian Government was "firmly and resolutely committed" to

take all necessary measures to safeguard its national security in the fight against terrorism.

The MEA said the JeM is proscribed by the United Nations and several countries. The Government of India expressed its serious concerns at continued terror attacks by JeM against India. The JeM has been part of several attacks in India in the past, including the Pulwama attack in February 2019.

The four suspected Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists, who were hiding in a truck, were killed in a three-hour encounter with security forces on the Jammu-Srinagar NH near Nagrota early Thursday.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 90,92,308

DEATHS: 1,33,220

RECOVERED: 85,16,609

ACTIVE: 4,40,430

STATES

TOTAL CASES

DEATHS

RECOVERED

Maharashtra

17,74,455

46,573

16,47,004

Karnataka

8,71,342

11,641

8,34,968

Andhra Pradesh

8,61,092

6,927

8,39,395

Tamil Nadu

7,68,340

11,586

7,43,838

Kerala

5,57,442

2,023

4,88,437

Uttar Pradesh

5,24,223

7,524

4,93,228

Delhi

5,23,117

8,270

4,75,106

West Bengal

4,52,770

7,976

4,19,403

Odisha

3,13,323

1,678

3,03,897

Telangana

2,62,653

1,426

2,49,157

Rajasthan

2,40,676

2,146

2,16,579

Bihar

2,30,247

1,216

2,23,615

Chhattisgarh

2,19,404

2,691

1,96,896

Haryana

2,15,021

2,163

1,92,533

Assam

2,11,427

973

2,07,219

Gujarat

1,95,917

3,846

1,78,886

57 trainee officers test Covid +ve at Mussoorie centre

New Delhi: As many as 57 out of 428 trainee civil service officers have tested Covid positive at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) at Mussoorie in the last 24 hours, prompting authorities to close "all non-essential departments" there.

The co-curricular activities have been suspended till further order. Officers found infected have been quarantined and 162 people have been examined while the remaining staff were also investigated. Sanjeev Chopra, director of LBSNAA, said, "A total of 33 OTs (Officer Trainees) tested Covid-19 positive on Friday."

However, the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances & Pensions said that 57 officer trainees have tested COVID positive at LBSNAA since November 20, 2020.

Covid reinfection unlikely for six months: Study

London: A new UK study on Saturday suggests that individuals who have previously had Covid-19 are highly unlikely to contract the illness again for at least six months following their first infection.

The study, done as part of a major collaboration between the University of Oxford and Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) NHS Foundation Trust, suggests that most people are unlikely to get Covid-19 again if they have already had it in the previous six months.

"This is really good news because we can be confident that, at least in the short term, most people who get Covid-19 won't get it again," said Professor David Eyre of the University of Oxford's Nuffield Department of Population Health, one of the authors of the paper.

AIADMK, BJP to fight Assembly elections together

ADMK leaders announce decision

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The ruling AIADMK in Tamil Nadu on Saturday said its alliance with the BJP will continue for the 2021 Assembly elections and exuded confidence it will win a historic poll next year.

AIADMK top leaders O Panneerselvam and K Palaniswami made the announcement at a Government event here, attended by Union Home Minister and BJP veteran Amit Shah. Chief Minister Palaniswami is the AIADMK Co-Coordinator while Coordinator Panneerselvam is his deputy.

"I would like to inform through this meeting that in the coming election (2021), the victorious alliance of AIADMK and BJP will continue," Panneerselvam said.

Palaniswami, who said Prime Minister Modi and Shah were working towards making the country a superpower,

asserted that "the alliance formed for the Lok Sabha polls will continue."

"Our alliance will win maximum seats and AIADMK will retain power," he said.

The AIADMK and the BJP aligned for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, along with others, including PMK, but the combine could win only the lone Thenni seat out of the 39 segments in Tamil Nadu, with the ruling party clinching it.

The top leaders' assertion comes against the backdrop of the Government's denial of permission to the BJP's Vel Thirumala, aimed at exposing the DMK for "lending support" to an atheist group accused of denigrating Tamil hymn 'Kanda Sasthi Kavacham', sung in praise of Lord Muruga, citing the Covid-19 pandemic.

The AIADMK had recently lashed out at its saffron ally on the matter and accused it of attempting votebank politics.

BJP State president L Murugan has been courting arrest in different towns after trying to take out the procession despite denial of permission.

Ayurveda PG doctors can now do ENT, dental, eye surgeries

Govt allows formal training in such procedures part of their curriculum

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move aimed to meet the shortage of doctors across the country, the Government has allowed the Postgraduate (PG) students of Ayurveda to perform a range of general surgery, including orthopaedic, ophthalmology, ENT and dental.

The Centre has issued a gazette notification in this regard allowing Ayurvedic PG passouts to receive formal training for such procedures. The training modules for surgical procedures will be added to the curriculum of Ayurvedic studies.

The amendments in the Indian Medicine Central Council Regulations, 2016 has been carried out to introduce formal training in these procedures as part of the curriculum for postgraduate students of shalya (general surgery) and shalya tantra (diseases of ear, nose, throat, ENT, eye, head, oro-dentistry) specialisations.



Union Ayush Secretary

Rajesh Kotecha explained the Ministry has specified the procedures that an Ayurveda doctor can conduct while handling a patient.

The gazette notification issued on November 19 stated that during the period of study, the PG scholar of Shalya and Shalakyata will be practically trained to acquire with as well as independently performing specified activities so that after completion of his/her PG degree, he/she is able to perform the procedures independently.

As per the legislation, Ayurveda practitioners can legally perform common procedures such as skin grafting,

cataract surgery, and root canal treatment.

As per the amendments, the complete list of procedures that will be taught in MS (Ayurved) Shalya tantra will include perianal abscess, breast abscess, axillary abscess, cellulitis, all types of skin grafting, ear lobe repair, excision of the simple cyst and benign tumours (lipoma, fibroma, schwannoma, etc) of non-vital organs, excision/amputation of gangrene.

They will also be allowed to take up traumatic wound management — all types of suturing, haemostatic ligatures, ligation and repair of tendon and muscles, removal of metallic and non-metallic foreign bodies from non-vital organs among many other areas.

Under MS (Ayurved) Shalakyata Tantra, the Ayurveda doctor can practice in medical areas pertaining to diseases of eyelids such as Glaucoma and trained to carry out various surgery, including cataract surgery.

The practitioners will also be eligible to conduct local Anesthesia in the eye, and varied surgeries related to nose, ear, and dental-related medical issues.

CAPSULE

COMEDIAN BHARTI SINGH HELD IN DRUG CASE

Mumbai: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Saturday arrested comedian Bharti Singh following seizure of ganja (cannabis) from her house in suburban Andheri, an official said.

AIM TO REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT BY 30-35%: PM

Gandhinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the country was moving forward with the goal of reducing its carbon footprint by 30 to 35 per cent. He also said that efforts were on to increase the use of natural gas by four times in this decade and to double the oil refining capacity in the next five years. The Prime Minister said this while addressing the eighth convocation of Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDU) here via video conference.

SHIVAKUMAR GETS CBI SUMMONS IN DA CASE

Bangalore: Congress Karnataka unit president DK Shivakumar on Saturday said he has received summons from the CBI in connection with a disproportionate assets case, and he will be appearing before the investigating agency on November 25.

Protesting Punjab farmers agree to lift rail blockade

Decision comes after meeting with Amarinder

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After 57 days of Delhi protesting Punjab farmers' unions have agreed to lift rail blockade and decided to allow passage of all trains in the State from Monday evening for a fortnight. The decision by the members of a conglomerate of 30 farmer unions came after a one and a half hour meeting with Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh.

Railways are estimated to have suffered a loss of over ₹2,200 crore, while industries in Punjab suffered a loss to over

₹30,000 crore due to farmers' protests. Now, farmers' unions will be concentrating their protests outside residences of BJP leaders and businesses owned by corporates, while preparing for their protest in Delhi on November 26-27.

Amarinder welcomed the farmers' decision and urged the Centre to resume rail services to Punjab forthwith. "Had a fruitful meeting with kisan (farmers) unions. Happy to share that starting November 23 night, kisan unions have decided to end rail blockade for 15 days. I welcome this step since it will restore normalcy to our economy," Amarinder said.

I urge the Central Government to resume rail services to Punjab forthwith,"

he added. The Chief Minister is now likely to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi next week to push for resumption of rail services in his State.

The decision to lift the rail blockade was announced by Bharti Kissan Union (Rajwala) president Balbir Singh Rajwala at a meeting of representatives of the Kisan Unions with the Chief Minister here to resolve the imbroglio over the rail blockade imposed by the farmers in protest against the Centre's laws. Rajwala, however, warned of resumption of blockade if the Central Government fails to hold talks with the farmers' representatives in the next 15 days to address their concerns on the agricultural laws.

Chouhan Govt mulls imposition of cow cess

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

To conserve cows, the BJP Government in Madhya Pradesh led by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is mulling to impose cow cess on the public to raise funds for this cause.

For development and conservation of cows in the state, we are planning to impose a cow cess in the state, CM Chouhan said during a review meeting on Friday ahead of Gau cabinet's first meeting scheduled at Salariya in Agar Malwa on Sunday.

Reaffirming commitment to cow conservation, Shivraj Government days ago has formed a cow cabinet. Prior to this, the BJP government in the

run up to 2018 assembly polls had announced formation of a cow ministry in the state.

As part of our plan, rearing of cows and milk and other by-products will be promoted, said Chouhan in the review meeting. Besides, desi breed of cows will be promoted.

Besides, products like Gau kasha (wooden sticks made of cowdung) will be promoted as an alternate to wood.

In addition to the five ministers who are part of the gau cabinet, the first meeting of the cabinet will be accompanied by a symposium to be attended by 14 cow experts who will be forwarding their suggestions to the state government.

According to the MP government figures, 627 cowsheds

are being run in the state presently which house 1.66 cows. Besides, there are 8.5 lakh stray cows in the state whose upkeep is our collective responsibility, said CM Chouhan.

"Those who slashed cow fodder, planned golf course on land meant for cows and retracted after announcing cow ministry, are now talking about cow protection and development," MPCC chief Kamal Nath's media co-ordinator Narendra Saluja said.

COVID 19 IN MADHYA PRADESH

DIST	NEW CASES	TOTAL CASES
Indore	492	37115
Bhopal	313	29051
Gwalior	112	13826

HOME THEATRE

Predictable & boring



MISMATCHED

Netflix
*Ing: Prajakta Koli, Rohit Saraf, Muskaan Jafari, Devyani Shorey, Tanurk Raina, Vilas Samal, Rannvijay Singh, Sahasini Mulay, Vidya Malvade
Rated: 5/10

This film is based on Sandhya Menon's book *When We Were Alone*. *Met Rishi* and the series has been written by Gazal Dhalwal and directed by Akash Khurana and Nipun Dharmadhikari. On the face of it, *Mismatched* is a light rom-com and at the heart of it are diverse students. This is something that the younger viewers are going to identify with. But then given the theme and the story of the movie, this one is totally for the teenagers — those between the ages of 16 to 19 — young, angry, rebelling, want to have fun, experimenting and just being themselves away from the prying eyes of their parents.

Then there is the lead pair. A girl who only has one thing in mind — to excel and have a career — to like her mother who only wants to see her daughter married. The boy, a romantic and a

Bollywood movie fan is looking for a wife. Yes, at 18. Sounds bizarre. But it is funny to see how he goes about winning his girl.

But this is make-believe and there has to be drama and nothing comes easy in real life or real. There are bound to be twists and turns and there are several here.

But if you are the kind of person who likes to watch shows that have a clear-cut ending, this one be avoided since it is season one and given by how things end here, season 2 is definitely on the cards. When? Time will tell. Also, those who are always looking for meaningful art, this is predictable and somewhat boring, at least it will be for the adults. The teenagers are sure to find a connection and see themselves in at least one of the several characters.

While it is interesting to see diverse characters, since the focus is on the lead all the time, the back stories of the others have not been explored even when each has one. This means that there isn't much depth to the characters, at least for now.

Overall, one can binge watch these six episodes. — Shalini Saksena

A fun Christmas watch

THE PRINCESS SWITCH: SWITCHED AGAIN
Netflix
*Ing: Vanessa Hudgens, Sam Palladio, Mark Fleischmann, Mia Lloyd, Nick Sagar, Suanne Braun, Lachlan Nieboer
Rated: 6/10

Those who saw the original, this sequel will only be a takeoff where things left off. However, one does have to see the first one to enjoy this rather cute but preposterous love story. Preposterous because not only are there three Vanessa Hudgens but they switch again just so one from the original pair is able to spend time with her ex and they need closure while everyone around them is hell bent on getting them together

because they look sweet together. Preposterous because one of the three Hudgens is a villain and wants the crown for herself, steals all the jewels and disappear to a non-extradition country! Her own minions have safely disappeared and her minions are not below stealing or kidnapping from the royalty even though she is one.

But it is a Christmas movie as well and everything has to be sweet and cute with plenty of love thrown in for good measure. Also, one can't have a Christmas movie where the halls and the entire facade doesn't scream Christmas in bold letters. With everything warm and fuzzy around you, all you have to do is sit back with a mug of hot chocolate and enjoy this one.

— Shalini Saksena

Sets the Christmas mood

HOLIDAY HOME MAKEOVER WITH MR CHRISTMAS
Netflix
*Ing: Benjamin Bradley
Rated: 6/10

Even though Christmas is more than a month away, people will tell you that there isn't enough time to ensure things are in place if you want to get into the spirit of this festival. *Holiday Home Makeover with Mr Christmas* with Benjamin Bradley who is known in the industry and his clients as a designer of incredibly detailed, atmospheric and beautiful interiors is a series just right for you if you want to know how things are done.

If you don't know how to do it right, then also, the show is interesting to

watch. So much so that one actually wants to go out there but all the decorations there are so make one home welcoming and full of the festive spirit with family and friends and good food to eat.

One can always tweak it to Indian tastes and we do love a festival and love to celebrate it with all its trimmings — tree, food and OTT decorations. And even if you don't have to go all overboard, Bradley gives little gems of advice on how one can still celebrate without being ostentatious and staying away from the commercial aspect of this festival.

But it is difficult to stay grounded when he goes around doing the absolutely beautiful home transformation. All one wants is to enjoy the brilliance of the reveal.

— Shalini Saksena

A SIMPLE MURDER
SonyLIV, 7 Episodes
*Ing: Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub, Priya Anand and others
Rated: 5/10

A lot of content is being generated on the OTT platform and in a hurry at the Reason is simple, once the cinemas open and start getting populated the relegation of alternate

NOT SO SIMPLE AFTER ALL

entertainment avenues will become a natural process. Of course, committed OTT viewers will stay and carry on with their series but the vertical surge of viewership will recede — equally vertically once life returns to normal.

Sensing this as no rocket science,

the producers are dishing out jiffies and also getting lapped up by home bound viewers. A *Simple Murder*, in that sense is not so much of a drag, but calling it run-of-the-mill small budget series would not be an exaggeration.

Greed is of course at the centre of

the story revolving around a proposed *supari* killing but on actual show is the degeneration of society at large. Be it marital relationship, adultery, sexual harassment at office, political criminal nexus, contract killing or for that matter, even honour killing and inter religion marriages, there is a peep into

all aspects of what urban jungles are all about.

Showcasing such wholesome negativity comes with obvious baggage and that's what a *Simple Murder* carries with a lot of undue.

The characterisation and the actors chosen for it complement each other with excellence but for a story to carry on through the seven episodes and then into a second season, there needs to be something more.

TELLY TALE

FUN FILLED DIWALI WITH ABHIGYA

While the pandemic might have posed its own challenges for all of us this year, Diwali brought with it a ray of hope. To delight its viewers, Zee TV had a special Diwali surprise in store for audiences with a three-hour special



episode of *Kunkum Bhagya*, *Jashn Milan Ka*. Fans of the show had been waiting with bated breath for Pragna to return to Abhi's house. With the festival marking a new beginning for the audience's favourite on-screen jodi, viewers got a chance to witness Pragna receiving a *bahu*-like welcome from Dadi, followed by Abhi Pragna performing the Diwali rituals together with hope in their hearts.

The fun and entertainment quotient of the show doubled up as Abhi calls for a Diwali celebration at his house and joining him were all the popular Zee TV faces like Karan-Preeta (Dheera) Dhooar and Shraddha Arya), Ranbir-Prachi (Krishna Kaul and Mugdha Chapekar), Agasty-Chhoti Gaddan (Savi Thakur and Kanika Mann) and Rishabh-Shrishi (Manit Joura and Anjum Fakih) along with TV stars like Krystle D'Souza, Surbhi Jyoti, Avinash Mishra, Vrushika Mehta and Deepika Singh.

During the shoot of *Jashn Milan Ka*, Sriti Jha and Shabir Ahluwalia's passionate act left everyone mesmerised. The *Kunkum Bhagya* stars swayed to romantic songs like *Ve Maahi* and *Tu Hi Yaar Mera* and we have to say that their chemistry was out of this world. But what was surprising was that our favourite Abhi and Pragna pulled off this flawless act without any prior rehearsals. Their steps, their co-ordination and their expressions were all on point as these seasoned actors danced in sync and complemented each other extremely well. Talking about their *Jashn Milan Ka* act, Shabir Ahluwalia revealed: "It was absolutely fun performing with Sriti once again. We've done several acts together, but this one was special. However, we

didn't get any time at all to rehearse. First of all, we were shooting for *Kunkum Bhagya* back-to-back and after that, we wanted to avoid contact with a lot of people as much as possible during the pandemic. Hence, we came directly to the set on the day of the shoot, we went over the steps with our choreographers and then went for the take. It all went smoothly, and it was really fun."

Sriti Jha also added: "It was a beautiful act, and we had some really amazing songs, and the choreography was simple and sweet. So, it was easy to get into the groove of things without much effort. It is always great dancing with Shabir and we had lots of fun while shooting for *Jashn Milan Ka*."

While Sriti Jha's Shabi has reunited, Alia (Reynha Pandit) is planning a new twist. What will happen next in AbhiGya's life?

INDIAN IDOLS MEET KAPIL

With *Indian Idol Season 12* on the anvil, this weekend, *The Kapil Sharma Show* will extend a warm welcome to the judges Himesh Reshammiya and Vishal Dadlani along with the charming host of the show, Aditya Narayan. Apart from all the fun and banter, there is a little surprise in store for the viewers. The viewers will be privy to some of the *Indian Idol* aspirants of this season — Mohd Danish, Shanmukha Priya, Sireesha Bhagavatula, Ashish Kulikarni and Anjali Gakwad. These talented singers had



entire cast of *TKSS* in awe with their unique *jugalbandi*!

If this is a teaser, then we can't keep calm for the upcoming *Indian Idol S12* which is all set to premiere on November 28 and will air every Sat-Sun from 8 pm onwards.

RAJU SRIVASTAV IS A FAN OF HAPPU

Known for his incredible comic timing and excellent mass appeal, ace comedian, Raju Srivastav recently disclosed how much he loves and enjoys watching *KTv's Bhajji Ghar Par Hai* and *Happu Ki Ultan Paltan*, both which have a strong Kanpur flavour in dialect and narrative. Raju being a Kanpur native, is a 'High Voltage Fan' of both these shows.

On his top favourite shows, Raju Srivastav says: "I am from Kanpur as you all know, and my family and I thoroughly enjoy watching the two shows. *Dono hi*



shows mein ek apnapan hai aur dhansu Kanpuria junte mein jote Sabhi ko hasate hain. We have till date never missed a single episode. I especially love Happu Singh and his family, their constant *nok-jhoks* and typical Kanpuria one-liners — *Nyocochavar Kar Do, Arrey Dada, Gurde Chhele Denge, Gulaian Ke Khet Mein, Kantaap, Yoghesh Tripathi* from *KTv's Happu Ki Ultan Paltan* says: "Thank you, Raju ji, for your immense love and encouragement. We are quite humbled and feel elated to be admired by our own Kanpur ke, aur bharat ke fine bade aur mashqoor haasy abhineta. Ab iss Khushi ke saath, hum ek aur khushi bhi jode dete hain. Toh khoob haste rahiye aur *KTv* ke shows ko apne poore परिवार se saath roz maza se dekhite rahiye."

AECL SEASON 3 IS HERE

After the successful completion of IPL 2020, the fun is yet to continue for the cricket lovers. As the fans are eager to watch their favourite celebrities and artists, battling it out on the ground with bat and ball. Artist Event Cricket League (AECL) is soon to commence their upcoming Season 3 of the league.

Formed in 2019, AECL has been a mega success with eight and 16 teams participating in the respective seasons. Eminent and renowned personalities including Sapna Choudhary, Hussain Kuwajerwala, Milind Gaba, Shibani Kashyap, Ashok Mastie, Tarun Dutt and DJ Sumit Sethi were present along with the founder/MD of AECL Ashish Mathur to officially announce the launch.

The matches will be played with a tennis ball with 12 overs for each side during the league stage and 15 overs for each side during the knockout stages.

'You should be able to convince audience'

RATI PANDEY, who plays Adi Parashakti on Dangal TV's *Devi Adi Parashakti*, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about her fear of getting back to shoot, why she chose to do reality shows and her Bollywood plans

■ How tough was it to come back to shoot after lockdown opened?

As much as I was excited to be back on set but there was also a sense of fear. Actors don't have the luxury to always wear a mask so that was something I was scared of. But I was sure that our producers took all the precautions and sanitised the sets frequently. The good thing about the show is that the shots were also spaced out and only the people required were allowed on the sets. So yes, it was fun yet different.

■ How's your equation with the co-stars? Is there a bit of awkwardness due to social distancing that needs to be maintained?

The equation was nice as I knew Kanan and Tarun and are good friends. Before the lockdown we had a really good time but after the lockdown we had to shoot separately to follow social distancing. We hardly met. We miss each other while shooting.

■ Is the costume heavy to walk around in? How much time does it take to be ready?

Definitely the costume is heavy. It used to take two hours to get ready. We have assumed our Gods and Goddesses wearing heavy jewellery so I had to follow that according to the genre of the show. Also after the lockdown I had to do my own make-up and it used to take time as we had to sanitise our rooms and maintain hygiene. It has already been four months and I have now started getting used to this.

■ You have been part of many reality shows as well. What was the attraction?

I have not been a part of many reality shows apart from two or three probably. It's a really different experience altogether. Working for daily soaps is a bit stressful, you are always sleep deprived and it's kind of monotonous. So, it was a really good break from that genre. The good thing about reality shows is that you get to be yourself and as an individual you get to show your own talent. I love dance shows but I don't think I'll be a part of any conversational show.

■ Did you have apprehensions in taking up *Shakti Mahadev*?

I was a little apprehensive about the character as it was an elderly one. When I watched the show, I came to know that it was a central character and there will be a love angle and it's an interesting concept. The lead of the show is a wedding planner so we get to do a lot of new things daily as we interact with different characters and it's a mixture of lot of emotions and



The costume is heavy. It used to take two hours to get ready. We have assumed our Gods and Goddesses wearing heavy jewellery so I had to follow that. Also, after the lockdown I had to do my own make-up and it took time as we had to follow proper hygiene as well

relationships. It's a different show.

■ How easy is it to play Prati [Inda]? I don't consider any character as easy as I am still a learner in this industry. Even today I am nervous on the first day of shoots. It takes time for me to get into the skin of the character. But yes, now I am at ease. The main concern with Prati [Inda] was that it was a replacement and I have never replaced anyone before. It was a challenge as the audience has seen the character as some other person. I am sure I will leave a mark but let's hope the audience accepts me.

■ Is it okay to draw comparisons when actors are replaced?

Everybody has their own individuality and personality and pattern of performing. Comparing is like an expectation for the actor to be a mimicry artist. The most important aspect is to get into the skin of the character and then add in your element. You should be able to convince the audience by your performance and that is what matters.

■ You have hosted shows as well. How has the experience been?

I have hosted a couple of shows and I love doing it. I would love to get such opportunities. It is very different from acting. I feel actors should not be bound to acting. They must explore all fields of this fraternity. So, I would love to do it again.

■ What about Bollywood plans?

Every actor dreams to be in Bollywood. So yes, still looking forward. Let's see what's there.

Temperature falls in Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Steep decrease in the temperatures was witnessed in the State Capital in the past 24 hours after cloudy weather conditions cleared following light showers, few regions in Jabalpur, Hoshangabad, Ujjain and Gwalior divisions witnessed rainfall in the 24 hours.

Cold weather conditions prevailed in the state capital on Sunday while night temperature dipped by 5 degree Celsius. The day and night temperatures were recorded at 25 and 12 degree Celsius while on Sunday would be recorded at 25 and 11 degree Celsius.

Under the influence of the trough from Bihar to South East Madhya Pradesh, light rain activities are possible during the next 24 hours in the

districts of Rewa, Shahdol, Jabalpur in north-eastern Madhya Pradesh and Hoshangabad division of south-west Madhya Pradesh. A cyclonic circulation is present in interior Odisha and adjoining areas.

The night temperature in most parts of Madhya Pradesh is likely to fall by 2-4 degree Celsius during the next 24 hours and later the dip might fall more steeply.

The minimum temperature fell significantly in the districts of Bhopal and Gwalior and there was a slight change in the districts of the remaining divisions.

During the next 24 hours, the minimum temperature is likely to fall by 2-4 degree Celsius in most parts of Madhya Pradesh and thereafter a drop of 3-5 degrees.

First edition of Children's Literature, Art & Music Festival underway

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The first edition of the Children's Literature, Art & Music Festival is being organised by Get Set Parent with Pallavi, which is one of the fastest growing parenting YouTube channels in India. The event will be held from Nov 22 to 29 as part of Vishwarang 2020, the second edition of the unique literature, art and music festival in India that focuses on art and literature not only in English but in Hindi and regional languages as well.

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event will be hosted online for two hours every day on Get Set Parent with Pallavi YouTube channel. The Festival is targeted towards school going children and registrations for the Festival will be free of cost. The week-long fun-filled carnival for children will open with an interactive session with Ruskin Bond, who is one of India's most loved children's writers.

Children's writer Rohini Neelakani will also be the part of one of the session during festival. Moreover, bestselling Indian mythological fiction writer Anand Neelakanth will be interacting with the audience during the closing session on the last day of the event.

Speaking about the upcoming Festival, Dr Pallavi Rao Chaturvedi, the Founder of Get Set Parent & the Director of Children's Literature, Art and Music Festival, said, "Most people across the world have been confined to their homes for over 8 months now due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The lockdown period has been especially tough for children,

who are usually inquisitive, have an active imagination and are eager to go out and explore everything around them. This sheer curiosity is what we want to celebrate through this online festival during the World Children's Day week. This week-long event will open a window of opportunity to kids and they will get to learn a variety of art forms as well as interact with their favourite authors while sitting safely in the comfort of their homes".

The second day of "Tagore International Literature and Art Festival" Vishwarang started with Bindu Juneja's Odissi Dance. Bindu Juneja mesmerised everyone with her performance. The event "Namastakam Nritya" which glorified the holy river Narmada. The song elaborated the beauty and glory of river Narmada.

MP congress switches to organisational restructuring

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Congress party in Madhya Pradesh has now switched to organisational restructuring by announcing Youth Congress polls on Saturday.

The membership campaign had started from Feb 27 and commenced on March 3, 2020.

However, the process of org polls was left unfinished as the Kamal Nath government was in low power in March third week amid a prolonged political turmoil.

Meanwhile, the filing of nominations will now take place on Nov 24-25 and scrutiny of nominations and presentation of objections and claims will take place on Nov 27.

The date for polling and announcement of results will be announced shortly, a communication from the state election officer Masood Mirza said on Saturday.

The organisational polls for Youth Congress and National Student Union of India are long pending in MP Congress.

However, there is also a buzz that party high command posts the bypoll debate had asked the Kamal Nath to quit one of the posts including MPCC chief and Leader of Opposition in assembly.

Leaders including Bala

Bachchan, Vijaylaxmi Sadho, NP Prapatti and others are in the hunt for the post of Leader of Opposition in assembly.

Besides, the party is also planning to depute two candidates, yet powerful youth leaders from the state unit to elsewhere in other states so as to reduce friction among the state unit office-bearers.

Large numbers of newly appointed PCO office-bearers were removed after the grand old party lost to BJP with heavy margin in bypolls. Besides Youth Congress, the NSUI and Women Congress are also expected to see an organisational rejig shortly.

Nadda, Himachal CM review construction work of AIIMS

PNS ■ SHIMLA

BJP president JP Nadda and Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday inspected and reviewed the ongoing construction work of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Kotlipora in Bilaspur district.

While holding the meeting with the Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh and other senior officers and the representatives of the construction company, Nadda said that there should be no compromise with construction quality. He said that this institute would provide specialised health services to people of the State.

Nadda expressed satisfaction over the fact that despite Covid-19 crisis, the construction work of the AIIMS was going on smoothly and the work is likely to be completed by December 2021. He stressed that efforts should be made to start the MBBS classes in the month of December this year. He said it was a matter of pride



that 18 doctors from Himachal Pradesh had been selected for this health institute.

CM Jai Ram Thakur said the State Government was committed to resolve all the issues relating to AIIMS and

would extend all assistance for fulfilling the requirements of water supply and power etc. at the earliest. He said that the State Government would also examine the demand for electricity waiver for this institu-

tion. He said the State Government has released Rs. 73 crore for power supply and Rs. 65 crore for water supply arrangements.

Thakur said the institute would prove to be a milestone

in strengthening the health services within the State.

Nadda and the Chief Minister also inspected various blocks of the upcoming AIIMS and gave necessary directions regarding the construction work.

Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh Dr Jagat Ram were making a presentation said that there would be 100 seats of MBBS in this institute and classes would be started in December this year and thereafter efforts would be made to start OPD in January, 2021.

He said AIIMS, Bilaspur will have facilities of 750 beds, 183 faculty members and 600 nurses. He said that a temporary electricity sub-station had been established in the institute.

Jal Shakti Minister Mahendra Singh Thakur, Industries Minister Bikram Singh, Health Minister Rajeev Saizal, Food & Civil Supplies Minister Rajinder Garg and senior officers were present on this occasion.

Chouhan to distribute bank loan worth ₹150 crore

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In the order of Empowered Women Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shri Singh Chouhan will distribute bank loan of Rs 150 crore to the members of self-help groups formed under the State Rural Livelihood Mission on November 23.

Chief Minister Chouhan will also hold discussions with the beneficiaries of various districts. Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Shri Mahendra Singh Sisodia and Minister of State Shri Ram Khadga Patel will also participate in this virtual programme.

Additional Chief Secretary informed that Rs 150 crore have been disbursed to the groups by Chief Minister Chouhan on September 20, 2020, in the form of bank loans. He informed that along with presenting the bank loan cases of the groups through software, intensive monitoring and transparent process has been ensured. The target of annual bank loan disbursement to the groups has been increased to Rs 1400 crores.

Financial assistance in the form of bank loan of Rs 1865 crore has been provided to more than 33 lakh poor rural families through Livelihood Mission by connecting them to more than three lakh self-help groups so far.

ple in rural areas are deprived of availing the schemes despite being eligible due to difficulties in documentation and other formalities in the banking service processes. In order to further simplify this process, the state government has also established extensive coordination with banks. Now self-help groups are being provided loans easily.

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Classical musical performance held

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the third day of Gamak, classical musical performance was held on Saturday at Madhya Pradesh State Tribal Museum.

Ustad Alauddin Khan Music and Arts Academy's Kalpana and Anuja Jhokarkar, Indore, presented the Swar Sarita theme and singing. The presentation started with Jhokarkar's lecture in which she said that these three genres are very popular and popular in music, classical, ecclesiastical and facile music.

Music is created with the sound of the sound of Brahma, the notes have their own soul, said the music guru. The soul of music, so the melodious music is always popular and heard. It is said that our music has started with folk music, people say that music has been created by the four notes of music.

In classical music, the first singing of singing is sung, followed by Dhrupad, Dhamar, Ashtapadi, Tarana and then the tradition of Khayal singing started and continues till now.

CBI being exploited for politics, won't allow it to enter Punjab without permission: Amarinder

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Critiquing the agency's "poor" track record in the Bargari case, which it had closed without any investigation, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday said his Government will not allow the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into his state without permission.

Pointing out that eight states, including Punjab, had withdrawn permission to the agency to enter without prior permission, the Chief Minister said the agency was being increasingly used to play politics, and a fair probe could not be ensured through CBI. Dismissing the BJP as a non-entity in Punjab's political arena, the Chief Minister told a TV channel that with him in power, the central govt. would welcome to contest all 117 Vidhan Sabha seats in the state though the party would not be able to win a single seat without an alliance partner. The Congress had, in fact, no challenge in Punjab with even the Akalis and AAP Aadmee Party (AAP) posing no threat, he said, adding that neither of these parties had ever talked about anything positive in the interest of the state.

With elections to the state still around 18 months away, it was not possible to say which issue will dominate the polls, said Capt Amarinder, while expressing the hope that the BJP will resolve the farmers' grievances soon. Farmers want MSP to remain and the Government of India should take steps to ensure that, he said, lamenting the adamant stand being taken by both the Centre and the farmers, leading to the prolonged agitation which was affecting supplies to the frontline soldiers while damaging Punjab's interests. He, however, said agitation was the democratic and constitutional right of farmers, which the Central Government had evidently realised, as apparent from their decision to call Kisan Unions for talks.

The Chief Minister reiter-



ated that corporates were welcome to buy foodgrains in Punjab as long as they follow the existing marketing system, built on close ties between farmers and Arhtiyas. He rejected the BJP charge of the Congress and other central Opposition parties were misleading the farmers, pointing out that the entire Vidhan Sabha in Punjab had unanimously rejected the Farm Laws, though some parties had subsequently made a U-turn due to political compulsions. When the Bills were brought in Parliament, the central government should have consulted all stakeholders, including the Punjab Government, instead of passing them without discussion, said Capt Amarinder.

Termining the dissent in Congress a sign of internal democracy in the party, the Chief Minister pointed out that those who had written a letter to the party high command had been included in key committees, including by party chief Sonia Gandhi.

On the issue of SGPC elections, the Chief Minister said he had been demanding those for long but the Akalis did not want polls to the body, which they had been using for their own political gain.

Punjab CM offers help to Delhi to fight Covid crisis

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday offered help to Delhi in managing its spiralling Covid cases and also lauded the 'unsung heroes' of Punjab for their excellent work in handling the pandemic in the state.

Lauding the healthcare and frontline workers of Punjab for their 'excellent' work in handling the pandemic in the state, he assured full preparedness by his government to augment healthcare facilities to provide for

a possible second wave of the pandemic. He said while nobody knew when the second wave of infection would strike Punjab, the experience of the NCR and other States and regions showed it was almost certain. The expressed confidence that the health department will once again rise to the occasion to meet any challenge.

It was the duty of the state government to support the healthcare and other frontline workers, many of whom have got infected and some have even lost their lives to COVID-19, he



said, exhorting the people to actively help the state in the fight against the pandemic by strictly

following all safety norms. "Mask hi vaccine hai" (mask is the vaccine), as a

resolve for the next few months till a vaccine against infection finally is available, he said. The Chief Minister also launched 107 health and wellness centres to boost the healthcare infrastructure in the state and to provide health services to patients at their doorsteps in both rural and urban areas.

He said these new centres would take the state's health infrastructure to a new level of efficacy amid the pandemic. Of the 3,049 centres planned in the state, 2,046 were now operational and 800 more would

become operational in the next two months, with the remaining to be opened in 2021, Capt Amarinder said.

He said the State Government was focused on strengthening healthcare facilities, especially levels two and three, with the aim to save lives through early testing and treatment. Urging people to avoid crowded places and not have large gatherings and social occasions indoors, he stressed the need to observe all precautions, especially washing hands and wearing face masks.

Punjab CS reviews preparedness for possible 2nd Covid wave

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To combat fresh surge of Coronavirus infections in the state, Punjab Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan on Saturday directed the Administrative Secretaries to visit the respective districts assigned to them for monitoring Covid response efforts and to prepare readiness in case of a second wave of infections, including contact tracing and patient tracking, protocols for referral, strengthening of Level-3 facilities and also ramping up Covid-19 testing across the State.

Mahajan said officials concerned have been directed to ensure that minimum 15 contacts of each positive patient must be identified and tested as

per the Covid-19 guidelines.

Health and all other concerned departments should be ready to tackle the possible second wave of the pandemic, said the Chief Secretary, adding that it was also the responsibility of the people of the state to actively participate in the fight against the pandemic by strictly following Covid appropriate behaviour. Till such time that a vaccine against Covid is introduced, "Mask hi vaccine hai" is the mantra of Mission Fateh.

Police would remain at the forefront of the fight against coronavirus, said DGP Dinkar Gupta, adding that police will work in unison with the civil administration to ensure implementation of Covid-19 safety norms.

Haryana CMOs asked to ramp up testing in NCR: DG Health

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

Expressing concern over rising up Covid-19 cases in NCR districts, Haryana Director General of Health Services Dr Suraj Bhan Kamboj on Saturday said chief medical officers have been asked to ramp up Covid-19 testing in the worst-affected NCR districts. NCR districts including Gurugram, Faridabad, Rewari and Sonapat are having Covid-positive rate higher than the state's average of 6.82 per cent.

Talking to The Pioneer over the phone, Dr Kamboj said owing to festive season, Covid-19 cases increased in the State. In addition to this, Government and private schools reopened and now it has been shut in the ongoing winter season. Necessary instructions have been issued to all the chief medical officers of all 22 districts of Haryana to ensure that minimum 10-15 contacts

of each positive patient must be identified within 24 to 72 hours and isolated as per the Covid-19 guidelines.

The health officials have also been instructed to visit bus stands, railway stations and other crowded places in the state and to provide health services to patients at their doorsteps in both rural and urban areas.

He said these new centres would take the state's health infrastructure to a new level of efficacy amid the pandemic. Of the 3,049 centres planned in the state, 2,046 were now operational and 800 more would

be strictly followed. The Chief Medical Officers have also been asked to conduct outreach testing camps in open areas adhering to the Covid appropriate behaviour. They were also asked to ensure regular monitoring of all home isolated patients by the health care providers.

The State Government has already notified guidelines for home isolation for patients with mild symptoms with the positive cases. So far, the patients in home isolation are regularly monitored through phone calls and home visits by the health officials for follow-ups. Patients who developed moderate or severe symptoms are being shifted to hospitals. The health department has already set up call centres in all the districts for digital tracking of patients in home isolation and monitoring their health through phone calls. The health officials were directed to strictly follow the ICMR protocol before recommending a Covid-19 patient for home isolation" Dr Kamboj added.

The DG Health further said that the home isolation concept is useful as the major chunk of patients admitted are those who are critically ill. "A rapid response team is available round the clock for patients under home isolation. If a patient develops breathlessness or any other

complication, an ambulance is dispatched to his/her residence and the patient is referred to Government Hospital", he added.

A post-Covid-care research centre has also been set up in Rohtak's PGIMER. The centre will address the problems faced by patients recovering from the infection", he added.

2,666 NEW CASES, 25 MORE DEATHS IN HARYANA

Haryana on Saturday reported 2,666 fresh Covid-19 cases, bringing the infection tally to 215,021, while the death toll from the disease rose to 2163 in the state with 25 more fatalities, according to a medical bulletin. Of the new fatalities, five were from Faridabad, four from Bhiwani, three from Gurugram, Hissar, two each from Rohtak, Jhajjar, Fatehabad, Charkhi Dadi and one each from Jind and Sirsa districts, according to the state health department's daily bulletin. Among the districts which reported a spike in Covid-19 cases included Gurugram (939), Faridabad (630) and Hissar (179). Sonapat (110), Rohtak (101). The State has an active case count of 20, 325 while the rate of recovery from the infection is 89.54 per cent.

PENALTY FOR NOT WEARING MASK WILL BE ₹500 ONLY: CM

Appealing people to follow covid-19 protocol, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Saturday said that the penalty for not wearing a mask will be Re 500 only. Talking to reporters in Chandigarh, the Chief Minister said that it is necessary for every person to wear a mask and maintain social distancing.



Protem Speaker of the Madhya Pradesh State Assembly chairs a meeting of the crisis management committee in the assembly in Bhopal on Saturday
Pioneer photo

PARL PANEL ASSESSMENT

Exorbitant hospital charges caused more Covid deaths



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Inadequate beds in Government hospitals and absence of specific guidelines for Covid treatment resulted in private hospitals charging exorbitant fees, a Parliamentary panel on Saturday said as it pulled up the Government and asserted that a sustainable pricing model could have averted many deaths.

The first report by any parliamentary committee on the government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic was submitted by Chairperson of the parliamentary standing committee on health Ram Gopal Yadav to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu. Underlining that healthcare spending in the country with a population of 1.3 billion is "abysmally low", the panel said the fragility of Indian health ecosystem posed a big hurdle in generating an effective response against the pandemic.

"The committee, therefore, strongly recommends the Government to increase its investments in the public healthcare system and make consistent efforts to achieve the National Health Policy targets of expenditure up to 2.5 per cent of GDP within two years as the set time frame of year 2025 is far away and the public health cannot be jeopardised till that time schedule," the report stated.

The National Health Policy 2017 has set a target of government expenditure on healthcare up to 2.5 per cent of GDP by 2025 from just 1.15 per cent in 2017.

Stating that the public had to undergo trauma and distress due to absence of a dedicated healthcare system, the committee observed that the number of government hospital beds in the country were not adequate to handle the increasing number of COVID and non-COVID patients.

... Cost of health service

delivery increased due to absence of specific guidelines for COVID treatment in private hospitals as a result of which patients were charged exorbitant fees," the committee noted in the report.

Stressing on the need for better partnership between the government and private hospitals in wake of the pandemic and shortage of state-run healthcare facilities, the report said, "The Committee is of the view that arriving at a sustainable pricing model to treat COVID patients could have averted many deaths."

The committee believes healthcare should never be limited to only those who can afford to pay but should move towards the noble vision of universal health coverage. For this to happen, the Government needs to be considerate and support the private health care sector, the report said.

The committee was all praise for healthcare workers and doctors for being on the frontline in handling the deadly virus and said they should have defined working hours, predictably functioning relievers and scheduled off-duty days.

The doctors, who have laid down their lives in fight against the pandemic, must be acknowledged as martyrs and their families be adequately compensated, it suggested in the report.

ED raids seven locations in Srinagar, Anantnag in J&K Bank money laundering case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday conducted searches at seven places in Jammu and Kashmir under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act in a case relating to suspicious transactions in J&K Bank.

Among these seven locations, six are in Srinagar and one in Anantnag district.

The ED initiated investigation under PMLA after CID, Srinagar registered an FIR against officials of J & K Bank, unidentified public servants and private persons and others for suspicious transactions in various bank accounts.

It has been alleged in the FIR that the bank accounts were used for routing money of public servants as well as some private parties. Further, bank officials, in connivance with these public servants, deliberately omitted to raise the alerts as required under Anti-Money

Laundering (AML) norms, officials said.

Investigations conducted under PMLA so far have revealed that the transactions in many of these bank accounts maintained with J & K Bank were not genuine and these accounts were utilized for the purpose of laundering, the ED said in a statement.

On the basis of specific information, searches at seven places belonging to accused Mohammad Ibrahim Dar, Murtaza Enterprises, Azad Agro Traders, M & M Cottage Industries and Mohd. Sultan Teli were conducted, which resulted in recovery of evidence of money laundering as the bank accounts have been found to be used for routing suspicious transactions, the agency said.

The individuals and entities covered under searches are involved in hospitality and agro based industries, civil construction and real estate, it said.

India's Covid tally breaches 90.5L mark with 46,232 new infections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's coronavirus tally crossed the 90.5 lakh mark on Saturday with 46,232 new infections reported in the last 24 hours, even as the total number of tests conducted across the States has crossed the 13 crore mark with the last one crore done in just 10 days. The total cases in the country now stand at 90,50,597 including 4,39,747 active cases and 84,78,124 recoveries. With 564 new deaths, the count mounted to 1,32,736.

The number of active cases remained below five lakh for the eleventh consecutive day. The total recoveries have surged to 84,78,124 pushing the national recovery rate to 93.67 per cent, while the COVID-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.47 per cent.

According to ICMR, the total number of tests conducted in India for the detection of COVID-19 infection has crossed the 13-crore mark with the last one crore done in just 10

days, while the cumulative positivity rate remained low and continues a downward trajectory, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday.

On Friday 10,66,022 were tested. The cumulative national COVID-19 positivity rate has declined and stood at 6.93 per cent as on date while the daily positivity rate on Friday was just 4.34 per cent.

Higher volumes of testing eventually lead to low positivity rate, the ministry said. "An average of more than 10 lakh tests conducted daily has ensured that the cumulative positivity rate is sustained at low levels and is presently following a downward trajectory," the ministry underlined.

Twenty-four states and Union Territories have conducted more tests per million population than India as a whole. Twelve states have lower tests per million population than the national average and they have been advised to substantially ramp up the level of testing, the ministry under-

scoed. In view of the increase in coronavirus cases of some of the north Indian states, the Centre has advised all states and Union Territories to ramp up testing," the ministry said.

Around 78.19 per cent of the new recovered cases was contributed by 10 states and UTs. Delhi saw 8,775 people recovering from COVID, while Maharashtra and Kerala reported 6,945 and 6,398 new recoveries, respectively. Besides, ten states and UTs have contributed 77.69 per cent of the new cases of coronavirus infections. Delhi reported 6,608 cases in a day. Kerala recorded 6,028 new cases while Maharashtra reported 5,640 cases on Friday.

Of the 564 new fatalities, 82.62 per cent have been reported from 10 states and UTs. With 155 deaths, Maharashtra reported 27.48 per cent of the new fatalities, Delhi accounted for 20.92 per cent. The daily toll with 118 deaths.

Country to increase natural gas use by 4-fold in decade: Modi

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI/GANDHINAGAR

Moving forward with the goal of reducing its carbon footprint by 30 to 35 per cent, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that efforts are on to increase the use of natural gas by four times in this decade and to double the oil refining capacity in the next five years.

He said this while addressing the eighth convocation of Pandit Rendraay Petroleum University (PDPU) via video conference.

"Today, the country is moving forward with the goal of reducing its carbon footprint by 30 to 35 per cent. When I told this to the world, it was not sure the oil refining capacity in the coming five years," he added.

He also expressed confidence that the country will achieve its renewable energy generation target "before time". "Today, per unit cost (of solar power) has come down to less than ₹2 from ₹12-13 earlier. Today, solar power has become the country's priority. We have made a commitment to generate 175 gigawatt renewable energy by 2030, a big aim, will be achieved before time...I am confident of it," he said.

Modi said that the oil and gas sector will see an investment of crores of rupees in this decade, which will create opportunities for the graduating students of the university in the fields of research, manufacturing and others.



He also said that work is underway to strengthen the start-ups ecosystem related to the energy security sector, and a special fund has been allocated for the purpose.

"If you have any idea, product or any concept which you want to incubate, then this fund will be a good opportunity for you, and a gift from the government," he said.

The PM said that despite the hardships caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the graduating students should remember that their strength and capacities are much bigger than the challenges, and asked them not to lose confidence.

He asked the students to recall the period of the country's Independence movement and how people sacrificed their lives for it. He asked them to similarly become a soldier for "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

"There is a lot to do for the country, but youth is the key element, your aim should not be fragmented. You see that only they become successful in life who do something with a sense of responsibility...Failures are those who live with a sense of burden. The youth of the 21st century should go ahead with

a clean slate. The concept that "nothing will change" will have to be cleaned...," he said.

The PM asked the students to take sustained efforts as it will bring about positive results.

The PM said the "Clean India" programme was an example of this, and said small efforts of crores of people turned it into a movement.

During his address, he also recalled how his decision to segregate domestic and agricultural feeders made it possible for the households to get 24-hour electricity in Gujarat.

Modi inaugurated five state-of-the-art facilities to mark the eighth convocation of the PDPU.

The facilities he unveiled at the university are a 45-MW production of monocrystalline solar photovoltaic panel, a tech business incubator, a sports complex, and a Translational Centre at the PDPU, as well as an Indo-EU bilateral project under Horizon 2020 "India-h2o" for industrial waste and desalination.

Modi also suggested the state government to change the name of the Petroleum University to Energy University.

Malabar maritime drill concludes on a high, friendly note

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Malabar maritime exercise hosted by the Indian Navy in two phases concluded on Friday in the Arabian Sea. The Quad countries including India, the US, Australia and Japan took part in the prestigious drill. Australia participated for the first time after India invited it for the event despite Chinese protests.

Giving details of the exercise, navy officials said here on Saturday the 24th edition of the annual Malabar was conducted in two phases. Phase 1 of the exercise involving participation by Indian Navy (IN), United States Navy (USN), Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and Royal Australian Navy (RAN), was conducted off Visakhapatnam in Bay of Bengal from 3-6 November. The second phase was conducted in the Arabian Sea from 17-20 November.

The first phase witnessed participation of Indian Navy units with United States Navy (USN) John S McCain, Her Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS) Ballarat with integral MH-60 helicopter, and Japan Maritime Self Defence Ship



(JMSDF) Onami, with integral SH-60 helicopter. Indian Navy's participation in this phase was led by Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsyan, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet and included destroyer Ranvijay, indigenous frigate Shivalik, Offshore Patrol Vessel Sukanya, Fleet Support Ship Shakti, submarine Sindhuraj, P8I and Dornier maritime reconnaissance aircraft and Advanced Jet Trainer Hawk.

During Phase 2 of the Exercise, the four navies par-

ticipated in joint operations centered on the Vikramaditya Carrier Battle Group of the Indian Navy and Nimitz Carrier Strike Group of the US Navy. The two aircraft carriers, along with other ships, submarine and aircraft of the participating navies, engaged in high intensity naval operations including cross-deck flying operations and advanced air defence exercises by MIG 29K fighters of Vikramaditya and F/A-18 fighters and E2C Hawkeye from Nimitz.

The US Navy's Strike Carrier Nimitz was accompanied by cruiser Princeton and destroyer Stettin in addition to P8A maritime reconnaissance aircraft.

The Royal Australian Navy and JMSDF were represented by frigate Ballarat and destroyer Murasame respectively, along with their integral helicopters.

Indian Navy's participation in Phase 2 was led by Rear Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet and included aircraft carrier

Vikramaditya, indigenous destroyers Kolkata and Chennai, stealth frigate Talwar, Fleet Support Ship Deepak and the integral helicopters of these warships, indigenous sub-marine Khandari and P8I and IL-38 maritime reconnaissance aircraft.

In addition to 'Dual Carrier operations, advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, seamanship evolutions and weapon firings were also undertaken during both phases of the exercise demonstrating the synergy, coordination and inter-operability between the four friendly navies.

The Malabar series of exercises, which began as an annual bilateral naval exercise between India and the US in 1992, has been an increasing scope and complexity over the years.

The 24th edition of MAL-ABAR, conducted in a "non-contact at sea only" format in the backdrop of COVID-19

Om Birla said that the theme of the two-day meeting will be "harmonious coordination between legislature, executive and judiciary"

Depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal during next 48 hrs: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal during the next 48 hours. A low pressure area, formed over equatorial Indian ocean and adjoining central parts of south Bay of Bengal on Saturday, may hit Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coast as a cyclone of lower intensity on November 25.

Predicting the possibility of cyclone, the IMD on Saturday said the depression is likely to intensify further during the subsequent 48 hours. This would expect to revive the North-East monsoon yet again over the Tamil Nadu coast from Monday itself.

Under the influence of the 'low pressure' area, formed on Saturday, the rainfall activity is likely to increase over extreme south peninsula India from November 23 onwards with fairly widespread to widespread rainfall/thunderstorm activity over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karikal and Kerala & Mahe during November 24-26, and over south coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during November 25-27.

PM Modi to virtually inaugurate multi-storey flats for MPs on Nov 23



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The wait of a number of first-time Lok Sabha MPs for an official accommodation in Delhi will end soon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate multi-storey flats- three towers known as Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati, which have come in place of old bungalows at Dr B.D. Marg in the national capital, for members of Parliament on November 23 via video-conferencing. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will also be present during the inauguration.

A PMO statement on Saturday said that three towers having 76 flats were constructed on land housing eight old bungalows, which were more than 80 years old. The construction of these flats has been completed with savings of about 14 per cent from the sanctioned cost and without time overrun despite the impact of Covid-19, it added.

The construction of these flats has been completed with savings of about 14 per cent from the sanctioned cost

The new flats have four bedrooms, office for the MP and his or her secretary and parking spaces and are centrally air-conditioned. In addition, the flats have elevators that connect the basement parking, the ground floor office and living spaces and the first floor bedrooms.

The PMO statement said several green building initiatives have been incorporated in the construction, including bricks made from fly ash and construction and demolition waste, double glazed windows for thermal insulation and energy efficiency, energy efficient LED light fittings, occupancy based sensors for light control, air conditioners with VRF system for low power consumption, low flow fixtures for conservation of water, rainwater harvesting system and rooftop solar plant.

President to launch all-India Speakers' conference in Kevadia on November 25

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the two day long all India Speakers' conference in Kevadia in Gujarat on November 25 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the valedictory function on November 26.

Addressing the media on Saturday, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that the theme of the two-day meeting will be "harmonious coordination between legislature, executive and judiciary. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu will also address the presiding officers.

This is the 80th meeting of presiding officers. Birla said that the All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPO) was launched in the year 1921 and since then, this Conference has been ceaselessly striving to strengthen the democratic way of life and promoting a sense of unity and oneness in the Indian Legislatures. This Conference provides a platform to share new ideas, views, and experiences with all the Presiding Officers in India. He said that the collective wisdom of our venerable legislators has helped the Legislatures to keep pace with the changing times. Many of the significant

Addressing the media on Saturday, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that the theme of the two-day meeting will be 'harmonious coordination between legislature, executive and judiciary'

innovations in parliamentary democracy trace their roots to the deliberations that took place during the Sessions of these Conferences.

Conference, the Presiding Officers of the Legislatures shall discuss the need for better cooperation and coordination between the three pillars of democracy. "This is in line with our Constitutional obligations that spell out the jurisdictions of the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary and the balance amongst them. It is our collective efforts to maintain the constitutional sanctity, which is very important for mutual coexistence between the three organs of governance and the sustenance of democracy in the nation," he said.

SC judge inaugurates 'North East Delhi Riots Claims Commission'



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court Judge Justice Surya Kant on Saturday inaugurated the North East Delhi Riots Claims Commission (NEDRCC) for providing compensation to victims of the communal violence that took place in February.

Justice Kant inaugurated the commission online and said in

a statement that justice to victims of the riot was the need of the hour.

"Justice to the riot victim is the need of the hour. Riot victims must be compensated with promptitude. To achieve this objective, I wish this commission (NEDRCC) all the very best," Justice Kant said in the statement.

Communal clashes had broken out in north-east Delhi on February 24 after violence between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured.

There are about 750 cases registered in north east Delhi and around 1,200 persons have been arrested in matters related to the riot.

Court asks if there is chance of settlement between Akbar, Ramani in defamation case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday asked if there was a chance of settlement between M J Akbar and journalist Priya Ramani in their defamation case filed by him against her. Akbar had filed the complaint against Ramani, allegedly defaming him by accusing him of sexual misconduct around 20 years ago when he was a journalist.

Ramani had said the allegations against Akbar, made in the wake of #MeToo movement in 2018, were her truth and were based in public good. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Ravindra Kumar Pandey passed the query on Saturday as he started hearing the final arguments in the case since the previous judge hearing the matter was transferred to another court on Wednesday.

Hamstring is feeling absolutely fine: Rohit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The hullabaloo over his hamstring was confusing as well as amusing for Rohit Sharma, who says he always knew that the injury was not that serious and he would be battle-ready for the tour of Australia.

India's white-ball vice-captain, in a detailed conversation with PTI, opened about the left hamstring injury during the IPL, which became a matter of intense speculation after he returned to action within days of being left out of the Australia tour earlier this month. He was subsequently added to the Test squad.

"I don't know what was going on, to be honest and what all were people talking about. But let me put this on record, I was constantly communicating with BCCI and Mumbai Indians," Rohit said.

He hit a match-winning knock of 68 off 50 balls in the IPL final against Delhi Capitals, playing through pain. Rohit is currently doing strength and conditioning work at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru before heading to Australia.



Indian opener Rohit Sharma

"I told them (Mumbai Indians) that I can take the field since it is the shortest format and I will be able to manage the situation quite nicely. Once I made my mind clear, it was all about focussing on what I needed to do," he said.

"Hamstring is feeling absolutely fine. Just started the process of getting it nice and strong. Before I play the longer format, I absolutely needed to be clear in mind that there is no stone that is left unturned, that's probably the reason, I'm at the NCA," Rohit added.

For Rohit, the chatter on the outside regarding his injury and his subsequent participation in the IPL play-offs, didn't matter much.

"So for me, it was not a concern what x, y or z was talking about like whether he would make it to Australia," he said.

"Once the injury happened, the next two days all I did was to figure out what I can do in the next 10 days — whether I will be able to play or not."

Unless one goes to the ground, one won't know how the body is shaping up, feels the five-time IPL champion cap-

tain.

"But every day, hamstring (degree of injury) was changing. The way it was responding was changing, so I was feeling quite confident that I could play and that is the communication that I had with MI at that point."

"I told them that I think I will be okay to play just before play-offs. If there is any discomfort, I won't be playing the play-offs."

All Rohit needed was three and half weeks to get ready for Tests and he fails to understand what the fuss was all about given that the series starts December 17.

"Of course, there is still some work that needs to be done on my hamstring. That's why I didn't go to Australia for the white-ball leg as there are back-to-back games. Around 6 games in 11 days," he said about the limited overs leg beginning November 27.

"So I thought if I get to work on my body for 25 days, I can probably go and play the Test matches. So it was an easy decision for me and I don't know why it became so complicated for others," he wondered aloud.

IPL performance has taken pressure off this Oz tour: Shami

PTI ■ SYDNEY

India's craftiest pacer Mohammed Shami is in the "right zone" after his impressive performance in the IPL, allowing him to prepare for the big Test series against Australia "without any pressure". Shami had his best IPL season as his 20 wickets for Kings XI Punjab, including a spectacular defence of five runs in double Super Over game against Mumbai Indians, was one of the highlights of the tournament.

"My performances for KXIP in IPL has given me a lot of confidence and put me in the right zone," Shami told BCCI TV on Saturday.

An artist with the red ball, Shami feels that a good IPL has taken off the burden from him.

"The biggest advantage is that I can now prepare for the upcoming series without any pressure. There is no burden on me. I am very comfortable at the moment."

"I had worked hard on my bowling and my fitness in the lockdown. I knew that IPL would take place sooner or later and I was preparing myself for it."

Shami made no bones that Test matches are a priority for him on this tour as he is trying to get into the groove during the training session over last one week.

"We are going to have a long tour starting with the white ball followed by pink and red ball Tests. My focus area has been the red ball and I am working on my lengths and seam movement."

"I have always felt that



once you start pitching the ball at the lengths you desire, you can succeed in different formats."

He feels that post IPL, his white ball bowling is in control and that's why he required more preparation with red ball.

"What you need is control. I have done well with the white-ball and now spending much time on red ball bowling. The red ball doesn't bow in the same area since both formats are different but your basics don't change much."

With Steve Smith and David Warner, who were missing during India's scintillating campaign in 2018-19, back in the mix, things will get tougher for the Indian pace quartet.

But the senior bowler is hardly perturbed by their presence.

"India have quality batsmen and we bowl at them in the nets. We don't look at

names, we focus on our skills. You can be a world-class batsman, but one good ball will still get you out," Shami said.

The veteran pacer said that the diverse skill sets makes for a very potent attack like the one India has with him, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma and the menacing Jasprit Bumrah.

"Our fast bowling group can bowl at 140 kph plus and the nets bowling with that kind of pace in Australia. Even our reserves are quick, you don't get to see that kind of an attack."

Shami reminded that the pacers have done well in all overseas conditions and have taken 20 wickets in a lot of away Test matches as well as in spin-friendly conditions at home.

"There is a healthy competition but there is no rivalry within the group. If you look at the numbers, we have managed to pick 20 wickets almost on all our away tours."

Motivation has never been a problem for Kohli: Stoinis

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Virat Kohli is more than hundred percent charged up every time he takes the field and the Australian team is preparing in equal measure to counter the threat posed by the Indian captain, said all-rounder Marcus Stoinis.

Kohli, who is heading family home in January, will be returning after playing the six white ball games and the opening day/night Test scheduled in Adelaide.

"Don't worry about Virat. He is up for every single game that he's playing. Yeah, maybe there will be extra motivation, but I don't think there's any extra motivation than 110 percent," Stoinis was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"So let's see. I am sure he (Kohli) will be ready to go. He is getting home for the birth of his kid, which is the right decision in my opinion. So I am sure he will be extra motivated."

Stoinis said that coach Justin Langer and his men will have foolproof strategy to counter the India skipper, who is in a league of his own when it comes to white-ball cricket.

"We've definitely got our strategies, we've had things that have worked in the past, and at the same time the same plans haven't worked and he's made some runs."

"Obviously, he (Kohli) is a great player, and to all these good players, you do what you want to do, you have your goals, and on the day, you get extra competitive and you hope it all falls in your side of the court."

On the personal front, Stoinis scored 352 runs and took 13 wickets for Delhi Capitals in the IPL and wants to replicate that performance in the limited overs games against India, starting Friday.

Asked what changed for him this season, Stoinis said: "I will hopefully continue to bring that form into the summer, but there's nothing really too different (that I have been doing)."

"The break was great — it was nice to come back quite fresh into all these competitions. I feel like I was going well in England before leading in as well, so hopefully the results keep coming my way," he said.

Bereaved Siraj declines BCCI offer to fly back home

PTI ■ KOLKATA

BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Saturday said that pacer Mohammed Siraj, who has lost his father, was given the option of flying back home to be with his grieving family but he decided to stay back in Australia for "national duty".

Ghouse, who was suf-

fering from a lung ailment, died on Friday. He was 53.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had a discussion with Siraj and he was offered the option of flying back and be with his family in this hour of grief," Shah said in a BCCI media release.

The fast bowler has decided to stay with the Indian contingent and con-

tinue performing his national duties. The BCCI shares his grief and will be supportive of Siraj in this extremely challenging phase," Shah added.

Board president Sourav Ganguly took to Twitter to laud the Hyderabad pacer for his resilience and mental fortitude in this hour of tragedy.

"May Mohammed siraj

have a lot of strength to overcome this loss. Lots of good wishes for his success in this trip. Tremendous character," Ganguly tweeted.

If Siraj had chosen to fly back to India, he would have had to do another 14-day quarantine here in Australian under the local government rules on his arrival.

Ferguson not worried about missing Test spot

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

New Zealand fast bowler, who has not been named in the Test squad that plays West Indies next month is not too worried about it and says he will fight for a spot in the long-format side which already has a good pace-bowling attack.

The pace bowler, who is undergoing quarantine after returning from the Indian Premier League, where he impressed with his pace but had a mixed tournament performance-wise, will play the T20 series that begins on November 27.

"The Test side is a really tough team to break into, there is so much depth. Obviously, our big batsmen (Boult, Southee, Wagner) have been so successful for a long period of time," Ferguson told reporters in an interaction.

"I've had chats through out. Steady (coach Gary Stead) and I talk a lot, I've got some family engagements that week, but even then, (Jamieson) played so well last season, so he

certainly deserves a spot in that side," Ferguson said.

Ferguson picked six wickets in five games he played and conceded runs at just 7.46 in the IPL for KKR.

"When you see that depth, Kyle Jamieson, one of my good mates, coming through and taking the opportunity and playing well, puts pressure on other bowlers to perform well along the way. I think it is great. For me, honestly, if it means I've got to work hard to get an opportunity and have a chance for that side, as I always do, take it game by game."

The right-arm pace bowler had a forgettable Test debut in December last year against Australia when he limped off the field after bowling just 11 overs at Perth.

'Pakistan ready to host top cricketing nations in 2021'

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

After nearly a decade of hosting An home Test matches due to a terrorist attack on a rival team's bus in 2009, Pakistan says it's ready to welcome major cricketing nations like South Africa, New Zealand, England and West Indies in 2021.

"We're working hugely in terms of building relationships, nurturing those relationships with (other) cricket boards," Wasim Khan, chief executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board, said.

South Africa is due to visit Pakistan in January to play a two-Test series which is part of world Test championship, followed by three Twenty20s.

New Zealand is pencilled in for three ODIs and five Twenty20s in September, followed by two Twenty20s against England at Karachi. It will be England's first tour to Pakistan since 2005.

The PCB has also plans a home series against West Indies in December.

"We have a check-a-block eight to 10 months coming up for us on the road playing at home," Khan said.

"We're also in discussions with Cricket Australia. They're due to be touring during the 2022 season. We're looking at them coming for an extended period of time."

When Sri Lanka's team bus came under a terrorist attack in March 2009, the doors of international cricket remained shut on



Pakistan until Zimbabwe became the first country to play limited-overs series at Lahore in 2015.

Test cricket only returned to Pakistan late last year when Sri Lanka played two five-day games at Rawalpindi and Karachi.

Bangladesh also played a Test match before its second test was called off due to Covid-19.

In between the Zimbabwe and Bangladesh tours, a franchise-based domestic Twenty20 league — the Pakistan Super League — played a big role in pressing Pakistan's claims to host international games.

Players like Shane Watson, Dale Steyn and AB De Villiers were among some big names that toured Pakistan and have played for various city-based franchise teams.

Khan believes these players had a significant role in portraying Pakistan's improving image among cricket-playing nations.

"A lot of these players go back to their own countries ... and say,

you know what? Pakistan is one of the safest places to play," Khan said.

"These are those cricketers who are associated with their own cricket boards, who are international cricketers, who perhaps had a (different) perception of Pakistan before they came here."

Khan also wants to organize a limited-overs series against neighboring Afghanistan somewhere next year, after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, a former cricket captain for the country, visited Kabul and extended an invitation to Afghan national team this week.

"We will do everything we can to find a slot in the calendar to arrange fixtures against Afghanistan," Wasim Khan said.

World record holders Kosgei, Yeshaneh add to field for ADHM



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Airtel Delhi Half Marathon on Saturday announced the entries of world record holders Brigid Kosgei and Ababel Yeshaneh for the upcoming event, adding lustre to an already star-studded field.

The event is part of the countdown to the World Athletics Gold Label Race.

At the Chicago Marathon in October 2019, Kenya's Kosgei stunned the world when she broke the long-standing women's world marathon record by more than a minute, clock-

ing 2:14:04. Yeshaneh was a distant second on that occasion but still ran a superb personal best of 2:20:51.

However, the tables were turned at the Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon in February this year when a contest between the pair in the final stages of the race saw Ethiopia's Yeshaneh prevail in a world record 64:31 with Kosgei second in 64:49.

In their most recent outings last month, the 26-year-old Kosgei won the rescheduled London Marathon in 2:18:58 while the 29-year-old Yeshaneh had to contend with misfortune and fell at the World Athletics Half Marathon Championships in Poland, with just over three kilometres remaining, which took her out of medal contention although she recovered quickly to finish fifth.

While the elite runners will be at the start line at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium this year, the event will be broadcasted live on the new Airtel Delhi Half Marathon Mobile App.

Thiem downs Djokovic in instant classic

PTI ■ LONDON

Dominic Thiem became the first player in four years to reach back-to-back championship matches at the Nitto ATP Finals on Saturday, as he earned a milestone 7-5, 6-7(10), 7-6(5) victory against World No. 1 Novak Djokovic.

The 2019 runner-up failed to convert four match points in a dramatic second-set tie-break, but held his nerve to rally in a final-set tie-break against Djokovic at the O2 for the second straight year. Thiem's victory was his 300th at tour-level and his fifth against a World No. 1. The last player to reach consecutive finals at the season finale was Djokovic (2012-16).

Each set came down to just a few points and it was Thiem who claimed the biggest points in the decider. Thiem increased his aggression to win six consecutive points from 0/4 down in the final-set tie-break and converted his sixth match point with a powerful forehand approach shot. Thiem is only



the second player in 2020 to win a tie-break against the World No. 1. Djokovic entered the third-set tie-break with a 15-1 tie-break record this season.

Thiem has now won five of his seven most recent ATP Head2Head matches against Djokovic, which includes two wins at this event. The Austrian also earned a final-set tie-break victory against Djokovic in the round-robin stage last year.

With his fifth win against Djokovic (5-7), Thiem joins

Andy Murray as the only players to beat each member of the Big Three on five or more occasions. Thiem also owns six wins against Rafael Nadal (6-9) and has triumphed five times against Roger Federer (5-2). Thiem has excelled in match points, having won 10 of 11 in the start of the 2019 ATP Tour season (9-3).

In a tight first set, neither player was able to earn a break point in their opening five return games. As Djokovic attempted to serve short points by coming to the net, Thiem made the crucial move at 5-5. The World No. 3 consistently fired backhands down the line to Djokovic's forehand volley and extracted errors to serve for the set. Thiem converted his first set point with an ace down the T.

Thiem was put under pressure on serve in the second set, but he found his serves to save break point at 3-4 and two set points at 5-6, 15/40. In the tie-break, Thiem held four match

points but he could not convert as errors began to creep into his game. Djokovic served with power and fired a forehand on the line to escape danger on two match points and levelled the match when Thiem drove a backhand into the net.

There were no signs of disappointment from Thiem in the decider. The 27-year-old continued to serve at a high level to stay ahead in the score and reach a tie-break. Thiem committed errors early in the final set tie-break but he charged back from 0/4 with consistent aggression to win six of the final seven points.

Last year, Thiem recovered from 1/4 to beat Djokovic in another final-set tie-break.

Djokovic was attempting to reach his eighth championship match at the season finale and move one win away from matching Federer's record haul of six Nitto ATP Finals crowns. The six-time year-end World No. 1 ends the year with a 41-5 record and four titles.

Women's football camp from Dec 1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian women's senior team will undergo its first national camp since the coronavirus-forced lockdown, in Goa from December 1, kick-starting its preparations for the 2022 AFC Asian Cup with a host of health and safety measures.

As many as 30 players have been summoned by head coach Maymol Rocky for the camp. The 2022 edition of the continental event will be hosted in India.

A detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been prepared for the resumption of the team training, which lays down numerous Covid-19 protocols and guidelines in an exhaustive manner.

National teams director Abhishek Yadav said the team is eager to return to the field as soon as possible.

"The team is eager to get back on the pitch as soon as possible. The last few months have been unprecedented but we are taking cautious steps to take Indian football forward together." The AFC Women's Asian Cup is in sight and we have to

be at the top of our preparations by the time the tournament kicks off."

He stressed that the safety of the team is of paramount importance.

"We have formulated the safety protocols from the protocols laid down by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Sports Authority of India (SAI), our medical team and other stakeholders."

The SOP, as prescribed by Indian team doctor Shervin Sheriff, mandates that incoming players and support staff must get a COVID test (RT-PCR) done from an ICMR accredited laboratory prior to their departure from their home towns.

If the RT-PCR test results come negative, they can proceed to travel with necessary precautions.

After reaching Goa, a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) has to be done and if the result is negative, they can proceed to their respective rooms for seven days of quarantine. They will be tested again on Day 8, before joining training.

the pioneer agenda

In this world,
everyone wants to
know everything
about you, and I
think that's funny
Leighton Meester



FROM THE INSIDE

Accounting for Karma

The law of karma provides a system of justice in which one is rewarded for good karma and punished for bad ones

2



4

Know what you are worth

You can't simply blame time or destiny indications for your failure. Better look into your own fault lines

As we learn to live with Covid-19 around, things have been particularly harsh for children who are finding themselves trapped and are struggling to get back to normal, writes KAARTIK GUPTA, as he suggests measures to ensure that our children remain healthy and emerge stronger from this crisis

THE NEW CRISIS POINT CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Till now, the year 2020 has been a difficult one to say the least. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed everything around us. How we meet and greet others, type of clothes we wear, how we stand and even sit in public places, how often we go out; basically everything has changed. Months of uncertainty, lockdown, reports of chaos caused due to the pandemic all over media, restricted movements and forced isolations have taken a toll on the mental and emotional health of a large number of people.

As per recent reports, there has been a significant rise in people seeking psychological help over the past few months. Anxiety, Depression, increased incidents of domestic violence, substance abuse, stress due to loss of livelihood and financial crisis, escalation in the number of suicides were some of the grave issues for which people sought psychological help. People of all ages have been deeply impacted due to the changed world order.

As the nation is in a gradual phase of unlock at present, most of the workforce and economy has opened up. People have resumed work with varied work days and shifts. However, children are still stuck at homes. They are unable to go to their respective schools and colleges as Covid cases continue to rise and thus as a safety measure, educational institutions have not yet been given the nod to operate completely. Students, at different educational levels, are forced to continue with online classes. Some have even appeared for online exams, while few others wait for the technical glitches to be sorted. These have been challenging times especially for children as not just they had to adapt to a very different method of learning, they have also been deprived of the fun times they share with their friends in school and college. Those belonging to the lower socio-economic strata have found it even more difficult to keep up with the teaching due to lack of resources like smartphones, laptops and slower internet speed.

Problems faced by children due to the pandemic include:

- **Online learning:** Technological advancements made it possible for students to continue with their studies even from the space and safety of their own homes. Online classes, e-lectures, webinars replaced regular classrooms and lecture halls. However, it came with the side-effects of reduced attention span, virtual absenteeism as students would login for class but would be watching or playing something else rather than listening to their teachers, lack of writing skills as all the assignments or projects had to be virtually completed and submitted. Poor internet connectivity, concurrent online classes of sibling, lack of smartphone also affected the children's ability to attend e-schools/colleges. In addition to this, time-bound assignment submissions and exams heightened the child's anxiety if in case he/she is unable to upload the document for a reason beyond his/her control. Back-to-back classes also affected the children's ability to pay attention to what is being taught.
- **Restricted outdoor activity:** Childhood is a period where an individual grows not just by learning things at school, but also by engaging in play activities with his/her peers. It is a treasured time of the day and almost all children look forward to going out and playing with their friends. But the pandemic forced them to stay indoors and thus restricted their ability to play with friends and siblings. This has been one of the most important factors for children having more psychological and behavioural issues during the past few months. Regular exercise and playing activities ensure adequate production and secretion of endorphins and

growth hormones which are vital for a child's overall health and well-being.

- **Lack of privacy:** With everyone being at home for most part of the day, one's personal space has also been compromised to a certain extent. This is especially true for adolescents as more family time, less time with friends has been tough on some teenagers. Although, many have utilised this time well to bond with their family members, some found it difficult which often led to an increase in arguments and conflicts at home.

- **Increased screen time:** Ask any parent of a teenager or even a child and they will tell you how fed up they are due to their child's excessive phone/laptop usage. Social media, OTT platforms, messaging apps, online games; this cocktail is any parents' worst enemy and ironically their child's go to thing. Excessive screen time has been an issue for a very long time now, but due to the pandemic when even studies started happening online things just went from bad to worse for children and adolescents. As per a recent pre-Covid times study, an adolescent on an average spends around 6-7 hours watching or using phone/laptop screen; much higher than the healthy usage. Children and adolescents are completely hooked onto the screen which has adverse effects on their psychological well-being.

- **Restricted socialisation:** Due to the pandemic, our social interactions and gatherings have been severely affected. Humans are social animals and we need to socialise for us to feel safe and secure. Adolescents and young adults, especially the ones in their last school or college year, are apprehensive if they would be able to meet their friends and teachers properly one final time before they pass out from the educational institutions. Children have reported feeling isolated and lonely during the past few months as they have not been able to go and meet their friends in person.

- **Increased risk of child abuse:** The pandemic has increased the prevalence of many common sources of family stress, placing children at risk of abuse and neglect. As per recent reports, the incidents of domestic violence and abuse had significantly gone up during the lockdown period placing children at a greater risk and adversely affecting their impressionable minds. A child who has been a victim or even a witness to abuse at home can experience a variety of psychological and emotional issues both as a child and even later on as an adult. Providing a safe and nurturing home environment for a child to grow in is each one's responsibility and we need to take adequate steps to ensure the same. Any incident of abuse needs to be reported to the police and Child Welfare Committee so that the child can be immediately secured and the perpetrators be punished.

As the number of new cases has lessened over the past few weeks and we all learn to live with Covid-19 around, things are slowly getting back to normal; a new normal. As a child/adolescent going through any of the above mentioned issues, you can take the following measures to ensure that you remain healthy and emerge stronger from this crisis:

- **Communication:** Talk to your parents, siblings or friends about how you are feeling about the current scenario. Confide in the one you trust. Share whatever you are feeling or thinking about, no matter how trivial you might think it may sound to them. As a parent, be patient and a good listener to your child/adolescent. Hear them out and try to understand what he/she is going through. Encourage them to talk about their feelings, their thoughts, any apprehensions or anything they are worried about. Listen to understand, rather than to reply. Provide a caring, supportive and non-judgmental environment at home for him/her to feel safe and secure at home. Do not



AS PER RECENT REPORTS, THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT RISE IN PEOPLE SEEKING PSYCHOLOGICAL HELP OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, INCREASED INCIDENTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, STRESS DUE TO LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD AND FINANCIAL CRISIS, ESCALATION IN THE NUMBER OF SUICIDES WERE SOME OF THE GRAVE ISSUES FOR WHICH PEOPLE SOUGHT PSYCHOLOGICAL HELP. PEOPLE OF ALL AGES HAVE BEEN DEEPLY IMPACTED DUE TO THE CHANGED WORLD ORDER

dismiss their fears or thoughts as illogical, even if they seem so to you.

- **Get involved at home:**

Use the current situation to your benefit and try to get involved with some tasks at home. Learn new skills, take up responsibilities and help out at home in whatever way you can.

- **Limit screen time:** It might be difficult with online classes but reduce your screen time as much as possible. Attend classes sincerely rather than trying to multi-task or fool your teacher as you are the only one who'll suffer because of it. Take short breaks between classes. Always sit on a chair or floor and do your work; use your bed only for sleeping. Be mindful of your posture, as long usage of phone/laptop can lead to problems like cervical spondylitis.

- **Read books:** Do not limit your learning only through phone/laptop. Put in the extra effort and prepare through books as well; reading thoroughly helps in concept clarity and thus can be better recalled during exams.

- **Maintain a routine:** Having a structured day will lessen the anxiety or boredom you may feel. Go to bed and wake up at the same time everyday, do some physical exercise for half an hour at least, eat healthy home cooked food. Fix a time for your studies and engage in your hobbies regularly.

- **Socialise but responsibly:** Gradual unlocking of the country has begun and thus it has become easier to meet your friends. Once in a while you can go out and meet your friends for lunch or dinner provided you are following the safety guidelines laid down by the government for prevention of spread of Covid-19. It will be a good change for you and you can catch up with your friends in person after many months. If not

this, you always have the option of being in touch with them over video calls or normal phone calls. The important thing is to be in touch with your loved ones and not be withdrawn or isolated.

- **Avoid substance use:** Teenage is a time when the individual wants to explore and experiment different things in life. The new found sense of independence and an emotional roller-coaster driven by the hormonal changes can tempt one to seek thrill even at the expense of their well-being. Substance or drug use, which can rapidly develop into an abuse, is a major issue which plagues our children and adolescents. With the glorification of such activities in popular songs and movies, it poses a major threat as engaging in such things is wrongly considered to be cool and youngsters give into it just to be a part of a group. Please be advised to stay away from such stuff and use your intelligence and smartness wisely.

- **Seek Professional Help:** If you notice a significant change in your child's behaviour which is affecting his/her personal, social, academic/occupational functioning please be advised to consult your nearest Mental Health Professional like Clinical Psychologist, Child Psychologist, Psychiatrist, Psychiatric Social Worker or Counsellor.

When the going gets tough, the tough get going! Let us all do our bit to ensure that we all emerge stronger and wiser from this pandemic.

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ACCOUNTING FOR KARMA

The law of karma provides a system of justice in which one is rewarded for good karma and punished for bad ones, writes **SANT RAJINDER SINGH**

Karma is like opening a bank account. We have choices on how much money we want to put in to add to our balance or how much we wish to withdraw. We can choose to put different investments that result in interest to increase what we have available in our account. We can also choose to use credit card in which we pay interest on what we spend. The choice is ours to make. Similarly, we have a karmic account. Each day we can choose whether we want to engage in thoughts, words, and deeds that are going to result in good that comes back to us. We can also engage in thoughts, words, and deeds, for which we must pay the consequences. Beyond creating good and bad karmic accounts, we can also choose to do things that create a balance of zero so that we do not have to return to this world to either reap the benefits or pay the consequences.

CAN WE REDUCE OUR KARMA? WHAT ARE NEH-KARMAS?

We can reduce our karmas by living mindfully of the karmic law. That means doing things that do not incur good or bad karma. However, if we are still not living life in a *neh-karma* or karma-less way, it is better to have good karma than bad karma. There are many examples of people who can directly see the rewards that came back to them from a deed of good karma. Many times, we cannot read the correlation between what we have done what we received in return. Sometimes the effects span several lifetimes. At other times, what happens to us is a result of something we set in motion years ago.

Everything we do is recorded in the karmic accounts. There is a strict accounting of our every thought, word and deed. It is wise to make sure that we do not commit any actions, thoughts or words that can rebound to us with consequence. Instead, we must have thoughts, words, and deeds that are good so that good can come back to us.

CAN WE MAKE BETTER CHOICES TO SPEED UP OUR JOURNEY BACK TO GOD?

However, if we are on the spiritual path, we do not want to return to this world to reap the rewards of what we do. There is a better plan. We can do good but do so without having to come back to reap the rewards. The solution is to do good in the Name of God, without wanting any reward for ourselves. This means we are doing good in the



world, but the credit is being passed on to God. We do not want material gains for what we do. We only want to accumulate spiritual benefits and the love and pleasure of God. These are termed acts that are *neh-karma* or karma-free.

How can this be done? We can have good thoughts, words, and deeds in life but we pass on the credit to God. We do good things because it is the right thing to do, not to make name for ourselves or earn money. We say good things to others because it is the kind and loving thing to do, just out of goodness of our heart, without expecting anything in return. We think good things about others as an expression of the spiritual love we are developing in which we recognise all people as members of the same family of God.

We still do good, but our deeds are selfless without us wanting any material rewards. We do get benefits, but they are of the spirit. These benefits come in the form of spiritual progress, the love of God, earning the pleasure of God, and the burning of our karmas without creating new ones.

Another activity in which we can spend our time without creating more karma is Meditation. When we sit with a still mind we are not creating more karma. Sitting in meditation but think-

THE REALITIES OF THE KARMIC LAW SHOULD SINK INTO US SO THAT WE MAKE BETTER CHOICES IN OUR THOUGHTS, WORDS, AND DEEDS. IF WE WANT TO MAKE SPIRITUAL PROGRESS, THE ROADMAP IS LAID OUT FOR US AND IS OUR CHOICE AS TO WHETHER WE PUT OUR CAR INTO DRIVE AND MOVE FORWARDS, STAY IN NEUTRAL AND REMAIN IDLE, OR DRIVE IN REVERSE

ing critical and hurtful thoughts of others is not karma-less meditation. It is sitting and thinking thoughts that create more karma. That is why *simran* or repetition of the name of God is an important helping factor in preventing karma in meditation.

If we repeat the name of God, our mind is focused and does not have a chance to create karma by thinking negative thoughts against anyone. *Simran* helps us forget the past hurt or future worries, helps us to focus on being in the present moment in which we are meditating to progress on the spiritual journey back to God. The analogy is like keeping our car in neutral at a red light. We are not using up our gas, but we also not moving in any direction.

LAW OF KARMA AND JOURNEY OF OUR SOUL

The soul undergoes a long journey through various forms of creation from the moment is separated from God until it returns to God. This journey involves transmigration of the soul in which it accumulates karma, a record of all its thoughts, words, and deeds. Karmas accumulated can be good or bad, good thoughts, words, and deeds, or bad thoughts, words, and

deeds. The law of karma, or the law of action and reaction, provides a system of justice in which one is rewarded for good karmas and punished for bad karmas. A soul must pay off all karma to get back to God.

The realities of the karmic law should sink into us so that we make better choices in our thoughts, words, and deeds. If we want to make spiritual progress, the roadmap is laid out for us and is our choice as to whether we put our car into drive and move forwards, stay in neutral and remain idle, or drive in reverse. Our free will means the choice is ours to make.

Let us remember that whatever we do will come back to us, whether good or bad. Let us also realise that others, especially our children, are watching us and will model their behaviour upon ours. Let's be aware of the effect of our thoughts, words, and deeds and ensure that we do not do anything that will come back to us as karmic debt in the future. It is better if we do everything good in the Name of God without wanting any material rewards. In this way, we will not be creating karma and we will find that we will wind up our karmas, reunite with God, and enjoy eternal peace and happiness.

The writer is a spiritual leader



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Rama's lessons to remember



The legend goes that Diwali is celebrated to mark Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya after slaying Ravana. We have been celebrating Diwali for ages. But it is important to remember that more than Rama's victory, it is the values he stood for that needs to be recapitulated and imbibed. Lord Rama lives not only as an incarnation of God born to end evil prevailing in the world during those times. Lord Rama lives as *Maryada Purushottam*, the noblest among human beings who stood for certain values and principles, rather epitomised them. Let this Diwali remind us of those values and, may be, give us the will and the ability to practise those. Rama and *Ramayana* need to be the source of strength and sustenance for us to practise righteousness. Thinking of those principles that Rama stood for may then be a timely reminder to help us reinvent ourselves. The sum and substance of Rama's character lie in this one story that has been narrated and recounted time and again. The story goes that when Rama returned to Ayodhya after killing the mighty demon king, who was the most powerful of the kings on the globe in those days, people were dismayed. So the citizens of Ayodhya asked out of disbelief how Rama could kill someone as invincible as Ravana. The reply that the Lord gave is worth pondering over. Lord Rama very humbly said that I did not kill Ravana. It is the 'I' that killed Ravana. I, the bloated ego doused in arrogance. It was the ego of Ravana that proved his undoing. In fact, one big difference between Rama and Ravana was humility. Rama was humility incarnate whereas Ravana was all pride and haughtiness. In the present times, what we are seeing all around us is that humility as a value has become almost extinct, and arrogance and pride are driving human behaviour. Even the corona impact has not done much to dampen the human ego, though it did show man his place. Rama's principles were driven by ethics. This, however, was also shown by all his kinsmen, but Rama still stood apart. He not only chose to keep his father's promise even though he could have avoided it, given the ground swell of opinion that was in his favour. Look how people conduct themselves to retain power today. What happened in the US Presidential election is a pointer. Prudence and ethical wisdom are two entirely different things. Prudence is about knowing which side of the bread is buttered while ethical wisdom is knowing when to say no to the buttered side. Even when Rama was in exile, his brother, Bharat, and people of Ayodhya pleaded to him to reconsider his decision. But that did not deter him from his principled resolve. Rama's commitment to carry out his father's promise even after the latter's demise is a lesson in values. Rama's pursuit of *dharma* was above everything. And the entire *Ramayana* reflects this. Rama knew the essence of *dharma* and he also had the will to uphold it. He was an ideal representation of man who combined values, virtues and vision. Rama's victory over Ravana is certainly to be rejoiced. But his principled conduct offers more valuable lessons. Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at ppathak1sm@gmail.com

Find your peace post a fight

If we handle our disagreements in the right way, we can help our own selves to bounce back and emerge with a stronger bond, says **DR ANJU SHARMA**

Disagreements can arise in any relationships. The consequence of such disagreements sometimes leads to arguments, that are the worst moments to come across. But if we handle such situations in the right way, we can help us to bounce back with a stronger bond. Here are some tips to deal with anxiety after arguments with loved ones:

GIVE SOME TIME AND SPACE

After an argument, you should give some time and space to each other. This is important to resolve the conflict. To avoid further heated arguments, give a breathing room by stepping away for a glass of water or a breathing exercise. This will give time to calm down the emotionally charged up individuals.

FIGURE OUT THE ROOT CAUSE OF ANXIETY

When you are away from your loved one giving time to cool down, try to understand the reason behind the other person's behaviour. If they are being anxious, then understand what triggered their anxiety level and what you can do to calm down the situation.

COMMUNICATE, DO NOT ARGUE

When the time is right, extend the olive branch. Talk to each other calmly and discuss each other's point of view. Talking and apologising to each other means that you acknowledge that both of you have been hurt and want to heal the relationship.

BE A GOOD LISTENER

During the fight, both the individuals are trying hard to get their respective point across and this makes the situation worse. To resolve the argument, try to listen to your loved ones' perspective. If you still disagree with the other person's perspective, then you can acknowledge their emotional hurt and



pacify with statements like 'I am sorry (topic) made you feel bad'. Most importantly, do not get into defensive mode when the other person is speaking about your role in the argument.

HUG AND MAKEUP

One of the most important steps is before or while communicating, hug the

person and rub the spinal cord. Massaging the spine will help in the flow of hormones and calms down the cells of the body. It relaxes the stressed muscles and the person will settle for better communication.

The writer is a renowned Psychic reformer, Sound & Energy Master, Wellness-Holistic Coach and the founder of Musical Healing Band, Sound of Infinity

Ten questions to ask self

For good life, we need God's blessings. There is no other way to exist well, writes **AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI** as he encourages us to look within

There are some questions that each one of us must answer for our own well being. The first question being: "Do you accept that you are small?" If you don't, you are far removed from reality. For example, if you consider yourself very big or important and you come down with a contagious disease. Just watch the reaction of all near and dear ones. They will try to help surely but only after making sure that they are safe. The wise persons take shelter of the omnipotent God. I do so because I have realised that without a good connection with God, I am helpless.

The next question is: "Are you part of the creation or an independent entity?" Lord Krishna states in the *Bhagavad Gita* that we all are parts of God (15:7). He knows because He is the creator. When you accept this fact, then, others become equally important to you. You need to cooperate with them. Only then, you will get their help. The third question is: "If you don't, then, can you exist on your own?" My experience tells me that I cannot. It has been estimated that human beings need help from upwards of twenty persons to exist well on a daily basis. The fourth question is: "Do you know everything you need to know?" Only a silly person would answer in the affirmative, because there is so much knowledge. Therefore, wise persons take shelter of the omniscient God, who provides the required information through intuitions, etc. or arranges through some other sources like human beings, media, etc.

The fifth question is: "Can you do whatever you desire?" My answer is a firm no. I am very limited in what I can accomplish on my own. Therefore, I have chosen to take shelter of God, and



I seek His help very frequently. God guides and helps as only He can. Suppose I need some favour from some person and he is not keen to oblige. God can and does change that person's mind if God feels that it is for general good, not just for my selfish reasons. The sixth question is: "Can you control results?" Unfortunately, the answer will be in negative mostly than positive, such is the nature of this changing world. Therefore, Lord Krishna has instructed us to not try to predetermine result. (2:47) But one thing is certain and that is one can cross all impediments by God's grace, which can be attained by developing God consciousness. (18:58) There are many ways the same can be achieved.

The seventh question is: "What does taking shelter mean to you?" To me it means turning to God and praying for His guidance and help for whatever is troubling me. God is very merciful. He guides and helps. The eighth question is: "What do you really want

in life?" One seeks the benevolence of God so one's family should remain healthy, peaceful and happy. The ninth question: "What does the word protection mean to you?" We need to be safe from whatever could threaten us, on which we have no control. For example, we need assurance that no one should physically harm us. That brings us to the last question: "Can you gain at will whatever you need by way of resources to exist well?" The answer has to be a firm no, because we need so many types of resources throughout our lives. However, God has promised in the Gita that for His advanced devotees. (9:22)

What did you learn by answering these questions? My experience tells me that for a high quality of life, I need God's shelter. I have found no other way to exist well. God must guide and help me at all times. For me, this is an absolute necessity.

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Women in a just society in New India

"The awkward fit of theory to actuality is most vivid for poor women in poor economies. These women may depend on others, but lack the supposed securities of dependence. They are powerless, but are often providers. They are powerless, yet others who are yet more vulnerable depend on them for protection. Their vulnerability reflects heavy demands as much as slender resources."

— Philosopher Onora O'Neill

Concerns about inequality and injustice women face in various societies don't require a league consisting only of economists and policy-analysts. Both historically and contemporarily, philosophers and literary figures world over have reaffirmed their interest through their characters in these overwhelming problems. I will like to initiate this article by bringing into picture two characters. Sissy Jupe from Charles Dickens's novel *Hard Times* and Vasilisa Arsenyeva from Salman Rushdie's novel *The Golden House*. One may wonder what these novelists writing in different centuries have to do with women and a just society. Both Dickens and Rushdie in their own way handled hard facts of life with an unfailing appeal to their readers.

Mr M'Choakumchild was exploring Sissy's knowledge about national prosperity. "Now, this schoolroom is a Nation. And in this nation, there are fifty millions of money. Isn't this prosperous nation, and ain't you in a thriving state?" Sissy pleaded ignorance but nevertheless explained her ignorance. She said she could not answer the question unless she knew, "Who had got the money, and whether any of it was mine." Obviously Sissy Jupe, not happy with sad affairs of distributive justice chose to lament it.

Rushdie, in *V Arsenyeva*, finds a different version of a woman. Rushdie captured her emotions while she delivered a monologue on poverty, love and need. Let me quote from her monologue. "Please, I require no sympathy regarding the poverty of my origin... Poverty is a disgusting condition and to fail to emerge from it is also disgusting. Fortunately I excelled at all things both physical and mental and so I have been able to come to America... I know my presence here is the result of my labour... The past is a broken cardboard suitcase full of photographs of things I no longer wish to see. I am the general of myself and my body is the foot soldier that obeys what the general commands."

The two characters share some commonalities. First both are women: one a young school-going girl and the second *V Arsenyeva*, a relatively older Russian girl with origin in Siberia, and living in America. Next both concern themselves with resources: their distribution and empowerment. Both characters, through their outpourings, set the ball rolling: an emotive story of real agony and anguish of a little girl who would be a woman a few years later and a young woman who was a little girl a few years earlier. Sissy for her age was quite wise; poverty taught her wisdom from very early stage of childhood; it gave her far-sightedness early in life. She could distinguish between finer nuances of micro and macroeconomics and had no qualms in believing macro influence did not set men convert itself into micro influence and socio-economic comfort. The monologue of *V Arsenyeva* is a reflection on overcoming paucity of resources and ignorance by dint of 'great self-discipline' and the acquired ability to 'build a house' so that 'one can live in it (this being an example)'. Sissy lamented lack of empowerment. *Arsenyeva* believed in self-determination and relentless pursuit of her dreams.

Both these women used their experiences to remind the world it fell short of being completely just. History bears us out the world has always fallen short of being completely just particularly when it comes to women. The exclusion of women outside the realm of opportunity to partner in building prosperous societies and economies is denial of a just society to them and others too.

Much work both in theory and practice has been done for exploring the methods to improve the lot of the weak, the exploited and the marginalised. Looking at the recent history of empowerment, the world has taken place at World Institute for Development Economics Research in Helsinki in 1988 to deliberate upon issues like what is meant by 'quality of life', and the requirements in terms of socio-economic policy for improving and ultimately achieving it there-



by empowering the deprived ones, started a lively discussion on way ahead. Helsinki conference unequivocally stressed on the need to assess a number of distinct areas of human life in determining how well people are doing rather than measuring quality of life by hinging on single index of per capita national income.

From Helsinki conference the world travelled through Millennium Development Goals and reached in 2015 more comprehensive and inclusive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 5 of Sustainable Development Goals 2015 aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women in the public and private spheres and to undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources and access to ownership of property. Descent work, equal access to education, and representation in political and economic decision making processes are the rights women must enjoy. Investment in the empowerment of women results not only in making progress on Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals but also in fuelling sustainable economic development. Let us have a look at Indian scenario.

On August 14, 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru reminded the nation about the task ahead i.e. "...the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity." But unfortunately for close to six decades (which indeed is a long period) the tasks identified by Nehru remained largely unaccomplished with not much success. Many countries like Cuba, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Costa Rica, etc, following different growth strategies could achieve huge reduction in human deprivation and inequality. In these countries much stress was laid particularly on expansion of basic education and health care. India's performance was certainly not worth bragging about and not very enthusiastic in the field of opportunities for women and their empowerment. When it comes to women, where does the problem lie particularly in traditional societies like ours?

Julia Annas, Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University, in an essay titled 'Women and the Quality of Life: Two Norms or One?' tries to answer above question by analysing the existence of 'two actual norms for human life'. She gives examples from traditional societies where certain practices have withheld benefits accruing to women. For example, unfortunately it is still believed that resources should not be 'wasted' on educating daughters. The reason adduced for

this as cited by Annas is "...the women in the traditional society, with their domestic futures, don't desire education." Annas further gives similar examples like, to quote Annas, "...women may justly be kept from participation in public life because they are more self-centered and less capable of impartial thought than men." This example shows how such reasons adduced result in various assertions of differences between men's and women's natures. Annas ridicules this reasoning and asserts that 'superficial desires' as compared to 'informed desires' where all positive aspects of education are known to women must recede and thus women will show desire for education. What the learned philosopher means is, "...injustice results from the existence of two norms", and harps on mitigating superficial desires "resting on an unreflective view of their circumstances."

Even now it has been a known practice in many households that the woman who cooks food is the last to eat it and that too whatever meagre is leftover. They are not expected to complain and they are ever ready to confess that their nutritional status and physical health are good even when they have physical ailments. Thus desires adjust to deprivation and division of functions. This sort of exclusionary neglect needs immediate attention and equipping women with adequate information not justifying 'superficial desires' is the first crucial step towards eliminating cases of exclusionary neglect. Annas rightly concludes in any society gender issues are not focused on women alone but the relationship between men and women.

Current efforts afoot in India under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflect on concerns expressed by philosophers like Professors Julia Annas and Onora O'Neill. Narendra Modi has visualised through his vast experience as leader of Gujarat and afterwards the nation the use of comparative perspective by going beyond the limited.

For example, the need to understand the nexus between social conditions and economic opportunities has been properly appreciated. He has realised the crucial linkages between creating basic educational facilities and opening up of new economic opportunities and expanding the scope for better use of labour and skills. Most importantly, it has also been recognised that social opportunities are influenced by a host of factors like the state of health and educational services, the nature and availability of finance, the presence

of markets, including policies to promote and restrict these markets, presence of middlemen in markets and very importantly gender injustice. Therefore, the Prime Minister insists on unified approach to empowerment and this is reflected in various programmes launched by present Government.

The commitment of India to implement the Sustainable Development Goals was spelt out through the speech and commitment made by Prime Minister of India at the UN Summit for the adoption of post 2015 Development Agenda. In his speech the Prime Minister said, "Today, much of India's development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals." Further with reference to empowerment, he said, the attack on poverty includes not only expanded conventional schemes of development, but also a new era of inclusion and empowerment, turning distant dreams into immediate possibilities. He further spoke about new bank accounts for 180 million; direct transfer of benefits, micro enterprises and micro finance, drawing on the strength of digital and mobile applications with the focus on basics, housing, power, water and sanitation for all. These are important not just for welfare, but also human dignity. Development is intrinsically linked to empowerment of women and it begins with a massive programme on educating the girl child that has become every family's mission.

He clarified these are goals with a definite date, not just a mirage of hope. Thus the broad agenda towards empowerment with reference to SDGs in India is set.

The Prime Minister's constant emphasis on inclusion and inclusiveness is at the root of developmental efforts progressing in India. Sincere, honest and transparent efforts to achieve overall development for all with no exceptions are clearly visible. The Prime Minister's historic speech makes it amply clear that overall human development has much to do with making structural changes to conquer the inequities and exploitations that characterise society. This in turn constitutes an efficient and effective blend of meeting 'basic needs' and equipping people with 'capabilities'. Efforts aim at planning and intertwining capabilities created now with a bigger expansion of capabilities in the future. Possible conflicts between immediately enhancing capabilities i.e. meeting basic needs and long-term expansion of capabilities in the future i.e. economic prosperity cannot be ruled out and

need be addressed in time.

Though SDGs cover all human beings, for the purpose of this article and due to paucity of space, I will limit myself with some important schemes launched in recent past to enhance opportunities for women empowerment.

The Government of India has recognised, amid others, two important ways to empower women: Economic empowerment through participation in economic activities and opportunities and second through mitigation of educational deprivations. The schemes chalked out and implemented broadly address these requirements and thereby endeavour to ensure that women gain equal rights, opportunities and access to resources. The first and foremost thing is their safety, security and economic empowerment. Towards that end, schemes like Mahila Police Volunteers (MPV) envisaging engagement of Mahila Police Volunteers in States/UTs who act as a link between police and community and facilitate women in distress; Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana empowering women below poverty line and protecting their health by providing LPG cylinder free of cost.

Working Women Hostel (WWH) ensures the safety and security for working women by providing safe and conveniently located accommodation. Pradhan Mantri Sukanya Samridhi Yojana aims at economic empowerment of girls by opening their bank accounts and enabling their parents to save funds for their female child's education and marriage. Under this scheme the account can be opened at any post office or a branch of an authorised commercial bank in India between the birth of the girl child and till the age of ten by a parent or guardian. The account offers 8.6 per cent interest with the girl child able to operate the account once she is ten years old and the account allows for fifty per cent withdrawal at the age of eighteen for higher education. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana aims at prioritising housing for women. Launched in 2016, Mahila-E-Haas is a bilingual marketing platform intended to help aspiring women entrepreneurs, NGOs and self-help groups to showcase their services and products. Mahila Shakti Kendra was launched in 2017 to provide women with opportunities for skill development, employment, health, nutrition and digital literacy.

Each Mahila Shakti Kendra working at National, State, District and Block levels, provides an opportunity to women to approach the

Government for their entitlements through capacity building and training. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana that came into being in January 2015, drives at generating awareness and improving the efficacy of welfare services for girl child. Most important components of the scheme include addressing the issue of declining child sex ratio, gender-based sex-selective eliminations and protecting survival, protection and education of the girl child.

These schemes resonate well with the sustainable targets on gender equality and are marked by inclusionary coherence. For example, the Government has identified ending violence against women and providing security and safety to women as a key national priority. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme aims at equal opportunity and education for girls; Sukanya Samridhi Yojana aims at prosperity of girl child and Janani Suraksha Yojana provides safe motherhood intervention under National Health Mission with the objective of reducing maternal and neo-natal mortality among poor pregnant women.

The most novel feature of these schemes is generally these don't flow from a common perception that problems faced by women are cases of more general difficulties of the deprived and marginalised population. Each and every scheme with its distinct identity and full-fledged mission is intended for girls and women and aims at establishment of a just society for women without any discrimination.

The crux of recent efforts in India in the field of women empowerment is reduction of women inequality and injustice by providing them resources and opportunities and equipping them with decision-making power including political powers. Onora O'Neill suggests, "a serious account of justice cannot gloss over the predicaments of impoverished providers in marginalised and developing countries." That is an important lesson for policy makers who plan for creating a just society or making society less unjust. An emerging New India very well addresses the issue raised by Onora O'Neill. The concept of a just society is firmly embedded in the multi-peaked idea of a New India.

(The writer, a retired Additional Deputy CAG, is a poet, writer and columnist. His fourth book 'Soliloquy of a Small-Town Uncivil Servant', a semi-autobiographical account, published in 2019 by Rupa Publications, New Delhi, has been getting international acclaim.)

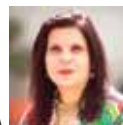
Current efforts afoot in India under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflect on concerns expressed by philosophers like Professors Julia Annas and Onora O'Neill. The crux of recent efforts in India in the field of women empowerment is reduction of women inequality and injustice by providing them resources and opportunities and equipping them with decision-making power, including political powers



KK SRIVASTAVA


**YOUR
WEEK
AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA

**ARIES** March 21-April 19

This week is all about right action at any given moment. You may feel you are the master of your destiny. You have a shining personality and are likely embark on a new path. By being in tune with the environment and with others, you never go wrong with the judgment. Professionally, there is a good chance of realising your potentials and opportunities. There is a need to be attentive and alert. For some of you, a feeling of stagnation, dissatisfaction is taking a toll on you. Your career is on the stake. There is a need to socialise, and to reconnect with the people. Connections and conversations sometimes prove rewarding. On the personal front, a new love interest is possible. The existing relations will bloom too.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday

**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week health looks promising. This is a great time to try a new health care approach, especially preventative care. Exercise, eat well, and make sure that you get enough sleep. Don't hesitate to try a new healer or seek a second opinion, should the need arise. On the career front, additional duties and responsibilities may cause work pressure to increase. If you are in such a situation, don't hesitate to ask for help or delegate workloads. This way your efficiency will increase and the outcome will be decent. On the personal front, you will enjoy unconditional love and affection this week. There is purity in relationships. Those looking for love, soul mate in their life, this is the time to embrace the opportunity with open arms.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday

**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you will feel healthy, free and may experience a change of perspective. Negativity replaces optimism. New possibilities can be foreseen. This is also a time to utilise your creative energies. On the work front, you will find great success. Promotion or hike in status is very likely which will make you confident, secure and well-established. You are self-disciplined, energetic and would exert dynamic control over life. You are a motivator and an inspiration to your colleagues. This is the time when your intelligence, wisdom and experience will pay you rich dividends. On the personal front, your dynamic personality exudes charm. Love is in the air. Appreciate your spouse. Sweet words will rejuvenate your relationship.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Wednesday

**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week your passion for creative pursuits will consume your time and energy. You spend your time fruitfully. You are inspired and productive in your pursuits. There is satisfaction and a positive environment surrounds you, helping you to enjoy the bliss of good health. On the career front, there is a wake-up call for you to change yourself for the better, to get the realisation, to get over the period of your job, but misunderstanding. Do not stress over things. Stop thinking too much and start letting things simply be. Wait for the good times. On the personal front, you have to be presentable, witty, enthusiastic and ready to win the heart of your loved one. There could be challenges, accusations and your spouse may be demanding.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday

**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

You are healthy, smart and reflect a good personality this week. You prefer to stay active and are constantly attempting to make things happen. You know how to utilise your skills to create the world you want. Your skill of being able to talk your way through and adaptability to any situation is at its best. On the work front, you may feel stagnated. If you feel there is no chance of growth in the present organisation that you are working with, then consider switching your job. The time is right. You are a creative and logical person. You would be an asset to any company. Just realise your potential. On the relationship front, you will enjoy an entertaining and rewarding week. You will spend happy and quality time with your loved ones.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday

**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This week some water-borne diseases may trouble you. You are a sensitive person, therefore, keep yourself safe from any kind of infection. Alcohol, unsafe water, injuries should be avoided. If you feel physically low, take timely action. It is not advisable to ignore your health. On the work front, a recent period of confusion could be the reason for your current conflict. You feel indecisive, under-confident as a person. You need to come out of illusion and false intuitions. There may have been misdoings, but they will eventually be revealed. There are internal conflicts that need to be resolved soon. On the personal front, you will feel optimistic, upbeat, and hopeful about your relationships. Committed relationships may rise to new and better heights soon.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Friday

**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This will be a very hectic week for you. Do not get physically violent, otherwise, you could hurt yourself. You are highly perceptive and intuitive too. You need to control your emotions and ambitions. Avoid aggression and any kind of arguments with the people around you. On the professional front, there may be serious problems at your workplace. This doesn't have to be the end of the world or the end of your job, but ignoring these problems will not make them go away. You have reached a point where you can now see what is best for you. Take some quiet time to decide your next move. On the personal front, this is a very good week for you. Warmth and affection of the near and dear ones will increase.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Mavue
Lucky day Monday

**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you need to get a thorough check-up of your health. Stress may be overpowering you and be causing health problems. Be sure that you are paying adequate attention to diet, exercise, and sleep. Keep a positive attitude. You may need some time alone. You will find depth and wisdom in solitude. On the career front, you have excellent energy to accomplish work. Financially you will feel secure. The money will come from more than one source. You may consider investing in property at this point. A new project could be assigned to you, making you busier and financially richer. The week is not very good in terms of a relationship. Troubles may arise in existing relationships. You tend to find faults in your partner. Trust and faith are missing. Work on this aspect.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Sunday

**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you are sentimental, emotional and may get worried over small issues. Physically you remain healthy, but mental tension, anxiety could cause concern. You may even turn moody, temperamental, and unsocial. You wish to be left alone. Spiritualism, meditation and other yogic practices could help you gain your balance. On the work front, you have to put your best foot forward. Whether it is your energy, time or money investment, you have worked with full dedication and now waiting for the dividends. A good message which could enhance your career is foreseen. On the personal front, relationships are smooth and easy-going. People around you feel relaxed. Romance, love and a new excitement are in the air.

Lucky number 2
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Sunday

**CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week you will experience new energy, stamina with good health. You are a very positive and rounded person. Put your energy in creative pursuits. You never know what your creations during this time might come to. You will enjoy yourself and this task will deepen and enrich your life. On the career front, some old acquaintances may prove beneficial for your professional life. If you are looking for a job, old connections, associations will bring a smile on your face. Recommendation and favour will work well for you, giving you an upper hand. Open your eyes, be alert, and remember lost opportunities are never regained. On the personal front, relationships may be troubling, and you will feel frustrated. The unhealthy mind of your near and dear ones may hurt your feelings.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday

**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

This week your determination and strong will power would help you overcome health challenges, and put you in the right direction for a disciplined life. Alcohol, junk and spicy food should be avoided. Routine exercises, morning walk and planned diet would work wonders for you. Stick to it. Timely medical care will cure you of your existing ailments. Professionally, you will establish your strength. This is a rewarding week in terms of your profession and job. People will listen to you and respect your views. Those who are in a job may have the reason to feel pride after the accomplishment of an important project. On the personal front, you feel blessed, looked after and share cherishable moments with the loved ones.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday

**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

This week your generosity, kindness, concern, and care for others would be appreciated. Health remains good for you, and you may devote good time in looking after your ailing parents, relative or a friend. You are likely to follow meditation, Yoga and Pranayam and other practices. You feel relaxed, calm, and in tune with your body, mind, and soul. On the career front, expect fairly a good period. New avenues for money earning could be opened for you. A new job opportunity with better prospects will excite you, and those who are unemployed will be getting an opening for themselves, too. Old connections and association will be helpful. On the personal front, prestige, glory, and status in the society shall enhance. Relatives will appreciate your endeavours.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday

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**ASTROTURF**

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Know what you are worth

A girl was vying for an Engineering course. She, however, could not get through her 12th examination in the first attempt. In her second attempt, she scored good marks but could not get through the Engineering entrance test. Frustrated, she came along with her father asking: "Sir, I wish to take up Engineering course. Please suggest a *puja* that may help me successfully get through entrance test next year."

"Instead of wasting one whole year, waiting for another chance to get into Engineering, why don't you look for another alternative options available?" I asked. "Sir, I am good at Mathematics and other Science subjects. So, I can do well in this discipline," the girl responded. "If I look at your track record, you failed your 12th examination, scoring poorly in Mathematics. Of course, you improved your score in your next attempt. But have you analysed why you failed in your first attempt?" I asked. "May be my time was bad," she replied.

Well, you can't simply blame time or destiny indications for your failure. Better look into your own fault line. A look at your chart reveals that the basic reason for your failure has been lack of

focus. Your monkey mind keeps flirting with varying ideas, which you keep breeding non-stop. Being so deeply engaged in those thoughts, mostly irrelevant, your mind doesn't allow the space necessary to be focused towards your studies. Consequently, you fail to absorb what you have studied, and with obvious consequences. This inherent habit tendency will chase you even in the future, not allowing you time and mind space necessary to do justice to your studies, unless otherwise consciously addressed.

It will not be out of place to mention here that consistency is the key to any discipline of science. One missing link in between, and you are lost. But there are subjects, which you can absorb well with just a short spell of attention. Better look for other options that you can cope with. The problem these days is that often children, and even their parents get drawn towards the ongoing trend. If Engineering followed by Management is the going thing, parents get tempted to push their children towards that course. Seldom do they care to identify child's indwelling potential. Often desire trend comes in conflict with inbuilt potential. Consequently, the child fails to put in



one's qualitative best, and when they fail to make it to their desired destination, they end up frustrated.

"Agreed Sir, I realise that I lack focus. But isn't there a *puja* that can help me overcome this weakness?" Asked the girl. Well, the problem is with your mind-trend. So, it can be corrected through a mental process only. And habit dies hard. So you need to continuously work upon your inherent infirmities. It is difficult to digest that a *pundit* can enter your mind space by conducting a *puja*, to make necessary amend. You can yourself do it better by following a method I am going to suggest.

Whatever discipline you take, focused attention will always help you. But at the same time, you should also check upon your own worth. "What does the chart suggest?" asked the girl's father.

Lagna lord Mars is in the *lagna* itself that makes out a very strong headed girl and stubborn also. Incidentally Mars happens to be the 3rd cusp sub-lord, identified with natural inclinations.

Mars occupies the constellation owned by Mercury, which is placed in the 7th house. Linkage of Mars to Mercury suggests that she would be inclined towards Engineering. But Mars being opposite

Mercury means that she is a restive character. She suffers from attention deficiency.

Mercury is placed adverse to mischievous Neptune as well, which accounts for her insensible reasoning and judgement. Mind signifying Moon is positioned in an airy sign Libra, and placed adverse to Rahu. So, she though has a fertile mind who would be continuously breeding thoughts, but shall be engaged in unnecessary brooding and contemplating over them. With this state of mind, you can't do justice to the callings of Engineering or any science discipline.

To figure out a course corresponding to her inherent worth, the 4th cusp coordinates will throw light. 4th lord Saturn is in a Venus owned sign Taurus. The constellation lord is Jupiter in a Mercury owned sign Gemini. The 4th sub-lord is again Venus. Saturn, Jupiter, Venus and Mercury seen in togetherness point to Commerce, Insurance, Psychology, philosophy, and office management.

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