

MONEY 6
E-COMM TO ACCELERATE INDIA'S
AUTO SECTOR GROWTH: REPORT

WORLD 7
IRAN TESTS ADVANCED
NUCLEAR CENTRIFUGES

SPORT 8
SUNRISERS TO FACE
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Violence mars Bengal polls

4 dead as police open fire on mob attacking booth in Cooch Behar; TMC man kills voter

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Violence peaked in the fourth round of 8-phase Bengal elections claiming five lives in a blood-spattered polling, but a resolute electorate fought off terror in their own way with more than 76 per cent of them casting their votes when reports last came in at 5.30 pm.

While polling percentage for Hooghly was 6,02, it was 75.03 for Howrah. In South 24 Parganas 75.49 per cent of voters cast their votes whereas in Alipurdur the rate was 73.65 per cent. In Cooch Behar that saw maximum violence the polling rate was 79.73 per cent.

Five people on Saturday lost their lives to Central Forces firing and violence perpetrated by alleged hooligans of the Trinamool Congress, police said.

While violence was recorded too in other parts of the 44 seats in five districts that went to polls on Saturday all the incidents of death took place in Sitalkuchi block of Cooch Behar district of North Bengal bordering Bangladesh, Bhutan and Assam.

As the ruling Trinamool Congress struggling hard to retain power in the face of rampant corruption and criminalisation blamed the Central Forces and the BJP for the Saturday's loss of lives, the official reports coming from the Election Commission said the Central Forces opened fire in self-defence.

Four persons Hamidul, Manirul and Samiul (three of



Security personnel keep vigil at a polling station after Election Commission ordered to stop the voting exercise at polling station number 126 in Sitalkuchi, where clashes erupted between locals and Central Forces, at Sitalkuchi in Cooch Behar district on Saturday

the same family) died when the Central Forces opened fire to disperse a crowd of 300-400 villagers that had attacked booth number 126, following rumours that a child had been beaten to death by the CISE personnel.

Five others too were injured in the firing and had been admitted to the local hospital, sources said.

A fifth person, a first-time voter Ananda Barman was shot dead outside a neighbouring booth also at Sitalkuchi by an alleged Trinamool Congress man a panchayat member, sources said.

Incidentally this is the same block where the convoy of Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh was attacked with bombs, brickbats and rods a couple of days ago barely an

hour after a meeting addressed by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee where she asked the people, particularly the women to enforce their voting rights by gheraoing the Central Forces.

Politicians' entry in Cooch Behar banned for 72 hr

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Saturday barred the entry of politicians in Cooch Behar district for the next 72 hours to prevent any possible law and order flare-up. The decision came after four people were killed in the district as Central Forces opened fire allegedly when they were attacked by locals who attempted to snatch their rifles during voting on Saturday.

71 companies of Central paramilitary forces to be deployed in West Bengal

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

After a request from the Election Commission of India (ECI), the Union Home Ministry on Saturday decided to deploy additional 71 companies (7,100 personnel) of the Central paramilitary forces for the conduct of the Assembly polls in West Bengal, with immediate effect. As many as 1,000 companies of the Central paramilitary forces are already deployed there for the conduct of the elections in the State.

"The ECI has requested to deploy additional 71 companies of CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces)/SAPs (State Armed Police)/IRs (India Reserve) Bns (Battalions) in West Bengal for AE-2021 related duties.

In pursuance of the recommendations of the ECI vide order dated April 10, it has been decided to deploy additional 71 coys (companies) of CAPFs, immediately in the State of West Bengal for Assembly Election-2021 related duties, reads a Union Home Ministry letter faxed on Saturday to the Chief Secretary, Home Secretary and Director General of Police of the State.



TMC candidate Rabindra Nath Ghosh, wearing a helmet for safety, interacts with security personnel during 4th phase of West Bengal polls in Cooch Behar on Saturday

The composition of the additional deployments of the Central paramilitary forces will include 12 companies of the Central Reserve Police (CRPF), 33 companies of the Border Security Force (BSF), 13 companies of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), four companies of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and nine companies of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

With the deployment of the 71 companies of CAPFs, a total of 1,071 companies CAPFs, SAPs and IR Battalions will be available in West Bengal for election-related duties.

Stick to Covid behaviour or face campaign ban: EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After polls in four of the five States are over, the Election Commission has woken up to the threat of coronavirus. Taking a serious view of laxity on part of some political leaders in maintaining Covid-19 safety norms, particularly not wearing face masks, saying candidates and star campaigners can be banned from holding campaign rallies if Covid guidelines issued by it last year are breached.

The Commission has advised political leaders to set an example by maintaining social distancing, wearing masks, etc., and exhorting all the local formations who attend the campaign programmes to follow Covid-19 protocol.

In a letter to leaders of all recognised political parties, the EC said, "It is widely known that in recent weeks, Covid cases are being reported in larger numbers."

However, instances of election meetings/campaigns have come to the notice of the commission, where norms of social distancing, wearing of masks have been flouted in disregard to the commission's guidelines."



Pointing to the recent rise in Covid-19 cases, the EC said instances had come to its notice where norms of social distancing, wearing of masks, etc., have been flouted in disregard to the Commission's guidelines dated August 21, 2020, on Covid-19 safe poll campaigning.

Instances of star campaigners/political leaders/candidates not observing Covid protocols including non-wearing of masks themselves at the stage or while campaigning have come to notice. By doing so, the political parties and candidates are exposing themselves as well as the public attending such election meetings to the grave danger of infection," noted EC.

The poll panel sought the fullest cooperation and candidates in strictest observation of

Daily Covid cases cross 1.5L mark, and counting

Maha plans severe curbs; UP, Delhi, TN, Karnataka hit newer peaks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For the first time on Saturday, India recorded more than 1.5 lakh Covid-19 cases as the pandemic marched unchecked across the country. While Maharashtra seemed to stabilise in the range of below 60,000 Covid-19 cases per day, several other States, particularly Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Delhi are recording newer peaks every day.

India on Saturday logged 1,52,383 cases with Maharashtra registering 55,000 plus cases and 309 deaths, Chhattisgarh 14,098 cases and 81 deaths, and Uttar Pradesh 12,748 cases and 16 deaths.

Kerala (6,194 new cases), Karnataka (6,955) Tamil Nadu (5,989) and poll-bound West Bengal reported 4,043 new cases during the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, stopping short of announcing a full-fledged lockdown in worst Covid-19 hit Maharashtra, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said the State Government would have no alternative but to resort to stern restrictions to break the chain of transmission of the virus in the State.



A medic administers the Covid-19 vaccine dose to a Japanese woman at IMT Industrial Association office, at Manesar in Gurugram district on Saturday

Speaking at an all-party meeting called to evolve a strategy to tide over the Covid-19 crisis in the State, the CM said, "Our first priority is to save lives. In a health emergency like the one we are passing through, our priorities are the health and lives of the citizens."

"We may continue our war against Covid-19, but the immediate task is to arrest the rapid spread of the pandemic. During last year's lockdown, people were confined to their homes and it was easy for us to trace the patients and their contacts.

Now when everything is open and we are facing practical difficulties, a fact that the Union Government should

take note of," he said. From 9,695 cases a day earlier, India's most populous State Uttar Pradesh on Saturday reported huge jump in infections to touch 12,787 mark, its highest single-day spike of coronavirus infections since the outbreak.

Though the Union Ministry has remained evasive on the query if Mahakumbh can be a "super spreader", health experts have not ruled out further spike in the virus in the State. Meanwhile, with the total number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossing 10 crore, the Union Health Ministry on Saturday said India is the fastest nation to administer 100 million doses in 85 days.

CAPSULE

10 DIE AS TRUCK FALLS INTO GORGE IN ETAWAH
Lucknow/Etawah: Ten people were killed and 40 injured as a truck on which they were travelling fell into a 30-foot-deep gorge in UP's Etawah district on Saturday evening. They all were going to a temple in the district when the accident took place on the Udi-Chakar Nagar road.

FARMERS BLOCK KMP E-WAY IN HARYANA
Chandigarh: Intensifying their stir against the Centre's three contentious agriculture laws, farmers on Saturday blocked the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal expressway in Haryana.

100M JABS! INDIA FASTEST VACCINATING COUNTRY
New Delhi: With the total number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country crossing 10 crore, the Union Health Ministry on Saturday said that India is the fastest nation to administer 100 million doses in 85 days. The Prime Minister's Office also tweeted a chart showing India as the fastest country to reach this vaccination milestone.

Air bubble opens Lanka for tourists

Now, India has such pacts with 28 nations, says Aviation Ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has formed an air bubble with Sri Lanka, opening yet another overseas tourist destination for those itching to travel after a year of being at home. The Ministry of Civil Aviation on Saturday said India has established a bilateral air bubble arrangement with Sri Lanka for operation of special international passenger flights between the two countries.

Besides, Thailand is also in talks with India for creating an air bubble so that flights can resume between two countries. With this, India now has such pacts with 28 countries,

including Afghanistan, Bahrain, Canada, France, Germany, Iraq, Japan, the Maldives, Nigeria, Qatar, the UAE, the UK and the USA.

Under an air bubble pact between two countries, special international passenger flights can be operated by their airlines into each other's territories under restrictive conditions.

"India has finalised an air bubble agreement with Sri Lanka, making it the 6th such arrangement in SAARC region and the 28th in total," the Civil Aviation Ministry tweeted.

Scheduled international flights have been suspended in India since March 23, 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, special international passenger flights have been operating under the Vande Bharat Mission since May last year and under bilateral air bubble arrangements since July.

After polls in four of the five States are over, the Election Commission has woken up to the threat of coronavirus. Taking a serious view of laxity on part of some political leaders in maintaining Covid-19 safety norms, particularly not wearing face masks, saying candidates and star campaigners can be banned from holding campaign rallies if Covid guidelines issued by it last year are breached.

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However, instances of election meetings/campaigns have come to the notice of the commission, where norms of social distancing, wearing of masks have been flouted in disregard to the commission's guidelines."

Setback for BJP in Tripura tribal council polls

New Delhi: Tripura's ruling BJP and its ally IPFT (Indigenous Peoples Front of Tripura) received a major setback in the Tribal Council Polls at the hands of Pradyot Deb Barman led newly-formed TIPRA (The Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance).

The new political outfit swept the Tripura Autonomous District Council polls by securing 18 out of 28 seats.

The BJP and its ally managed to win only nine seats. An independent candidate won one seat.

India, China agree to defuse LAC stand-off expeditiously

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and China have agreed to expeditiously defuse tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) by disengagement of troops from the flash points in Eastern Ladakh. The two sides have also agreed to maintain stability on the ground.

These were the highlights of the meeting of the Corps Commanders at Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the LAC on Friday. This was the 11th round of talks since the face-offs began in May last year. The meeting lasted for more than 12 hours.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, the Defence Ministry said the two sides had a detailed exchange of views for



The resolution of the remaining issues related to disengagement along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh.

Both sides agreed to resolve outstanding issues in an expeditious manner in accordance with existing agreements and protocols.

It was highlighted that completion of disengagement in other areas would pave the way for both sides to consider de-escalation of forces and ensure restoration of peace.

Both sides agreed that it

was important to take guidance from their "leaders", continue their communication and work towards a mutually acceptable resolution of remaining issues at earliest.

The two commanders also agreed to jointly maintain stability on the ground, avoid any new incidents and jointly maintain peace in the border areas.

The reference to border areas obviously meant Hot Springs, Gogra and Depsang valley which still remain friction points.

The first breakthrough came in February when the troops of both the armies pulled back from the southern and northern banks of the Pangong Tso lake in Ladakh in a smooth and planned manner.

Patriotic fervour at Kumbh spl yajna

Balak Yogeshwar Das to start rituals today for the martyrs' souls

GAJENDRA SINGH NEGI ■ HARIDWAR

As considered as the largest religious gathering in the world, one can witness various saints engaging in different religious activities, rituals and spiritual affairs. However there are some like ascetic Balak Yogeshwar Das, who draw the attention of everyone with his unique approach and Sadhna.

In every Kumbh and Ardh Kumbh, Das since 2003 has been organising a massive 100 Shaktikundya Yajna for peace to the souls of those who have laid their precious lives for the nation. This year the Yajna would commence on April 11 and continue till April 26 at the temporary Shaheed Nagar in the Kumbh Mela area.



visited the Shaheed Nagar set up in three acres of land located at Bairagi camp on the banks of the Ganga in Haridwar, Das was busy giving final touches to the preparations.

This year the invitations have been sent to families of 450 martyrs which include those who laid down their lives in the 26/11 Mumbai attack, Pulwama attack and Kargil war.



It relieves pain: Kargil war widow

Haridwar: Like numerous others like her, Sharda Bhaui Akhnoor in Jammu & Kashmir considers Das responsible for the positive change in her life.

Widow of Haridwar Daler Singh Bhaui who attained mar-

tyrdom in Tololing hills in 1999 during the Kargil war told The Pioneer that Das visited her house after the death of her husband and persuaded her to attend the Yajna which was being organised in the town.

HOMETHEATRE

BEAR HUG OF FICTIONALISING A TRUE STORY

THE BIG BULL
Disney+Hotstar
*ing: Abhishek Bachchan, Illeana
D'Cruz
Rated: 6/10

If authenticity was not an issue with this fictionalised account of a real person with a fictional name, *The Big Bull* is quite full of moments in a journey that kept the stocks high, the middle class happy with new earnings and the economy in a constant state of perilous box.

We all know the Harshad Mehta story, have heard and understood insider trading as a term and concept and are now even somewhat repentant about accusing him of being the sole conspirator of a ₹5,000-crore securities scam, a first in Indian history.

He died in custody and courted controversy both in life and death with allegations of induced heart attack never really settling down. He raised the bar of corruption all the way to the Prime Minister and his office and yet paid the price of oiling the loopholes in the banking system, alone.

The film on his amazing journey comes with both bull and bear runs. Some moments would go right through the roof in tickling your emotional quotient and others would make you question why did such an amazing life story need fictionalisation?

Abhishek Bachchan as Hemant Shah, *aka Big Bull aka Harshad Mehta*, is authentic and seasoned with his performance, just as he was while portraying Dhruvrat Ambani in *Guru* which was directed to near perfection by Mani Ratnam. Hemant Shah did not look at all like the real Harshad Mehta played by Abhishek, but then authenticity was never the aim of director Kookie Gulati, playing to the gallery. This one by Gulati is, thus, a green horn in parts and that's where you feel it is as flabby as Abhishek's pillowed paunch which he sports as unapologetically as he does his beliefs and actions.

Gulati can be faulted for raising compassion for his prime character Hemant Shah without lending adequate



evidence of his singular non-guilt. The system, the corruption in high places and the personal betrayal are all placed on the stock market to prop up this man's innocence, or should we say his moral argument.

All other characters are also real people with fake names, including the journalist who unearthed the scam — Sucheta Dalal being called Meera Rao, his lawyer Ram Jethmalani being renamed Ashok Mirchandani and Harshad Mehta himself being called Hemant Shah. The Prime Minister involved in the allegations made by Mehta was P V Narasimha Rao whose visage is shown for a few seconds without any names, perhaps in the spirit of garbing a true story with deliberate ifs and buts.

All said, what's true is that when this biggest bull of the stock market died in jail in 2001, too much time had passed to make it a lead story. But as he had tipped off the nation in the 1980s, India could never fully recover from the bear hug that was given to the stock market in the face of a crescendo that shifted public money investment from real estate and gold to the stock market. His contribution in that can't be denied, as it can't be contested that he made use of loopholes which the system accorded him and never did break any law, except the law of vertical growth.

Where was the comedy?

HELLO CHARLIE
Amazon Prime Video
*ing: Jackie Shroff, Rajpal Yadav, Aadar Jain, Shlok Pandit, Elnaz Norouzi
Rated: 3/10

Bollywood should stop making comedies. Given that the makers only know how to either make slapstick or double meaning films that translate into comedy, it is time that they give up making anything under the genre. But if our filmmakers really want to continue to make rib-tickling movies, it is time that they sit down and watch some Hollywood films just to get an idea on what comedy really is.

And it is definitely not stuffing a man into a gorilla suit and putting him in a cage at the back of a truck to only have another real gorilla let loose that was flying all the way from Uganda. Not only this, director Pankaj

Saraswat then loses a set of incompetent people on the 70 mm screen.

You have Aadar Jain *aka* Charlie who makes blunders in every job. Who in their senses chases a fire truck and insists that they take the delivery of pizzas? It is not funny. It is downright sad. If this is not enough, you have a billionaire trying to escape the long arm of justice in a motorboat all the way to Dubai.

What was Jackie Shroff thinking when he chose to take up this role? One is sure that he is not that hard up that he would want to end up playing a role where a majority of the time he is in a gorilla suit. His Mona baby is no way as good as Ajit's Mona darling. Aadar Jain as the bumbling Charlie is too painful to watch as he destroys everything in his path. But he is the hero, so he has to come out looking like one however incredibly brainless the entire 102 minutes of the movie are.

Stay away from this one. — Shalini Saksena

Slice of resilient life

MINARI
Amazon VOD
*ing: Steven Yeun, Han Ye-ri, Alan Kim, Noel Kate Cho, Youn Yuh-jung, Will Patton
Rated: 7/10

Minari may be a Korean plant in real life, but in the movie by this name is larger than life, a slice of life replete with dreams, aspirations, struggles, resilience and sunshine even in its deepest darkest moments.

It is surprising that the film got its Golden Globe nomination (it won the best foreign language film award eventually) in the foreign film category despite being directed by an American and unfolding in America, actually deep into rural America. That it did not meet the Globe guideline of at least 50 per cent of it being in English language explains it, even though it would stand tall in the Best Feature film, Best direction, Best musical score and many more categories.

A family of Korean immigrants moves from California to the rural pocket of Arkansas to 'live once again', as the main protagonist puts it. The couple Jacob and Monica and their son and his maternal grandmother move to a makeshift house in a trailer to get used to a new life full of firsts and struggles in rugged terrain far removed from the bright lights of California, only to find leading roots, a barren land to till and a farming community that is new and alien to them.

The story is as much about resilience as it is about hope with an underlying sense of gratitude to life itself, life despite all its challenges. The film is engaging though slow but when has life unfolded so beautifully and in such real terms on the big screen?



Pathos is aplenty, but lining it up well is humour, be it around the chubby child who is forced to sleep with his snoring granny or their conversations which depict the absolute contrast in local American and immigrant Korean cultures. For one, as the impudent child puts it, American grandmothers do not use cuss words or wear men's underwear, as is his granny does.

The film is a must-watch not because of its reality bites but because it is laid out so simply that it tugs at your heart from all quarters, it grows on you, it immerses you and it makes you laugh and cry at the same time.

The music is haunting as much as the story this award-winning director Lee Isaac Chung brings to you from the depth of his heart and craft.



The genius is on show

LEONARDO
SonyLIV Drama Series
Episodes 8
Rated: 7/10

Imagine an artist par excellence who was an expert in Nature, mechanics, anatomy, physics, architecture and weaponry, to name a few, not to mention an even better designer for machines like the bicycle, helicopter, submarine and military tanks much before they were even concepts!

A series on such a clothed genius can be nothing but enervating and *Leonardo* in that context is a thriller, tigger and a puller all rolled into one, well, canvas — a stunning canvas of an artist's life which was full of colours that his brush stroked with eternal brilliance. Illegitimate, uneducated, rebellious and yet one of the foremost Renaissance artists, Leonardo's life and times were interesting and so is his story, art and nefarious activities which put him under scrutiny and persecution back in the 15th century.

The series on him, simply called, Leonardo captures those times with finesse and keeps up the viewer's longing to continue watching the eight episodes without a break. Sepia shades and smoky environs depicting an underground band of activists and their lives is no mean achievement but Leonardo is simply tasteful and engaging.

The series takes you through the life of an impossible artist by showing you the stories behind his paintings, his continuous search for perfection and his turbulent relationship with his art as much as his life. Aidan Turner as Leonardo Da Vinci is a natural copy of the real man and he lives his moments with authenticity and elan all through the drama that is well put together by director for six episodes Daneil Percival and rest by Alexis Cahill.

The drama, however, is as close to authenticity as it is to replicating Tuscan, Italy, of those syrupy times when existence was being questioned as were norms. In fact, it looks so real that it could be mistaken for a documentary.

TELLY TALE

MIKA PROPOSES BHOOMI

While the competition will heat up during the upcoming episode of Zee TV's *Indian Pro Music League* with all the



teams putting their best foot forward, it seems like Punjab Lions captain Mika Singh will steal the show. Last time around, young comedian Divyansh Trivedi had suggested that Mika Singh get married to Gujarat Rockers' captain Bhoomi Trivedi. While they both had laughed it off, this time around, Mika actually proposed Bhoomi for marriage!

During the shoot of the upcoming episode, the Punjab Lions trio of Mika Singh, Ases Kaur and Rupali Jagga performed on *Sajid-Wajid's* composition — *Mujhse Shaadi Karoge*. During the act, Mika surprised one and all when he went up to Bhoomi, brought her on stage and continued his performance, while asking her *Mujhse Shaadi Karoge?* After the act, host Karan Wahi also made Bhoomi and Mika dance together and then when Mika went down on his knees and asked her once again.

After the act, Mika expressed: "Bhoomi, ab toh bata do, mujhse shaadi karogi? Sab log Bhoomi se jude hai, maine socha main hi Bhoomi se jud jaun. What do you guys think about it?" *Mujhse Shaadi Karoge?* Bhoomi replied: "What do you think about Mika Trivedi? But to be honest, I have come here to find a bride for you, it would be injustice to them." Javed Ali also joked: "This wedding will happen only if Mika leaves Punjab and comes to Gujarat." To which Ases replied: "No, no, bhabihi will come to Punjab."

While Mika, Bhoomi and everyone were obviously playing around, viewers will surely like watching the chemistry of these real captains. You also cannot miss the musical battle between Gujarat Rockers, Bengal Tigers, Delhi Jammers, Mumbai Warriors, UP Dabgangs and Punjab Lions

as they go all out to win the fourth super match.

74TH BAFTA AWARDS ON SONYLIV
Lights! Camera! and a lot of Action is about to unfold as we gear up to watch one of the biggest award nights of the year. Celebrating excellence in filmmaking across the globe and bringing an enriching experience for movie lovers, SonyLIV will exclusively stream the British Academy of Film and Television Arts Awards, 2021 (BAFTA). The prestigious awards night will live stream today at 11:30 pm directly from the Royal Albert Hall in London. BAFTA 2021 will be hosted by Edith Bowman and Dermot O'Leary.

The much-coveted ceremony will see seventeen BAFTA winners being announced along with screening of nominated films and behind-the-scenes footage, which will highlight the creative process that went behind curating these masterpieces. Drumming up the buzz further, BAFTA will also honour Ang Lee with the Fellowship this year. The awards night will witness presenters like Asim Chaudhry, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Sophie Cookson, Phoebe Dynevor, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Cynthia Erivo, Hugh Grant, Richard E. Grant, Tom Hiddleston, Felicity Jones, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, James McAvoy, David Oyelowo, Pedro Pascal, Jonathan Pryce, Rose Byrne, Andria Day, Anna Kendrick and Renée Zellweger from London and Los Angeles, respectively.

With praises pouring in from world over for his incredible performance, young Indian talent Adarsh Gourav has been nominated in the Best Actor in a Leading Role category at BAFTA. Gourav will compete against veteran British actor Anthony Hopkins for The Father, French actor Tahar Rahim for The Mauritanian, Riz Ahmed for Sound of Metal, late Chadwick Boseman for Ma Rainey's Black Bottom and Mads Mikkelsen for the Danish language film Another Round.

MANASI LEARNS A NEW CRAFT

Hindmat recently released on Eros Now and Actor Manasi Rachhi is glad with the response her character has garnered. The series is set in a fictitious women's prison called *Hindmat* where Manasi plays the character of Sudha Nath, who is in prison on charges of sedition.

Manasi has portrayed various shades of a woman from being a straightforward girl in *Mujhse Fraandship Karoge*, to a tomboy for student of the year, to a fearless hacker for *24 Season 2* and then a lesbian girl who musters courage to come out of the closet for *Its Not That Simple*



Season 2. She performs each character with passion and tries to give it her best. She never shies away from honing her talent and learning new things for the character. It is a learning to cycle and swim for SOTV or learning to sew for *Hindmat*.

Ask Manasi and she quips: "Yes, I learnt to use the sewing machine for the series as we had a few scenes where we needed to stitch garments or at least act so. As you can see in the video, I am not a pro but at the same time I like to learn and have fun while doing the same".

She adds: "Also, for the part where I stand for elections in the prison, I did a lot of referencing. A few scenes needed me to be very driven and vocal about certain issues. So, I saw videos of a lot of women politicians in the parliament and even social activists. I studied their body language during rallies and also how these women expressed themselves in public. This helped me etch out my character with a little more precision."

CEZANNE KHAN TO PLAY HARMAN

COLORS' popular show *Shakti... Astitra Ke Ehsaas Kii* has been enjoying soaring popularity owing to its engaging and interesting storyline. Harman and Saumya's chemistry was something that the audience always enjoyed and rooted for the couple to come together. While they part ways, destiny has once again brought them together and after Saumya, re-entering the show will be Harman. Essaying the character of Harman will be the popular actor Cezanne Khan.

Harman's entry in Saumya's life will mark the beginning of an extremely passionate love story that the viewers have been yearning for. Talking about playing Harman, Khan said, "Harman's character is extremely interesting. He wears his heart on his sleeves and loves Saumya unconditionally. I am excited to be back on screen and to once again breathe life into it with my style. A lot is set to unfold with Harman's return."

‘The script left me in tears’

SONALI KULKARNI, who is all set to host SET's Crime Patrol Satark: Justice Reloaded, tells MUSBA HASHMI what made her come on board the project and her experience

■ What does Justice Reloaded have on offer?

This is a chapter where we are reopening cold cases. It is quite a spine-chilling experience to go through cases that were so challenging and intriguing that they remained unsolved. How the closure finally came about is something that we will be showcasing.

■ What made you come on board the project?

I am an ardent fan of Anup Soni. We are friends. I had worked with him when I was yet to become a professional actor. I was in college and we had done *Badalte Rishite*, the only TV show that I have done. I have watched Anup's work since then and what he does always generates curiosity. So, *Crime Patrol* and Anup have a strong association for me, and the kind of trust and compassion that he has evoked in people's heart, is something special. Taking up this season of *Crime Patrol* is like taking the baton forward from Anup and I hope that I make him proud. The opportunity came through Rakesh Sarang and I'm so happy that he thought of me as an anchor.

■ What difference do you aim to make?

It is too early for me to say that I will bring some change, but for now, I can say, I will bring some change visually as a female anchor. I will take some time to even touch the excellence that the team has achieved with Anup. I don't even dream to beat that, but I would love to take inspiration from Anup's seasons and to, at least, create some awareness amongst people by connecting with them the way he had.



IT IS TOO EARLY FOR ME TO SAY THAT I WILL BRING SOME CHANGE, BUT FOR NOW, I CAN SAY, I WILL BRING SOME CHANGE VISUALLY AS A WOMAN ANCHOR

■ There have been many crime-based shows on TV, but only a few managed to leave a mark. *Crime Patrol* is one of them. Why?

The show always tries to tell people about responsible citizens, and they always fight against blind faith. I have been one of the strongest activists of Maharashtra Andhashradha Nirman Samiti. I have worked for around 16 years with Dr Narendran Dabhalur who has tried to appeal to people that have faith in God and religion, but do not let anyone exploit you emotionally, mentally, economically, physically and sexually. And let no child get abused because we have blind faith. *Crime Patrol* is like a torchlight, which is trying to make us aware of what we see on news channels or social media platforms is just a glimpse, while in the real world there are a lot more crimes happening which we are not even aware of. The stories are so painful that I wish they were fiction and not reality. When I am back home from the shoot it takes time for me to compose. Not to mention that my respect for the police and judiciary is only growing day by day.

PROCUREMENT KICKS OFF IN PUNJAB

PUNJAB GOVT AMENDS SOFTWARE TO ENSURE CONTINUED ARHTIYA INVOLVEMENT

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Wheat procurement kicked off in Punjab on Saturday with the Arhtiyas calling off their proposed strike after Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh ordered various steps to ensure their continued involvement in the process and immediate release of their pending payments of Rs. 131 crores without waiting for dues to come from FCI.

On the Chief Minister's directives, the State Food Department has amended the procurement software so that the Arhtiyas will continue to be involved in the process of release of payments to the farmers, albeit in a modified manner, while farmers get their payments in their bank accounts within 48 hours, as mandated by the state government.

Declaring his commitment to safeguarding the interests of Punjab's Arhtiyas, the Chief Minister said that despite the Government of India's directives to exclude them from MSP payments, "the Arhtiyas shall always be associated with procurement".

"Till I am there, you will be part of the system, and your role will always remain", he asserted, adding that he will ensure that the Arhtiya Commission and other agencies permitted under the APMC Act shall continue.

Commenting on the Government of India's refusal to accept the state's request for deferment of the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system, the Chief Minister said, "We fought hard with the Centre on the issue, but they were not listening and even went to the extent of threatening not to procure from Punjab if we do not implement the DBT".

The Chief Minister also ordered the Finance Department to immediately release Rs. 131 crore to the Arhtiyas without waiting for it from the Food Corporation of India (FCI), which had withheld



payments after some Arhtiyas had failed to upload details. These Arhtiyas were probably misguided at that time by people who wanted to play politics, he said, adding that even though the money was yet to come from FCI, his government would release it immediately, without waiting for the same. He also assured the Arhtiyas that his government will take up with the Centre the issue of 30% deduction in labour payments made by the FCI.

Capt Amarinder thanked Vijay Kalra, the president of the Federation of Arhtiya Association of Punjab, for

heeding his government's plea to withdraw their proposed strike and lift the grain as the farmers would otherwise have suffered.

He appealed to the Arhtiyas to immediately start procurement and also take care of Covid norms. The government had to delay procurement this year till April 10 (from the previously scheduled April 1) on account of the second surge of Covid.

The Chief Minister said like every year, the government will again be issued passes this year to reduce congestion at the Mandis in view of the pandemic situation.

He assured that farmer passes would be issued at the District Level, strictly in consultation with the Arhtiyas who are in the best position to know which farmer has harvested his crop and is ready to come to the Mandi.

Sharing the Arhtiyas' pain, which he said he could feel from the bottom of his heart, the Chief Minister said he failed to understand why the central government was treating them and the farmers in such a shoddy manner. He recalled that the system of Arhtiyas prevailed even when he was a kid, and visited Mandis with his grandfather, and said it was inexplicable why the Government of India wanted to ruin it.

The Arhtiyas are not middlemen but service providers, he added, adding that the private sector can function along with the existing system and there was no need to change it.

Pointing to the 72% increase in farmers' earnings, he thanked it to the combined efforts of the farmers and the Arhtiyas. "Your contribution to the Green Revolution and filling of India's granaries is unfor-

gettable," he told them, adding that he does not agree with anything that the Centre is doing on Agriculture. He assured that all their concerns would be addressed, and all the commitments made to them will be fulfilled.

Announcing the withdrawal of the strike in the interest of the farmers and the farmers, Kalra thanked Capt Amarinder and his government for their support in their fight with the Centre.

The Centre, he said, was penalising Punjab for the farmers' agitation. Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu told the Chief Minister the Arhtiyas simply wanted protection for their business and livelihood.

Earlier, a few hours after going on a state-wide strike against the Punjab government's decision to follow Centre's decision to transfer the farmers' crop MSP directly to their bank accounts, the Arhtiyas called off the strike after Capt Amarinder's assurance that they would remain an integral part of the procurement system.

Haryana reports 2,937 fresh Covid-19 cases, second highest single-day rise in 4 months, 11 more deaths

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Covid-19 tally in Haryana surged to 31,341 on Saturday with 2,937 fresh cases, the second biggest single-day jump in over four months while the death toll climbed to 3,252 as 11 more people succumbed to the disease, a health department bulletin said. State had reported 29,914 Covid-19 cases, the highest single-day jump since January, this year, a day before.

Two deaths each were reported from Ambala, Panchkula, Yamunanagar districts and one each from Jind, Fatehabad, Bhiwani, Kurukshetra and Karnal districts, it said. Among the districts that reported a big spike in cases are Gurugram (864),

Karnal (271), Panchkula (217), Sonapat (203), Faridabad (200), Kurukshetra (181), Yamunanagar (168) Hisar (124), Ambala (123), Rohtak (121) and Panipat (104) districts. The number of active cases in Haryana stands at 19,453. The state has a recovery rate of 92.76 per cent, the bulletin stated.

HARYANA TO REGULATE AND RESTRICT ACTIVITIES, SOPS ISSUED

Due to the prevailing conditions in the COVID-19 pandemic, Haryana Government has decided to regulate and restrict various activities and has issued guidelines (SOPs) to contain the spread of the coronavirus. Financial Commissioner,

Haryana and Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, Sanjeev Kaushal has issued an order to all the Administrative Secretaries, Director General of Police, Haryana, all the Divisional Commissioners and all the Deputy Commissioners of the State.

The State Government has decided to declare vacation in all the Government and Private Schools in the State for the classes from Class 1st to Class 8th upto April 30. However, teachers will attend the schools without any change and will do their administrative works such as preparation of results, admissions and other work processes will continue without any change.

Punjab left with only 5 days of Covid vaccine, says Capt Amarinder

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With Punjab left with only 5 days of supply (5.7 lakh Covid vaccine doses) at the current levels of vaccination 85000-90000 persons a day, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday urged the Centre to share the schedule for supply of vaccines with the States over the next quarter based on their confirmed supply orders.

Hoping that the Centre would send fresh batches of vaccine very soon, the Chief Minister said if the state is able to meet its target of 2 lakh vaccines a day, then its current supplies will last only 3 days. He said he had written to the Prime Minister & the Union Health Minister to give confirmed supply schedules.

Despite being a slow starter in vaccination, Punjab has vaccinated more than 16 lakh persons, at an average of around 85000-90000 per day. He said, including the vaccine once conveyed by Congress president Sonia Gandhi to discuss the Covid situation. The meeting was attended by chief ministers of the Congress-led states, as well as senior party leaders, including Rahul Gandhi.

Capt Amarinder said people in Punjab were still not coming out in large numbers for the vaccination due to the massive anger prevailing against the Government of India on the issue of Farm Laws. Since Punjab has a majority population among the agricultural community, even the common man is affected by the farmers' agitation. He said, adding "this anger is impacting the vaccination drive". He said his government is undertaking an extensive media campaign to address the mis-information regarding Covid and vaccination hesitancy.

Ranking 18th in the country at present in terms of cases reported, Punjab is showing

around 8% positivity, with an average of around 3000 cases per day for the past 15 days, the Chief Minister apprised Sonia. The number of cases is slightly stable, he pointed out, adding that "this shows that the steps taken in the last few weeks are in the right direction". Even in the early part of the year, the Ministry in Prime Minister's review meeting yesterday, the "curve appears to be flattened over the past fortnight," he said, disclosing that the state currently has around 27,200 active cases with recovery rate of 87.1%.

Noting that high positivity is being seen in the younger population and as per reports received from NCDC and IGIB, more than 80% samples have been found to be positive for the more contagious and virulent UK variant, the Chief Minister shared with the Congress president the various measures taken by his government to combat the spread. He said, including complete ban on political gatherings till 30th April, imposition of night curfew across all districts from 9 pm to 5 am, restrictions on numbers in outdoor and indoor social gatherings, in cinema halls and malls, and closure of all educational institutions and Anganwadi Centres, with school exams being postponed. He said his government had to impose a ban on political gatherings as opposition leaders like Arvind Kejriwal and Sukhbir Badal were holding rallies in the state in violation of Covid norms.

The Chief Minister assured the meeting that the state has all arrangements in place to ensure proper and timely treatment of Covid patients, with sufficient availability of beds, drugs, Remdesivir injection etc. Punjab will do its best to contain and manage Covid as we did last year, he said.

Capt Amarinder also apprised Sonia of his communication with the central gov-

ernment on Covid and vaccine management, including the two letters he has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, seeking flexibility for states to devise their local vaccination strategies. He added that he had requested the Centre for inclusion of patients with liver & kidney disease below age of 45 and to focus on immunizing all adults in high-risk areas, besides covering all teachers & staff in all educational institutions, besides occupation-based immunization for judges & judicial officers, bus drivers & conductors, elected representatives at all levels, etc.

PRIVATE HOSPITALS IN PUNJAB TO POSTPONE ELECTIVE SURGERIES TILL APRIL 30

Principal Secretary Health and Family Welfare, Punjab Hussan Lal on Saturday chaired a virtual meeting with private hospitals to chart a state plan for COVID-19 management, urging them to defer the elective surgeries at least till April 30 to meet the rising number of demand for Covid beds.

He directed all the private hospitals to charge at government fixed rates for the treatment and avoid overcharging. There are 213 private hospitals on the list for the COVID-19 treatment in the state at present and the Government has provided 300 ventilators to private hospitals which should be used optimally.

The Principal Secretary Health stated that more than 20,000 doses of Remdesivir have been provided to Government and Private hospitals and these were available free of cost.

He reiterated that Oxygen demand and supply must be communicated to the Civil Surgeon of the district so that in case of any additional requirement, the same could be made available from the appropriate source well in time.

Veteran actor Satish Kaul dies of Covid-19 related complications

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Veteran Punjabi actor Satish Kaul, 76, who featured in several Hindi films and shows including "Mahabharat", died in Ludhiana on Saturday due to Covid-19 related complications.

According to Kaul's sister Satya Devi, the actor, popular for playing the role of Lord Indra in BR Chopra's "Mahabharat", was admitted to a city hospital after he developed fever six days ago. She said he died in the morning due to COVID-19 at the hospital. He had a fever and wasn't keeping well. He was admitted to the hospital on Thursday. The actor worked in over 300 Punjabi and Hindi films including "Pyar Toh Hona Hi Tha", "Aunty No 1" and the TV show "Vikram Aur Betaal".

Kaul moved to Punjab from Mumbai and started acting school around 2011, which wasn't a success. He fractured his hip bone in 2015 and remained bedridden for two and a half years. He later checked-in to an old age home, where he stayed till 2019, before moving into a rented house.

Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh condoled the demise of Kaul. In a condolence message, the CM described him as a versatile actor who played a pivotal role in the promotion of Punjabi cinema, art and culture. Being a staunch votary of Punjab, Punjabi and Punjabiyaat, Satish Kaul would be remembered by one and all for his enormous contribution for making Punjabi cinema popular amongst the people, he said.

Farmers block KMP Expressway in Haryana as part of protest against farm laws

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

As part of their stir against the Centre's three farm laws, farmers on Saturday blocked the 136 km Kundli-Manesar-Palwal expressway in Haryana. They, however, said emergency vehicles such as ambulances were allowed to ply. The call for a 24-hour blockade was given by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of farmer unions spearheading the agitation.

The blockade started at 8 am and will last 24 hours till Sunday morning.

Farmers, including women, carried flags of their organisations and raised slogans against the Government.

They squatted on the expressway, blaming the central government for not repealing the farm laws.

KOTKAPURA CASE

Punjab Govt to challenge HC decision

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Terming the probe into the Kotkapura firing case as totally fair, impartial and unbiased, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday said his Government will challenge in the Supreme Court any orders of the High Court for quashing the investigation of the Punjab Police SIT or removing its chief.

Reacting to reports in this regard, the Chief Minister said he has directed the state government's legal team in the case to examine the orders of the Punjab & Haryana High Court as soon as the copy is received, and prepare to challenge the same in the apex court if either the SIT probe is directed to be scrapped or its leader is asked to be removed.

He said he had full faith in the state's legal team, headed by

Siddharth Luthra, Senior Advocate from Delhi, that has appealed for the state in the case before the High Court. The case will be taken to its logical conclusion and nobody who is guilty will be spared, irrespective of their political affiliation or position, said the Chief Minister.

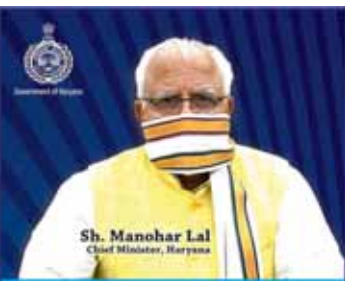
Declaring his commitment to fulfilling every single poll promise of his government, including ensuring the families of the victims of the firing case, in cinema halls and malls, and closure of all educational institutions and Anganwadi Centres, with school exams being postponed. He said his government had to impose a ban on political gatherings as opposition leaders like Arvind Kejriwal and Sukhbir Badal were holding rallies in the state in violation of Covid norms.

He pointed out that the investigations were in an advanced stage, with four channels already filed against persons in the 2015 case that followed the Bargari sacrifice incident, with final reports submitted to the sessions court for trial.

CM USING CASE TO IMPLICATE BADAL FAMILY, SAYS SUKHBIR BADAL

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Singh Badal on Saturday said the Punjab and Haryana high court order quashing the SIT formed by the Congress Government in the Kotkapura police firing case had made it clear that the chief minister was not interested in finding the guilty but was using the case to implicate the Badal family.

He said it was now clear that the SIT was formed to indulge in political vendetta.



Adopt 4-T Mantras to Break the Chain, Together We Fight Corona Strain

4-T Mantras Testing Tracking Tracing Treatment

About 30,000 RT-PCR COVID-19 tests Daily

Till now more than 24.5 lakh vaccine doses have been given in Haryana

Strict action for not wearing mask

Mega vaccination on every Monday and Tuesday

#LargestVaccineDrive

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

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Centre created Covid jab shortage: Sonia



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday blamed the Centre for 'mis-managing the situation' of corona pandemic by exporting vaccines. "The Government allowed a shortage to be created in India," Sonia said at a virtual meeting with the Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled States to review their efforts to fight Covid-19, including the availability of vaccines and access to medicines and ventilators.

Sonia advised the Chief Minister to focus on testing, tracking and vaccination. "Covid is surging and as the principal Opposition party, it's our responsibility to raise issues and push the Government to move away from PR tactics and act in the interest of the people. Therefore, there must be transparency. Governments must reveal the actual numbers of infections and deaths across States, whether Congress-ruled or otherwise," she said.

During the interaction, she took on the Centre and said vaccines should be provided to



Indians first and then the Government should think about exporting it to other countries. "We must focus on India's vaccination drive first and foremost, then only export vaccines and gift them to other countries. We must stress on responsible behaviour adhering to all laws and Covid regulations without exception," Sonia said in the wake of Centre exporting vaccines to several countries.

Asserting that all parties are united in the fight against Covid-19, the Congress chief said, "Cooperation with States respecting federalism and in turn, for us to be constructive and cooperate with the Government in its efforts to fight the pandemic is equally important. We are all united in this fight."

She also blamed mass gatherings during election rallies and religious events for the spike in cases. "Mass gatherings for elections and religious events have accelerated Covid for which all of us are responsible to some extent. We need to accept this responsibility and keep the interest of the

nation above our own." Pushing for strict action to be taken to control the corona graph, Sonia Gandhi said, "In our states, we need to take strict measures to ensure that the pandemic doesn't go out of control and ensure testing at large scale, preparation of adequate facilities, setting up temporary ones. We must make all efforts to support those who face the brunt of the economic activity as the restrictions become harder and more stringent."

Taking about the economic situation in the country due to the coronavirus pandemic, Sonia Gandhi asked the State Government to look for the impact of government schemes so far and the next course of action which could be helpful.

"Various packages had been announced by the Central government to help MSMEs and religious events for the spike in cases. Mass gatherings for elections and religious events have accelerated Covid for which all of us are responsible to some extent. We need to accept this responsibility and keep the interest of the

Allegation to incite voters against Central forces unfounded: Didi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defending her controversial remarks over the Central forces' alleged partisan role in the ongoing State Assembly polls, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said there was no attempt to threaten, incite or influence the electorate against the force and any allegations to the contrary were unfounded and denied. Responding to the Election Commission's notice Mamata said she has the highest regard for the Central forces and "commend and laud their contributions to the safety and the security of the country."

"In my speech, I had only called upon the voters, specifically voters who are women to protect (democratically by gherao) if and when somebody (including CAPF) created any obstruction in their right to vote," Mamata said adding that gherao is one of the democratic ways of registering public protest.

"Be it noted that multi-dimensional world gherao has been a legitimate entry in the political lexicon of West Bengal since late 1960s..." she said. In recent years, the world has been used to connote peaceful satyagraha against authorities by silent victims of the situation, she added.

Mamata also urged the poll body to rescind its notice, contending she has not violated the model code or the various sections of the Indian Penal Code. She claimed that a girl was allegedly molested by an unidentified CRPF personnel in the early hours of April 6 at Ramnagar, under Tarakeswar police station and the matter was reported to the



The EC had on Thursday issued a notice to Mamata for her provocative remarks against Central forces

police which lodged an FIR. "...Till date, no tangible action has been taken or at least an advisory or instruction has been issued by the Election Commission to CAPF," Mamata said, adding several police officers have been removed on "frivolous complaints by the BJP".

To drive home her point that she did not instigate people to carry out violent acts against the central forces, Mamata also reproduced certain portions of her speech in her reply to the EC.

The EC had on Thursday issued a notice to Banerjee for her prima facie "completely false, provocative and intemperate statements" against central armed police forces, saying her remarks are demoralising the personnel.

The TMC chief again targeted the Centre and the CAPF on Saturday, after four people were killed in firing by CISF personnel allegedly after coming under attack from locals who "attempted to snatch their rifles" in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district. Mamata said her government will initiate a CID probe into the incident and questioned the central forces' version of firing in self-defence.

BJP releases Kishor's video claiming 'Modi's popularity'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A mid polling for 44 Assembly Seats in West Bengal, a controversy broke out on Saturday as BJP IT Cell head Amit Malviya released an audio clip where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's election strategist Prashant Kishor is purportedly heard saying "PM Modi, Mamata equally popular" in the State.

Malviya, who is also BJP's deputy-in-charge of Bengal, tweeted the audio clip of what he said was parts of a conversation between Kishor and a group of journalists on the Clubhouse app.

Malviya quoted Kishor as saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal, anti-incumbency against the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC), "Muslim appeasement" of political parties in Bengal over the years and the Dalit vote would likely work favour of the BJP. Kishor's remarks drew the ire of journalists, who said the BJP was not having workers on the ground and accused the BJP of "distorted use of parts of the conversation", and asked the party to release the "full conversation".

The controversy came on the day 44 of West Bengal's total 294 seats were voting in the fourth round of an eight-phase polling process.

In the first tweet by Malviya, Kishor could be heard purportedly saying "...Polarisation, Modi, Hindi-speaking people,

SC (Scheduled Castes) — these are the factors". Former minister Suvendu Adhikari leaving the TMC, or Kishor coming in as the TMC strategist were not the issues of significance at all, he said.

"Modi is popular here, the Hindi-speaking people have over 1 crore votes, Dalits account for 27% (of the population) — and they are fully backing the BJP. Plus, there is of course polarisation," Kishor said.

"Matuas will be predominantly from the BJP but not as unitedly as they did in the Lok Sabha (elections in 2019). I still think 75% of the Matuas will vote for the BJP and 25% for the TMC," Kishor purportedly said. "Even our surveys on who will form the Government shows the BJP coming to power. This is because the BJP supporters are claiming the party will form the Government. Of the people voting for the Left — 10-15% — about two-third banks the BJP will form the Government. So, the majority view you are hearing is that the BJP is coming to power," Kishor said.

He said the perception, mostly among people from outside the state, that the BJP did not have workers on the ground in Bengal was not true. "They could be imported from the Left, but they are dedicatedly working for the BJP today," he said, adding that the Left voters would like to see Banerjee lose.

When asked who was voting for the TMC, Kishor purportedly clarified that he meant to say "50-55% Hindus are voting for the BJP".

In the second clip, he said the major problem "we have to accept is that for 20 years there have been efforts to appease the minority". For example, in Bengal the predominant belief was whoever got the Muslim vote would the elections, he said.

"The entire political ecosystem — be it of the Congress, Left or Dalit (as Banerjee is popularly known as) — has been thinking about that (getting Muslim votes). The first time, Hindus are thinking that they are seeing a chance... There is some element that the BJP is not doing. And that element is coming from blatant misuse of minority politics by some of these parties... We can't deny that..." he said.

In the third clip, Kishor said the Hindi-speaking people in Bengal were Modi's core voters in Bengal. "Plus, the anti-incumbency is against the state government, not against the Centre," he said. "If we do a survey of leaders, Modi and Mamata are equally popular (in Bengal) — which is a very big thing," he said. "Bengal has not seen a BJP rule. That is a fact. The people who have not seen it (BJP rule) for 30-35 years think they (the BJP) will do something hitherto undone. They want to taste the laddoo they have not yet," he said.

Assam polls: EC orders repolling in 4 booths on April 20



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Saturday ordered repolling on April 20 in four polling booths including Hafong constituency of Assam where 181 votes were cast even though 90 people were eligible to exercise their franchise. The Commission has declared that the votes cast at these polling stations on April 1 are void.

In a massive breach of conduct, a polling booth station at 107(A)-Khotlir LP School under Hafong Assembly constituency, located in Assam's Dima Hasao district, where 181 votes were cast even though 90 people were eligible to exercise their franchise. The presiding and first polling officer in their statements had declared that they had allowed the voters registered at the main polling station at 107-Mouldam LP School to cast their votes at the auxiliary polling station. The Hafong constituency has witnessed 74 percent polling.

The EC order said, repolling will be held at Ratabari (SC) constituency's polling station number 149 at Indira M V School, after an electronic voting machine (EVM) was found in a car belonging to the wife of a BJP candidate. A magisterial probe was ordered by Karimganj district Deputy Commissioner and Returning Officer to enquire as to why a polling team in Assam carried a polled EVM in a vehicle owned by the wife of BJP candidate and sitting MLA Krishnendu Paul.

The Repolling has also been ordered in Sonai constituency's 463- Madhya Dhanehari LP School polling booth where at least three persons were injured in an incident of firing, following which the state's deputy speaker and BJP candidate Aminiha Haque Laskar was questioned by the police and five police personnel attached to him were suspended. According to the reports, the clash broke out between two groups after there was alleged mismanagement at Madhya Dhanehari polling station.

Tomar urges agitating farmers to call off strike amid Covid surge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Saturday appealed to the farmers protesting at Delhi borders to call off their long-running agitation in view of second wave of Covid-19 cases, saying the Government is ready for a discussion whenever they come with a concrete proposal. Tomar expressed concerns about the farmers' health and wellbeing as India witnessed a record surge over 1.45 lakh coronavirus cases on Saturday.

Thousands of farmers have been protesting against the three new agri-marketing laws for nearly five months now, braving the raging pandemic. There has been no headway in the ongoing issue since January 22, when the Indian government announced the laws, the minister said many farm bodies in fact are in the favour these legislations, while some are opposing them.

"Ours is a democratic country, be it farmers or citizens, if they have any doubt, the government believes it is its responsibility to clear doubts and find a solution," he said. The minister said the three laws were not drafted all of a sudden, but there was a long discussion in the past and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken it forward, he said.

"Now in the second wave of pandemic, the entire nation and the world is following COVID-19 protocols. Even protesting farmers should follow the protocols. Their life is important for us," Tomar said.

"In the current COVID-19 situation, I urge them (agitating farmers) to call off the protest. The government is ready for a discussion whenever they come with a proposal," he said.



Stating that there is no "dissatisfaction" among the farming community across the country over the new farm

laws, the minister said many farm bodies in fact are in the favour these legislations, while some are opposing them.

"We proposed that a committee be set up to look into these laws and the MSP (issue) also. After the committee submits its report, the Government will discuss this proposal was welcomed across the country, but the protesting farmers rejected it without citing any reason," he said.

"We had told farm unions to come up with their own proposal and we were ready for discussion on that also," the minister said, asserting the government is ready for talks even today. Tomar reiterated that he had appealed to the farmer unions in all 11 rounds of meetings to send back senior citizens and children from the protest sites in view of the pandemic.

The Minister also said the agitating farmers should understand that ordinary citizens are facing difficulty due to their sit-in protest at the border.

Covid recovered patients not coming forward to donate plasma: Experts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With more and more people recovering from Covid-19 and moving into intensive care units, there is a serious shortage of Convalescent plasma, anti-viral drug Remdesivir, and Tocilizumab injection being prescribed by doctors for treatment. Even as scientific evidence on their efficacy is awaited.

Though the World Health Organization (WHO) does not recommend these drugs and therapies for patients hospitalised with Covid-19, in India medical experts have been using these treatments on an experimental basis for moderately to severely ill patients.

Vasu Goel, a resident of Mural Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, said he had been trying hard for the last two days to get plasma for his grandfather who is admitted to JP Hospital in Noida for Covid treatment.

"I have not lost hope, yet," he said.

However, Vivek Jain from Kab Welfare Foundation, who had been coordinating with plasma donors to reach out to the needy this time too like last year, said that he has been getting several requests every day for the past few weeks. While the demand is rising, he pointed out, Covid-19 recovered patients were not coming forward to donate plasma and help those in need.

He echoed the views of Dr SK Sarin, head of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, which houses the city's first plasma bank. Dr Sarin too had pointed out the dearth of number of donors was not enough.

"If the pandemic continues unabated, we would need donors who have recovered to come and donate but we would not deny anyone in need of plasma. People should come forward to donate plasma," he said.

Delhi along with a few other States like Maharashtra had last year set up plasma banks to meet the demand which was at its peak.

Experts say those who are infected now will recover in the next two weeks, after which they will be eligible to donate plasma.

Amid the grappling with vaccine Covid facilities and vaccine shortage, there are also reports of shortage of anti-viral drug Remdesivir that is used to treat Covid patients, in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

In some cities, the drug is being sold in black markets, leaving the patients and their relatives at the receiving end. In some cases that highlight the limited options available to physicians treating Covid-19, doctors are recommending tocilizumab injection too. The doctors believe that the drug reduces inflammation that causes Covid-19 patients to become severely ill, particularly in their lungs.

CRPF staff's special children to get school bus facility

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief to CRPF personnel parenting specially-abled and autistic children, the Union Home Ministry has cleared a proposal for the provision of a school bus facility to such children to transport them to special school or institution irrespective of the minimum number of such children in a camp.

In an order issued earlier this month, the Union Home Ministry conveyed the clearance of the proposal to the effect.

A Ministry letter with the subject "Welfare of specially-abled children" has been decided that school bus facility may be provided irrespective of the strength (number) of such children in a camp, reads the communication.

According to an earlier order dated April 5, 1999 on the issue, the provision of mandatory requirement of number of children as five for Gazetted Officers and non-Gazetted Officers or 12 for the children of all other ranks for free of cost school bus facility was considered for the latest order doing away with the requirement of the number children in a camp for availing such facility, it said.

"This amendment is being issued subject to the condition that no new vehicles would be authorised and CRPF should manage this facility within available resources," added the letter.

"The move will go a long way in mental succour for parents of specially-abled or autistic children for their need to attend special schools or institutions as part of their educational course. The removal of the fetters of a number of such children in a camp will mean that even a single such child of Gazetted officers or those from other ranks will be entitled to free school bus transport. The facility is also expected to help such parents concentrate on their core duties," a senior official said.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is the world's biggest paramilitary force with an operational strength of 3.25 lakh personnel. It is the designated Central force for anti-Naxal operations, counter-terror operations, and counter-insurgency operations with significant deployments in Jammu and Kashmir, the Northeast, and Naxal-hit States.

SC asks Centre, four States to respond on plea seeking repeal of provisions criminalising begging

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has asked the Centre and four States, including Maharashtra and Gujarat, to file their response within three weeks on a plea seeking a direction to repeal the provisions criminalising begging.

A bench of justices Ashok Bhushan and R Subhash Reddy noted in its order that though a notice was issued on the plea on February 10 this year, only Bihar has so far filed its response in the matter. "Although notice has been issued on February 10, 2021, a reply has been filed by the respondent - state of Bihar - only and other respondents have not yet filed their reply.

Let reply be filed within three weeks," the bench said in its order passed on Friday.

The apex court has posted the matter for hearing after three weeks.

The top court had in February sought a response from the Centre, and the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana and Bihar on the plea which has claimed that the sections of the statute criminalising begging are violative of constitutional rights.

The plea filed by Meerut resident Vishal Pathak has referred to the August 2018 verdict of the Delhi High Court which had decriminalised begging in the national capital and said that provi-

sions of the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 which treats begging as an offence cannot sustain constitutional scrutiny.

"The provisions of the statutes criminalising the act of begging put people in a situation to make an unreasonable choice between committing a crime or not committing one and starving, which goes against the very spirit of the Constitution and violates Article 21 i.e. Right to Life," said the plea, filed through advocate H K Chaturvedi.

Referring to the Census 2011, the plea has said that the total number of beggars in India is 4,13,670 and the number has increased from the last census.



It said that the government has the mandate to provide social security to every one and ensure that all have basic facilities, as embedded in the Directives Principles of State Policy in the

Constitution.

However, the presence of beggars is evidence that the State has failed to provide these basic facilities to all its citizens, thus instead of working on its failure and examin-

ing what made people beg, criminalising the act of begging is irrational and against the approach of a socialist nation as embedded in the preamble of our Constitution," the plea has claimed.

Myanmar junta attacks again

AP ■ YANGON

Security forces in Myanmar cracked down heavily again on anti-coup protesters even as the military downplayed reports of state violence. Reports on online news outlets and social media on Friday said at least four people were killed in Bago, about 100 kilometers northeast of Yangon, in an attack by government troops and police that began before dawn and continued sporadically until after dark. The Bago Weekly Journal Online said a source at the city's main hospital, whom it didn't name, believed about 10 people had been killed.

It was the third attack this week involving the massive use of deadly force by security forces to try to crush active opposition to the February 1 coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

On Wednesday, attacks were launched on supporters of the military rule in the towns of Kalay and Taze in the country's north. In both places, at least 11 people — possibly including some bystanders — were reported killed. Security forces



Children flash the three-fingered symbol of resistance as they join an anti-coup protest in Yangon on Saturday

were accused of using heavy weapons in their attacks, including rocket-propelled grenades and mortars. The allegations could not be independently confirmed by The Associated Press.

Some of the protesters used homemade weapons, especially in Kalay, where defenders

called themselves a "civil army," and some were equipped with rudimentary hunting rifles. Most protesters in cities and towns around the country have been nonviolent, with demonstrators espousing civil disobedience.

Violence by security forces was also reported Friday in sev-

eral other areas, including Loi Kaw, the capital of Kayah state in the east, where live ammunition was employed, according to numerous social media posts.

At least 614 protesters and bystanders have been killed by security forces through Thursday, according to the

Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which monitors casualties and arrests.

At a news conference in the capital, Naypyitaw, a spokesman for the ruling junta defended the actions of the security forces.

Brig. Gen. Zaw Min Tun, when asked about reports that automatic weapons have been fired at protesters, replied that if that were the case, 500 people would have been killed in just a few hours.

He challenged the death toll issued by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners and said the Government's tally was 248. He also said 16 policemen had been killed.

Asked about air strikes carried out by the junta, he said the IR-9's output is 50 jets on territory held by guerrillas from the Karen ethnic minority in eastern Myanmar, which reportedly killed at least 14 civilians. Zaw Min Tun said the aerial raids allowed more exact targeting of guerrilla attacks, which would have caused more deaths. Supporters of the Karen charge that the army is carrying out a ground offensive as well, including the use of artillery.

Iran tests advanced nuclear centrifuges

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran said on Saturday it has begun mechanical tests on its newest advanced nuclear centrifuges, even as the five world powers that remain in a bumbling 2015 nuclear deal with Iran attempt to bring the US back into the agreement.

Iran's IR-9 centrifuge, when operational, would have the ability to separate uranium isotopes more quickly than the current centrifuges being used, thereby enriching uranium at a faster pace. The announcement carried on state TV came on Iran's annual Nuclear Day.

The IR-9's output is 50 times quicker than the first Iranian centrifuge, the IR-1. Iran's nuclear program is also developing IR-8 centrifuges.

Since January, Iran has begun enriching uranium at top levels, a technical step away from weapons-grade levels, though Iran's leadership insists the country has no desire to develop a nuclear weapon. Former US President Donald Trump pulled the US



In this photo released by the official website of the office of the Iranian Presidency, President Hassan Rouhani, second right, listens to head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Ali Akbar Salehi while visiting an exhibition of Iran's new nuclear achievements in Tehran, Iran on Saturday

out of the nuclear accord in 2018, accusing Iran of failing to live up to the agreement, opting for what he called a maximum-pressure campaign of stepped-up US sanctions and other tough actions.

Iran responded by intensifying its enrichment of uranium and building centrifuges in

plain violation of the accord, while insisting that its nuclear development is for civilian not military purposes. Israel maintains Iran still maintains the ambition of developing nuclear weapons, pointing to Tehran's ballistic missile program and research into other technologies.

12 hurt as headline Islamist attack devotees inside mosque in B'desh

Dhaka: Activists of a headline Islamist group attacked devotees inside a mosque in northern Bangladesh, injuring at least 12 persons, according to a media report. The incident took place on Friday at the mosque in the Gaibandha district when self-proclaimed Hefazat-e-Islam activists snatched the mic from the Imam and preached about the organization, Dhaka Tribune reported. They attacked the devotees who tried to intervene, Imam Motlob Uddin said. At least 12 men were injured in the attack, the report said. A case is being filed at Sundarganj Police Station. Officer in Charge Bulbul Islam said: "Disagreements over the mosque committee is the reason for this untoward incident." **PTI**

Two Christian nurses booked under blasphemy charges in Pak

Lahore: Two Christian nurses have been booked under blasphemy charges in Pakistan's Punjab province following a complaint by hospital authorities, police said, as people staged demonstrations against the duo demanding strict action against them.

According to police, an FIR has been registered against the two nurses, Mariyum Lal and Newish Arooj, working in District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital, Faisalabad, on Friday.

The nurses are accused of removing the stickers inscribed with Islamic verses from the wall of a hospital ward where psychiatric patients are being treated. **PTI**

Djibouti says longtime Prez Ismail on way to winning 5th term

Mogadishu: Djibouti's government says longtime President Ismail Omar Guelleh has overwhelmingly won a fifth term, citing provisional results. Home Affairs Minister Mumin Ahmed Sheikh told reporters overnight that Guelleh has received more than 98% of the 177,391 votes cast in the Horn of Africa nation, defeating his sole rival, businessman Zakaria Ismail Farah. Other opposition boycotted Friday's vote. The final results are expected to be announced later Saturday by the electoral commission. "Thank you for your confidence in the president throughout the night," Guelleh said. "Let's continue together!" **AP**

Harry expected to fly in for funeral of grandfather

London: The rift in the royal ranks after an explosive interview by Prince Harry and wife Meghan Markle is to be set aside as reports suggest that the Duke of Sussex is keen to fly to the UK to attend grandfather Prince Philip's funeral.

Harry was close to his grandfather and, according to media reports, he is keen to be by the side of his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, as she mourns the passing of her husband of 73 years. Harry, who is now based in California, is unlikely to be joined by Meghan, who is heavily pregnant with their second baby. "He will, of course, be there, no matter how difficult relations are between the Sussexes and the family," a source was quoted as saying in "The Daily Telegraph." **AP**

Gun salutes honour Prince Philip UK enters 8 day mourning

PTI ■ LONDON

Gun salutes in all capitals of the United Kingdom, as well as aboard some Royal Navy ships on Saturday honoured Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh, who passed away aged 99 at Windsor Castle on Friday.

The 41 rounds fired in London, Cardiff, Belfast and Edinburgh at a rate of one shot per minute from midday local time on Saturday mark the start of an eight-day national mourning period. "The tradition of Gun Salutes being fired throughout



Members of the 104th Regiment Royal Artillery fire a 41-round gun salute in the grounds of Cardiff Castle in Cardiff on Saturday

the country to mark significant national events dates back to at least the 18th century, and there are historical records of salutes taking place as early as

the 14th century when guns and ammunition began to be adopted more widely," a statement on the royal website read. "Similar gun salutes were

fired to mark the death of Queen Victoria in 1901," it notes. They also honour the Duke's strong military links, having served with the Royal Navy in World War II. "His Royal Highness has been a great friend, inspiration and role model for the armed forces and he will be sorely missed," said General Sir Nick Carter, the UK's Chief of the Defence Staff.

"The Duke of Edinburgh served among us during the Second World War, and he remained devoted to the Royal Navy and the armed forces as a whole. A life well lived, His Royal Highness leaves us with a legacy of indomitable spirit, steadfastness and an unshakeable sense of duty. From all of us who serve today and have served, thank you," he said.

US unveils new rules for Govt contacts with Taiwan

Washington: The State Department has unveiled new rules for US government contacts with Taiwan that are likely angrier China but appear to reimpose some restrictions that had been lifted by the Trump administration. The department announced the changed policy in a statement that said the Biden administration intends to "liberalize" the rules to reflect the "deepening unofficial relationship" between the US and Taiwan. However, the revised guidelines don't include all the changes in place by former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in the waning days of the Trump administration.

Saudi Arabia executes 3 soldiers for 'high treason'

Dubai: Saudi Arabia executed three soldiers Saturday it accused of committing "high treason," without elaborating on when enemy the kingdom believed the men aided.

The state-run Saudi Press Agency identified the men as soldiers working in the Defence Ministry. It did not elaborate on how the men aided the kingdom's enemies. Saudi Arabia is fighting Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthis rebels. The kingdom also views Iran as a regional archrival.

The kingdom said the three men were convicted in court and a later royal order served as a death warrant. Saudi Arabia carried out the world's third most executions in 2019, according to figures from Amnesty International. The kingdom followed China and Iran, respectively. **AP**

the Taiwanese flag at meetings with US officials. Friday's changes were silent on those matters, although the rules do continue to permit US officials to meet their Taiwanese counterparts in federal buildings.

China regards Taiwan as a renegade province and opposes any attempt to treat the island as an independent country. China had condemned Pompeo's easing of the restrictions that had been in place since the US recognised Beijing and dropped formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan in 1979.

"These new guidelines will continue the US Government's longstanding practice of providing clarity throughout the US executive branch of how to implement our one China policy," the department said. **AP**

Earthquake in Indonesia's Java, Bali kills at least 6

Malang: A strong earthquake killed at least six people and damaged buildings on Indonesia's main island of Java and shook the tourist hotspot of Bali, officials said Saturday. No tsunami warnings were posted. The US Geological Survey said the magnitude 6.0 quake struck off the island's southern coast at 2:00 p.m. Local time (0700 GMT). It was centered 45 kilometers south of Sumbaperung town of Malang District in East Java province, at a depth of 82 kilometers (51 miles).

Rahmat Triyono, the head of Indonesia's earthquake and tsunami center, said in a statement the undersea earthquake did not have the potential to cause a tsunami. **AP**

Stalled at first jab: Vaccine shortages hit poor countries

AP ■ LONDON

As many as 60 countries, including some of the world's poorest, might be stalled at the first shots of their coronavirus vaccinations because nearly all deliveries through the global programme shipped more than 25,000 doses to low-income countries only twice on any given day. Deliveries have all but halted since Monday.

During the past two weeks, according to data compiled daily by UNICEF, fewer than 2 million COVAX doses in total were cleared for shipment to 92 countries in the developing world the same amount injected in Britain alone.

On Friday, the head of the World Health Organization slammed the "shocking imbalance" in global COVID-19 vaccination. WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that while one in four people in rich countries had received a vaccine, only one in 500 people in poorer countries had gotten a dose.

The vaccine shortage stems mostly from India's decision to stop exporting vaccines from its Serum Institute factory, which produces the overwhelming majority of the AstraZeneca doses that COVAX counted on to supply around a third of the global population at a time coronavirus is spiking worldwide.

COVAX will only ship vaccine doses to WHO and countries that are increasingly impatient. Supplies are dwindling in some of the first countries to receive COVAX shipments, and the expected delivery of second doses in the 12-week window currently recommended is now in doubt. In a statement, the vaccine alliance known as GAVI told The Associated Press that 60 countries are affected by the delays.

In vaccination tents set up at Kenya's National Hospital in Nairobi, many of those who arrived for their first jabs were uneasy about when the second would arrive.

"My fear if I don't get the second dose, my immune system is going to be weak, hence I might die," said Oscar Odiga, a civil servant.

Pakistan OK's emergency use of third Chinese vax despite low efficacy rate

Islamabad: Pakistan has approved the emergency use of the third Chinese vaccine, despite its low efficacy rate, as the country struggled to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) on Thursday granted Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) to CoronaVac, developed by Chinese company Sinovac Biotech, officials said on Saturday.

"This is the third Chinese vaccine allowed to be used in Pakistan," a DRAP official said, adding that the country now has five approved COVID vaccines.

Pakistan has already granted the EUA to China's two-dose Sinopharm and single-dose Convidecia vaccine developed by the Canisio Biologicals Inc. UK's AstraZeneca and Russian Sputnik V vaccines have been approved by the DRAP. **PTI**

Iran enforces 10-day lockdown amid fourth wave of pandemic

Tehran: Iran on Saturday began a 10-day lockdown amid a fourth wave of coronavirus infections, state TV reported, as a worrisome trend after more than a year of the country's battling Middle East's worst outbreak.

Iran's coronavirus task force, charged with determining virus restrictions, ordered most shops closed and offices restricted to one-third capacity in cities declared as "red zones." **AP**

कार्यालय नगर निगम हल्द्वानी - काठगोदाम

पत्रांक: 63 / P.W.L.		ई-निविदा सूचना		दिनांक: 08.04.2021	
नगर निगम हल्द्वानी-काठगोदाम क्षेत्रातील विविधित कार्यां हेतु पुनः ई-निविदा प्रक्रियेची की जाहीर होई। निविदा देणे संपन्न करी पर्यंत संपूर्णतः www.uktdres.gov.in पर दिनांक 12.04.2021 को सुपरानु 2.00 बजे से दिनांक 24.04.2021 को अपरानु 2.00 बजे तक चलवायेंगे।					
क्र. सं.	कार्य	अनुमानित (लक्ष सं.)	बाई की (लक्ष सं.)	निविदा का मूल्य	निविदा करने की की
1	नगर निगम क्षेत्र में 30 वर्ग मी. का सड़क निर्माण एवं लुपटिलीकरण कार्य	166.68	3.50	5000+18% GST	06 लाख
(डा. जोगेंद्र सिंह रोहतेला)			(सी.एस.ज्योतिरिया)		
जयपुरी			नगर आरक्षण		
नगर निगम हल्द्वानी			नगर निगम हल्द्वानी		

राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम मुद्राहय अयुक्त

निविदा नं.:	अयुक्त-2020/21	होलीकॉम	0141-2374652 ईमेल: pro.rajs@rajasthan.gov.in	दिनांक: 08.04.2021
आवक: विज्ञापन संख्या 03-2021-22				
ई-बोली सूचना				
निगम द्वारा निगम कार्य हेतु ई-बोली को पथपर में निविदा प्रपत्र में अनिवार्य बोलीवाई आवेदन की जाती है। बोली में संशोधित निगम वेबसाइट www.rtrc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर एंटर प्रोसेस (SPPP) पर देखा जा सकता है।				
क्र. सं.	ई-बोली सूचना संख्या	कार्य	कार्यकारी निदेशक (प्रशासन)	
1.	01/2021-22	निगम को कार्य को पथपर में लघु पारसी सेवा संयोजन कार्य हेतु पारसी लघुसेवी विपुलिका का सुधार अथवा प्रदान कार्य हेतु लघु पारसी एवं सामान्य पारसी को पथपर हेतु निविदा प्रपत्र में ई-बोली प्रक्रिया द्वारा अनिवार्य बोली आवेदन की जाती है।		

WESTERN RAILWAY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO. S/14/2021 Date 09.04.2021

S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
277	Stop valve hand wheel for tank wagons	453 Nos.	19.04.2021
278	Set of Air Brake Pipes	100 Set	23.04.2021
279	Application Form for Reservation	20000000 Nos.	30.04.2021
280	IR-DRDO Bio-toilet tanks	30 Set	30.04.2021
281	Air Brake Hose Coupling for Brake Pipe	3000 Nos	30.04.2021
282	Body Side Lower Panel of Lavatory	1350 Nos.	30.04.2021
283	Air Brake Hose Coupling	2600 Nos.	30.04.2021
284	Disposable HIV Protection Kit	5000 Nos.	30.04.2021
285	Liquid Oxygen for Medical use	477000 CUM	03.05.2021
286	Pipe 32 N.B.	30 Nos.	03.05.2021
287	Set of Air Brake Pipes	700 Set	03.05.2021
288	Compreg packing	10400 Nos	03.05.2021

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.reps.gov.in and www.indianrailways.gov.in.

6013 For Principal Chief Materials Manager
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JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No.: JD/A/EE/TA to Dir.Eng.-I/2021-22/D-35 Date: 09.04.2021

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No.: EE & TA to Dir. Eng.-I/25/2021-22

Bids are invited for works given below in various zones as per details given:-

S. No.	UBN No.	Cost of Work (Lacs)	A&F	Nature of Work	Last Date
1.	UBN : JD/A/22/WSB/00022	266.00	219/2020-21	EE-11 Road Renewal	03.05.2021

Details are available at Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in

Executive Engineer & TA to Dir. Engg-I

Raj. Sanad/CD/001/2020/4

Raina returns with firepower

Suresh's 54 in his first match since 2019 final, Sam Curran's quick 34 guide Super Kings to 188-7

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Suresh Raina announced his IPL comeback with a blazing 36-ball 54 and powered Chennai Super Kings to a solid 188 for seven against Delhi Capitals here on Saturday.

Sam Curran smashed away to 34 off only 15 balls to prop up the CSK innings towards the end. Curran hit four fours and two sixes.

The last five overs yielded 52 runs for CSK, thanks to Curran's power-packed innings. Asked to bat first by Rishabh Pant, Ruturaj Gaikwad got CSK off the mark with a pleasing drive through the off side between point and cover, two deliveries after being beaten all ends up by a Chris Woakes outswinger.

Last season's runners-up DC didn't have to wait long for their first breakthrough as Avesh Khan (2/23 in 4 overs) had Faf du Plessis trapped in front of the wicket in the second over.

In the first ball of the third over, Woakes had Gaikwad caught in the slip cordon as CSK slipped to seven for two.

The English pacer drew Gaikwad into a push with a ball that moved a slightly on pitching.

In came Raina — he had missed the last IPL owing to personal reasons — and in the company of Moeen Ali, the seasoned campaigner revived CSK's innings and looked to put up a challenging total against a strong DC batting line-up at the Wankhede Stadium.

During his 24-ball 36, Moeen struck four boundaries



Chennai Super Kings batsman Suresh Raina raises his bat after he completes his fifty against Delhi Capitals

and two sixes, playing a fine helping hand to Raina. Experienced off-spinner

Ravichandran Ashwin cut short Moeen's innings when the all-rounder got himself into an

uncomfortable position while going for a reverse sweep, the ensuing top-edge ending in a

good catch by Shikhar Dhawan, who ran backwards from short third man to hold on to the ball.



Sam Curran reads as he hits his sibling Tom Curran for six during IPL clash between Delhi and Chennai

Ambati Rayudu came in and straightaway got into the act, hitting a couple of sixes and a four to race away to 23 off 16 balls before Tom Curran ended his stay in the middle.

Meanwhile Raina went about his task in a manner that did not give the impression that he was coming back to top-flight after a long hiatus.

Raina got himself going with a four off Woakes and then worked Ashwin for two successive boundaries, not afraid to dance down the wicket against the wily spinner's flight.

Using his feet well, the veteran southpaw hoicked leg-spinner Amit Mishra for two and also got a maximum against Ashwin.

It was no different with Marcus Stoinis as Raina pulled the Australian medium pacer for another six before being run-out following a mix-up with Ravindra Jadeja (26).

PLAYER	RUNS
1. Suresh Raina (CSK)	54
2. Chris Lynn (MI)	49
3. AB de Villiers (RCB)	48

PLAYER	WKTS
1. Harshal Patel (RCB)	5
2. Avesh Khan (DC)	2
3. Chris Woakes (DC)	2

MOST SIXES	
1. Suresh Raina (CSK)	4
2. Chris Lynn (MI)	3
3. AB de Villiers (RCB)	2



WE'RE A TEAM: Delhi Capitals players and support staff pose for group photo at the end of final training session ahead of IPL 14 first game against Chennai Super Kings



HES BACK: Rajasthan Royals pacer Mustafizur Rahman poses for photo after he joins Royals bio-bubble

Mumbai favourites to lift trophy: Anjum

HARSHIT BISHT ■ NEW DELHI

Former skipper of India's national women's cricket team and commentator Anjum Chopra backs Mumbai Indians to make a hat-trick of the IPL trophy after winning back-to-back tournaments in the UAE last year.

The side, led by Rohit Sharma, defeated Delhi Capitals in the 2020 final in Dubai on November 10, and in five months, is back on the field to take part in the 2021 edition.

Speaking to *The Pioneer* ahead of the 2021 season, Chopra said: "Mumbai Indians will start as the favourites because there are no loopholes in that line-up. Just six (five) months back, they won the last championship. And they haven't changed many players from that squad. At least the playing eleven remains the same. The majority of their players are in good form and you can never dismiss them from the competition because of their consistency."

In March, Mumbai Indians middle-order batsman Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan made their India debut, with both scoring 50s in their maiden International innings against England in the recently concluded T20 International series.

Also in the One Day Internationals, Krunal Pandya hit 50 in his first match.

Ahead of the auction in Chennai this year, Mumbai Indians have lifted the trophy on five occasions — retained the core group, apart from adding the likes of experienced Piyush Chawla, Kiwi all-rounder Jimmy Neesham and pacer Adam Milne, besides a few rookies including Arjun Tendulkar.

In fact, the 20-year-old, 6'8" South African left-arm pacer Marco Jansen made his debut against Royal Challengers Bangalore in the season's opener on Friday and took 2-28 in his four-over spell. And if that was not enough, the return of Hardik Pandya as a bowler is a welcome boost for the side. Hardik didn't bowl in the last season but, with his remodelled action, picked up the ball against England in the T20I series. However, whether he will bowl during the tournament is still unclear.

Talking about other teams,

Anjum, who is part of the *Star Sports* commentary team for this IPL, said the form of Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers will be crucial for Royal Challengers Bangalore's chances despite the team having the likes of T20 specialist Glenn Maxwell.

"Like every year, there are high expectations from RCB. Last time, they came close (finished third after losing Qualifier 2 against Delhi Capitals). But again the onus lies on two players — Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers. It's good to have Glenn Maxwell but Virat and AB's form will be decisive," she said.

After the final T20I against England on March 20, Virat announced that he will open the innings in IPL as well. Anjum believes that it is a well-planned move by the Indian skipper to get into the groove ahead of the T20 World Cup in India later this year. "It (Virat as opener) just broadens the options. If he wants to open, no one will stop him and, I think, before he decides to open, he definitely would have worked out the combination of the Indian line-up as well. The IPL matches are just going to give him that greater exposure to open and structure the innings because we (India) are leading into the World Cup."

"And if Virat and Rohit Sharma open in the World Cup and lay a strong foundation, it will be easy for players like Suryakumar and Hardik to follow," she added.

One thing that makes this edition different from yesteryears is that there are no home games for any team. It is going to play a key role in the tournament, according to the former Indian captain. "The neutral venue concept will affect a lot in this tournament because teams make strategies according to home conditions. When it was announced that the tournament would be held in India, it meant seven home games for every team. So everyone picked the players according to that but now when it is not there, it will have an impact," Anjum opined.

On the 'one player to watch out for' in the tournament, she put her weight behind Hardik Pandya. "He will have a fantastic tournament. He had one in Dubai too and, this time, he will do even better," she concluded.

Knew my role in Bangalore since I was traded: Harshal

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Harshal Patel was told well in advance that he will be death overers "pointsman" for Royal Challengers Bangalore, a role he played to perfection in the IPL opener against Mumbai Indians.

Harshal's career-best 5 for 27 was one of the two match-winning performances for RCB with the other coming from AB de Villiers.

"When I was traded from Delhi Capitals, I was told what role I will play for the franchise," the Haryana pacer said at the post-match press conference.

He was brilliant at the death and just like skipper Virat Kohli said, Harshal also knew that he is expected to perform the tough job for which he had planned meticulously.

"There were clear instructions that I will be bowling in the last two overs (he bowled 18th

and 20th). That gave me

a lot of clarity. It helped me prepare certain plans against batters and kept my preparations concise."

Harshal said that change of pace and the slow yorkers have been his biggest strength. "The ball started reversing at one stage. It was important to bowl the yorkers and slower balls," he said.

According to Harshal, he has been bowling those slower yorkers that got rid of Ishan Kishan and Marco Jansen, for almost two

seasons now.

"Just that when you don't get wickets of slow yorkers, people don't tend to see that. I always had the yorker but earlier couldn't take it into the game."

He did a lot of simulation of bowling yorkers during training session to get it right during the match.

"In the past 15-20 days, I was trying to put myself into situations."

"OUR DEATH BOWLER"

Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli was all praise for Harshal Patel's match-winning bowling performance, terming him their designated death bowler in this edition of the IPL. "We brought Harshal in a trade from Delhi. He is re-living the responsibility and is clear with his plans.

He was the difference today (Friday). He is going to be our death bowler. As a captain you want players with clarity, and he has that," Kohli said at the post-match press conference.

Kohli also applauded his other bowlers — Mohammed Siraj and New Zealander Kyle Jamieson. The two kept the economy rate very decent and didn't allow batsmen to go after the bowling. "Jamieson started off well. Yuzv was good, Siraj was good too."

The RCB skipper, who made 33 off 29 balls, said that facing MI in the tournament opener was important to test the side as it gave him an idea of the options they have. "It was important to play against the strongest side in the competition and test our side. Everyone was involved in this game, and when you win by two wickets, it means that everyone has gone in and played."

Consistent Sunrisers meet flashy KKR

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Former champions Kolkata Knight Riders will look to strike a perfect balance under the astute leadership of Eoin Morgan when they open their IPL campaign against a consistent Sunrisers Hyderabad at Chepauk on Sunday.

In his first stint as full time captain, all eyes would be on the ODI World Cup-winning English skipper who will look to transform the misfiring army of cricketers and bring back the glorious days of two-time IPL champions.

In Shubman Gill, they have a fantastic young top-order batsman who can easily shift gears, while the likes of Rahul Tripathi, Nitish Rana and veteran Karthik, who's free from the captaincy burden, can form the core of their Indian batting.

Then there is the skipper Morgan who will look to bat through the overs while hop-

ing that 2019 MVP Andre Russell gets back his explosive touch after a quiet season in 2020.

Russell had the worst season by his standards averaging 13 in nine innings without a single match-winning performance as the over-dependency on the Jamaican cock KKR dear last season.

One the other end, SRH will be bolstered by the return of Bhuvneshwar Kumar who played just four games in last year due to a hip injury.

Fresh from his fine form during the white-ball leg of the England series at home, Bhuvneshwar will spearhead their attack with yorker specialist T Natarajan by his side.

Add Afghan star spinner Rashid Khan to the bowling lineup and the *Orange Army* looks pretty balanced in their core of their Indian batting.

But the real strength of SRH will be their destructive top-order.

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the pioneer agenda



A rare Jugalbandi
A book that provides the political account of Vajpayee & Advani, and steers through the major events of right-wing politics

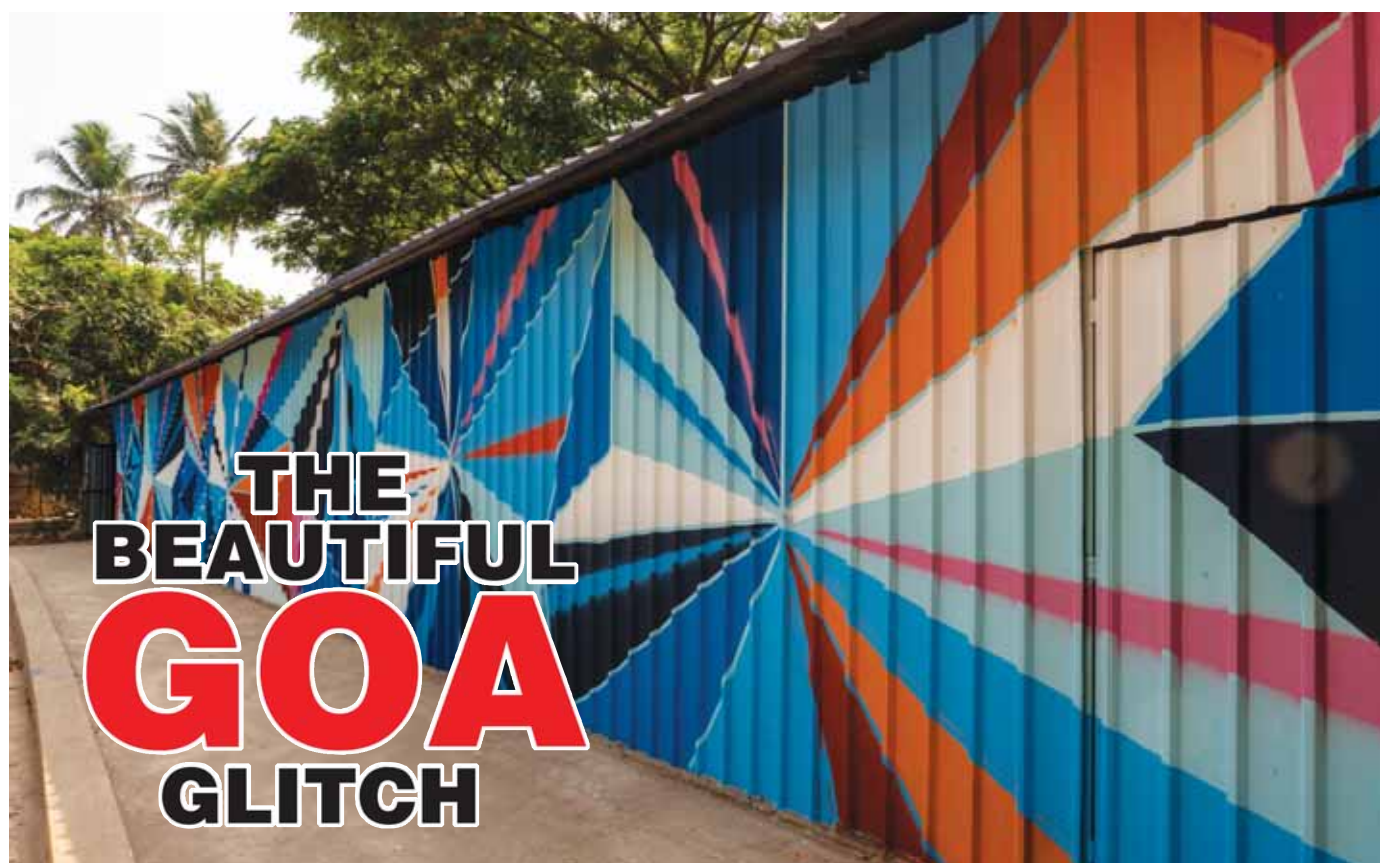
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4

Controlling monkey mind
Pursuing *Dhyana*, with focus on Lord Hanuman, would inspire the seeker to imbibe his spirit

I'm afraid of everything. But maybe when you're afraid of everything, it sort of seems like you're scared of nothing
— Natalie Portman



Street artist and co-founder St+art India, Hanif Kureshi, Bombay Sapphire's Stir Creativity, Serendipity Arts Foundation and the Corporation of the City of Panaji join hands to paint Goa's dry waste sorting stations and turn them into works of art. NAVNEET MENDIRATTA speaks to the artist

You just cannot miss the beautiful mural painted in colours of Goa as you drive past the busy road in Dona Paula, Panjim, Goa. It's an unusual canvas. Painted in bright hues, mostly blue, this work of public art is painted on Goa's dry waste sorting stations, making for an attractive selfie point.

Called Goa Glitch, this mural is a joint initiative of Bombay Sapphire's Stir Creativity, Serendipity Arts Foundation, the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) and St+art India co-founder Hanif Kureshi. The idea being to tap into the imaginative spirit of those passing by. The mural features geometric visuals in beautiful hues of the Bombay Sapphire blue, representing the spirit of adventure and the openness of Goa, and bringing to life the endless coastlines, and the expansive blue skies of the city.

"The mural is about exploiting the colours of Goa, like a glitch," says Kureshi in a candid conversation post the unveiling of the mural. "I visualised it as glitching of the colours of Goa's sky — in summer, monsoon, winter, morning, afternoon and noon..."

Different shades of blue that could also be interpreted as colours of water, more specifically the ocean. It's like the glitch of both skies and the ocean and that's why Goa Glitch," he says. Kureshi has been working with Serendipity Arts for the last four years or since it started. In the first edition, Kureshi participated as an artist and then from the next edition onwards he worked as a curator, where he brought in St+art India and put together street art editions in Panjim. Bombay Sapphire's Stir Creativity platform aims to revive and enable creative self-expression amongst the audience. For over three decades, the

brand has collaborated with designers, artists, architects, and individuals from outside the creative industry to create artworks that reawaken creative potential.

"Each mural has a story. It's interesting when you work on the street, you find that there are so many stories that are waiting to be told. As for this, I am kind of familiar with Panjim's landscape and whenever a new structure comes up, we look at it as a possible canvas," he shares. This, or shall we say, these canvases have been particularly interesting. "Not many are aware that these new structures are actually dry waste sorting stations. This is where CCP segregates the waste of dry kind such as paper, plastic, sharp objects, glass, steel and metal. These sheds play a very important role in the whole recycling scheme of things. Our idea was to bring attention to the process and promote recycling. We wanted to give it a new life and make it not look like a dustbin. And we thought what better than art to get the conversation started," he says, speaking of the collaboration.

Considering Dona Paula is one of the busiest public areas in Goa, the mural highlights the artist's message on the importance of sustainability and recycling very effectively. In India, Goa is one of the cities that recycles 80% of their waste with a strong model created for waste management and sustainability. In addition to stirring creativity among the community, the collaboration builds awareness for environmental sustainability and encourages people to be more conscious of their actions, he shares. Besides this shed, Kureshi is collaborating to paint at least three more in a year.

An alumni of Baroda School of Art, Kureshi started painting on streets in 2008. He began with Graffiti and gradually moved on to the world of street art which he says, he finds "more free". "The difference between Graffiti and Street Art, you could say, is the sense of style. While Graffiti can

be likened to vandalism, Street Art is more positively thought out and refined. So, yes, you could say that I sought an expression that is more positive and would provoke people to think," he shares.

From getting German street artist, Hendrick ECB to paint the 150 ft mural of Mahatma Gandhi at the Police Headquarters in New Delhi, as part of the St+art Delhi street art festival in January 2014 to commemorate the martyrdom of the Father of the Nation, to putting together Street Art festival in Shahpur Jat and Hauz Khas in Delhi, the entire process evoked the idea on gentrification in the city. "The awareness regarding the street art grew as we moved towards Lodhi Colony and worked with the government properties. However, working at a central location like Lodhi Colony, we realised that there is no room for gentrification there. We have been doing similar work in Chennai and Mumbai," he shares.

While Kureshi shares that the response and reception to street art has grown in the past decade, the element of planning in the urban landscape continues to elude in the country. "There's no urban planning element to street art as of now. And that's why, I feel, it becomes more important for art to cover up for all that is not planned," he avers. Delhi's Lodhi Colony perhaps is a case in point but then there is a catch. "Maybe at some point, Lodhi Colony will be demolished and there would be high rises instead. But I still feel the art that found place there would leave a lasting impact. I think about the children growing up in Lodhi Colony and their imagination and what they would like think about art and perhaps, choosing art as a career option," he says.

On the subject of Street Art versus vandalism, Kureshi has a take: "There is a thin line between vandalism and street art. Personally, when I set out to do graffiti, I could have gone on to become a rebel. More so in principle, as there is a school that produces rebels and is more of a breeding ground where you adopt a bottom down approach. Street art, on the other hand, takes a top down approach where you get on the ground with more voices on the street to inspire more people to express themselves. You can be vocal about issues with the same amount of rights which any other company has in terms of putting in money and making an ad and

putting on the face. If carried out properly, with requisite permissions, even the people start owning street art. That's when the real change takes place."

This is also not the first time that Kureshi has lent his creativity to a cause. Kureshi has recently partnered with Art For Change, a virtual art challenge and exhibition, as one of the jury members. The initiative aims to change the narrative by turning the focus away from the victim and putting the spotlight on the perpetrator. Organised by Gordon Thomas Honeywell-GA & Ogilvy India in partnership with UN Women India, Girl Up (UN Foundation), reputed academic institutions like National Institute of Fashion Technology, Delhi (NIFT) and Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Pune (SIMB), this initiative seeks to unleash the power of creativity to transform the way our society deals with survivors of rape & sexual violence, shifting the accountability from the survivor to the perpetrator.

"Art for Change is a project all about violence against women, which includes domestic abuse. It is about inviting ideas about how we can change the situation so the project moves people to act instead of being mute spectators," he says.

Besides Delhi, Kureshi has been working a lot in Chennai. "We did a district called Kannagi Art District. I find cities in south India to be much more welcoming than the cities in north India. The art culture is there and people understand and respect the art as well as the artist," he shares.

Similarly, Kureshi-led St+art has worked on creating Mahim Art district in Mumbai; Ukadad Art District in Coimbatore and Maqtha Art District in Hyderabad. "Different cities have different styles. So in Maqtha, which is predominantly a Muslim district, we try not to paint portraits. The focus is to be more abstract in that space, trying to be more sensitive to the surroundings. It is also about encouraging people to own the art and the space," he shares. Ask him about the dream city to paint. Kureshi says: "We are okay with the metros that we are painting. There really is no dream city as such in our mind. The idea, however, is to go to cities where people are excited and reach out to the grassroots of India. For that is where the real artist would love to leave their mark."

NOT MANY ARE AWARE THAT THESE NEW STRUCTURES ARE ACTUALLY DRY WASTE SORTING STATIONS. THIS IS WHERE CCP SEGREGATES THE WASTE OF DRY KIND SUCH AS PAPER, PLASTIC, SHARP OBJECTS, GLASS, STEEL AND METAL. THESE SHEDS PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE WHOLE RECYCLING SCHEME OF THINGS. OUR IDEA WAS TO BRING ATTENTION TO THE PROCESS AND PROMOTE RECYCLING



The book not only provides the political account of Vajpayee and Advani, it also delicately steers through all the major events of the Indian politics, mainly right-wing, writes MOHAMMAD IRSHAD

A rare Jugalbandi

The book, *Jugalbandi: The BJP before Modi* by Vinay Sitapati presents a fascinating account to trace the journey of the two tallest and major drivers of the 'India Right-wing' as they remained at the helm and navigated through the testing times beginning from Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to managing and executing the affairs of the Bhartiya Jan Sangh (1951) and Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP). Book offers a larger ambit to study the rise of 'L.K. Advani and AB Vajpayee' and analytical chronology of all the organisations cemented on the idea to unite Hindus that is Hindu Mahasabha, RSS (1925), Bhartiya Jan Sangh (1951), VHP (1964), BJP (1980) and Bajrang Dal (1984) and Sawdeshi Jagran Manch (1991).

Sitapati, an academic's shadow falls over the book. He is aptly thoughtful in metaphorically chosen title, *Jugalbandi* — demonstrates the relationship between Vajpayee and Advani — means the melody of the ragas in Indian classical music concerts by two musicians playing different instruments, however perfectly in tune with the other. Neither of the artists does survive under the shadow of the other, instead mutually complimentary to mesmerise through that music recall. Sitapati had pitifully utilised all the available resources, to tease out the argument to his book and left a mark of solid scholarship. It took him three straight years to complete book.

Book not only provides the political account of Vajpayee and Advani, it also delicately steers through all the major gleaming events of the India politics mainly right-wing, who have marked a substantial presence on the political map of this country. Markedly, ranging from their struggle — to register mass acceptability, electorally — prevailing in the early years of the post-independent India to the rise of *bahujan* politics, Khalistan movement in Punjab globalisation and Babri Masjid demolition movement. Conspicuous shift had taken place in 1980, the author says: 'After decades in which Advani was subordinate to Vajpayee, by 1980 their relationship had become more equal. While Advani had always needed Vajpayee, he was now needed. They were now a classical *jugalbandi*.' (p 108-109) Before 1980,

Vajpayee with support of Advani was busy crafting a space for himself by political burying leaders like Balraj Madhok — founded ABVP in 1948 — M.L. Sodhi, Nanaji Deshmukh, and others.

First chapter of the book puts light on events that caused the emergence of RSS (1925) and Hindu Mahasabha and prepares a background which helped Advani and Vajpayee joined politics with a resolve to unite the Hindus of all sects. Sitapati, theoretically spurns a widely believed argument followed after the murder of Mahatma Gandhi by Nathuram Godse, that Godse was a direct beneficiary/borrower of RSS' religious-political ideas — on the contrary, he argues far from supporting political violence, RSS had wanted nothing to do with politics during this period (p. 33). He maintained considering Godse's differences with RSS, Godse went on to repeatedly criticise him throughout the mid-1940s. Book detests the fact that RSS was remotely involved in the murder of the Mahatma Gandhi. This could be a matter of great further academic dispute.

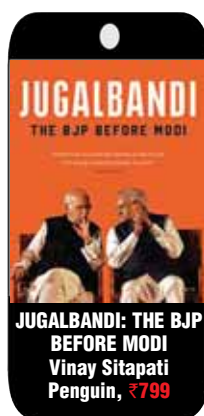
Through the journey of both the leaders — nurtured by the RSS — during the formative years of the modern Indian state, book exposes the hypocrisy and inconsistency in their ideology to accomplish political goals, whether it was their shift from adopting 'Gandhian Socialism' to drift towards capitalism as a core economic principle and approach towards the minorities especially Muslims and Christians. Jinnah grandson, Nusli Wadia, was the first one wealthiest business person to fund the party; Bhartiya Jan Sangh (BJS) and BJP find no hesitation in accepting the donation from him. Advani perhaps paved his debt back to Nusli's grandfather, Jinnah, — founder of Pakistan — during his visit to Pakistan and hailing him as 'secular', 'Great Man' and Apostle of 'Hindu-Muslim Unity'. In my reading, this 'political *jugalbandi*' was to deceptively trick non-Hindus to garner the political acceptability to further marginalise them masking their much admired fascist ambition under the garb of so called secularism followed by Vajpayee to spear the right-wing.

Jugalbandi of the Advani and Vajpayee took shape on the foundation of organisational Hindu unity and theocratic principles, meanwhile if we take to

first decade of post-independent India, *Jugalbandi* of Nehru and Patel build on democratic-secular values, which thrive on adequate scope to diverse viewpoints, still remains as a major glue to unite the country.

In Sitapati's argument there is a fundamental flaw, he only takes into account Vajpayee's verbal conflict with RSS on various subjects but it largely ignores his assessment on the basis of the power and positions including prime ministership, happily cherishing on the RSS' support in his political life, more than benefit taken by Advani, therefore Sitapati's argument fails on merit, as Vajpayee markedly compromised on his principles in public life to peddle the idea, Right wing fundamentally stands for.

Book suggests Vajpayee's politics was formulated during the P.T Jawaharal Nehru's golden era perhaps that amplified his never ending discontent with the RSS in contrast his public political actions largely contradict Nehruvian vision except on countable occasions. For instance, after the Babri Masjid demolition, Vajpayee is famously known to be quite disturbed; however, he followed the party route and surprisingly demonstrated himself as secular leader to later stage the power in Delhi. This morally does not carry any weight as Vajpayee never distanced himself officially to fight back the inbred, inhuman and degrading ideas. It, however, will remain a perennial irony that the person who drove the



When the right-wing could not obtain desired outcome, they tacitly decided to follow the essence of *Brahman* — described as absolute knowledge in *Advaita vedantic* philosophy — known to us as *neti neti* (not this, not that), similarly, without projecting a clear vision of its hierarchical and communal philosophy to gather support from all non-Hindus to establish and politically empower RSS and BJP. *Neti neti*, basically, here means it advocates nothing but accepts everything as long as it suits them to expand organisation, to secure the throne of Delhi, which Indian right-wing always imagined ever since its inception, to declare India as 'Hindu Rashtra'. Had Deendayal Upadhyay and Balraj Madhok survived strategies employed against them, we would have read their *Jugalbandi*.

Book seems lost in its argument as it attempts to strike a balance when two contentious historical subjects require the definite response of the author. It could be an intentional move, since the book is devoid of mere subjective convictions and prejudices as the author approaches them purely, while using considerable references.

Despite other things, it is the Hindu nationalism and call for the organisational unity that kept them together. They were devoted to their ideology. At the end book, attempts to see through the new developing *jugalbandi* between Modi-Shah.

Book points out their similarities and dissimilarities; as new on-going *jugalbandi* is more hostile towards the opposition though adhere to age old conviction of public display of internal unity (p 299). New *jugalbandi*'s expanded social base from upper castes, to tribals, middle castes and even dalits (p 300), mastered the strategy to hide their failures by directly channelising the Hindu anger towards the Muslims on all the matters, to conveniently safeguard the ideology and galvanising the support for the larger good of Hindutva. It aims at Hindutvisation of Dalits, Advaitas and OBC, this trait is a unique and distinct attribute of the Modi-Shah *jugalbandi*. It is authoritative, less democratic in its functioning as only the few are allowed to speak the truth to power. The Vajpayee-Advani relationship was more ideological than the Modi-Shah's relationship. But still to conclude their relationship, could be a little unfair as long as the artists of new *jugalbandi* (Modi-Shah) have not gone off stage after the delivering performance.

This book engages the reader and is written sedately. Sitapati has interwoven all the major events and figures essentially required to make it an intriguing read to students of right-wing politics and post-colonial Indian Politics in general.

The reviewer is Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Indraprastha College for Women, DU

NEW ARRIVALS



WRITTEN ON THE WIND
Anuradha Kumar-Jain
Rs. 295

Set in pre-Partition Lahore, from the turn of the century to the time of Independence, this is the story of two women, both strong and willing to challenge the limits of the acceptable, but in their own way and under very different circumstances. Harjeet, belonging to a landlord family of Punjab, is married to Gautam, from an equally prominent Khatri family of Lahore. Deeply dissatisfied with her life, Harjeet enters into a passionate affair with Haider, a Muslim. The book explores their relationship against the backdrop of the growing Hindu-Muslim divide, and the politically turbulent times they are living in. Author Anuradha Kumar Jain offers a powerful accounts of desire, love, society and politics, and takes a probing look at the struggles and aspiration of a nation and its people.



#ME TOO
Karan Puri
Invincible Publisher, ₹199

The book is a miniature of human life as it comprises real-life sentiments. Readers can feel this book close to their life as they continue flowing between emotions like dreams, passion, love, betrayal etc. Just like in real life. The book talks about speaking up for oneself irrespective of their age, gender, profession, and financial background, etc. *#MeToo* comes as an eye-opener for the people who think it is okay to be hurt when it is not. In India, where individuals and institutions give tremendous amounts of significance to respect and social image, living with hampered self-esteem is incorrect. The book highlights that every human is eligible for personal space. Anybody violating the pre-defined boundary is dis-respecting and harming that individual space of yours which is nothing but a serious crime.

Dear partner, this is for you. Menopause can be a big deal, and maybe your partner is having a hard-enough time to have given you this book. This is unlikely to be easy. Sorry. This is not a slight blip in the road; you are effectively on a journey together that will take some time to get to the end — estimates range from 4 to 14 years. There will be challenges and setbacks but, at the end of it, you and your partner have the potential to be astounding. But you will both need to work together and have a clear understanding of what you want from this second phase of your lives together.

The fact that she has given you this book is an indication that she loves you and wants your support. She is also saying that she is in need of some words to successfully communicate with you what this is like.

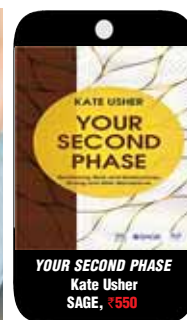
THE ICEBERG EFFECT

Menopause is like an iceberg, in that the majority of what is going on is beneath the surface. You might think you are getting the rough end of the deal. While I sympathize with you, I can assure you, you are not.

Your partner's hormones are slowly but surely receding to their steady post-Menopausal state. They play such a pivotal role in her sense of self, and how she is in the world that as they diminish, they cause havoc with her sense of self and her day-to-day behaviour. Their increasing absence delivers a whole host of symptoms as well. You are likely at the sharp end of her symptoms, vicariously experiencing them with her. Most women require reassurance that their partners are still committed to them and the relationship. It's easy to believe that you're all right and that this is her problem. To some degree it is, but it would be unfair of you to believe that this was com-

FOR YOUR PARTNER

Your Second Phase: Reclaiming Work & Relationships During & After Menopause by Kate Usher is a survival guide for women to cope with menopause at work, home and play. An edited excerpt:



what the other person is saying whilst giving them your full attention.

Once you have actively listened, ask questions and share how you feel about it. Please note, this about listening, sharing and reconnecting, not about point scoring or arguing. If you find that you are descending into this, you may need to walk away and come back later. You are both adults and equal partners — you are not a winner or a loser, a leader or a follower, in charge or subservient. You are a team of two equal parts.

Excerpted with permission from Your Second Phase: Reclaiming Work and Relationships During and After Menopause by Kate Usher, published by SAGE Publications India.

pletely the case.

You are a team of two that no doubt has had to face adversity before. How did you manage it? What was the dynamic between you? Is this the same or different? If it's the same, due to its unpredictability or that one of you needs additional consideration and support, you already have a model of how to work together. If it's different, what kind of different is it? If it's different because it was you who needed support and now it's her, then there is an element of quid pro quo. How did she manage it, what did she do that was so effective and also, what was ineffective and why? These are all

things you both can learn from. Discuss between you what worked and what didn't and identify what you can use here.

WHAT IS THIS THING THAT'S HAPPENING TO HER ... AND ME?

Earlier in this book, you will find a section on symptoms where we discuss the variability in women's experience of Menopause by duration, type and their severity. Please read through it, as awareness is a considerable part of successfully supporting your partner.

First, Menopause is not a sprint, which is essentially what the monthly period experience was, or even an 800m run,

which was pregnancy. No, Menopause is an endurance race, and it goes on for years. With this in mind, it's important to make yourself aware of what your partner might be experiencing and think about what support she might need.

Please note, this does not give her a licence to be revolting to you without any form of comeback. If her behaviour makes her more difficult to handle than a bag of poisonous snakes, you have a right to say so. This is about creating a psychologically safe place for both of you to air your grievances without a shouting match or sulky silences. This space should

be non-judgmental, with no fear of consequences. You are adults and now is the time to behave like it.

FIRESIDE CHAT

Where do the two of you get uninterrupted time to chat face-to-face? Whether over breakfast, dinner or some other time, whenever it is, choose a day when you know neither of you will be preoccupied or focused on something else. Be clear that this is a conversation about understanding what is happening and what it feels like for her. Make sure you are actively listening — a method of intently listening to

CHINA'S GAME ON NORTH KOREA

China has spread its tentacles across almost all corners of the world. With North Korea, China has employed a unique strategy both to support stability and to have a grip over the nuclear gear of this mysterious land.

Successive Chinese leaders have maintained three distinct strategies towards North Korea: first, not to provoke a war; second, to maintain the status quo; and finally, no to nuclear arsenal.

Succinctly, China is North Korea's all-weather friend. Thus, though Beijing ostensibly condemns North Korea's nuclear developments, it avowedly opposes harsh global sanctions on that mysterious nation. And China's strategy is aimed at addressing two major critical concerns: to obviate massive refugee influx across 870-mile border area that it shares with North Korea and prevent an immediate collapse of the Kim rule.

The relationship between China and North Korea can aptly be described through this Chinese proverb: "Chun wang chi han" (If the lips are gone, teeth will be cold). It rightly indicates that both the countries are intimately interdependent. Beijing's support for Pyongyang dates back to the historic 1950-53 Korean War. Those were the days, China under Chairman Mao, was more than eager to aid its northern Communist ally North Korea, against the capitalist South Korea. Its support to North Korea continues irrespective of whoever comes to power in Pyongyang.

Kim Il-sung from 1948-94, Kim Jong-il (1994-2011) and now Kim Jong-un since 2011 till date, China has been offering both political and economic support to various regimes of Kims.

On record, China is North Korea's biggest trade partner till date. In fact, from 2000-2020, the bilateral trade between both the nations have increased almost ten-fold. Even amid tougher international trade

sanctions against North Korea, the long China-North Korea border is still open for established trade routes in commodities such as mobile phones, silk worms, fuel, seafood, etc.

Much beyond these regular economic activities, China has established a high-speed railway link between its border cities like Dandong and Shenyang so as to boost trade with North Korea. Both the nations have also opened a cargo and container shipping route to enhance the supply of coal from North Korea to China. China also offers aid to North Korea primarily in food and energy sectors.

Besides China, the US, Japan and South Korea provided more than 75 per cent of the food aid to North Korea since 1995. The country's severe famine was caused by heavy floods and droughts that took lives of more than million people in the 1990s. Unfortunately, the country has not been able to come out of this prolonged food crisis till date. Thus, Pyongyang is fully dependent on China and its goodwill.

As per the estimates revealed by the UN agencies, more than 43 per cent of the country's population is malnourished. Though Kim Jong-un is focusing on rapid economic development, the country has not been able to attract any foreign investment because of severe international sanctions. Its only hope is China and the country is looking for robust economic ties with the former.

However, China's continued support to Pyongyang came under severe strain when the latter tested a nuclear weapon in October 2006. Subsequently, Beijing had to back a UN Security Council Resolution No. 1718 that led to the imposition of severe sanctions against North Korea.

And for the first time, the international community witnessed transition of China's tactics from sustained diplomatic support to outright punishment towards its Northern



Communist neighbour.

When in November 2017, Kim again tested a missile, Beijing called on Pyongyang to restrict all actions that create tensions in the Korean Peninsula. These all clearly

demonstrate that China is wary of North Korea's belligerent moves that may militate against the mutual interests of both the countries.

Beijing has played the role of a powerbroker during all

high-profile global negotiations on North Korea. After two crucial summits between then US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, international policy makers have so far

focused mainly on denuclearisation steps, immediate measures towards peace in the Korean peninsula and finally, corresponding sanctions relief. However, Pyongyang has been becoming an Asian tinder box. Kim's madness and clandestine nuclear programme could turn the entire Korean peninsula into a serious war zone of the continent.

Probably, China knows best how to tackle Kim dynasty. But then at times some foundational questions arise as to whether North Korea is a strategic liability or an opportunity for China. The Communist leaders in Beijing must have realised the fact that its northern neighbour is to be tamed and to be used for all possible gains both domestically and internationally.

The world brands North Korea as a pariah state, but Beijing takes the Kim regime otherwise. Though apparently China has backed the UN sanctions against North Korea over its incessant efforts to become a formidable nuclear state, its financial and trade support directly and effectively facilitated Kim's nuclear machine for long. This has also helped North Korea economically survive so far. Further, these Chinese efforts are indirectly dashed the hopes of the reunification of both the Koreas.

The US is literally pressuring North Korea to abandon its nuclear programme. Washington says once it is done, there could be a guarantee of trade, diplomatic relations, aid and normalisation of ties with the rogue state. Though the US and China both are interested in denuclearising North Korea, their approaches to the same goal are completely different. America wants China to use its economic leverage to pressure or convince Kim to abandon its nuclear ambition. Thus Washington officials look at China as a part of the solution but unfortunately Beijing is fast becoming part of the Korean conundrum only. For Xi, the

Chinese President, who is now a life-time leader, wants to use North Korea to win brownie points at the domestic front. US President Joe Biden is fully aware that only China can maintain stability in the region if not solve the Korean puzzle for now. Certainly, Beijing will use this opportunity to turn in its favour other vital issues that are constantly pestering Xi, like Hong Kong, Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang and South China Sea.

What is the problem with Kim? Kim wants to sustain his family rule. And for him, the nuclear button is the only guarantee for him to maintain both his hereditary regime and to threaten the neighbours and the world. Despite the leverage over North Korea, China and South Korea have failed to bring Kim to a negotiating table. Kim is totally against bringing reforms in his country. As such reform measures might bring down the curtain on his rule. The elites in North Korea know very well that its central problems lie within, not outside. Thus, they, along with Kim, ensure no reform takes place, in order to solidify their control over its impoverished populace.

Clearly, hollow summitry will not work with Kim. He demands serious negotiations on the nuclear front. It is better for Biden to extend grand gestures the way Trump did. At times, Beijing's bosses have displayed stern attitudes towards Kim Jong-un. But Western nations, particularly, America will never ever believe the intentions of China. Because nowhere Chinese leadership has indicated its commitment towards implementing even the limited trade restrictions over this reclusive nation. And the whole world knows that only China keeps North Korea going and precisely surviving against all odds. Many in the West have accused China of circumventing global sanctions against North Korea.

(The writer an expert on international affairs)

Though the US and China both have voiced concern over North Korea's nuclear ambition, their approaches to the same goal are distinctly different. America wants China to use its economic leverage to pressure Kim to abandon nuclear ambitions. However, China under Xi, is willing to do only what suits its interests



MAHAN SAKIA

PERSPECTIVE

No Olympic participation: Kim's message for Biden

North Korea has become the world's first country to drop out of the Tokyo Olympics, ostensibly because coronavirus has spread its deadly tentacles. It is true that the rogue nation is extremely sensitive about Covid-19, knowing that a widespread outbreak in a country with an already battered health system could be disaster.

However, North Korea also has previously used big sporting events to set up diplomacy with the United States meant to win it much-needed sanctions relief in return for nuclear disarmament pledges. Some see pulling out of the Olympics as the North sending Washington a message.

Purportedly, there is legitimate coronavirus fears. A state-run website has claimed that North Korea's Olympic Committee has decided not to take part in the Tokyo Games slated to begin in July "to protect players from the world public health crisis caused by Covid-19".

North Korea has previously boycotted Olympics and other international sports events for political reasons or failed to appear when none of its athletes or teams qualified. But this is the first time North Korea has pulled out of a major international sports event citing an infectious disease, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry.

Pyongyang has developed a reputation for withdrawing from talks with Seoul and Washington before returning at the last minute to boost its bargaining power. But given that the country has been on high alert over Covid-19, experts say there is little chance that it will



In this Feb. 15, 2019, file photo, North Korea's Olympic Committee President and Sports Minister Kim Il Guk, left, and South Korean Sports Minister Do Jong-hwan attend a meeting with the IOC for their bid to co-host the 2032 Summer Olympics, at the IOC Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

reverse its Olympics decision.

North Korea has shown "a coronavirus-related neurosis since it declared an emergency anti-virus system in January last year," said Park Won Gon, a professor of North Korea studies at Seoul's Ewha

Womans University.

Park said it is highly unlikely that North Korea will secure enough vaccines for its 26 million people or report major progress in its anti-virus fight by July.

North Korean officials

know how disastrous a major virus outbreak would be in a nation with public healthcare infrastructure that has been in a shambles for decades. North Korea has so far taken some of the world's most draconian anti-virus steps, including a 15-



month-long closure of its international borders and the departure of foreign nationals.

North Korea still officially claims to be coronavirus free, an assertion many foreign experts dispute.

North Korea's decision to skip the Olympics shows that it "thinks contact with foreigners is the most dangerous thing now," said Seo Yu-Seok at the Seoul-based Institute of North Korean Studies.

However, there is certainly a message for US President Joe Biden. The North Korean announcement, three months before the Games begin, could signal that Pyongyang is rejecting a repeated push by Seoul to use the Olympics to create a mood for dialogue. It could also show a determination to boost pressure on the new US administration of President Biden.

North Korea is sending the message that it wants to deal directly with the US now rather than using the Olympics as a venue to reach out to Washington for talks, said Kwak Gil Sup, head of One

Korea Center, a website specialising in North Korea affairs.

Now-deadlocked nuclear talks between Pyongyang and Washington began in 2018 after an assertion on the Korean Peninsula following North Korea's participation in the Pyeongchang Winter Games in the South earlier that year.

During those Olympics, athletes from the Koreas marched together under a single unification flag during the opening ceremony and formed the Korea's first-ever joint team in women's ice hockey. Kim Yo Jong, the influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, became the first member of the North's ruling family to visit South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

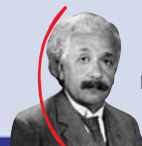
There's been little progress in nuclear talks the past two years. North Korea recently fired two ballistic missiles into the sea in the first such weapons tests in a year. Kim Yo Jong has warned Washington not to "cause a stink" and called South Korea's president "a parrot raised by America."

Experts say North Korea eventually wants talks with the Biden Administration to win sanctions relief and achieve better ties because its economy has been devastated by the pandemic, US-led sanctions and natural disasters last year.

Analyst Seo said North Korea likely wasn't sure about the benefits of attending the Tokyo Games because Biden has made it clear that he won't engage in made-for-TV summits with Kim Jong Un like his predecessor Donald Trump did.

"They knew that they would return home empty-handed from Tokyo," Seo said. But North Korea's domestic difficulties may push it to pursue talks with the United States soon. Seo said North Korea could perform big weapons tests, such as an intercontinental ballistic missile launch, in coming months if it's not satisfied with the Biden Government's North Korea policy review expected to be completed soon.

(With inputs from AP)



NO PROBLEM CAN BE
SOLVED FROM THE SAME
LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS
THAT CREATED IT
—ALBERT EINSTEIN



**YOUR
WEEK
AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA

**ARIES** March 21-April 19

Those seeking fitness must follow a proper workout regimen. Negativity around and within is disappearing. Your presence of mind and wisdom is unmatched. You feel strong both physically and mentally. Professionally, you will be working hard but results are awaited. You find it difficult to earn accolades for a job well done. Be careful on the financial front. Reschedule your investments. Restrict your expenditure as this will help you to maintain balance. On the relationship front, a fresh start is indicated. You are not ready for a commitment yet, even though others might be pressing you for one. Now is the time to make it. This is a positive period for your love life.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Monday

**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week you need to be strict and draw a line in certain matters. No compromise should be made on the health front. Direct or indirect spiritual influence is needed to bring balance in life. Your casual attitude in health may result in seasonal ailments. Be cautious of cold, cough, constipation, bowel syndrome and weight related problems. On the professional front, the situation is getting better and stronger for you. You are ready to take any type of challenge. You are creative and very enterprising. If you have applied for a job, you may get an interview call this week. Shifting or change of office or home is likely. In love relations, a better understanding between you and your partner is indicated. Allow your partner to have his/her space.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Wednesday

**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

In terms of health, you need to be practical. Listen to the body, and not the heart. You have to change your food habits or craving for sweet food. You will have to make some efforts to improve your health situation. You need more exercise, nutritional education to improve your health. At work, something planned meticulously is likely to take off smoothly if you go with the flow. Be cautious in your verbal communication. Face the challenges with a cool mind. Your ability to logic and reasoning are giving you full benefits in this week. On the personal front, feel free to express your feelings. If you have some loving words to say, say them now before it is too late. Attending a family function is likely.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Friday

**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

You need to think about improving your health. Your health and feelings of well-being should be a priority. This is a great time to take some time off and just go for an improved lifestyle, nutrition and balancing your work. A need for balance in body, mind and soul is required. You need to have patience at the workplace. Make strategies to get more outputs and productive results but try to keep it to yourself. You may need some assistance to find a better approach to work and don't hesitate to ask. If you're looking for work, you may need to look in a different way or a different field than the one you've been pursuing. On the relationship front, warmth, care and concern for each other at home and in a loving relationship is indicated.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Saturday

**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

Value your health and make it a priority. Count your blessings. Your health may not be all that good as you would like it to be, but it is better than that of many other people. Be grateful for what you have. Career-wise, you must not impose restrictions on yourself. Be careful in your communication. If you are bent upon trusting your suggestions down somebody's throat, don't get surprised if she/he rebels. Arguments and conflicts are on the cards which will go against you. On the personal front, make peace with someone, who seems to be against you. There is a need for liberating the mind and reconnecting with the heart. You need to reintroduce trust and find a way of freeing yourself from suspicion, mistrust and jealousy.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday

**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

A good message in terms of your health is on the cards. Those who are waiting for test results need to know that nothing so serious is indicated. You need a small course of medication to free yourself from the health problem you are suffering from. Increase intake of liquids, juices and fibrous food in your diet. On the work front, new opportunities will be on the horizons making you hopeful about the future. Money inflow looks good this week. A prestigious assignment is yours if you play your cards right. On the relationship front, something may be troubling. Serious differences with spouse may take place. You can be stubborn when the circumstances demand but make an exception when your near and dear ones are involved. Don't be in too much of a hurry.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday

**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week you will manage balancing challenges and blessings with ease. This will improve your health and bring great hope. You will be full of life this week. The negativity in the past is dissolved. You are hopeful and playful now. Spending money on medical tests, for better living is on the cards. On the career front, you have some plans in your mind. It could be a change of job, or starting a new venture or any other thing that enhances your liability. Even if things have been lousy at work for the last few months, there is cause for hope and positive anticipation. In terms of love, you are ready to start something new. If you are in a committed relationship, there's something positive on the cards.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Sunday

**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you need a break. Take time out of your monotonous schedule. Those waiting for test results are likely to get favourable news. You may take spirituality as a stress buster and lead a healthy life. This is the right time to get involved in Yoga, Pranayam and meditation. Good news awaits this week on the career front. At work, someone's advice will come in handy in tackling a complicated issue. You may be tempted to take on more duties and responsibilities. Regularise your work. On the personal front, you might be having some doubts about the issues regarding the ancestral property. Discuss them with someone you trust in the family. Worry on accord of children's future, their study, marriage and expenses is indicated.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday

**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will feel enthusiastic and adventurous enough to take on challenges life throws at you with full spirit. You are on the right path on the health front. Your health concern is paying you rich dividends now. You feel very chirpy, vibrant, energetic and full of life. Your positive mindset and cheerfulness will add charm to your personality. Work-wise, you take life easy with a positive mindset and stay focused on your work. Your mind and thoughts are in harmony. There are chances that others might take advantage of your efforts. Use your judgment, instead of blindly following orders to remain on the right track. On the personal front, great fun is in store. Your goodwill and reputation will pay you rich dividends.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday

**CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week you will feel lost due to work overload. Neglecting your health at this point is not advisable. Be alert physically and mentally. Listen to your body. Nurture it, care for it and feed it with natural food. Avoid junk and oily food. You have to give up all the bad habits. Prevention is better than cure. On the career front, you may be moving to a new position or a new set of responsibilities. Promotion, hike in salary or business profit is on the cards. You feel at ease on the financial level. Business expansion plans could materialise this week. This is a good week for students. On the personal front, something undesirable may occur on an emotional level. You may lose your cool in a strenuous relationship.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday

**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

This week you will be filled with energy and vitality. Your body, mind and soul are in perfect harmony. You are focused and know what you want from life. You are smart enough to bring balance between professional and personal commitments. On the work front, leaving nothing pending at work will work in your favour. If you have started a new business or job recently, this may cause some worry. Things may not seem clear. Ask questions and practice active listening to make sure that you and your co-workers understand each other perfectly. Relationship-wise, expect to harmonise your bonding with someone who had offended you in the past. Love blooms and so will you. Happiness, contentment in all relations is on the cards.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday

**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

This week balance is needed in all areas of life. You should know how to handle your professional and health commitments. Take care of your diet, exercise, and relaxation time. A nap between the busy hours would help you relax and refresh you to take on the challenges. On the career front, the financial part is looked after well this week. Those in media, finance, and artwork are likely to do better. Use your inner power, communication skills and wisdom. Time is favourable, crack your full potentials. New contacts in this period will prove fruitful for you. On the relationship front, stop being too formal with your partner, it may keep you away from expressing your true feelings. Your loved ones need your attention too.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Sunday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M. 9873283331

**ASTROTURF**

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Controlling the monkey mind

Lord Hanuman is believed to have surrendered himself in service of his ideal, Lord Rama. Driven by his intense sense of love, he put in his heart and literally merged his identity with his ideal's consciousness. Having thus, being fully in tune with his ideal, he could avail of the wholesome powers intrinsic to the consciousness element. No wonder he could perform such extraordinary feats as would find no parallel.

In prayer mode, when you put in your whole, you acquire the virtues of what you remain focused to. So says The Bible: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all his goodness, and all that get added on to you."

The paradox, however, is that Lord Hanuman ordinarily remained ignorant about immense power, he was endowed with. Evidently, under usual circumstances, he would be driven by his animalistic instincts. But when reminded, Lord Hanuman could invoke his indwelling powers if ever needed.

As the Ramayana story line runs, Lord Hanuman was entrusted with the task to locate Sita, who had been kid-

napped and was in Ravana's captivity. As per available indications Sita was somewhere in Sri Lanka. To make it to his desired destination, Hanuman had to cross over the ocean, which appeared impossible. But when reminded by Janvanti, the bear chief-tan, about the powers latent in him, he realised that he could fly across ocean. So, he invoked his untapped power base and then made it to Sri Lanka.

Hanuman story is similar to human dilemma. Human beings are armed with immense power. If full human potential gets unfolded, one would know no limits. The irony, however, is that invariably human beings are not aware of their own true self. Fact remains that human beings are born with a clouded and preconditioned mind. Stuck to the limits circumscribed, human beings fail to have access to full land space of mind. One's mind power, thus, remains limited. It is said that human beings have access to just 5 to 7 percent of their mind-power by default.

More than that is subject to our conscious efforts. If, however, even if they are able to make optimum use of



whatever they have in hand, they could successfully negotiate the usual callings of life with ease and comfort.

The irony, however, is that an ordinary mortal, caught up in the thought web of their own making, dissipate a considerable sum of their mind power over inconsequential acts — dealing with carryover effect of negative imprints picked up in the past, which in turn induces a sense of insecurity over assumed thoughts and thereby stress; over assumed dream perceptions. Consequently, they are hardly left with enough to do justice to their priority preferences, and with obvious consequences.

Human beings too carry both animalistic instincts as well as humanistic virtues. Which of the two drives a being would depend on how one's mind is oriented. The irony of the whole situation is that one's animalistic instincts keep playing their part involuntarily from the front. But one's virtues need to be identified, acknowledged, honed, and then consciously invoked to be put to use.

What stands in the way is the fact that human mind is fragile. It keeps

randomly flirting around with varied thoughts, something like a monkey randomly and unthinkingly jumping from one branch of a tree to the other. It, thus, becomes incumbent upon a being to first control one's monkey-mind before the indwelling virtues to play out unhindered. And that can be achieved following the two-stage meditation process as discussed in the previous chapter.

Pursuing *Dhyana*, with focus on Lord Hanuman, would inspire the seeker to imbibe his spirit. Accordingly, one would be tempted to explore, identify, and acknowledge, inlaid virtues, and then hone them, so that they become worth use in contemporary terms.

And because Lord Hanuman is identified with valour, reflecting on his imagery may also help to get over the sense of fear and insecurity if any. Also, it may grant the will and resolve needed to take on the challenges ahead in life in all strength.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at: Tel: 91-11-981803723/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com