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2 MYANMAR PROTESTERS KILLED IN POLICE FIRE, REPORTS SAY

MONEY 8

UNLEASH 'ANIMAL SPIRITS', RAISE INVESTMENTS: FM TO PVT SECTOR

SPORT 10

OSAKA WINS AUS OPEN

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5 States buck waning Covid trend

Cases spike in Kerala, Maha, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, MP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Just when the coronavirus cases began to dip, five populated States — Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh — have started experiencing an upsurge in daily cases.

Daily Covid-19 cases in the country climbed to about 14,000 after nearly 22 days taking India's tally to 1,09,77,387, while the recoveries surged to 1,06,78,048.

Only two States, Maharashtra and Kerala, account for 75.87 per cent of total number of active Covid-19 cases. At the same time, 78 per cent of the new deaths were reported from just 5 States, the Union Health Ministry said.

Health experts have called for dual efforts to address the emergence of the virus by ramping up vaccinations and implementation of safety protocols to curb transmission.

"In the past week, Maharashtra has exhibited a spike in the number of daily new cases, accounting for highest number of daily new cases in the country today. In last 24 hours, 6,112 daily new cases have been reported in the State," the Centre said, adding that infections have increased by 37 per cent in Mumbai as the State capital recorded 823 cases on Friday, the highest single-day spike in infections since December.



A municipal worker takes visual evidence of a commuter not wearing a face mask in order to give her a penalty at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai on Saturday

Meanwhile, the Ministry said 18 States/UTs have not reported any Covid-19 deaths in the last 24 hours. These are Telangana, Haryana, J&K (UT), Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Assam, Chandigarh, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Meghalaya, Ladakh (UT), Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

The Ministry added that a total of 1,07,15,204 Covid-19 vaccine doses have been administered through 2,22,313

sessions, as per the provisional report till 8 am on Saturday. These include 63,28,479 healthcare workers (first dose), 8,47,161 healthcare workers (second dose) and 35,39,564 frontline workers (first dose).

Dr Rahul Bhargava, Director-Bone Marrow Transplant Programme, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram, said Covid inappropriate behaviour, air travel and high density population in Maharashtra and Kerala are causing upsurge in the cases. The Government had also lifted air travel from the countries

which had variants.

It's not only Maharashtra and Kerala, but in the last seven days, Chhattisgarh too has seen a rise in daily active new cases. In the last 24 hours, 259 daily new cases have been reported.

"Similarly, Punjab has also shown a sudden spike in the number of daily new cases reported in last 7 days with 383 daily new cases in last 24 hours," said the Ministry in a statement.

Dr Jugal Kishore, Head of Department of Community Medicine from Safdarjung

Hospital, said lockdown is not a solution to the crisis.

"This shows that the State Government has not been able to strengthen its health infrastructure as well as inculcate Covid-norms."

He also emphasised on focussing on the areas where sero-surveillance surveys have been negative. "Those susceptible of the virus should be given priority while implementing the anti-Covid norms as well boost health system."

Speaking at a webinar organised by the International Centre, Goa, Director General of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Dr Shekhar Mande said, "In Kerala and in some parts of Maharashtra the number has been increasing in the past few days and that might be a reflection of the fact that people have become complacent and believe that the worst is behind us. The worst is not over and unless we follow all precautions, we will not be able to get over the pandemic so easily."

Rajeev Jayadevan, scientific adviser and former president of the Indian Medical Association, said the variations in cases were expected, given how viruses behave in a large geographical area.

Jayadevan also said what India is witnessing could be called a "stochastic spread" of novel coronavirus, where no uniformity in daily outcomes could be determined.

India, China agree to disengage at all spots

Reiteration came during 10th round of talks between Corps Commanders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and China on Saturday emphasised their commitment to ensuring peaceful disengagement from the stand-off sites in Ladakh at the earliest. The flashpoints include Hot Springs, Gogra, and Depsang Valley.

This reiteration came during the tenth round of talks between Corps Commanders of the two armies at Moldo border meeting point at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Chushul. The two military officials along with their respective delegations also reviewed the pullback process from the southern and northern banks of the Pangong Tso (lake).

Both armies on Thursday completed the withdrawal of tanks and troops at the Pangong friction point. This is seen as the first step in bringing peace and tranquility at the LAC after the ten-month-long stand-off. The process started in a synchronised manner on February 10.

As per the agreement between the two sides, the



military officials were to meet 48 hours after the complete pull back from Pangong. The meeting on Saturday between Lt General PK Menon and Major General Liu Lin was the first one since the pull back.

Besides taking stock of the situation post the withdrawal at Pangong lake, the two commanders also discussed ways to disengage from Hot Springs, Gogra, and Depsang valley, sources said here.

They said India will insist on a faster disengagement process in the remaining areas like Hot Springs, Gogra, and Depsang to bring down tension in the region.

Officials were hopeful of early agreement to mutually pull back troops from Patrolling Point 15 and 17A in Gogra as normalcy was restored to a large extent in the adjacent Pangong region.

However, a mutually acceptable plan to disengage from the Depsang plains could take longer, sources said. This region in the past also saw stand-offs and intervention at the higher levels were resorted to defuse tension, they added.

Sources said the tension in the Depsang Plains was due to China blocking Indian patrol parties from accessing Patrol Points (PP) 10, 11, 11A, 12 and 13. That was due to the reason that the Indian patrols have to go beyond a feature called bottleneck area on foot.

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Reforms to give kisan tech, resources: Modi

Private sector should become Govt's partner in self-reliant India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday stressed the Centre and States should work together and make cooperative federalism more meaningful which, he said, should "trickle down to districts in order to promote growth."

The PM also made a strong case for giving the private sector "full opportunity to become a part of Government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat programme."

Addressing the sixth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog, Modi said farm reforms are to give technology to agriculture.

Highlighting need to change in agriculture sector, he



pointed out that the country still imported grain worth ₹65,000 crore that can be put in farmers pocket. Modi said farmers need to be given incentives to invest in agriculture.

The Prime Minister urged to focus on storage and processing of agricultural products to reduce wastage. He stressed on the need to export processed foods rather than raw foods to increase profits.

Modi said reforms are very important for country's farmers to get the necessary economic resources, better infrastructure and modern tech-

nology. The Prime Minister said that the private sector should be given full opportunity to become a part of Government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat programme.

"Centre and States should work together for the nation's progress... Government has to respect and give due representation to the private sector for economic progress," Modi said.

The Governing Council presents a platform to discuss inter-sectoral, inter-departmental and federal issues. It comprises the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories with legislators and Lieutenant Governors of other UTs.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy reiterated that the Central Government was obliged to grant Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh as per the commitment given in Parliament as a precondition to bifurcation.

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1-month relaxation in age for nursery admission in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has directed schools in the national Capital to grant a 30-day relaxation to students in the age criteria for nursery admissions.

"It is reiterated that age relaxation of up to 30 days may be granted at the level of the heads of the school in both the minimum and maximum age limit. Therefore, any parent seeking age relaxation in respect of their ward, may approach the school principal through a manual application for his or her consideration," the Directorate of Education (DOE) said in a letter to schools.

The age criterion has been fixed by the DOE every year since 2018 and relaxations have been granted in previous sessions too.

For admissions in nursery, KG and class 1 there is an upper limit. The child cannot be more than four years of age for admission in nursery as on March 31, for KG it is five years and for class 1 it is six years.

Centre, States need to devise tax mechanism to cut fuel prices: FM

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Amid an outcry over record high petrol and diesel prices, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the Centre and State Governments will have to together work out a mechanism to bring retail rates to reasonable levels.

As much as 60 per cent of the retail price of petrol, which shot above ₹100-mark in some places in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and is at an all-time high elsewhere in the country, is made up of Central and State taxes.

Taxes make up for about 56 per cent of the record high diesel rates. Sitharaman, who had increased Central Excise duty on petrol and diesel by a record margin last year to mop up gains arising from international oil prices plunging to two-decade low, remained non-committal on cutting taxes to give relief to consumers.

"This is a very vexatious

issue. An issue in which no answer except reducing the price (of fuel) will convince anyone. I know I am treading on an area and whatever I may say, to bring in the reality into picture, will only sound like I am obfuscating. I am avoiding my answer. I am shifting the blame," she said addressing a gathering at an event organised by the Chennai Citizens' Forum here.

She went on to explain the tax structure and how production cuts by oil cartel OPEC and its allies had led to a rally in the international oil prices, leading to a hike in retail rates in India. She, however, said the answer may lie in bringing petrol and diesel under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, which will end the cascading impact of taxes and bring uniformity.

Currently, the Central Government levies a fixed rate of excise duty while states levy different rates of VAT.

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In this image taken from video footage run by China's CCTV, Indian and Chinese troops face off in the Galwan Valley on the disputed border between China and India

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

China, in a video released on social media as part of psy-war, showcased the bravery of an Indian Army officer during the Galwan Valley clashes in Eastern Ladakh.

The officer of Bihar Regiment, who hails from the Senapati district of Manipur and was commissioned in 2018, was seen leading his men from the front in Galwan Valley during the confrontation against the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). He is a Captain in the Indian Army.

The name of the Captain has been withheld on request from the Indian Army.

He received a Mention in Despatches during Republic Day this year. He was seen walking unarmed towards the Chinese PLA to stop transgression into Indian territories. India lost 20 soldiers in the clash. China released this video on Friday as part of its psy-war to depict India's aggression during clashes in Galwan Valley. The video went viral on all the platforms of social media.

The video was released after China for the first time accepted it lost four soldiers during the clash. The video came a day ahead of military commanders meeting to de-escalate tensions at the LAC.

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CAPSULE

AI EXPRESS PLANE HITS POLE AFTER LANDING

Amaravati: A Boeing aircraft of Air India Express suffered a minor damage on its right wing after it hit an electric pole while taxiing on the runway at the Vijayawada airport on Saturday evening, but all 64 passengers aboard were safe, airport officials said.

DELHI: OVER 2.8L PEOPLE VACCINATED TILL DATE

New Delhi: Over 2.8 lakh beneficiaries have received Covid-19 vaccine till date in Delhi since the start of the inoculation drive a month ago, according to data shared by officials on Saturday.

DEBT-RIDDEN FARMER, SON COMMIT SUICIDE

Hoshiarpur: A debt-ridden farmer and his son allegedly committed suicide at a village here, mentioning in a note that they were upset over the Centre's farm laws and the State Government's failure to waive their loans. Jagtar Singh (70) and his son Kirpal Singh (42) were found dead at their residence in Muhadipur village on Saturday morning, DSP Munish Kumar said.

Army dream job destination for Jammu youth!

PNS ■ JAMMU

More than 40,000 youth from 10 districts of Jammu division have so far enrolled themselves to become "proud" soldiers in order to serve the country.

Each day large number of youth hailing from frontier districts of Rajouri, Poonch and landlocked districts of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban, Reasi, Samba, Udhampur, Kathua and Jammu have been lining up outside Sunjwan Military station in Jammu to participate in the first Army recruitment rally in this region after a prolonged lockdown and Covid-19 restrictions.

Efforts made by the Kashmir-based terrorist outfits to radicalise the youth across Jammu division have failed as thousands of youth from terrorism-infested districts are coming out to join the Indian Army.

Before participating in the rally, the youth were provided training by the local Army



Candidates undergo a fitness test at an Army recruitment camp in Jammu on Saturday

Pioneer photo

units in remote areas so as to build their stamina and prepare them mentally and psychologically to compete with the youth from urban centres.

Far greater number of youths from rural pockets are taking part in the drive compared to their counterparts from urban centres.

In the absence of employment opportunities in remote areas, joining Indian Army remains a dream job for the majority of the youth.

The Army recruitment rally for various categories of soldiers is being organised under aegis of Tiger Division at Sunjwan Military Station

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

- Efforts made by the Kashmir-based terrorist outfits to radicalise the youth across Jammu division have failed
- Thousands of youth from terrorism-infested districts are coming out to join the Indian Army
- Approximately 40,000 candidates have registered online
- Great number of youth from rural pockets are taking part in the Army recruitment drive
- The rally is witnessing immense participation from the well prepared local youth of all 10 districts of Jammu division towards joining Indian Army

from February 15 to March 6. Major General Vijay B Nair, General Officer Commanding, Tiger Division, on Saturday reviewed the conduct of the recruitment rally.

The GOC was briefed by Brigadier AP Singh, Commander Shivalik Brigade, and Director Recruiting, Jammu, about various arrangements including various security, anti-touting and Covid-19 related measures.

Defence PRO Lt Col Devender Anand said, "This is the first Army recruitment

rally in this region after prolonged lockdown and Covid-19 restrictions. An overwhelming response from the exuberant youth has been recorded and approximately 40,000 candidates have registered online."

Lt Col Anand said, "The rally is witnessing immense participation from the well prepared local youth of all 10 districts of Jammu division towards joining Indian Army." Covid-19 protocol is being followed during the rally by all participants and recruiting staff, he added.

HOME THEATRE

Oh boy! What a climax



BEHIND HER EYES
Netflix
***ing: Simona Brown, Eve Hewson, Tom Bateman, Robert Aramayo, David Ferguson**
Rated: 7/10

There are many out there who love watching series and wait for new ones to be released because they have watched the old ones too many times. They love the whole concept of binge watching in order to find out how it all ends. Most times the series comes in seasons and one has to wait for the next and the next and the next before one finds how it all ends.

But sometimes one hits a jackpot and we come across limited episode seasons. The good part is that there aren't many episodes six to eight and therefore easy to go through at one go even if they have 50 minutes per episode run time.

The synopsis of *Behind Her Eyes* is good enough to sink its teeth in you and one is hooked even though it is not fast paced. However, it doesn't mean that the thrill, mystery and intrigue is missing here. In fact, all these are there in abundance and keeps the attention. How can one go wrong with a story where there is a psychiatrist who is married to a person who can do astral projection and had undergone treatment where she befriends a man who has night terrors? Definitely a subject-story worth sitting down and watching. A bit convoluted but the end result — climax

is worth the gasp of surprise and do a double take with 'what the hell!'

The best part is that before the climax twist reveals itself, one keeps wondering what is the point of this parallel story and how are the two linked. But director Eric Richter Strand, this British series which moves smoothly into horror gad some fantastic performances by the leads.

Eve Hewson gives brilliant performance here. Despite the fact that you hate her, she endears herself such is the beauty with which she plays her part. Simona Brown is just as good if not better. Playing a divorced mom of an eight-year-old, she plays Louise with excellence. Tom Bateman who okays the psychiatrist, David Ferguson, does his part rather brilliantly. As a trouble stressed husband, he plays his part convincingly.

The horror here is mostly psychological rather than anything else. It is the events that occur that are extremely distressing. Also, there are a few questions that remain unanswered which is a bit of a downer given that there may not be another season since it does say limited series even though with the twist that comes at the end, one wished there was more to come.

So unless the makers decide to go independent of the book, a 2017 novel by the same name by Sarah Pinborough, the last episode ends where and how it does.

Do not miss this dark psychological thriller.

— Shalini Saksena

Dark gripping fare

I CARE A LOT
Netflix
***ing: Rosamund Pike, Peter Dinklage, Eiza González, Chris Messina, Dianne Wiest**
Rated: 5/10

We saw her in *Gone Girl* — a psychological thriller — where she played Amy the girl/wife who goes missing and the husband is the prime suspect in her disappearance and probable murder. Here, in *I Care A Lot*, Pike manages the audience to root for her even as she ruthlessly goes about destroying lives of countless senior citizens by putting them in care homes while she appoints herself as their guardian and takes control of their money.

I Care A Lot is the kind of movie that makes you cringe and wonder what kind of a system allows one person to rule and control others and second

that moneys makes the world go round — corruption is universal and a few bucks thrown here and there is enough to get away with almost anything.

Pike who plays Marla, a power hungry, greedy, manipulative sociopath who also happens to be gay essays the role rather well. Not caring about how it affects the lives of others, she guts lives ruthlessly and without a care or even remorseful — her mantra that she hates to be not rich — and hence this scam that she has going may sound ridiculous and the plot unrealistic, but Pike, via her acting, keeps the interest, a revisit of *Gone Girl* days.

It is refreshing to see a film that doesn't have your typical good hero who wins in the end. A dark twisted thriller that makes for an interesting watch. But if you hate such subject movies, stay as far away as possible.

— Shalini Saksena



Plan Your Day



Unique yet universal

Venue: 167, DLF South Court Mall, Saket, New Delhi
When: Till February 28, 2021
Time: 11 am to 7 pm

The curation is an attempt at gathering varied forms of visual imagery, reaching out to independent streams of creative transformations of the same lines and colors, aimed to widen the pictorial reach and take the viewer to another dimension.

The show is being led by the intense work of GR Santosh, poignant with the tantric philosophy which intrigued him and set him on spiritual quest. A spontaneous abstract work of Gurdeep Singh is integrated to merge together like the differently

colored petals of a single flower. The elegant, sophisticated lines of Gujral in his figurative, the dense cross-hatch of Jogen Chowdhury, the mystic 'young couple' of Neeraj Goswami, to the poised woman portrayed by Chandra Bhattacharya, the figurative are supplemented by the folk inspired animal figures of Manoj Dutta and a vibrant landscape of Bhagat Singh.

The refinement of technique and its rustic manifestations, complexity of the pictorial metaphors and simplified readability of the pictorial script are integrated to merge together like differently coloured petals of a single flower.

The group show brings together works created by these master artists as their responses to the life altering occurrences they have dealt with.

Niraamaya Wellness Retreat

After acute COVID-19 illness, recovered patients may continue to report a wide variety of signs and symptoms including fatigue, body ache, cough, sore throat, difficulty in breathing, etc. However, with personalised treatment a patient can be completely treated.

Niraamaya Wellness Retreats provides a holistic comprehensive post covid care program aimed to help these patients who are struggling to regain their physical activity levels, reduce dependence on supplemental oxygen, improve quality of life and most importantly cope better with the emotional and psychological impact of the disease. What is Post Acute Covid Syndrome? Also known as "Long Covid" the "Post Acute Covid Syndrome" refers to a set of symptoms that can persist in Covid-19 survivors long after they have



seemingly recovered from Covid-19 infection. Typically, the symptoms persist beyond three-week from the onset of first symptoms, extending up to beyond 12-weeks.

Post Covid Programme
 ■ Clinical assessment
 ■ Full history
 ■ Evaluating current symptoms

■ Mapping the symptoms and pathophysiology
 ■ Diagnostic tests
 ■ Management of the syndrome
 Programme Duration: 21 Night
 Address: Gandhigram, Kumarhatti, NahanRoad, Solan, HimachalPradesh, 173 229
 Price: ₹ 3,51,000

TELLY TALE

JIJAJI IS BACK

Sony SAB is all set to bring back one of their most quirky and funny shows but this time with a hint of mystery. Bringing back everyone's beloved characters with its comic madness is *Jijaji Chhat Parr Koi Hai*, which is set to grace your television screens soon.

With a fresh storyline and unique characters, the show will take the viewers to Delhi's Punjabi Bagh into the world of Jindals and Jaldirams. Based on an ageold property dispute between the Jindal and Jaldiram families, the show brings a twist with an element of mystery that dwells in this ancestral property. Another point of conflict are the two families' respective businesses, that of Jaldiram's sweet shop and Jindal's garage which have an outlet next to each other in the front yard of the house.

Taking the viewers through the laughter riot and adding to the show's quirk and madness is stunning Hiba Nawab, to be seen as Jaldiram's daughter CP (short for Connaught Place) and the new Jijaji aka Jitendra Jamvanti Jindal played by dashing Shubhashish Jha. The traditional favourites too make their comeback with this *Jijaji* franchise with Anup Upadhyay, to be seen as Jaldiram, the proud owner of Jaldiram Sweets, the bubbly yet cheeky Soma Rathod, to be seen as Jaldiram's wife Sofia, contesting for Jaldiram as their lawyer and Sofia's brother, Chakral will be Firoz Khan and immensely charming Raashi Bawa as Sunita, a waitress in Jaldiram sweets.

The star cast will be graced by some new faces such as Jitu Shivhare as Nanhe, Jijaji's father, Sucheta Khanna as Bijlivedi aka Jijaji's mother and Vipin as Gulzar, as Jindal's adopted son and Jijaji's best friend, fighting the case for the Jindals will be father-son duo Dhyanchand and Vigyanchand, to be played by Nagin Wadel and Sumit Arora respectively.

DAREDEVIL STUNT

Zee TV's popular fiction show, *Kumkum Bhagya* has been an audience favourite with 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).

In fact, Abhi and Pragya's love story has kept the audience hooked for six years now and their recent wedding sequence got everyone excited. However, it looks like all the fans and followers of the show are in for a shock as their beloved Abhi is going to be shot in the upcoming dramatic twist on the show and will be seen falling off a cliff. Fans of the TV superstar will be delighted to know that their favorite Shabir pulled off this daredevil stunt for his own death sequence with elan!

In the upcoming episodes, we will see a group of goons chasing Abhi and Pragya and while they seem to have escaped from them, the baddies will be shown dashing their car and the two newly-weds will lose consciousness. After they regain their senses, they will try to run away, but Abhi will be shot and will be seen falling off a cliff. For the daredevil stunt, Shabir did the stunt all by himself. Yes, he did have safety harnesses while jumping off from a height for the shot, but the way he pulled off the stunt is noteworthy. The seasoned actor was cool as a cucumber and gave the perfect shot in the first take.



Talking about the stunt, Shabir said: "When the makers told me about the sequence where Abhi is shot and falls off a cliff, I was genuinely intrigued as it is always fun to do such action-packed sequences. I had to jump off a height for the shot and the makers ensured that all the safety equipment was in place before I shot for it. After going over the whole stunt choreography, I gave the shot and I can't wait for all our fans to see the stunt on the show."

When quizzed about Abhi's on-screen death and if it's the end of his track on the show, Shabir said: "I have lived the character of Abhi for six years and shooting a sequence where he's shot and presumed dead is overwhelming. What happens to Abhi next is for

our viewers to wait and watch out for. The story has always kept its audience on its toes, so this time around as well, they are in for the most exciting twist."

NOT A BALD ISSUE



Sony Entertainment Television is coming up with an all-new sitcom, *Sargam Ki Sadhe Satii* which is definitely going to tickle the funny bones of its viewers. The show is going to be filled with fun and banter of a family with seven and a half men who are handled by one woman in the house; Sargam, played by Anjali Tatrari.

Each of the men in the Awasthi family holds up a distinctive personality, which levitates even the most ordinary family life into witty situations. Kunal Saluja will be seen playing the role of Aparshakti Awasthi, Sargam's husband who is the hero of the house, a small-time influencer who aspires to become an actor. Having an unsuccessful stint of acting, he ends up doing some bizarre commercials like *champak sabun*/Dargon shampoo and one of the hair-care products makes him go bald.

Kunal Saluja aka Aparshakti Awasthi, while talking about his nightmares said: "I love my hair because it's a reflection of me; it adds to my look and also makes me feel confident. It's my crown that I never want to take off. We had to shoot a sequence where I try some hair products and end up losing my hair. Since then, I get nightmares of turning bald, every night."

He further adds: "Both on-screen and off-screen the thing I love the most about me is my hair and in the show, one of the reasons that Sargam marries Aparshakti is because of his hair. I made a video of the change in my look and when I posted a picture looking bald, people gave weird reactions cause they actually thought that I went bald."

Adhvik turns Jogi in love

MUSBA HASHMI catches up with ADHVIK MAHAJAN to know about his excitement of playing Jogi in Zee TV's *Teri Meri Ikk Jindri*, the preparations that he did, the days when he was out of work and his journey from Soham to now Jogi

Forgetting Soham from *Bani Ishq Da Kalma* is a nightmare for the fans of Adhvik Mahajan. Only if one would have saw that TV show, one would understand the craze of the character in the sweet but short serial. But as they say, all good things come to an end and so did that show.

However, that doesn't mean better things were not on their way. A case in point is Zee TV's latest *Teri Meri Ikk Jindri*. The show has given its fans a lot more than just entertainment — Soham but in a different avatar — Jogi.

Not only the fans, but Jogi aka Adhvik too is extremely excited to play the character and be seen in a challenging but fun avatar.

"I got an offer for a film but since I had already given my commitment to this show, I said no to it. I don't know about other actors, but for me satisfaction of work is more important than the medium. And this show, I knew, was what I wanted to do without any second thoughts," Mahajan says with a confident voice.

What attracted Mahajan towards the character on the first place was the challenges that it offered. "I don't share any similarities with Jogi despite the fact that we both are Punjabi. He is a lively person. He knows how to be happy in every situation which is, of course, not possible practically. He knows the way out of everything. To sum it up, he is full of life and everything nice. I knew it will be a task for me to play such a role and that's why I made up my mind that this role is mine," Mahajan tells you with a smile.

Such was his curiosity or excitement to play the role, that Mahajan decided to walk an extra mile and send an audition clip that is hard to be rejected. And for this, instead of recording in front of a white wall, he shot in the fields, to bring in the authenticity of the character. That was, of course, a do or die situation for Mahajan. "I knew no one can play that role but me. And I have to give an audition that speaks for itself and which gets selected at once. Hence, I gave it my all with full energy and enthusiasm. Fortunately, it got selected and the team told me that nobody was able to replicate my version. That did feel great to hear," he explains.

Not that the excitement faded once he started shooting instead it



is growing even more. "I look forward to going to the sets. The atmosphere is so and comfortable that it feels like my second home. I share a good rapport with Amandeep Sidhu (who plays Mahi) and it adds to our performance. When one enjoys the work he does, the output is definitely good. This can be one of the reason why people are showering the show and us with their love," he asserts.

The preparation part, he says, was tough too. He loves to spend time with himself, unlike his character, and during this time his focus was to improvise his character. He took inspiration from his father, who is a Punjabi of course, to add minute details to Jogi. "I also lost a few inches. That wasn't so hard, but the only challenge was to get into the skin of the character so well that it becomes a part of me," he says.

The journey from Soham to Jogi, he says, is full of learnings. "After Soham, people told me that my life will change for the better and that work will pour in from all directions. However, the reality was far away from this. I had no work for about two years after that show. In these seven years of my career, I have shot for four years in totality and for the rest three years I was out of work. To make ends meet, I stepped into a lot of side businesses as well. Some of them worked, while others did not. But there was never a moment when I felt like quitting. That's not me. My father's faith in me gave me the motivation to fight. I used to wake up every day with a smile, dress up, go to auditions and get rejected. But never gave up. One always learn from their failures and so did I. Having said that, it's a no-brainer that God has been always kind to me," he recalls.

Another learning, that many of us have had in our life, Mahajan says, is that he learnt to unmask fake friendships. "There were people who took a step back from me when I was out of work. But that didn't bother me. I silently saw their actions. Some of them even turned back to me when I had work, but it is fine. I have my best people with me and they have always supported me. The rest of the people are like puppets to me, I just observe what they have in store," the actor who believes in staying grounded says.

NITI AAYOG MEET

CM: Promote startups to compete with China

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday embarked on the importance of promoting the manufacturing sector and start-ups for the economic progress of India.

Addressing the Niti Aayog Governing Council Meeting, he said that the Central and State Governments should come together to build manufacturing hubs across the country, to provide facilities and give tax breaks to MSMEs, manufacturers, and industrialists, for import substitutes and exports.

"India has never given importance to the manufacturing sector in the last 70 years and it is lagging behind in this sector, which has made China capture the markets. It is necessary to aggressively pursue manufacturing for India's economic progress, creation of jobs, and GDP growth, he

added.

The Chief Minister also said that the youth possesses the potential and the energy to start new businesses which is why India needs to aggressively promote start-ups to create jobs in the country.

Kejriwal said, "I would like to shift PM's focus to two issues. In the last 70 years, our country has never given importance to the manufacturing sector, as a result of which people are leaving the manufacturing sector and are moving towards the trading and service sectors. Our country is lagging behind in the manufacturing sector."

"We witnessed that India had to confront two issues in the last year. First is COVID, which hugely affected the manufacturing sector and many jobs were lost. Secondly, on one hand, we saw how China has been challenging us on the border, and on the other hand, it



has captured our markets and Chinese products are replacing Indian products on a large scale. We should aggressively pursue manufacturing," he said.

The chief minister said, "The youth of our country needs to come to the forefront. The youth possesses the potential and the energy to start new businesses. If the Central and State governments come together and provide facilities to our youth, we will have a huge contribution to the progress of the nation."

AAP, BJP, Cong leaders visit Chandni Chowk Hanuman Temple, chant Chalisa

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Leaders of Aam Aadmi Party, Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress visited Chandni Chowk Old Hanuman Temple on Saturday and chanted Hanuman Chalisa.

AAP senior leader and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak prayed for world peace at Lord Hanuman's temple in along with the residents of the area.

Pathak said that the North Delhi Municipal Corporation had demolished this temple of Lord Hanuman but the people have re-built it with their faith. "People choose their government with trust and expectations, we are doing everything possible to fulfill their expectations. The BJP in Delhi has crushed the trust and expectations of the people. The people of Delhi are perturbed by the BJP's rule in the MCD, and they want to entrust the AAP government with this responsibility," he added.

Reacting to this, Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that it is sad that AAP leader Durgesh Pathak has vitiated the atmosphere by giving a political statement after visiting the Hanuman Mandir rebuilt by local people at

Chandni Chowk.

The original Mandir at Chandni Chowk was demolished as a part of Delhi Government's beautification plan on Court's order, he said.

The day long chanting rituals was also led by Delhi Congress Vice President Mudit Aggarwal.

The ancient Hanuman temple located in Chandni Chowk was demolished a few days ago the Delhi Municipal Corporation. Talking to media, Aggarwal blamed chief minister Arvind Kejriwal terming him an outsider and thus the Chief Minister has neither any knowledge of the culture of Delhi nor of Chandni Chowk area.

"Even though the people voted him and made him CM, but the truth is that he has nothing to do with public emotions. Both the Delhi government and the BJP's MCD are engaged in manipulating the public by doing politics of mere allegation," Aggarwal said in a Press statement.

Aggarwal also said that the Delhi Congress has started a movement, which led to demonstrations there, recited Hanuman Chalisa and created a mass movement. "The local people pitched in and now the temple has been restored," he added.

5,534 e-3-wheelers registered in city in last 6 months: Gahlot

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said that 5,534 new electric three-wheelers have been registered in the national Capital since the launch of 'Electric Vehicle' (EV) policy in Delhi.

Since the launch of the policy in August 2020, three wheelers emerge as the highest selling EV segment in Delhi. 5534 new EV three-wheelers have been registered, with more users coming forward to make the switch.

In the second week of the Delhi government's Switch Delhi campaign, many users, environmentalists, celebrities and industry leaders have come forward to express their support and applaud the campaign.

The campaign focused on generating awareness on the benefits of EV three-wheelers along with the benefits offered under the Delhi EV policy for those who want to make the switch from ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) vehicles to electric. "We are constantly receiving positive feedback from OEMs that a lot of people have expressed interest to make the switch from ICE to electric. Delhi government has led the way in promoting e-rickshaws for the last few years by giving a subsidy of Rs 30,000. After the EV policy, the same subsidy has been extended to e-carts/loaders and e-autos," he said.

"Subsidies provided by the Delhi government under Delhi's EV policy on electric three wheeler autos reduce the total cost of ownership of the electric three-wheeler by up to 26 per cent. By switching to electric three wheeler auto, an individual buyer can save approximately Rs 29,000 annually. Similarly, the subsidies provided on electric three wheeler e-rickshaw under the policy reduce the total cost of ownership by up to 33 per cent," Gahlot said.

Delhi's EV policy and the Switch Delhi campaign have been well-applauded by environmentalists, celebrities, and the industry. Switch Delhi is an eight-week mass awareness campaign by the Delhi Government to sensitize each and every Delhiite about the benefits of switching to EVs to the environment as well as to make them aware of the incentives and infrastructure being developed under Delhi's EV policy. The campaign aims at informing, encouraging, and motivating each and every person in Delhi to switch from polluting vehicles to zero-emission electric vehicles.

BJP's Shazia Ilmi accuses BSP MP of misbehaviour, Akbar Ahmad booked

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has registered a case against former Bahujan Samajwadi Party (BSP), MP Akbar Ahmad 'Dumpy' after a complaint was received by Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) vice-president Shazia Ilmi accusing him of misbehaving with her at a private party.

According to a senior police official, Ilmi alleged that Ahmad allegedly started "misbehaving with her and passed lewd remarks" at a dinner party in Delhi's Vasant Kunj area on February 5.

Ingit Pratap Singh, the DCP, Southwest district said that they received a complaint from Ilmi, and based on it, the case was registered against Akbar Ahmad 'Dumpy' on February 7. The DCP said that an investigation is underway. Ilmi on Saturday alleged Ahmad was "very much abusive and humiliating" towards her at the gathering. She said a complaint was filed by her with the police. Police said the case was registered under sections 506 (threatening) and 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Two brothers held for killing man

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested two brothers for allegedly killing a person who used to physically assault one of them in north Delhi's Sadar Bazar area.

The accused have been identified as Ram (34) and Kamal (40), residents of Basti Julhan, Sadar Bazar.

According to Anto Alphonse, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district, the complainant Suresh Kumar reported that on Friday around 9:30 pm, he was present in his house when he heard noise from street.

"He reached at Sarla Chowk, Basti Julhan, where he saw that Ram was quarrelling with his brother-in-law Jai Kishan alias Jacky (34). During quarrel, Ram went to his house and immediately returned with one knife along with his elder brother Kamal. Kamal caught Jacky and Ram stabbed him on his stomach. Meanwhile, one local resident Saurav tried to save Jacky but Ram also assaulted him with knife," said the DCP.

"Saurav got down and the knife hit him at the backside of his neck and he ran away from the spot to save his life. Jacky also tried to escape but the accused pushed him on road. They kicked him multiple times and then fled from the spot," said the DCP. "Jacky was rushed to Hindu Rao Hospital, where he was declared brought dead, while Saurav is out of danger. During investigation, police apprehended Ram and Kamal," said the DCP.

One arrested for duping people to tune of ₹8 crore

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police has arrested a 41-year-old man who had allegedly duped several people by inducing them in his ponzy scheme to the tune of ₹8 crores.

The accused has been identified as Gopal Dalapati, who was arrested by the EOW police team outside gate no 2 of Saket Court Complex on February 18.

According to Dr O P Mishra, the Joint Commissioner of Police, EOW, the First Information Report (FIR) was registered on the complaint of Gopal Singh and other complainants in which they have alleged that they have been induced by alleged company Weird Infrastructure Corporation Ltd. and Weird Industries Limited through their director and representatives to invest in their small savings schemes for better return.

"It has been alleged that accused persons cheated the small investors in the name of doubling and tripling the invested amount on maturity. The accused persons also issued Debenture Certificates and collected huge amounts about 8 Crores. After collecting the huge amounts, the company closed their offices and ran away," said the Joint CP.

"During probe, it was revealed that the accused along with his associates launched schemes for high returns to victims. Accused persons with his associates had operated their illegal business from Kolkata and Delhi by opening their offices. After collecting around eight Crores from victims, the alleged companies closed their offices in Kolkata and Delhi and disappeared," said the Joint CP.



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Kerala adds 4,650 fresh Covid cases

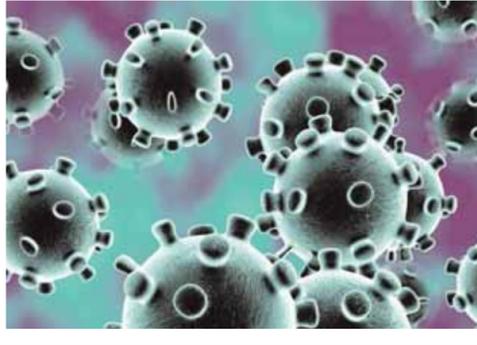
Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala on Saturday registered 4,650 new Covid-19 cases and 13 related deaths taking the total number of those affected in the state by the deadly virus to 10.30 lakh.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the state has tested 65,968 samples in the last 24 hours and the test positivity rate was 7.06 per cent. Till now, 1.09 crore samples have been tested by the state.

"Out of the total cases reported today, 76 reached the state from outside while 4,253 contracted the disease through their contacts.

The sources of infection of 295 are yet to be traced. Twenty six health workers are also among the infected," Vijayan said in a press meet.

Meanwhile, 5,841 people recuperated from the disease on Saturday taking the total



Karnataka Min asks people to be on guard, cautions about possible second Covid wave

Bengaluru: Urging people to take necessary precautions, while cautioning about the possible second wave of Covid-19, Karnataka Health Minister K Sudhakar on Saturday said according to experts till March end it is crucial.

Also ruling out any COVID curbs like lockdown or curfew measures in Karnataka for now, he said the state has not come to that situation and all necessary precautions were being taken so that the state does not reach such a stage. The Minister also said the health department is seeking cooperation from Home and Revenue departments besides district administrations to control COVID spread in districts bordering Kerala and Maharashtra, states that have seen a spike in cases in recent days.

Karnataka has issued new guidelines mandating all those coming from Kerala and Maharashtra to the state to carry a negative RT-PCR test report not older than 72 hours.

"There are laws on one side, but civic sense also required in protecting our own health, so people of the state have to understand and make necessary changes in their conduct by following necessary precautions... Till March end is an important stage according to the technical

advisory committee report," Sudhakar said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said necessary precautions have to be taken at least till March end by compulsorily following things like wearing masks, maintaining distance, and all those who have the opportunity should get vaccinated. "The Union Health Ministry has said vaccinations are likely to be given to common citizens from March.... Now frontline warriors and health workers should take vaccines," he said.

Further stating that there is no spike in the number of cases in Karnataka and the mortality rate is 1.3 per cent, the Minister said, "we will have to stop the possible second wave in the same way."

"There is a sense about the second wave coming in Maharashtra and Kerala. It should not come in our state, we have to control it," he said. **PTI**

Gujarat civic polls: Voting in 6 major cities today

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Voting in the civic polls in six major cities of Gujarat will be held between 7am and 5pm on Sunday amid tight security and adherence to COVID-19 norms, officials said.

The municipal corporation elections in Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodra, Rajkot, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar are being seen as a test for Chief Minister Vijay Rupani as it may set the tone for the Assembly polls slated for next year. Votes will be cast for a total of 575 seats with each ward having four corporators, and 2,276 candidates, comprising 577 from the BJP, 566 from the Congress, 470 from AAP, 91 from NCP, 353 from other parties and 228 Independents, are in the fray, officials informed.

"The total number of voters in the six cities stands at 1.14 crore, comprising 60.60 lakh men and 54.06 lakh women. Of the 11,121 polling booths, 2,255 are sensitive and 1,188 have been designated as very sensitive," a poll official said.

Votes will be counted on February 23, following which, on February 28, polls to 31 district and 231 taluka panchayats, as well as 81 municipalities will be held, he added.

During the campaign, the BJP played the "development" card, while the Congress, which has been out of power in these local bodies for a long time now, cited "lack of amenities" and the recent fuel price hike to turn the tide.

The Aam Aadmi Party has claimed it would be an effective alternative to the BJP and Congress, while Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMM will make its local bodies poll debut having fielded 21 candidates in six wards in Ahmedabad.

UNNAO CASE Surviving minor girl's condition improves, taken off ventilator

Kanpur: The minor girl, who was found along with her two cousins in an agriculture field in a village in Unnao district, was taken off ventilator support on Saturday after showing improvement, a senior police official said.

The girl has shown improvement and doctors decided to take her off the ventilator, Kanpur Deputy IG Preetinder Singh said.

The girl is still not in a condition to speak to the police and narrate the incident, the DIG said.

The doctors are constantly monitoring the girl's condition and taking care of her, he said.

Heavy deployment of police force has been made at the hospital to ensure the safety and security of the girl.

On primary assessment, the girl was found in shock. As a suspected case of poisoning, she was shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the paediatric ward, the medical bulletin issued by the private hospital, where she is undergoing treatment, said.

The victim was admitted to the hospital in intubated condition and was on bag and tube ventilation. Later, she was shifted to the ICU and treatment was given to her, the medical bulletin further stated.

On Saturday, the third day of treatment, the girl was put off the ventilator and has been going through spontaneous respiration, it added. **PTI**

Siddaramaiah wants accountability on Ram Mandir donations

Bengaluru: Senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Saturday said he is having a Ram temple constructed in his village, as he urged those involved in collection of donations for the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya to be accountable to the people of the country, as it is public money.

Accusing the BJP of playing with the emotions of people in the name of god, the former Chief Minister said he too has faith in god, but for him beliefs are personal issues and should not be used as a political tool.

"... There is nothing that only those who have given the

money should ask for accounts. What I have said is, in the past too money and bricks were collected for Ram Mandir during Ayodhya agitation... did they account for it?" Siddaramaiah said.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, he said, it is said that Rs 1,500 crore has been collected so far, an account should be given, all 135 crore people might not have given, but it is public money.

"I'm not mentioning about any corruption, but an account has to be given.. They are accountable... If they don't give an account, doesn't it give rise to suspicion about misuse?" he asked, adding that those collecting donations are accountable to the people of the country.

He was responding to a BJP leaders' statements questioning who Siddaramaiah was to seek an account, when he has

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, he said, it is said that ₹1,500 crore has been collected so far, an account should be given, all 135 crore people might not have given, but it is public money

India's first Digital varsity comes up in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala took a major step forward in its progress towards a knowledge society with the inauguration of the country's first Digital University, based in Technocity at Mangalapuram near here on Saturday.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan presided over the function, where Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, who is also the Chancellor of the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (KUDSIT), unveiled the varsity plaque.

Both the Governor and the Chief Minister addressed the function through video conferencing.

In his inaugural address, Khan said the launch of the Digital University is part of the state's resolve to embrace new technologies and desire to use them for bringing positive changes in the life of people and become a global hub for higher learning and technology.

Praising the state government for recent initiatives in higher education including the launch of Sree Narayana Guru Open University, the Governor said "In any aspect of life, knowledge brings courage, understanding, acceptance, unity and also liberates us from the clutches of ignorance."

"This society expects the Digital University to provide intellectual support to lap up the new world of opportunities arising through artificial intelligence (AI), Blockchain, Data Analytics and other digital transformation courses," he said.

In his address, the CM said the launch of the first Digital University in the country would open tremendous opportunities for youngsters.

Uttarakhand: Man sentenced to 10 years in jail for raping girl

Gopeshwar (U'khand): A Chamoli court has sentenced a man to 10 years in jail for raping a minor girl.

Chamoli's District and Sessions Judge R P Chauhan on Friday sentenced Girish Lal to 10 years rigorous imprisonment besides imposing upon him a fine of Rs 10,000 for abducting and raping a minor girl in 2018, special public prosecutor Mohan Pant said. An FIR had been lodged against Lal in the case in 2018 and a trial against him was conducted in a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court, he said. **PTI**

Man chosen for Padma Shri for arranging last rites of unclaimed bodies lies bed-ridden, awaiting treatment

Ayodhya: An 83-year-old Faizabad resident, who is said to have arranged last rites over 25,000 unclaimed bodies in last 25 years and was chosen for a Padma Shri last year, is suffering from serious ailments but is unable to afford treatment due to poverty.

Mohammad Shareef, also known as "messiah of lawarais lashaen", was found bed-ridden when this PTI correspondent visited his home in Mohalla Khirki Ali Beg on Thursday.

With Shareef Chacha, as he is fondly called in his neighbourhood, lying virtually unconscious on his bed, his family members said they were still hoping for some pension to him against his award so that they could afford his treatment.

Mohammad Shareef's son Shageer said they had got a letter from the Union Home Ministry last year informing his father that he was chosen for the Padma Shri award.

The letter dated January 31, 2020 from Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla further said the date for conferring the award upon him would be shortly communicated, said Shageer.

He said his father was chosen for being conferred the award on the recommendation of BJP MP Lallu Singh from

Muzaffarpur police on toes after 5 deaths due to spurious liquor

Patna: Bihar police have pulled up their socks in the aftermath of the death of five people due to the consumption of spurious liquor in Muzaffarpur.

The five deaths were reported in Dargah village under the Katra police station on Thursday. Amit Kumar, ADG, (law and order), said the victims are suspected to have consumed some poisonous country-made liquor which resulted in their deaths. However, the actual reason will be clear only after the autopsy and viscera reports are out.



Sculptures made of snow during the snow festival at Khangsar village in Lahaul-Spiti on Saturday **PTI**

U'khand deluge: Rescuers continue search operation

Dehradun: Rescuers on Saturday continued clearing a tunnel of the disaster hit Tapovan project in Chamoli district in Uttarakhand and also searched other places to find more bodies.

Due to heavy water and sludge, excavation work is going on at a slow pace inside the tunnel where 13 bodies out of the 25-35 buried people have been recovered so far, top police officials said.

The tunnel has already been dug at a level of 166m deep and 6m in slope. Water is continuously being pumped out of the tunnel, officials said.

Rescuers had recovered one body at Helang area near Joshimath on Friday even as they used dog squads, binoculars, rafts and other equipment in their search operation for 142 missing persons. Nearly 204 persons went missing after the February 7 deluge in the Rishiganga river.

Village heads can't contest Bihar panchayat polls if found corrupt

Patna: Keeping in view the panchayat elections of 2021, Bihar's Panchayati Raj ministry has issued a notification to disqualify the Mukhiya (village head) from contesting election if the person is involved in corruption in CM Nitish Kumar's ambitious "Har Ghar Nai Ka Jal" programme.

Amrit Lal Meena, Additional chief secretary of Panchayati Raj department issued the notification on Saturday. "Any kind of mismanagement and corruption is attributed to disqualification to contest the election of Panchayat. The village heads and contractors will be held accountable for it and liable to face legal action apart from disqualification," Meena said. **IANS**

Centre, States need to devise tax...

From Page 1

Under GST, the two would merge and bring uniformity, solving the problem of fuel rates being higher in states with higher VAT.

"What I am saying is that this is a vexatious issue and no Minister can ever convince anybody because Indians being Indians and I am one of them, (will not be convinced)," she said.

"It is a matter of fact that both Centre and States will have to talk." Stating that the states levy ad valorem rates of sales tax or VAT which help them get more revenue whenever prices go up, she said it won't serve any purpose if the Centre were to take the moral high ground and bring down excise duty to zero. "I can do that (cut taxes) if I have a certain guarantee that my revenue foregone will not be an opportunity for somebody else to get into this space and gain that," she said.

"If all of us are talking about consumer prices (on fuel to) come down (and the) tax raised by the Centre, tax raised by the states are not holier than one another." The taxes by centre and states equal, she said.

Fuel retailers, who were given pricing freedom over the years, daily decide on retail rates depending on benchmark international prices and foreign exchange rates. "Technically, the oil prices have been freed and the government has no control over it," she said hoping international oil prices will come down. India is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs and so retail rates are linked to international prices. "So long and short of it is (that) the states and the Centre have to sit together and see whether there is a way in which the retail price of fuel is at a reasonable level," she said.

Sitharaman said as a finance minister she cannot be one minister in the Union government to say how much the price can be decreased and whether that would not guarantee the States to earn more money. "Because every government needs more money, needs revenue and at the same time I can see a relief that not one additional paisa is being demanded from the taxpayers (from the budget)," she said.

Asked whether bringing the fuel prices under Goods and Service Tax would lead to an answer, she said, "it can be." "But to get it (fuel prices) under GST needs to be a thorough discussion in the GST Council (comprising Centre and the states)," she said.

The finance minister said if the GST Council agrees on one rate then all over the country there can be one fuel price rather than Chennai being more expensive than New Delhi or New Delhi more expensive than Mumbai.

"That anomaly can be addressed if it is under GST. And that can be just one tax which can be shared by both Centre and State," she said. Petrol and diesel prices have been increased for 12 straight days, taking them to an all time high of Rs 97 per litre for petrol in Mumbai and over Rs 88 mark for diesel. Retail pump prices differ from state-to-state depending on the local taxes (VAT) and freight. **PTI**

India, China agree to disengage...

From Page 1

Given the smooth withdrawal of troops from Pangong, sources said India was hopeful that pullback could take place soon from the other friction points too.

On February 11, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced in Parliament that India and China reached an agreement on disengagement in the North and South banks of Pangong lake that mandates both sides to "cease" forward deployment of troops in a "phased, coordinated and verifiable" manner.

Under the agreement, he said, China will pull back its troops to the east of Finger 8 areas in the northern bank of Pangong lake while the Indian personnel will be based at their permanent base at Dhan Singh Thapa Post near Finger 3 in the region. Similar action would take place on the south bank of the lake as well, he said.

In his statement in Parliament, the Defence Minister also said it was agreed to convene the next meeting of senior commanders of both sides within 48 hours of completion of the disengagement in the Pangong lake areas so as to resolve all other remaining issues.

At present, more than one lakh troops besides tanks and heavy artillery guns from both sides are deployed in forward areas near the LAC in Ladakh since the face-offs began in May last year. Incidentally, the first stand-off took place at the Pangong Lake. It saw the soldiers from two sides exchanging blows and some of them received injuries.

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण निर्माण विभाग प्रखण्ड देहरादून
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 पत्रक 4660/ग्रामिणियो/निविदा सूचना/2020-2021 दिनांक 15/02/2021

निविदा सूचना

उत्तराखण्ड राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से अधोस्तारकी द्वारा निम्न कार्यों की सीलबन्द निविदा निम्न तालिका के कॉलम 06 के अनुसार एजीकृत ठेकेदारों से दिनांक 04.03.2021 को अपराह्न 2.00 बजे तक कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता ग्रामीण निर्माण विभाग प्रखण्ड देहरादून में आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन साय 2.30 बजे अधोस्तारकी अथवा उनके द्वारा प्राधिकृत प्रतिनिधि द्वारा निविदादाताओं अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 01.03.2021 से निविदा खोलने की तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व कार्य दिवस में साय 4.00 बजे तक निर्धारित शुल्क जमा करा कर प्रखण्ड कार्यालय देहरादून से प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।

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-निविदा की शर्तें-

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अधिशासी अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण निर्माण विभाग प्रखण्ड देहरादून

Reforms...

From Page 1

"Rapid industrialization of the State is possible only if SCS is accorded," he asserted in his speech during the virtual meeting. He also sought quick approval of revised estimates of Polavaram project.

Punjab Chief Minister skipped the meeting as he was reportedly indisposed.

The agenda of the meeting included deliberations on agriculture, infrastructure, manufacturing, human resource development, service delivery at grassroots level, health and nutrition.

The sixth meeting witnessed the entry of Ladakh for the first time, in addition to the participation of Jammu and

Kashmir as a Union Territory.

Prime Minister said India has made up its mind to progress rapidly and doesn't want to lose time.

He said the positive response received for this year's Budget has expressed the mood of the nation and the youth is playing a pivotal role in setting the mood.

"AatmaNirbhar Bharat campaign is the way to build an India that produces not only for its own needs but also for the world. He said, country's private sector is also coming forward with energy," said Modi.

He said the fund allocated for infrastructure in the current Budget is highly appreciated and it will generate employment for thousands.

Modi said, since 2014, over 2.4 crore houses have been built in rural and urban India. He said, another innovative initiative is going on in which houses are being built by modern technology in six cities.

In the last 18 months since Jal Jeevan Mission came into existence over 3.5 crore rural households have been connected with piped water connections.

He said, 'BharatNet scheme' has also become a major game changing feature to give internet connectivity to remote villages across the nation.

Prime Minister said the Central Government has introduced Production Linked Incentive, PLI schemes for various sectors. He said, this is an excellent opportunity to increase manufacturing in the country and States should also take full advantage of this scheme and attract more and more investment. He said policy framework and cooperation between Centre and state is also very important.

Modi said a holistic approach has been adopted over the years, from agriculture to animal husbandry to fisheries. He said, as a result, the country's agricultural exports have increased significantly even during Corona.

Prime Minister said ease of living and ease of doing business will go hand in hand. Laws and regulations have to be amended for brighter future of the nation.

He made a strong pitch for repealing archaic laws and making it easier to do business in India stating that the centre and states need to work close-

ly to boost economic growth.

Prime Minister stressed on the need to promote innovation and use technology as much as possible. He said every State and every district in the country has a speciality and potential and government is shortlisting and value-adding to these thousands of products hailing from different districts through marketing for exports.

Modi said in past few years opening of bank accounts, increase in vaccination and health facilities, free electricity connection, free gas connection to empower the poor has reflected a phenomenal change in their lives. The Prime Minister expressed happiness that during the COVID period people saw how Centre and States worked together.

₹350 cr bank cheating case

Chargesheet filed against Punjab-based company

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a prosecution complaint (chargesheet) against Punjab-based Kudos Chemie Ltd. and its directors for forging documents to seek loan from a consortium of banks and diverting the funds to the tune of about ₹350 crore.

The agency said it has filed the Prosecution Complaint against Kudos Chemie Ltd., Kudos Holdings Pvt Ltd. and its directors, Jitendra Singh and Gurmeet Sodhi before the Special Court (PMLA), Chandigarh under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The ED initiated the investigation on the basis of a CBI FIR dated April 7, 2017 under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections relating to cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy for bank fraud with the consortium of banks led by Punjab National Bank.

"The ED investigation revealed that

Jitendra Singh and Gurmeet Sodhi, directors of Kudos Chemie Ltd, prepared forged export bills and got them discounted with the banks fraudulently. They also diverted loan funds to the related concern Kudos Holdings Pvt. Ltd. being a shell company and through round-tripping showed the diverted funds as their own capital and took more loans from the banks. Directors of the company absconded company loan funds for buying properties in individual names. In



this case, the immovable properties amounting to ₹343 crore stand attached by ED," it said.

Further investigation, in this case, is in progress, it added.

Meanwhile, in a separate case, the ED has filed a Supplementary Prosecution Complaint before the Special Court of Bharat Parashar, Special Judge (PC Act), New Delhi under PMLA in a case of illegal allocation of coal block in Jharkhand against Domco Pvt. Ltd. and its directors Binay Prakash, Rita Prakash and their two other firms.

The agency initiated investigation on the basis of a CBI FIR under IPC sections relating to criminal conspiracy and cheating against Domco Pvt. Ltd. and its promoters/directors and other unknown persons for submitting false information with dishonest intention to the authorities while applying for a captive coal block and securing allocation of "Lalgahar (North)" coal block in West Bokaro Coalfield, Jharkhand. The irregular allocation led to a pecu-

niary benefit of ₹7 crores to the accused Binay Prakash who offered to sell the shares of the company on premium, after relocation of the coal block to the Ranchi-based firm.

Further investigation revealed that the accused Binay Prakash placed the Proceeds of Crime in the banking system and subsequently the amount was siphoned off/routed/invested through the entities of Binay Prakash group owned/controlled by him. Identified assets in form of immovable properties held in the name of Binay Prakash group amounting to ₹3.96 crores and movable properties amounting to ₹3.04 crores were provisionally attached. The Adjudicating Authority under PMLA has already

confirmed attached properties worth ₹6.88 crores and properties worth ₹12 lakhs are under the process of confirmation, it said.

Earlier, a Prosecution Complaint under PMLA was filed before the court here on December 13, 2018.

Robust vax programmes, strict physical distancing may halt Covid surge: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A combination of robust vaccination programmes and strict physical distancing rules could avoid recurring peaks of Covid-19 without the need to rely on stay-at-home restrictions. This is the suggestion by epidemiologists and demographers from WorldPop at the University of Southampton, in collaboration with The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The findings are published in the journal Nature Human Behaviour.

In their study, they used anonymised mobile phone geolocation data with epidemiological and coronavirus case data from China to model the potential impact of vaccination and physical distancing on virus transmission.

They predicted the effect of different combinations of interventions on low, medium and high density cities in the country.

The impact of physical distancing in containing future resurgences of Covid-19 depends greatly on the intensity of measures, population density, and the availability of vaccines across geographical areas and time. The researchers set out to gain a greater understanding of the relationship between these factors.

The team predicts that in most cities, vaccination programmes and physical distancing combined will be enough to contain virus resurgence without the need to greatly restrict population mobility. Containment in this study was defined as maintaining a low transmission rate, or 'R' below one.

The researchers report cities

with medium and high density populations will need both vaccination and distancing to prevent future intense waves of Covid-19, until herd immunity is reached. However, they suggest cities with low populations and effective vaccination could fully interrupt transmission without the need for physical distancing. In all cities, full 'stay-at-home' lockdowns would no longer be necessary.

The team's results also suggest strong physical distancing interventions implemented for short periods of time may be more effective than mild, longer term ones.

The author and spatial epidemiologist, Dr Shengjie Lai, Senior Research Fellow in Geography and Environmental Sciences at the University of Southampton said, "Our research provides a framework and set of outputs that can be used by policy-makers and public health authorities to identify appropriate levels of intervention to keep Covid-19 outbreaks in check over time.

"Although our study was based on data from China, our methods and findings are applicable to cities worldwide with similar levels of population density and social contact patterns."

Director of WorldPop, Professor Andy Tatem, added: "Previous studies have assumed that when people reduce mobility, they proportionately reduce their social contacts, but this isn't necessarily the case and as more SARS-CoV-2 vaccines come online, there is an urgent need to understand the relationship between these factors, so we can adjust and tailor interventions and open up sections of society in a safer way."

Govt working on 'one nation, one standard' for quality product: Goyal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Like 'one nation, one nation' standard, the Government is working to have 'one nation, one standard' in order to ensure quality products in the country. Reviewing the work of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said, it's time to embark on Mission one nation one standard and make India the leader in setting global benchmarks in setting standards. Goyal said, no one should feel the need to go abroad to get quality certification. Saying lab testing in India should be of world standards, Goyal said, modern equipment and latest technologies should be used there.

The Minister stressed that strength and character of nation is often exemplified by the standards it sets for the quality of its products and services.

Currently, the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) is the only national body that frames standards. It has come out with over 20,000 standards for various products and services so far. There are also about 50-odd agencies that have framed about 400 standards in the country.

Restore job to worker who met with accident, Gzb-based firm told

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

In an order aimed at sending a message to private sector companies ignoring the rights of their disabled employees, the Court of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD), under the Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry, has asked a Ghaziabad-based private firm to restore the job of a worker who was terminated from the service after he met with a mishap, causing him 60 per cent locomotor disability.

The case pertains to one Tusarkanta Pattanayak, who worked with a private firm, BioMed Pvt Ltd, since 2006. On December 30, 2016, while in the office when he was not feeling well, his company manager advised him to get medicine from the nearby dispensary and take rest. But as his fate would have it, Pattanayak met with a serious accident on his way to the dispensary. It made him permanently disabled (locomotor disability at 60 per cent).

However, instead of empathising with Pattanayak's condition, his company pressured him to quit the job. In 2019, the company handed him a termination letter, the complainant alleged in his

petition before the CCPD which he had moved for justice.

The Employee State Insurance (ESI) too rejected his application seeking pension as it contended that his case does not fall within the purview of the existing rules. Commissioner for Persons with Disability Upma Srivastava after hearing both the sides on January 12, 2021 observed that the employer of Pattanayak violated employment rights of the latter as guaranteed under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

"Section 20(4) of the Act lays down that if any employee acquires disability during course of his employment, he shall not be dispensed with his services; further, such employee cannot be even reduced in rank or pay scale. Though, Section 20(4) lays down mandate for government establishments. Yet, this court, considering the objectives of RPwD Act 2016, concludes that effect of this provision must also be extended to non-government establishments.

In her order she further said that "Objective of this Act is to assimilate the disabled Divyangians into main stream

society so that they can spend their life with dignity and enjoy their basic fundamental rights equally with others. If private establishments shall be left out of scope of Section 20(4) it may amount to creating hindrance in path of achieving aims and objectives sought to be achieved by RPwD Act, 2016."

Therefore, said Srivastava, this court by exercising its suo motu powers to investigate, vested in it by virtue of Section 75(b) of RPwD Act, 2016, decides to take cognisance of the complaint against the employer of the complainant, i.e. Bio-Med Private Limited and recommends it to cancel the termination letter and re-employ him on any such post which is suitable for a Divyangian. Further this court recommends that the employer shall not reduce the pay scale of the complainant.

However, the Court was silent on the ESI contention that "after conducting detailed investigation it was found that at the time the complainant met with the accident, he was not commuting for employment purpose, rather he was commuting from one place to another for personal reasons therefore, he could not be granted pension."

Arjuna awardee pistol shooter seeks action against 2 Air India staffers for 'harassment'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Arjuna awardee and Tokyo Olympics medal prospect Manu Bhaker has demanded action against two Air India employees for allegedly "harassing" and "insulting" the pistol shooter while she tried to board a flight to Bhopal from Delhi. Air India, however, rebutted her claims.

After being stopped at the Indira Gandhi Airport, 19-year-old Manu tweeted her 'problem', tagging Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, among others.

After Rijiju's intervention, Bhaker eventually boarded the AI 437 flight. She thanked the sports minister in her last tweet: "Thank you @KirenRijiju sir. Got boarded after strong support from all of you. Thank you India. jai

hind." Rijiju responded by tweeting: "You are India's pride."

The 19-year-old Olympics shooter made a sensational charge against Air India, saying that employees of the national airline treated her "like a criminal" for carrying guns on board the aircraft. Taking to Twitter, Bhaker was headed to Bhopal Shooting Academy for training alleged that the national carrier did not allow her, in the first instance, to board her scheduled flight from Delhi to Bhopal, citing no permission to carry her guns and shooting equipment.

Bhaker further claimed that the airline employees even demanded a bride from her. Lashing out at Air India, the Commonwealth Games and Youth Olympics gold medalist stated that she had to go

through the "ordeal" despite carrying all valid documents and clearance from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for travelling with her weapons and ammunition.

"Not allowing me to board flight AI 437 at IGI Delhi and asking now 10200rs despite all valid documentation and DGCA permit. Top of that Manoj Gupta Air India incharge doesn't recognise DGCA @narendramodi @HardeepSPuri @AmitShah @VasundharaBJP shall I pay this Bribes or!!!!" the ace shooter tweeted.

"Think this type of behaviour is not acceptable. Manoj Gupta is not even human. He is treating me like I am a criminal. Also his security in charge. Such people need basic training of behaviour hope fully Aviation ministry will

find out and will send him to the right place," she said in another tweet.

The 19-year-old pistol shooter also demanded action against two Air India employees for allegedly "harassing" and "insulting" her.

Denying Bhaker's charges, Air India, in its reply to Bhaker, tweeted, "Our Delhi Airport team has confirmed that the official at our counter had only sought for valid documents as per rules for the carriage of your weapon on board. In absence of the same, legitimate specified charges for the arms were conveyed to you."

The airline further added that no one sought a 'bribe' and that "you were issued boarding pass on your assurance of furnishing valid documents before boarding. Immediately after the official valid documents were shown by you at the boarding point, you were allowed to board". Air India also tendered an apology and added that the airline has always encouraged and respected sportspersons.

PM in Assam, Bengal on Monday to launch several projects



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the poll-bound States of Assam and West Bengal on Monday to launch and lay the foundation stones of several projects.

The PMO said he will dedicate to the nation important projects of the oil and gas sector in an event organised at Silapathar in Assam, and also inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of engineering colleges during the event.

Later in the day, he will inaugurate several railway projects at Hooghly in West Bengal.

25K CAPF personnel earmarked for elections in 4 States, 1 UT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

At least 25,000 Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel have been earmarked to be deployed for the forthcoming assembly polls in four states and the Union Territory of Puducherry, officials said on Saturday.

They said the Union home ministry has directed that a total of 250 companies of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central

Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) will be utilised for conduct of the upcoming elections.

A CAPF company has an operational strength of about 100 personnel.

These forces work under the command of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Assembly polls in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry are due in April-May this year.

Officials said while 125 companies are being moved to

West Bengal, 45 are earmarked for Tamil Nadu, 40 for Assam, 30 for Kerala and 10 for Puducherry.

"These numbers are based on the preliminary assessment that was undertaken by the Election Commission after its meeting with senior home ministry officials sometime back.

"Some addition in numbers many take place once the EC announces the final dates for polls and the number of phases," a senior officer privy to the development told PTI.

Guj Govt brings 30L people under National Food Security Act

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Vijay Rupani Government in Gujarat has added 30 lakh beneficiaries under the food law in the recent past and it is in the process of identifying more people for coverage under this Act. The State Government informed this in a review meeting of the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), under which 5 kg of wheat and rice are being provided per person per month at a highly subsidised rate of ₹2-3 per kg. Over 80 crore people are covered under this Act.

Union Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey reviewed the NFSA implementation and other allied matters with the Gujarat Government at Gandhinagar, an official statement said. During the meeting, he said there is possibility of including more beneficiaries under the NFSA.

"State Government informed that 30 lakh beneficiaries have been added in the recent past and they are in process of identifying more beneficiaries through convergence with other central

programmes like National Social Assistance programme, etc," the statement said.

As production of both wheat and paddy is higher than annual requirement of foodgrains of Gujarat State under the NFSA, it was observed that there is potential of augmenting procurement.

"It was emphasised that State Government should target procuring to the extent of annual requirement which would not only benefit local farmers but also save the transportation cost which is incurred in bringing food grains from other States," the statement said, adding that the acceptance of locally cultivated food grains would also be higher among local population.

Pandey informed that automatic grain dispensing machines are being tested in five cities on pilot basis that enable beneficiaries to obtain subsidized food grains without having to visit FPS to provide freedom to the beneficiaries.

The Gujarat Government expressed its willingness to install such machines in Ahmedabad city on a trial basis.

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नई राहें नई मंजिलें

Haasan-Rajinikanth meet gives rise to speculation

Chennai: Tamil superstar and Makkal Needhi Maiam supremo Kamal Haasan held talks with Rajinikanth on Saturday for over 30 minutes, amid speculation over extension of political support ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections due in April this year.

Haasan's three-year-old MNM party will organise an inaugural function on Sunday. Haasan has announced a full-fledged election campaign and earlier said that he would seek the Thalaiva's support.

In a U-turn, superstar Rajinikanth had on December 29, 2020 announced he will not take the political plunge and launch a party as declared earlier. However, Rajinikanth's associate and Gandhija Makkal Iyakkam founder Tamilaravi

Manian said that the actor didn't say he would never enter politics, he said he would not jump into poll fray now and that he has also not disbanded the Rajini Makkal Mandram (RMM).

"If tomorrow Rajinikanth says he is entering politics, Gandhija Makkal Iyakkam will associate itself with him on his journey. If Rajinikanth does not enter politics also, it will continue to function as a sister organization," Manian had said.

Meanwhile, the actor-turned-politician, Haasan, recently announced that the MNM will begin accepting online applications from party members as it selects candidates for the elections.

In an official announce-

ment made on Monday, the party officials said that applications will open from Sunday, February 21, and potential candidates must pay Rs 25,000 to be considered. They also added that non-party members could also apply or be nominated.

The party's permanent president Kamal Haasan is set to decide on electoral strategies for the forthcoming elections which include electoral alliance and selection of candidates.

Last month, Kamal Haasan said his party had been allotted the 'battery torch' symbol, the same symbol the party had used when it contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the actor's electoral debut and picked up a vote share of 3.77 percent.

29 squatting structures in Jammu shut down



PNS ■ JAMMU

Cracking whip against the illegal encroachment of state land, the district administration in Jammu on Saturday closed down around 29 structures, which prima facie appear to have been constructed on State Land (NH from Narwal to Sidhra). Majority of these structures were famous eateries, coffee parlours, snackbars and restaurants which had come up along the zigzag road to serve the commuters on the

highway.

After hue and cry was raised by these developers the district administration issued a clarification claiming commercial establishments on the same road, which are not currently believed to be on state land are operating normally. Further proceedings will be initiated by Revenue Officials immediately and in case the owners have any legal and valid claim, that shall be duly considered before any measure is taken.

SKM holds farmers' meet at Wardha, cancels one at Yavatmal

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) had a shaky start in Maharashtra on Saturday, as it held its first Kisan Maha Panchayat at Wardha in Maharashtra but it had to cancel a similar farmers' gathering at Yavatmal on Saturday owing to Covid-19 restrictions imposed there.

An estimated 5,000 farmers owing allegiance to 40-odd peasant organisations turned out for the Kisan Maha Panchayat convened at Wardha in eastern Maharashtra to create awareness among the people about the three controversial farm laws and the demand for repeal for these legislations.

High-profile SKM leader Rakesh Tikait was conspicuous by his absence. SKM member Guramnet Singh Mangat said that Tikait could not reach

Nagpur by flight from Delhi on Friday night owing to certain issues. "However, we decided to go ahead with Maha Panchayats at Wardha and Yavatmal," Mangat said.

A team of farmer leaders, who reached Wardha by road from the national capital by road, addressed the farmers at the Kisan Maha Panchayat. The Panchayat passed peacefully.

Among those who addressed the Kisan Panchayat at Wardha were Tejveer Singh, Spokesperson of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Cheduni) and Amandeep Singh Ghuman and General Secretary of Pajdi Sambhal Jatta Leher in Punjab.

After the event at Wardha, the SKM leaders left Wardha for Yavatmal where prohibitory orders have been in force since Friday. As a consequence, the police denied permission to the SKM at the last minute to

hold its Kisan Maha Panchayat there.

At the Yavatmal border, the SKM leaders were welcomed by Vasantrao Naik Sheti Swavalamban Mission (VNSSM) President Kishore Tiwari, who has been accorded a Minister of State status by the Maharashtra government.

"I received them on behalf of our Chief Minister Uddhav Thackerayji. I conveyed the CM's message that the Maha Panchayat cannot be allowed in view of the deteriorated Covid-19 situation in the state. However, Maharashtra would look forward to a fresh Maha Panchayat after the situation improves here," Tiwari said.

Tiwari thanked Mangat, other SKM leaders and 7 other representatives from Nagpur, for honouring the CM's request and postponing the Kisan Maha Panchayat for a later date.

Mumbai cops book Vivek for not wearing mask, actor 'regrets' with humorous tweet

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Hours after the Santa Cruz police sent him an e-challan for riding a motorbike on Valentine's Day without a helmet, Bollywood actor Vivek Oberoi suffered a double whammy on Saturday, as the neighbouring Juhu police registered an FIR against him under IPC and for violation of the provisions of the Maharashtra COVID-19 Precautionary Measures Act 2020, for not wearing the mask.

However, the actor sought to put up a brave face by seeking to turn his acute embarrassment into humour through a tweet where he regretted his faux pas and sang "Be safe, wear a helmet & a mask" tune. Vivek's is a classic husband-wife romantic story turning sour. A video-post proudly shared by him on February 14 in which he is enjoying a ride with his wife Priyanka Alva Oberoi on his electric-blue Harley Davidson bike with a message: "What a start of this lovely Valentine's Day, with Main, Meri Patni aur Woh! A refreshing joyride indeed!" landed him in trouble.

The actor would have gotten away with the crime but for the fact that social activist Binu Varghese took notice of the video and tweeted: "Actor Vivek Oberoi flouts traffic safety rules as well as health safety rules by riding a bike without helmet and not wearing a (face) mask. This sends a wrong message to the youth... hence he should be fined for the same".

Varghese tagged along Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, Mumbai Police, BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation and others which led to the e-challan being issued to him under the Motor Vehicle Act by Assistant Police Inspector Nandkishor

Jadhav of Mumbai Traffic Police Santacruz Division late on Friday evening. The actor was fined Rs 500 for not wearing a helmet while riding his Harley Davidson.

That was not all. The Juhu police on Saturday registered an FIR against the actor, who featured in the protagonist's role in the 2019 biopic "PM Narendra Modi" for flouting public health safety rules framed under the Maharashtra COVID-19 Precautionary Measures 2020 Act which mandated all citizens to wear a face-mask as a precautionary measure to control the outbreak of COVID-19.

Vivek has been booked by the police under several sections of section 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of IPC. The section 3 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, provides penalties for disobeying any regulation or order made under the Act which can be invoked through section 188 of IPC.

The Juhu police have also invoked against Vivek the provisions of the Maharashtra COVID-19 Precautionary Measures 2020 Act, which make it mandatory for the citizens to wear masks, as a precautionary measure to control the outbreak of COVID-19.

Hours after he landed in an embarrassing situation, the actor sought to reduce the impact of the twin crimes by putting out a humorous tweet which read: "Pyaar humein kis mod pe le aaya! Nikle they nayi bike par hum aur hamari jaan, bina helmet ke kat gaya chalaan! Riding without a helmet? Mumbai police will do a checkmate! Thank u @mumbaiipolice for making me realise that safety is always most important. Be safe, wear a helmet & a mask".

Karnataka unemployment rates among the lowest in country, BSY informs PM

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka has been able to maintain "one of the lowest" unemployment rates in the country at 3.6 per cent, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa told Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday.

The Chief Minister also requested the Prime Minister to declare Upper Bhadra Project and Upper Krishna Project as national projects.

Speaking during the virtual meeting of the NITI Aayog chaired by Modi, he said despite the coronavirus pandemic all the fiscal indicators of the state have been contained within the limits of the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2002.

"The Prime Minister was briefed about the initiatives taken by the State for Industrial development such as New Industrial Policy 2020-2024, Affidavit based clearance system, steps taken to promote exports, MoUs made with e-commerce players like Amazon and Flipkart to boost marketing of local products etc," the CMO said in a statement.

The Chief Minister also listed various farmer and farm sector related initiatives like setting up of a task force to promote integrated farming system, making Farmers Contact Centres a single point of contact for region specific input supplies and advisories and also regarding conserving local breeds of cattle.

According to the statement, the government intends to set up a scientific marketing intelligence cell in order

to shift focus on income based policy to increase farmers income.

It is also intended to create an online marketing platform for surplus fruits and vegetables supported by infrastructure facilities under the Atmanirbhar scheme.

The state government plans to follow NITI Aayog's 49 aspirational indicators to monitor the progress of 114 backward taluks, Yediyurappa said.

"Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, 3,409 hospitals have enrolled, which is the maximum in the country."

"Under Atmanirbhar Scheme, we have proposed to create super-speciality treatment facilities in government hospitals in district centres," Yediyurappa said.

The government will focus on improving nutritional status in 67 taluks in 16 districts, he added.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister also requested the Centre to approve 6 proposals worth Rs 6,673 crore under modernisation of canals project and additional grants were also sought for river diversion projects.

It was also requested to set up a mechanism to fast track disposal of litigation in courts as infrastructure projects are hampered due to litigation and environmental protests, the statement said.

The Centre was also requested to provide Rs 4,300 crore to create optical fibre network to provide network connectivity to all government offices.



A jockey guides his bulloes on the slush track during Kambala competition at Moodabidri in Dakshina Kannada district on Saturday

54 fresh corona cases in AP, tally touches 8.89 lakh

Amaravati (AP): Andhra Pradesh recorded 54 new COVID-19 cases, 70 recoveries and no deaths in 24 hours ending 9 am on Saturday, even as the active caseload came down to 604.

According to the latest bulletin, the cumulative coronavirus positives in the state touched 8.89 lakh after close to 1.37 crore sample tests.

The total recoveries increased to 8,81,439 and the overall toll to 7,167, the bulletin said.

J&K records 68 fresh Covid cases

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 68 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, taking the infection tally to 1,25,783, even as no fresh death due to the virus was reported in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Of the 68 fresh cases, 18 were from the Jammu division and 50 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, they said.

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest of 24 cases, including six travellers.

While eight districts did not report any fresh cases, 10 districts had cases in single digits.

Jammu was the only other district to register double digit positive cases with 10 fresh cases. The number of active cases was 700 in the Union Territory, while 1,23,129 patients have recovered so far, the officials said.

The death toll in the UT due to the infection is 1,954 as no fresh fatality was reported in the past 24 hours, they added.

Assam to take steps to increase pension of State's freedom fighters

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Saturday announced that steps would be taken to increase the monthly pension of freedom fighters in the state to Rs 25,000 and provide them with free healthcare.

At present, freedom fighters of the northeastern state get Rs 21,000 as pension every month.

Sonowal made the announcement during a meeting with representatives of Assom State Freedom Fighters Association, a government release said.

The chief minister also assured them that an initiative would be made for providing Rs five lakh each to the families of 19 freedom fighters of the state, the release said.

He also directed officials to urge deputy commissioners to ensure that last rites of the freedom fighters are conducted in a dignified manner.

Department of Women and Child Development Govt. Of NCT of Delhi
5th Floor, ISBT-Building, Kashmiri Gate New Delhi -110006

SL. No.	Description	Photograph
	MISSING CHILDREN	
	Name: Pallavi. Age: 6 years. Complexion: Wheatish. Mother's Name: Prema Davi. Child was found unattended after her mother died on 24.10.2020, they used to beg at Kalkaji Mandir below the flyover near DDA Park. Police has produced child before Child Welfare Committee, Kalkaji on dated 10.11.2020 and with the order of CWC child has been kept in Welfare home for Children, Sarita Vihar for Care and Protection on dated 24.11.2020.	

Note: Parents/Guardians/Relatives of above mentioned children may contact at address/phone number given at Sl No. 1 given below:

- Welfare Home for Children-1-B, Institutional Area, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110044, Contact no.: 8860835349/011-26954150/269747023, email: welfare2007@gmail.com
- District Child Protection Officer, District Child Protection Unit-VIII (South-East), Kasturba Niketan Complex, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024, Ph. No.: 011- 29811924 email: dcpsoutheast2@gmail.com

Sd/- Director
Women & Child Development
Please give information to CHILD LINE 1098 about children who need care & protection
DIP/Shabdhar/0651/20-21

Assam Govt increases daily wage of tea workers to ₹318 ahead of Assembly polls

Guwahati: With State elections round the corner, the Assam cabinet on Saturday approved a proposal to increase the daily wage of tea garden workers in the state to Rs 318, including Rs 101 for ration.

Tea estate labourers in the state will get a daily wage of Rs 217, a hike from Rs 167, and also receive Rs 101 for ration, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary told reporters after the cabinet meeting.

The wage revision of tea garden workers has become a political issue in the state with the opposition Congress accusing the BJP-led government of failing to increase daily income of the plantation workers.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had promised to increase their daily wage to Rs 365 if voted to power.

Assam has over 10 lakh tea labourers in the organised sector, working in around 800 estates, and the northeastern state contributes about 52 per cent of the country's annual production.

Ease of Doing Business workshop held by land resources department

New Delhi: A workshop on Ease of Doing Business was organised in New Delhi by the Department of Land Resources, Govt of India, in association of Revenue Department GNCT of Delhi. Ajay Tirki, Secretary (Department of Land Resources) Govt of India, Sanjeev Khirwar, Principal Secretary Cum Divisional Commissioner, Revenue Department, GNCT of Delhi, Hukam Singh Meena, Additional Secretary, Department of Land Resources, were present in the workshop. All Sub-



Registrars of Delhi along with stakeholders and lawyers also attended the workshop.

While addressing the workshop the Principal Secretary Cum Divisional Commissioner apprised all the participants of all reforms for the registration of property that have been undertaken by the Revenue Department GNCT of Delhi.

Rajasthan Housing Commissioner inspects under-construction projects

Jaipur: Rajasthan Housing Commissioner Pawan Arora on Friday visited and inspected various projects under construction of the Mandal at Jaipur. He directed the concerned officials to complete the ongoing works in a quality manner and in time.

The Commissioner while inspecting the City Park at Mansarovar gave instructions to complete its work in a timely and quality manner. The Commissioner looked at the plants planted here and gave necessary instructions in relation to them. He directed the officials that the plants planted here should be 40 to 45 feet in height and fully healthy. He inspected the work of the running jogging track here and gave instructions to modify its design.

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai-600 001
Branch Office: H-1 & 2, 3rd Floor, Padam Plaza, Plot No.5, Sec 16 B, Awas Vikas, Sikandra Yojna, Agra - 282002.

POSSESSION NOTICE Under Rule 8 (1)

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in Column [B] below on dates specified in Column [C] to repay the outstanding amount indicated in Column [D] below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described in Column [E] herein below on the respective dates mentioned in Column [F] in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under.

The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in Column [E] below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned in Column [D] along with interest and other charges.

Under section 13 [8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.

SI No.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF BORROWER & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE	OUTSTANDING AMOUNT	DETAILS OF PROPERTY POSSESSED	DATE OF SYMBOLIC POSSESSION
A	B	C	D	E	F
	Loan Nos. X0HEAHE00000939509 & X0HEAHE00001201251. 1.SACHIN KUMAR, 2.SURENDRANATH SHARMA, 3.KAMLESH SHARMA, All are residing at H. No. 41, Municipal No. 11-D, Kabir Kunj, Dayal Bag, Agra-282005	08.10.2020	Rs. 36,83,704.45/- & Rs. 31,84,701.92/- Totalling Rs. 68,68,406.37/- as on 28.02.2020	H.No.41, measuring area 171.31 Sq. mts. Municipal No. 11-D, Khasra No. 169, Kabir Kunj, R.S. Bagh Phase-2, Mauja Jagannpur Bela, Hariparwat Ward, Agra, U.P - 282005, Boundaries: East : Others Land, West : Rastia 20 Feet Wide & Nikas, North : Proposed Plot No. 21 & 22, South : Proposed Plot No. 42.	18.02.2021

Place: Agra
Date: 18.02.2021

AUTHORISED OFFICER
M/s. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

Raj Govt keen on development: CM

Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said despite all the adverse circumstances and challenges, the State Government did not allow development work to come down. Within about two years of our tenure, we have put more than 55 percent of the declarations of public manifesto on the ground. It is our endeavor that there is overall development in every assembly constituency of the state without any political discrimination. In this direction, today we have inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 178 development works costing Rs. 158 crores for Vallabhnagar, Sahada, Rajstansamand and Sujangarh assembly constituencies.

Gehlot was addressing the laying ceremony of 52 development works costing Rs 33 crore 87lakh and foundation stone for 126 development works worth Rs 124 crore through VC at Chief Minister's residence on Friday.

UJVN Ltd.
(An Uttarakhnad Govt. Enterprises)
H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharaja Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone-9135-2763808 Fax 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com.

RO No. 153 TENDER NOTICE Date: 20.02.2021

Office of the EE (M&G), Dhakrani Power Station invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

NIT No. 40/EE(M&G)/DKN/2020-21:- Supply and fixing of bearings for intake gates at Dhakrani Power Station

NIT No. 41/EE(M&G)/DKN/2020-21:- Hiring of Non AC private vehicle along with Driver for DGM(E&M) Dhakrani

Estimated cost: Rs 2034816.00, Rs 353282.00 (GST extra) respectively

Date of availability of bid document on website:- 21/02/2021

Last date of submission of tender:- 15.03.2021 up to 15:00 Hrs

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"

Executive Engineer (M&G)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that One ID Card of MR. MOHIT MOHIT issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. Having ID Card No. 05364 has been found missing and/or lost on 25 JAN 2020. If anyone, who finds the said card, is requested to return the said ID Card to The Manager, Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, 5D TOWER, SECTOR 8 ROHINI, DELHI 110085.

Whereas all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorized person holding the said ID Card No. 05364.

Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID Card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and responsible for any payment.

Date: 20.02.2021 For ICICI Bank Limited
Place: NEW DELHI

CHANGE OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH

1. Medarapu Vijaya Lakshmi W/O Medarapu Ravindra Chary, H.No.9-4/29, Plot-29, Shivnandapur Colony, Kessara Mandal, Nagaram, KV Rang Reddy, Telangana-500083 declare that my correct name is MEDARAPU VIJAYA LAKSHMI instead of wrongly spelled name M VIJAYA LAXMI and my correct date of birth is 20 March 1976 instead of 10 August 1976. Both are same, pls correct for all future purposes.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001.
O.A.N.C. 633/2019 Date: 02.11.2020
ICICI BANK LTD. - Applicant
Versus M/s. Holiday Links Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. & Ors.....Respondents

To, Delinquent
The M/s. Holiday Links Pvt. Ltd., 21, Ground Floor Community Centre East of Kailash New Delhi 110025, New Delhi-110025, through its director Mr. Mukesh Yadav S/o. Sh. Prakash Yadav, Resident of Vill. Sarfarabad, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. So with the help of this notice it is informed to all that the sale of the above goods in favour of M/S. DESIRE INFRABUILD PVT. LTD., if anyone has/have any objection he/she can submit his/her/their objection in the Office Of Sub-Registrar Noida And/OR buyer's corporate Office at B-395, sector-92, Noida, U.P., or to email ashish@smartkitchen.co alongwith proof within 15 days of the Publication of this Notice.

Prakash, Mukesh, Chaman Singh & Aman Singh

Biden declares 'America is back' in welcome words to allies

AP ■ WASHINGTON
President Joe Biden used his first address before a global audience Saturday to declare that "America is back, the transatlantic alliance is back," after four years of a Trump administration that flaunted its foreign policy through an "America First" lens.
Speaking to the annual Munich Security Conference virtually, Biden ticked through a daunting to-do list — salvaging the Iran nuclear deal, meeting economic and security challenges posed by China and Russia and repairing the damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic — that he said would require close cooperation between the US and its Western allies.
Without mentioning Donald Trump's name once in his speech, Biden mixed talk of a reinvigorated democratic alliance with a rebuke of his predecessor's approach, a message warmly received by Western allies.
"I know the past few years have strained and tested the transatlantic relationship,"

Biden said. "The United States is determined to reengage with Europe, to consult with you, to earn back our position of trusted leadership."
The president also participated Friday in a virtual meeting of the Group of Seven industrialized nations, where leaders managed to work Biden's campaign theme into their closing joint statement, vowing to "work together to beat Covid-19 and build back better."
"Welcome back, America," said European Council President Charles Michel, effectively summing up the mood of the Munich conference.
But while such happy talk conveyed the palpable sense of relief among allies at Biden's full-throated commitment to mending frayed US-Europe relations, plenty has changed over the past four years in ways creating new challenges.
China has cemented its place as a fierce economic competitor on the continent as the US has reconsidered long-held national security and economic priorities embedded in the transatlantic alliance.



President Joe Biden walks on the South Lawn of the White House after stepping off Marine One on Friday. AP

Populism has grown through much of Europe. And other Western countries have, at moments, sought to fill the vacuum left as America stepped back from the world stage.
German Chancellor Angela Merkel noted that some differences between the U.S. and Europe remain "complicated." Europe sees China's economic ambitions as less of an existential threat than the US does and has its own strategic and economic concerns that are not always in sync with Biden on Russia as well.
Still, Merkel, who had a strained relationship with Trump, didn't hide her preference for an American foreign

policy informed by Biden's world view.
"Things are looking a great deal better for multilateralism this year than two years ago, and that has a lot to do with Joe Biden having become the president of the United States of America," Merkel said.
"His speech just now, but also his administration's first announcements, have convinced us that this is not just talk but action."
Biden made his address to a global audience as his administration this week took steps to reverse key Trump administration policies.
He said that the U.S. stands ready to rejoin talks about reentering the 2015 multilateral Iran nuclear deal abandoned by the Trump administration. The Biden administration announced Thursday its desire to reengage Iran, and it took action at the United Nations aimed at restoring policy to what it was before Trump withdrew from the deal in 2018.
Biden also spoke out about the two-decade war in Afghanistan, where he faces a May 1 deadline to remove the remaining 2,500 US troops under a Trump administration negotiated peace agreement with the Taliban. He also called for cooperation in addressing economic and national security challenges posed by Russia and China and identified cyberspace, artificial intelligence and biotechnology as areas of growing competition.
"We must prepare together for long-term strategic competition with China," Biden declared.
His message was girded by an underlying argument that democracies — not autocracies — are models of governance that can best meet the challenges of the moment. The president urged fellow world leaders to show together that "democracies can still deliver."
At the G-7, administration officials said, Biden focused on what lies ahead for the international community as it tries to extinguish the public health and economic crises created by the coronavirus pandemic. He announced the US will soon begin releasing \$4 billion for an international effort to bolster the purchase and distribution of vaccine to poor nations, a program that Trump refused to support.
Biden's turn on the world stage came as the US officially rejoined the Paris climate agreement, the largest international effort to curb global warming. Trump announced in June 2017 that he was pulling the US out of the landmark accord, arguing that the pact would undermine the American economy.
Biden announced the U.S. intention of rejoining on the first day of his presidency, but he had to wait 30 days for the move to go into effect. He has said that he will make considerations about climate change into every major domestic and foreign policy decision his administration faces.
"This is a global existential crisis," Biden said.
Biden also encouraged G-7 partners to make good on their pledges to COVAX, an initiative by the World Health Organization to improve access to vaccines, even as he reopens the US Spigot.

2 Myanmar protesters killed by police fire, reports say

AP ■ MANDALAY
Two anti-coup protesters were shot dead by riot police who fired live rounds Saturday in Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city, local media reported.
One of the victims was shot in the head and died at the scene, according to Frontier Myanmar, a news and business magazine based in Yangon, the country's largest city. Another was shot in the chest and died en route to the hospital.
Several other serious injuries were also reported. The shootings occurred near Mandalay's Yadanabon dock, where tear gas and rubber bullets were used on protesters earlier in the day.
The Irrawaddy news website also confirmed the deaths on social media.
Security forces had been increasing their pressure against anti-coup protesters earlier Saturday, using water cannons, tear gas, slingshots and rubber bullets against demonstrators and striking dock workers in Mandalay.
At least five people were injured by rubber bullets and had to be carried away in ambulances, according to an Associated Press journalist who



Police charge forward to disperse protesters in Mandalay, Myanmar, on Saturday. AP

witnessed the violence.
Some 500 police and soldiers descended on the area near Yadanabon dock after dock workers joined the national civil disobedience movement, refusing to work until the military junta that seized power in a Feb. 1 coup reinstates the democratically elected government.
Protesters and residents were forced to flee the neighborhood amid the violence, as security forces chased after them. There were reports of sounds that resembled gunfire. A group of journalists was forced to flee after being hit with tear gas and slingshot projectiles.
Earlier in the week in Mandalay, security forces cracked down on state railway workers in a similar fashion after they joined the civil disobedience movement.
Less than an hour after the 8 pm curfew started on Wednesday, gunshots were heard as more than two dozen police officers with shields and helmets marched past railway workers' housing. Numerous videos posted on social media showed muzzle flashes as shots were heard, and some police shot slingshots and threw rocks at the buildings. Marching chants of "left, right, left, right" could be heard along with shouts of "shoot, shoot."

US expresses concern over China's recently enacted Coast Guard law

PTI ■ WASHINGTON
The US has voiced concern over China's recently enacted Coast Guard law, which it said may escalate the ongoing territorial and maritime disputes in the region and can be invoked to assert unlawful claims.
China passed a law last month which for the first time explicitly allows its coast guard to fire on foreign vessels.
"The United States joins the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Japan and other countries in expressing concern with China's recently enacted Coast Guard law, which may escalate the ongoing territorial and maritime disputes," State Department Spokesperson Ned Price told reporters during a conference call.
China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea. Beijing has built up and militarised many of the islands and reefs it controls in the region.
Both areas are stated to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources and are vital to global trade.
China claims almost all of the South China Sea, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims over the area.
The new law could make the contested waters around China more choppy.
"We are specifically concerned by language in the law that expressly ties the potential use of force, including armed force by the China Coast Guard, to the enforcement of China's claims in ongoing territorial and maritime disputes in the East and South China Seas," he said.
Language in that law, including text allowing the coast guard to destroy other countries' economic structures and to use force in defending China's maritime claims in disputed areas, strongly implies this law could be used to intimidate the maritime neighbours of China, Price said.
"We are further concerned that China may invoke this new law to assert its unlawful maritime claims in the South China Sea," he said.
The United States reminds China of its obligations under the United Nations Charter to refrain from the threat or use of force and to conform to its maritime claims to the International Law of the Sea, as reflected in the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention.
Authorities responded with

Moscow court rejects Opp leader Navalny's appeal

AP ■ MOSCOW
A Moscow court on Saturday rejected Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny's appeal against his prison sentence, even as the country faced a top European rights court's order to free the Kremlin's most prominent foe.
Speaking before the verdict, Navalny urged Russians to stand up to the Kremlin in a fiery speech mixing references to the Bible and "Harry Potter."
A lower court sentenced Navalny earlier this month to two years and eight months in prison for violating terms of his probation while recuperating in Germany from a nerve agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin. Russian authorities have rejected the accusation.
Navalny, 44, an anti-corruption crusader and President Vladimir Putin's most vocal critic, appealed the prison sentence and asked to be released. The Moscow City Court's judge on Saturday only slightly reduced his sentence to just over 2 1/2 years in prison, ruling that a month-and-a-half Navalny spent under house arrest in early 2015 will be deducted from his sentence.
His arrest and imprisonment have fueled a huge wave of protests across Russia.
Authorities responded with a sweeping crackdown, detaining about 11,000 people, many of whom were fined or given jail terms ranging from seven to 15 days.
Speaking before the verdict, Navalny referenced the Bible as well as "Harry Potter" and the animated sitcom "Rick and Morty" as he urged Russians to resist pressure from the authorities and challenge the Kremlin to build a fairer and more prosperous country.
"The government's task is to scare you and then persuade you that you are alone," he said. "Our Voldemort in his palace also wants me to feel cut off," he added, in a reference to Putin.
"To live is to risk it all," he continued. "Otherwise, you're just an inert chunk of randomly assembled molecules drifting wherever the universe blows you."
Navalny also addressed the judge and the prosecutor, arguing that they could have a much better life in a new Russia.
"Just imagine how wonderful life would be without constant lying," he said.
"Imagine how great it would be to work as a judge when no one would be able to call you and give you directions what verdicts to issue."
He insisted that he was unable to report to the authorities in line with his probation requirements while he was convalescing in Germany after his poisoning, emphasizing that he returned to Russia immediately after his health allowed.



Russian Opposition leader Alexei Navalny stands in a cage in the Babuskiy District Court in Moscow on Saturday. AP

GLOBE TROTTER

5 KILLED IN SOMALIA'S POLL-RELATED VIOLENCE
Mogadishu: A health worker in Somalia's capital says at least five soldiers were killed and more than a dozen people, mostly civilians, were wounded in violence related to protests over the country's delayed election. Abdi Bafo, a doctor at the Medina hospital, spoke on Saturday, the day after Somali security forces fired on hundreds of people peacefully demonstrating in Mogadishu over the delayed vote.
The capital was calm on Saturday, and streets were open again after being blocked on Friday.

AF POLICE: 3 SEPARATE KABUL BASTS KILL 5
Kabul: Three separate explosions in the Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday killed at least five people and wounded two others, a police official said, amid a surge in violence in the war-torn country.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN PAK MAY WORSEN
Islamabad: Pakistan's meteorological department has warned that drought-like conditions currently prevailing in parts of Sindh and Balochistan provinces may exacerbate and cause water stress in cultivated lands, according to a media report. The National Drought Monitoring Centre, part of the PMD, issued an advisory on Thursday which showed the situation has emerged due to overall below than average rainfall in the country from October 2020 to January 2021, Dawn newspaper reported. According to the advisory, most of the central and southern districts of Balochistan are experiencing mild to moderate drought.

Major emitters need to step up and lower emissions: Kerry

PTI ■ WASHINGTON
As the United States officially joined the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, US Special Envoy on Climate Crisis, John Kerry asserted that all 17 major emitting countries including India need to step up and begin lowering emissions.
"Everything has to be done with greater sense of urgency, with a determination that we have to win this fight... And we need the United States and every country to determine they will get on a path toward net zero emissions by 2050," he said on Friday.
A major achievement of the Obama administration, the previous Trump Administration had withdrawn from the Paris Agreement. President Joe Biden, who served as the Vice President during the Obama administration, issued orders to join the Paris Agreement on day one of his presidency.
"... what steps will we take in the next 10 years? And the truth is that everybody has to do that. China, which is the largest emitter in the world needs to be part of the 2020 to 2030 effort.
"India needs to be part of it. Russia needs to be part of it.
So is Japan... the major emitters, 17 nations, need to really step up and begin to lower those emissions," Kerry said.
This challenge, he asserted, means that all countries setting bold and achievable targets have to do so here at home and in the course of their declaration of their national determined contributions (NDCs).
"We have to drive investment toward climate solutions and innovations and resilience. We need to get the entire world on a path towards net zero emissions, and we need to absolutely make certain that happens no later than 2050 and sooner if possible," he said.

Biden believes US will be approaching normalcy by end of this year

Washington: President Joe Biden has said that he believes the US will be approaching normalcy by the end of this year as the country races to deliver coronavirus vaccines to millions of Americans.
Biden on Friday toured a manufacturing facility of Pfizer in Kalamazoo, Michigan, seeking to highlight efforts to mass produce a coronavirus vaccine as his administration looks for ways to increase supply and streamline distribution.
"I believe we'll be approaching normalcy by the end of this year. And God willing, this Christmas will be different than the last," Biden said responding to a question at the site in Michigan.
At the same time, he refused to make any commitment.
"I can't make that commitment to you. There are other strains of the virus. We don't know what could happen in terms of production rates. Things can change. But we're doing everything the science has indicated we should do, and people are stepping up to get everything done that has to be done," he said.
Biden said that getting the vaccine and having it available is not the same as putting it in someone's arms. This is going to be a continuous rolling effort.
"We will have ordered, much of which will have been distributed, over 600 million doses by the end of July. July 29th is the expected date. That could change. Look at what's happening with the weather now, for example: It's slowing up the distribution right now," he said.
PTI

UK urges UNSC to push for pause in wars

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS
Britain has circulated a draft resolution to the UN Security Council demanding that all warring parties immediately institute a "sustained humanitarian pause" to enable people in conflict areas to be vaccinated against Covid-19.
The proposed resolution reiterates the council's demand last July 1 for "a general and immediate cessation of hostilities" in major conflicts from Syria and Yemen to Central African Republic, Mali and Sudan and Somalia, an appeal first made by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on March 23, 2020, to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

Extreme weather testing Joe's disaster management skills

Washington: Add Mother Nature to the pile of crises on President Joe Biden's plate.
A month into the job and focused on the coronavirus, Biden is seeing his disaster management skills tested after winter storms plunged Texas, Oklahoma and neighbouring states into an unusual deep freeze that left millions shivering in homes that lost heat and power, and in many homes, water. At least 59 deaths across the US have been blamed on the blast of unseasonable weather. **AP**

WESTERN RAILWAY REPLACEMENT OF CORRODED STEEL GIRDERS OF SPAN

Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008, invites e-tender as per details given as follows. **Executive: Sr.DEN(N) BCT, Tender Notice No. & Date BCT/20-21/361 dtd. 19-02-2021. Work and location: Virar-Joravasan Section :- Replacement of corroded steel girders of span upto 9.15m by Precast RCC/PSC slabs for Br.No. 88, 90, 91, 161, 164, 434, 373, 420, 455 Total Span = 54. Approx. cost of work: ₹7,98,80,027.69/- EMD: 10%. Date & Time of submission: On 16.03.2021 till 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: On 16.03.2021 at 15:30 hrs. For more details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in. 677**
Like us on: [Facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No. SSA/Pre-Primary/Miscellaneous/36/2021/4517 Date: 19.02.2021
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed offset printing presses having coloured Sheet Offset Machine for printing and supply Work Book.
To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
Sd/-Executive Director,
SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog/CF/5199/20

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Babli Kaur, D/o: Kulwant Kaur, R/o: Village, Jhargola, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped since **17.01.2021 at 6:30 pm.** from the area of P.S. Alipur, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 54-A dated 21.01.2021** has been lodged at P.S. Alipur, Delhi.
The description of the missing girl are as under: **Age: 20 years, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Build: Thin, Wearing: Black colour suit-salwar and jutti in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. No. 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/783/ON/2021
SHO P.S. Alipur, Delhi Ph. 011- 27202265, 7065036325

Unleash 'animal spirits', raise investments: FM to pvt sector

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday exhorted the private sector to take advantage of corporate tax rate cut and other initiatives of the Government, and unleash 'animal spirits' by enhancing investments to make India one of the fastest growing economies of the world.
The government has been waiting for the expansion by the private sector, she said while reminding India Inc of various measures including corporate tax rate cut, policy consistency, ease of doing business, among others to facilitate investment.
"We need capacities to be ramped up, we need expansion, we need more production of many such items which are

required for the economy. I would invite business leaders...Post the corporate tax rate reduction I've been waiting to see expansion happening," she said.
In the biggest reduction in 28 years, the government in September 2019 slashed corporate tax rates by up to 10 percentage points to attract private investment and reinvigorate the sagging economy. The tax break resulted in financial implication of Rs 1.45 lakh crore on the exchequer.
Base corporate tax rate for existing companies was reduced to 22 per cent from 30 per cent, and to 15 per cent from 25 per cent for manufacturing firms incorporated after October 1, 2019, and starting operations before March 31, 2023.

"So I would like to see now that the policy is clear, tax rates have been brought down, policy consistency has been underlined and ease of doing business is still going further. I would now like to see private investors and private industry...Coming forward with the so called 'animal spirits' to show that it is possible to pull India up and keep it high as one of the fastest growing economies. It is now on your shoulder entirely," she said.
Addressing industry leaders at an All India Management Association (AIMA) virtual event, the Finance Minister said the recent Budget has addressed several issues which were so critical for India to have a clearer path for the next decade or more.
The Budget 2021-22

comes against the backdrop of the pandemic and contraction of the economy to give a sense of certainty to businesses that policies will remain predictable and therefore businesses can continue to concentrate on their core activities, she said.
With regard to disinvestment, the Finance Minister said the government has identified the core sector where it will have bare minimum presence and the rest will be allowed for public-private partnership.
The past strategy of disinvestment in trickles has not really been so successful in spreading the ownership pattern, she said, adding, it was not enthusiastically received.
"So, I want to have an efficient, more meaningful, purpose serving way in which our

taxpayers' money should be spent...The disinvestment of units or privatisation of units is not because we want them to be closed down," she said.
The government wants these units to be running, to be kept up and running professionally as the economy has very high demand for many of these items of production such as steel, coal or copper, or many such things in which PSUs are there for decades now. She urged the industry to make best of the disinvestment policy announced in the Budget.
Earlier this month, the Finance Minister presented a Rs 34.8 lakh crore-Budget for 2021-22.
The Budget has laid emphasis on increasing capital expenditure, raising allocation

for healthcare capacity building and development of agriculture infrastructure, among others, which are expected to have a multiplier effect on the economy. Sitharaman said spending is required this year as well as next year for sustaining growth.
Therefore, the government has committed to spend on infrastructure and capital expenditure over the next several years which will give the multiplier effect, she added.
About 7,000 projects have been identified under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) with projected investment of a whopping Rs 111 lakh crore during 2020-25.
On the fiscal deficit management, she said, the government has given a glide path and asked the rating agencies to see the Budget numbers in the light

of pandemic.
Hit hard by the pandemic, fiscal deficit — the excess of government expenditure over its revenues — is estimated to hit a record high of 9.5 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2020-21.
For 2021-22, the deficit has been pegged at 6.8 per cent of GDP, which will be further lowered to 4.5 per cent by the fiscal ending March 31, 2026.
"We are very clearly telling even the credit rating agencies that every country is going through this pandemic, and every country has to spend to keep the stimulus going.
So every country's ratings will have to be in relative terms...However, because we've given the glide path, fiscal deficit is something which we'll watch, probably after the stim-

ulus has shown clear impact on the ground," she said.
Speaking at the event Kotak Mahindra Bank Managing Director Uday Kotak said the government in coordination with the RBI has played a role to ensure that the interest rates remain stable.
He also expressed hope that rates would remain stable over the next 12-18 months.
"We need to ensure that as the size of the borrowing goes up, we are able to keep the long-term interest rates stable, on the basis of which business and industry take the investment decisions," Kotak said.
Exuding confidence that the future of India is bright, Kotak said: "We now really need to get our animal spirits back... And the time has come for us to walk the talk."

Close to pre-Covid air passenger traffic numbers, says Aviation Minister

At present, airlines can operate up to 80 per cent of their pre-Covid capacity

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Civil Aviation Minister Chhedi Singh Puri on Saturday said that the country's air passenger traffic is "within touching distance of pre-Covid numbers".
In a tweet, the minister said: "2,90,518 passengers on 2,360 flights on 19 Feb is within touching distance of Pre-COVID numbers & marks revival of the domestic sector."
"From transporting essential & medical supplies, to movement of vaccines, civil aviation sector plays a key role in efforts against COVID19."
Since the resumption of operations on May 25, domestic air traffic continued to sequentially improve in January 2021.
The domestic passenger traffic rose 5.55 per cent sequentially in January to 77.34 lakh passengers from 73.27 lakh reported for December 2020.
However, on a year-on-year basis the January numbers stood 39.50 per cent lower than 127.83 lakh reported for the corresponding period of the previous year.
At present, airlines can operate up to 80 per cent of their pre-Covid capacity.

Centre released ₹1 lakh crore GST compensation to States since Oct 2020

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has released ₹1 lakh crore to states and UTs in four months since October 2020, to meet GST compensation shortfall, the Finance Ministry said on Saturday.
The ministry on Friday released the 17th weekly instalment of ₹5,000 crore to 23 states and 3 Union Territories (Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir & Puducherry), taking the total amount released so far under the special borrowing window set up in October last year to Rs 1 lakh crore.
The remaining 5 states, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim, do not have a gap in revenue on account of Goods and Services Tax (GST) implementation.

Till now, 91 per cent of the total estimated GST compensation shortfall has been released to states & UTs with Legislative Assembly (Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir & Puducherry), the statement said.
"An amount of Rs 1,00,000 crore has been borrowed by the Central Government through the special borrowing window at an average interest rate of 4.83 per cent...Out of this, an amount of Rs 91,460.34 crore has been released to states and an amount of Rs. 8,539.66 crore has been released to the 3 UTs with Legislative Assembly," it said.
Total 17 rounds of borrowings have been completed so far starting from October 23, 2020.

The Centre had set up a special borrowing window in October 2020 to meet the estimated shortfall of ₹1.10 lakh crore in revenue arising on account of implementation of GST.
The borrowings are being done through this window by the Centre on behalf of states and UTs.
Under the special window, the Centre has been borrowing in government stock with tenor of 3 years and 5 years. The borrowing made under each tenor is equally divided among all states as per their GST compensation shortfall.
With the current release, the proportionate pending GST shortfall with respect to borrowing under 5 years tenor has been completed for 16 states and 2 UTs.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal calls for mission 'One Nation One Standard'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday stressed on the need for 'One Nation One Standard' to bring uniformity and said labs testing in India should be of global standards.
The minister said this while reviewing the work of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
"It's time to embark on Mission 'One Nation One Standard' and make India the leader in setting global benchmarks in setting standards," Goyal was quoted as saying in an official statement.
While all areas of production and services should be included in this national mission, bringing a national uniformity and standardization

in all kinds of public procurement and tendering can be an immediate deliverable, Goyal said.
The minister said that strength and character of nation is often exemplified by the standards it sets for the quality of its products and services. "Its time for India to settle for nothing less than the best," the statement said.
Goyal asked the BIS to explore international partnerships and associations to achieve synergy in the field.
The minister said that lab testing in India should be of world standards and added that modern equipment and latest technologies should be used there.
He asked for gap analysis of BIS and government labs to be taken up on priority basis.

Referring to the issue of different institutions and PSUs having variety of non-uniform standards, he said effort should be made to merge different standards under one standard as much as possible.
The minister said that industry should be invited for more dialogue, participation and collaboration in this mission of "one nation one standard".
Process of granting certification should be kept as simple as possible and duplication of work should be avoided, he said.
Goyal said, "We should aim to be the world leader in having maximum industrial products under Indian Standards and no one should feel the need to go abroad to get quality certification."

- Goyal asked the BIS to explore international partnerships and associations to achieve synergy in the field
 - He asked for gap analysis of BIS and government labs to be taken up on priority basis
 - The meeting was attended by senior officials of Department of Consumer Affairs and BIS besides others
- The meeting was attended by senior officials of Department of Consumer Affairs and BIS besides others. Detailed presentation was made by BIS about various areas of the progress being made, the statement said.

Goa industry seeks public procurement policy in State Budget

PTI ■ PANAJI

Goa State Industries Association (GSIA), in their pre-budget memorandum, has urged the state government to introduce Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) on lines with the central government initiative.
GSIA led by its President Damodar Kochkar presented pre-Budget memorandum to the chief minister ahead of the Budget Assembly Session scheduled to begin in March.
"We request that a Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) should be introduced in line with Central Government Policy making it mandatory for

all Departments/Undertakings to purchase a minimum of 20 per cent of their annual purchase of products and services from MSEs, the memorandum reads.
The GSIA has said that this initiative will help the government increase their revenue by way of higher collection of SGST and will generate more economic activity and employment in the state.
All these years, mining was the major contributor to states revenue and other sectors were not given the desired attention by the state government.
After the closure of the mining industry and the tourism sector not picking up as expected due to coronavirus pandemic, manufacturing industry is the only sector

which can bring about overall development and create inclusive growth in the state, the Association has said.
Speaking about Ease of Doing Business, the Association has said that the initiatives taken to improve Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) are not felt on the ground. For better implementation, the initiatives should be properly monitored and executed.
The GSIA has said that state government should ensure that Single Window System is properly implemented.
At present, online services are not very effective, process is cumbersome and the government staff is not trained to provide assistance.
The server infrastructure

All these years, mining was the major contributor to states revenue and other sectors were not given the desired attention by the state government.
of IT Department also needs improvement, the Association said. The industry body has also demanded that the government should Stop arbitrary revenue collection without giving due consideration to practical situation on the ground.
Stop insisting NOCs from certain departments and making routine files to the Ministers. Improve work culture in the Departments so that files are not held up with frivolous queries, the Association has said.

Rising exports to China surge domestic cotton yarn prices: Ind-Ra

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

China's demand for India's Cotton has pushed domestic yarn prices higher, said India Ratings and Research.
Accordingly, domestic yarn production increased in January 2021, led by a strong export and moderate domestic demand during December 2020.
"While yarn production was substantially lower on a YoY basis up to 8MFY21, exports increased by higher single digits YoY due to a healthy demand from neighbouring countries,"
"China's demand for Indian yarn resumed to pre-Covid levels during November-December 2020, as against a volume drop from Bangladesh and Vietnam during same period."

In January 2021, cotton yarn prices increased 15 per cent MoM and 30 per cent YoY, resulting in higher gross margins.
"The higher cotton yarn demand is attributed to the global supply curbs on Xinjiang region (China) cotton, which is benefitting Indian domestic spinners."
"While exports are likely to moderate during January-February 2021 with likely shutdown of mills ahead of Chinese new year, demand resumption is likely by March 2021."
Consequently, cotton prices surged by 7-10 per cent MoM during January 2021, led by a strong export demand for cotton yarn.
"The international prices rose by 13-17 per cent YoY, led by the buoyant China demand for US cotton, which is having

a rub-off effect on cheaper Indian cotton prices."
However, apparel exports declined in December 2020, after recovering over September-November 2020 on a YoY basis due to the impact of a second wave of Covid-19 in the US and Europe.
"This would also impact the near-term order book position of ready-made garment exporters for the upcoming fashion season."
"During November 2020, knitted apparels volumes remained stagnant with realisations gaining by high single digit yoy basis; on the contrary, woven apparels volumes increased by 8.2 per cent and realisations fell substantially yoy basis. During 2020, India exports to the US fell 20-25 per cent YoY in both volume and value terms."

RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER (S/P)
JHOTWARA ROAD, JAIPUR TEL. No. 0141-2281912, 2281913

E-Tendering Notice
E-tender invited for the purchase of Tube Less Radial Tyre Size 295/80R-22.5", Radial tyre, tube and flaps & Nylon tyre, tube and flaps. For further details you can visit online website <https://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> or from e-procurement cell RISEL, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005 and contact on Toll Free number No. 1800-3070-2232 (Help Desk be contacted directly in the following mobile nos. 91-7878007972 and 91-7878007973, 10.00 AM to 06.00 PM on all working days), and e-mail eproc@rajjasthan.gov.in
UBN No RTC2021GLOB00446, RTC2021GLOB00445 & RTC2021GLOB00444
General Manager (S/P)
RSRTC Central Store, Jaipur
Raj. Samwad/C/2020-21/1957

NPL Nabha Power Limited
Regd. Office: PO Box No. 28, Near Nalash Village, Teh. Rajpura, Distt. Patiala, Punjab-140401, India, CIN: U40102PB2007PLC031039

Notice Inviting "Expression of Interest for Ash Utilization"
Nabha Power Limited (NPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of L&T Power Development Limited, has been successfully operating the 2x700 MW super critical Rajpura Thermal Power Plant near Nalash Village, Teh. Rajpura, Distt. Patiala, Punjab India since 2014.
For promoting utilisation of ash and its consumption in an environment friendly manner, NPL invites "Expression of Interest" (EOI) for allocation of up to 20% of dry ESP dry fly ash (fly ash) on free of cost basis from units manufacturing fly ash or clay fly ash bricks, blocks or tiles.
The allocation of fly ash shall be subject to availability and for the remaining period of the financial year 2020-21. The fly ash allotted from the Rajpura Thermal Power Plant must be utilized and consumed in an environment friendly manner and only for the purpose for which it is obtained, failing which the allocation of fly ash shall be cancelled.
Interested parties are requested to submit their EOI within 7 days from publication of this notice along with details of fly ash requirement and supporting documents such as SSI registration, pollution control board approval, location plan of existing/proposed unit, existing and previous allocation letters of fly ash (if any), previous production details, income tax & sales tax registration details etc. in hard and soft copies to the Senior Deputy General Manager, Nabha Power Limited, Near Village Nalash, Rajpura-140401, Punjab. Tel. No.: +91-1762-277267 Fax. No.: +91-1762-277251 E-mail: npl@Larsentoubro.com
Parties to whom fly ash will be allocated based on their EOI shall be responsible for the transportation and utilization of the same in an environment friendly manner.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ajay Tyagi, S/o Hari Raj Tyagi, R/o H.No. 132, Khanpur Japti, Loni, Ghaziabad, UP** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **U/S 138 NI Act, P.S. Karawal Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ajay Tyagi** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ajay Tyagi** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ajay Tyagi of U/S 138 NI Act, P.S. Karawal Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **24.03.2021**.
By Order
Sh. Dinesh Kumar,
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,
Karkardooma Courts,
Shahdara, Delhi
DP/588/NE/2021(Court Matter)

PUBLIC NOTICE
TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN
This is to inform the General Public that following share certificate of KILITCH DRUGS INDIA LTD. having its Registered office at 37 UJAGAR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE WAMAN TUKARAM PATEL MARG, DEONAR MUMBAI - 400088 registered in the name of the following shareholder/s have been lost by them:
Sl. No. Name of the Shareholder/s Folio No. Certificate No. Distinctive No. of Shares
1. Rama Malhotra 000-26663 2816201 to 2816300 100
2. SIRI RAM MALHOTRA 26664 2816301 to 2816400 100
The Public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in any way with the above referred share certificates. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said share certificate/s should lodge such claim with the Company or its Registrar and Transfer Agents Link Intime India Private Limited 247 Park, C-101, 1st Floor, L.B.S. Marg, Vikroli (W) Mumbai - 400083 within 15 days of publication of this notice after which no claim will be entertained and the company shall proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificate/s.
Place: Name of Legal Claimant
Date:

CSC launches Rural e-Mobility Programme to promote use of electric vehicles

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

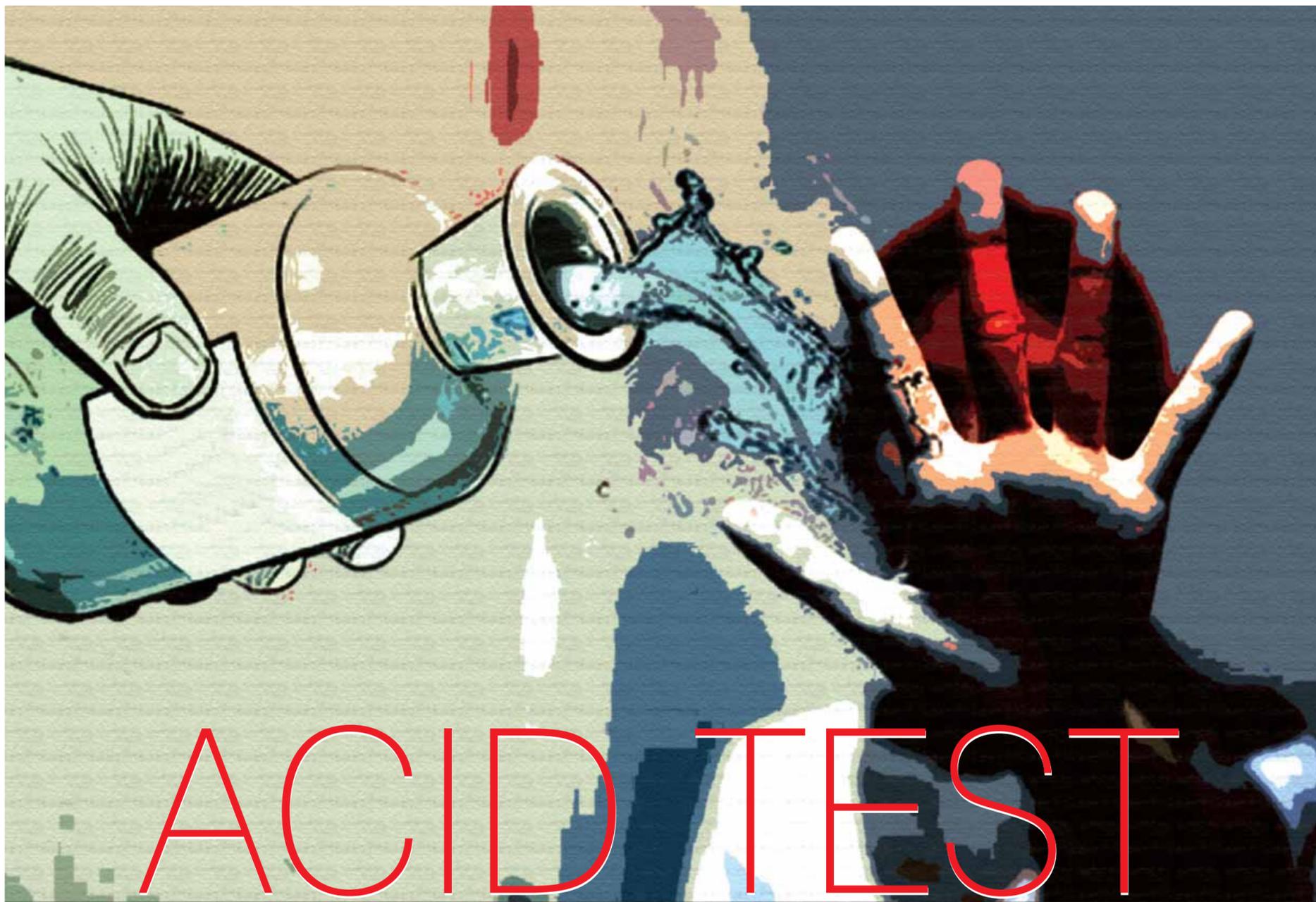
To promote the use of electric vehicles across India, CSC e-Governance Service Common Services India Ltd has launched Rural e-Mobility Programme whereby urging people to switch to electric vehicles to preserve and conserve the environment by reducing their carbon footprint.
"We are focusing on rural areas for which we have

launched Rural e-Mobility Programme at our 100 CSC centres that will be providing e-scooters and e-rickshaws to people. The company has tied up with various e-vehicles manufacturers and also financial institutions for offering attractive loans to people in rural areas. We are also setting up charging infrastructure at our CSCs for convenience of our customers," said CSC Managing Director Dinesh Tyagi.

CSC is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under the Ministry of Electronics and IT. "Our programme will not only add environmental benefits but also create new models of inclusive development in terms of connectivity in remote corners of our country. We will organize roadshows and bike rallies across India to promote our Rural e-Mobility Programme," said Tyagi. One such mega roadshow was organized in New Delhi on Friday.

PUBLIC NOTICE
ICICI Bank
Notice is hereby given to the public at large, on behalf of our client, ICICI Bank Ltd. ("Bank"), Bangalore branch that the original Sale Deed registered as No. 6011/14-15 dated Sep 06, 2014 and Prior deed registered as No. 3507/2001-2002 dated Dec 04, 2001 pertaining to the immovable property now constructed residential apartment (more particularly described in "Schedule T", "A" and "B" hereunder) of Mr. Anshul Goel, deposited with our client by way of security, has been misplaced from the custody of our client ICICI Bank Ltd. The original Sale Deed dated Sep 06, 2014 and Prior deed dated Dec 04, 2001 are registered before the sub-registrar office, Bangalore city at Bangalore, bearing the registration number 6011/14-15 and Prior deed registered No. 3507/2001-2002 and were executed by Mr. Anshul Goel.
Any person/s who has/have any claim, right, title and interest in the said document(s) and/or any person/s coming into possession of the aforesaid document(s) is/are having knowledge of its whereabouts are hereby requested to intimate our client, forthwith about the same at the above address for examination and such further action as may be advised.
Any person receiving or dealing with the said document(s) would do so at their own risk and responsibility and our client, will not be responsible in any manner whatsoever for any for any loss incurred on account of any such dealing.
In the event no information is received by our client, ICICI Bank, within 7 days from date hereof, the original Sale Deed No 6011/14-15 dated Sep 06, 2014 and Prior deed registered as No. 3507/2001-2002 dated Dec 04, 2001 shall be treated as irrevocably lost and request shall be made to Sub-Registrar at Bangalore city for issuing a certified true copy of the document(s) lost, which will be treated as the original one for all the intent and purposes thereafter.
SCHEDULE "T" A portion of schedule property measuring 5243. 04 sq. Mtrs, demarcated by the letters B, C, D, E, F, L, K in sketch enclosed and bounded as follows: East by: Hosur Road West by: Portion of Sy.No.66/1 and 66/2 belonging to vendors and others developed by Kirloskar finance limited. North by: Portion of Sy.No.66/1 and 66/2 belonging to vendors and others developed by Kirloskar finance limited. South by: private property. The 1/20th undivided share in the land of the vendor is 262.15 sq. mtrs.
SCHEDULE "A" portion of schedule-1 property on which the block named as Ansal krishna-11 is constructed as per master plan for the development of the entire schedule property. The schedule property presently falls within the jurisdiction of the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike.
SCHEDULE "B" 427 Sq. ft. undivided share of land right, title and interest of the property mentioned in the Schedule-1.
Date: February 21, 2021
Place: Delhi
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Notice Inviting Re-e-Tender
No.SSA/Equity/Procurement/Adolescent Prog.forGirls/336/2020/4519 Date :19.02.2021
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites re-tender through e-Tendering process for printing and supply Training Module from reputed printing offset printing presses having Coloured Sheet Offset Machine for printing.
To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
Sd/-Executive Director,
SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog CF520220



ACID TEST

OF WOMEN'S PATIENCE

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with experts to analyse why is male ego so fragile that it can't take no for an answer and the only solution to rejections they have is — acid attack. However, the disturbing fact is that not only the young boys but also the so-called mature people are taking to these cowardly acts

Ki mai gumshudgi mein khud ko dhake hui hoon kuch is tarah; Ki jo rab ne diya tha, Tezab mein jala diya, usne mera; Sab kuch, sare aam; Koi nahin aya bachane mujhe; Mai cheekhti chilati rahi; Ghanto, kai roz; Ki, koi to, de de mujhe wapasi meri tasveer vo, purani; Mehfooz nahin hoon mai; Mera Jism jala diya; Sirf rooh hi to, hoon Mai ab; Sirf ek rooh.

These lines by women rights activist and advocate Pooja Sareen echoes the tremendous pain that every girl goes through acid attack. The rising number of acid attack cases in India is making every girl tremble with fear when going out of the safe environs of home. It is making them arrest their mind to think or decide freely as they never know who will throw acid on them only because someone out there might not be able to digest their freedom.

The danger is not only from the young and less mature men, but also from the so-called mature individuals. The general perception was that the perpetrators of horrendous acid attacks are young frustrated individuals, but recently a 50-year-old man was caught after he threw acid on a woman in Assam's Dibrugarh. The mute question now is that even the mature men are showing the immature side when it comes to dealing with rejections by women.

The man in his 50s was arrested last week; though the intention of the man is not yet out, it still falls in a category where women are being disfigured or robbed of their natural beauty because someone could not tolerate a woman standing up for what is right according to her. Figures released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) found that between 2018 and 2020 there have been nearly 1,600 victims of acid attacks in the country. At least one acid attack is perpetrated every day. However, the country with the highest number of acid attacks has the lowest number of convictions — less than five per cent — according to activists who work closely with victims. Women have been at the receiving end of men's ire, and the trend is not stopping.

No doubt, women are being heard and movies like *Chhapaak* are being made, the respect that women deserve is far from their reach. *Chhapaak* was inspired by the story of Laxmi Agarwal, who was burnt with acid in Delhi in 2005 when she was barely 15 years of age. She protests banning the sale of acid in India and supporting acid attack survivors. Many other acid attack victims are working for this cause, to save other girls from such heinous, heart-rendering incidents. "Question is why and who do we have to save our girls from? We need to save them from the males who undergo rejection, of

their friendship, marriage, dating and sexual proposals. Why is male ego so poisonously dangerous that it cannot stand a no and take the vengeance and revenge from innocent girls, by throwing acid on their face. The ideology or the thought remains that, 'what can't be mine, can't be anyone else's either'. It only shows their disturbed and harmful psyche," says Sareen.

The low conviction rate is also not helping the cause. The Section 326 A in the Indian Penal Code lays down the punishment for acid attacks. The minimum punishment is 10 years' imprisonment. It can extend up to life imprisonment with fine. A separate law to punish offenders in such cases was passed along with amendment of law on sexual offences, in 2013, after the PIL filed by Laxmi Agarwal a victim of acid attacks. "These perpetrators should be punished vehemently, and stricter laws and penalties should be imposed on such wrong doers, who destruct and devastate the lives attacking them with acids," adds Sareen.

A case in point is Rakshima (name changed) who was attacked with acid by a man much older to her for, yes you got it right, rejecting his marriage proposal.

"I was in my late 20s when that man, who used to live somewhere nearby, threw acid on my face and body because I rejected his marriage proposal. He was not only twice my age, but was also a divorcee. He stalked me for a while and one day told me that he wants to marry me. In fact, it was not a proposal but an order. I hate recalling that day, but unfortunately it has been etched in my memory and on my face. Every day, I am reminded of how that day has completely changed my life," she says.

The sad part of Rakshima's story is that after the incident the man was left without even the slightest feeling of guilt. "I can recall the expressions on his face after the incident. He was satisfied that he did what he wanted, that he ruined an innocent life and that he successfully fed his false ego. Within seconds, I fell unconscious and woke up only to see my disfigured face. I didn't cry or shout. I was numb. I started thinking about what it takes for people to become so coward and go so down in life that they don't shy away from ruining lives. I was devastated, but was determined to never cry over the cowardness of a man who has nothing to do in his life. My beauty lies inside me," she tells you.

However, Rakshima is not an exception, another girl in her early 20s faced the same situation. Her dreams shattered along with that acid bottle. "Revenge, the sense of not taking no as an answer for anything and looking down upon women are a few reasons why these horrendous crimes take place. There have been so many debates around the topics, but I want to ask what



WHY IS MALE EGO SO POISONOUSLY DANGEROUS THAT IT CANNOT STAND A NO AND TAKE VENGEANCE ON INNOCENT GIRLS, BY THROWING ACID ON THEIR FACE. THE IDEOLOGY OR THE THOUGHT REMAINS THAT, 'WHAT CAN'T BE MINE, CAN'T BE ANYONE ELSE'S EITHER'. IT ONLY SHOWS THEIR DISTURBED AND HARMFUL PSYCHE

— POOJA SAREEN, ADVOCATE AND WOMEN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

POISONOUS FACTS

- From 2014 to 2017, the year 2017 witnessed the highest number of acid attacks at 309, with 319 victims. But while 2017 was followed by 2018, unfortunately, the legal process shows a serious backlog for both years.
- A total of 596 acid attack cases were reported in 2017 and 2018, with 623 victims falling prey, but data shows that only 149 people were charge-sheeted in each year. This is almost or less than half the number of incidents in each year. The lowest number of cases (244) was reported in 2014, with 201 people charge-sheeted.
- Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Delhi consistently ranked among the 10 worst states in term of acid attacks from 2014 to 2018. These three states alone made up 42 per cent of the victims of acid attacks in India during these five years.
- The year 2015 saw the highest number of cases that went for trial — 734. At first glance, the conviction rate of 45.4 per cent looks better than other crimes against women. But out of the 734 cases that went for trial, only 33 were completed.

National Crime Records Bureau

has really changed? No one might have the answer to this. The society, which on one hand encourages movies like *Chhapaak* on the other hand still turn their back towards acid attack survivors. We still fight to get our place. Some people even don't hesitate in saying that we should have married that person in the first case. And if we would have did, things would have been better. However, it is not their fault actually. It is their upbringing and their thoughts is a window to their personality. It is because of this mindset that girls fear to walk on the streets alone. They tremble when a boy follows them. A shadow behind them even on a busy street send shivers down their spine. You ask why? Because no one knows what that shadow can do to them," she says without disclosing her identity.

Psychologists feel that low conviction rate is also behind increasing cases as criminals know that they can get away with the heinous crimes or at least they will get a window where the victims will drop the cases after tiresome rounds of courts. "I have had the experience of interacting with many people with criminal bent of mind, and the sheer disrespect to the law comes directly from the delays in such proceedings. Though courts cannot be blamed entirely when we see the huge number of cases against minuscule number of judges in India. A mechanism has to be put in place; the Government also has to step up the efforts to arm the courts with adequate number of judges," says Pulkit Sharma, a clinical psychologist.

"India the nation of Goddesses, chat poojan, Durga Pooja, Maa Saraswati, a nation which chants *jai mata di* as soon as a voyage or a journey commences, a nation which believes that our Goddesses are most powerful, how ironic is it that the same nation tragically tops the global

charts when it comes to acid attacks targeting women. India, *hamari Bharat Mata* tops when it comes to rape cases," wonders Sareen. The question arises, why to throw acid and take criminality to a level where it not only falls in the parameters of crimes that leave you trembling in fear, but also shows disrespect towards a gender that is compared to Goddess in the country.

Many experts feel that frustration with life or life matters is also behind the perpetration of such crimes. "These criminals are, generally, the people who are rejected or less accepted by the society. There are cases where the accused person reaches a level of aggression because of these rejections, and vents his frustration on the easiest of victims. The intensity of the action depends on the mindset at that moment or the availability of the tools of crime to the accused. This is the reason that every sane person in India favours ban on open sale of acid. I am not saying that it will put a full stop to the crime, but it will be a step towards curtailing the atrocious act," says Sharma.

Experts feel that fast track courts should be constituted to adjudicating, these matters. India's population is humungous and so are the number of cases, more fast track courts should adjudicate these matters, so that punishments could be imposed and justice should prevail. "Section 326 A & 326 B should be imposed per the prevailing law, and Indian Penal Code. Also there should be awareness workshops conducted by NGO and on social media, awareness sessions should be conducted to cease and control the increasing aggression and frustrated instincts in the males, they should be educated to accept a rejection, a no. Human values need to be imbibed in them, they need to be properly trained that females are not their property. Human life is precious," suggests Sareen.

Osaka has done it again

Naomi beats Brady to win her 4th Grand Slam title

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Japan's Naomi Osaka dismissed Jennifer Brady in straight sets to win her fourth Grand Slam title at the Australian Open on Saturday and underline her new status as the dominant force in women's tennis.

Osaka, 23, swept past America's Brady 6-4, 6-3 in 77 minutes to win her second straight major crown and extend a 21-match winning streak that stretches back more than a year.

The world number three, who will rise to second in the rankings, becomes only the third player after Monica Seles and Roger Federer to win her first four major finals.

By clinching back-to-back majors for the second time, the reigning US Open champion has won half of the Slams she has contested since her breakthrough 2018 US Open victory against Serena Williams.

After a tight first set, Osaka con-

trolled the second to win 6-4, 6-3 in 77 minutes in front of 7,381 fans at Rod Laver Arena, operating at half-capacity over coronavirus concerns.

"During my pre-season I would look at the Australian Open trophy from the time before and I would really feel inspired to try to win another one," she revealed.

Osaka, who did not play last year's French Open, saved match points against Garbine Muguruza in the fourth round and beat her idol Serena Williams in straight sets in the semi-finals.

But Osaka, a third-round loser in Melbourne last year, said she didn't expect her charmed run to go on forever.

"I don't expect to win all my matches this year," she said. "Somebody can give me a medal if I win all my matches this year, but I don't think it's possible."

After subduing 22nd seed Brady, a fellow big-hitter, Osaka lifted her racquet above her head in a

mutated celebration as the crowd roared.

"We played in the semis of the US Open a couple of months ago and I told everyone that you're going to be a problem," Osaka told Brady at the trophy presentation. "And I was right."

US OPEN REMATCH

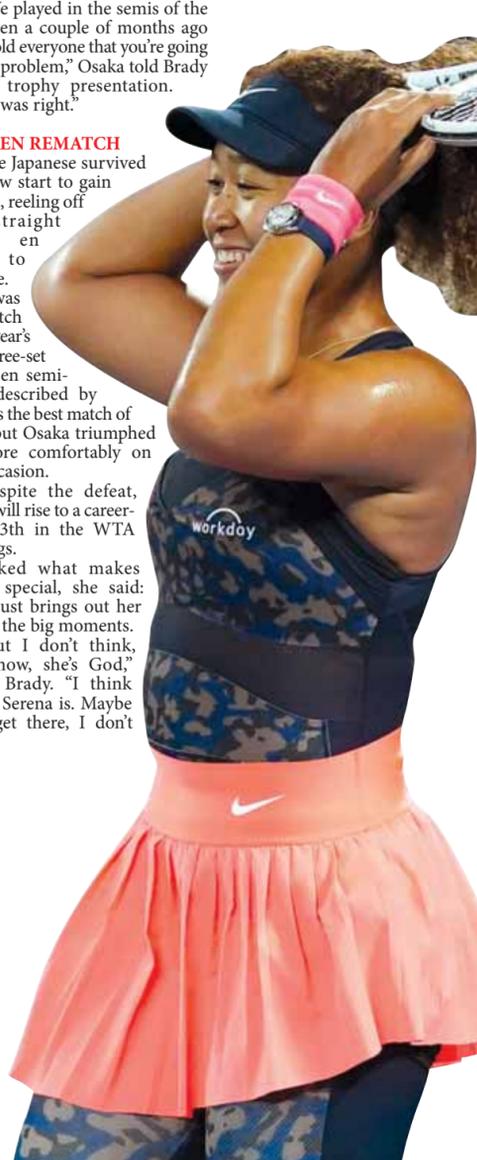
The Japanese survived a seesaw start to gain control, reeling off six straight games en route to the title.

It was a rematch of last year's epic, three-set US Open semi-final, described by some as the best match of 2020, but Osaka triumphed far more comfortably on this occasion.

Despite the defeat, Brady will rise to a career-high 13th in the WTA rankings.

Asked what makes Osaka special, she said: "She's just brings out her best in the big moments."

"But I don't think, you know, she's God," added Brady. "I think maybe Serena is. Maybe she'll get there, I don't know."



'One Slam at a time'

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Japan's Naomi Osaka promised on Saturday not to be weighed down by "pressure and expectation" after her latest Grand Slam victory sparked

talks she could end up winning 10 majors.

She becomes only the third player after Monica Seles and Roger Federer to win their first four major finals, and will now rise to second in the world rankings.

The 23-year-old won her fourth Slam from the last eight she's contested and is now seen as the dominant force in women's tennis, a view shared by seven-time Slam-winner Mats Wilander, who believes Osaka can win 10 Grand Slams.

"I'm taking it in sections. For right now, I'm trying to go for five," Osaka said, when asked about Wilander's comment.

"After five I would think about maybe dividing the 10, so maybe seven or eight."

"I don't like to take things big-picture," Osaka added. "For me, I like to live in the moment."

"It's an honour that he said that. But I don't want to weigh myself down with pressure and expectations."

Osaka has proven to be irre-



Naomi Osaka poses with her support team after defeating Jennifer Brady in the women's singles final at the Australian Open on Saturday. Aus Open/Twitter

I'M TAKING IT IN (SLAMS) SECTIONS. FOR RIGHT NOW, I'M TRYING TO GO FOR FIVE. AFTER FIVE I WOULD THINK ABOUT MAYBE DIVIDING THE 10, SO MAYBE SEVEN OR EIGHT. I DON'T LIKE TO TAKE THINGS BIG-PICTURE. FOR ME, I LIKE TO LIVE IN THE MOMENT

Wimbledon's grass courts. "I feel like I have to get comfortable on those surfaces," she said. "I didn't grow up playing on grass at all."

"I honestly think I'd have better luck on clay, because I think last year I didn't play bad at all."

However, when asked where she was most likely to win her first non-hardcourt Grand Slam, Osaka said: "Hopefully clay because it's the one that's sooner."

As her achievements grow, Osaka said she simply hoped to inspire the next generation.

"Hopefully I play long enough to play a girl that said that I was once her favourite player," she said.

"Unfortunately I didn't get to play (her favourite player) Li Na. (I just think that's how the sport moves forward.)"

sistible on hard courts after now winning twice at Melbourne Park and Flushing Meadows.

But she's struggled elsewhere, having never made it past the third round on the French Open's clay or

Osaka's win travels to space station

AFP ■ TOKYO

Japan's celebrations for Naomi Osaka's fourth Grand Slam title went into orbit on Saturday, with an astronaut tweeting congratulations from the International Space Station.

Osaka's triumph over Jennifer Brady in the Australian Open final was hailed in Japan, and beyond, as astronaut Soichi Noguchi wrote from space "Naomi Osaka, congratulations on the victory," with a Gold-medal emoji.

Japan's media said it brought prospects of a Gold medal at the coronavirus-delayed Tokyo Olympics "a big step closer."

Major broadcasters flashed news of the 23-year-old's latest Grand Slam win, which added to victories at the 2018 US Open, the 2019 Australian Open and the 2020 US Open.



Astronaut Soichi Noguchi tweets from space to congratulate Naomi Osaka after her win in Australia Open final

"Osaka got a big step closer to winning the Gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics," the *Nikkan Sports* daily said of the player, who is a leading face of the Games in her home nation.

"The Australian victory is a barometer for the Gold medal" at the Tokyo Games, where tennis matches are played on the same type of court, the newspaper said — calling Osaka "the queen of hard courts."

Anime, pizza, sleep: low-key celebration for Naomi

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Naomi Osaka said she's living her "dreams" on Saturday after defeating Jennifer Brady to win the Australian Open, adding that she'll celebrate with anime and pizza.

Having grown up watching the Australian Open at "crazy hours" in the United States, Osaka said it felt "surreal" to triumph for the second time at Melbourne Park.

"I'm really just living my dreams," she told *Channel Nine*.

"I'm always shaking a little bit (at the end). Thank God I had three match points."

Reinforcing her reputation herself as tennis's leading light, having won four of her last eight Slams she's played, Osaka warned she was not satisfied.

"I take every tournament seriously," she said.

"I just want to be consistent and that is my main goal this year."

Amid an uncertain upcoming schedule, Osaka said she hoped to play the Tokyo Olympics.

"Everyone knows I wanted to play in the Olympics since I was a kid and hopefully it goes through," she said. But after her triumph, Osaka planned a low-key celebration.

"I'm probably going to watch some anime... maybe (eat) pizza... and go to sleep," she said.

Slam win no longer an alien prospect for Brady



AFP ■ MELBOURNE

"I think I belong at this level. I think winning a Grand Slam is totally achievable. It's within reach," said Brady after her first Slam decider.

"Obviously I was nervous, didn't go my way, but at the same time coming off court, I was like, OK, that feels a little bit normal."

"If you were to ask me maybe a year ago, I wouldn't think it's possible or it would feel like it, like, going to Mars," she added.

Brady has had the best run of her career since tennis returned from its coronavirus shutdown, winning her first WTA title and reaching the US Open semi-finals — where she also lost to Osaka.

She reached the Melbourne final despite undergoing 14 days' hard quarantine in Australia, forced to stay in her room while other players were allowed out every day to train.

"I made my first Grand Slam final, so maybe if I wasn't in quarantine I would have won," she smiled, adding that she had "mixed feelings" about the match.

"I'm pretty proud of myself, my team, for what we achieved here. We came here and I reached my first Grand Slam final," she said.

"But also I'm walking away with the runner-up trophy, not the winner's trophy, so that's a little bit sad."

Krejčíková & Ram win mixed doubles title

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Barbora Krejčíková and Rajeev Ram won their second Australian Open mixed doubles title in three years on Saturday with a 6-1, 6-4 win over home pairing Sam Stosur and Matthew Ebden.

For Krejčíková it was her third Australian Open title in a row after combining with Nikola Pietrangeli of Croatia to win the mixed doubles a year ago.

She had lost in the women's doubles final with fellow Czech Katerina Siniakova on Friday to Elise Mertens



Rajeev Ram and Barbora Krejčíková pose with their trophy after defeating Samantha Stosur and Matthew Ebden in the mixed doubles final on Saturday. AP

and Aryna Sabalenka, but put her disappointment behind her in just 59 minutes on Rod Laver Arena.

"We had a year off as a team, but she didn't have a year off and won this thing last year," Ram said of Krejčíková at the presentation ceremony.

"Three years running is an amazing job."

Ram has a chance to pick up another Australian Open title on Sunday, when he and Britain's Joe Salisbury defend their men's doubles title against Ivan Dodig and Filip Polasek.

Champion takes on Challenger

In men's final today, Djokovic chases 18th Slam, Medvedev 1st

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic says going unbeaten in eight Australian Open finals will give him confidence in Sunday's decider, but he'll need more than that to overcome "the man to beat" — red-hot Russian Daniil Medvedev.

The Serbian world number one is into his ninth decider at Melbourne Park as he targets an 18th Slam title to close the gap on Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, who have 20 each.

It has been a rollercoaster ride to get there, with Djokovic uncharacteristically dropping five sets as he battled an abdominal injury that nearly forced him to pull out.

But after his semi-final, Djokovic said he was feeling better than at any time during the past fortnight as he prepares to defend his crown against a man on a 20-match unbeaten streak.

The Serb heads into the showpiece on Sunday evening with the phenomenal record of never losing a final on Melbourne's famous blue courts in eight attempts spanning 13 years.

Djokovic will also be playing his 28th Grand Slam final, in contrast to the Russian's second.

But the 33-year-old, who swept past qualifier Aslan Karatsev in the semi-finals, said while experience was



Novak Djokovic and Daniil Medvedev. AP/File Picture

clearly an advantage, Medvedev was also in electric form.

"Of course it contributes to more confidence, prior to coming into the finals knowing that I never lost in the finals or semi-finals just makes me feel more comfortable being on the court," he said.

"But each year is different, although it does have a mental effect on me. Maybe on my opponents, I don't know, but on

me it does definitely have a positive effect.

"But it's not a decisive factor in the way the match is going to go forward, because each year is different."

Medvedev is unbeaten since last November, including a straight-sets drubbing of the Serb at the ATP Finals in London, with Djokovic deeming him "the man to beat."

"He's just so solid. Also, I

heard (commentator) Jim Courier calling him a master chess player because of the way he tactically positions himself on the court, and it's true," he said.

"You know, he's definitely a very smart tennis player."

'HE'S THE FAVOURITE'

Medvedev, who has dropped just two sets so far, insisted that despite having all

Djokovic vs Medvedev
Live from 1:30pm IST
SONY TEN 2, TEN 3 & SIX

the momentum he was still the underdog.

"He's the favourite because he didn't lose. On eight occasions that he was here in the semis he won the tournament," said the 25-year-old.

"Me, I'm... the challenger, the guy that challenges the guy who was eight times in the final and won eight times. And I'm happy about it."

"I know that to beat him you need to just show your best tennis, be at your best physically maybe four or five hours, and be at your best mentally maybe for five hours," he added.

Despite playing down his chances, Medvedev, who also reached the 2019 US Open final, losing to Nadal, has the weapons to trouble Djokovic, with a big serve, unrelenting returns and exceptional movement as he targets a maiden Grand Slam title.

Twelve of his 20 straight wins have been against top-10 players and he has won three of his last four against the 17-time Grand Slam-winning Serb.

"Playing Novak seven times already is just a huge experience," he said.

"(But) I think when he's in the zone he doesn't miss. He goes down the line, cross, forehand, backhand, he doesn't miss. That's what is the toughest part of playing against him."

Atletico suffer shock home defeat

AFP ■ MADRID

Atletico Madrid gave renewed hope to their La Liga title rivals on Saturday by losing 2-0 at home to Levante and missing the chance to extend their six-point lead at the top of the table.

The defeat is only Atletico's second in the league this season and their first at the Wanda Metropolitano in any competition since Barcelona beat them there in December 2019.

It means what could have been a commanding 11-point advantage at the top of the table is now just six, with Real Madrid, the closest challengers, up against Real Valladolid later on Saturday.

Due to rearranged fixtures, Atletico were facing Levante for the second time in four days, having already dropped two points against them in an away 1-1 draw on Wednesday.

And Levante proved that was no fluke by going one better, their impressive victory inflicting another setback on Diego Simeone's side, who will have to rediscover their rhythm for Tuesday's Champions League last 16 first leg at home to Chelsea. Luis Suarez will be up against English opposition again in midweek and the Uruguayan went closest to finding an equaliser, his bending free-kick in the second half coming back off the post. Suarez has now gone three league games without scoring for the first time this season.

Jose Luis Morales had already put Levante in front after half an hour and while Atletico huffed and puffed for most of the second half.



Bayern lose to Frankfurt

AFP ■ BERLIN

Bayern Munich crashed to a 2-1 defeat at Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday in the Bundesliga as the world champions showed chinks in their armour before they return to Champions League action next week.

Robert Lewandowski netted his 26th league goal this season for Bayern, but Frankfurt deserved the win thanks to first-half goals by Japan midfielder Daichi Kamada and Amin Younes.

After their 3-3 league draw at home to strugglers Arminia Bielefeld last Monday, Bayern again wobbled ahead of Tuesday's



Champions League first leg tie at Lazio.

Frankfurt's win gives hope to Bayern's league rivals as second-placed RB Leipzig can cut Bayern's lead to two points if they win at Hertha Berlin on Sunday.

It was Bayern's third league defeat.

Pujara not sure about SG pink ball swing

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The pink ball usually moves around a lot in twilight but India batsman Cheteshwar Pujara on Saturday said it is difficult to predict how much the SG ball will swing in the first ever Test under lights at the refurbished Motera Stadium here.

India annihilated England by 317 runs in a rank-turner at Chepauk to level the four-match series one-all and all eyes are now on the pitch here for the third Test begins from February 24.

India do not have a lot of experience with the pink-ball, having played just two games.

"We are not sure how much the ball is going to swing around for this particular Test, Pujara said in a virtual media interaction after the first test session.

"Early on it might swing a bit, but maybe going forward as the match progresses, it might not be a lot of swing but we never know with the pink ball it's very difficult to predict."

Pujara said the pitch looked a decent one to him but "a lot could change with three-four days left for the Test".

"It's a different ball game with the red ball. With the pink ball, it's very difficult to judge or assess anything before the match begins because sometimes you're expecting something but it turns out something else with a pink ball.

"I would just try to keep things very simple as a player, and not worry too much about the pitch," Pujara said.

"I've played so many Test matches but with pink ball I also don't have enough experience. I don't think experience matters a lot when you are playing just one off game in a Test series with the pink ball," he said.



On the Motera stadium, he said: "It's a new stadium, it's a new pitch. Once we play more games we'll get to know about the pitch. But it's a beautiful stadium we all are enjoying here. We had a gym session yesterday.

"Personally, I've some fond memories of the last time I played in 2012 which was right after my engagement."

"In the old stadium, it was helpful for the spinners. But if you bat well, there was value for your shots. The ball would

reverse as well. I will always remember the Test," he said recalling his 206 not out against England here in November 2012.

India have so far hosted a solitary pink ball Test against Bangladesh on a green top at Eden Gardens in November 2019 as they bulldozed their neighbours by an innings and 46 runs inside three days.

But against England who boast of a star-studded pace line up in James Anderson, Jofra Archer, Stuart Broad, such a

IPL won't affect my preparation for Eng tour: Pujara

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Ready to re-enter the IPL bandwagon after seven years, Cheteshwar Pujara says competing in the T20 league won't hamper his preparations for the away Test series against England since he will have plenty of County games to play before the Test assignment.

Unsold for seven seasons, Pujara was finally picked by MS Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings at his base price of ₹50 lakh for this year IPL.

"I'm really glad to be part of the IPL. It's good to be back again, and I would like to thank CSK for taking me," the India Test number three said

here during a virtual media conference.

"Talking about county cricket, I will still have enough time before we play the England Test series," Pujara, who has earlier played for Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire, said.

India will play five Tests against England later this year.

Pujara has a solid technique but due to his slow batting style he is not considered fit for the slam-bang format. But he is looking forward to make a mark in this format too.

"Once IPL gets over, there will be a window where I can play a few county games. That call I will take once IPL it gets

over. But there will be enough time to play some County games. We also have a couple of practice games before the Test series begins in August.

"There's plenty of time to play county cricket but it's always good to be back in IPL."

Asked whether he discussed this with CSK, Pujara said: "Nothing on that part... But I always wanted to play shorter format of the game."

"So my focus once this (ongoing) Test series gets over will be on the IPL, and then once IPL gets over then I'll think about county games and then there is a big series coming up against England in August..."

move could backfire.

Pujara said they're unsure whether to keep a grass cover or not.

"To be honest it's very difficult to predict whether you can keep the grass cover or can take it off.

"We are in a stage where we don't have a lot of experience as players but we are trying to figure out... We'll see.

"It's very difficult to say anything about it because we have played just one day-night game (in India) which was with the SG ball. The domestic games (Duleep Trophy), was with Kookaburra balls.

"I feel it's an important game for us to qualify for the World Test Championship so we would try to focus on the things what we want to do as a

team and make sure that we win this Test," he added.

India had a horror show in their last pink ball Test, against Australia in Adelaide, where they crashed to their lowest-ever total of 36 to succumb to an eight-wicket defeat.

Pujara said playing a pink-ball game at home is a different challenge altogether.

"It was a different ball-game altogether, we were playing in Australia. The ball was swinging around a lot and we had a bad session, one and half hours of poor batting that led to the disaster.

"Here we are playing in our own conditions, the ball is also different with the SG ball and the guys have played a Test with the SG ball so we are pretty confident that we will put up a

good show."

The India No 3 has not been able to convert his starts and was dismissed by English left-arm spinner Jack Leach in successive Tests at Chepauk.

But Pujara said he's confident about his batting and preparation and a three-figure mark is just "a matter of time".

"I've got good starts but there have been two unfortunate dismissals. I'm doing well in preparation and confident about my batting. I'm sure a three-figure score will come soon and it's just a matter of time," he said.

Asked if Hardik can make the eleven, he added: "It's good to see him back in his rhythm. He seems in good nick. I'm not allowed to say anything at this stage."



Surya, Kishan, Tewatia earn maiden T20s call-up

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav and Rahul Tewatia on Saturday earned their maiden India call-up for next month's five-match T20 series against England as the selectors rewarded them for their stupendous performances in the IPL.

Wicket-keeper batsman Rishabh Pant, all-rounder Axar Patel and pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar also returned to a fresh-looking squad.

The selectors named a 19-man squad for the series starting March 12 in Ahmedabad with an aim to try out new faces such as Kishan, Yadav and Tewatia in a World Cup year.

All three had a stellar IPL though Yadav has formed the backbone of Mumbai Indians' batting over the years.

Questions were raised when Suryakumar Yadav did not make the team for the series in Australia but his long wait has finally ended.

Kishan too had a good IPL and has been in red hot form in white ball cricket. He got the call-up on a day when he smashed 173 off 93 balls for Jharkhand in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Tewatia, who plays for Rajasthan Royals and Haryana, had smashed West Indian Sheldon Cottrell for five sixes in an over in the IPL last year to pull off a stunning win for his team.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, Sanju Samson and Manish Pandey have been dropped from the side while pacer Jasprit Bumrah has been

replaced.

Mohammad Shami and Ravindra Jadeja were not included as they are still recovering from injuries they suffered on the Australia tour.

Pant comes back into the team following a stellar run in Tests in Australia and his good form has continued in the home series against England. Bhuvneshwar returns to the side having recovered from a hamstring injury he suffered in the IPL.

Axar, who last played a T20 in February 2018, is also back having performed consistently in the IPL. His selection comes after he took a five-wicket haul in his maiden Test and is a like-for-like replacement for Jadeja.

Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy, who missed the Australia series due to an injury, has also been named in the team.

Left-arm pacer T Natarajan has expectedly retained his place following an impressive debut series in Australia.

Both Kishan and Pant have been named as wicketkeepers, so it remains to be seen if K L Rahul will continue to keep the wickets.

T20I squad: Virat Kohli (Captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), KL Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Yuzvendra Chahal, Varun Chakravarthy, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Rahul Tewatia, T Natarajan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini and Shardul Thakur.

Ishan-daar win for Jharkhand

PTI ■ INDORE

Skipper Ishan Kishan smashed a blistering 173 off just 94 balls to lead Jharkhand to a massive 324-run victory over Madhya Pradesh in an Elite Group B game of the Vijay Hazare Trophy, here on Saturday.

Invited to bat, Jharkhand posted a mammoth 422 for nine, shaped by Kishan's whirlwind knock, and then bundled out the opposition for a meagre 98 in 18.4 overs, with pacer Varun Aaron (6/37) doing the bulk of the damage.

The 22-year-old left-handed Kishan single-handedly tore apart the MP attack, striking 19 fours and 11 sixes in his knock.

After Jharkhand lost opener Utkarsh Singh (6) early, Kishan conjured up a 113-run second-wicket stand with Kumar Kushagra (26) to lay the foundation for a big score.

Kishan, who opened the innings, continued playing his shots before being caught by Shubham Sharma off Gaurav Yadav.

Kishan reached his individual 50 in 42 balls, 100 in 74 balls and 150 in 86 balls.

Courtesy Kishan's heroics, Jharkhand posted the highest total by an Indian domestic side.

Virat Singh (68 off 49 balls; 5x4, 3x6) and Sumit Kumar (52 off 58 balls, 5x4) also played their parts to perfection as all the MP bowlers had an off day in the field.

However, there was more action in store as all-rounder



Anukul Roy smashed seven sixes and three fours in his 39-ball 72 and ensured that his team went past the 400-run mark.

Aaron wreaked havoc to leave Madya Pradesh tottering at 21 for five.

It was just a matter of time as they were eventually bundled out for 98 as their all-top-order batsmen faltered.

Brief Scores: Jharkhand 422/9 (Ishan

Kishan 173, Anukul Roy 72; Virat Singh 68; Gourav Yadav 4/73, Shubham Sharma 1/44 beat Madhya Pradesh 98 all out (Abhishek Bhandari 42; Venkatesh Iyer 23; Varun Aaron 6/37, Bal Krishna 2/8) by 324 runs.

BARODA BEAT GOA

Vishnu Solanki's stroke-filled century and bowlers' splendid show set up Baroda's five wicket win over Goa in an

Elite Group A game as they kicked off their Vijay Hazare Trophy campaign on a winning note here on Saturday.

Invited to bat at the Kholdvad Gymkhana ground, Baroda bundled out Goa for 263 and then chased the target with nine balls to spare as they rode on Solanki's 108 off 132 balls and half centuries from skipper Krunal Pandya (71 off 77 balls) and opener Smit Patel (58 off 64 balls).

For Goa, Snehal Kauthankar top scored with a 100-ball 81, hammering six fours and two sixes after they lost openers Ishaan Gadekar (7) and Aditya Kaushik (7) early.

Baroda bowlers led by pacer Atit Sheth (3/50) and left-arm spinner Krunal Pandya (3/62) kept making inroads even as Kauthankar did not get a steady partner.

Skipper Amit Verma (24), wicket-keeper KD Eknath (43), Suyash Prabhudessai (39), Darshan Misal (20) and Lakshay Garg (23) could not convert their starts into big scores.

Sheth and Krunal, were well complimented by pacer Lukman Meriwala (2/43), who was recently picked up by Delhi Capitals and all-rounder Babashafi Pathan (1/43).

Baroda lost opener Kedar Devdhar (0) early, but Smit Patel and Solanki rallied the innings with their 95-run stand for the second wicket to bring them back into the contest.

Solanki took on the Goa bowlers with utmost ease and

hammered 12 fours and a six, and found an able ally in skipper Krunal, as they stitched a crucial 138-run stand for the third wicket.

Baroda lost Solanki and Krunal in quick succession, but Ninad Rathwa (10 not out) and Abhimanyusingh Rajput (6 not out) took them home in 48.3 overs.

Brief Scores: Goa 263 all out (Snehal Kauthankar 81; K D Eknath 43; Atit Sheth 3/50; Krunal Pandya 3/62) lost to Baroda 264/5 (Vishnu Solanki 108, Krunal Pandya 71; Amit Verma 2-39, Amulya Pandrekar 1-35) by five wickets.

At C K Pithwala Ground: Hyderabad 349/5 (Tilak Verma 156 not out, Tanmay Agarwal 86; R A Dey 2/45, A S Sarkar 1/42) beat Tripura 236 (Milind Kumar 67, Bikram Kumar Das 65; C V Milind 5/43, B Sandep 2/37) by 113 runs.

At Lalbhai Contractor Stadium: Shchattisgarh 231 all out (Shashank Chandrakar 92, Ashutosh Singh 47; Arzan Nagwaswalla 6/54, Chintan Gaja 2/50) lost to Gujarat 232/7 (Dhruv 38, B H Merai 38; Veer Pratap Singh 2/38) by three wickets.

RINKU STARS FOR UP S

Rinku Singh smashed an unbeaten 62 as Uttar Pradesh stunned defending champions Karnataka by nine runs via the VJD Method in their rain-truncated Vijay Hazare Trophy Group C opener here on Saturday.

Can't give it all if you're thinking about price tag: Gowtham

ANS ■ NEW DELHI

Getting picked for Rs.9.2 crore by Chennai Super Kings (CSK) as the most expensive Indian player in IPL mini-auction left off-spin bowler all-rounder Krishnappa Gowtham shivering, but he was also happy and brought tears to his entire family as it was a "very emotional moment".

Having played just two games for Kings XI Punjab in last year's IPL and done very little in the 2019 edition in seven matches, Gowtham, 32, has little to show in terms of performance from the T20 tournament.

But of his knocks, from 2018, has stuck in the minds of CSK management. Gowtham hammered two sixes in the penultimate over as he and Jos Buttler scored the required 28 runs in the last two overs to win Rajasthan Royals a league game against the MS Dhoni-led CSK.

"I never had any kind of numbers in my mind. I never believed even when the auction was happening that this would actually happen. When it all got over, I was literally shivering but at the same time I was very happy. My family was also very happy. I was constantly talking to my wife; a lot of emotions were running



through. I enjoyed every bit of it," Gowtham told IANS from Ahmedabad, where he as India's net bowler is helping the team prepare for the third Test against England, beginning on Wednesday.

Gowtham, however, has plenty of experience in first-class cricket which gives him the belief in his worth. He has taken 166 wickets in 42 first-class matches and scored at a strike of close to 80 even in multi days format.

The Rs.9.2 crore amount is the last thing on his mind, he says. "It doesn't put any pressure on me. I have played so many domestic matches. It is all about the experience, about

domestic experience. It is about how you turn it into energy. You can't go out there with a price tag on your mind. You can't really give it all when you are constantly thinking about the price tag. I don't think you can ever perform or be the way you want to be with price tag [on your mind]. You have to go out there and play the way you have to. That is how I am going to think and approach the game [IPL]," he explained.

Gowtham made his debut in Ranji Trophy debut for Karnataka in 2012 but was left out of team for three years, from 2014 to 2016, due to poor performance.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Online tenders are invited for **Outsourcing of Unskilled, Semi-skilled and Skilled Manpower Required for Miscellaneous Works at O&M/Circle, MPPKVCL, Chhatarpur.** The bid seals will be received online on the e-portal <http://mptenders.gov.in>, <http://mpez.co.in> up to date & time indicated below. The online tenders will be opened in the office of the undersigned as mentioned in tender time schedule (key date). If desired, the bidder or their duty authorised representatives may remain present at the time of opening of tender:-

Sr. No	Tender Specification No	Name of the Work / Services	Approx. Value (Rs. In Crores)	Tender Fees (In Rs.)	EMD (In Rs.)	Due date of opening of tender online from 14:00 Hrs.
1	(e-Tender No. 2021_PKKVC_130500)	Outsourcing of Manpower Required for Miscellaneous Works under the jurisdiction of O&M Circle MPPKVCL, Chhatarpur	6.55	11,800/-	1.00 Lakh	08.03.2021

For updated/extended due dates for opening of tender (EMD in Cover-1 & Techno-commercial bid in Cover-2) please refer to the key dates.

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Talktime

SUNIEL SHETTY

He is as fit as he was in early 2000s. Shetty shares with Musba Hashmi his fitness regime, a lesson that he learnt during the lockdown and his association with O2 Cure

What is keeping you busy these days?

I am busy with FTC, a talent app of mine and trying to get people from all over the country to get job opportunities in the movie business. I have a few web series and films in the pipeline too. So just busy with getting back to work and the normal routine and also at the same time valuing time

that I get to spend with my family.

A lesson that you learnt during the lockdown?

We can't take anything for granted. We need to value what we have and at the same time understand how much do we need — whether it is clothes or any other thing. I realised the value of real things in life as compared to the other things.

You are still as fit as one can be. Tell us about your fitness regime?

Fitness for me is all about the mind and to be involved in that process every day. Eating right, training right and regularly, being positive, laughing and proudly

FITNESS FOR ME IS ALL ABOUT THE MIND AND TO BE INVOLVED IN THAT PROCESS EVERY DAY. EATING RIGHT, TRAINING RIGHT AND REGULARLY, BEING POSITIVE, LAUGHING AND PROUDLY LOOKING AT EVERYTHING IN A POSITIVE WAY

looking at everything in a positive way — glass half full rather than half empty. I train six days a week on weights. I have a very balanced diet. Also I don't miss yoga. Pranayams are important for me.

What is your biggest takeaway from the industry?

It is what life has given me in all these years. Thanks to the industry for all the name, fame, love, affection and a passport to anybody's heart. All that will be worth it as long as I can use it to create a positive impact and be responsible.

You have recently associated with O2 Cure? What is it about?

My association with the

brand is all about health, wellness and COVID. We are urging people to live a healthier life. The products from the brand with American technology will help us make the working environment a safer place and also help us get back to work.

Also, team O2 Cure's motivation and commitment towards providing the society with a solution to fight the deadly virus, was inspiring. Their special expertise and focus on R&D has today enabled them to offer solutions such as these, designed to offer us the much needed sense of security as our lives move back to normalcy. I am hopeful that this collaboration will lead to changing people's life for good and bringing a sense of safety around their environment.



Om Prakash Galav shows his artifacts to the visitors



done before it dries. It's a delicate task and requires a lot of concentration, but if there is passion and dedication towards things, then everything seems easy," he says.

It takes Galav about six hours on an average to make an artefact. However, the exact time depends on the type of art he is creating. "If I am making a lantern, then it will take six hours to make it without a break. If in these six hours my hand moves a bit, then the whole hard work will go in vain and I will have to redo the piece. There have been several incidents when I had to redo a piece. It is frustrating obviously, but then it is a part and parcel of my job," he tells you.

There are no high-end tools that Galav uses. The magic lies in his hands. "I just use some wheel without too many vibrations. I make pottery with my hands and nails. We can use a toothpick or a sharp blade for further details. But the biggest tool are your thoughts and imagination and also your control on the clay," Galav explains.

The USP of the artifacts made by Galav is that they are hand-crafted, hand-made and are 100 per cent biodegradable, are made without the use of toxic chemicals and are completely sustainable.

"The pieces are so strong that they can be preserved for thousands of years and yet are so delicate that they are extremely safe for nature," Galav who is showcasing his craft at the India Craft Week, mentions.

Galav adds that events like India Craft Week gives artisans a platform to showcase their talent which otherwise would have gone unnoticed by many.

However, he has a request to make to the Government. "I want to request the Government to recognise our craft too, because otherwise it will disappear. More and more people are now leaving this craft and taking to a stable profession to make ends meet. The reason being the losses associated with the craft. There are few designs where only one out of a lot of five is good for selling. The rest go in vain. If it continues to happen, the craft will vanish from India. Hence, we want that there should be a separate board for us and the craft," he says.

'I love songs that have uniqueness to them'

NEHA BHASIN dropped another song on Valentine's Day. The singer, who is also the captain of the show Indian Pro Music League, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA on how she got interested in music and why she chose cyberbullying as a subject for a song



How did you get interested in music?

It began in school. My teacher, back then, one day made me sing in the class. He loved the way I sang. I developed a love for singing from there. My mother is a great singer. We grew up listening to her sing. *Hamare galey mein sur-tal shuru se thha.*

When and how did you get your first break?

I got my first break through a reality show *Coke (V) Popstars*. It was a show done by Channel V, it was a nationwide talent hunt show where five women who would form a band; I was one of the winners. That is how I began my musical journey.

What are the three songs, that you released recently, about?

All the three songs that I have released in the last three-four months have a different flavour to it. They showcase me as a person and as an artist in different light — versatile and the multiple personalities that I may have. The song *Kehnde Kehnde* comes from a deep place of anger, disappointment and rejection for being a certain kind of person; a woman in the world who doesn't follow the norms. And not just cyberbullied but bullied by the society and put in a corner and shamed for being myself. Cyberbullying is another evil aspect of that. This song, I felt was necessary to put out. I wanted to tell people, through the song, why they keep blabbering since nobody is interested. *Tu Ki Jane*, is a mature song about heartbreak and yet the woman has a sense of empowerment and shows the man an aspect of what he will lose if he leaves me. The video is very empowering. *Tara* is a beautiful love song of yesteryears — the subtlety that one saw via poetry where the woman says that she would have been just an ordinary star in the galaxy but after meeting you I have become whole like the moon and now have a place because of you.

How did Tara get featured in Lahore Confidential?

We were working on the song when somebody I knew in Zee5 was looking for a folk song. I made him listen to *Tara*; we were still working on it. He loved the rough track and asked if he could feature it in *Lahore Confidential*. I told him that I was working on my own version of the song and if I could do that, I can license you the song. I am glad that it happened.

Do you think songs have the power to change mindset?

Songs, films and art have the power to change mindset and artists have been gifted the divine power by God and hence I feel this is the responsibility that we have on our shoulders rather than the morality of bondage that the society wants to put on me because I am a woman who behaves in a certain way. I would rather take the responsibility of changing the mindset and progressing the society into being more fluid and more accepting of people.

What kind of music do you love making?

My taste in music is varied. I make music that comes from within — from my heart. As an artist I love the idea of expressing myself and not just selling music. I love acoustic music, ballads, pop, rock. I love listening to dance music. I listen to reggae, good hip-hop tracks as well. I just want the music to be good that comes from the heart. The lyrics should be good and even if the music is hardcore, as long as it is fun and well-produced, I would love it. The songs should have a special something to them.

A song that you loved doing?

I have loved and enjoyed doing songs that I have put out whether it was in Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil or Telugu. There is always a back story to each song. But yes, there are a few favourites. Dil Diyan Gallan is one of the most favourite songs that I have sung. *Tara* is yet another song that I loved doing.

You acted as well. Why not pursue that?

I would love to pursue acting if it was a Broadway like Chicago.

What next?

There is plenty in the kitty. I have two more songs lined up. I am almost set to release my first English song. I am working on it. I am also the captain of the Delhi team on *Indian Pro Music League*.

What comes to your mind when you hear the word potteries? Is it those big heavy pots? What if we tell you that your naked eye won't be enough to see the potteries made by Rajasthan-based artisan Om Prakash Galav and that you would need a magnifying glass to see the beauty? Interesting enough? However, it was not until 2011 when the craft came into the limelight and people started recognising Galav for his work.

Before 2011, there were very few people practising this craft. Although, small pottery was popular. When I started making miniature pottery, they were so tiny that it required people a magnifying glass to see them. But only the size is small, otherwise they are exactly a copy of the normal sized artifacts, both from the outside and the inside," he tells you.

The world's smallest pottery was made in 2012 which was recorded in the Unique Book of World Records.

If you think that it was enthusiasm that led to the birth of miniature pottery, you are

TINY PRETTY THINGS

Miniature pottery artist OM PRAKASH GALAV tells MUSBA HASHMI about his craft, how he got into it, how many artifacts has he created till date and how India Craft Week has given artisans a platform to showcase their craft

absolutely wrong. It was, instead, demotivation and frustration that made Galav introduce the craft.

"There was a time when I was extremely demotivated and frustrated with the Government officials because our craft from the Ramgard region was not getting any recognition. I also tried for National level competitions about five times for which I sent bigger artifacts that were about two to six feet tall.

Creating such a piece of work requires immense effort and time. There was much

cost involved in creating and transportation. Even after putting so much money, effort and time, I always returned empty handed. That's when, out of frustration, I realised that I should instead make artifacts that are small and can be carried in a bag and can save the money spend on the transportation. This is how I started doing miniature pottery and fortunately also won an award the next year," Galav says.

The craft is centuries-old and has been passed down to Galav by his ancestors. The craft even earned his father the State Merit Award back in 1989. He then tried for National Level Competition but there was no luck or maybe something was amiss

to qualify. However, initially Galav was apprehensive whether his craft will find a place in the heart of people or not. But when his artifacts were selected in the first round of the competition, he had that confidence that it will get selected in the next rounds as well.

Till date, Galav has made around 5000 miniatures. While most of them are difficult, the most challenging one was a lantern. "I have made miniature hookah, ear rings, miniature tea sets, buttons for shirts and lanterns. However, the lantern was the toughest because it was such a small piece and to create its net required a lot of fine work. Also, it all that has to be

For a safe and hygienic tomorrow

VIKAS BAGARIA, founder of Pee Safe, talks about how the pandemic has highlighted the need of maintaining hygiene and feels that it is high time that feminine hygiene is also given equal importance

How many of us knew what a sanitiser really was before the pandemic? And even if we did, it goes without saying not many used it so frequently. In fact, for many, it was nothing but a medical luxury.

However, COVID-19 taught us the importance and necessity of sanitation and hygiene. But long before this people like Vikas Bagaria have already been working towards improving the sanitary conditions with innovative products and campaigns such as Pee Safe.

"In 2013, my wife and now the co-founder of Pee Safe suffered from Urinary Tract Infection because of using dirty public toilets while travelling. It was then that we realised the importance of maintaining sanitary hygiene. That got us thinking and we decided that the

need of that hour was for a toilet seat sanitizer spray which is easy to carry and cheap enough to buy. After a lot of reasearch, it was in 2017 that we finally ventured into female hygiene and intimate hygiene for both men and women with an aim to improve the conditions in the country regarding this issue," says Bagaria.

Although feminine hygiene has been a taboo in the country for generations and not many people prefer to talk about it in open, the recent years has seen a change. With the youth talking and discussing such issues to raise awareness and create dialogue, the situation is definitely improving, if not more.

"Since the youth has always been the drivers of change, our target audience is also Gen Z and the millennials. They don't



beat around the bush, they are vocal, bold, upfront and social media friendly about issues like sex, menstruation and intimate hygiene. This is exactly what we need. It is to target these people that we launch various campaigns including, Own

the Red, in 2019, where for the first time we depicted the menstrual blood in advertisements as red and not the standard blue. It is absolutely imperative to acknowledge and work on these little things to make bigger changes," he says.

Not only this, but the growing demand of the youth insisted the husband-wife duo to launch their range of female condoms. "It was on the demand of the consumers that we launched our female condoms 'Domina'. They are the ones who encouraged us by saying that this is something they want to talk about, we worked purely on their demand," he says.

The credit of the success of the brand and its campaigns has to be given to the young and dynamic team that Bagaria has. "The very reason behind such different ideas, campaigns and products is that our team consists of extremely young and energetic people. Their average age is around 23-25 and if they are given the freedom to express themselves on social media, they make sure they make

every post worth it. All our campaigns are in house and all the credit goes to the creativity of the team," Bagaria added.

The unfortunate part id that the high of sanitation has gone down again. "I believe we used to use more sanitiser sitting at home than we do now, but the good news is that the pandemic made people concerned about hygiene. I know although awareness regarding feminine hygiene has grown immensely, it will still be some time till it becomes a household topic. Even the budget has given a concession to health and wellness, and anything that emphasis awareness and increases access is a good thing. I am positive it will also boost the sector of feminine health because as long as our women are healthy, our nation will remain healthy," he says.

the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

My theory is that if you look confident you can pull off anything — even if you have no clue what you're doing — Jessica Alba



Power of self-realisation

By associating with saintly beings, we can practice the four principles of religion — austerity, cleanliness, mercy & truthfulness

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Stepping stone to dhyana

Dharana, dhyana and samadhi are the progressively growing three successive stages of dhyana



SUSTAINABLE WORKPLACES

ENCOURAGING GREEN HR PRACTICES

Organisations that have made greening a priority for themselves expect environment-centric behaviour from their people and this has resulted in judicious utilisation of resources, say SONI AGRAWAL and ROMA PURI

Businesses need to go beyond the interests of their companies to the communities they serve. — Ratan Tata

Very recently Mahindra&Mahindra got caught on the wrong foot. A picture of M&M's Board meeting was shared on Twitter, where a user pointed out use of disposable plastic bottles in the Board meeting of the company. This promptly led Mr. Mahindra to take ownership and banish plastic bottles from meetings and replace them with environment friendly alternatives.

This simple narrative points out how the organisers of the meeting had not thought about the environmental implications of their actions (using plastic bottles in the meeting), when the company is actively promoting environment and sustainability, and this may be true for employees across organisations as well, who are neither aware nor committed to the environmental cause. Hence, employee involvement becomes important for organisations on its sustainability journey.

Smart organisations know how to ensure core values of their organisation. This can happen either by persuading their employees or by giving them a clear message. Organisations that have made greening a priority for themselves expect environment-centric behaviour from their people and this has resulted in judicious utilisation of resources. In addition, consistent assessment of environmental impact while taking business decisions, recycling and repurposing of resources and adoption of sustainable forms of different resources are some other important parameters.

ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE WORKPLACE

Sustainability, greening the corporation, environment management are gradually becoming a part of the corporate vocabulary. The way the natural resources are extracted and consumed from earth, it is going to be very difficult to replenish them timely. It is often discussed in various forums that for generating the resources we spend in one year; earth takes around 1.5 years for the re-generation. Hence, it can be assumed that there will be a requirement of the capacity of almost two Earths by 2030 to keep pace with the present natural resource consumption, and the requirement will be of three planets by 2050.

Experts have always warned people about the impacts of climate change, global warming and the recent onset of a pandemic (Covid-19) can completely rewire people's brains. All these environmental changes will have far reaching impact on humanity and life force on the planet. They would be designed in such a way that they work on People-Planet-Profit (PPP)

methodologies, thereby providing benefits to all the stakeholders. The architecture, building, resources employed would all be designed to function on the principles that promote sustainability.

The current requirement is towards developing long-term, meaningful relationships, and self-discipline for attaining effective results. Thus, the design of the workplace is such that supports the basic and core idea in a more accommodating and comprehensive manner. When employees find the conviction among their leaders, they tend to behave in the manner that supports green and sustainable way of working in an interrelated and interlinked way.

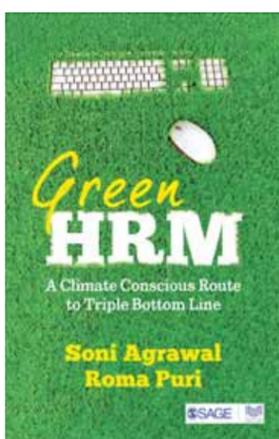
A Green workplace is an eco-friendly and focused organisation and leans towards the adoption of business practices that are justifiable in nature, energy efficient, and well suited to the complex as well as the ever-changing world of business. It advocates the model based on 3Rs — reduce, reuse, recycle. It is not only green building and green infrastructure, rather it has a much broader scope. It encompasses green competencies, green attitude, and green behaviour, which is combined synergistically to help the organisation become green or sustainable. Values are the essential characteristic that both employees and organisations uphold and operate at multiple levels (societal, organisational and personal), thus playing a fundamental role in shaping the organisation's culture with regard to a shift towards greater sustainability.

RECENT CHANGES POST COVID-19 IN HR DOMAIN

A lot of changes were witnessed post pandemic in the very year of 2020. Globally, work from office (if not completely zero) definitely went on the downward slide. At the same time, thanks to availability of internet and online working option availability, work was not completely shut. Although, work from office was very less, we could experiment with new working models in most of the industries and companies of all sizes. Though we were not meeting face-to-face, we were still connected. The pandemic accelerated the adoption of technology and digital way of working tremendously.

Now, with the vaccine discussions, new experiments are being made. These include mixing remote and office work with safety protocols, remote management, making tough decisions like giving furlough to some workers and growing the roles of others, engagement, learning, monitoring and evaluating so that the business of the organisation can happen as usual.

Global industry analyst Josh aptly mentioned at Perspectives 2020, "For us in HR, it is really time to be the heroic leaders of the response." Thus, the HR is experimenting and



THE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP IS PIVOTAL WHEN IT COMES TO ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABILITY IN ORGANISATIONS. CEOs ACROSS COMPANIES AND NATIONALITIES ARE UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMITTING TO SUSTAINABILITY AND HAVE PLACED SUSTAINABILITY ON TOP OF THEIR AGENDA

finding opportunity the year of the pandemic and following year with huge expectations and the big acceleration of the transformation HR. The enmeshment of all aspects has caused a sea change in how people are working at home, trying to strike a balance among all the domains. The clear segregation between home and work has today blurred, integration, of an 'enforced' kind is in place which is different from the voluntary work from home which companies used to give. Thus, in this process of transformation and management of unprecedented situation, HR is gaining smoothly greater importance.

WORK FROM HOME AND SUSTAINABLE ASPECTS

Although, work from home (WFH) was always advocated by HR fraternity (as it gives the opportunity for work life integration), the actual decision to allow the employees to work from home was a difficult one. The principal risk to firms when allowing employees to work from home is a potential inability to monitor those employees to the same degree as would be possible if he or she worked in a traditional office setting.

During Covid-19, the situations are different. Everyone is worried about health and well-being related aspects. Supply chains are disrupted. Daily and essential works are taking more time as no support is available at home. More than that, all the family members are available all the time at the same place with kids not going outside is an extra burden of managing and engaging them with lots of patience. Along with that the individual difference of managing stress and uncertainties also play an important role when we talk about working effectively in this uncertain times.

Working from home or working at home during the Covid-19 pandemic has given rise to realities which are reframing the very fabric of our social, occupational, and emotional lives. Not surprisingly, the nature of WFH has changed in recent years. The cost to employees of corresponding with employers and co-workers quickly and effectively from a distance has fallen dramatically.

In addition, the positive aspect can be seen that resource utilisation has gone down dramatically. Due to WFH and less commute required, there seem chances that less people need to travel daily to attend their office. The proposed hybrid model, where WFH and online learning will be a part, lesser vehicles will be needed on the road. That will definitely impact positively in terms of less polluted air and sound. Due to digital way of working, prevalence of electronic mail, video conferencing software, and mobile communication through ubiquitous cellular communications networks, the usage of electricity, paper will go down.

LEADERS' ROLE IN ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABILITY IN ORGANISATIONS

The role of leadership is pivotal when it comes to encouraging sustainability in organisations. CEOs across companies and nationalities are understanding the importance of committing to sustainability and have placed sustainability on top of their agenda. The seriousness of climate threat and the growing awareness around environmental issues is making organisations commit to reducing their contribution to pollution and depletion of natural resources.

Indian organisations have become a part of the Carbon Disclosure Project thereby committing to reduce emission of carbon but recent reports show that CDP has pulled up 20 Indian organisations for their weak sustainability disclosures. A recent CDP India Annual Report also discloses that Indian companies are not much concerned about deforestation and do not make a realistic assessment of the impact of their business on deforestation. This indicates the lack of seriousness to take environmental impact of business into consideration.

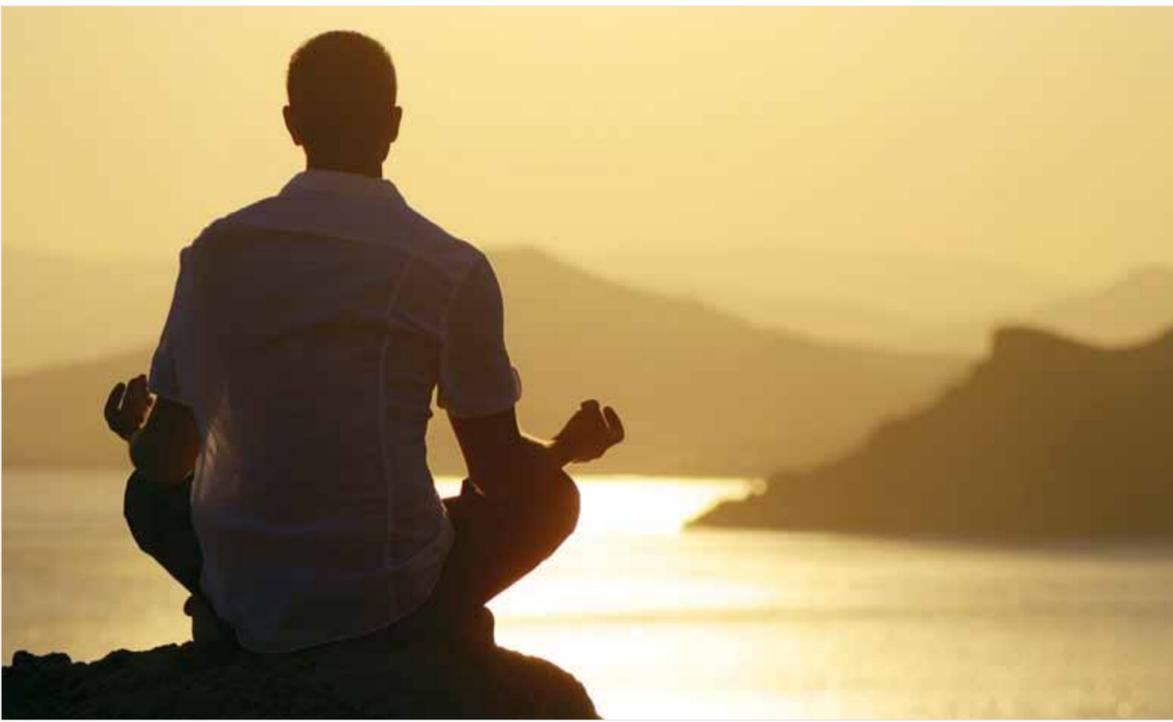
This is where the role of leadership becomes highly significant. Integrating sustainability and environmental issues into the strategy of business can only be accomplished at the highest level of the organisation. We need the business leaders to step up and work towards becoming more sustainable. There are examples of leaders who have taken sustainability to be the most important driver of their business. Yvon Chouinard of Patagonia is a shining example of sustainable leadership. He not only made sustainability a part of his business but also worked with his vendors to make their businesses sustainable. His contribution to the environment extended to producing documentaries meant to sensitise people on environmental issues.

Late Y.C. Deveshwar, former Chairman of ITC Ltd. in an interview had stated that sustainability was a key to gain competitive advantage. The current CEO and MD of ITC, Sanjiv Puri has committed to stretch goals to improve its sustainability performance by 2030 by replacing 50% of the company's energy consumption with renewable sources.

These examples demonstrate the leader's vision and commitment to sustainability are imperative to promote sustainability in organisations. The leader's beliefs about environmental conservation and a vision centered around sustainability can motivate employees to take up the environmental cause. The leader can become a catalyst in enhancing awareness on sustainability by making it a part of the corporate vocabulary and integrating sustainability as a value in the organisation's culture.

POWER OF SELF-REALISATION

By associating with saintly beings, we can practice the 4 principles of religion — austerity, cleanliness, mercy and truthfulness, writes RADHANATH SWAMI



The world is full of uncertainties and the fact is that one can never change the condition of this universe. However, we can make arrangements to change ourselves in order to adjust with the environment and learn to live harmoniously. We must as far as possible create an environment which is conducive to peace, prosperity and happiness among the people. Therefore, great Saints the world over have propagated the need for self-realisation among the people. The question that haunts our mind is how to bring about peace in this world? Some people argue that we can do so through religion. However, it is not so. In fact, most of the violence which occurs in this world, today, has surfaced in the form of 'terrorism' which has sprung up from the issues of religion. The terrorists wrongly surmise that by resorting to terrorism they can save their religion. However, this is far from the truth. No religion preaches violence but only propagates peace in the universe. Unfortunately, this has been misinterpreted by terrorists to suit their interests. Take the case of the great

Mahabharata war which occurred more than 5,000 years ago between Kaurvas and Pandavas. The war was based on certain principles or rules which were agreed upon by both the sides. There was no terrorism involved in that Great War. Only men fought in the war. Women, children and old people did not participate in the battle. The armies fought with equal strength and with pride and honour with a firm conviction that whoever wins will get the kingdom of Hastinapur to rule and whoever dies shall go to heaven. As compared to this battle, terrorism, which has surfaced today, does not spare people even women, children and the old. This is the bitter truth that we are facing today. Terrorism knows no religion. Terrorists, today, blow up airplanes; plant bombs in buses and public transport vehicles, in cinema houses or shopping Malls — all this in the name of religion although the violence has nothing to do with the religion. Srimad Bhagavatam describes that religion is based on four principles. They are called the four pillars of religion. They are Austerity, Cleanliness, Mercy, and Truthfulness. Whether you call yourself a Hindu, a Muslim, a

BY FOLLOWING THE FOUR PRINCIPLES WE CAN REALISE OUR ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SUPREME CREATOR, LOOK HARMONIOUSLY IN ANY CONDITION THAT THE ENVIRONMENT HAS PLACED BEFORE US AND REMAIN PEACEFUL AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELLBEING OF THE SOCIETY

Buddhist, a Christian it is not so important. The question is how we are developing our love for God through the process of following these four principles of religion? By following these four principles we can realise our eternal relationship with the Supreme creator and then we can look harmoniously in any condition that the environment has placed before us and remain peaceful and contribute to the wellbeing of the society.

AUSTERITY
Let us consider the first principle of 'Austerity' which means to be willing to accept inconvenience for the purification of one's heart and in the service of God and in the service of humanity. Austerity means to be willing to accept inconvenience, sacrifice and even pain, for the purpose of purifying our consciousness and to reject things which are unfavorable for the purification of our heart, whether we like it or not. Human life is meant for sacrifice. Austerity means making priority in your time. How much time are you dedicating to purify your heart for God? How much time you are allocat-

ing to your business, to your family? You have to balance everything, so your life is full both materially and spiritually, that has to be balanced. Sacrificing time everyday with a view to purifying the heart, through meditation, Yantra, and reading religious scriptures is the greatest austerity.

CLEANLINESS
The second principle of religion is Cleanliness. It is said that Cleanliness is next to Godliness. Cleanliness means for the body and the mind. For cleanliness of the body, we should bathe at least once a day. Because when the body becomes dirty, the environment also becomes dirty and it is very difficult for the mind to remain clean.

MERCY
The next principle of religion is 'Mercy'. How to be merciful within this society? Again every religion of the world teaches us that we must be merciful and show mercy to all. It is sacrifice, it is Austerity. The non-violence must be based on 'faith in God'. Faith can move mountains, We must have faith.

TRUTHFULNESS
The fourth principle of religion is truthfulness. What is the truth? The answer lies in simply not telling lies in our daily affairs. We should be honest and straight forward in all our dealings in this world that is called Morality. Lord Krishna says in Bhagavad Gita that the definition of truth is to know that all living beings are part of me and they are in me and they are mine. The truth is that we are part of God. That everything is the property of God. Unless we know the truth, unless we understand the truth how can we be truthful.

By understanding and pursuing Truth, we can see how everything within our environment is perfect. How everything is the loving grace of God. Not simple to intellectual understanding, but we can experience from the core of our heart the God's expression of love in every condition of life. This is the real peace. This is not intangible, it is not something impossible. It is as close as your own soul. We are running in every other direction to find pleasure and peace. We simply have to redirect our priorities in life towards our soul and towards our service of the god. By associating with saintly persons, by hearing the truth, we will learn how to practice these four principles of religion, austerity, cleanliness, mercy, and truthfulness.

The writer is a spiritual guru at the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK



Essence of Dharma

What is Dharma? This question baffles many and there is a considerable confusion that surrounds the idea. This is why there are so many interpretations of Dharma. Sometimes diametrically opposed to one another. But it is important to understand that Dharma is a universal construct deeply rooted in ethics. In fact, Dharma is another name for ethical conduct. People think that Dharma and religion are synonymous but this is erroneous. Dharma is universal, eternal and a guide to rightful conduct. That is why righteousness is the core of the idea of Dharma. Righteousness is the basis of rightful conduct and religion is a means to understand the nature of rightful conduct. Offering prayers in a place of worship is only a part of Dharma. However, Dharma is much more. The Taittiriya Upanishad brings out the essence of Dharma very succinctly in the Shikshavalli section. When the pupils complete their learning in the gurukul, the Guru delivers the final lesson, called Dikshant, like the convocation of present times. The crux of this final lesson lies in these two terms — Satyam vada, Dharmam char. That is adhere to the truth and follow the path of righteousness or Dharma. These two terms are also the essence of Dharma. It lies in action. Action that is rightful, action that is ethical. But the issue is how to evaluate this action. How to determine the rightfulness. This is the question that is most difficult to answer. Individuals have their own interpretation of Dharma and every one believes that he or she has followed the path of Dharma in the action taken. This is the reason why people tend to justify their actions. It is an ego defense mechanism that leads to justification. It is ego that is the reason for this mechanism called rationalisation. Logic or reasoning is always resorted to in order to justify one's action. So even Hiranyakashyap or Ravana or Duryodhana all had their reasons for their blatantly wrong deeds. Here, it is important to understand that usually people do not commit a wrong act if they believe that it is wrong. Their ego makes them believe that their actions are just. The ego puts a veil on their reason and makes them follow unreason. The Indian philosophy calls this Avidya. This does not allow them to see the truth and examine their actions in right perspective. Even the most heinous acts do not give a feeling of remorse or guilt as it is believed to be right and excuses are found. The answer lies in removing the veil of ego or Avidya and this can only happen by realisation. Realisation leads to objective evaluation of one's actions. This comes by awakening the conscience and looking within. The conscience is the guide to Dharma and is in every human. Only it is in different stages of awakening. Thus, some are more awake than others and can achieve realisation easily. The purpose of Dharma is to show the righteous path and this requires constant guidance from the conscience. Due to differences in levels of awakening, people differ in their ability to attain realisation and discriminate between the right and the wrong. But it is to be understood that every human being has the potential for this realisation and experience the awakening. All that is required is the right kind of training or learning. The degree of intervention may vary but essence of Dharma can be understood by most.

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FROM PAGE 1

Encouraging green HR practices

Dedicating funds and other resources for environmental projects, instituting rewards and recognition for contributions towards sustainability can also be initiated by the leader. The leader can walk the talk by demonstrating environment friendly behaviour by reducing wastage of electricity, paper and other resources. These savings may not amount to much but as actions speak louder than words they go on to show that the leader believes in sustainability and acts on it at a personal level.

EMPLOYEES' ROLE IN ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABILITY

Employees can play an important role in promoting sustainability at the workplace. It is seen that individuals may be very conscious of sustainability and waste management at home but this behaviour does not always translate into environment-friendly behaviour at the place of work. At homes we have electricity meters which help in monitoring consumption but in an office employees do not receive individualized bills for energy and paper consumption thereby diffusing responsibility towards resource usage. The idea is to make all the employees understand the environmental implications of their work behaviour and improvise ways to reduce/ reuse/ recycle resources. The collective impact of sustainable behaviour can reap rich dividends for organisations in the form of savings and reduction in environmental footprints. Organisations are now trying to collaborate with NGOs and other environment management organisations to sensitise employees on sustainability matters. There are instances in which employees have initiated waste management, car-pooling and recycling of resources on their own and this has inspired peers to follow in their footsteps. Organisations can encourage sustainabili-



ty among employees by organising sustainability events, suggestion schemes and projects to help the employees see their contribution beyond the technical domain. As the general awareness on sustainability is increasing, we find that sustainability is becoming an important contributor to the employer brand and talent is naturally choosing organisations that value sustainability. Some employees may have a natural propensity towards environmental issues. Organisations can appoint them as sustainability champions in their organisations. They can act as role models and also provide momentum to the sustainability movement inside the organisation. The champions can help create sustainability converts that is employees who adopt sustainability by understanding its importance. Sustainability is also being called a super strategy for promoting employee engagement. Organisations can get

employees to connect by making them see how their contribution is significant by establishing a connection between work behaviour and sustainability. The year long struggle with Covid has already made us realise how important the harmony between the environment and humanity is for us to survive as a species in times to come. The total reliance on technology to work has led to considerable savings in commuting time and costs. Though this situation was forced upon us, it demonstrated that this sustainable form of work is definitely a viable alternative. Organisations should now change their mindset of — "if I don't see you, you are not working" and make work from home (WFH) a practice. It is not only going to cut on the costs of operations but would have a very positive effect on the environment in the long run. Organisations such as Salesforce, BitPay and Square are looking at the permanent work from home as long term options. It may not be possible for all the organisations to do so, but practicing WFH to the extent possible in going to increase employee well-being as well as environmental wellbeing. Organisation can also have innovative ways of making employees commit to sustainability by having a personal/departmental sustainability action plans in which employees would plan their sustainability activities voluntarily. Institutionalising sustainability can help get employee ownership for sustainability. The idea is to making sustainability integral to daily work behaviour rather than making it into an event which is celebrated in the form of environmental day or week and forgotten as soon as it is over. Soni Agrawal and Roma Puri recently published Green HRM: A Climate Conscious Route to Triple Bottom with SAGE Publications India

Take shelter in God

God empowers His devotees to do extraordinary feats, which benefit the creation/mankind, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

In the verse 18.65 of Bhagavad Gita, Lord gently states, "Develop My consciousness; become My devotee; make sacrifices for Me; and offer obedience to Me." In the verse 12.8, He is cajoles, "Fix your mind in Me only; engage your intelligence in Me." In the verse 11.34, God instructs Arjuna to do His bidding when He states, "You fight; kill; do not get disturbed; you will conquer." Then, in the verse 18.62, He goes direct when He states, "In all respects take shelter of Him, meaning Himself." And in the verse 18.66, He leaves us no choice when He states, "Take My shelter only." He couldn't be more direct, leaving no ambiguity. Complete surrender is required for the proper functioning of the system. Can any company survive for long if its employees do not obey the employer? What does the employer do when they don't obey? He fires them for the sake of the health of the company. Similarly, God or His system would not tolerate indiscipline for long; the divine authorities will punish by demoting the offenders to lower species. There are innumerable examples of taking shelter of higher authorities in our daily lives. Then, why not do the same in case of the Almighty, who is everything vis-a-vis this creation? Fortunately for us, many do. The whole system, that is, this creation cannot function unless there are good people and, more specifically, devotees of God. They are the bedrocks of the system. And such persons benefit immensely by doing what the Lord or the system expects them to do. The Lord realises that the small soul is very limited. To be both good in the con-



ventional sense and do what God expects us to do is extremely difficult, because it goes against the deeply ingrained nature of our souls. Still, it can be done and millions are able to do. However, the number of people who are just good and are not God's devotees is much larger. Obviously, benefits accruing to devotees will be much greater. These benefits are duly delivered, otherwise who will choose this difficult path. Of course there are various degrees of being good and the extent one is linked with God, and their rewards are also likewise graded. Briefly, good people are mostly rewarded in these ways. Their good 'karmas' entitle them to many material benefits like sufficient resources, welcome attention and the most important support of the system. As far as benefits to God's devotees, these are very wide in scope. God guides because this is crucial to stay on the right course, and God, being omniscient, always knows perfectly. God protects; gets devotees out of trouble. God supports; maintains and provides all the needed resources for a satisfactory existence. God helps in many other ways as well like He warns His devotees; gives them mental strength; gives them intelligence — the ability to make the right decisions; the strength to tolerate; the ability to transcend the difficult to deal with 'maya' — the illusory energy of the Lord; and helps them overcome 'tomoguna' — the dark mode. God empowers His devotees to do extraordinary feats, which benefit the creation/mankind. God forgives; he gives peace — the only source who can. He forgives, i.e. releases from sins and, ultimately, liberates when a particular soul has attained a certain degree of enlightenment. Is God wrong in insisting that we take shelter in Him? Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

Migrant protection: Biden takes challenge

Although Donald Trump left the White House on January 20, some of his policies like the crucial Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP) remain a “choke point” for thousands of migrants awaiting entry into the US.

The Trump Administration is formally gone, but the shadow of Trumpism has perpetuated. Both critics and fans of Trump agree on the fact that Joe Biden has inherited a largely “Divided America”. Although the Biden Administration has tried to reposition America at the heart of globality, the wounds of the Trump days would take longer than what Biden and the liberals are expecting.

The MPP is a US Government action whereby citizens and nationals of countries other than Mexico arriving in the US by land from Mexico, whether or not at a port of entry, may be returned to Mexico, pursuant to Section 235 (b) (2) (C) of the Immigration National Act (INA), while their US removal proceedings are pending under Section 240 of the INA. But the Government of Mexico has committed to providing aliens place into MPP with appropriate humanitarian protections, including immigration documentation and access to education, healthcare and employment.

In fact, the Section 235 of the INA addresses the inspection of the aliens seeking admission into the US and provides specific procedures regarding the treatment of those not clearly entitled to admission. Further Section 235 (b) (C) (2) provides that “in the case of an alien... who is arriving on land, (whether or not at a designated port of arrival) from a foreign territory contiguous to the US, the Secretary of Homeland Security may return the alien to that territory pending a removal proceeding under Section 240 of the INA. But individuals in such removal proceedings have the ability to seek relief or protection from removal, including asylum.

It has been regarded as one of the most controversial pieces of legislation of the Trump era. But now the question is that how does it work? The aliens subject to the MPP are placed into removal proceedings under Section 240 of the INA



Migrants waiting to cross into the United States wait for news at the border crossing on February 17, 2021, in Tijuana, Mexico

AP

before an immigration judge, just like any other alien in removal proceedings pursuant to Section 240 of the INA. The aliens generally remain in Mexico throughout the duration of their removal proceedings. Only issue is that while waiting for the final decision of the immigration trial, the immigrants, particularly women, children and aged people suffer a lot in the hands of the authority. Once their removal proceedings are completed, the aliens who receive final orders of removal are turned over to the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement authorities.

Further, the aliens who are granted relief from removal including asylum will be allowed to remain in the US, consistent with the existing laws and policies.

The origin of the MPP goes back to December 2018. On that very month, the Trump Administration announced the creation of a new programme known as ‘Migrant Protection Protocols’ (MPP). It’s often referred to as the “Remain in Mexico”. Under

the jurisdiction of the MPP, individuals who arrive at the southern border of the US i.e. US-Mexico Border and ask for asylum, (either at a port of entry or after crossing the borders between the port of entry) are given notices to appear in immigration court or sent back to Mexico. Meanwhile they are instructed to return to a specific port of entry on a specific date and time for their next court hearing.

However, the MPP is different from another process regarded as “Metering”. Under Metering, it takes months for migrants before they are even allowed to approach US border officials to just start the process of asylum. The waitlist of these migrants are managed by themselves and by local shelters or Mexican authorities. Finally the US Government only decides how many people are allowed to request asylum each day. But the disheartening fact is that on some particular days, the US officials do not call anyone for processing their applications in certain locations. This uncertain wait today is prolonging and the migrants

have to experience the worst of the tragedies at times.

It is worth noting why America has introduced the MPP. During the Fiscal Year 2019, America encountered a security and humanitarian crisis in its South West border when nearly one million migrants who entered the country illegally or without proper documentation were apprehended or encountered by the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Therefore, to address this imminent crisis, the Trump Administration used all appropriate resources, and authorities to secure the borders, enforce immigration and customs laws, facilitate legal trade and travel, counter traffickers, smugglers and transnational criminal organisations and finally to interdict drugs and contraband. Thus to restore the normal process of safe and orderly immigration, and to reduce incentives for aliens to try illegal entry methods and to make meritless case for entry or removal from protection, the legislation called the MPP was brought into practice.

Migration, to be precise, is an unending process. Since time immemorial, people have moved from one part to the other parts of the globe, either looking for a better life or to escape adversities in life. With globalisation, the process of migration has become easier, better and transparent.

The first World Migration Report was released by the International Organisation of Migration (IOM), a UN agency, in the year 2017. A lot has happened since then across the world. In the last two years, the world has witnessed historic changes at the international level: the member states of the UN have come together to finalise two global compacts on the international manifestations of migration and displacement, which are: a) Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and b) Global Compact on Refugees.

The finalisation of these two historic compacts is the result of sustained efforts brought by states, international agencies, human rights bodies, civil society organisations, and even private actors to

improve how the process of migration is governed at the global level. All these actors demand a safe, humane and affordable process of migration.

Today, what is happening to the thousands of migrants at the US-Mexico border is drawing the attention of the entire world. Most of these migrants are coming from the Central American countries such as Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, etc. The steady flow of immigrants leaving these North Central American countries simply reflect the grim realities of life for millions of children and their families. The root causes of this pervasive migration are manifold: crushing poverty, endemic crime, environmental crises, gang-related violence, extortion, high rates of domestic violence, sexual abuse of girls and forced recruitment in various street gangs. Besides, many of the horrific tales of migration are accompanied with the realities of scarce social services and very limited opportunities to learn or to earn a decent living. Hence millions of migrants from these countries keep

migrating to the US each year and they face insurmountable risks to their lives on this long road.

There is demand from some sections of liberals that the Biden Administration should immediately dismantle this harsh piece of legislation introduced by his predecessor. But, will he be able to do it? At the moment, Biden is trying to undo some of the critical decisions taken by the Trump regime in the last four years.

However the MPP is a very sensitive legislation. January 29 marked the second anniversary of the MPP. The asylum seekers and advocates of migration across America are using this occasion to call for an end to this controversial law. To them, this MPP has prevented thousands of people from accessing a meaningful and safe opportunity to seek asylum in America. They are blaming Trump’s poor vision and blaming him for destroying the very image of a liberal and democratic America of the yesteryears built by the founding fathers of the American Constitution. And these anti-MPP activists say that the legislation is a clear violation of the due process and violation of universal human rights. Since March 2020, the US Administration has suspended all MPP hearings because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the Trump era, his administration continued subjecting people to the programme without knowing when their cases could be heard in the court.

On Biden’s first day in office, the Department of Homeland Security immediately announced that it would stop placing new asylum seekers into the MPP. This may be a critical first step in that direction, but it simply fulfils his election promise to end the programme. However, the latest report say that even Biden’s White House is indicating that it is not the time to rush. An orderly immigration protocol would certainly take time. To dismantle Trump legislations may be easy, but the truth behind many of these laws and regulations reveal many fault lines of 21st century America. And Biden needs to tread carefully.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

There is a vociferous demand for the immediate dismantling of the inhuman Migrant Protection Protocol introduced by the then Donald Trump Administration. Though it is not a cakewalk as the fault lines of the 21st century America have been laid bare, President Joe Biden has taken initiatives. Maybe, the new US Administration wants Biden to tread carefully



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Giving wing to Indian aviation industry

Tax exemptions on aircraft leasing and rentals for foreign companies are likely to provide relief to bleeding Indian airlines



BRAJESH KUMAR TIWARI

The current Union Budget has given a new lease of life to some vital sectors, including aviation. Any policy which aims at liberalising regulation is a good sign in upscaling skill and boosting job opportunities, helping India become a superpower by 2030.

In a bid to attract foreign aircraft lessors in the country, the Government has rolled out tax incentives for companies that are willing to set up shop at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC). Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Ltd (GIFT City) — which is being developed as the country’s first IFSC — is poised to be the next hub of prosperity for businesses as soon as most companies set up shop.

The current policy also proves beneficial for sale-lease-back (SLB) transactions wherein airlines sell aircraft to buy them back via lease, thus lowering the aggregate enterprise debt. This especially works in case of facilitating repayment of long-term loans, bonds or working capital requirement.

Indian companies rank at the top of the global listing of aircraft lease.

In addition to the tax incentives for foreign aircraft lessors willing to set up business in India, the Government has offered additional incentives, including:

- a) tax holiday for capi-



tal gains incomes from aircraft leasing

b) tax exemptions for aircraft lease rentals or royalty paid to foreign lessor

c) tax incentive for relocation of foreign funds in IFSC, and

d) tax exemptions to investment division of the foreign banks located in IFSC

These tax exemptions are a

major boon for lessors operating from IFSC. Evidently, the Government is providing an avenue of business development by establishing a conducive aircraft leasing and financing environment in India. Additionally, it is also offering better terms to Indian and foreign carriers.

The best part of this Budget is the abolishment of custom

duty i.e., reducing the tax rate from 2.5 per cent to zero across the entire MRO (maintenance repair and overhaul) industry, a \$1.5 billion industry in India. Setting up an MRO requires a high capital and constitutes a long break-even time. India constitutes less than one per cent of the entire global industry which caters to commercial travel, goods sup-

ply and defence. Reducing duties is a strategic move towards ensuring that India captures a higher share of the global market.

This Budget also paves the way for flavoursome proposition of PPP (public private partnership) players by encouraging private players to offer support to the aviation industry on areas such as infra-

structure building, airport operations and construction. The Airport Authority of India is working on the next round of privatisation of 10 airports in the next three years.

Six airports have already been awarded to the successful bidders and the concession agreements have been signed. This step will help the Ministry of Civil Aviation to complete the goal of building 100 new airports by 2024 which shows the airline industry has excellent growth prospects. The biggest transfer of power happening in the airline sector is the privatisation of Air India and Pawan Hans, which will generate economic surplus and also help reduce the ₹60,000 crore compounding loan book of Air India.

A new centrally sponsored scheme, PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana will be launched with an outlay of ₹64,160 crore over six years. Health is the primary concern in everyone’s minds in the Covid-19 pandemic era. Now 32 airports are in development stage to create special entry points for the healthcare sector, including pharma logistics, organ dispatch, patient transport.

The agriculture industry will also be receiving 50 per cent open freight subsidy for agri-perishable products of north-eastern States and four

Himalayan States/UTs. Krishi Udan will be launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on international and national routes. This is intended to help improve value realisation (on agricultural products), especially in the north-east and tribal districts.

The Union Budget has greatly prioritised aviation. It has set the stage for an ambitious plan to monetise airports across tier 2 and tier 3 cities in the country. What’s remarkable is that these cities have seen a significant growth in demand for air travel by first-time flyers, especially after the relaxation in the Covid-19 lockdown rules.

The Budget is a boon to the aviation sector as the allocations and plans are made not only to put the aviation industry on priority, but the ripple effect will help boost all sectors of business where airlines stand as a factor in increasing their efficiency.

Monetisation of airports will prospectively accelerate infrastructure development, particularly in the not-so-developed areas. This will also strengthen regional air connectivity.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management and Entrepreneurship, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)



FIND JOY IN EVERYTHING YOU CHOOSE TO DO. EVERY JOB, RELATIONSHIP, HOME... IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO LOVE IT, OR CHANGE IT —CHUCK PALAHNIUK

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

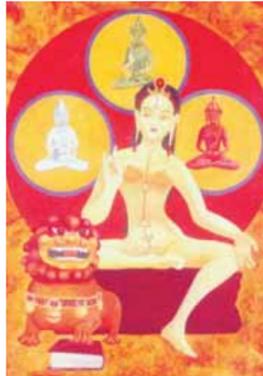
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

Healthwise the week is not the best. There is a possibility of some injury or wound. Follow strict discipline in diet, exercise, and medicine. Be careful, half of the things can be controlled with your firm and positive routine. Meditation, yoga and *Pranayam* will be beneficial for you. On the professional front, the career will boom, and luck shall be in your favour. New contracts, assignments are on the cards. A positive aura surrounds you and you will feel creative and inspired. On the relationship front, there will be a family get together and discussion over important issues. You will have peace, harmony and tranquility in relations. You feel free to express your feelings or emotions to the one you have a crush on.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Pastel colours
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you are realistic but stubborn in some matters. It is the negative part of your personality which needs to be corrected. You are neglecting the health issues. You need to visit a doctor for medical advice. Keep the stress away. Fresh air may work wonderfully for you. Water borne diseases may trouble you this week. Work-wise, there will be an improvement in your working module. This is an excellent time to find new work or to seek promotion in your current job if that is possible. Money should be on the upswing. In the matters of heart, if you are committed, you can expect the relationship to rise to new heights of intimacy and joy. You feel rich in your relationship, enjoy the company of your loved ones.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week responsibilities and work will keep you busy. Health will be good and you will be able to accomplish all work on time. Avoid anger and aggression. Restlessness is likely. Stay focus and grounded. Be sure to treat yourself nicely. Breathing exercises and meditation are particularly useful for you now. On the career front, work can be either burdensome or non-existent. You are likely to feel stuck. Financial constraints might be faced this week. On the personal front, romance is likely to go well. You need a guideline to move ahead in your relationship and have blessings of your mentor, Guru or teacher. Spending time in spiritual pursuits, attending community prayers or marriage function with the family is on the cards.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week health will be stable. With experience, you would be able to safeguard yourself from any extremity related to diet and working schedule. You manage your time and work efficiently without taking much tension. You will be energetic and enthusiastic. A senior member's health in the family may be a cause of concern this week. On the career front, you are very clear in your choice. Your field of career/business is your major concern. You will have a good bonding with your friends. At times there are challenges and you may have to face the opposition for the field of profession you have chosen. Promotion is indicated for some. You bask in the glory of relationships. There will be warmth and affection that will boost your confidence.

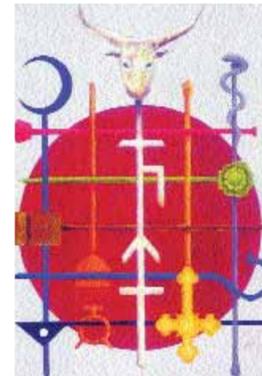
Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Sunday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you will possess a great amount of courage, determination and strength. You will be in good health, but mental worry and tension won't allow you to relax and enjoy. Analyse your situation and find out the ways of healing and entertaining yourself. Stay calm and cool. On the career front, you are likely to meet your old friends and associates. Your contacts and professional relations will strengthen this week. Gifts, awards and recognition are on the cards. You will feel elated. This week you have a lot to be proud of in terms of your work performance. On the personal front, your friends bring happiness for you this week. You may feel nostalgic. The reappearance of an old lover in your life is indicated.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you may repress your emotions and this will impact your body negatively. You will be temperamental and moody. You must be careful about how, when, and where you vent your emotional reactions. Anything that reduces your stress level will be helpful now. A positive approach will result in success. Professionally, there is slow down of income and in your morale too. Untimely payment or delayed orders may dishearten you. Avoid getting emotional in professional matters. Your stamina and determination are the assets that make you a level higher than others. Do your best to be organised and productive. On the personal front, warmth, support and affection of near and dear one will make you feel lucky. This beautiful, warm energy is what will help you succeed.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week you are likely to get in touch with the deep joy of living. Life is an adventure and you want to live to the fullest. Get in touch with the joy inside you, and share it with the loved ones. There is a new spark of creativity and new responsibilities which shall make you busy throughout the week. This week, on the career front, you have to hold your ground, despite ongoing developments. You need to take a stand and defend your position at all costs. This will take courage and persistence and you have the strength and determination to do it. Save your money. In terms of love, if you aren't interested in a relationship with someone then the kindest thing you can do is to let her/him know that you are not interested.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Thursday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Health will be good. This week you will be more emotional and moved by simple things. Your intuition is very sharp, and you may receive a message from your unconscious mind. This is a good time to listen to your intuition and your gut feeling. Professionally, things would be going very well for you. People will be inspired by your ideas, your passions, and your way of doing things. Let your inner voice guide you in how you operate. This is an excellent time to make investments, follow your instincts about them. Promotion, hike in salary is indicated for those in a job. On the relationship front, emotional disturbances may make you tensed up. You have anxiety and fear of losing your love. This very thought may give you sleeplessness.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You need to create time and space to focus on yourself. This will help your health to improve. You are as important as anyone else. As the week progresses, a spark of new creativity and energy is seen. You will enjoy good health. You feel inspired and motivated. On the professional front, you are a leader focused to get what you want. A person of the opposite sex will be helpful to you and play an important role in your success. You walk extra miles as you are charged with positive energy. There are substantial gains of money and your expenses are also great. On the relationship front, you may hear about the birth of a child, an engagement or marriage etc. You give your attention and time both to the relationship.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week you are likely to have a speedy recovery of whatever health problem you are facing. Seasonal ailments like cold, cough, congestion may irritate you. Take care of your diet. Learn from the cycle of life and be prepared for ups and downs in the future. Career-wise, the week is good. You feel energetic and creative. Your positive approach at work gives you a boost. The money will increase and you will feel financially sound. On the personal front, happiness from children side is indicated. You are romantic and passionate and get emotional happiness. There are love proposals or you may propose to your loved one and get the acceptance. Those who are looking for love, are likely to meet someone.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Practice moderation in your lifestyle. Add more fluids and vegetables for balance and positive outcomes. Do not compromise on the health front. Stay grounded and happy. On the work front, you will get opportunities to expand your horizons through study, business enterprise and learning. You need to become more aware of the opportunities that exist for you right now. Analyse all available information, and then make your best choice. Be cautious about mixing business with romance. On the relationship front, couples in love need to clarify all their doubts and misunderstanding between them with patience. This is the time for spiritual pursuits and introspection. Tension in love is likely and it is your intelligence and wisdom which will help you.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week, health is good. You are creative, energetic and full of vitality. Your enthusiasm will impress others but if you become impatient or lose your temper or your interest, you may end up putting others off-side. This is a trial period of your patience and skills and not of getting restless. Career-wise, money and success both can be experienced in this week. New job opportunities and better prospects will be met. The beginning of new investments or the willingness to undertake a new business venture is also indicated. A feeling of prosperity and abundance will give an extra spark to your personality. On the personal front, you will feel happy in terms of friendship and romance. This is a good time for love.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Wednesday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

The stepping stone to *dhyana*

We have so far had insight into the first four steps of eightfold path suggested by sage Patanjali. That prepares the ground to begin the *Dhyana* process. The steps to follow need to be seen in a running sequence, as progressively succeeding stages of a singular process. For, the first step *Pratyahara*, which implies interiorising the mind, is the mode in which the whole *dhyana* process is carried on. *Dharana*, *dhyana*, and *samadhi* are progressively growing three successive stages of *dhyana*. There is no exclusive process dedicated to either of them. One keeps graduating from one stage to the other. There is a very thin line distinguishing one from the other.

Pratyahara: *Pratyahara*, in practical terms means withdrawal of senses away from the external objects, into the interior of mind. Our attention is thus turned inwards. Purposely so, because the final destination is to strike upon and tune up with the element of consciousness, the core of a being lying within all of us. Following which, wholesome powers of mind become available.

It is pertinent to note that all happenings originate in the inner realms of mind. You first visualise, ideate, discriminate,

articulate, and then put them into action. And the nature of any action, be it a fresh initiative taken, or in response to external stimuli, is influenced by how each mind is inherently framed. That makes it incumbent upon us to explore what lies in store of the inner realms of the mind. So is the need to turn our attention inwards. But before the final destination is struck upon, one has to pass through various layers of mind. They have in store, impressions of varied memories picked up in the immediate and distant past.

As attention turns inward, first comes to sight thought crowd gathered up in the immediate past. These impressions, although relating to past, keep repeatedly chasing us from within, engaging our attention in immediate terms. The impressions that affect us the most are persistent desires and those having negative orientation. They keep alive in mind our sense of want, hurt feelings and emotions, as well as indwelling sense of fear and insecurity if any. They keep unnerving us. But then, without becoming aware of them, it would not be possible to resolve and get disengaged from them either. Denial does not help. Having thus disengaged oneself from the indwelling



thought crowd, which otherwise keep hounding us from within, one feels unburdened and relaxed. Following which, doors open to strike even still deeper layers of mind.

Further down the line, one's true nature gets revealed — inherent vulnerabilities and workable part of one's indwelling potential, coming as they may as reflection of the Karmic imprints carried over from the past. We, thus, become aware of our inherent tendencies — desire trends, habits and attitudes, likes and dislikes, prejudices and obsessions, virtues and attributes, as well as indwelling potential. Accordingly, one could take necessary corrective initiatives to get over one's limitations of mind through fresh educative inputs. Also, acknowledge the workable part of one's indwelling potential, hone them further, and make them worthy of being applied in contemporary terms. One could even expand one's potential self through conscious efforts and amplify one's creative abilities.

As one gets established in the process, step-by-step one could go deeper and deeper, and unravel memory impressions laid down even at unconscious level. Eventually, one may strike at the core of

one's existence. One's true self then gets revealed, where after one realises the unity underlying all diverse existences. That makes one rise above the sense of duality and thereby relative perception. One's full potential of mind thus gets unfolded.

Dharana/Dhyana: The *dhyana* process proper begins with *dharana*. The calling of this process is to train one's mind in a way that it remains focused to wherever attention is paid. The process suggested is to focus attention on some iconic figure or concept for a continued stretch of time and remain steadfast to it. The icon has to be opted preferably as suggested by the Guru. It could be some known symbol, concept, or some abstract figure such as a dot. In the Indian tradition, invariably symbolism, intuitively perceived by ancient India's seers, each reflecting valuable educative import, are preferred. Reflecting on them helps add quality and value to one's thought process. The process involves simultaneously chanting a mantra dedicated to the imagery in focus.

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