MYANMAR PARDONS

PRISONERS

MONEY 7

FISCAL PACKAGE MAY BE ON CARDS TO

MAINTAIN ECONOMIC RECOVERY

VIJAYWADA



sunday pioneer



Kumbh ends after Modi's appeal

After PM's urge, opinion grows in favour of holding rest of Shahi Snans symbolically

PNS HARIDWAR/NEW DELH

fter Prime Minister ANarendra Modi's appeal to keep the remaining part of Kumbh Mela symbolic considering the surging Covid-19 cases, the Juna Akhada Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giri on Saturday announced the formal conclusion of the Maha Kumbh for the Akhada

Panch Dash Nam Juna Akhada is the largest of the 13 Akhadas

Swami Avdheshanand Giri said the remaining Shahi Snan of the Kumbh should be observed symbolically on April 27 and later tweeted that protecting the lives of Indians is "our first priority".

"Considering the rising

threat of Covid-19, we have formally immersed the various deities invoked for the Kumbh Mela," he said.

Earlier in a tweet in Hindi, the PM said, "I prayed that two 'Shahi Snan' have taken place and Kumbh (participation) should now be kept symbolic. This will boost the fight against this crisis.

Later, Modi thanks all the sants for cooperation with the administration and expressed

his gratitude for their gesture. Thousands of Kumbh visitors have tasted Covid-19 positives and dozens of seers have



Har Ki Pauri Ghat wears a deserted look during Kumbh Mela 2021 following a surge in Covid-19 cases in Haridwar on Saturday

succumbed to the virus during the last two weeks inviting both domestic and international outrage for allowing such massive gathering at the time when the second wave of Covid-19 was spreading like wildfire across the country.

Earlier, addressing the media here, Giri said the PM had telephoned him to enquire about the Kumbh Mela and the health of the seers. The PM had also requested that since the main Shahi Snans have concluded, the remaining Kumbh should be observed symbolically. The Juna Akhada head said he would request devotees from across the nation to visit Haridwar only in small numbers, adding that the remaining

Shahi Snan will be observed

only symbolically.

The remaining Snans are to be observed mainly by the Bairagi Akhadas. Earlier, the Niranjani Akhada had asked its Sadhus to leave for their respective destinations on April 17 considering the Covid surge. The Anand Akhada had also supported this view.

A majority of the 48.51 lakh people who took part in the last two royal baths (Shahi Snan) held on the occasion of Somwati Amavasya on April 12 and Mesh Sankranti on April 14 were seen openly violating Covid norms like face masks and social distancing.

The Kumbh has already been shortened this year to just one month from April 1 to 30 due to the pandemic.

Covid test, quarantine to welcome returning devotees back home

The ordeal of Covid-19 test quarantine awaits thousands of devotees who are returning home after attending the Maha Kumbh at Haridwar. As India grapples with a devastating second wave of the coronavirus and States imposing lockdown, several States and UTs, including Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Delhi and Gujarat, have made Covid-19 test mandatory for Kumbh returnees. Some States are also keeping the returnees in mandatory quarantine.

Thousands of Kumbh visitors and hundreds of "sadhus" who attended Kumbh Mela in Haridwar have tested positive for the coronavirus disease. On Saturday alone, 175 "sadhus" who attended Kumbh Mela have been found infected from coronavirus.

Gujarat on Saturday declared that all devotees returning to the State from Kumbh Mela will have to undergo a mandatory RT-PCR test before they are allowed to enter their respective cities and villages.

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said those found



infected will be isolated for 14 days

Maharashtra Minister Anil Parab has announced those coming into the State from Kumbh Mela will be quarantined.

Nasik district administration is also taking necessary steps for quarantining those coming from Kumbh.

Earlier, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) mayor Kishori Pednekar claimed on Saturday that the devotees returning from the Kumbh Mela will distribute coronavirus like "Prasad" and said they should be quarantined "at their own cost" on their arrival.

The Madhya Pradesh Government has issued order to put those returning from Kumbh in quarantine

10 lakh new cases in just 7 days in India

Record over 2.6L cases in a day; Delhi, Maha too

see highest rise

PNS NEW DELHI

▼ndia added nearly 10 lakh Lacases in just seven days ending April 17 as the country recorded over 2.6 lakh new Covid-19 infections and a record 1,493 deaths during the last 24 hours on Saturday. The addition of nearly

25,000 new cases over the previous day count amounts to a rise of nearly 10 per cent, which shows that the growth of Covid-19 has more than doubled during the last two weeks. Maharashtra, Delhi,

Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh are registering newer peaks and the situation remaining equally grim in the rest of the country. The country had 1.52 lakh daily cases on April 10 when

the death count stood at 838. A relative comparison shows that the death rate is steadily climbing up vis-a-vis new infec-Amid the alarming rise in

new infections and deaths, the country is battling a paucity of hospital beds, oxygen supply, ventilators, and life-safe antiviral drug Remdesivir. A major-



19 for cremation amid surge in coronavirus cases in Jammu on Saturday

ity of the State have also complained of a shortage of vaccines and shut down several vaccination centres.

Several States have belatedly imposed lockdown restriction to tackle the surge, but it is too early to see if these are going to work effectively at this stage on the ground. Delhi and Maharashtra

recorded their biggest singleday rise in coronavirus cases since the beginning of the pandemic in January 2020. The national Capital registered over 24,375 new cases, taking its tally to 8,27,998, while Maharashtra's count rose to 3,7,70,707 with 67,123 new infections.

The death count in Delhi rose to 11,960 with 167 new fatalities on Saturday

Covid-19

IN INDIA **TOTAL CASES: 1,47,82,461** (+2,60,533) **DEATHS: 1,77,168** (+1,493)

RECOVERED: 1,28,03,791 (+1,36,853) **ACTIVE: 17,95,278**

MAHARASHTRA: 37,70,707 **KERALA: 12,21,168**

KARNATAKA: 11,41,998

TAMIL NADU: 9,80,728

DELHI: 8,27,998 (+24,375)

Remdesivir price drastically cut on **Govt intervention**

Idemand for anti-viral drug Remdesivir from across the States, the Centre on Saturday urged the injection makers to slash its price considerably. The Union Health Ministry in its "Clinical Management Protocols for Covid-19" has recommended the use of Remdesivir in patients in the moderate stages of the illness.

According to a statement from the Government, the Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers, Department of Pharmaceuticals, NPPA -Advisor (Costs) NI Chowdhury on Saturday ordered all pharma companies to comply with the revised norms with immediate and retrospective effect.

Pharmaceutical companies have reduced the price from 25 per cent to up to 68 per cent.

According to the details shared by the NPPA, Cadila Healthcare has reduced the price of its REMDAC injection to ₹899 from ₹2,800 earlier. Similarly, Syngene International has cut the price of its brand RemWin to ₹2,450 from ₹3,950 earlier. Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories has cut the



price of REDYX, which used to cost ₹5,400 earlier to ₹2,700 now. Similarly, Cipla has reduced price of its CIPREMI brand to ₹3,000 from ₹4,000 earlier. Jubilant Generics has cut the price of its remdesivir brand to ₹3,400 from ₹4,700 earlier.

Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya said the Government plans to double the production in the country and has given permission to 20 more plants recently to increase capacity to manufacture. Ensuring adequate supply of Remdesivir to the people of Maharashtra remains the pri-

ority of the Centre, he said. As per the Government's record, there is only one unit of EoU and one in SEZ. Government has reached out to all the Manufacturers of Remdesivir. No consignment is stuck, the Minister said as he asked concerned people to share the list of 16 companies, availability of stock and WHO-GMP with them.

Guv Droupadi Murmu tests Covid positive

Governor Droupadi Murmu Was among the nearly 4,000 people who tested positive for Covid-19 in the state on Saturday. The sexagenarian was admitted to Bagwan Mahavir Medica Superspecialty Hospital in Ranchi and is undergoing Mishra, who also treated Education Minister Jagarnath Mahto in Ranchi before he was shifted to Chennai

Doctors from the hospital said Murmu was stable. However, she was kept under observation and administered the antibiotics and multivitamins prescribed to Covid patients.

Meanwhile, as many as 30 Covid patients died during treatment on Saturday, taking



Governor Droupadi Murmu arrives at MEDICA hospital for better treatment after her Covid-19 report found positive, in Ranchi on Saturday

the Covid toll in the State up at 1,406, a bulletin released by the National Health Mission (NHM) stated. At least 3,838 cases against 1,234 recoveries

took the active caseload to 25,619 on the day, the NHM

bulletin highlighted. Ranchi alone reported as many as 1,410 fresh cases of However, the council did not

infection on the day — the highest among the 24 districts in Jharkhand. The district also reported five Covid casualties in 24 hours. On the other hand, East Singhbhum reported 521 cases and six casualties on the day, the NHM stated in

While at least four Covid Sahebganj, Ramgarh and West Singhbhum reported two deaths each on Saturday. Dhanbad, Godda, Dumka, Khunti, Koderma and Pakur reported one Covid casualty each on the day.

In the wake of the spike in Covid cases, the Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC) decided to postpone the board exams for class 10 and 12 students.

specify any date for the exams. The active caseload on Saturday crossed the 10,000 mark in Ranchi, which is at least 7.000 more than East Singhbhum, the second worstaffected district in terms of caseload. As many as 10,510 Ranchi residents were battling the viral infection by the end of Saturday, East Singhbhum was 3,373.

As per Government data, the State on Saturday tested swab samples of at least 37,152 people and more than 10 per cent of them were found infected by the Covid-19 virus. So far, more than 1.58 lakh Iharkhand residents have been infected by Covid-19 and around 82.99 per cent of them have recovered.

The second wave of Covid-

3,838 found infected, 30 die in 24 hrs

19 has also triggered an unprecedented rise in the growth rate of infection in Jharkhand, reveals government data. On Saturday, the growth rate of cases in Jharkhand was 1.89 per cent against the cent. The doubling rate of cases in the state was down to

36.93 days against the national average of 67.94 days.

On Saturday, the state administered the first dose of vaccine against Covid-19 to 37,243 people, hardly 37 per cent of those registered for the jab. The second jab was administered to 8819 beneficiaries, only 3 per cent of the nearly 3 lakh registered for the dose.

4 Sikhs among 8 killed in mass

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The distraught families of Indian-Americans working at a FedEx facility in the US state of Indiana have expressed their anger, fear and anxiety in the aftermath of the latest mass shooting incident in the country that killed eight people, including

shooting in US

Lalu to walk free after serving half fodder sentence

Jharkhand HC grants bail in Dumka treasury case; release from jail expected tomorrow

MRITUANJAY KUMAR ■ RANCHI

 $T^{he\ Jharkhand\ High\ Court} on\ Saturday\ granted\ bail\ to former\ Bihar\ Chief\ Minister$ and RJD Chief Lalu Prasad in a fodder scam case involving illegal withdrawal of funds from Dumka treasury, paving his release from jail on com-pletion of half the sentence period. Lalu is presently being treated at AIIMS, Delhi.

The court granted bail to Lalu on bail bond of ₹5 lakh and a personal bond of ₹1 lakh. Lalu's lawyer Devarshi

Mandal told PTI that they will move Special CBI court in Ranchi after it opens on Monday to seek his release following High Court order.
Explaining the release procedure, Mandal said, they have

send an application to Lalu for his signature which will be submitted to the CBI court here on Monday along with the High Court order.

Mandal said the court has



granted bail to him on the basis of depositing a bond of ₹5 lakh and a personal bond of ₹1 lakh. He has also been asked to submit his passport and has been asked not to change his phone number and address.

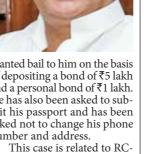
Mandal said all the for-

malities are expected to be completed expeditiously and the release in all probability will happen on Monday. Llau will be freed after 39 months and 25 days of incarceration.

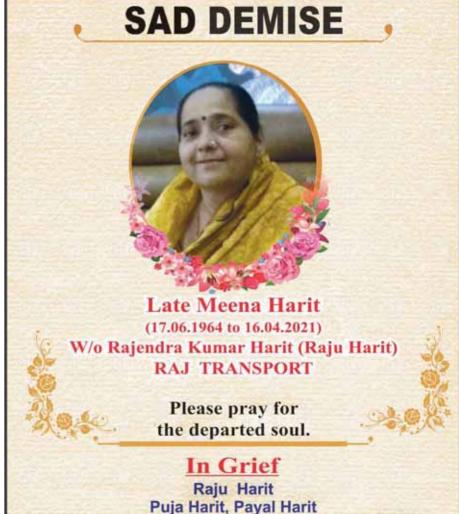
Earlier, taking the plea of the CBI as true, Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh had rejected Lalu's bail plea.

Continued on Page 4





38A/96 in connection with the illegal withdrawal from Dumka treasury. There is a case of illegal withdrawal of about ₹3.13 crore.



Kumar Priyatosh Sanju, Sidharth Harit, Vibhav Harit

Cherry, Vidit & All Family Members

An elderly voter shows her identity card as she arrives to cast her vote, outside a polling centre during Madhupur bypolls, in Madhupur on Saturday (Detailed report on Page 3)

उत्क्रमित सध्य

sunday pioneer

HOMETHEATRE

Gripping tale of terror from young eyes

Norwegian with English subtitles

*ing: Andrea Berntzen, Aleksander Holmen, Solveig Koløen Birkeland Rated: 6/10

⊣here will always be a debate on whether it is appropriate to put out mounts of terror attacks and the impact it has on the victims. Some

argue it is glorifying the terrorist in some way. Others want documentation. Over and above this debate, is a Norwegian leaves no stone unturned to look at the terror killing on an otherwise peaceful island of Utoya in Norway executed by a home grown extreme Right group. It was Norway's 26/11 with many left dead quite without premise. "It is the safest island on Earth, mom" one of the m a i n protagonists says in the opening sequence of this

which, by the way, is a complete contrast to what the film otherwise centres on with dogged starkness throwing up the real impact of a terror attack and its aftermath on any population in any part of the world.

Here, the movie pans out through the eyes of youngsters and the terrorist is given a grand go-by, being allowed to visit the screen only in pithy scenes with almost an abstract presence to give the

audience some shape of the orchestrator.

An English version of this film is all set to premiere on Netflix and that promises to take over in starkness, blood and gore from Utoya. For now, however, *Utoya* is a powerful story told candidly



even though the director could be faulted for what many may perceive as a story exploiting grim reality to make some noise on the small screen.

Nevertheless, a gripping tale which should get a go by because of subtitles.



A BLACK CAPTAIN AMFRICA?

FALCON AND THE WINTER SOLDIER Episode 5 *ing: Sebastian Stan, Anthony Mackie, Wyatt Russell, Erin Kellyman, Danny Ramirez, Emily

Rated: 6/10

¬hose who have been following the miniseries would know how episode 4 ended — the Shield — all bloodied. The fallout is felt by the Falcon and Winter Soldier. The Shield, for now is back with Sam just how Steve Rogers had wanted. So are we looking at yet another Captain America? A Black Captain America? Like Isaiah Bradley played by Carl Lumbly says— no self-respecting Black will take up the job. With John Walker stripped of all his duties and the title of Captain America, there is a new person who

makes an entry - Contessa Valentina Allegra de Fontaine. Who is she and what is the agenda? Well, maybe we will get to see more of Walker in episode 6.

Meanwhile, Flag Smashers have upped their ante

and are preparing for the final count down. Will they succeed? Will the Falcon and Winter Soldier be able to prevent Karli from going full guns ahead? Given that death hangs over Falcon's head, things will come full circle next time.

The only thing missing here is the awe-inspiring action. In almost all the episodes, till now, they have been far between. The series has Falcon, Winter Soldier and the now redundant Captain America and yet the action is way below on the makers list. That boggles the mind and wonders if it has all been saved for episode 6 for the wow factor.

Definitely something that Avengers fans will be

Plan Your Day

Cold Brew Day is on April 20. SUNDAY PIONEER brings you recipes that will surely give you chills without costing too heavy on your pocket

COLDBREW POPSICLES WITH FRESH MINT

Ingredients: ■ half and half

■ 1 1/2 cups coffee beans

■ 2-4 tablespoons brown sugar ■ Mint leaves **Directions:**

■ Grind the coffee beans. Place the grounds in a large pitcher or carafe. Add three cups of cold water and stir to combine. Cover and let steep for 12-24

Strain the coffee and add 2-4 tablespoons brown sugar. Stir to combine

Place a few torn mint leaves into each popsicle mold and top with a few tablespoons of half and half. Freeze for 15-20 minutes, until slightly firm. Insert popsicle sticks into each

mold and freeze for another 20 minutes until set

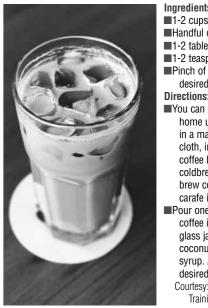
■ Remove the pops from the freezer and top with sweetened coffee. Freeze until firm, 30-40 minutes. Enjoy!

Half and half: It's that simple. Half whole milk, half heavy cream. The texture is thicker

and more luscious than milk

but less decadent and rich

CARAMEL SURPRISE COLD BREW



Ingredients: ■1-2 cups Coldbrew ■Handful of ice

than cream.

■1-2 tablespoons coconut milk ■1-2 teaspoons caramel syrup ■Pinch of sweetener of choice (if desired)

You can prepare coldbrew at home using French press or in a mason iar using muslin cloth, important is perfect coffee blend for your coldbrew. Keep prepared cold brew coffee in a pitcher or carafe in the refrigerator.

■Pour one cup (eight-ounces) of coffee into a mug, cup or glass jar filled with ice. Stir in coconut milk and caramel syrup. Add sweetener, if desired. Serve immediately. Courtesy: Girish Chandra, Beverage Training Manager, Lavazza India

E L L Y TALE

IT'S TIME FOR MAHASANGAM



COLORS' Mahasangam episodes have always raised the bar of entertainment with its complete package of drama and musical performances. One such blast of entertainment is the upcoming Mahasangam episode where the cast of *Choti Sarrdaarni* and Udaariyaan will share a screen during Baisakhi celebrations. Tejo (played by Priyanka Chaudhary) and Jasmine (played by Isha Malviya) will invite Jass even after knowing that there is stress going on in Virk family due to Fateh's decision of going to Canada. The celebration will be sparked with singer B Praak's presence as he will sing some of his hit song *Teri Mitti* from *Kesari* and also his recently launched soulful track, Baarish Ki Jaave.

In the special episode, Fateh (played by Ankit Gupta) will have his share of dramatic moments as he will get to know that the woman he saved and admitted to the hospital is awake and turns out to be Meher! (played by Nirmit Kaur Ahluwalia). In a dramatic turn of events. Fateh will also come face to face with Sarabjit (played by Avinesh Rekhi). Will he be able to bring together Meher and Sarab?

Singer B Praak, who was a part of the dramatic *Mahasangam* episode said: "I am excited to shoot here in Punjab with the cast of two most relevant show. Choti Sarrdaarni is my family's favorite and *Udaariyaan's* concept strongly resonates with each one of us. The episode is going to be full of drama, entertainment and of course our beautiful new music track, Baarish Ki Jaaye. I had a lot of fun shooting with the cast of the show-They are fun, energetic, and extremely

HERO TASTES DEFEAT

Sony SAB's *Hero — Gayab Mode On* will take a shocking turn with Dansh (Manish Wadhwa) defeating Hero (Abhishek Nigam) and stands triumphant. The upcoming episodes will send shock-waves to the viewers, with Hero assumed to be dead. At the beginning of the War of Worlds, our beloved Hero is vanquished by Dansh. The intense battle between the two is set to take

the viewers on a roller coaster ride and keep them on the edge of their seats. With Rocky (Keshav Sadhna) uniting

with Dansh to defeat Hero, the forces of the aliens get more robust, and it becomes difficult for Hero to fight them singlehandedly. Dansh threatening to destroy the planet and cause harm to human beings leads to the battle of the War of Worlds. Dansh launches his attack with the help of Rocky and with each passing moment, it protect his ring simultaneously. The battle gets fiercer, leading to the heartbreaking moment of Dansh beating Hero and conquering the magical ring. Hero's identity as Veer is exposed to Dansh and Zara simultaneously. Dansh is celebrating after winning over Hero and gaining the magical ring. But little does he know what's in store and what will this end of Hero lead to?



Is Veer Nanda aka Hero dead? What will hannen next?

Manish Wadhwa, essaying the role of Dansh, said: "Dansh is very strong and an intense character. He never gives up and attacks back with force. The experience of shooting for this fight sequence has been amazing and it's fun to work with Abhishek He is very hardworking and we both share great timing. Dansh is happy and very delighted with getting hold of the ring, unaware of what will happen next. So, stay tuned to witness exciting twists and turns on the show and join us on this thrilling

Abhishek Nigam, essaying the role of Hero, said: "This is the most intense fight sequence we have shot on the show so far and I was so much into the character that I could feel the same energy. Hero was putting in all the efforts to save the world and protect his ring, but he chooses his loss so that he can save the world. It was a learning experience while shooting for this sequence with Manish Sir. This sequence has come out really well and it will take the viewers on a thrilling never seen before ride. So, stay tuned and don't miss the fun!'

KUMKUM BHAGYA TURNS SEVEN

Zee TV's popular fiction show, Kumkum Bhagya has been an audience favourite ever since it was launched in 2014. Its intriguing

plot and the authentic portrayal of relatable characters like Abhi (Shabbir Ahluwalia), Pragya (Sriti Jha), Rhea (Pooja Banerjee), Ranbir (Krishna Kaul) and Prachi (Mugdha Chapekar) have kept the audience entertained throughout these past seven years and has helped the show gain countless fans across the globe. Produced by Television's czarina Ekta Kapoor. Kumkum Bhagya has witnessed roaring success on the viewership charts every year n more than 50 awards til But it looks like there is no stopping the show even as the show completed seven years on April 15.

The family drama that explores and brings a range of emotions as well as the deepest intricacies of human relationships has kept the viewers hooked all this while through several interesting twists and turns in its storyline! In fact, the show has also managed to successfully reinstate the belief that opposites do attract by showcasing how despite having contrasting personalities, its lead protagonists are

As Kumkum Bhagya completes seven glorious years, Shabir Ahluwalia who plays the role of Abhi got nostalgic and said: "It is not just a show, but a feeling for me. I've been associated with it for seven years now but it doesn't feel like it's been so long. I must say that all these years have been a breeze and the entire unit including the technicians and actors are like a family for me. Generally, you hear people saying this when the show is coming to an end, but our case is different. When you're around the same people for seven years, you know them even better, as you have seen them at their best and their worst. I have to add that the writers and the creative team are fantastic, and they've held all of us together I've been associated with the producers, Balaji Telefilms for nearly two decades and they are like a family to me. As we complete seven years, I would like to say Thank You Ekta for believing in me, Shobha aunty for being there always and Jeetu uncle, you're a rockstar and always guide us for the best. I also want to thank Zee TV for giving us such a great platform to showcase Kumkum Bhagya. Last but the most important, Kumkum Bhagya is what it is today because of all our fans, so thank you so much to all.'



'I don't regret my choices'

KUNAL JAISINGH, who plays Veer in SET's Kyun Utthe Dil Chhod Aaye, tells MUSBA HASHMI the attraction of playing the role, how it has become his priority and his story of giving endless auditions

I was always

passionate about

my career, but

getting into this

space has been

difficult, given the

fact that the City

of Dreams has a

lot to offer but

the hard way

■ What is your role in Kyun Utthe Dil Chhod Aaye?

I play Veer, a self-destructive and alcohol. I am paired opposite Gracy, who plays Amrit in the show. I will be donning a different look. I am extremely excited to be a part of this show and to work with such a lovely production

■ What made you take up the role?

The show offers beautiful love stories, many action scenes and gives a bit of knowledge to all the viewers about how people's suffering during the partition. Earlier the show managed to depict the pain and sorrow of 1947 perfectly. Now with a leap of four years, the makers are showing the story of the 1951 era and have planned many new things for the viewers. The concept of the show is unique and the overall plot is not only interesting, but intense and heartwrenching for me. Other than that, I wanted to be a part of the show which stands out from all the other shows I have done in the past.

■ Did you have any apprehensions?

No, not at all. I knew I was going to

be part of this story post leap. I was actually excited for it. With a lot of twists and turns ahead in the show, this will be a good start for me.

From Mann Kee Awaaz Pratigya to Kyun Utthe Dil... how has the journey been for you?

It has been a great one. I have been able to grow and learn so much in every role I have played. Every character I essayed holds a special place in my heart because with each character my audience and my fans started loving me more. Not only that, I learnt something from every character I played. Those were not only roles, but life lessons. My only goal during all these years has been to make sure that the audience understands the actions and emotions of the characters I

■ Ómkara Singh Oberoi was a much loved character...

Each show has his trials and a story to tell. Ishqbaaaz was focused on the story of three brothers, and India's first spin-off was Dil Boley Oberoi. When it comes to Omkara

he was an artist who was the one balancing factor between the brothers and the family. Omkara has been a lot of love and support from my fans. I am grateful for all that. The character will always be valuable to me. I feel blessed and lucky and I never thought it would be so popular. The team, of course, was great. We are still like a family. We all have encouraged each other to perform at our best and that was visible in the

■ How did acting happen?

I was always passionate about my career, but getting into this space has been difficult, given the fact that the City of Dreams has a lot to offer but the hard way. I have been a part of endless auditions ever since I have come here. I have even stood in an audition line for more than 10 hours. This industry has offered me a platform to project my skills and I am truly humbled by the fact that today I am getting to do that. My experience in the industry has been a roller coaster ride with a lot of ups and downs, but I have learnt that at the end of it, it's all worth it.

■ Do you have any regrets?

Till date, I don't regret anything I have done in life. If I talk about my journey in the industry, it has been beautiful. None of the characters that I have played overlaps each other. We should not regret anything. After all, we do choose the opportunities that we think is right at that time. How things will unfold is not in anyone's hands. Regrets just make you sad and I don't want to feel sad for the choices that I have made. I have surely mellowed with time. I might not do the roles now which I did earlier, but when back then, I was proud of what

> pipeline? My pipeline is full with the current show that I am doing. It is my only

I was doing and will always be.

■ What is there in the

priority. I am focused and would like to be loyal to it. I believe to make one's work stand out one should focus on a single thing at a time. That is the reason I prefer not to juggle projects.

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ALL-PARTY MEETING —

Govt aims to normalise situation soon in State: CM

CM seeks everyone's help

to curb infection in State

PNS RANCHI

Holding an all-party meeting on virtual mode here on Saturday Chief Minister Hemant Soren appreciated all the political parties for making suggestions in the meeting. "With the cooperation of all, we will be able to prevent the infection of Corona once again. Strict steps will be taken to break the corona chain," he said. At the same time, various political parties told the CM that in this time of crisis, they

taken by the government, they will cooperate. There will be no politics of any kind in this.

The CM discussed in detail with representatives of various political parties for effective control over Covid-19. During this time, several important suggestions were made by political parties in relation to prevention and rescue of Corona. The CM said that the important suggestions that have come up during the deliberations in the all-party meeting are very important. This will help the government to for-

are with the government. mulate further strategies to Whatever decision will be deal with Corona. The CM said that he is constantly keeping an eye on preventing the second wave of Corona and providing better treatment facilities to the infected persons.

Addressing the representatives of political parties, the CM said, "We are all aware of the present situation in Corona. Every day the number of infected is increasing rapidly and the number of dead is also increasing significantly. In such a situation, the government is working fast in the direction of test, testing and treatment. To speed up the investigation,

RTPCR labs are also being set up. Instructions have been given to arrange 50 oxygen-rich beds in each district and 100 additional oxygen-rich beds in the division. Apart from this, medical kits are also being made available in every Anganwadi center. The way the government was successful in stopping the first wave of Corona with limited resources, now it is taking all appropriate steps to stop the second wave as well."

in 10 to 15 days, while six new

The CM said that for the treatment of Covid-19, complaints of shortage and black marketing of some life-saving drugs are constantly being received. In such a situation, the government has started negotiations to buy such medicines directly from its producing companies. He also said that the corona vaccination campaign is constantly being expedited, as vaccine consignments are being received, people are being put in place. On the issue of reducing the age limit for taking vaccine by some political parties, he said that it is a matter of the central government and the center will be requested in this regard. Several important sugges-

party representatives in the meeting, which include helpline numbers in all districts, production of oxygen by local industrialists, availability of life saving drugs, curb on

tions were given by political

black marketing of medicines, increase in infrastructure and beds in hospitals of State, taking help from Central hospitals, nursing students and doctors, screening of migrant workers returning to State, taking help

from political and social organisations, setting up hospitals in indoor stadiums etc. Different political parties gave different opinions on the issue of lockdown. While the Left parties said that lockdown is not a

solution to the problem, some parties suggested weekly lockdown and some suggested full lockdown. At the same time, all parties agreed to strictly follow the government guidelines regarding corona.

CM for providing medical kits to people under home isolation Asks officials to appoint

para medical staff

PNS RANCHI

hief Minister Hemant Soren today Chief Millister Treman cores directed officials to provide medical kit to the corona infected patients living in home isolation. The departmental officers were instructed to provide all the necessary medicines, oximeters and masks etc in the medical kit.

The CM said that pulse oximeter should be ensured in all Anganwadi centers in the State. He directed the Health Secretary to appoint trained youths of the State who have done para-medical courses on contractual basis to overcome the shortage of medical staff in hospitals as per requirements. The CM was holding a high-level meeting held at his residence on

Soren said that to overcome the shortage of medical staff in dedicated hospitals, Covid care centers, etc in the dis-



Chief Minister Hemant Soren holds a meeting with senior officials in Ranchi on Saturday

tricts make an action plan and appoint manpower. He said that every possible effort should be made to increase oxygenrich beds in hospitals and maintain ICU beds etc in hospitals.

He directed that the hospital management should work by preparing a better action plan for the treatment of corona infected patients. The CM said that the hospitals should ensure the provision of Oxygen Plant and Air Separation Unit. He said that constantly strive for the avail-

ability of Redmesivir.
The CM said that the number of corona infected patients is increasing daily. So patients should be closely monitored and special vigilance should be taken in the areas where more cases of corona are com-

The CM said that in order to ensure that the infected patients do not face problems, medics should be fully prepared.

In the meeting, the Health Secretary apprised the Chief Minister about the latest status of Corona infected patients and preparations related to the system of

The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary of the State Sukhdev Singh, Development Commissioner Arun Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Rajeev Arun Ekka, Health Secretary KK Soan, Disaster Management Secretary Amitabh Kaushal, Urban Development Secretary Vinay Choubey, Campaign Director of NRHM Ravi Shankar Shukla and other senior

INBRIEF

infection of coronavirus, in Ranchi on Saturday

MASK MUST AT STATIONS, RAIL TRAVEL In view of the guidelines issued from time to time by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for prevention of Covid epidemic, extensive steps have been taken by the Ministry of Railways to prevent infection of Covid-19 epidemic. Wearing masks is an effective way to prevent epidemics. Keeping this in mind, for the purpose of using face masks and bringing awareness towards hygiene, a provision has been made to pay a fine of Rs. 500 under Indian Railway Rules-2012 on all persons who spit back and forth on the railway premises (including trains) and do not wear masks / face covers properly. This rule has been implemented for 06 months with immediate effect. In view of the infection status of Covid-19 by the Ministry of Railways, it has been made mandatory for all passengers to wear masks / face covers at the station and during the journey. Along with this, emphasis has also been laid on maintaining cleanliness in the railway premises for effective control over it. Spitting or messing around in this sequence is prohibited, because doing so may endanger the lives of other people along with the dirt. Use spittoon to spit.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren during a virtual all party meeting about the rising

BLOWING-IN OF BLAST FURNACE-2 OF BSL Blowing-in of Blast Furnace-2 of BSL was done by Executive Director (Works) Atanu Bhowmick On the occasion, Chief General Manager (Iron) Anjani Kumar, Chief General Manager (Services) BK Tiwari, Chief General Manager (Mechanical) PK Baisakhia, Chief General Manager (Blast Furnace) M.P. Singh and other officers and personnel of Blast Furnace were present. Blast for shotcreting which was to improve the CDI rate and productivity of the blast furnace along with improving the refractory insulation of the inner wall of the stack area and will help in reducing the coke rate. On completion of the work successfully, Mr. Bhowmik congratulated all

Medica hospital

cater to the needs of the

Critical Care Unit of the hos-

Fellowship Program Director,

said, "It's a proud moment for

me to introduce such a pro-

gram through Medica Hospital

Ranchi, which is happening for

the first time not only in the

state but also in the entire

country, this course "has the potential to give a new

shape to the critical care prac-

tice in the country and today

we have signed the official MoU with the University of

Findlay, Ohio, USA, with a

belief that through this collab-

oration we will be able to pro-

duce a world-class training

programme".

Care

Critical

to start FCCP

programme

Covid claimed one life every casualties in hour in past one week past 7 days

Kovas machines are being pur-

chased, which will be installed

PNS RANCHI

At least one person died of Covid-19 every hour on an average in Jharkhand during the past one week, causing arguably the worst ever spike in casualty rate since the entry of the virus in the state back in March 2020, data with the state government reveals.

As many as 201 people have died of the viral infection in the state since April 10, indicating that on an average around 28 deaths occurred in the state every day during the past seven days, figures compiled by the National Health Mission (NHM) highlights.

Ranchi topped the list in terms of casualties during the week, followed by East Singhbhum, which continues to account for the highest number of total Covid fatalities among the 24 districts in the state so far. As per NHM data, Ranchi accounted for 61 of the 201 deaths, while East Singhbhum reported 42 Covid

The figures are also indicative of the fact that Ranchi and Jamshedpur – two of the largest cities in Jharkhand – jointly accounted for more than 50 per cent of the total Covid casualties that occurred in the tribal state in the past one week.

While the government has been taking several measures to strengthen the sudden crisis, the lack of medicines and shortage of dedicated beds in the hospitals have added to the trauma of state residents, facing the wrath of growing Covid infection amid limited healthcare The rise in Covid casualties has also



People waiting for vaccination at a vaccine centre Pioneer photo

affected the cremation process in the

1376 Jharkhand residents have died of Covid-19 infection so far, and more than 14 per cent of the deaths occurred in the past one week – a trend that has swung the government into action. The active caseload has also jumped close to 25,000 in no time with the state reporting close

state, especially in Ranchi, with the administration having to look for alternative locations for cremating Covidinfected bodies. In the wake of the alarming rise in casualties, the health department had to appoint nodal officers to overlook cremation of Covid victims in all the 24 districts. As per government data, as many as

to 10,000 cases in the past 72 hours.

NHM data highlights that as many as 155115 people have been infected by the virus in Jharkhand so far and 84.25 recovery rate has dropped from more than 98 per cent last month. The doubling rate of infection has also dropped to 39.27 days in the state against the national average of 72.17 days. In March, the doubling rate was more than 2000 days in Jharkhand.

SER launches mega Covid awareness drive

PNS RANCHI

▼n view of the further surge in COVID cases, South Eastern Railway (SER) has launched awareness campaigns at its major stations with appeal to passengers for adhering to COVID Appropriate Behaviour (CAB).

Frequent announcements are being made at stations through the PA system with appeal to travelling passengers to wear masks, wash hands with soap and sanitizer at regular intervals, maintain physical distance and to avoid crowded



encouraged to get vaccinated. As a part of the Passenger Awareness Campaign, Banners

and posters on COVID-19 health protocols are being displayed at major stations. COVID-19 posts and videos are also being regularly uploaded in SER's social media pages.

In this connection, a clear

message has been disseminated to all for wearing face mask covbeen undertaken by SER. Additional RPF personnel have ering in railway premises includalso been deployed to prevent ing trains which is essential for overcrowding inside the stathe interest of public health. Fine tion premises. Passengers with up to Rs 500 will be imposed by only confirmed tickets are being on duty railway officials authoallowed to board the long disrised for this purpose on persons tance trains. found disobeying the guidelines. This will be implemented with immediate effect and will continue for a period of 6(six) months or till further instruction in this regard. To provide clean

and hygienic environment to the

passengers in the trains, regular

sanitization of station premises

and train coaches has already

Apart from adhering to COVID health protocols, passengers are also being requested to reach stations well in advance to avoid last minute rush at station premises. It is also requested for passengers to book their tickets through online mode to avoid queue and crowd at the booking counters.



झारखण्ड सरकार

मेडिकल हेल्पलाईन 104 पर अब

विडियो कॉलिंग

एवं चिकित्सकीय सुविधा उपलब्ध है।

मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड

245732 (Health Med Edu and Family Welfare) 21-2

71.60 % polling in Covid-hit Madhupur **NO UNTOWARD INCIDENT REPORTED: DC**

SURESH NIKHAR BERMO

PNS RANCHI Madhupur Assembly constituency today witnessed Bhagwan Mahavir MEDICA Superspecialty Hospital, Ranchi (A unit of Medica Hospitals Pvt. Ltd.) is intro-71.60 per cent polling despite the district facing increasing cases of Covid -19 in the second wave. Till 6 pm, the total ducing the Fellowship in Critical Care Pharmacotherapy percentage of polling in the constituency was about 71.60 (FCCP) programme, first of its per cent, out of which the kind in the country, partnering female voting percentage was with the University of Findlay, Ohio, USA for the 73.31 and male voting percentage was 70.07, informed PharmD (Doctor of Pharmacy) Deputy Commissioner cum graduates. It's a 2-year post-DEO, Deoghar, Manjunath graduate superspecialty pro-Bhajantri. gramme to train the fellows to The Deputy Commissioner while addressing the media said that voting in the conbe the critical care pharmacotherapy specialist so as to

pitals in the country to provide ful environment. He said that the voting percentage was slow in the first safe and superior patient Dr. Vijay Kumar Mishra, one hour. As the day progressed, the turnout percentage Medical Director, Director of increased. Neuroanesthesia and also the

stituency was conducted in a

completely fair, safe and peace-

Bhajantri said that this time in Madhupur bye-election, special facility was given to old and differently-abled voters at polling stations, which made them very comfortable to vote. As a result, Divyang voters took an active part in this Mahaparva and their numbers got increased.

The DC said that the Vajra Griha Center at Charki Hill has been constructed for the counting of votes. Teams of JAP and Para Military forces have been deployed for the security of strong room. Apart from this, barricading and CCTV cameras have also been installed



during Madhupur By-polls, in Madhupur on Saturday

from the security point of view. Bhajantri was informed that a media center has been constructed at the Strong Room Complex situated in Charki hill where all arrangements have been made for media representatives.

Apart from this, instruc-

tions have been given to officers and personnel to reach the counting hall by 6 pm, so that counting can be started at the scheduled time. No personnel shall bring mobile phone or electronic gazette to the counting venue. Instructions related to this have been given to all personnel. In the event of inadvertently bringing a mobile phone or electronic gazette to the counting venue, arrangements have been made to keep

it at the counting place itself. Superintendent of Police Ashwani Kumar Sinha said that peaceful polling was held in Madhupur Vidhan Sabha. Adequate number of paramilitary forces and Jharkhand

Police personnel were deployed for this. Along with the FST team, the QRT team also did its job in a very good way. Thanks to all the officers and police personnel along with the people of Madhupur assembly constituency for a peaceful and successful election.

During this time, District Public Relations Officer Ravi Kumar, Cyber DSP Neha Bala, Assistant Public Relations Officer Rohit Kumar Vidyarthi, SMPO Sudha Raj, Media Cell personnel and representatives of various media institutions etc. were present.

The DC and SP thanked and congratulated all the voters of the district for making peaceful voting successful in the district. He also thanked all the officials and employees deputed for election work, security personnel and magistrates and said that it was possible to conduct peaceful and fair voting only with the coopराज्य में कोरोना के दूसरी लहर के दौरान कोरोना संक्रमितों के लिए टॉल फ्री हेल्पलाईन नंबर- 104 पर विडियो काउंसलिग शुरू किया जा रहा है। वैसे व्यक्ति जो कोरोना संक्रमित हैं, जिन्हे किसी प्रकार की जानकारी लेना हो अथवा कोई असुविधा हो रही हो तो कृपया इस सेवा

https:/swaraksha.nic.in/public/index.php पर उपलब्ध है।

का लाभ अवश्य लें। विडियो कॉलिंग के माध्यम से यह सेवा उपलब्ध







आपस में 2 गज की



करायी जा रही है। यह सुविधा स्वरक्षा वेबसाइट के लिंक :--



Quadruple murder: Web Series inspired man to kill wife and 2 daughters

Assailant was facing financial crisis

PNS JAMSHEDPUR

 $F_{\text{Deepak Kumar, the main}}^{\text{orty two-year-old man}}$ accused who was wanted in connection with four murders which had taken place on April 12 on Teesta Road under Kadma Police Station area was inspired by a web series to commit the gruesome act. The assailant was sent to jail today.

Revealing about the breakthrough, SSP Dr M Tamil Vanan said that during interrogation they came to know that the main accused Deepak Kumar was inspired by a web series to kill his wife, two daughters and also had plans to kill few others.

The SSP said that after killing his wife and daughters he killed their tuition teacher as she had seen the dead body of his wife. Not only did he kill her but also raped her dead body, the SSP said.

"During interrogation we found that Deepak was inspired by web series Pataal Lok to plan the entire conspiracy. Deepak was a fan of Pataal Lok and Asur web series and one day before executing the crime he with his wife had watched one of the web



series. Deepak was inspired by a character Hathoda Tyagi in Web series Pataal Lok therefore he had executed all the murders by attacking them with a hammer," revealed Vanan.

The SSP went on to inform that the assailant was under financial crisis due to loans therefore he killed his wife and daughters so that they did not have to suffer once he went to jail. He said that due to his childhood friend Prabhu and his brother in law Roshan he was under the burden of loan.

Forty two-year-old man Deepak Kumar, the main accused who was wanted in connection with four murders which had taken place on April 12 on Teesta Road under Kadma Police Station area, being sent to jail on Saturday

Friday.

Kumar to drop in at his place for lunch.

Roshan who is a resident of Telco had come along with his wife, brother-in-law and a toddler daughter at Kadma. But Deepak who was in a killing spree had also attacked his friend and the friend' brotherin-law Ankit Kumar with a hammer, leading to grievous

injuries to Roshan and Ankit. Roshan managed to escape from Deepak's residence along with his wife, toddler daughter and brother-in-law had informed Deepak's brother-inlaw Binod Kumar, leading the latter to inform the police.

Sindri MLA airlifted to Hyderabad

PNS DHANBAD

midst rising deaths due to Amiast rising actual Acorona in coal capital the Sindri MLA Indrajeet Mahto who was undergoing treatment at local private hospital has been airlifted to Hyderabad after complaints of infection in lungs

Mahto was admitted to ADDJ superspeciality hospital on April 12 after was found positive during the election campaign at Madhupur and some parts of West Bengal.

On Saturday he was advised to be shifted to a higher center as was finding difficulty in breathing and his oxygen level too was below normal.

Though none of the doctors of aforementioned hospital were available for comment BJP rural district president Gyan Ranjan Sinha, who accompanied Mahto from Dhanbad to Bokaro from where he was taken to Hyderabad said, "The MLA was not feeling well due to chest congestion though he had turned entire according to report of test that was

Mahto was admitted to ADDJ superspeciality hospital on April 12 after was found positive during the election campaign at Madhupur and some parts of West Bengal

conducted on Friday.

The doctor from Hyderabad was contacted for advice and on his directive an air ambulance from New Delhi took him to Hyderabad from.Bokaro"

Meanwhile, after seven deaths reported in a day due to corona the district administration has decided to increase beds in district. Now it has decided to convert Divisional railway hospital too as covid hospital for continence of positive patients.

This hospital would have 42 beds for corona patients including 6 beds with ventilator and oxygen

In addition the private clinics and the nursing homes too have been asked to ensure more beds for corona positive patients.

Corona cases all-time high in Jamshedpur, several shops sealed

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR:

The city has turned into a Corona I hot bed with more than 500 positive cases reported from the past three days. The figures are all time high ever since the first positive case was reported on May 12 last year. Out of 5000 tests being conducted in the city, more than 500 positive cases are being reported every day. The positive cases have crossed the 23000 mark so far.

In view of the rising number of Covid cases, the health department is conducting Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) on the go for people at public places. RAT is also conducted through nasal and throat swabs like RT PČR tests.

However, the result of the test is out within an hour. Doctors say that RAT is a low sensitivity test when compared to RT PCR, and may not be as accurate as the latter. The RT PCR test, on the other hand, takes around 48 hours, but the results are more accurate

दिनांक- 17.04.2021

कार्य पुण

करने की

अवधि

03 Month



The official explained that rapid antigen tests detect the presence of

viral proteins (antigens) expressed by the Covid-19 virus in a sample taken from the respiratory tract of a person. "The result of the test is made available within 15 minutes, " he said adding that the objective

family had invited Roshan and

his wife to lunch at his house

where he had plans to kill them.

But his plans could not succeed

after which he fled to Rourkela,

Puri, Ranchi and was finally

nabbed by Dhanbad police

while he was trying to deposit money in the bank on

It may be recalled that after killing his wife, two minor daughters and the 22-year-old

tuition teacher at his residence

in Tista road in Kadma, Deepak

is to trace, track and treat Covid positive patients. The East singhbhum health department has intensified the rapid antigen test drive keeping in view the spurt in Covid-19 cases.

Meanwhile with a quantum rise in the number of COVID – 19 positive cases in the city, the administration has decided to conduct raids at different public places, shops, and markets where norms of social distancing are being violated. On Friday night several shops at Jugsalai, Bistupur and Telco areas were sealed for the violation of Covid norms for 48 hours.

"Despite the rising number of COVID-19 cases, people are still not following the rules. Strict enforcement of the triad of precautionary

Covid- second wave hits urban areas of Bokaro harder

sanitisers and following social distancing - in public spaces has become a priority," said Krishna Kumar, city manager, JNAC.

The Kolhan Division which was under green zone, came under coronavirus map with two persons testing positive at Chakulia, under East Singhbhum district on May 12. The officer admitted that the

Covid cases are increasing fast, informing that the department is paying more and more focus on detection of cases as well as vaccinating the people. Significantly, there is a crisis of

Covishield vaccine at the government-run health hubs. In most of the 20 health hubs, the vaccine is being given to the recipients of second dose only due to the short sup-

On the other hand, 27 private health hubs which are also contributing to the Covid vaccination drive by accepting Rs 250 per dose apparently do not face any supply

कार्यालय—अनुमंडल दण्डाधिकारी, सद्दर, हजारीबाग

-: प्रेस-विज्ञप्ति :-

हजारीबाग जिला अंतर्गत अवस्थित सभी निजी अस्पतालों के प्रबंधकों को सूचित किया जाता है कि हजारीबाग जिला में विगत कुछ दिनों में कोविड–19 संक्रमित मरीजों की संख्या में अप्रत्याशित वृद्धि हो रही है। कोविड–19 के संक्रमण का मामले की संख्या को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए यह अत्यन्त आवश्यक है कि सभी अस्पतालों में उपलब्ध बेड / ऑक्सीजन एवं वेंटिलेटर का समुचित उपयोग हो। सरकार द्वारा सभी अस्पतालों के 50 प्रतिशत बेड कोविड के लिए आरक्षित करने हेतु आदेश संसूचित है। हजारीबाग जिला अंतर्गत अवस्थित सभी निजी अस्पतालों को निदेश दिया जाता है कि वर्तमान में अस्पताल में उपलब्ध बेड की विवरणी दिनांक 17.04.2021 तक ऑनलाईन प्रवृष्टि करना सुनिश्चित करेंगे साथ ही उपलब्ध बेड का 50 प्रतिशत आरक्षित रखने का अनुपालन प्रतिर्वेदन उपलब्ध कराया जाय । ताकि कोविड—19 के मध्यम / गंभीर लक्ष्ण वाले जरूरत मंद रोगियों को सही समय पर ईलाज हो सके। अनुमंडल दण्डाधिकारी, सदर, हजारीबाग

कार्चपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

पेराजल एंव स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, लातेहार (Email ID-eedwsd.latchar@gmail.com)

ई- प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा सूचना (3[™] Call)

पेयजल एंव स्वच्छता विभाग झारखण्ड रांची।

19/04/2021 को 3.30 बजे अपराहन तक।

29 / 04 / 2021 को 05.00 बजे अपराहन तक।

30/04/2021 के अपराहन 04.00बजे तक

01/05/2021 को 04.00 बजे अपराहन।

प्राक्कलित

राशि

3847666.00

कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन प्रमंडल, सिमडेगा।

:-कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन प्रमंडल, सिमडेगा (सभी कार्यों के लिए)।

B.O.Q

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:- 29.04.2021को अप0 1बजे तक ।

:-- 29.04.2021 के अप0 3 बजे तक।

:— 30.04.2021 के अप0 3.30 बजे से

Earnest

Money

49,000.00

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प्रमंडल. लातेहार।

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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,

भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, सिमडेगा

अति अल्पकालिन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना 05/2021-22

Estimated

Cost

24,47,000.00

19.26,800.00

24,98,500.00

23,11,900.00

17,64,900.00

24,44,400.00

22,70,300.00

19,17,900.00

11,77,000.00

12,40,600.00

ग्रुप संख्या

LTR/GPT-1

नोट- निविदा की प्राक्कलित राशि घट-बढ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी

विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु बेबसाईट– http:/jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यों के लिए)

0651-2490920

कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, लातेहार।

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एव स्वच्छता

अधीक्षण अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अंचल मंदिनीनगर।

अग्रधन

की राशि

(रू० में)

77000.00

रेमाण विपः

का मूल्य

5000.00

पेयजल एव स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, लातेहार

Time Of Completion

3 (Three) Months

PR 245727 District(21-22).D

विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एंव पता

विभाग का नाम

कार्य की विवरणी

निविदा सूचना संख्या- DWSD/LTR/GPT-08/2020-21

वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एंव समय बीड प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एंव समय

(हार्ड कॉपी) जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि / समय

अग्रधन की राशि एवं परिमाण विपन्न का मूल्य

निविदा खोलने की सम्भावित तिथि एंव समय

कार्य का नाम

Construction of 300 x 125 mm dia and 60

mt(av) deep gravel packed drilled tube well with installation of IM -II Handpump, 1.85m dia PCC PI atform and 3.0 m long drain on trunkey basis in in different Rural habitation in latches Picture the 18 2000 21

trunkey basis in in different Rural habitatio in Latehar District during the FY-2020-21

PR 245722 Drinking Water and Sanitation (21-22)_D

प्रोक्योरमेंट कार्यालय का सम्पर्क न0

ई- प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन न0

attendance to 50% Chandigarh: To contain the

Haryana restricts office

coronavirus spread, the Haryana government on Saturday restricted the physical attendance in its offices to 50 per cent. Also, the entry of outsiders to the offices is curtailed

In an order, the Chief Secretary said to allow officers of the rank of undersecretary or equivalent and below to work from home and their physical attendance be restricted to 50 per cent. It further said all officers of the level of deputy secretary or equivalent and above are to attend offices regularly. The officers attending the

office should stagger their arrival timing between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. to avoid crowding in the lifts and cor-

Bokaro: In the second wave of the coronavirus infection, a majority of the fresh cases (infections) are being reported from urban areas across the district. fresh COVID-19 In

reports, Bokaro saw a steep surge; the district recorded 404 new positive cases of coronavirus in the past three days, including a magistrate and 24 others engaged at judiciary services, 41 Bokaro Steel Plant's employees and others, informed AK Pathak Civil

Surgeon Bokaro.
"Majority of cases belong to the urban areas," he added.

Last year during the first COVID-19 wave the urban areas of the district were not so badly affected, but during the



80 to 90 per cent of cases are being reported from urban areas, he said.

The number highlights that people should need to be more cautious in urban areas amidst the administration to focus on expanding the vaccination drive, said Pathak.

"According to my opinion, the key reasons behind the

uted to a severe decline in compliance of COVID-appropriate behaviours, particularly in the use of masks and social distancing," added Pathak.

It has been seen that people in urban areas do not adequately follow the COVID guidelines. Flouting of safety norms, gatherings, the frequent flow of travelers, and increased testing are the other main reasons behind the rise in the cases in the city areas, he said.

Meanwhile, the overall number of positive reported cases in the district rushed to 840 while the district's death toll stands at 78, including four deaths on Friday. Though, 60 patients were recovered and discharged from the hospital,

Deputy Commissioner Bokaro, Rajesh Kumar Singh has deputed one Incident Commander in each police station of the district to comply with the SOP issued by the government.

The Incident Commander has to comply with the proto-col of each containment zone, under which the COVID-19 positive person or his family members should not walk outside unnecessarily, and he has to provide the information to the people around the said

area, said Singh. Closer to the commercial shops around each containment zone is also the responsibility of the Incident Commander so that the crowd does not gather there, he

Office of the Executive Engineer Building Construction Department **Building Division, Koderma**

Very Short Notice Inviting Quotation

Sealed quotation are invited by the Executive Engineer, Building Construction Department ,Building Division, Koderma from the Authorized Contractor/Distributor/ Dealers/ Suppliers for supply and installation of following items of approved make quotation paper will be sold on 26.04.2021 up to 1.00PM and will be received in the office of the undersigned from 26.04.2021 at 3.00PM and will be opened on 26.04.2021 at 3.30PM at above mentioned place by the Executive Engineer or his authorized Representative .Quotationers or their authorized representative whosever desire may remain present at the time of opening.

1. ULTRA-COMMUNICATION SYSTEM & ASSOCIATED WORK PRE EXISTING DEPARTMENT

- BUILDING OF SANYUKT SAHKARITA BHAWAN
- ULTA-COMMUNICATION SYSTEM & ASSOCIATED WORK PRE EXISTING DEPARTMENT BUILDING OF SANYUKT SAHKARITA BHAWAN

Term and Condition

- Quotationers will have to deposit 2% of the quoted amount as earnest Money in the from of NSC/FD any Nationalize bank duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer, Building Construction Department, Building Division, Koderma
- Time of completion of job is 60 days from date of work order Conditional quotations will not be accepted

In case of Gazetted holiday the quotation will be received /opened on the next working day Quotationer should attach self attested Xerox copies of Pan Card, GST Registration

Certificate/ GST clearance Certificate

The Quoted rate should be inclusive of all taxes GST The Department reserves the right to accept or reject part or all the quotation received

without assigning any reason there of. Visit www.jharkhand.gov.in/information Board of Executive Engineer BCD Division Office for detail information if required. **Executive Engineer**

PR 245695 Building(21-22)D

Building Division, Koderma

कार्यालय : जिला परिषद, चतरा सूचना

एतद् द्वारा इच्छुक व्यक्ति को सूचित किया जाता है कि <mark>चतरा जिला परिषद द्वारा ्ईटखोरी प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत</mark> परसौनी में निर्मित दूकान संख्या क्रमश:_5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20 एवं कार्यालय परिषर चतरा अन्तर्गत निर्मित दुकान संख्या क्रमश : 19,20 को किराया / लीज पर उपलब्ध कराया जाना है। विवरणी निम्न है:-

	क्र0सं0	जिला परिषद द्वारा निर्मित भवन	दुकान न0,	क्षेत्रफल	प्रती माह किराया की राशि
	1	2	3	4	5
	1	परसौनी दुकान ईटखोरी	5.6.7.8.9.10.11.12. 14.15.16.17.19.20	99 sft	200
	2	कार्यालय परिषर चतरा प्रथम तल	19, 20		
		उपरोक्त स्वीकत दर के आधार पर जो व्यवि	क्त दकान किराया / लीज पर	लेने हेत इच्छव	ह है। वे निम्नलिखित शर्ती क

अनुपालन करते हुए **दिनांक 04/05/2021 तक कार्यालय कार्य अवधी में** आवेदन पत्र समर्पित कर सकते है:-

ा. कुल दुकानों की संख्या से अधिक आवेदन प्राप्त होने की स्थिति में लॉटरी के माध्यम से दुकान का आवंटन किया जायेगा। लॉटरी हेतु तिथि का निर्धारण अलग से करते हुए इसकी सूचना दी जायेगी। 2. आवेदन पत्र के साथ रूपये 500.00 (पाँच सौ) का जमानत के रूप में बैंक ड्राफ्ट के द्वारा जो **उप विकास**

आयुक्त-सह-मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, जिला परिषद, चतरा के पदनाम से देय हो, जमा करना होगा। जो वापस 3. सफल होने के उपरान्त आवेदक को एक सप्ताह के अन्दर रूपये 20000.00(बीस हजार) एवं आवश्यक कागजात जमा करते

हुए एकरारनामा कार्य सम्पन्न कराना सुनिश्चित करेंगे। समयावधी समाप्त होनें के बाद दूकान किसी अन्य व्यक्ति को आवंटित कर दी जायेगी।

उप विकास आयुक्त-सह-मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, जिला परिषद्, चतरा।

Palamu admin asks home isolation inmates to keep indoors

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

Palamu administration has warned people serving home isolation not to indulge in any outside activity like roaming around, mixing with people going to grocery shops, coming over to tea stalls or paan shops or for any gossip or street corner talking etc.

DC Palamu Shashi Ranjan said every such home isolation serving people must adhere to the strict Covid appropriate behaviour and under no circumstances violate it. He said all block level officers are told to be very careful of the home isolation people.

SP Palamu Sanjeev Kumar said police have been ordered to tame and contain people violating norms of the home iso-

The SP said police have

been asked to lodge cases under disaster management act and IPC section as well if the violator of the home isolation

proves stubborn. The district epidemiologist Dr Anup Kumar said till April 17 afternoon 217 people are undergoing home isolation and are doing fine. Anup Kumar said just two people who were having their home isolation developed some complications who were brought and placed in the dedicated Covid care center in Daltonganj.

Anup Kumar said people having mild symptoms have been asked not to panic and long for beds in the hospital as beds are meant for the severe Covid symptoms ridden people. Sources said the number of the home isolation people is set to shoot up in the next few days in Palamu.

Lalu to walk free after serving half

Jharkhand High Court.

Lalu was serving jail sentences in four cases of fodder scam. Recently, Lalu's bail plea was filed in the High Court on the basis of completing half of the sentence. According to Lalu's Advocate, on April 9, half of Lalu's sentence in the Dumka treasury case has been completed. Ranchi's CBI Court had sentenced him to seven years in the Dumka treasury case.

gal withdrawal from Doranda treasury, hearing is going on in

going treatment at AIIMS in Delhi. Earlier, he was getting treatment in Rajendra Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) in

fodder sentence Lalu had then once again requested for bail from the

However, in the biggest and fifth case of fodder scam of ille-

कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन प्रमंडल, सिमडेगा। PR.NO.245705 Building(21-22):D

Shree MadhavHari Anne Boys Hostel Simdega

Sewai in Simdega District (Hostel No 01) and

(Hostel No-01) and SS Boys Hostel Kolebira

(Hostel No-02) अनुसूचित जनजाति आवासीय मध्य विद्यालय, हाटिंग होड़े, बानो के छात्रा वास की मरम्मति।

Renovation of Govt. ST Balika Hostel in

Renovation of SS Boys Hostel Kolebin

1. विज्ञापन दाता कानाम

- 5.परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री का स्थान (क) कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन प्रमंडल सिमडेगा (सभी कार्यों के लिए)
- 3. निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय
- 2. परिमाण विपत्र की बिक्री की तिथि एवं समय
- (खं) अधीक्षण अभियंता भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन अंचल सं-2, राँची का कार्यालय (सभी
- निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान
- 7. कार्य विवरणी
- बानों की मरम्मति।
- Renovation of 100 Bedded ST Hostel at the Campus of Simdega Collage Simdega. of Parvati Inter College Simdega Renovation of S.T Hostel (2nd) at the campus
- of Simdega, Government ST Balika Hosel in sewai(Hostel No.01) in Simdega and Girls Hostel KhutitoliSimdega. Construction of Rising and Renovation of Boundary wall of ST Girls Hostel at the Campus of Parvati Inter College Simdega Renovation of Boys Hostel (50 Bedded) Simdega College Simdega.

 Renovation of Shree MadhavHari Anne Boys Hostel Simdega.
 Construction of Steel Truss And Roof Work for

23,600.00 2,500.00 4. एकरारनामा हेतु स्टाम्प शुल्क की राशि बन्दोबस्तधारी को स्वयं वहन करना अनिवार्य होगा तथा मूल कागजात एकरारनामा के Ranchi's special CBI Court. In this case also, a decision can be 3 (Three) Months समय सत्यापन हेतु प्रस्तुत करना होगा। 2,500.00 निविदा में कोविड–19 के दिशा निर्देश (मास्क पहने एवं समाजिक दूरी) का आक्षरशः अनुपालन करते हुए भाग लेगें। made against Lalu and can go to jail once again. The RJD chief is suffering from serious diseases and under-6. अद्योहस्ताक्षरी को बिना कारण बताये डाक को रद्द करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। 24,900.00 2,500.00 3 (Three) Months निविदा की शर्ते—WWW.jharkhand.gov.in एवं कार्यालय के सूचना पट पर देखा जा सकता है।

PR.NO.245697 District(21-22):D

Facing shortage of oxygen, Remdesivir, ventilator: States





Grappling with the surge in Covid-19 cases, various States in a meeting with the Centre on Saturday highlighted the shortage of oxygen cylinders, Remdesivir in hospitals, ventilator stocks and poor supply of vaccine doses.

Eleven States and Union Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, account for 79.32 per cent of the new coronavirus cases in the country were present at the meeting.

The high-level meeting was chaired by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan with the Health Ministers of 11 States and Union Territories to review measures taken by them for prevention, containment and management of the recent surge in Covid-19 cases.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to meet top officials of several ministries later in the evening to review the overall covid situation and vaccination drive.

Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have been reporting an unprecedented surge in new infections.

In a statement here, the Ministry said "Many of them (States) raised the issue of dovetailing the medical oxygen supply lines and capping of

US must lift export ban on raw materials for production of vaccines, says CPM

The CPI(M) poin burear Saturday said that the he CPI(M) polit bureau on United States must lift their export ban on raw materials for the production of vaccines.

In a statement, the Left party pointed out that the export ban by the US is a doublespeak, citing US President Joe Biden's assurances in the recently convened Quad Summit.

"The ban on exports of materials used in vaccine production goes completely against these stated aims. The Modi government, which sets

prices of essential drugs like Remdesivir which has been sold in the black market at exorbitant prices.

"Double mutant strain in Maharashtra was a key point of concern. The Delhi Government requested for additional beds in Central Government hospitals as was done in 2020 to help tide over the emergent health crisis," the Ministry said.

The notification of the Home Ministry, granting permission to states to utilize up to 50 per cent of their annual

much store on the Quad alliance, must ensure that the Biden administration keeps to its committed word and immediately ensures supply of essential vaccine material to India. This is the least that must be done when India is facing vaccine shortage in the

face of an unprecedented surge

of Covid infections," said

The CPI(M) also pointed out the concerns raised by Serum Institute of India head Adar Poonawala on hampering of production in India due to the US Government's ban on export of raw materials of

Response Fund, and that of the Union Health Ministry, allowing utilisation of unspent pending balance under National Health Mission as on April 1, 2021 for COVID management purposes, were reiterated, it said.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan informed the states on the steps taken to provide medical grade oxygen and augmenting Remdesivir stocks in the country.

The states were also informed about the issuance of the calendar of medical oxygen supply from different oxygen

"The scaling up of vaccine production in India is being hampered by the shortage of the intermediate material required for vaccine production. Much of this material such as filters, solutions and plastic bags come from the United States. But the U.S. Administration has banned the export of vaccine material under its Defence Production Act. Despite requests by the Indian authorities, no rélaxation or exemption has been given for export of these items," the CPI(M) said in a statement.

manufacturers in the country The steps taken for unhindered movement of oxygen cylinders from their manufacturing units across states were also detailed the Ministry said.

Taking note of the active surge in cases witnessed since last February in which most states have now crossed their highest tally, Harsh Vardhan urged the states to give special focus on the prominent five to six cities in their administration and map medical colleges to either these cities or adjoining 2-3 districts. The states were asked to seek out positive

Cong's 14-point attack on Govt over Covid 'mismanagement'

Maintaining that India has been caught off guard in its fight against the deadly coronavirus once again despite having a year to prepare, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday urged the Government to ramp up its strategy to tackle the menace as she pointed out to the overwhelmed medical infrastructure and shortage of vaccines

Sonia was speaking during the meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, which was attended by former party chief Rahul Gandhi, general secretaries and State in-charges of the

She reiterated her insistence on lowering the immunisation age to 25 years and above "as also all younger per-sons with at-risk health disorders like asthma, angina, diabetes, kidney & liver diseases and other similar ailments."

The Congress came out with a 14-point attack on Government over 'grave errors' in Covid-19 management.

Sonia also spoke about her letter to Prime Minister

cases with the onset of early

symptoms so that prompt and

effective treatment checks the

deterioration of health in the

deceased, the statement said.

for achieving community quar-

antine were also suggested as

a strategy. During the meeting, Vardhan assured fresh supply

Large containment zones

Narendra Modi after her meeting with chief ministers of Congress-ruled states to take a jibe at the Centre.

Both Sonia and Rahul earlier have written to Modi asking him to expand the country's vaccination drive against "I have written to the

Prime Minister after meeting with them. Our Chief Ministers have spoken to the Prime Minister and written to the concerned minister from time to time pleading for relief. Some of them were left with only a few days of vaccine, no oxygen or ventilators. But there has been thundering silence on the part of the Government. On the contrary some other states have received preferential treatment/relief," she said.
"Instead of listening to

the constructive suggestions of the opposition, Union Ministers are pressed into service to attack leaders of opposition for giving those sugges-

of the lifesaving machines,

saying 1,121 ventilators are to

be given to Maharashtra, 1,700

to Uttar Pradesh, 1,500 to

Jharkhand, 1,600 to Gujarat,

152 to Madhya Pradesh and

beneficiaries vaccinated in

each targeted segment of the

Detailing the number of

230 to Chhattisgarh.

tions. This convoluted "me versus you" debate is childish and totally unnecessary," she added.

Sonia said Goods and

Services Tax (GST) on all equipment, instruments, medicines and support required to prevent and treat Covid-19 should be made free. "It is a matter of grave concern that life saving drugs like Remdesivir etc. and medical oxygen as also other basic supplements are subjected to GST @ 12%. Even basic equipments like Oxymeters and life saving critical equipment like ventilators are subjected to 20% GST. In the current state of affairs, this is inhuman and untenable," she added.

The Government must provide financial support for the poor in the form of monthly income support and transfer ₹6,000 in the account of every eligible citizen, who have been hit by the partial curfews, travel restrictions, closure and lockdowns put in place by authorities, she said in her CWC meeting statement.

"Similarly, with reverse migration of labour already having started, it will be critical to immediately address

population, Vardhan also

addressed the issue of vaccine

of vaccines so far (wastage

included) has been approxi-

mately 12.57 crore doses

against the 14.15 crore doses

provided by the Centre to the

'The total consumption

their need of safe transportation as indeed their suitable rehabilitation in host as well as home States," Sonia said.

At the meet, she said that the Modi government was unprepared in evaluating and managing the crisis. She added that the Congress believed that fighting the pandemic was national challenge and that it should be kept above party politics. She said that the government did not listen to constructive suggestions made by the Opposition on the management of the pandemic, and that Union ministers attacked leaders of opposition for giv-

ing suggestions. 'This convoluted 'me versus you' debate is childish and totally unnecessary," Sonia asserted accusing the Centre of giving preferential treatment to some states while maintaining "thundering silence" on requests of states ruled by the Congress and opposition par-

"As the central and state governments move ahead to control the situation by resorting to partial curfews, travel restrictions, closure and lock downs; we will again be restricting economic activity that will hit the already beleaguered people, especially the poor and the daily wagers," she

Taking on these challenging times as Indians rather

than as political opponents will be true 'Rajadharma', Sonia

Vardhan said about 1.58 crore doses are still available with the states while another 1.16 crore doses are in pipeline, to be delivered by next week.

no shortage of vaccines, he

strongly pushed for further

ramping up the vaccination

Emphasizing that there is

Wearing 2 face masks more effective in beating Covid: Study



Wearing two face coverings or masks can nearly double the effectiveness of filtering cles, preventing them from reaching the wearer's nose and mouth and causing Covid-19, as per a recent study.

The findings published in JAMA Internal Medicine also states that the reason for the enhanced filtration is not about adding too many layers of cloth but eliminating any gaps or poor-fitting areas of a mask

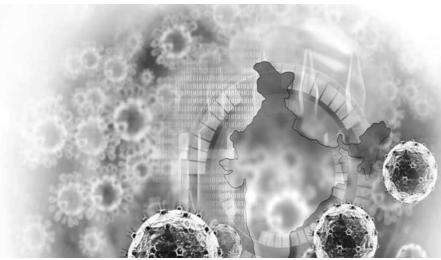
"The medical procedure masks are designed to have very good filtration potential based on their material, but the way they fit our faces isn't perfect," said Emily Sickbert-Bennett, PhD, associate professor of infectious diseases at the UNC School of Medicine and lead author of the study.

To test the fitted filtration efficiency (FFE) of a range of masks, UNC researchers worked with James Samet, PhD, and colleagues in the USEPA Human Studies Facility on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill. There they filled a 10-foot by 10-foot stainless-steel exposure chamber with small salt particle aerosols and had researchers don combinations of masks to test how effective they were at keeping particles out of their breathing space.

A transmission electron microscopic image that shows SARS-CoV-2 also known as 2019-nCoV, the virus that causes Covid-19, isolated from a patient in the US, as the Virus particles are shown emerging from the surface of cells cultured in the lab- the spikes on the outer edge of the virus particles give coronaviruses their name, crown-like.

Each individual mask or layered mask combination was fitted with a metal sample port, which was attached to tubing in the exposure chamber that measured the concentration of particles entering the breathing space underneath the researcher's mask. A second tube measured the ambient concentration of particles in the chamber. By measuring particle concentration in the breathing space underneath the mask

Lack of Covid-suitable behaviour, virus mutation cause Covid spurt: AIIMS head



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

ack of Covid-appropriate Lack of Covid appropriate behaviour and mutation of the virus are the two main reasons behind the rapid spread of coronavirus infections in the country, AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria on Saturday said even as he expressed concern over the religious and political activities taking place in a few States, cautioning that they must be done in a restricted manner.

The cause for the surge ... is multifactorial. But two main causes are that people have stopped following Covidappropriate behaviour during January-February when the vaccination started and cases went down. Also, at this time, the virus mutated and spread more rapidly," Dr Guleria said to a news agency.

"This is a time when a lot

According to their

findings, the baseline

fitted filtration

of religious activities happen in our country and polls are also underway. We must understand lives are also important. We can do this in a restricted manner so that religious sentiment is not hurt & Covid appropriate behaviour can be followed," said Dr Guleria. He also highlighted that India was witnessing a huge strain in the healthcare system and efforts need to be stepped up to keep increasing our hospital beds/resources for the increasing number of

We also have to urgently bring down the number of lovid-19 cases, he added.

"This is a time when a lot of religious activities happen in our country and polls are also underway. We must understand that lives are also important. We can do this in a restricted manner so that

undergo a series of range-of-

motion activities to simulate

religious sentiments are not hurt and Covid-appropriate behaviour can be followed," he

backdrop of the ongoing

Kumbh mela in Uttarakhand,

which has attracted people from

His remarks come in the

different parts of the country in large numbers. Talking about the immunisation drive, Dr Guleria said that India should gradually lift or lower the age bar for beneficiaries to widen the vaccination ambit. "We should gradually lift or lower the age bar so that

more and more people come

into the pool of people who can

be vaccinated. That will happen in the coming few weeks. "We will have more and more vaccines that will come into the common pool which will allow us to open up the vaccination to a larger population,"

altering the fit is about 40-60 per cent effective at keeping Covid-19-sized particles out. A

Their recent findings on doubling of face masks show that when a cloth mask is placed over a surgical mask, the FFE improved by about 20 per cent, and improved even more with a snug-fitting, sleeve-type mask, such as a gaiter. When layered over procedure masks, cloth masks improve fit by eliminating gaps and holding the procedure mask closer to the face, consistently covering

DRDO setting up hosp in Ahmedabad for Covid patients



RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has conveyed to the Gujarat Government that DRDO is establishing a 900-bedded hospital in Ahmedabad to cater to the "alarming surge" in Covid-19 cases there.

The Union Home Ministry has also directed the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) or the Central paramilitary forces to spare 25 doctors and 75 paramedics and ensure that they report by April 21 to man the hospital in Gujarat.

'The hospital is being established at the Gujarat University Convention Centre, Ahmedabad to cater to the alarming surge of the Covid cases there," reads an order issued by Additional Director General (Medical) of CAPFs under the Union Home Ministry on Friday.

It has further been decid-

ed and conveyed that CAPFs are required to provide 25 medical officers and 75 paramedical/nursing staff, reads the order.

"It is, therefore, requested that the following number of doctors and paramedics/nursing staff be detailed for the purpose please," it said. The detailed staff should

report to the nodal officer

(Colonel B Chaubey, DRDO

Hospital, Ahmedabad by April

21 positively, it said. Through the order, the

ADG (Medical), CAPFs, Dr Mukesh Saxena has also named Devarshi Raval as the nodal officer for making logistical arrangements at Gujarat University. The letter has been circu-

lated to Inspector General (Medical) of the Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) The BSF will send 10 doc-

tors and 30 paramedics, the

CRPF) will spare 10 doctors and 25 nursing staff and SSB to chip in with five doctors and 20 paramedical personnel for the DRDO hospital in Ahmedabad. Through the communication to the heads of CRPF, BSF and SSB, the Ministry has asked

them to send their team on priority and the doctors and paramedics have to report to the nodal officer of the said hospital latest by April 21. The Defence Research and

Development Organisation (DRDO) hospital set to be operationalised by late next week, officials said. On Friday, the Defence

Minister Rajnath Singh directed the DRDO to reopen the Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Covid care hospital here which was set up in July last year. He has also asked the defence body to set up a new facility in Lucknow.

Kumbh Mela: Plea in SC seeks direction to clear mass gathering from Haridwar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Centre and others to clear the "mass gathering" from Haridwar amid a surge in Covid-19 cases across the country and prescribe a safety protocol with respect to

The plea, which referred to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases, has also sought directions to the Centre and the Uttarakhand government to immediately withdraw the advertisements inviting people to Haridwar for Kumbh Mela.

It said that the Election Commission should be asked to issue direction to the authorities in the states where elections are being held to strictly enforce COVID-19 guidelines during the poll process and take appropriate action against the violators.

The plea, filed by Noidaresident Šanjai Kumar Pathak, said that COVID-19 cases are increasing rapidly across the country and the health infrastructure is "crumbling" in many states.

It claimed that hospitals and crematoriums are running out of space and shortage of essential drugs has been reported from many cities.

The petition said that India is currently witnessing its highest surge in COVID-19

demic, but visuals of lakh of devotees crowding in Haridwar for Kumbh Mela and in election rallies in states have surfaced. "On the one hand, poor

cases since onset of the pan-

common man on the street is often punished and treated violently by the police and vidual violations of COVID-19 rules and regulations in the name of strict enforcement, and on the other hand, the authorities are not only permitting but facilitating and promoting congregation of people in the events like Kumbh-2021 and election ral-

lies," the plea has alleged. It sought the apex court's direction to the Centre, Uttarakhand government and the National Disaster Management Authority to not encourage or promote any gathering or event "inconsistent with the spirit and object of the COVID guidelines" and orders issued by these author-

"It is axiomatic that the respondents have turned a blind eye towards the violation of COVID-19 guidelines at the Kumbh Mela and during election campaigns and rallies which have the potential to become super spreader events but common people on the street is being fined and challans are being issued," the plea

Private vehicle would not come within expression of public place: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

private vehicle does not Acome within the expression of a "public place" as per the explanation given under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench comprising justices U U Lalit and K M Joseph made the observation while deciding an appeal challenging an order passed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court affirming their conviction and sentence under the NDPS Act.

Two bags of poppy straw were recovered from the accused while they were sitting in a jeep at a public

The trial court, after considering the evidence on record, acquitted accused Major Singh but convicted accused Boota Singh, Gurdeep Singh and Gurmohinder Singh, under the NDPS Act and sentenced them to rigorous imprisonment for 10

They were also asked to pay a fine of Rs 1 lakh, failing which they were directed to undergo further rigorous imprisonment for two years.

The accused argued before the top court that the vehicle in question was a private one belonging to accused Gurdeep Singh and was not a public conveyance, though it was parked on a public road.

efficiency (FFE) of a mask differs from person to person, due to each person's unique face and mask fit

compared to that in the chamber, researchers determined

"We also had the researchers in the chamber

the typical motions a person may do throughout their day -- bending at the waist, talking, and looking left, right, up and down," said Phillip Clapp, PhD, an inhalation toxicologist in the UNC School of Medicine who has been testing mask FFE with Sickbert-Bennett since the pandemic began. According to their findings, the baseline fitted filtra-

tion efficiency (FFE) of a mask

differs from person to person,

due to each person's unique

face and mask fit. But general-

ly, a procedure mask without

cloth mask is about 40 per cent effective.

the nose and mouth

Myanmar pardons prisoners

Unclear if coup foes among them

Msaturday announced it pardoned and released more than 23,000 prisoners to mark the traditional Thingyan New Year holiday, but it wasn't immediately clear if they included pro-democracy activists who were detained in the wake of the military's seizure of power in February.

releases were announced on state broadcaster MRTV, which said that junta chief Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing had pardoned 23,047 prisoners, including 137 for-eigners who will be deported from Myanmar. He also reduced sentences for others.

The move comes as daily protests against the February 1 ouster of the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi continue, as does the use of deadly force against them.

According to Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which monitors casualties and arrests. government forces have killed at least 728 protesters and bystanders since the takeover. The group says 3,141 people, including Suu Kyi, are in deten-



A man is embraced by two women outside Insein prison in Yangon, Myanmar on Saturday

Unconfirmed but credible accounts with photos on social media claimed that three people were killed Saturday by security forces in a violent crackdown in the central city of Mogok, in Myanmar's gem mining region.

Detainees released Saturday from Yangon's Insein Prison included at least three political prisoners who were iailed in 2019, said witnesses and local press reports.

The three are members of the Peacock Generation per-

country. Even as the U.S. And

Britain see their vaccination

drives hit their stride and they

begin to contemplate life after

the pandemic, other places

both rich and poor — France

and India among them — are

lagging behind in putting shots

in arms and have imposed

new lockdowns and other

ning at over 12,000 per day on average and new cases at more

5,60,000, accounting for more

than 1 in 6 of the world's

Covid-19 deaths, by far the

highest reported by any coun-

lowed by Brazil, Mexico, India

and Britain. This month, the

US recommended a pause in

the use of Johnson & Johnson's

Covid-19 vaccine while author-

ities investigate extremely rare

but dangerous blood clots, and

some European countries are

putting the vaccine on

Seoul: US climate envoy John

Kerry met with South Korea's

foreign minister in Seoul on

Saturday for talks ahead of a

virtual climate summit of world

leaders called by President Joe

Korea after a four-day visit to China where he held closed-

door meetings with senior

Chinese officials in Shanghai.

with South Korea's Foreign

Minister Chung Eui-yong were

focused on Biden's climate

meeting and another video

summit on environmental

issues that South Korea will host

in May, Chung also conveyed

Seoul's "serious concerns" over

Japanese government plans to

start releasing treated radioac-

tive water from the wrecked

Commonwealth.

The ceremony, which

began at St George's Chapel in

While Kerry's discussions

Kerry arrived in South

Biden for next week.

After China, US envoy Kerry

in S Korea for climate talks

Worldwide, deaths are run-

The US toll alone is over

restrictions as cases soar.

than 7,00,000 a day.

formance troupe where were arrested during that year's New Year celebrations for skits that poked fun at military representatives in Parliament and military involvement in business.

Their traditional style of acting is called Thangyat, a mash-up of poetry, comedy and music with a sharp undertone of satire. Several members of the troupe were convicted under a law banning circulation of information that could endanger or demoralise members of the military. The actors may have drawn the special wrath of the military because they performed in army uniforms.

Several members were also found guilty of online defamation for livestreaming their performances. It could not be ascertained if all imprisoned members of the troupe were

Another freed prisoner was Ross Dunkley, an Australian newspaper entrepreneur sentenced in 2019 to 13 years in a Myanmar prison for drug possession. His release was conJohnston, reported The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper.

Dunkley co-founded the

The Myanmar Times, an English-language daily, but was forced to give up his share in it. He became well-known for co-founding or acquiring English-language publications in formerly socialist states that were seeking foreign invest-ment as they liberalised their economies, but was sometimes criticised for doing business with authoritarian regimes.

Early prisoner releases are customary during major holidays, and this is the second batch the ruling junta has announced since taking power.

Following the release of more than 23,000 convicts to mark Union Day on February 12, there were reports on social media that some were recruited by the authorities to carry out violence at night in residential areas to spread panic, especially by setting fires. Some areas responded by setting up their own neighborhood watch

In March, more than 600 people who were imprisoned for demonstrating against the February coup were released from Insein Prison, a rare conciliatory gesture by the military that appeared aimed at placating the protest movement.

Those freed were mostly young people caught in sweeps of street demonstrations, while those considered protest leaders were kept locked up.

Troops level may increase in Af before withdrawal: Pentagon

 $B^{\text{efore the complete with-}}_{\text{drawal of US troops from}}$ Afghanistan by September 11, there might be an increase in number of soldiers to ensure safe and orderly drawdown, the Pentagon has said.

"It is not out of the realm the possibility that for a short period of time, there will have to be some additional enabling capabilities added to Afghanistan, to help effect a safe, orderly, and deliberately planned drawdown of everybody by the president's deadline, early September," Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told reporters at a news

conference on Friday. However, Kirby did not elaborate on the nature of the increase in US troops. "I can't speak today with exactly what that would look like, how many, when they would be going in. But as we transitioned out of Iraq, of course, it's logical to assume that you may need some logistics help, maybe some engineering help," he said.

"You may have to add some force protection capabilities, temporarily, just to make sure that the drawdown goes in a safe, orderly, and effective way. Again, we'll know more as we get closer, but that would not be out of the realm of possibility," Kirby said.

Responding to a question, Kirby said that the Department



of Defense is still working out what the future bilateral security relationship is going to be with Afghanistan.

"We're going to transition to a bilateral relationship, a military relationship that's more akin to the kinds of relationships we have with other countries," he said.

"It will not include a US military footprint on the ground in Afghanistan with the exception of what's going to be required to support the diplomatic mission there. All that's still being worked out. So, I can't speak with specificity today about what contract support the Afghan security forces are going to need going forward," he said.

The United States, he said, will maintain counterterrorism capabilities to continue to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a launching pad for terrorist attacks on the US.

"We have a vast range of

capabilities available to us and we're not going to speak to the details of exactly how we're going to maintain those capapilities and utilise those capabilities," he said.

During a televised address to the nation earlier in the week, President Joe Biden said that keeping thousands of troops grounded and concentrated in just one country at a cost of billions each year made "little sense" to him.

He said all US troops would be withdrawn from the strife-torn country by September 11 to end America's longest war that has cost trillions of dollars and the lives of over 2,400 American soldiers.

The US and the Taliban signed a landmark deal in Doha on February 29, 2020 to bring lasting peace in wartorn Afghanistan and allow US troops to return home from America's longest war.

Worldwide Covid death toll tops a staggering 3m

AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

The global death toll from the coronavirus topped a staggering 3 million people Saturday amid repeated setbacks in the worldwide vaccination campaign and a deepening crisis in places such as Brazil, India and France.

The number of lives lost, as

compiled by Johns Hopkins University, is about equal to the population of Kyiv, Ukraine; Caracas, Venezuela; or metropolitan Lisbon, Portugal. It is bigger than Chicago (2.7 million) and equivalent to Philadelphia and Dallas combined.

And the true number is higher because of possible government concealment or the many cases overlooked in the early stages of the outbreak that began 16 months ago in Wuhan, China, at the end of 2019. Around the world, the trajectory of the virus and the race to bring it under control vary widely from country to

Italy's Salvini to

Rome: A judge in Sicily on Saturday ordered former Interior Minister Matteo

Salvini to stand trial for having

refused to let a Spanish migrant

rescue ship dock in an Italian

Judge Lorenzo Iannelli set

September 15 as the trial date

during a hearing in the

Palermo bunker courtroom,

the LaPresse news agency

reported. Salvini, who attend-

ed the hearing, confirmed the

outcome and insisted he was

only doing his job and his duty

by refusing entry to the Open

Arms rescue ship and the 147

people it had rescued in the

port in 2019, keeping the peo-

stand trial for

2019 migrant

standoff

ple at sea for days.

5 workers killed in police firing in power plant in **B'desh: Reports**

Dhaka: At least five people working at a under construction coal power plant being built by a Chinese firm in Chittagong were killed and 20 others injured in a clash with the police following a protest by the workers over wage and allowances, Bangladeshi media reports said on Saturday.

The incident happened when the protesting workers of the plant clashed with the police, prompting them to open fire in which five workers were killed, the *Dhaka Tribune* reported.

The violence broke out around 10:30 am at the coalfired power plant. Five have died while at least 20 others were injured in the clash, including police and local residents," a ed as saying in the report.

"They attacked police who are on duty, forcing the policemen to retaliate. Four were killed during the incident while three policemen were injured," Chattogram Range Deputy Inspector General Anwar Hossain was quoted as saying by the Daily Star newspaper. PTI

Fukushima nuclear plant into

help for South Korea's efforts to

secure more coronavirus vac-

cines as it wrestles with a slow

vaccine rollout and a steady rise

in infections, South Korea's

Foreign Ministry said. The

ministry didn't release any spe-

cific comments made by Kerry

that the countries should coop-

erate to create "mutual syner-

gy" between the virtual sum-

in the coming weeks

Climate Change

which would help set up the

Conference scheduled to be

held in Scotland in November,

the ministry said in a state-

mits hosed by each country

Chung and Kerry agreed

Chung also requested US

the sea in two years.

during the meeting.

Russia expels Ukrainian consul over classified information

Moscow: Russia detained a Ukrainian diplomat for allegedly receiving classified information from a database of the country's main security agency.

The Federal Security Service, or FSB, said Saturday that Alexander Sosonyuk, Ukraine's consul in St Petersburg, was taken into custody on Friday during a meeting with a Russian in which he received "information of a classified nature contained in the databases of law enforcement agencies and the FSB".

The FSB statement, reported by Russian news agencies, didn't give further details.

Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleg Nikolenko said Sosonyuk has been released from custody and is on Ukrainian diplomatic property. Russia would move to expel him.

Nikolenko said Ükraine was preparing a response, but didn't elaborate. The detention comes amid escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine amid a Russian military buildup along the border with the eastern Ukraine

Raul Castro said he is stepping down as Cuban Communist Party leader, leav-

ing the island without a Castro

guiding affairs for the first

time in more than six decades

and handing control of the

party to a younger generation.

made the announcement in a

speech Friday at the opening of

the eighth congress of the rul-

ing party, the only one allowed

secretary ... With the satisfaction

of having fulfilled (my duty) and

confidence in the future of the

fatherland," he said in a typical-

ly terse, to-the-point finale that

contrasted with the impassioned

The 89-year-old Castro

"I concluded my task as first

AP HAVANA

on the island.

US Prez Biden, Japanese PM Suga discuss Chinese influence over Indo-Pacific

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden and Japan Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, in their first inperson bilateral meeting at the White House, discussed the increasing Chinese influence over the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific and ways to strengthen the QUAD, comprising of India and Australia as the other two nations in the Other issues like climate

change, fight against coronavirus pandemic and North Korea did appear in their talks on Friday, which was the first for Biden with a foreign leader as the president of the United States. "Our alliance has served its

role as the foundation of peace Pacific region and the world. In light of the current regional situation and the severe security environment, the importance of our alliance has reached new heights," Suga told reporters at a White House news conference with Biden.

In addition to the bilateral relationship, Suga said they

verbal pyrotechnics of his brother Fidel, who died in 2016.

would endorse as his successor

as first secretary of the

Communist Party. But he pre-

viously indicated he favors yield-

ing control to 60-year-old

Miguel Díaz-Canel, who suc-

ceeded him as president in 2018

and is the standard bearer of a

younger generation of loyalists

who have been pushing an eco-

nomic opening without touch-

tinuity and I think Díaz-Canel

should be there now," said 58-year-old driver Miguel

Rodríguez. Castro's retirement

ends an era of formal leader-

ship that began with his broth-

er Fidel and country's 1959 rev-

"All processes have a con-

ing Cuba's one-party system.

Castro didn't say who he

discussed the free and open Indo-Pacific.

"We agreed that while Japan and the US will take the lead to promote the vision through concrete efforts. We will also cooperate with other countries and regions, including the ASEAN, Australia, and India," he said. We also had serious talks

on China's influence over the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific and the world at large. We agreed to oppose any attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion in the East and South China Seas and intimidation of others in the region," Suga said. Beijing claims almost all of

the 1.3 million square mile South China Sea as its soverbuilding military bases on artificial islands in the region also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Beijing has impeded com-

mercial activity like fishing or mineral exploration by countries like Vietnam and the

Era ends as Raul Castro steps

down as Communist Party chief "One has to step aside for the young people," said 64-yearold retiree Juana Busutil, for whom Castro "is going to con-

tinue being the leader. The transition comes at a difficult time for Cuba, with many on the island anxious about what lies ahead.

The coronavirus pandemic, painful financial reforms and restrictions imposed by the Trump administration have battered the economy, which shrank 11% last year as a result of a collapse in tourism and remittances. Long food lines and shortages have brought back echoes of the "special period" that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union in the

After outcry, White House says Biden will lift refugee cap in May

AP WASHINGTON

 ${
m F}$ acing swift blowback from allies and aid groups, the White House said President Joe Biden plans to lift his predecessor's historically low cap on refugees by next month, after initially moving only to expand the eligibility criteria for resettlements.

In an emergency determination signed by Biden earlier Friday, he stated the admission of up to 15,000 refugees set by former President Donald Trump this year "remains justified by humanitarian concerns and is otherwise in the national interest." But if the cap is reached before the end of the current budget year and the emergency presidential determination may be issued to raise the ceiling.

That set off a deluge of criticism from top allies on Capitol Hill such as the second-ranking Senate Democrat, Dick Durbin of Illinois, who called that initial limit "unacceptable." White House press secretary Jen Psaki said later that Biden is expected to increase the refugee cap by May 15, though she didn't say by how much.

Biden has been consulting with his advisers to determine what number of refugees could realistically be admitted to the United States between now and October 1, the end of the fiscal year, Psaki said.

"Given the decimated refugee admissions program we inherited," she said it's now "unlikely" Biden will be able to he had proposed in his plan to Congress two months ago.

Riot declared after police kill man in Oregon protests

Portland: Police in Portland, Oregon, said on Saturday they arrested four people after declaring a riot Friday night when protesters smashed windows, burglarised businesses and set multiple fires during demonstrations that started after police fatally shot a man while responding to reports of a person with a gun.

Police said they dispersed the crowd so firefighting crews could douse fires before they spread in extreme fire hazard conditions.

The vandalism downtown came after the police shooting earlier Friday and was also was part of vigils and demonstrations already planned for the night in the name of peo-

ाज.संवाद / सी / 21 / 615

ple killed in police shootings nationwide. They include 13year-old Adam Toledo of Chicago and Daunte Wright, a Black man in a Minneapolis suburb. Deputy Police Chief Chris Davis told reporters a white man in his 30s had been shot and killed in Portland by police. The man was pronounced dead at the scene in Lents Park, a leafy, residential neighbourhood of the city.

Two officers fired a 40mm device that shoots non-lethal projectiles, and one officer an eight-year veteran — fired a gun, police said

in a statement. The officer is on paid administrative leave, and his or her name will be released, authorities said. AP

कार्यालय नगर निगम, भरतपुर

ई-निविदा सूचना- 01/2021-22

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Prince Philip laid to rest in royal funeral sermons, as planned by the

Mediterranean Sea.

 $B^{\text{ritain's Queen Elizabeth II}}_{\text{led a small group of senior}}$ royals at the ceremonial funeral of her husband and consort Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, at Windsor Castle on Saturday.

The funeral incorporated hymns and readings chosen by the late royal himself and focussed on the "unwavering loyalty" of the longest-serving consort in British history to his wife, the monarch, and service



Windsor Castle with a national minute's silence at 1500 local time on Saturday, was a religious one though without any Duke - who passed away aged 99 last week on Friday.

'The Order of Service for the funeral was agreed with the Duke of Edinburgh during his lifetime, and reflects the Duke's military affiliations, and personal elements of His Royal Highness' life," Buckingham Palace said in a statement.

At the end of the ceremony, the Duke's coffin was carried to his resting place in the royal vault beneath St George's

CORRIGENDUM

Reference to publication of ICICI Bank Limited vs SHISHIR DUTT KUMAR PANDIT. Case No-Suit no 933/18, ICICI Bank Limited vs KULVINDER SINGH, Case No-FAO 213/2015, ICICI Bank Limited vs MEHKAR SINGH, Case No-CM(M) 549/2020 & CM APPL.27986/2020, ICICI Bank Limited vs SUBODH KUMAR, Case No-CM(M) 602/2020 & CM APPL.30659/2020, ICICI Bank Limited vs JITENDRA CHATURVEDI, Case No-CM (M) 22/2020, ICICI Bank Limited vs MOHD ASIF. Case No-CM(M) 178/2021. ICICI Bank Limited vs ARCHANA RAJ, Case No-CM(M) 573/2020 & CM APPL.29273/2020, ICICI Bank Limited vs MOHAMMAD ARIF, Case No-CSSCJ:1871/19, ICICI Bank Limited vs VIJAY GUPTA, Case No-Suit No. 1088/2018, ICICI Bank Limited vs RAHUL YADAV, Case No-CM (M) 222/2020, ICICI Bank Limited vs VIJAY GUPTA, Case No-Suit No. 1088/2018 of April 17, 2021 published in The Pioneer (Eng.) and The Pioneer (Hin.). Due to inadvertent mistake the Auction Date was wrongly mentioned as May 1, 2021 and April 22, 2021 instead of May 06, 2021. We therefore, requesting to read it as May 06, 2021. and remaining content is unchanged

AMID COVID 2.0

Fiscal package may be on cards to maintain economic recovery

fiscal stimulus package Amay be on the cards again as the Government looks at ways to prevent the present surge in Covid-19 cases and the ensuing restrictions imposed by the States from derailing the economic recovery.

After last year's lockdowns, which resulted in the country's GDP contracting by (-) 23.9 per cent, it was hoped that the economy will grow handsomely in FY22 to register a double digit growth.

For this to happen, the RBI has projected a Q1 FY22 GDP growth of 26.2 per cent. But the recent surge in the pandemic has again raised serious questions about the health of the

ınday pioneer

There are some discussions within the government about the need, shape and timing of a fresh fiscal stimulus

The idea is to see that the poor and small businesses do not suffer and their livelihood support is not disturbed, said an official source, on condition of anonymity.

The source said that any such package, if finalised, would come up later this month or next month.

The Union Finance Ministry has so far not indicated about any new stimulus to contain the disruptions caused by the fresh Covid-19

Last year, the government and the RBI came up with a series of announcements to provide relief to the common man and businesses impacted by the Covid-induced lockdown.

Under its 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' package and the Garib Kalyan Yojana, the government had announced packages worth over Rs 20 lakh crore.

While the economic situation is still much better than last year and the government has indicated against a complete lockdown this year, support measures could just look at the most vulnerable sections of the society and the

year, the package may include measures by the government as well as compliance relief offered by the Reserve Bank of India

Already, various ministries are providing inputs to the

The worry for the government this time round is also about inflation that has seen an increase in the last few months.

This actually means that people are already struggling with higher food prices while their income is dogged with uncertainty.

The RBI will also have to

do a balancing act over growth aspirations and containing

DPIIT notifies PLI scheme for ACs, LED lights

MERE ASSEMBLY OF FINISHED **GOODS NOT TO BE INCENTIVISED**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has}$ notified the PLI scheme for ACs and LED lights and said that selection of companies to avail the incentives would

done to support manufacturing of components which are not made in India presently.

It said that mere assembly of finished goods would not be incentivised and companies investing in basic/core components would get a higher Earlier this month, the

government approved a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods - Air Conditioners (ACs) and LED Lights - with a budgetary outlay of Rs 6,238 crore. It will be implemented over 2021-22 to

2028-29. According to the notification of the DPIIT, the **Empowered Group**

of Secretaries chaired by Cabinet Secretary will monitor the PLI scheme, undertake periodic review of the outgo under the scheme, ensure uniformity of all PLIs and take appropriate action to ensure that the expenditure is within the prescribed outlay.

The group will be empowered to make any changes in the modalities of the scheme within the overall financial outlay of Rs 6,238 croreIt said

that the incentive per beneficiary will be applicable on incremental sales (net of

taxes) of manufactured goods (as distinct from traded goods) over the base year (2019-20) subject to ceilings.

"Mere assembly of fin-ished goods shall not be incentivised. Selection of companies for the scheme shall be done so as to incentivise manufacturing of components or subassemblies which are not manufactured in India presently with sufficient capacity," it

Indian pharma exports grow at 18% to 24.44 bn USD in FY 21

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Pharma exports from India witnessed over 18 per cent growth to USD 24.44 billion during the last financial year against USD 20.58 billion in FY20, Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) said on Saturday.

"We have observed a big leap in our exports in the month of March 2021 which is USD 2.3 billion (figures for March are provisional) and is highest among the exports of all the months of this financial year, the growth rate for this month is 48.5 per cent against the exports in March 2020 (USD 1.54 billion)," Udaya Bhaskar, Director General of Pharmexcil said in a release.

Growth rate seems relatively big as the exports of March 2020 was crunched due to lockdown across the world and supply chain disruption, he

was quoted as saying.

When the global pharma
market is negatively grown by 1-2% in 2020, there is a big surge in demand for Indian made generics owing to its quality and affordability, the official said adding Drug formulations and Biologicals is the second largest Principal commodity being exported by India.The Pharma exports body is expecting big growth in Indian vaccine exports in the coming years and the government policy on PLI (production Linked Incentive) scheme

pharma to grow by reducing import dependnce and develop export potential in the days to come as most of the countries are looking at India for APIs (active pharmaceutical ingredient) he said.

North America is the largest exporting region for Indian pharmaceuticals with more than 34 per cent share.

Country wise exports to the US, Canada and Mexico have recorded a growth of 12.6, 30 and 21.4 per cent respectively. South Africa being the second largest exporting country, recorded a big jump of 28 per cent growth while Europe was the third largest exporting region which has recorded approximately 11 per will also help the domestic cent growth over previous year.

Crude to be around \$60 a barrel in 2021

IANS NEW DELHI

 G^{lobal} crude oil prices are expected to be in the range of \$60 a barrel over the long term period as OPEC+ decision to cap supply until demand recovers and the pandemic continuing to keep a check on consumption.

According to a research report by ICICI Securities, Brent has recovered and is over \$ 60/bbl since February, 21 vs April, 20 low of \$ 21/bbl driven by demand recovery from lows and OPEC+ capping supply to ensure supply deficit since July last year.

"OPEC+ capping supply until demand recovers is estimated to ensure supply deficit of 1.3 million barrels of oil per day in calendar year 2021 and keep Brent above \$60/bbl," the brokerage said.

The expectation for the crude was that it may surge in 2021 on the back of economies recovering as vaccinations tamed the spread of Covid-19. But the lockdowns again due to fresh surge in Covid cases has delayed demand recovery in

Also, the probability of US sanctions on Iran's oil exports being lifted appears to have reased substantially.

EU and other signatories to the nuclear deal are talking to Iran and US separately to bring them on the same page and revive the deal. Indications are that US

sanctions on Iran exports may be lifted as early as before Iran's presidential elections due on June 18.
"While OPEC+ capping

supply should keep Brent above \$ 60/bbl, delay in demand recovery and US lifting sanctions on Iran exports would cap further rise. We estimate long-term Brent at \$60/bbl," ICICI Securities said.

With regard to gross refining magind (GRMs) the outook is modest as capacity addition is expected to exceed to refined products demand

Second Covid wave to disrupt fabric demand: Ind-Ra

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The second wave of Covid-19 resurgence can potentially disrupt fabric demand, said India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).
"Woven fabrics produc-

tion continued to improve mom, though marginally, in January 2021, despite remaining 21 per cent YoY lower," Ind-Ra said.

"While recoveries for blended and knitted fabrics were quicker, that of woven is expected to be delayed with micro-lockdowns and workfrom-home culture."

Besides, export demand for woven fabrics is expected to plunge over Q1FY22 with key destination countries grappling with a second wave of pan-

"Fabric exports remained muted in January 2021 on a mom basis, and 17 per cent YoY lower. Demand for imported fab-

rics surged over December 2020-January 2021, led by restocking by retailers."

"Imports in value terms doubled between November 2020-January 2021 with higher shipments from China, Bangladesh and Vietnam."

AGEL arm bags 150 MWac solar project

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Green Energy arm AREHFifteenL has bagged a 150 MWac solar energy project capacity from Torrent

Adani Renewable Energy Holding Fifteen Ltd (AREHFifteenL), a whollyowned subsidiary of Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), participated in a Tender issued by Torrent Power Ltd for procurement of power through competitive bidding process, tovoltaic power projects to be setup in Gujarat. AREHFifteenL has been

awarded a project capacity of 150 MWac Solar Power Project, a BSE filing said.

The fixed tariff for this project capacity is Rs 2.22/ kWh for a period of 25 years.

Operating margins of sugar companies expected to moderate in FY22: ICRA

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The operating margins of sugar companies are likely to moderate in FY22 due to higher production cost and reduced export subsidy, ratings agency ICRA said in a state-

Besides, benefits from improved distillery performance was also cited by the agency as a factor that might moderate operating margins. "In the medium term, the

government support measures for higher diversion of sugar for ethanol production would support in improving the demand supply dynamics of the industry on a sustainable basis," ICRA said.

As per the agency, domestic sugar production is expected to increase by 10 per cent to 30.2 million MT in SY2021 and outstrip consumption by ICRA.

around 4.2 million MT.

ICRA expects sugar exports at around 5.5 million MT supported by the export policy and the closing stocks are likely to remain higher than normative sugar stock

expected to be lower than the previous season at around 11.0 million MT.

scenario in the domestic market, any significant increase in the sugar prices is ruled out in higher diversion of sugar towards ethanol and the remunerative pricing of ethanol is expected to result in an improved distillery performance in FY2022," said Sabyasachi Majumdar, Senior Vice President & Group Head,

Correction an opportunity to add cyclicals: MOFSL

opportunity to add cyclical stocks said Motilal Oswal Financial Services. In a report, MOFSL said

resurgence in second wave of highs, respectively.

localised restrictions with

restrictive measures to impact near-term economic recovery till cases stabilise. However, key

policymakers have ruled out national lockdown.

Consequently, MOFSL recommend that correction should be viewed by the investors as a buying opportunity and advocated adding a balanced mix of growth, cyclicals and defensive stocks in their portfolios."We continue to be 'OW' on the BFSI, IT, Metals, Cement and Capital Goods, Neutral on Consumer, Auto and Pharma while staying

On the bright side, it said that vaccinations are gradually beginning to accelerate.

further with approvals for more vaccines now in place, we expect the focus to shift back to growth, cyclical recovery and fundamentals.0

FICCI writes to 25 CMs on Covid management, urges to avoid lockdown

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body FICCI has written to Chief Ministers of 25 States urging them to avoid imposing partial or total lockdown in the wake of fresh surge in Covid cases.

The industry body also argued that the economy has barely begun to turnaround from the impact of the earlier lockdowns and such decisions now will push the push the economy into downward spi-

In the letter written to state CMs by FICCI President Uday Shankar, the chamber has acknowledged the need to break the Covid chain but has suggested the strategy to focus more on ramping up covid testing, awareness drive and enforcement of Covid appropriate behaviour rather than lockdown.

"The population may be sensitised about the Covid appropriate behaviour like wearing masks, physical distancing and personal hygiene.

Support may be taken by involving volunteers from the schools, colleges and the NGOs. Strict compliance to Covid protocol may be ensured with suitable penalties for violations," the letter states.

the Union Government to open up the vaccination for all the people above 18 years of age to give a massive push to the vaccination drive as there is no shortage of vaccines and the inoculation capacity can be increased with the participation of the private sector.

Petrol, diesel price unchanged for 2nd consecutive day

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Fuel prices in the country remained unchanged on Saturday as oil marketing companies decided to go on a pause mode and analyse the global developments on oil prices before effecting a revi-

The price of the two auto

Across the country as well local levies on respective states.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), Namely: Ishani @ Pooja D/o Shri Dharam Das R/o H. No. D-153, Vijay Vihar, Ph-II Delhi has been missing since 26.03.2021 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 91A dated 27.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Vijay Vihar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

POOJA Age: 20 Years, Height: 5'1" Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue colour suit and cream colour leggy and sandal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Vijay Vihar, Delhi at E-mail Id cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639

P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi Rohini Distt., Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a person namely Sachin Mittal S/o Sh. Sajjan Kumar, R/o H.No. B-1/9, Budh Vihar Ph-I, Delhi has been missing since 31.03.2021 from the area of PS. Vijay Vihar. In this regard a DD No. 107-A Dated 31.03.2021 has been lodged at PS, Vijay Vihar, Delhi.

The description of Missing person is as under

Name: Sachin Mittal, Father's Name: Sh. Sajjan Kumar, Age: 35 years, Height: 5'9", Face: Long, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue Jeans, White Shirt, Sports Shoes in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE

APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that Pooja

the undersigned. Website: http://cbi.nic.in e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

P.S., Vijay Vihar, Delhi Ph: 011-27061294 27061295

By Order

Ms. Anuradha Sonker

Metropolitan Magistrate (NI Act)-08

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Kusum @ Kiran D/o Sh. Ashok R/o Jhuggi No.424, Cow Street, Indira Camp, Sector-03, Rohini, Delhi Aged-17 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 21.03.2021 at about 4 AM from her residence vide FIR No.097/21 u/s 363 IPC Dated 22.03.2021 registered at Police Station South Rohini, Delhi. Her physical

description is as under:-Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'2", Face: Long, Built: Thin, ID: KS mark on right hand, Clothing: Green coloured suit, Green coloured salwar.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, South Rohini, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website http://cbi.nic.in

Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 FAX No.: 011-24368639 DP/775/RD/2021

SHO, South Rohini, Delhi Tel.: 011-27512189, 27510515

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 75 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found dead opposite Kabutar Market, Jama Masiid, Delhi. In this regard, a vide has been registered with DD No: 49-A, dated 12.04.2021 at PS Jama Masjid, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been

made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to

The description of the UIDB is as under: Sex: Male, Age: 75 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Wearing: White colour kurta and white colour pajama.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Jama Masjid, Delhi.

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 DP/764/CD/2021

P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi. Ph. No. 011-23269777, 2326125

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one person Namely: Tarsen Lal, S/o: Sh, Durga Das, R/o: H.No. B-750. Sec-1, Rohini, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since 22.03.2021 from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 126A, dated 22.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing/ kidnapped person is as

under: Age: 64 years, Height: 5'8", Face: Long, Built: Thin, Complexion: Shallow, ID Mark: Mentally Disturb, Wearing: Blue colour kurta, paijama and slipper in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing person kindly inform to the following.

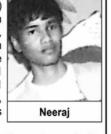
Website: http//cbi.nic.in E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639

DP/772/RD/2021

SHO, Vijay Vihar, Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED BOY General Public is hereby informed that

one boy (depicted in the photo) namely Neeraj S/o Sh. Shambhu Nath R/o E-86, Ground Floor, Vijay Vihar, Ph-2, Delhi Aged-13 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 13.03.2021 at 5 PM vide FIR No.118/21 u/s 363 IPC Dated 20.03.2021 registered at Police Station Vijay Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as



Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'5", Face: Long, Built: Thin, Clothing: Cream coloured pant, Blue coloured T-shirt and sport shoes in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this

missing/kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Vijay Vihar, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641

FAX No.: 011-24368639 DP/762/RD/2021

Tel.: 011-27061294-95 Mob.: 8750870329

levels of 6-6.5 million MT at around 9.5 million MT for SY2021 season. However, the stocks are

"Given the sugar surplus

government authorities and

Market correction due to Covid resurgence is an

Covid-19 has led to elevated market volatility and correction.Lately, both Nifty and Bank Nifty are down 5 and 15 per cent from their recent "To contain the pandemic,

Maharashtra yesterday unveiling set of broad-based measures for two weeks mini-lock-"We expect the set of 'UW' on Energy, Utility and

"As vaccination pick up



missing since 03.03.2021 at 04:00 PM

this regard, DD No. 61-A dated 03.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have

from the area of PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In

Wearing: Blue colour jeans, green colour t-shirt and slippers If anyone has any information regarding this missing boy, kindly inform SHO/Vijay Vihar, Delhi

Fax: 011-24368639 DP/779/RD/2021

P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. Ph. No. 011-27521294, 27521295

Accordingly, pump price of petrol and diesel remained at ₹90.40 a litre and ₹80.73 a litre respectively in Delhi.

fuels had fallen by 16 paisa and on Thursday after a 15 day break when OMCs kept its prices static.

the petrol and diesel price remained unchanged on Saturday but its retail levels varied depending on the level of



ISHANI @

Ph. No. 011-27061294, 27061295

Mishra, D/o Ravinder Mishra R/o RZ 123, Gali No.5, Naryan Vihar, Prem Nagar 2nd, Kirari Suleman Nagar, North-West Delhi has committed (or is suspected to has committed) the offence in case CC No.7962/17 S. k. Motor V/s Pooja Misra u/s 138 NiA Act, P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Pooia Mishra cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Pooja Mishra has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Pooja Mishra of CC No.7962/17 S. k. Motor V/s Pooia Misra u/s 138

NiA Act, P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before

this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 24.05.2021.

DP/787/RD/2021 Room No.215, 2nd Floor, Dwarka Court, New Delhi

General public is hereby informed that a boy Lakhan S/o Raju, R/o Aasha Kiran, Home sector-1, Rohini, Delhi has been

SEARCH FOR MISSING

been made by the local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing boy is as under: Name: Lakhan, Gender: Male, Age: 20 years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Medium,

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Lakhan

Tarsen Lal

SHO P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi Ph.: 011-27511294, 8750870329 **SCOREBOARD**

Did not bat: Rahul Chahar, Adam Milne, Jasprit Bumrah, Trent

Fall of Wickets: 55-1 (Rohit Sharma, 6.3), 71-2 (Suryakumar

skipper and also surpassed Mahendra Singh Dhoni's record of hitting the most number of sixes

With Rohit and de Kock looking in full flow, it seemed MI will put up a big score.

However, MI soon slipped to 71 for 2 with

Vijay Shankar dismissing Rohit and Suryakumar

Yadav (10) in his two overs.
While the MI skipper holed out to Virat Singh

in the sixth over, Suryakumar was caught and

screw on MI as the well-set de Kock next perished

at deep mid-wicket in his pursuit for a big shot.

in the middle but the scoring remained difficult.

clubbed one over mid-wicket to break the shack

les but Mujeeb soon dismissed Ishan with wick-

etkeeper Jonny Bairstow taking a fabulous catch.

n't produce their trademark hitting as the former

to smash the last two balls of the innings for two

Rashid Khan and Mujeeb then tightened the

Pollard then joined Ishan Kishan (12 off 21)

With MI at 107 for 3 in 16 overs, Pollard

New man Hardik Pandya and Pollard could-

Pollard, who was dropped by Vijay, managed

The 33-year-old now has 217 sixes in IPL, one

by an Indian in the tournament.

Yadav, 8.3), 98-3 (Quinton de Kock, 13.5), 114-4 (Ishan Kishan, 16.5), 131-5 (Hardik Pandya, 18.4)

MUMBAI INDIANS

Kieron Pollard not out

Krunal Pandva not out Extras (b 0, lb 6, w 4, nb 1, p 0 Total (5 wkts, 20 Overs)

Bhuvneshwar Kumar

Mujeeb Ur Rahman

Abhishek Sharma

ahead of Dhoni.

bowled in the 9th over.

holed out to Virat in the deep.

sixes as MI reached 150 in the end.

Vijay Shankar

Khaleel Ahmed

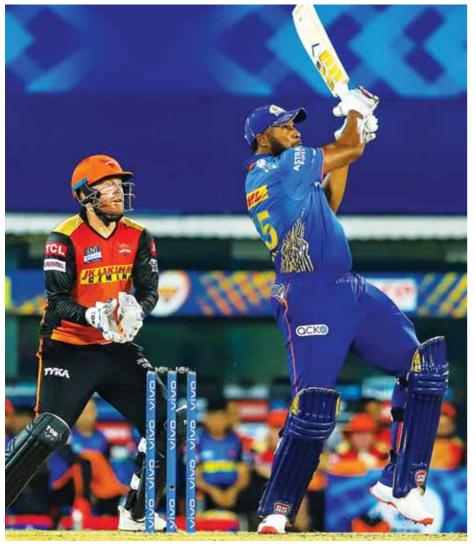
Quinton de Kock c (sub)J Suchith b Mujeeb Rohit Sharma c Virat Singh b Vijay Shankar

Suryakumar Yadav c and b Vijay Shankar Ishan Kishan c Bairstow b Mujeeb

Hardik Pandya c Virat Singh b Khaleel Ahmed

POLLARD TAKES PALTAN TO 150

Windies all-rounder's back to back sixes in last two balls help Mumbai post fighting total



Mumbai Indians batsman Kieron Pollard hits SRH pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar for six during IPL game in Chennai @mipaltan

ijay Shankar and Mujeeb Ur Rahman shine with the ball as Sunrisers Hyderabad produced a disciplined bowling performance to restrict Mumbai Indians to 150 for 5 in

their IPL match at Chepauk on Saturday. The opening duo of Rohit Sharma (32 off 25)

and Quinton de Kock (40 off 39) scored 53 in the powerplay after opting to bat but Vijay (2/19) and Afghanistan spin duo of Mujeeb (2/29) and Rashid Khan (0/22) brought the SRH back in the game. Kieron Pollard managed to lift MI to 150 with

the help of a 22-ball 35 which included two sixes of the last two balls of the innings.
Earlier, Rohit completed 4000 T20 runs as a

Dhoni is heartbeat of CSK: Fleming

32 10

4-0-45-0

4-0-24-1

4-0-29-2

3-0-19-2 4-0-22-0

1-0-5-0



Chennai Super Kings captain MS Dhoni cuts the cake to celebrate his

PTI MUMBAI

Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming Chas called skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni the team's heartbeat and said the desire to do well even after playing 200 matches is a testament to his attitude towards the game and the franchise.

Dhoni has been leading the side since the inaugur-

al edition of the league in 2008.

"His longevity has to be mentioned and appreciated... To play 200 games and still have a desire to do well is a testament to his attitude towards the game and franchise," Fleming said after CSK's win against Punjab Kings.

"I think the franchise has grown and MS has grown with it, so it is a great relationship and great fun," the former New Zealand skipper added.

Terming Dhoni the heartbeat of CSK, Fleming said, 'He is the heartbeat of CSK, there's no doubt about it. Whether it's performance, guidance or leadership, you run out of things to say about him."

He said the manner in which the team bounced back after the first game was impressive and praised Man of the Match Deepak Chahar for his efforts (4/13).

"Really impressed with the way he bounced back after the first game. Without doubt, when Deepak gets a little bit of swing and a little bit of movement, he is one of the finest around. His ability to swing the ball is one. But his control and skill set is also very high.

The key is keeping him simple in his plans and just operating in and around the stumps. He is very effective when the ball swings. A great bounce back from a below par performance in the first game."

<u>boundarymeter</u>

PLAYER	RUNS
1. Nitish Rana (KKR)	137
2. Sanju Samson (RR)	123
3. Manish Pandey (SRH)	99
 DI AVED	WKTC





SUMMER SLAM

MOTION PICTURE



Rajasthan Royals English all-rounder Ben Stokes bids goodbye to his teammates before he leaves for England to undergo surgery for his fractured left index finger



Chennai Super Kings share throwback picture of Punjab Kings batsman M Shahrukh Khan

SAMS JOINS RCB BIO-BUBBLE

Australian all-rounder Daniel Sams on Saturday joined the RCB's bio-bubble after returning with two negative RT-PCR results more than a week after testing positive for Covid-19. The 28-year-old hand arrived in India on April 3 with a negative Covid-19 report but tested positive during the second test on April 7 and was guarantine since then

JAMIESON IMPRESSED WITH VIRAT

Virat Kohli's style of leadership complements his thought process, feels RCB all-rounder Kyle Jamieson, who has accepted that bowling on slower Indian tracks requires a different set of skill-sets. "He (Kohli) is such an experienced leader. He is a skilful and the way that he approaches the games certainly complements the way I like to go about things," Jamieson said. "Virat is competitive, aggressive and likes to take the game on.

which is something I like to adopt as well," Kyle said. **BORING TO TALK ABOUT IPL TITLE: AB**

RCB batsman AB de Villiers said on Saturday that 'it's getting boring to talk about it (the IPL title)' and 'there are things that are more special than winning the trophy'. Speaking on RCB's Bold Diaries, AB said, "You can't lie, you want to win the trophy. I would love to win the trophy. I don't know how I would react if we do win the trophy one day. (But) it's getting boring to talk about it. At the end of the day, there are things that are more special than winning the trophy. And those are bonding with the team, being part of the IPL."

FIT NORTJE 'READY TO GO'

Staving confined to his hotel room for 10 days was "quite a lot" for him and DC pacer Anrich Nortie is hoping to get into the act straightaway against Puniab Kings on Sunday. "Ten days in the room was quite a lot for me. It was nice to get out, run around and bowl a bit. I really enjoyed it and hopefully I can build it up from here on," Nortje said in a press release.

PADIKKAL IS A GREAT TALENT: LARA Devdutt Padikkal needs to "iron out" a few technical

things but Brian Lara is confident that the RCB opener would better his performance during this IPL with a few Man of the Match awards. "He's (Padikkal) such a great talent. Last year, he got a couple of (5) fifties, he batted

POINTS TABLE NRR +0.175 +0.616 +0.225 +0.000 -0.909

RCB eye hat-trick of wins

KEY PLAYERS

ANDRE RUSSELL

Dre Russ took his maiden IPL fifer against MI in the last match & now he'll be eager to contribute with bat



PTI CHENNAI

AB DE VILLIERS

ABD single-handedly won against Mumbai and his 360° stroke play can turn the match at any point

PTI CHENNAI

¬he misfiring Kolkata Knight Riders will look 1 to bring their campaign back on track when they take on table-toppers Royal Challengers Bangalore at Chepauk on Sunday. In the battle between the world's two best

white-ball captains, Eoin Morgan and Virat Kohli, the Bengaluru franchise will hold a slight edge over Kolkata after its two wins from as many outings. Known for his tactical nous and man-man-

agement skills, the World Cup-winning English skipper will be keen to bring KKR back on track after a familiar middle-order collapse cost them the game against Mumbai Indians. After two ordinary seasons, the purple

brigade started its campaign in an emphatic fashion, ticking all the boxes against Sunrisers Hyderabad. But against their nemesis MI, KKR middle-

order collapsed in an inexplicable fashion to suffer their 12th loss from 13 matches. Morgan's astute captaincy in using his bowl-

ing resources was the highlight as KKR had bowled out MI for a modest 152. In his new role of bowling at the death, Andre Russell has taken six wickets at an impressive aver-

age of 7.83, but has failed to deliver with the bat. With 14 runs from two matches, the big-hitting Jamaican has looked a shadow of his past. Vice-captain Dinesh Karthik,

too, will be under pressure to deliver after his painstaking stay in the middle in the last While Nitish Rana

has impressed the most in batting, their star opener Shubman Gill has faltered after impressive starts, and KKR would

hope the youngster fires in the coming days. On a slow Chepauk deck where batting at the death has been a concern,

impact. It would not be a bad

idea to bring in left arm wrist

KKR's bowling has been a revelation with Morgan cleverly using his Against the star-studded RCB who are yet to fire in unison this season, KKR's bowling would once again look to make an

VENUE: CHIDAMBARAM STADIUM, CHENNAI

ПЕА	טו ע	AU
Matches		26
	_	

Royal Challengers Bangalore 12 Kolkata Knight Riders

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 82 runs in Sharjah

Royal Challengers Bangalore defeated Kolkata Knight Riders by 8 wickets in Abu Dhabi

79

Eoin Morgan who scored 6921 runs at an average of in 297 innings of 314 matches, needs 79 runs to become the 4th Englishman and 22nd batsman overall to score 7000 runs in T20 matches

56

Virat Kohli who scored 5944 runs at an average of 38.10 in 186 innings of 194 matches, needs 56 runs to become the first batsman to complete 6000 runs in the history

Faisel Features

spinner Kuldeep Yadav in place of veteran Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who has bowled just the opening over in each of the two matches.

Boasting a famed batting line-up in Kohli, AB de Villiers, Glenn Maxwell and the talented youngster Devdutt Padikkal, RCB are yet to perform to their full poten-

> But it did not matter much as RCB have won both their natches with new signing Maxwell holding fort in the middle and the likes of Shahbaz Ahmed and Harshal Patel making the difference in

DC face Punjab in battle of equals

KEY PLAYERS



KAGISO RABADA He was the highest wicket-taker in the 2020 edition and the South African is keen to repeat that feat



ARSHDEEP SINGH

The young pacer has impressed in the first two matches and will look to continue his good form

PTI MUMBAI

Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant will aim to display better tactical acumen in *catch-22* situations against a 'blow-hot-blow-cold' Punjab Kings in what promises to be a battle of brittle middle-orders at Wankhede stadium on Sunday.

Both teams are coming into the *Norther Derby* of IPL after enduring defeats in their previous games but Delhi Capitals are definitely a better side on

Pant, relatively inexperienced in terms of IPL captaincy, lost the plot in the last game where he didn't finish his best bowler Ravichandran Ashwin's quota and instead used Tom Curran's friendly medium pacers.

As coach Ricky Ponting pointed out, he would expect a better "on his feet" thinking from the young

The likely addition of Anrich Nortje in the playing XI will only bolster Pant's bowling attack which lost its bearings during the last match with Curran's lack of pace on a slow track being cannon fodder for Chris Morris and David Miller.

Punjab Kings, on the other hand, suffered an inexplicable batting collapse against Chennai Super Kings with Deepak Chahar's extra bounce and slight seam movement causing the damage.

This was after a healthy 200 plus total in

The nature of the Wankhede track is posing a few questions under lights for top-order batsmen as the last two games have shown with underlying moisture aiding quality fast bowling.

So KL Rahul versus Kagiso Rabada and Chris Woakes bowling to Chris Gayle could be as enticing as Prithvi Shaw encountering the guile of Mohammed Shami and Shikhar Dhawan trying to unsettle a disciplined Arshdeep Singh.

Both teams are top heavy in batting with DC dependant on Shaw, Dhawan and Pant for doing the bulk of scoring while the same job profile is held by KL Rahul, Chris Gayle and Deepak Hooda in the Punjab line-up.

Even the weaknesses of both the

teams are pretty similar.

If Ajinkya Rahane's lack of powerhitting and Marcus Stoinis' indifferent show is affecting the DC middleorder, Mayank Agarwal's prolonged

VENUE: WANKHEDE STADIUM, MUMBAI

HEAD TO HEAD Matches Delhi Capitals

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

Delhi Capitals beat Kings XI Punjab in Super over after match ended in a tie in Dubai

Kings XI Punjab defeated Delhi Capitals by 5 wickets in Dubai

KL Rahul who scored 4938 runs in 141 innings of 154 matches, needs 62 runs to become the 11th Indian and 70th batsman overall to score 5000 runs in T20 matches



Ravichandran Ashwin who took 249 wickets in 246 innings of 249 matches, needs just one wicket to become the third Indian and 23rd bowler overall to take 250 wickets in Twenty-20 cricket

Faisel Features

bad-patch coupled with Nicholas Pooran's susceptibility to short balls over his shoulder are not great news for Punjab The middle-orders' struggles in both the

dugouts will make it an engrossing contest with DC bowlers expected to hold sway in Nortje's In case of Punjab Kings, save Mohammed

Shami, the two high-priced pacers - Jhye Richardson and Riley Meredith — haven't exactset the stage on fire. Neither has Murugan Ashwin, a mystery spin-

ner who has done nothing of note that would force Pant and Ponting to have sleepless nights. Anil Kumble and Rahul may like to think of Ravi Bishnoi as an option but they also need to factor in the shorter boundaries in Mumbai, which can devastating for wrist spinners if their length is haywire.

well, he supported Virat very well," Lara told Star

Sports' Select Dugout Live Feed. "What I want to see in 2021 IPL is for him to go on and get a few Man of the Matches and get a couple of triple figures under his belt. Such a great little player," Lara added.



personally think that f you deny something or if you hide something you're inadvertently admitting

Lokas 2: What Exists Above

To move from the *Bhulok* to *Bhuvalok* (Astral Plan), from *Tamas* to more *Rajas*, we need to work on controlling our senses



Of learning and wisdom

Every seeker must undergo a mandatory grooming process before being allowed exposure to the particular subject of learning



TELLING THE TALE OF HERITAGE

Stories are an excellent mode of keeping the history of heritage alive, writes SUTAPA BASU, as she shares her impressions on the importance of making heritage a part of contemporary storytelling

our past cultures since times immemorial. Whether through cave paintings or oral narrations, the earliest mode of passing traditions, history, customs, and rituals through generations has been only through storytelling. Before written language was discovered, even certain work skills were passed from father to son through stories. The reason is simple, anything woven into a story is unforgettable.

Storytelling is a powerful tool that has massive lasting impact. When we listen to stories or read them, they boost our feelings of trust, compassion, empathy and positively influence our social behaviour. Storytelling has a unique ability to build connections. When we hear a well-told story, your brain reacts as if we are experiencing it ourselves. We respond to stories because they cultivate a sense of togetherness. Thus, stories that tell us about our past or what we have inherited from our ancestors make us feel, we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

WHAT IS HERITAGE?

Heritage is the complete scope of inherited traditions, monuments, objects, and culture. Most significantly, it is the range of contemporary activities, meanings, and behaviour that we draw from them. Heritage includes, but is much more than just preserving, excavating, displaying, or restoring a collection of old things.

Heritage is tangible as well as intangible. Monuments, artifacts, books, archived records of events are tangible while traditions, lifestyles and mannerisms are some of the intangible elements that we inherit. We can explore heritage through excavations, conservation, restoration and display of concrete objects. However, history of songs, recipes, cuisine, nuances of language, dances, dress and other conventions of legacy need to be perceived and appreciated. An excellent mode of keeping the history of heritage alive, generation after generation, is through stories. For what is history but story telling?

Let's see how some of the palpable as well as abstract elements of heritage have benefited through telling stories.

ARCHITECTURE

Old forts and castles, mansions and monuments are natural source for stories, myths, and tales. When I visited Chittorgarh fort, one of the myths I heard was about how the religious fervour of Meera Bai, the Princess of Mewar, had kept intact her chamber in the huge palace though the rest of the royal residence had been flattened. Obviously, I went back and read up everything available about the history of the palace and fort. I discovered more such myths.

In The Pillars of the Earth, author Ken Follet

tories have disseminated consciousness of describes in great detail how a 12th century cathedral is built. He makes a tale of its unusual architecture, politics and weaves civil war, famine and religious strife around it.

Bimal Mitra's Bengali novel Saheb, Bibi, Golam made into the famous film, Sahib, Bibi Aur Ghulam is set in a zamindari mansion that resonates with the culture of the period. His entire story is about the feudal and patriarchal traditions which emanate from the mansion.

Another story like that is Shatranj Ke Khilari about the nawabi culture that has been filmed in the old palaces of Lucknow.

CUISINE

An amazing story that revolves around food, its concoction, history and influence is Like Water For Chocolate by Laura Esquivel. Tita, the tragic protagonist of the story, is only able to express herself when she cooks. The chapters even carry recipes. They fascinated me and I even cooked some of them. The stories about food gave me a wonderful view of regional cuisine.

Another book that has enamoured me is The Flavour of Spice by Marryam H Reshi that gloriously celebrates spices. Reading her book, I embarked upon a delightful foray into the heritage of Indian cooking as she traces history of spices as far back as possible.

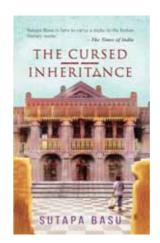
WAY OF LIFE

Reading Gone With The Wind by Margaret Mitchell gives the reader an excellent insight into lifestyles, dresses, social customs and attitudes prevalent in southern parts of USA during the American Civil War in the 1800s. The book has become a reference point for scholars of that

Vikram Seth's novel A Suitable Boy brings us the perfume of courtesans and old-world charm of the pre-independence period. It gives us a peep into lifestyles, notions and sentiments of a bygone culture.

Dramas written by playwrights such as Shakespeare, Kalidas or Anton Chekov, when staged, are a feast for costume designers. They display the fashions worn during a specific period in a certain parts of the world where the dramas are set. However, stories are created not only by writers but are also told by raconteurs.

When the Ramcharitra Manas or Meghdoot is recited there are vivid descriptions of garments, headdresses and weapons which make them come alive through mental visuals for the listeners. History and heritage of dresses come alive only through these descriptions. We can then compare them and find out what of that heritage still remains in our fashions today.



WE RESPOND TO STORIES BECAUSE THEY CULTIVATE A SENSE OF **TOGETHERNESS** THUS, STORIES THAT TELL US **ABOUT OUR PAST** OR WHAT WE HAVE INHERITED FROM OUR ANCESTORS MAKE US FEEL, WE ARE PART OF **SOMETHING BIGGER THAN OURSELVES**

MEANS OF TRANSPORT

Read Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen and we find out about chaises, stagecoaches, barouches, phaetons, and curricles. What about 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne to know about submarines or fictional wonder vehicles such as the muggle car from the Harry Potter

Pather Panchali by written by Bibhutibhushan Bandhopadhya and put on celluloid by Satyajit Ray shows its protagonist's obsession with the train that passes his village. Since his only travel experience had been on a bullock cart, the speeding train enthralled him.

TRADITIONS

Dickens' A Christmas Carol is a wonderful cameo on the traditional Christmas spirit. Similarly, Sense and Sensibility by Austen profiles the Victorian custom of older men marrying young girls. Emily Bronte's novel Wuthering Heights is all about how social class creates con-

flicts among its characters. Khushwant Singh's Train to Pakistan, Jhumpa Lahiri's Namesake and The Lowlands are excellent profiles of traditions and rituals in different parts of India. Arvind Adiga's *The White Tiger* gives insights into class disparities of an India of a decade ago. Chitra Divakaruni's Palace of Illusions takes the reader back to the rituals of the Mahabharata period of Indian history while Before We Visit the Goddess is about multi-generational bonds, that rise from the countryside of Bengal, India and sweep into the streets of Houston, Texas

NUANCES OF LANGUAGE

Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is a wonderful study of the use of dialect by different social classes in nineteenth century America. In fact, introducing dialect into literary writing goes back to Chaucer. Non-standard spellings and slang are used often in literature to delineate characters and give them identity.

Evolving language is one of true measures of heritage. Do you remember Eliza Doolittle in George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion? If only learning the correct dialect could make a flower girl into a lady of consequence, how important can language be in the reconstruction of society?

Ruskin Bond often uses regional nuances and dialect to create atmosphere and build his characters. Many of his stories are set in the terai of the Himalayas and his villagers often use words in their own dialect in dialogues.

With such eminent authors to light up my path, I have included many features of heritage in my books to build ambience, build characters and bring authenticity to my storytelling. In all

my historical fiction books, I create the historical period through visual pen pictures of the dress, cuisine and traditions of the period and place. In The Curse of Nader Shah, I have exposed Nader Shah's obsession with the colour red on his garments and his creation of the four-cornered hat, the kulah-e-naderi. In The Legend of Genghis Khan, I have described the wide range of knives that the Mongols always carried on their belts and their varied purpose. Padmavati has numerous regional words sprinkled across the story for

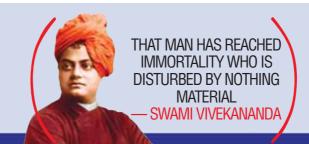
the sake of authenticity. My latest book, The Cursed Inheritance focuses on the city of Kolkata and its cultural nuances. The zamindari mansions that dot the city inspired the setting of this cozy mystery inside a dilapidated yet grand mansion of Kolkata, called Sarkar Bari. I describe egg concoctions being cooked that are special to Kolkata as well as a coal stove built inside an iron pail, a common

cooking implement in Bengal. Kolkata is one of few cities which still has the hand-pulled rickshaws. Mentioned numerous times in my new book, is Kolkata's iconic vehicle though the protagonist also empathises with the emaciated pullers and their livelihoods. I have chronicled the tradition of celebrating the festival of Durga Puja in the mansions of old zamindari families in this novel. Belief in *tantric* practices and demons as guardians of treasures is one the regional features of rural Bengal which has been exploited to the hilt.

Stories, narratives, and storytelling are central aspects of all cultures and thus, a part of heritage. For the storytelling to become an effective propagator of cultural history, it must engage the listener or reader, and provide a narrative that is both cognitively and emotionally compelling. People are natural storytellers. They tell narratives about their experiences and the meanings that these experiences have in their lives. All cultures and societies also possess their own stories or narratives about their past and their present, and sometimes about their view of the future. The memories and retelling of the past provide a sense of security in an uncertain world. Stories, both written and verbal, are veritable source for this history.

Stories are a thread of timelessness that runs through a rapidly changing environment. Hence, stories revolving around heritage bring a special sense of belonging and of continuity. It reduces global conflict and brings empathy for co-existence. All said and done, storytelling is one of the dominant means of preserving heritage and passing down of values and traditions that make the global social fabric stronger.

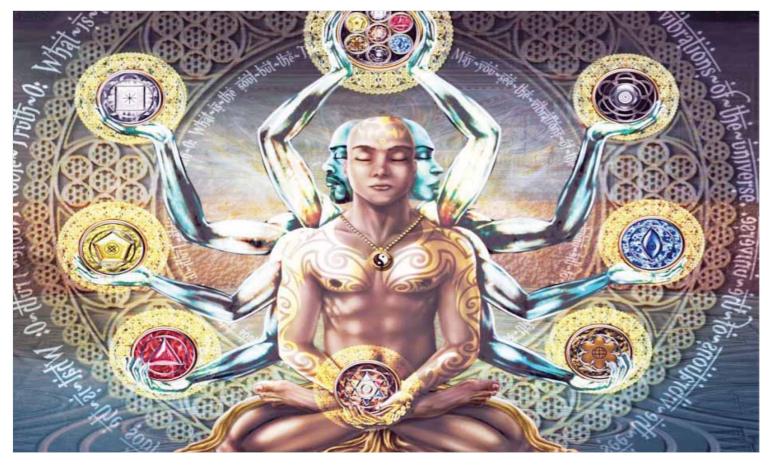
The writer is an author and poet. Her book, The Cursed Inheritance, has been recently published



April 18, 2021

LOKAS 2: WHAT EXISTS ABOVE

In order to move from the Bhulok to Bhuvalok (Astral Plan), from Tamas to more Rajas, we need to work on controlling our senses, writes HINGORI



t is believed that it is only when you have suffered enough and built a resolve to change, do you set an opportunity to get birth on the Bhulok or Earth. This is supposed to be true for most of the lokas and for movement from one to the other, either upwards or downwards. Only the Earth dimension provides the infrastructure for the relevant criss-cross Visas. This is the Karma loka, where there is opportunity to go against your nature and qualify for the better.

Higher *loka* beings descend downwards often to fulfil their own completions and final attainments. Many gurus are obligated to take the rebirth to uplift their disciples and help them gain completion. They do so to manipulate a change in their gunas through example setting, motivation, counselling and sharing their

The latest and one of the greatest was the Mahaguru whose Karma Bhumi was Gurgaon and afterlife headquarters is Najafgarh. While tingent of a few, he brought along hundreds of beings from higher lokas to accomplish his mission.

I have in the vision state visited a few lokas but never connected the dots and never pondered on the subject. Unfortunately my experience was limited and though theory not my normal choice, but in this case I had to resort to borrowing a few pages from the ancients and so these thoughts are a mixture of my realisations combined with those of others.

Before we come to our own to do list, let us look at the ladders that stand parallel to the snake. What are the higher lokas? What qualifications are required? What can we do to get higher on the ladders?

Let us imagine ourselves standing at a mid-landing of a staircase. Climbing is greater effort and needs agility. For those who like to sound profound call it *Purusharth*. Technically, you cannot climb up the ladder to higher *lokas*, you need to

In order to move from the Bhulok or Earth plane to 'Bhuvalok' or 'Astral Plane' or from the Mooladhara Chakra to the Swadishthan Chakra, from the from the predominantly Tamas to more Rajas we need to work on controlling our senses.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT **ABOVE THE** SATYALOK ARE LOKAS LIKE VAIKUNTH, GOLOKA, SHIVALOK ETC. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE BHRAMLOK AND THESE ARE PARALLEL AND VARIABLE DUE TO

THE INHERENT

NATURE THE BEING

HAS EVOLVED INTO

Remember this is a world ruled and perceived by senses. Our senses do not offer us more than 5% to 10% of reality. Between the Bhuvarlok and the Swalok or Swarg, the difference is

At the *Bhuvarlok*, we have a slightly different set of off loads because this is a loka of intellect, memory, relationships, heroic attitudes, and emotions. On the other hand it is also a loka of attainment.

And then Swarlok is a place where you can spend your cosmic currency earned and stored. It is a place of immense pleasure and beauty. Seva leads to Swarg or beyond. It's a place where spiritual understanding and aspirations begin. People learn and aspirations begin. reopic ream detachment and how to focus on the purpose of the self. They also prepare for rebirth on *Bhulok* when spiritual assets dwindle. They get born as bings and gueens or administrators kings and queens or administrators and dominating personalities maybe as celebrities as well. If they are philanthropic and kind, they retain their loka status. If not they catch a snake expectations, the ethereal ladder

appears and the ascent is in order. The ascent is to the *Anahta chakra*

or the 'Maharlok' which lies beyond the 'Dhurv Tara' or the Pole star. Mahar is the land of the wise and balanced with qualities of selfless service, compassion and self-love. However, inactivity and observer capability is still one loka away. Birth on Earth comes as teachers, reformers, saintly people, healers etc.

Karmas are not doable at the level of these higher lokas. When one qualifies beyond devotion and beliefs and attains the status of knowing or Gyan, one becomes an invited resident of the 'Janalok'. In the microcosm, this loka is at the level of the Vishudhi Chakra. One needs to be a sincere practitioner of spirituality and dispassion to qualify for a seat here. Till you harbour emotions, don't attain Gyan or intuitive knowledge, you can read about this loka but not live here. The senses especially the sense of sound and hearing needs to be history at this

When self-respect turns to self-When self-respect turns to scirreverence, when one feels the justification of self-worship, one takes birth, if and when one needs, on *Bhulok* as a spiritual leader and an aspirant to a higher *loka*. When Duality becomes an amalgam and wisdom hands the baton to observership or *Sakshibhav*, one gets catapulted to the *'Tapalok'*. This is the *loka* of Divya Bhakti and reflection of oneself as divinity. You cease to be judgemental and identify as one with the universal consciousness. As this is a place of the third eye in the body, one has started the journey to shift con-

There are 3 centres between the Tapalok and the Satyalok. Above the Ajna Chakra are 3 chakras including the Sahasra, the location for final emancipation.

It is believed that above the Satyalok are lokas like Vaikunth, Goloka, Shivalok etc. It is possible that the Bhramlok and these are parallel and variable due to the inherent nature the being has evolved into.

Gurudev once shared with me in confidence that when we die in our afterlife, we have to first pass through the *Dhruv Tara* or the pole star to get to where we belong. He also mentioned that we come across crossroads, and at these crossroads, one side has very bare looking places, while the other has very aesthetically lovely looking places. And he warned that the bare ones are the higher ones, and we should avoid getting stuck due to our sense of sight.

in your afterlife.

The writer is the author of Hingori Sutras series of spiritual books



HIDDENSOULS PRAMOD PATHAK



Corona: Fear is the key

s the second round of Corona scare grips the world as many had predicted, mass hysteria of gargantuan proportions seems to be building up again. Psychologists may call this reaction a paranoia that seems to affect large sections of the people all over the world. And Corona is not the only worry. US is worried about the gun purchases reaching alarming levels as a sizeable section of Asian Americans are in some kind of an insecurity syndrome. Worry and fear are all at the top of the mind as death seems to be lurking round the corner. The situation is eerily similar to the Corona scare round 1 suggesting that experience is not always a good teacher. Rather, it accentuates the past behaviour many times over. Against this backdrop, we once again need to ask the same questions that were raised during the previous round. The responses are of the same trial and error nature. To add to the woes some new questions have cropped up. Is this a different Corona? Does the vaccine has the answer? Difficult to say but history seems to be repeating itself. As the scare mounts and the toll counts rise to alarming levels, there is a need to have a relook at the entire scenario and examine things in totality. And things may not appear to be as simple as they look. Yes, it has impacted lives, ruined families and caused death and destruction of enormous proportions. Yes, it has shattered economies and crashed GDPs. But there is another side of the story. It has raised the number of billionaires in both developed and developing countries and there are some in the queue to graduate to the trillionaire status. It has pushed the growth of ecommerce companies astronomically while online platforms rose in geometric proportions. Investors now realise that putting money in Pharma stocks yields big dividends, and rather fast, even though there is no sure medicine in sight. It also threw quacks and charlatans in thousands sermonising on dos and don'ts on the social media. YouTube has become the most handy tool for the propaganda brigade who are delivering unsubstantiated pearls of wisdom almost at the same pace as the speed of the spread of the virus. Quite interestingly the biological virus seems to have acquired traits of computer virus. So we are told that this time the vaccine provides immunity for some months rather than a lifetime, as it used to be earlier. The connection between computer and Corona seems interesting as there is an uncanny relationship between people having stakes in computers and Pharma. It is not just the medical angle. An interesting aspect is that one voice of dissent on the social media meets with systemic campaign from troll brigade that makes sure that such voices are lost in the din. That apart, there are many intriguing aspects to ponder. But we must understand that while exercising utmost caution helps us, getting scared helps others who have something to gain from our fear. Fear is a big industry these days and marketing negativities pushes demand of goods and services that are often not required. Making a fast buck is seldom done through fair business. As Mario Puzo wrote in The Godfather — Behind every great ing in on Corona is rather worse.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at ppathak.ism@gmail.com

IN KRISHNA'S LOVE

Each one of us, whether in heart or mind, is trying to fill the void with energy. In my case, it is Krishna energy, says RAJIV KAPOOR

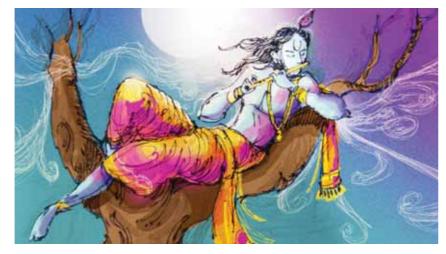
n the hollow emptiness within, a dark passage to seemingly nowhere, I search I for myself, or perhaps dismiss myself in the perfect burial ground that one's consciousness could serve. The more inward I look, the more beyond me the vision wants to travel. Whereto, if not Krishna's feet or the sound of His Flute that beckons many hearts. The outcome is peace when I tread with faith, and frustration when I digress to alleys not in His name. That alternating peace and frustration is because I am human. In that lies both my hope and dis-Why Krishna, and not simply empti-

ness? Buddhist proponents may argue. Or, another name to fill the void such as Jesus or Mohammed, that few minority religious minds in India might be provoked to ask. In raising those questions, the adult mind remains minor. For all of us, whether in your heart or mine, are trying to fill the void with energy. In my case, it is Krishna energy. The big personal journey inside would be best served without the myopic lens of religion, and instead with an intuitive eye of the seeker. It is in Krishna consciousness that this pen flows

"Among the mountains, I am the Himalayas." said He.

We are all trying to climb successive peaks that we see. Any relative comparison among the peers is useless. Glorious peaks for a few could be futile plateaus for others. Within us those subjectively defined heights are measured and more importantly, a climbing process where life is felt and lived.

I saw the peak of a woman, and in her true love, my elixir. The energy that flows in true love is the same, whether it is for God or a person. If I could not be consciously in God's love round the clock, then I needed her love. May be, through her love only, could I hope to reach the higher realms in my spiritual world that was con-



ceived from His Flute.

Indeed, from atop that peak, one of love and not marriage, I saw Krishna more relevant. So, I decided to talk to Him through my writings, in a more inspired version of myself and in His own language of creation. In humility, I called my spirit to drop ink on paper floor. Then, with abandon, I danced upon it. Krishna must be merry in the heav-

As I wrote in my book, Conversations With My Love: Creativity is God. In it, we find ourselves; His scheme, how he fulfills; Promises He makes, Ours' that He keeps; Many through progeny, follow the creative

path; I found other way, I came to write.

Another peak climbed, and yet not high enough. Krishna was not always there to keep me drowned or submerged in Him. He

had not yet granted me that fortune. "Krishna, wither those clouds, that hide the next peak, and not my limbs," said I, and continued, "before I leave my pot of earth behind, present yourself Master."

"Climbing shall not end. Know this, that with every step of yours howsoever made, I will make one towards you." Replied the Master.

In that leap of faith I continued. The only glimmer of light in the dark passage within. The light of Krishna energy, that I nurtured from emptiness, dropping off all that was useless in the climb towards the next peak.

I conjured up Krishna's idol of white, spotless marble. Ganges flowed down His entire length and out through the door that my soul had opened. "It is my birthday, mate," said He, "of your Venusian heart, tell me which void shall I fill?"

My Lord, in your presence, and when your eyes meet mine, there is no void anymore. The ocean fills all empty spaces. Only depths remain unexplored, now that I have taken the dive. Call the mermaid with Your Flute and ask her to pull me deeper.

The writer is the author of book, Conversations With My Love

We are programmed

The programming of fear, or that God is not there to protect us, can be changed through faith, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Te, human beings, are programmed to fear. Why blame God for this? What do we do with our children? We instil discipline in them by scaring them. This process of scaring into submission is reinforced throughout one's life. If a growing child is not paying proper attention to his studies, his parents may paint a very dark picture of his future. Then, there is law to be afraid of for everyone. As a result, we are all insecure without exception. The thought of insecurity comes regularly, which makes us care-

ful, cautious and fearful. In short, we are programmed to be insecure. How else can a world with its seven billions plus population coexist? This is the cosmic design, which is to stop us from acting irresponsibly by being fearful. Unknowingly, we con-

tribute to instil fear in others. This is not all, we are also programmed to think that in spite of all the talk about God, if He exists at all, will not protect us. What good is God to us if, He will not protect us. Is our security not a major concern for us. This feeling is a big factor in people not having faith in God. On the other hand, we are told that God will punish us if we stray, though this is factually incorrect, because giving punishment is done by divine authorities, based on our bad/sinful acts. God stays away from such administration of justice except in rare cases like that of Ravana. At that time, God chooses to perform many functions like re-establishing dharma. (Bhagavad Gita 4.7) This programming

is also part of the cosmic design. There are two kinds of people in the world — those born with predominantly divine and demonic qualities. (16.6) There is always friction between



them. The demonic try to cause harm to the world by their cruel acts. (16.9) Those with divine endowments are crucial for the proper functioning of the world. That is why God and His divine establishment favour them. There are three categories of such divine souls. The first one consists of just good people, who do mostly good acts not wanting to harm anyone.

The next or higher lot is of good people, who also do public service. For this reason, God does intervene in their cases by protecting them by extricating them from harmful situations, caused by their bad acts done earlier. Remember, these souls must have erred like the rest of us human beings. God has to help out; He does. God does much more for His devotees — the highest category He puts them in the yogakshemam" group — (9.22). God helps in getting what one does not have and provides security of what one has. This is how the two higher groups of

people are assured of not ending up

badly (6.40) or never perishing. (9.31) So what did we learn? That the programming of being fearful or having the feeling that God will not protect does not have to be permanently inched into us, it can be changed. However, there are conditions, as mentioned earlier. If we have qualified, then, we need not be so fearful or anxious; we can come to the level of being cautious, careful, etc., which is necessary for our own good. This is when peace descends. One knows in his heart that he is never alone and helpless; God is with Him. (6.7) He enjoys God's protection. God is real; He is no longer a figment of imagination.

Every time a fearful thought comes in the mind then one thinks that he is not alone; God is with him; He will protect. Gradually, the earlier programming will change from negative to positive and life will be much better.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

sunday, magazine the pioneer agazine

Importance of behavioural economics during Covid

The coronavirus pandemic has not only grabbed the headlines but has also thrown the global health emergency economies of the world.

people living with comorbidity (i.e., concomitant morbidifalling critically ill or succumbing to coronavirus. They are dying from the in-hospital complications and a high incidence of mortality. The comorbidity is mostly of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, cerebrovascular accident, malignancy, asthma, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney and obstructive pulmonary diseases, etc.

The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology published its findings based on 61 million individuals in England on their absolute and relative risk of mortality due to Covid-19 and the type of diabetes. It finds that the odd ratio of in-hospital deaths is 3.51, and 2.03 for persons with type-1 and type-2 diabetes. Information from 1561 Covid-19 patients from two hospitals in Wuhan showed that those with diabetes (9.8%) were more likely to need admission to the intensive care unit or to die, and similar cases are also noted from other parts of the world.

care in disarray. The ubiquitous virus has not spared anyone, not even the most prosperous Studies have shown that ty) are under high risk of

Moreover, persons with diabetes have been in the limelight since the inception of the pandemic as the epidemiological data have revealed their high risk of several clinical adversaries (The Lancet, 2020). As per the statistics, 71 per cent of deaths are owing to NCDs globally, 41 million people every year, of which 15 million are under the age of 70 years. Moreover 8.5 million cases are from low and middle income

> India, Bangladesh and Pakistan are comparatively low so far. The climatic and geographical respectively. factors have some bearing on this low fatality rate in this region. (Apicella et. al., The Lancet, July 17, 2020). Using the Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI,

2017-19) database of the Harvard, IIPS and the University of Southern However, despite having a California on disease and high percentage of diabetes, the health condition of the popu-



viduals suffering from comor-

bidity are hardly ever or never

engaged in vigorous physical

activities. Out of total patients

suffering from comorbidity,

about one-quarter indulge in

substance use. Cases among

females are more than males

on the vaccination list is the

A patient waits inside an ambulance to be admitted to a dedicated Covid-19 hospital in Ahmedabad on April 15, 2021

reported cases of mortality in lation aged 45 years and above, we estimated that 18.28 per cent have comorbidity. About 60 per cent of the patients with diabetes have high blood pressure, while 17.32 per cent of patients with high cholesterol levels are suffering from chronic heart diseases. This cooccurrence of more than one disorder in the same individual is a matter of utmost concern

that 75 per cent of the indi-

and it increases with the rise in income from the second to fifth income quintile. The Government's initiative to prioritise the people with during the raging pandemic. Our results also demonstrated comorbidity in this age group

need of the hour and has been followed from March 1 to curb the second wave of covid.

However, the public spending on NCDs is less than 0.5 per cent of GDP in India. The findings of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) of 2015-16 state that obesity has given a steep rise to hypertension among people with BMI more than 30. While 11 per cent of the eligible women (i.e, age 15-49) have hypertension, including 7 per cent having stage-1

hypertension, and stage-2 and stage-3 hypertension at 1 per cent each. On blood pressure parameter, it finds 61 per cent women as compared to 43 per cent men, but only 1 per cent of them take anti-hypertensive medicines.

The National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (NPCDCS) has been executed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to

raise awareness regarding risk factors and establishment of NCD clinics, cardio care centre and screening at primary health-care level. The National Action Plan has also been conceived along the global monitoring framework to reduce the premature deaths from NCDs to 25 per cent by 2025. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has militated against Government's efforts of integrating NPCDCS with National Health Mission and AYUSH to promote a healthy lifestyle and strengthening infrastructure to detect NCDs at an early stage.

The focus of the healthcare system in India at present lies on four important directions --- intervention in maternal and child health, preventive and affordable healthcare, medical infrastructure, and communicable and non-communicable diseases. Under the aegis of Ayushman Bharat Scheme, the Health and Wellness Centres, Primary Healthcare Centres, Community Health Centres are providing free diagnostic services for the NCDs.

Simply designing and implementing policies are not sufficient to weaken the bond between Covid-19 and comorbidity. There is a need to eliminate practical and psychological barriers to healthy behaviour, which is possible by the adoption of a behavioural economics approach. Integration of these idiosyncratic approaches into policymaking will illustrate its ability to improve both the effectiveness and efficiency of policies through well-designed interventions in curtailing the comorbidity, especially during the second of Covid-19.

(Pratap C Mohanty teaches Economics at IIT Roorkee. He specialises in Health Economics. Pragya Taneja is a PhD Fellow, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Roorkee)

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PRATAP C MOHANTY



PRAGYA TANEJA

PERSPECTIVE

Takers' total reliance key to vaccination success

From the earlyvaccinated who share their experience with others to the vaccine administrators, local bodies that facilitate the vaccination centres, healthcare community, policymakers and the media, everyone has a role to highlight the need to support and encourage the vaccination drive



SUBHROJYOTI BHOWMICK

Tt is crucial that the world's largest Lvaccination campaign in India must succeed with more shots being administered because this is the green shoot of hope we have to rebuild our lives and our economy and to build India stronger.

Covid-19 has had an unprecedented impact in the way we live and work. The lockdown and quarantine protocols also fueled social anxiety as more cases were identified, and reports of deaths due to Covid-19 related complications trickled in.

Every death is a tragic loss; every death impacts people and families in ways that go unreported. With over 1.69 lakh lives already lost to the pandemic, there is urgent need to embrace the nationwide vaccination drive.

The nation's resilience and prompt action has seen it record among the world's lowest number of cases and deaths per million of the population, but we must continue to build on this through the most effective and safe tool that science has developed — prompt vaccination.

After all, vaccines have helped contain several contagious diseases. The fact that we are smallpox free is just one example of how successful vaccination campaigns have enabled the nation to address pressing health-

While the first dose of smallpox vaccine reportedly arrived in the country in 1802, the country's first national campaign in 1962 enabled us in achieving the desired effect through the tireless efforts of volunteers and a greater awareness among the public on the need to be vaccinated.

We have seen similar success in preventing tuberculosis through the BCG vaccination programme. Further, from being hyperendemic for polio in the early 1990s, India's success in eliminating wild polioviruses is another inspiring example of the success of the children vaccination programme and awareness campaigns. These successful

vaccination campaigns have helped save millions of precious lives.

What is common across all successful vaccination campaigns is the fact there has been strong grassroots acceptance. With no clear sight on when the Covid-19 pandemic will end, and if the world will ever go back to the place as we knew it, it is crucial to take the jab.

Let us take a moment to look back on the same period last year: There was no hope in sight as the pandemic wreaked havoc across the world. Less than a year later, we have hope and confidence in a number of approved vaccines, highlighting the inspiring work of our scientists. With multiple variants of the virus being reported, being vaccinated is important to support humanity's collective effort to contain the pan-

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi has warned, the country, with its large population of 1.3 billion, stands to face trouble if vaccinations are not taken to prevent new infections. The strategy of the nation to first inoculate front-line workers followed by the elderly and now opening up vaccinations for all over 45 is the right direction as we need to ensure lower mortality, given that the elderly and those with medical conditions are more vulnerable to the complications arising from Covid-19.

With vaccination centres set up in key locations across all States, people have more access to vaccination. More than 10 crore doses of the vaccine have already been administered, including over nearly 1.35 crore people taking both the doses, as of April 14.

My family members and I have taken the jab, and the confidence it brings is enormous. The process was seamless; we visited the vaccination centre near our home. There were trained volunteers who explained to us the process of the vaccination, what to expect, and we were back

home in no time. It is both a privilege and an hon-



A medic prepares to administer a dose of Covid-19 vaccine during the vaccination festival Tilka Utsav, at EDMC Vishwkarma Park Dispensary in New Delhi

our to get the opportunity to protect oneself, and at the same time, support the safety of the family and community. Being vaccinated, I believe, is the first step to protecting yourself and your family, and thereby the wider community and the nation. While it is important to continue to follow all protocols, vaccine ensures that you are less vulnerable to the disease, which gives you a

sense of immense relief. The Government of India has taken the right steps, by authorising the emergency use of Russia's Sputnik

V Covid-19 vaccine, and also fasttracking approval for other shots already passed by other major countries. With the rising cases in India, vaccination is the most effective tool in our battle against Covid-19. And as the Government rightly stated, "It is very critical to expand the basket of vaccines for domestic use and hasten the pace and coverage of vaccination".

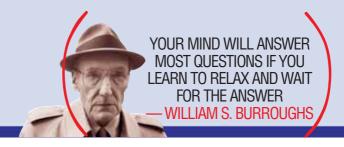
What is the key to the success of this vaccination mission is that every member of the public plays a key role in contributing to it. From the early-

vaccinated who share their experience with others to the vaccine administrators, local bodies that facilitate the vaccination centres, the healthcare community, the policymakers and the media, everyone has a role in highlighting the need to encourage the vaccination drive.

We have a solution to the unprecedented challenge we faced, and it would be unwise, and in fact a disservice to the nation, to squander this opportunity due to apprehension, uncertainty, or misinformation. India's vaccination drive is moving in the right direction and we must step up the tempo to enable safety for all our fellow citizens, so that as a country we can focus on our growth and socio-economic and developmental priorities.

(The writer is NABH Assessor for Hospitals and Ethics Committee and honorary lecturer, Institute of Clinical Sciences, University of Birmingham, UK; and Consultant, Digital Health Programmes, Maulana Ăbul Kalam Azad University of Technology (formerly WBUT), West Bengal)



























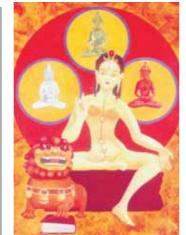






Health looks promising this week. Some of you may regain your health and feel a new spark of creativity This is a great time to try a new health care approach, especially preventative care. Exercise, eating well, and rest are common approaches that you can reconsider. On the work front, a change of place, relocation; posting or transfer is on the cards. You are filled with new hopes and aspirations as it is a post for which you have been aspiring for a long time. The new avenues of progress will be opened, and you get a chance to prove your worth and potentials. On the personal front, you are demanding and very strict in your relationships, and this attitude will not go in married couples' favour.

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Off-White Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you are confused and pondering a change in your life's direction. Health is fluctuating and affecting the quality of life. You need guidelines, a session of counselling to gain the results of your past behaviour. It is never too late to improve. On the work front, there will be challenges. With your determination and will power you are likely to take hold of the situations and emerge a winner. Electrical, technical gadgets may create problems and take most of your time. On the personal front, this week is likely to bring love to the centre stage of your life. This is either a new relationship or a powerful re-bonding of an old one. You share your joy with those around you who need it.

Lucky number 16 Lucky colour White Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You need to let go of the wounds of the past to move forward. This is a time that you must look within vourself to analyse the areas of fears, trying to hold onto things. Non-attachment with anyone or anything will give you the independence to decide things. Learn about the energy centres in the body and meditate on how you are functioning. Be open to changes as it is the only constant in life. This week, professionally, the need of the hour is to give your time and attention to your work. You need to be sure that your work balance is where it needs to be. Do justice to your work. Avoid confrontations and conflicts with the people in the work area as that will only tarnish your image. You find success in love and reioice this week.

Lucky number 9 Lucky colour Red Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week some challenges are foreseen on the health front. Problems may come up together and make you restless. Indigestion, gastric, BP and depression might leave you with no time to think. Your emotions and sensitivity are badly affected. You should spend more time relaxing. On the career front, your work graph will take a new turn this week, as your potentials will be duly recognised. Finances will improve. You will feel the positive vibrations at the workplace. This is a week of attainment, accumulation and finding inner satisfaction. On the personal front, be cautious in your relationships. You may be marked as arrogant or incompatible. Married couples may not be in harmony and want their own space.

Lucky number 1 Lucky colour Indigo **Lucky day** Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you will be balancing five elements in life and have harmony between body, mind, and soul. Those with an ongoing health issue may benefit greatly from alternative therapy like nutritional counselling, massage, dietary restriction etc. Professionally, you need career counselling at this stage to sharpen your skills. Attending short courses, workshops, or lectures etc will help you in your goals. Work will go well if you can organise yourself and work as per the rules. Relationship wise you are lucky as the people around you hear you with respect and value your ideas. Professional and personal both the fronts, you live life king size. In love, you make impression on your partner with your positive and honest approach.

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Golden **Lucky day** Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This is a great week for your creativity and optimism, and you believe that everything will turn out in your favour. You are generous and willing to share. You have learnt to accept your flaws and to accommodate others. It gives you the strength to be what you want to be. Health will be fine, and you enjoy it. On the work front, the feel-good factor will bring a smile to your face. This week you find the support of colleagues and seniors, and there is a chance that your name may be recommended for promotion. Make the best use of this time. On the love front, you may have your eye on someone who you feel is not treating you the way they should. It may be that you need to stop fantasizing about this person entirely.

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Camel Brown **Lucky day** Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

You will overcome challenges and feel on top of the world. Appreciation, applause for a job well done on the domestic front will bring encouragement. You have the blessings of elders. As also, inner satisfaction, with positive energy after easing a difficult situation. On the career front, a good message is on the cards. Some of you will be promoted and assign an important task that will give a boost to your career. You might attend a virtual seminar or training session to enhance your skill. The stars are with you and you enjoy the results of your hard work. Relationship wise, you may not be very lucky this week. If you like someone goes ahead and express yourself. You may be expected to avoid the loose talk as this may spoil your relationship.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Yellow Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Your efforts for being in good health will pay you well this week. You feel energetic, creative, and versatile. There is a purpose in life, and you want to recreate your life. You will get busy in various activities like Yoga, Pranayam and some healing up exercises to keep yourself fit and rejuvenated. Spiritualism will help restore your confidence and live a meaningful life. On the career front, you may find things going much better. A powerful person is likely to support you. This is a good time to ask for a raise or to seek employment that pays more if you are so inclined. Overall, your career front is looking up. In the context of love, it's important to remember that no relationship can stand up to constant analysis. Try to give your beloved some breathing space.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Pastel Blue Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

The week starts with never-ending activities like meeting, attending to guests etc. This will give you no time for yourself. You are working hard. There are chances you may hurt yourself or get bruised. Stay focused while you drive and use all safety measures to avoid any unpleasant situation. On the work front, you feel at ease as things are going in your favour. Great things come in a small package and this is what is going to happen with you. There will be new opportunities at the job, and those who are unemployed will get that job in their desired field. On the personal front, your partner may put things in some challenging situations and give you excuses for not accepting your relationships. Be

Lucky number 7 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week positive energy flows in your veins. You must use this energy in some creative pursuits. This can be a very creative time for you, and a good time for you to dream, play and be inventive as a child. On the professional front, things are likely to go your way This seems to be an excellent time career-wise. A raise or promotion is certain for those who work in the private sector. Stay focused and the approach of a senior official will help make your work easy. On the relationship front, you need to talk to your partner face to face to sort out the mess which has been created knowingly and unknowingly between you two. Take out some time and plan a romantic endeavour to boost

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week you will feel a great deal of stamina. You will be filled with confidence and be in the best of your health. Do not hesitate to consider alternative ways to treat or deal with health challenges. Professionally, the way your career graph is going, you need a break and professional counselling. Seek some advice from your senior for better results. To maintain control over your domain and to achieve mastering in your trade someone's guideline will give a boost to your career. Join a virtual professional course/seminar or workshop to increase your skills. On the love front, there will be tension. A rejection or break up might be faced. The singletons will remain single. This is the time to make thoughtful bonding whether in love or marriage.

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Rose Gold Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you are advised to avert anger and aggression. Listen to your body and treat it accordingly. Seek the advice of an elder in the family, maybe your mother or aunt. Her homemade remedies will bring you relief from your current health problems. Workwise, you will follow your gut instinct and try your level best to achieve what you want in life. Those who are waiting for the final verdict in court in legal hassle will be pleased to get the case in their favour. Those in media, opposition, and justice etc fields will do well this week. On the personal front, love is not happening, neither you have time to think about the matters of the heart. The existing relationships too may suffer due to the lack of understanding and busy schedule.

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Saturday

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



Of learning and wisdom

omplex dynamics of man and the universe calls for necessary aware ✓ ness. That alone would help articulate ways and means to steer life in conformity with the design parameters underlying our existence and secure its smooth run. We need to be aware of our individual as well as collective worth and limitations. For, we are all born ignorant and unaware, primarily driven just by our instincts. We are however, also born with an inherent urge to learn, expand one's reach and evolve.

The process of learning begins ever since the child begins to respond to suggestions. However, seeing the enormity and complexity of our life mechanism, as also limitations of mind and intellect, it is simply inconceivable to get to know the whole at one go. It does not come about easy either. That evidently calls for a well-articulated step-by-step learning process, as would India's age-old concept as scripted in the following verse from Atreya Samahita mean.

"JanmanaJayateSudrah/ Samaskaratadwijaucchayate/ Vedapathibhavetaviprah/ Brahmajanatiitibrahmanah".

Literally it means that by birth we are their age, as would be needed to conduct

born ignorant. Having learnt how to engage with the living world would mean being born the second time. Submitting to formal education, one becomes knowledgeable. And having realised the realities of life in holistic terms, one becomes wise. Mind it: By birth one begins with a

clean slate, apparently not carrying any impression of worldly object or experience in mind that could serve as a guiding principle. Although armed with all the faculties of mind to comprehend a thing or to act on their own, they do not have any image in mind that may provide them the right lead. They do not have enough of spoken words stock either to describe an object or express their feelings. Obviously, therefore, they would need a lesson in how to engage with the world around.

The children are, however, abound with energy, and curious to know everything that would come in sight. With all that, their minds keep jumping from one object to the other in succession. So, they suffer from attention deficiency. Accordingly, they are to be first given a lesson in the basics, in a manner befitting



themselves with ease. Evidently, they are first taught the civic and moral conduct norms. That qualifies them to relate well with the environment and conduct themselves in an orderly manner. Having been brought up to this level will literally mean being born afresh the second time.

Ground is thus laid down to step into the next course of learning, as the mind will still not be at rest. It will continue with its inherent urge to further expand its reach and strike. One is then provided with opportunity for exposure to various disciplines vital to our qualitative existence. Here, a reference to the word "Veda" as reflected in the above verse does not necessarily mean Veda parse. Vedas here implies all the acquired treasures of knowledge covering different aspects of life, be they philosophy, medicine, astronomy, warfare, justice.

However, it was necessary for every seeker to undergo a mandatory grooming process before being allowed exposure to the particular subject of learning. Purposely so that character is built, strength of mind is increased, vision and intellect get expanded. The whole process was directed towards the seeker getting well-grounded so that s/he could

approach the subject with an open mind without any egotistical preconditioning whatsoever. The purpose, obviously, is to invoke the spirit of an honest seeker as is usually evident in a curious child. In the process, the seeker develops enough of mental and moral control. That enables him/her to put in all acts together to pursue the learning process in the right spirit following an open enquiry system. The seeker, thus groomed, qualifies to easily grasp true import of the lessons imparted, both explicit as well as hidden between the lines.

It is pertinent to note here that in the ancient India's tradition, most of the knowledge treasures were purposely scripted in formulated language. It was supposedly done so in order that one could have in store, enough of memory implants in the least possible space and words possible. It needs to be appreciated here that but for honing one's intellect thoroughly well, it would not be possible to see through the truths veiled under the express words.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

TEAM AGENDA DESK > NAVNEET MENDIRATTA, CONSULTING EDITOR I ★ LAYOUT AND DESIGN > SATISH CHANDRA JAKHMOLA, SENIOR EDITOR (CREATIVE)