ANOTHER UN PEACEKEEPER

KILLED IN MALI. 5TH IN A WEEK

MONEY 7

**UNCHANGED ACROSS METROS** 

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USUALSUSPECTS SWAPAN DASGUPTA

# Need for a measure of juridical predictability

he Supreme Court decision to stay the implementation of the legislation on agricultural marketing until it assesses the report of an expert committee on the subject has drawn considerable flak. Although the Government side has chosen to be reticent, many of the organisations representing farmer interests in Puniab and Harvana have been critical of the court's order, despite the fact that it ostensibly favours them, at least momentarily. The reasons for the dissatisfaction may vary but there seems an unlikely convergence of viewpoints which should be considered.

Despite the Government's unwillingness to take a public stand on the court's stay, there is a sense of outrage among the supporters of the reforms. This stems from a belief that the court has clearly exceeded its constitutional mandate governing judicial review. In normal circumstances, a court assesses the legality of legislation, properly enacted by elected representatives, on two counts. First, it assesses whether or not the legislation is in accordance with the letter and, occasionally, spirit of the Constitution. Secondly, it may extend its view to take into account the adherence to natura justice. In recent times, the principle of "judicial conscience" has made an entry in the thinking of some judges. However, since this is a nebulous and totally subjective principle, it is best to disregard it as an aberration. On the question of the Constitution, the court would have been entirely in order to examine if the Centre had the necessary constitutional mandate to undertake legislation to abolish the APMC and the existing anti-hoarding rules. It is beyond the jurisdiction of the judiciary to question the wisdom and appropriateness of the legislation. That power vests entirely with the legislature, in this case both Houses of Parliament. The debate on the merits and demerits of the new laws belongs in the realms of politics. Although there is a school of thought that believes political decision-making is too crucial to be left to elected politicians and should be vetted by a smaller group of wise people, this belief has no place in a democracy. The principle of judicial review has to be selective. If it becomes all-pervasive, the governance of the country passes to the hands of unelected representatives. What the Indian Constitution stipulates is that governments have the absolute right to take bad decisions as long as they don't violate the "basic structure" of the Constitution What constitutes the "basic structure" is a matter that the courts have arrogated to themselves. It is not an idea that

finds any mention in the Constitution. There have been a series of protests against the farm bills in northern India. However, I don't see there anyone in their right mind has presumed to suggest that the right of farmers to sell their produce across state boundaries is unconstitutional. Nor is there any suggestion that it is constitutionally obligatory to inject the Minimum Support Price into the rules governing the relevant Act. The debate on the subject is partly grounded in economics and partly in here the battle must be conducted the courtrooms. The highest court in the land has made some adverse observations on the paucity of public consultations prior to the passage of the Bills. Politically, this is a worthwhile objection, although it could be said that the waging pandemic didn't allow too much scope for village councils all over India to debate its merits and demerits. At an electoral level too, the new laws don't seem to have been a factor in influencing voting intentions in Bihar and in the series of by-elections all over the country, but notably in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. Nor for that matter has the apparent haste in which the bills were enacted in Parliament triggered farmer unrest in any part of the country, apart from Punjab and Haryana. The observation by economists that the big farmers who are spearheading the agitation — with a great deal of logistical support from professional, rent-acause agitators who have a track record of dismal failure in electoral politics — are among the top eight per cent in terms of income has also not been challenged. India is nota plebiscitary democracy. Democracy vests the responsibility of assessing public opinion on elected representatives whose mandate is periodically renewed. It is their duty to uphold the "public interest" — often by championing

# 2L get 1st dose of anti-Covid protection

World's largest vaccination drive launched, Modi congratulates citizens and scientists, urges people to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour and don't forget to take 2nd dose of vaccine on time



A medic administers Covishield vaccine to sanitation worker Manish Kumar, the first recipient in Delhi, in the presence of Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan at AIIMS in New Delhi on Saturday Ranjan Dimri I Pioneei

PNS NEW DELHI

Tndia launched its mammoth vac-**⊥**cination drive on Saturday to bring the pandemic under control with two locally-produced vaccines Covishield and Covaxin — with nearly two lakh out of tragetted three lakh taking shot against the pathogen on the first day on Saturday

Launching the "world's largest vaccination drive" against Covid-19, Modi congratulated citizens and scientists for the feat but cautioned people against being careless and not taking precautions after taking the first dose of the vaccination.

The Prime Minister also alerted people against the rumours spread about the vaccines. He said Indian vaccines are the "cheapest and the best in the world".

Modi, in a televised address before the vaccine rollout, said there are several nations whose entire population is less than 3 crore, but India will be vaccinating as many

■ 13,375 of listed 16,374

persons get jabs by

SOA VC, Capital Hosp

■ In first phase, 1.92L

covered in a week

PNS BHUBANESWAR

**Dir among vaccinated** 

health workers to be

The first phase of the Covid-19

■ vaccination meant for healthcare

personnel was conducted in the

State at 161 sites covering all 30 dis-

evening

people in just the first phase. He saluted scientists for developing the vaccines in such a short span of time. The PM cautioned people to

ensure that they take both the doses at one month's gap and show patience as the country begins to give the antidote to its huge population. "Don't make the mistake of taking one dose and then forgetting

about dose two and don't forget coronavirus appropriate behaviour after getting the dose. The patience with which you fought coronavirus, show the same patience during vaccination now," Modi said. As the PM kicked off the vaccine

rollout with a click of a button, a video message played the Sanskrit chant — sarve bhavantu sukhinah, sarve santu niramaya (All be happy, all be free of illness).

The Covid-19 vaccination drive was successfully conducted on the first day, Additional Secretary in the Union health Ministry Manohar Agnani said during a press briefing

Covid vaccination drive begins in State

tricts as part of a nationwide pro-

gramme on Saturday. A total of 13,345 of 16,314 persons enlisted for

the inoculation were vaccinated by

evening. This was 84 per cent of the

day's target. The first vaccine shot was

administered to a sanitation worker,

Biranchi Naik (51), of the Capital

Hospital, Bhubaneswar, at 11.05 am.

workers would be vaccinated today. Medical Education and Training Director Dr CBK Mohanty said

extensive arrangements were made

for the mega vaccination drive. All

protocols were followed and neces-

sary infrastructures were created in

the districts for the programme.

A total of 16,100 healthcare

here organised late evening after the drive was wrapped up for the day.

Of three lakh planned to be inoculated, around 1,91,181 beneficiaries were given the shot of Covid-19 vaccines on first day involving 16,755 personnel at 3,351 vaccination ses-

Agnani said that Covid-19 vac-cines Covaxin and Covishield (developed by Bharat Biotech and Serum Institute of India (SII) respectively) were given at 3,351 session across the country. He refused to take any questions from the reporters.

#### SII CEO receives 1st dose of Covishield

vaccination drive.

Serum Institute CEO Adar Poonawalla was administered the first dose of the Covishield coronavirus vaccine on Saturday afternoon, hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's nationwide

The Union Ministry of Health

and Family Welfare took feedbacks

on the immunisation from two sites. Bhubaneswar and Sundargarh. Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik interacted

with vaccination beneficiaries at

Continued on Page 4

# 52 adverse events in Delhi, 14 in Maha, 13 in Haryana

Some doctors at RML refuse to take vaccine, doubt Covaxin efficacy

ARCHANA JYOTI NEW DELHI

On day one of the launch of India's historic nationwide vaccination drive against Covid-19, Delhi, Maharashtra and Haryana recorded cases of adverse events — though none of them fatal — even as the Centre asserted that the inoculation drive was successfully conducted and no case of post-vaccination hospitalisation reported so far.

In Delhi, 52 healthcare workers developed minor adverse event following immunisation (AEFI), while 1 severe case was reported as per data

available from the Government. Harvana recorded 13 adverse event cases following the immunisation.

Officials from Maharashtra said they are further investigating the 14 cases of adverse events.

At some sites like RML hospital in the national Capital, a section of doctors were apprehensive of an adverse event as they doubted the efficacy of the Covaxin developed by the Bharat Biotech, which is yet to complete the phase three trials.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had earlier this month approved Oxford Covid-19 vaccine Covishield, manufactured by the Serum Institute, and indigenously developed



A medic administers the first dose of Covishield vaccine to 87-year-old Dr. Asha Singhal at South Mumbai Nair Hospital in Mumbai on Saturday PTI

Covaxin of Bharat Biotech for restricted emergency use in the country.

The Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) of the Central Government hospital, RML refused to take the shot requested the Medical Superintendent to vaccinate them with Oxford Covid-19 vaccine Covishield.

In a letter to the MS, the association said the resident doctors were "a bit apprehensive" about Covaxin and might not participate in the immunisation drive in large numbers.

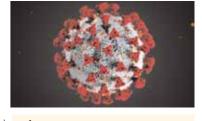
#### One more dies in **Covid in State**

□ Toll rises to 1,899

- □ 178 new +ves; total 3,33,127
- 230 recover; total recoveries 3,29,318

PNS BHUBANESWAR

As many as 178 more persons test-ed Covid-19 positive in 22 districts in the State on Saturday, with which the total tally increased to 3,33,127. Of the new cases, 103 were reported from quarantine and 75 were local contact cases.Sundargarh district recorded the day's highest 30 followed by Sambalpur 24, Jharsuguda 23, Puri 19, Nuapada 16 and Bargarh 10. The number of total active cases stood at 2,087. One more patient succumbed to the virus on the day, taking the total toll to 1,899. The deceased was a 43-year-old man from Sundargarh district. However, 230 persons recovered on the day, taking the total recoveries to 3,29, 318.



4 more +ve

#### in BBSR

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In a further declining trend, State Capital Bhubaneswar on Saturday registered four new Covid-19 positive cases, increasing the city's total tally to 31718, which included 201

active cases. Of the new cases, two were local contacts and two were quarantine

However, three more persons recovered on the day, taking the total recoveries to 31,318 in the city.

#### No way to go, no age to go

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

It was neither the age, nor the way Ito go. Usha Srivastava, 59, who headed the Hindi Pioneer since its birth in 2011, passed away at 11.30 at the Max hospital, Saket, in New Delhi on Saturday.

She left behind a grieving family, shell-shocked colleagues, a large number of friends, well-wishers. and acquaintance who would found it difficult to accept that the cheerful, friendly, demure face of Hindi journalism is no more.

Usha was suffering from a liver ailment and had undergone a liver transplant. She could never recover from the post-operation complica-

A host of political leaders and journalists have mourned her death. An emotional Chandan Mitra, the Editor-in-Chief of The Pioneer, nearly broke down on hearing the news of Usha's demise. "She nurtured the Hindi Pioneer like her own baby. She was a spirited, committed, and lively colleague, whose absence cannot be filled easily. I'm speechless with grief," he said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath mourned Usha's death and conveyed his condolences



FEB 12, 1961 — JAN 16, 2021

to her family. Union Minister Nitin Gadara and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar were among those who mourned Usha's death. The Pioneer CEO Shobori Ganguly described Usha as a "valu-

able" colleague who also cared for everyone around her. "I find it so difficult to come to terms with her passing away. She was such a noble soul," she said.

When her wait for a liver donor ended on December 25 after nearly a fortnight of a wait during which she was bedridden in the hospital, in and out of the ICUs, at The Pioneer we took a sigh of relief.

Many of us met her before she was wheeled into the operation theatre the next day. Little did we know that it would be the last time we would see her.

Her valiant fight for survival, our prayers, and doctors' efforts could not change what destiny had in store for her. She left us without a word, without even opening her eyes for nearly three weeks.

When she first fell ill in end of October last year, none of us ever thought in two-month time we would lose her forever. After all, we were so used to her presence, her friendly banters and intense political debates, that we thought nothing could ever defeat her. Alas! We were so wrong.

Usha completed her study from Kashi Hindu Vishwavidyalaya and then started her journalist career from Hindi daily *Aaj* as a correspondent from Varanasi. Later, she moved to Delhi and worked with Amar Ujala, Rajasthan Patrika and Dainik Bhaskar before she joined as the Resident Editor of the Hindi Pioneer in 2011. She would be always the last to

leave the office. But when it came to leave us for one last time, she seemed to be in

such a tearing hurry. Goodbye, Usha...

# beneficiaries' feedback

three places

**CM** takes vaccine



**PNS** BHUBANESWAR

hief Minister Naveen Patnaik took feedbacks from vacci-Cnation beneficiaries.

Three beneficiaries, one each from the Sundargarh District Headquarters Hospital, the Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar and the City Hospital in Brahmapur shared their experiences with Patnaik on virtual mode after getting first doses of vaccine.Reviewing the vaccination drive, Patnaik thanked the healthcare workers and other frontline Covid warriors for their dedication in times of the pandemic.

'The year 2021 has brought good news for everyone. The long wait is now over. We will not forget the sacrifices and services rendered by the healthcare workers in past 10 months during the pandemic," Patnaik said. He sought cooperation from the Covid warriors for success of the massive vaccination pro-Continued on Page 4

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# sunday pioneer

#### **HOME THEATRE**

# Plenty of twists and intrigue



**Amazon Prime Video** \*ing: Saif Ali Khan. Dimple Kapadia. Mohd Zeeshan Ayub, Sunil Grover, Gauahar Khan, Kritika Kamra Rated: 5.5/10

his 38-minute each episode created by Ali Abbas Zafar may not have been able to scratch the surface as far as intrigue and twists are concerned but that doesn't mean that they are missing. The Season 1 that has nine episodes takes you on a behind closed doors journey of politics where playing person against the other, murder and using the common man as a stepping stone to further one's career is fair game — all that matters is the position and the power that comes with it.

While the story appears to have been told many times, Tandav manages to keep one engaged. Who doesn't want to know how the game is played and however fictional the characters may be, a reference to a lady politician can't help one try and draw parallel

even if the said people are no more and the mere mention of the names can be construed in bad taste. But then, this is reel life not

The makers have ensured that no one point is dragged for long and the story moves at a pace that is interesting and offers plenty of turns that may leave one stumped only to be thrown a curve ball with another twist all within a span of minutes.

The performance too keeps one glued to this series. Sunil Grover as Gurpal is a welcome change. It is good to see him move totally away from Dr Gulati's role in *The Kapil* Sharma show. Saif Ali Khan plays his role just as brilliantly

As a wannabe king to a kingmaker, his character keeps the interest alive. Dimple Kapadia may look a tad old but one can't take away the elegance with which she portrays herself here. The others actors, and there are so many, do their bit.

It makes for a good watch since it gas plenty of twists and turns.

- Shalini Saksena

# **Starts on a good note**



Presenter: Anthony Mackie, Damson Idris, Emily Beecham, Michael Kelly, Pilou Asbæk Rated: 6/10

dhere is a thrill that comes with watching an action-thriller and when that is embellished with sci-fi the experience of watching the same is at another level. It goes without saying that one must enjoy this genre otherwise it can be a drag as one tries to grapple with what is

The storyline is simple enough to begin with — bring down a madman all set to wage a war against the US by going after the nukes that are in hiding. The curve ball? The setting is 2036 with a Civil War in Europe.

Then there is the whole thing about using machines to fight this unrest and caught in between are the locals who only want peace and go on with their lives. Machines fighting? Sound familiar? Remember the Terminator series? Outside The Wire takes that on to a whole new dimension — a  $\label{eq:humanoid-def} \begin{array}{l} \text{humanoid} - \text{a prototype} - \text{capable of doing things out-the-box; a lean mean} \\ \text{fighting machine but capable of emotions. Definitely dangerous because it} \end{array}$ 

means it can think independently of its maker.

Outside The Wire directed by Mikael Hafstrom is definitely an ambitious project that starts off on a rather intriguing idea and keeps one engaged for the majority of the film. Anthony Mackie who is also one of the producers here pairs up with Damon Idris, plays the role of an android officer rather well. The downer is that the movie somewhat looses its steam as it progresses to become a film that is all about killing the enemy — the US — in order for to stop its android soldiers' project since the prototype

The repetitive shoot-out are a drag but those who love bullets flying at the drop of a hat would love this one. After all to watch machines go all out is what action thrillers are all about even if the climax is a bit of a let down

#### TELLYTALE

Bringing forth an uncommon tale of Siddhi and Shiva filled with love and hatred will be Colors' upcoming love story Bawara Dil. Back on TV after a brief hiatus will be actor Aditya Redij who will essay the character of Shiva Lashkare. Like a force of nature, Shiva holds a powerful personality and usually comes across as an angry young man. Pure at heart but often misunderstood because of his brash nature, he is someone who doesn't follow the rules & conventions laid by society but instead makes his own.

His counterpart Siddhi Gokarna is an educated and intellectual young woman with a strong sense of morals and justice. But in a twist of fate, Shiva and Siddhi start off on a wrong note and their bond is fuelled by hatred

Shiva and Siddhi have strikingly different personalities and their colliding life principles ensure they are never on the same page about anything. But as fate has it they get married and unlike any happily ever after, the two vow to come together only to destroy each other.

Speaking about essaying the role of Shiva, Aditya said: "I am super excited for my new show, specially because I've been waiting to play a character like Shiva who is a 26-year-old rebellious self-made man. One who looks tough from the outside but has a child inside him. My last affiliation with Colors was a great success and I am sure that this one will do wonders too. I hope that my audience will like my performance as they watch me portray Shiva's character in Bawara Dil.

Talking about playing Siddhi, Kinjal Dhamecha said: "This is my debut show with Colors, a dream I always hoped would come true. Siddhi's role is very special to me, because of the strong and unique character that she is. She is someone who will always side with what is right no matter the price. She is fierce. determined and honest at the same time The intensity of the character has impressed me alot. I can't wait for the day my fans will finally get to watch the show on TV.'

#### **DHARMESH ONBOARD FOR DD**

Life is always better when you dance! With the lockdown behind us and with everyone stepping into the new year with new vigour, it's time to put on your dancing shoes again and reignite your passion for dance as the biggest dance reality show is back. The stage of Dance Deewane, which is known to fulfil dreams and celebrate the spirit of the dance of all generations is set to return with its new season — Waqt Ko Nachane, Dance Machane. This time, the ace choreographer, Dharmesh Yelande, will be joining the charismatic diva Madhuri Dixit and the very talented Tushar Kalia on the judges' panel and mentor the contestants to put their best foot forward

The uncoming season of Dance Deewane will resurrect the power of dreams once again as dancers across different age groups will come together and make the stage a springboard for their talent. The contestants will dance their way into the judges' hearts in duos, trios and groups.

#### WHO'S YOUR ROOMMATE?

Ever imagined what would you do if you had a ghost for a roommate? This is what four bachelor friends (Nikhil, Kavi, Subbu and Sanki) are about to find out in MX Player's upcoming horror comedy -MX Original Series Aapkey Kamrey Mein Koi Rehta Hai.

In dire circumstances, the foursome - Nikhil (Sumeet Vyas), Subbu (Naveen Kasturia), Kavi (Amol Parashar) and Sanki (Ashish Verma) are ecstatic when they find a 4 B.H.K for a measly rent, in a city like Mumbai. But little did they know that they would be sharing their amazing new flat with a newly acquired roommate who is a ghost! Life gets further complicated when the beautiful Mausam (Swara Bhasker) comes for their housewarming party, and then begins the comedy of horrors. The five-episodic series, directed by Gaurav Sinha will stream for free, starting January 22 exclusively on MX Player.

Speaking about the same, Swara Bhasker says: "Picking roles that span across genres and varied character graphs has always been important to me. Whether it was as the sultry Shanoo, the amiable Beanie or now the free spirited Mausam, I've enjoyed portraying all, and I think this horror comedy will hit the right notes of laughter and unexpected

# Of history and hope 'I had never done fantasy thriller'

RAJESH SHRINGARPURE, who plays Malhar Rao Holkar in SET'S Punyashlok Ahilya Bai, tells MUSBA HASHMI what is the character about, the responsibility that comes with such roles and the reason behind the never-ending craze for historical shows

Retelling the tales of history and mythology on TV is a pure delight both for the makers and the audience. No matter how many times one sees such stories, they still look as fresh and entertaining. Take for example Ramanand Sagar's Ramayan, which even after so many years became one of the most watched series on TV during the Mahabharat which was also topping the One wonders what is it with such

shows that they can never go out of trend. "Our soul lies there. We are able to connect with these stories and that's the reason they are always on our watch lists. The other reason is that people get life lessons from them in an entertaining way. If we'll preach them something, the audience immediately lose interest, but instead if we teach them in a fun way they will learn from it," Rajesh Shringarpure, who plays Malhar Rao Holkar in SET's Punyashlok Ahilya Bai, says.

The story, he says, is the 17th century period drama and is not about the chronicles or glory of Malhar Rao, but the rapport that he shared with his daughterin-law, Ahilya Bai Holkar. "Malhar Rao is compassionate, endearing and he understands even the smallest of emotions of every one. He has been given the title of *subedar* by the Peshwas. He came from a humble and subdued family. He supports his daughter-in-law in all walks of her journey. The relationship that is shown here between the father-in-law and daughter-in-law is very unique," he

On what attracted Shringarpure to the show, he says, is of course the story itself. "It is a matter of pride for anyone to be a part of such inspiring stories. Also, the character itself is so strong. Not to mention, the progressive thoughts that the story has to offer, I was instantly attracted towards this role and the show," he says.

There is always a learning lesson when is a part of historical shows, he adds. "People always tell you to forget the past and move on. But when we become a part of such stories, it is then we realise that we shouldn't forget our past, roots, forefathers and what they did for us. It is because of them we are able to live a happy

and independent life," he says. With such roles, he says, comes a lot

of responsibility to do justice to the character. "When one plays a character who is praised like God by a society, there is a lot of things that one has to take care of. This is a huge character and there is a lot of responsibility on my shoulders. As an actor I need to execute it right. Since it is winters, the costume is not an issue. Come April, and then it will be a bit of the body language and mannerisms has to be spot-on. If he is with Ahilya, his tone will be different. He will talk to her like a man does to a girl. But, if he is with the other people, he will speak with authority. Fortunately, I have been blessed with a voice that can do justice to it, hence things get simpler,"

Shringarpure adds that if one has understood the characteristics of the character that he plays, then there is not much to research about. "If you know the characteristics, visualise what you play and then just layer it up," Shringarpure, who debuted with Param Vir Chakra, says. However, acting was never on his cards

"In school and college, I was into dramatics but never thought that I will be in this line. I wanted to join the Defence forces and I was selected as a pilot in the Air Force, but during the medical I got rejected due to some reasons. I was worried what do to next and then I got to know that RK banner was presenting a film Param Vir Chakra. Initially, I was apprehensive and I didn't feel like going to their studio. My friend insisted that I should give it a try. I went there and spoke formally with the director. The first thing about me that striked them was my voice. I didn't tell them the reason of my visit and they told me that I should visit them more often. I took it very positively and made it a point to go there twice a week. But I couldn't open my mouth in front of them, I thought that they should realise what I was there for. It went on for sometime.

One day, I got to know that they need an instructor to train the shortlisted candidates. A jawan came to teach them from Colaba and the director urged me that I should also join him and give commands to people. Then after a few days, a spot boy asked me why am I not playing the role in the film since I was trained enough. Then, the voting happened and everyone on the sets was in the favour of me getting the role. Fortunately, I got that project," he tells you.

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with ARJIT TANEJA, who has recently entered Colors' Naagin 5 as Farishta, about the attraction of doing a fantasy thriller, challenges and how did acting happened with him

#### ■ What made you say yes to play Farishta in Naagin 5?

I have never done a supernatural fantasy show earlier and also I was getting a chance to work with Balaji after three-and-a-half years, so that's what attracted me to the role. Not to mention, that it is different from what I have done till date.

#### ■ What all can the audience expect from this new entry? There is a lot of craze for

Naagin among the audience. I can't reveal the track but I am sure it will be as interesting as it has been all these years with me joining the show as a

#### cameo. ■ Did the role offer any challenges?

The role is challenging because the technique to shoot a fantasy thriller is different from a daily soap. I have never joined a show midway and believe it will be fun and also a learning experience.

#### ■ In all these years, what has been your biggest takeaway from the industry?

I am growing and evolving with every project that I do, not only as an actor but also as a human being. That's my biggest takeaway. I am fortunate enough to have been able to work with such good people all through. I am grateful for whatever I have achieved and my journey is nothing short of amazing.

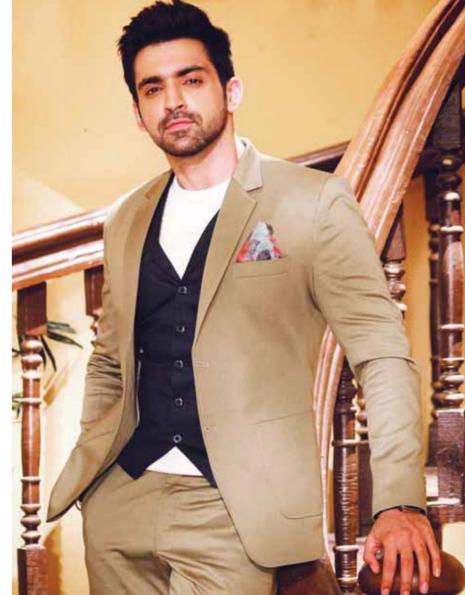
#### ■ You have been a part of a few music videos as well.

How did that happen?

I got an offer, I had time and so I did it. I didn't give it much thought. And the last music video that I did — Ek Dafa To Mil, was shot and directed very well.

#### ■ How did acting happen to

It happened after school. I always wanted to act. I told my parents that I want to go to Mumbai. They were supportive and encouraged my decision. They were happy of what I wanted to do. I came to Mumbai and started



I am growing and evolving with every project that I do, not only as an actor but also as a human being. That's my biggest takeaway from the industry

auditioning. Thankfully, within two months of coming to Mumbai, I got work. There was no struggle that I had to go through because of my parents or any other thing. It all went smooth for me. ■ Did you have any

#### apprehensions?

Not at all. I knew what I wanted to do and I just went with my intuitions. A lot of people are worried about the future and they do want to

have a back-up plan if things didn't go their way. But I was dedicated enough to this craft and that is all I cared about. I was sure things will work out on their own and there was nothing that I was worried

#### about. ■ What next?

There are a few things in the pipeline and I will talk about it and share more details soon as things will get confirmed.

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#### **GRAFT IN LATRINE SCHEME**

# Two OAS officers, JE suspended

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR/ **NABARANGPUR** 

The State Government on Saturday suspended two Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) officers and a Junior Engineer (JE) from their services for their alleged involvement in corruption.

The suspended officials are BDO Lariman Kharsel of Chitrakonda block in Malkangiri district, BDO Debendra Bahadur Singh Dharua of Jharigaon block in Nabarangpur and JE Sunil Samal of Jharigaon block in Nabarangpur.

"Lariman Kharsel has been placed under suspension for

involvement in gross irregularities in execution of Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) programme. Besides. Debendra Bahadur and Sunil Samal have been suspended for their alleged involvement in misappropriation of the entitled money of the same programme," said an official order issued by the Panchayati Raj Drinking Department.

The IHHL scheme is executed under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) pro-

In Nabarangpur district, several beneficiaries had lodged complaints at the Jharigaon police station alleging that the

BDO Dharua took around Rs 5 crore for sanctioning funds under the scheme. The block was sanctioned funds for 26,355 bogs, sources said.

Following the complaints, Nabarangpur DRDA officials, at the instruction of district Collector Dr Ajit Kumar Mishra, visited the villages to inquire into the allegations.

Recently, beneficiaries led by Congress leader and former Nabarangpur MP Pradip Majhi had also lodged complaints at the Jharigaon police station.
All the officers have been

He urged all to develop asked not to leave their headhabit of optimal use of energy quarters without prior perwhich subsequently will help in mission from the concerned protecting the national econo-

SAKSHAM TO

MONTH

Energy".

Bharat"

Bharat".

**CONTINUE FOR A** 

**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

Amonth-long awareness drive, SAKSHAM, by the

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas started on Saturday, which would contin-

ue till February 15. This year's theme is "Green & Clean

delivered his message through

audio visual mode on the occa-

sion. Emphasising upon oil

conservation, he thrust upon

two things, "Ek Bharat Sresth

and "Atmanirvar

 $\check{\mathsf{Governor}}$  Prof Ganeshi Lal

drive kicks off environment to human life, reduce import bill and sustain

Save oil awareness

the ecosystem. The inaugural function was conducted at the Indian Oil Bhavan, here, by chief guest Rajya Sabha member Padma Raghunath Vibhushan

Mohapatra. He stressed upon the need to conserve petroleum products at all costs

State Level Coordinator (SLC), Chief General Manager, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Subhajit Ghosh in his welcome address elaborated on the activities planned to create awareness about oil and gas conservation in the State.

During the one month programme, the oil industries,



jointly with the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), will conduct training programmes for drivers on better driving habits to save fuel.

Workshops will be conducted for housewives at every LPG panchayat on better cooking habits to save LPG. Across the State, quiz, debate and painting competitions will be organised in schools and colleges to emphasise upon the importance of conservation.

#### **UTP** dies at **Jharpada** jail

WAS HELD FOR N'GARH ARMOURY LOOT

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

An under-trial prisoner (UTP) lodged at the Jharpada Special Jail here died due to health complications on Saturday.

The deceased, identified as Rabi Dulla, had been arrested in connection with a looting incident at an armoury in Nayagarh district. He was also accused in crimes like looting weapons after torching the Nayagarh police station, murder and explosion. He was also arrested for his alleged links with Maoists. However, the jail authorities could not be contacted to comment on the

#### Young couple ends life in J'suguda

**PNS** ■ JHARSUGUDA

Ayoung couple consumed poison for unknown reason at Marakuta village under the Sadar police limits in Jharsuguda. While the man died, the woman was admitted to a hospital in a critical con-

The deceased was identified as Gobardhan Oram (30), a resident of Ubuda village under Lakhanpur block in Jharsuguda district. His body was found in bushes near Marakuta village.Later, family members of the deceased reached the spot. Police and a magistrate recorded the statement of the woman, who is currently undergoing treatment at the District Headquarters Hospital.Police said a probe has been initiated into the incident to ascertain the reason for which the cou-

#### JSpur Book Fair held on virtual mode

22nd Jagatsinghgpur Book Fair was put on hold this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic but to mark the occasion a celebration was organised through virtual mode on Friday.

District Collector-cum-

chairman Jagatsinghpur Sanskrutika Parishad Sangram Keshari Mohapatra inaugurated the event in presence of Parishad office bearers and

Joint secretary Sudhir Kumar Mohanty delivered the inaugural speech and spoke on the book fair's history since 2000 without break.

Parishad working president Biplab Choudhury chaired the meeting. A souvenir was released by Collector Mohapatra, besides a few books. Those felicitated included district NIC head Jyoti



Prakash Behera, Sahoo Cable proprietor Bharat Chandra Sahoo and those connected on the occasion through virtual were District Information and Public Relations Officer Kaminiranjan Patnaik and Parishad office bearers Sarada Prasad Das, Ganeswar Mania, Naresh Das, Prasanta Kumar Mohapatra, Mahendra Acharya, Dr Ajaya Kumar Mishra, scribes Pinaki Mohanty, Pradipta Kishor Choudhury, Manoj Dash, Radhakanta Mishra, Duryodhan Moharana, Sasanka Sekhar Panda and

#### **JUBILATION IN ROURKELA**

#### SOS Village kid selected for Doon School

PNS ■ ROURKELA

Rahul Oram of the SOS Children's Village, Rourkela, has been offered admission at the prestigious Doon School in Class-VII.

Rahul is a sincere, well-disciplined and hardworking boy presently studying in Class-VI at the Delhi Public School, Rourkela. Among so many children across India from different NGOs, Rahul could outshine both in the written and the online interviews conducted by subject experts from The Doon School. "Congratulations to entire

Rourkela team consisting of mothers, coworkers and Village Director for making it happen and also to the child Rahul

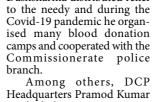


rounds so brilliantly. Indeed Rahul has brought pride and honour to Rourkela and all SOS Children's Villages of India by qualifying the entrance," said Tapan Kumar Suna, Village Director, SOS Children's

#### IRC police branch felicitates Dashsharma

In the Indian Red Cross (IRC) Commissionerate police branch annual general meet on Friday, branch Chairman and Commissioner of Police Sudhansu Sarangi and Vice-Chairman and Additional Commissioner of Police Rekha Lohani felicitated executive committee member Dillip Dashsharma.

During the Phailin cyclone



Dashsharma distributed relief

Patel, Bhubaneswar DCP Uma Shankar Dash and Cuttack DCP Pratik Singh were present. ACP Lalitendu Mohanty coor dinated the function



# EWS admission in pvt schools to get online

**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

The admissions of students under the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) quota in private schools in the State would now get online.

School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash on Saturday said the move aims at bringing in transparency. Earlier, the department had received reports regarding irregularities in admissions at some places in

"We had earlier come across some problems in admissions of students under the EWS quota. The process to

streamline the admission is underway and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will launch it soon," said Dash.
Notably, the Odisha
Abhibhabak Mahasangha has

been demanding a 25-per cent reservation for students belonging to poor and disadvantaged sections in private English medium schools. As per Section 12(1)(c) of

the RTE Act, all specified category or private schools must reserve 25 per cent of their seats for children belonging to EWS from the neighbourhood and provide them admission from Class-I

# 'Kalahandi irrigation project to dry Indravati'

PNS I NABABANGPUR

**Г**MP Parsuram Majhi has alleged that the diversion of Indravati water to Kalahandi district would create water crisis in Nabarangpur district.

Addressing the media a day after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled a mega lift irrigation project in Kalahandi, Majhi said the State Government is neglecting the interest of the farmers of the

Nabarangpur district who are entitled to get water from

Indravati. Government has been using water from Indravati Nabarangpur for irrigation project in neighbouring district. On the other hand, local farmers are deprived of the river water for irrigation, he claimed.

#### **EX-BJP MP N'RANGPUR** PEOPLE TO **FACE WATER CRISIS**

He further said the State overnment had

planned to implement five irrigation projects here but not a single project has been started vet. If the Government failed to start an

irrigation project here soon, the BJP would take to the streets, Majhi warned. Among others, district BIP

president Jagadish.Bisoyi and senior party leader Jhadeswar Khadanga were present.

## Utkal Hospital a site for Covid vaccination



s part of the nationwide Arollout of the Covid vaccine from Saturday, the Utkal Hospital at Ossapada in Tikiri is chosen as a vaccination site for the Tikiri area by the Rayagada district administration. The hospital is a healthcare initiative of UAIL, a unit of Hindalco Industries Limited of the Aditya Birla Group.

The Utkal Hospital fulfils all the criteria like adequate space, trained HR, AEFI kit, bed in observation room, referral mechanism and internet availability for communication

with the block and district headquarters.

Arindham Roychoudary, chief medical officer, Utkal Hospital, was first to take the vaccine. UAIL unit head Beig expressed his gratitude for the frontline workers, the hospital management and staffs who relentlessly battled the Covid crisis.

The UAIL is deeply engaged in executing its CSR activities in peripheral villages in the areas of education, healthcare, sustainable livelihood and rural infrastructure. It is engaged in 57 villages serving over 30,000 populations.

#### Cine scribe Jena no more



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Cenior cine journalist and Seditor of film magazine 'Banichitra' Parikshit Jena passed away on Saturday. He was 79. The Odisha Cine Critics' Association and the Sanskruti O Sanskruti held a condolence meeting for Jena at the Buddha Mandir here. The speakers referred to Jena's immense contribution to Odia cine journalism and his effort to make the 'Banichitra' a major publication for encouragement of the Odia film industry.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Pradosh Patnaik, Dilip Hali, Lutu Mohanty and Shridhar Martha.

#### Temp plummets: 4 places below 10 degrees

BHUBANESWAR: Cold wave again gripped several parts of the State on Saturday with the mercury dipping below 10 degree Celsius at four places in the last 24 hours. Phulbani was followed by Jharsuguda 7.6 degree, Darngbadi 8 degree, Sundargarh 8.5 degree and Keonjhar 9.9 degree. Stations that recorded below 11 degree Celsius are Balangir 10 degree, Sonepur 10.2 degree, Bhawanipatna 10.5 degree and Sambalpur 10.8 degree. Bhubaneswar and Cuttack recorded minimum temperature of 16 and 15 degree, respectively, the Regional Office of IMD here said. Besides, a think blanket of fog enveloped various parts of the State with poor visibility recorded at many places on Saturday morning. At several places, including Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, the foggy condition prevailed till 10.30 am on

#### **Multifaceted** rehab unit **MEDICLUB** opens



**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

 $F^{\text{or orthopaedic, bones, joint,}}_{\text{nerves and ligament prob-}}$ lems wwhichaffect work efficiency of the people, a multifaceted rehabilitation centre, the MEDICLUB, was inaugurated at Niladrivihar with all modern machineries and amenities.

The centre is initiated by Dr Abhishek Kumar Behera and Dr Dinesh Kumar Behera. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Assistant Regional Manager of SBI RC Pattnaik, Niladrivihar Youth and Cultural Association pres-

ident Dr Prakash Chandra Panigrahi, medicine specialist of Sparsh Hospital Dr Sagar Hembrum, former general secretary of Food Corporation of India Arun Kumar Behera and former general secretary of State Bank of India Employees Union Siba Prasad

Behera. Among other facilities the Occupational Therapy, Physio Therapy, Prosthetics and Orthotics (artificial limb) treatments will be made available along with rarely available treatments like Laser Therapy, G-10, Combo Healer and oth-

# Pangolin smuggling rampant in Odisha, save toothless mammals from extinction

**SASMITA LENKA** 

Pangolins are unique toothless mammals. They are the only mammal which has hard keratinous scales on their body. They are myrmecophagus (feeds on ants and termites). Being insectivorous mammals, they feed on eggs, larvae and adults of ants and termites acting as biological pest controlling agents. Their long sticky tongue is used for feeding on insects and devoid of any teeth. They are solitary and remain inactive and hide in their burrows and tree holes during daytime. They roll their body to form a ball-like structure in case they sense the presence of predators in their vicinity. They secrete strong odour through their anal glands that is used in defence.

Pangolins are listed in Schedule I of India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, implying the highest degree of protection, and grouped as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of

Nature (IUCN) Red List. The species is also listed under the Appendix I of the International Convention of Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which prohibits international commercial trade.

Among eight pangolin species globally, four each are found in Asia and Africa. India is home to two species, Chinese pangolin (Manis pentadactyla) and Indian pangolin (Manis crassicaudata). Chinese pangolin is known to occur in northern and northeastern India. Indian pangolin is widely distributed throughout the country except the Himalayan

In February 2020, a study the South China Ágricultural University identified pangolins as the potential intermediate host of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19). The study announced the discovery of a 99% genetic match between the new 2019-nCoV virus and a strain of the virus found in pangolins. We thought that after Covid-19, the trade would reduce but unfortunately in all probability it appears to be the same. The cases of pangolin

poaching are regularly being reported from different places of Odisha. To address this, we need inputs from local people (primary data) to understand the trade and its channels. We need to understand whether it is happening at the local level or if there is an organized network (secondary data).

Pangolin scales and parts are ingredients in prescriptions of traditional Chinese medicine. The scales' uses vary widely, from helping with anorexia, sores, and skin infections to treating infertility in women and promoting lactation. Pangolin scales are composed primarily of keratin, the same substance that makes up hair and fingernails, and no credible scientific evidence exists supporting their efficacy. The pangolin trade is also linked to the narcotics industry. Pangolin scales are pur-

ported to contain a substance



drugs, such as methampheta-Forest officials of

Athagarh in Odisha busted a huge gang of pangolin smugglers during 2019 to 2020 and arrested more than 30 members of the organised network from different parts of the State. Investigations revealed that the accused were trading live pangolins and scales online by forming Whatsapp groups in which videos and photos were shared with customers of outside country and details communicated in codes to conceal the transactions. Trafficking (smuggling) of a highly lucrative business for organised mafias, who exploit poor and vulnerable forest dwelling communities for their criminal interests. This is pushing endangered species into extinction and simultaneously placing these communities at high risk. Pangolins are illegally hunted and traded within Odisha and India while a subset of these is smuggled abroad by trafficking networks. While personal contacts

and networks of grassroots markets run by middlemen enabled wildlife trade, the cyber revolution has enabled widespread access to digital

consequently a sizable chunk of wildlife trade happens via social media, and other online communication media. It is fairly easy to find videos and pictures of threatened and protected species of fauna and flora animals online. Middlemen share these videos and pictures of collected pangolins to their colleagues and contacts online, attracting buyers and therefore enabling the trade. Traffickers and criminal networks are explaining e-commerce websites and social media platforms to trade in illicit wildlife products globally. Based on investigations

platforms since the 2000s, and

and interrogations to the arrested poachers/ smugglers and discussion with community, it is found that the most frequently-used methods for hunting pangolins were 1) identifying and digging the burrow; 2) tracking the foot and tail prints; 3) waiting at the burrow for the animal to emerge and then hitting them with sticks on the head; 4) use

of dogs in tracking them; 5) setting fire to the burrow entrance to smoke the pangolins out; and 6) tracking them at night (since pangolins are nocturnal) . The pangolins are extremely easy to catch once they are sighted. Once the animal is caught, only picking it up, putting it into a sack and carrying it away remains, because pangolins are defenseless and can't attack or defend themselves in any way. Earlier, locals used to kill

the animal straight away, eat its meat and burn or discard the scales'. However, people now realise the commercial value of pangolins in the wildlife trade market, and are trying to keep it alive till they find a buyer and sell it. Pangolins fetch steep prices locally as well as in the international market, and this is the greatest incentive for its hunting. Technology, social media and communication tools play an important role here in facilitating wildlife trade through bringing together the nexus of middlemen and

buyers based in cities and towns with the hunters who are mostly from villages virtually.

The most important players in combating wildlife trade though remain the grassroots communities particularly forest dwelling people who coexist with these species. Unless they are made the main partners in conserving pangolins through community initiatives, the situation may continue to worsen rapidly for pangolins and other endangered species. It is necessary to gain sup-

port from indigenous people to help control the impact of hunting, thereby reducing the supply. The convergence of various stakeholders, most importantly forest dwelling communities, researchers, government departments and NGOs in devising strategies to break the web of poaching and trade is, therefore, essential to save pangolins from extinction.

(The author is a Deputy Conservator of Forests,

# **Vaccination programme** begins in Ganjam



**PNS** ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Covid-19 vaccination drive began in Brahampur and 11 centres in Ganjam district on Saturday. The drive kicked off in all other centres as soon as Prime Minister Modi launched the programme through videoconferencing.

The first vaccine was administered to Dr Sunil Kota at the City Hospital. Dr Kota said, "As my name was chosen

Ganjam district, I feel proud." He said the vaccine is fully safe and does not have any side effects. The people should not be apprehensive to take the

Later, Dr Sunil Agarwal took the shot at the MKCG Medical College Hospital and spoke about his experience to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik though video-conference.

Notably, more than 25,105 Covid warriors had enlisted

their names for getting the vaccine. Presently, there are 16,800 vaccines in the district. On the day, arrangements were made for 1100 people to take the vaccine at the 11 centres. While district Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange, CDMO Uma Shankar Mishra and Commssioner Siddheswar Baliarsingh Bender were present at the City Hospital, RDC T Aao inspected the programme at the MKCG Hospital.

# Mukteswar fest ends with spellbinding Odishi

The three-day Odishi fest at the magnificent Mukteswar Temple ended on Saturday with spellbinding performances of Odishi by renowned dancers of national and international repute showcasing the varied items of Odishi reper-

The evening's programme was started after lighting the lamp by Minister, Odia Language, Literature, Culture and Tourism Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi; Chairperson, OTDC Ltd Shreemaye Mishra, Secretary, Orissa Dance Akademy Guru Aruna Mohanty, Director, TourismSachin Ramachandra Jadhav and Chief Executive, GKCM Odissi Research CentreDr Sangita Gosain.

The first programme of the evening was a chorus in honour of Lord Shiva eulogizing the glory of Lord Shiva presented by eminent music director Guru Srinibas Satapathy

Renowned Odishi hearing impaired danseuse Sonali Mohapatra started her programme with Mangalacharan -Shiva followed by Abhinaya Sajani Go Najani Pirati Jaha Kali choreography by Durga Charan Ranbir and music composition by Sukanta Kumar

Her last item was Pallavi -Raga Saranga choreography by herself and music composition by Guru Nirmal Kumar In duet Sripunya Mohanty and Pratap Barik presented Pallavi - Raga Nagoballi chore ography by Guru Aruna Mohanty, which was followed by Abhinaya Su Mukha Gunakeshi choreography by Guru Aruna Mohanty and music composition by Guru Dhaneswar Swain.

The concluding item of concluding evening was a Group Odishi presentation by Jyotsnarani Sahoo and group of Soor Mandir, Cuttack.

#### 289 administered Covid jab in **JSpur**

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

The anti Covid-19 jab drive for health workers was launched in Jagatsinghpur dis-trict on Saturday. Collector SK Mohapatra

inaugurated the initiative at the District Headquarters Hospital as Prime Minister Narendra Modi rolled out the massive country wide Covid 19 immunization exercise on Saturday.

Four sites of the district such as the DHH and the Balikuda, Raghunathpur and Biridi Community Health Centres [CHCs] were selected for the vaccination and 100 persons were fixed to be immunized in each site.

According to hospital sources, 289 persons were administered Covid –jab out of 400 on the first day, while Raghunathpur CHC achieved hundred percent immunisation target. It was 72 percent in the DHH, 74 percent at Balikuda and 43 at the Biridi CHC. In the DHH, Dr Dharanidhar Senapati was first given Covid 19 vaccine.





ATHAGARH: The "Athagarh Prahari", a weekly newspaper published from here, observed its 20th foundation day on January 14, the day of Makar Sankranti.

With the welcome speech by its Chief Editor Naliniprava Pattnaik, the meeting was coordinated by senior scribe Dinesh Das. Editor Babita Das read out the editorial which was written for the occasion. Well-wishers like Bhaskar Mishra, Prafulla Kumar Pattnaik, Jadunath Pattnaik, Srinath Rath, Ashok Dash, Prasant Pattnaik, Bimbadhar Rout, Ranjan Mohapatra, Pradyumna Dash, Trilochan Behera and Sanatan Ray spoke. General Manager Shailendra Pattnaik proposed the vote of thanks. A oneminute silent prayer was also conducted in fond memory of its founder Narayan Das.

# Nabarangpur farmers block road

#### **PROTEST PROCUREMENT** MESS IN MANDI

MONOHAR MOHANTY ■ NABARANGPUR

The Chandahandi-Umarkote main road was blocked on Saturday due to unrest in four paddy procurement mandis in Chandahandi block of Nabarangpur district.

Hundreds of farmers, led by RMC director and Congress leader Khemaraj Bagh, blocked the road with bags of paddy on the road. It is to be noted that, even though farmers have been keeping paddy in the mandi for about a month, it is alleged that



the paddy of selective farmers is procured due to a nexus.

It is also alleged that the paddy of hundreds of farmers is rejected for various reasons underrated below MSP. Despite repeated complaints, no action has been taken so far and finding no way out the farmers blocked the State highway, said Bagh.

Even after testing the standards and handing them over to the mandi, the millers are still picking up the paddy at their sweet will. The roadblocks will not be lifted until the situation in the mandi is resolved, the protesters said. Hundreds of farmers,

including Humeshwar Hans, Rasik Nag, Pitambar Nayak, Jaydev Nial, Sadananda Kand, Bhuvan Suna, Pitambar Jhankar, Dhansingh Jhankar, Amaru Nayak, and others participated in the road blockade.

#### 5-year-old raped in UP village, rushed to hosp in serious condition

Banda (UP): The condition of a 5-year-old girl, who was allegedly raped in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Banda district, deteriorated after which she was rushed to a hospital in Kanpur for better treatment, police said on Saturday. Chief Medical Officer Uday Bhan Singh said the girl was sent to Singh said the girl was sent to Kanpur for better treatment and undergoing plastic surgery as she was profusely bleeding. The incident took place on Friday night in the village under Girwa police station area, they said

A 23-year-old man has been arrested in this connection, Circle Officer (CO) Nareni Siyaram said.



Ministers and other BJD leaders and people of Bhubaneswar greet Naveen Patnaik at his residence Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar on Saturday for being chosen in a survey as the number one Chief Minister of the country

#### Covid vaccination drive.

From Page 1

In Bhubaneswar, the vac-cination was conducted at six sites, Capital Hospital, Unit IV Hospital, BMC Hospital, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, KIIMS and SUM Hospital.

(SOA) Vice-Chancellor and former All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar Director Dr Ashok Kumar Mahapatra and Capital Hospital Director Dr Lakhmidhar Sahoo were among those who took shots of the vaccine on the first day.

In Cuttack, Barsha Dei, a sanitation worker of the SCB Medical College Hospital, was

first to be administered the vaccine. Additional DMET Dr UK Satapathy and Dr Jayant Panda of the SCB Medical College Hospital were also vac-

The first dose of vaccine was administered to Biswanath Mallick, an attendant of the DHH in Puri. In Sundargarh district, sanitation worker Dilip Nag and senior doctor Dilip Mishra received the vaccine

Notably, the State has received 4.08 lakh doses of Covishield vaccine and 20,000 doses of Covaxin vaccine in the first lot. While 3.38 lakh healthcare workers have been registered for the vaccination, the Government has a target to give first doses of the vaccination to 1.92 lakh healthcare workers within a week using the avail-

#### World has begun to look up to India as a power to reckon with: Singh on vaccination drive

New Delhi: As the country rolled out the world's largest inoculation drive against the coronavirus on Saturday, Union Minister Jitendra Singh hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and said the world has begun to look up to India as Prime Minister Modi has always demonstrated the ability to make

a virtue out of adversity. "In the wake of COVID pandemic, the prime minister has placed India on the path of Atmanirbhar Bharat' and the world has begun to look up to India as a power to reckon with," said Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel.

He said with the announce-

The announcement of early lockdown by PM Modi wav back in March, India was possibly the first to declare a decisive war against the pandemic- **Jitendra Singh** 

Prime Minister Modi way back in March, India was possibly the first to declare a decisive war against the pandemic.

"Today with the launch of vaccination drive, India is possibly the first to herald the beginning of the end of the pandemic. Something which was considered unbelievable to be achieved for a country as populous, as heterogeneous and as

diverse, as India, has been made possible under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Singh told

The emerging scenario, he said, has given the people of India a reinforced sense of selfalso reinforced people's faith and trust in Prime Minister Modi. Singh also lauded India's corona warriors for their enduring fight over the last one He said the pandemic had brought out the best in the Indian medical fraternity and brought to the surface the inner strengths and potentials of Indian medical professionals.

#### CM takes vaccine beneficiaries feedback

Kishore Das said it was a memorable day of health service. In the lakh Covaxin and over 20,000 Covishield vacdifferent centres for in the State.

#### PM to perform ground-breaking ceremony for Ahmedabad, Surat metro projects tomorrow

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will perform the ground-breaking ceremony for the Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project Phase-II and the Surat Metro Rail Project via video-conferencing on

The Prime Minister's Office Health Minister Naba projects will provide an environment-friendly mass rapid transit system to the two cities in Gujarat.

The Ahmedabad Metro Rail first phase, more than 4 Project Phase-II is 28.25 km long with two corridors. The 22.8-kmlong corridor-I is from Motera cines have been sent to Stadium to Mahatma Mandir, while the 5.4-km-long corridor-II vaccination of nearly is from GNLU to GIFT City. The two lakh health workers total completion cost of the Phase-II project is Rs 5,384 crore, a state-

**PMO on Saturday said** the metro projects will provide an environment-friendly

mass rapid transit system to the two ities in Guiar

ment issued by the PMO said.

The Surat Metro Rail Project is 40.35 km long and comprises two corridors. The 21.61-km-long corridor-I is from Sarthana to Dream City, while the 18.74-kmlong corridor-II is from Bhesan to Saroli. The total completion cost of the project is Rs 12,020 crore, the

# Bharat Biotech to pay compensation if Covaxin causes side effects

Hyderabad: Bharat Biotech, which has received a government purchase order for supply of 55 lakh doses of Covaxin, a COVID-19 vaccine, will pay compensation to recipients in case of any 'serious adverse' effects experienced after receiving the antidote.

A consent form to be signed by the vaccine recipients said, "In case of any adverse events or serious adverse events, you will be provided medically recognised standard of care in the government designated and authorised centres and hospitals.""The compensation for serious adverse event will be paid by sponsor (BBIL) in case if the SAE is proven to be causally related to the vaccine," the form said. In phase 1 and 2 clinical trials, Covaxin has demonstrated the ability to produce antidotes against COVID-19.

However the clinical efficacy of the vaccine is yet to be established and it is still being studied in phase 3 clinical trials. "Hence, it is important to appreciate that receiving the vaccine does not mean that other precautions related to COVID-19 need not be followed," it added.

According to an industry expert, the company is liable to pay compensation to people in case of serious side effects caused by the vaccine administered while in the clinical trial mode. The central licensing authority has granted permission for the sale or distribution of Covaxin for restricted use in emergency situations in public interest as an abundant caution, in clinical trial mode. Meanwhile,

Managing Director of Bharat Biotech International Ltd, Suchitra Ella in her twitter account said, "Covaxin & Bharat Biotech is truly humbled & honoured to be of service to the nation & the fraternity of all first responders of covid who have served public health."

Covaxin is a highly purified and inactivated two-dose SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, manufactured in a Vero cell manufacturing platform with an excellent safety track record of more than 300 million doses, the drug maker had said.

Covaxin is India's totally indigenous COVID-19 vaccine developed in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research and National Institute of Virology.

#### Wait for your turn to get vaccinated, beware of rumours: Yogi to people

Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday asked the people to remain alert for rumours regarding COVID-19 vaccines and wait for their turn to get themselves vaccinated.

Healthcare workers at the frontline of India's COVID-19 battle got their first jabs on Saturday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi launching the world's largest vaccination drive against the pandemic. Today is a day of immense

happiness and excitement. India is the first country which has launched two vaccines," Chief Minister Adityanath said here. The chief minister visited

the Balrampur Hospital in Lucknow in the morning and reviewed the vaccination drive where the first doses were administered to Dr Praveen Kumar and staff nurse Geeta Devi. Adityanath also interacted with the staff of the hospital.

"I have just met the health workers who have got vaccinated and they are all fine," he said told newspersons.

"I congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this achievement and thank the scientists of the country. At this point of time, when the country is moving ahead in this battle against a pandemic, some peo-

Lucknow:Uttar Pradesh Chief ple with vested interests are spreading rumours about the coronavirus vaccine," he said.

"There is a need to avoid any kind of rumour and people should wait for their turn. We have also to remain alert for the people who are spreading rumours," the chief minister said. The vaccine developed in the country is very effective and also reasonably priced, he said emphasising the need for people to maintain COVID protocol and social distancing even after getting vaccinated. *PTI*The CM said that vaccina-

tion also carried forward PM Modi's resolution of `Make in

"Those who have been administered the vaccine today will get the second dose after 28 days. People should wait for their turn as everyone's sequence has been set. We have to break the virus chain," he said.

Geeta Devi, the staff nurse of Balrampur hospital, who took the first shot of the vaccine said she was initially scared but after taking the dose, "I am feeling completely fine". According to state Medical and Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh, the vaccination in the first phase started at 317 centres and 31,700 health workers are being vaccinated on the first day.

#### Raghav Chadha conducts door-to-door survey at Sat Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

ontinuing with the devel-Copment work in his constituency, Rajinder Nagar MLA and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) senior leader Raghav Chadha conducted a door-to-door survey of Sat Nagar along with the representatives of BSES, Delhi

Board, Municipal Corporations and Public Works Department and examined issues related to water supply, drainage, electricity and road network.During his visit, Chadha questioned the MCD's lackadaisical approach in resolving residents' issues despite repeated complaints.

"Half the problems of Delhi can be resolved if the MCD begins to take ownership and do its duty properly vis-a-vis, timely action when people lodge complaints. It is unfortunate that the Corporation has failed in its duty towards the

They have not acted on the upkeep of roads; they have not taken any steps towards proper and regular garbage disposal. Their inaction has become a major cause for concern," he

During the combined development survey of Sat Nagar, WEA and 100 quarter, the Rajinder Nagar MLA came across several lanes where garbage was not collected nor had the lanes been cleaned properly. Several residents apprised their elected representative of lack of cleanliness and improper garbage disposal, which eventually becomes a major problem.

Despite their repeated complaints, the MCD had taken no action.Chadha said, "Garbage disposal comes under the purview of the MCD.

The corporation has failed to do any upkeep and maintenance of roads that also comes under its purview. Their abject failure has caused multiple problems to residents. Following this, the Rajinder Nagar MLA issued immediate directions for the affected areas

to be cleaned thoroughly.

During the course of the nearly two-hour development survey, where the Rajinder Nagar MLA went door-todoor and met with residents of Sat Nagar and was apprised of various issues and has now designed a roadmap.

#### Air quality in Delhi touches hazardous level NEW DELHI: Air quality in

Delhi spiked to dangerous levels due to low ventilation and calm surface winds as Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research ( SAFAR) predicted on Saturday. According to the National Ambient Air Quality Index ( NAAQI ), the overall Air Quality Index ( AQI ) was recorded at 492 micrograms per cubic. According to SAFAR, the values of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs) were recorded 436 and 278 microgram per cubic for Particulate Matters ( PM ) 10 and 2.5.SAFAR.



# Roshni scam: CBI books 13 in Pulwama

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has re-registered J&K ACB FIR in connection with the alleged irregularities committed in transfer of land under the Roshni Scheme against 13 persons of Pulwama, including seven then officials posted in the district like the Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama and his subordinates.

The then Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Mehraj Ahmad Kakroo, the then Additional Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama Iftikhar-ul Hasnain, the then Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, Mohammad Rajab Bhatt, the then Tehsildar Mohammad Hussain, the then Naib Tehsildar, Kakpora, Mohammad Ahanger, the then Girdawar, Kakpora, Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh and the then Patwari Halqa, Kakpora, Abdul Razak Wagey have been named in the FIR.

In addition, private persons named in the FIR are Ahmad Pandith, Nabi Naikoo, Mohammad Amin Pandith, Dr Farhat Pandith, Abdul



Majid Sheikh and Ghulam Rasool Wani.

The accused have been booked under Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Ranbir Penal Code and relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

"In pursuance of the J&K High Court, FIR No 29/2015 OF Police Station-VOK, now ACB, J&K is re-registered," reads the FIR.

An audit report of the Principal Accountant General (Audit) alleged irregularities committed in the transfer of land under the Roshni scheme. The report revealed that the officers and officials of Revenue department of Pulwama have by abuse and

with tens of millions of its users

rivals like Signal and Telegram.

originally scheduled to come

into effect on February 8, the

Facebook-owned company

update does not affect data

sĥaring with Facebook with

and how the data of Indian

users can be misused by such

big tech companies," CAIT

The policy change was

It has clarified that the

misuse of their official position as public servants conferred undue pecuniary benefit upon the illegal occupants of state land by arbitrarily fixing the rice of land which was lower than the prevailing market rate of the area, incorrect application of rates and unauthorised change of classification of land from residential to

Verification revealed that the ownership rights of the state land measuring six Kanals, 10 Marlas and four Sirsai was transferred in the name of the six accused persons under Jammu and Kashmir State Land (vesting of ownership) Act, 2001, it

PC slams Centre for stalemate over farm laws

Former Union Minister P Chidambaram on Saturday hit out at the Centre over the impasse on the farm laws, alleging that "no one" was consulted for the legislations, and asserted that the only way out for the Government was to agree to start on a "clean slate". His remarks came a day after the Centre asked protesting farmers to form an informal group to prepare a concrete proposal about their objections and suggestions on the farm laws for further discussion at their next meeting on January 19 to end the long-running protest at various Delhi borders.

The protesting farmer unions, however, stuck to their main demand of a complete repeal of the three legislations. In a series of tweets, Chidambaram said that as expected, another round of talks between the farmers and government has failed.

The fault lies with the Government because it will not agree to get rid of the disputed laws, the former Union minister said. "RTI responses have exposed as a lie the government's claim that there were extensive consultations before the Farm Laws Ordinances were promulgated. The truth is that no one was consulted. In particular, state governments were not consulted," he alleged.

The only way out of the impasse is for the government to admit its mistake and agree to start on a clean slate, Chidambaram said. Thousands of farmers, mostly from Haryana and Punjab, have been protesting at several border points of Delhi since November 28 last year, demanding a repeal of the three laws and a legal guarantee to the minimum support price (MSP) system for their crops.

Enacted in September last year, the three laws have been projected by the Centre as major reforms in the agriculture sector that will remove middlemen and allow farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country.

However, the protesting farmers have expressed their apprehension that the new laws would pave the way for eliminating the safety cushion of the MSP and do away with the "mandi" (wholesale market) system, leaving them at the mercy of big corporates.

To promote desi toy makers, CSC joins hands with AICTE for 'Toycathon-2021'

To promote toy manufac-turing among domestic players, particularly among rural entrepreneurs, the Common Service Centre (CSC), an SPV under the Ministry of Electronics and IT Ministry, has joined hands with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

to organise 'Toycathon-2021'. "Toycathon-2021 is aimed at understanding the creativity among start-ups in rural areas, students and professionals for developing and manufacturing toys. It is a unique opportunity for stu-dents, teachers, start-ups and toy experts/professionals in India to submit their innovative toys/games concepts and win prizes worth Rs.50 lakhs," said CSC Managing Director Dr

Dinesh Tyagi.

Toycathon-2021 is an inter-ministerial initiative involving six ministries. Organised by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell with support from AICTE, the initiative is being support-ed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of MSME, Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Information and



TOYCATHON-2021 IS AN INTER-MINISTERIAL INITIATIVE INVOLVING SIX **MINISTRIES** 

Broadcasting.
Toycathon-2021 will be conducted through CSC Academy, an arm of CSC, at 6,000 block and taluka level where CSC Academies are present. "CSC Academy, a notfor-profit society which delivers specialized courses/training programmes, and promotes entrepreneurship among the rural masses, is best suited for

this unique initiative due to its reach and expertise.

CSC Academies are being utilised to create awareness, promote and conduct Toycathon-2021 in rural areas. The new concepts of toys generated from Tyocathon-2021 might also be useful in solving Tyagi, who is also Secretary of the CSC Academy.

EX-SCBA president

urges Bench to end

election impasse of

lawayers' body

# Plea in SC for directing WhatsApp to withdraw its new privacy policy



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Traders' body CAIT on Saturday filed a petition in the Supreme Court, making a plea to direct WhatsApp to withdraw its new privacy politics.

The body issued a statement claiming that the new WhatsApp privacy policy encroaches upon various fun-

About the petition, the traders" body said it "has also prayed that Union of India must frame guidelines to govern big technology companies like WhatsApp and frame policies which would protect the privacy of citizens and busi-

nesses".

"The Confederation of All regard to personal conversa-India Traders (CAIT) has tions or other profile infortoday filed a petition in the mation and only addresses Supreme Court with the prayer business chats in the event a user converses with a compato direct WhatsApp to withdraw its new privacy policy, ny"s customer service platform through WhatsApp.

"The petition especially highlights the difference of which is encroaching upon various fundamental rights of the citizens granted by Constitution of India," the approach in EU and India countries with respect to the privacy policy of WhatsApp

Meanwhile, WhatsApp has announced delaying by three months the implementation of the new privacy policy that has faced a massive backlash

statement said.

#### SC slaps ₹25K fine on Guj for wasting judicial time

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

agricultural.

The Supreme Court has imposed a fine of₹25,000 on Gujarat for wasting judicial time, irked over the "lethargy and incompetence" of the state government in filing a petition before it after a delay

A bench, headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, pulled up the state for approaching the apex court in a "casual manner" and dis-missed the plea on the ground

It observed that such kind of "certificate cases" are filed with the only objective to obtain a quietus from the top court on the ground that nothing could be done because the highest court had dismissed the appeal.

The petition was filed in the the top court by the state government after a delay of 427 days against an order of the Gujarat High Court passed in March 2019 in a case.

plete a mere formality and save the skin of the officers who may be in default in following the due process or may have done it deliberately. We have deprecated such practice and process and we do so again.

"We refuse to grant such certificates and if the government suffers losses, it is time when concerned officers responsible for the same bear the consequences," said the bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Hrishikesh Roy.

"The irony, emphasised by us repeatedly, is that no action is ever taken against the officers and if the court pushes it, some mild warning is all that happens," the bench said in its order passed earlier this

#### North, north-western parts of country to reel under severe cold for next 3 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{
m here}$  will be no letup in the intense cold and dense to very dense fog conditions in the north and north western parts of the country at least the next three to four days. Dense to very dense fog over north and central India has delayed several trains and rescheduled flights in Delhi, Amritsar and Lucknow on Saturday due to poor to zero visibility.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), zero visibility was reported over Delhi, Lucknow and Amritsar due to variable and calm lower-level winds on Saturday. "Zero visibility shown over Delhi, Lucknow and Amritsar...," the IMD said in a tweet. This is the third time during this winter season that the visibility has dropped to zero in several cities. Dense fog-induced low visibility conditions led to delay of over 40 flights from the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) airport sources, poor visibility conditions and non-compliant CAT III B trained pilots led

to the delays. According Ludhiana, Patiala, Karnal and Aligarh reported visibility-50 meters each at 5.30 pm on Saturday and Bahraich, Gangtok, Cooch Behar-200 each. As regards Delhi and Safdarjung have reported visibility 500 meters while visibility in Palam was reported 1000 meters.

The dense fog is likely to persist on Sunday and Monday as well. "Dense to very dense fog at some/many pockets very likely over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, north Rajasthan; at isolated pockets over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Bihar during the next



two-three days," the IMD said. "This will also lead to dense fog conditions with visibility at below 200 metres in

the morning hours, which can impact the transport and power sectors," it said.

Due to the prevalence of dry north and north-westerly winds, minimum temperatures are likely to fall by 2-4 degrees over most parts of northwest India during the next two days. The cold and chilly winter this year is due to the prevailing La Nina condition which is a weather phenomenon caused Ocean. This has led to the drop in temperature and long spells of cold. Also, the western disturbances brought rains and snowfall in the first week of January which has also impact-

ed the weather. Kuldeep Srivastava, head of regional forecasting at the Regional Meteorological Department in Delhi, said that temperatures will begin to rise from January 19. "The La Nina conditions will persist till the first week of February 2021. We expect day temperatures to gradually increase from January-end which will give some respite to people," he

Dense fog also added to extreme cold in Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday, and the weather office forecast no major change during the next



five days in the prevailing weather conditions. Srinagar city — the summer capital ofjammu and Kashmir recorded a low of minus 8.2 degrees Celsius, down from minus 7.6 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Cold wave conditions prevailed in Punjab and Haryana on Saturday, with Bathinda registering a minimum temperature of 4 degrees Celsius. Among other places in Punjab, Amritsar, Ludhiana and Patiala braved the chill at 6.5, 7.8 and 6.7 degrees Celsius, respecabove normal. In Uttar Pradesh, the low-

est temperature in Uttar Pradesh was 2.6 degrees Celsius, recorded at Churk observatory, while Jhansi registered a high of 24.2 degree Celsius -- the highest in the

Cold wave conditions continued in Himachal Pradesh with Keylong shivering at minus 6.8 degrees Celsius. IMD has predicted dry but cold weather in the state till January 22. Tribal Lahaul and Spiti's administrative centre Reylong continued to be the coldest place in the state at minus 6.8 degrees Celsius, Shimla MeT centre director Manmohan Singh said. Kalpa in Kinnaur district recorded a low of zero degrees Celsius, he

#### CBI suspends its 2 officials for taking bribe

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Days after booking its four personnel for allegedly receiving bribe to compromise on investigation against companies accused of bank fraud, the CBI has suspended two of them —Inspector Kapil Dhankad and Stenographer Samir Kumar Singh — and recommended administrative action against the other two.

Officials said on Saturday that the agency has recom-mended to the Department of Personnel and Training to initiate administrative action against deputy superintendents of police R K Rishi and R K

Sangwan.

The Department of Personnel and Training is the nodal ministry for the CBI, they said.

According to the charges levelled in the eight-page FIR, made public on Friday after the completion of a search opera-Dhankad received bribe money from Sangwan and Rishi, who were soliciting favours for Shree Shyam Pulp and Board Mills, accused in a Rs 700-crore bank fraud case, and Frost International, accused in a Rs 3,600-crore bank fraud case.

The CBI has booked its four personnel, besides two advocates, Additional Director of Shree Shyam Pulp and Board Mills Mandeep Kaur Dhillon and Directors of Frost International Sujay Desai and Uday Desai.

"The CBI has a zero tolerance policy towards corruption, be it other departments or within the organisation. The case is a result of strict vigil and action on any input which indicates involvement of our officials in corrupt practice," an

#### PTI ■ NEW DELHI Former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and senior advocate Vikas Singh

on Saturday requested Chief Justice S A Bobde to constitute a bench to resolve the election stalemate of the professional body of lawyers. He said Dushyant Dave,

who resigned from the post of SCBA president on Thursday, was to constitute the election committee in the first week of November last year as the term of the executive committee was ending on December 13. "He delayed the decision

by a month. Éven after deciding on December 4, he delayed communicating to the election committee by another week. When the EC had already decided to conduct the election virtually, him to call an EC to ratify the election committee decision of appointing NSDL," Singh said in a letter to the Registrar General of the Supreme

"If a hybrid mode (of election) was what they wanted, they should have decided on December 4. Now asking the election committee to defer the election to third week of February is again an attempt by Dave to prolong his tenure till then creating a drama of resignation and then making the EC to reject his decision to resign," the letter stated.

The senior lawyer said all the three members of the the election committee resigned on Friday night as the SCBA refused to accept its decision to hold elections through NSDL, a digital firm.

# Union Home Minister Amit Shah lays foundation stone of Bhadravathi Rapid Action Force Centre in Shivamogga, Karnataka

#### Bird flu in poultry confirmed in 9 districts of Maha: Centre

PNS NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday said L bird flu in poultry has been confirmed in nine districts of Maharashtra, while culling operation in poultry is underway in one district each in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Apart from poultry, the viral disease has been confirmed in crow in Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, while in pigeon, brown fish owl and Heron in

The Ministry of Animal Husbandry on Saturday said that Avian Influenza has been confirmed in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh (crow); Surat, Navsari and Narmada districts of Gujarat (crow); Dehradun district of Uttarakhand (crow); Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh (crow). Additionally, in Delhi, Pigeon and brown fish owl in Najafgarh and Heron in Rohini have tested positive for avian influenza. "Till 16 January,

2021 cases of Avian Influenza have been confirmed in poultry in Latur, Parbhani, Nanded, Pune, Solapur, Yavatmal, Ahmednagar, Beed and Raigad districts of Maharashtra," it

However, the ministry again requested state governments to "rethink" their decisions to impose ban sale of poultry products and allow sale of poultry items sourced from the non-infected areas/states.

As per the report, received Central Poultry from Development Organisation Mumbai, unusual mortality of poultry have been found in the farm. The samples have been sent to the designated laboratory for testing.

The ministry has again

asked the states to rethink their decisions to impose ban on sale of poultry and poultry products and allow selling of poultry and poultry products sourced from the non-infected areas/States

#### Nepal never accepts interference in domestic politics: Nepalese Foreign Minister Gyawali

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

 $N_{
m interference}^{
m epal}$  does not accept domestic politics as it is capable of handling its internal problems, Nepalese Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali said on Saturday, in comments that came against the backdrop of China wading into the political turmoil in the Himalayan nation following the dissolution of its

parliament Gyawali's assertion came at a media interaction when asked about China's attempt to play a role in the aftermath of fast-paced political developments in Nepal last month

"We never accept interference in our domestic politics. We are able to settle our own problems. As a close neighbour, there may be some concerns or questions but we never accept foreign minister said.

Nepal plunged into a political turmoil following Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's sudden decision to dissolve parliament and call for fresh elections in view of internal feud in the ruling

Nepal Communist Party

(NČP). As the crisis deepened, China rushed a high-level team headed by Vice Minister of the International Department Communist Party of China (CPC) Guo Yezhou to Kathmandu to hold talks with the rival factions within the NCP after the Chinese ambassador in the country failed to sort out differ-

The team held talks with almost all top Nepalese leaders but had to return empty handed. The Chinese meddling in Nepalese political developments triggered strong

Gyawali said Nepal's relations with both India and China are excellent and that it never compares ties with each

Asked about the political crisis and role of NCP leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal who is popularly known as Prachanda, Gyawali refused to make any direct comment and said as foreign minister of the country, he represents everyone in Nepal.

At the same time, the Nepalese foreign minister justified Oli's decision to dissolve parliament saying he followed the democratic principle of seeking fresh mandate from the people whose decisions are supreme in a democracy.

"In democracy, people are the final authority to decide about who will govern. I think dissolution of the parliament is a reflection of the internal issue. It is not wise to blame anybody," Gyawali said.

# **Biden plans to give jabs to** 30% nationals in 100 days

an ambitious goal of inoculating 100 million of total 331 million Americans with Covid-19 vaccines in the first 100 days of his administration, noting the vaccine rollout in the country, the worst hit by the pandemic, has been a "dismal failure."

Ahead of his inauguration on January 20, Biden on Friday held a briefing with his team on addressing the major health crisis that has engulfed the nation for nearly a year now.

The US is the worst-affected country in the world with more than 23,523,000 COVID-19 infections and 391,955 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus tracker.

During his election campaign, Biden, a Democrat, made tackling COVID-19 and the economic hardships it had put on Americans a core pitch

"The vaccine rollout in the United States has been a dismal failure thus far and in today's briefing we discussed five things, five things we will do in an attempt to turn things



around, five things to turn frustration into motivation, five things to help us meet our goal of 100 million shots by the end of our first 100 days in office. Some wonder if we are reaching too far for that goal. Is it achievable? It's a legitimate question to ask," Biden told reporters in Wilmington,

"Let me be clear; I am convinced we can get it done, and this is the time to set big goals to pursue them with courage and conviction because the health of the nation is literally at stake. First, we will immediately work with states to open up vaccinations to more priority groups," he said.

Biden said that the process of establishing priority groups is driven by science, but the problem is the implementation has been too rigid and confusing.

"If you were to ask most people today, they couldn't tell you who exactly is getting vaccinated. What they do know is there are tens of millions of doses of vaccine sitting unused in freezers around the country while people who want and need the vaccine can't get it," he said.

#### Pence congratulates Harris, offers peaceful transition of powers

President Mike Pence has called his soon-to-be successor Kamala Harris to congratulate her and offer his full co-operation in the transition of power, according to multiple media

However, there has been no communication between outgoing President Donald Trump and president-elect Joe Biden, which is unprecedented in recent memory.

"Vice President Mike Pence telephoned Vice President-elect Kamala Harris Thursday to congratulate her and offer his belated assistance — filling a leadership role all but abdicated by President Trump, who is planning to fly out of the capital shortly before Joseph R Biden Jr is sworn in next week," The New York Times reported.

Friday's call was the first time Pence, 61, and Harris, 56, had an one-to-one conversation since their vice presidential debate in October last year. It was also the first direct contact between the two leaders since the November 3 presidential

The traditional in-person meeting between the outgoing president and the president-elect has not happened. Same is the case with the outgoing vice president and his successor.

In a rare departure from the tradition, Trump has announced that he will not attend Biden's inauguration on January 6. Trump would depart the White House for his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida just before the inauguration.

Though Trump has still refused to actually concede his 2020 election loss to Biden, he promised that a "peaceful transition" of power would take

He was impeached on Wednesday for inciting the Capitol Hill riot that stemmed from his unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud. The deadly insurrection at the Capitol on January 6 by Trump's supporters, who unsuccessfully tried to stop Congress from certifying Biden's win, resulted in the deaths of five people, including a police

#### **Trump admin** carries out 13th and final execution

Terre Haute (US): The Trump administration has carried out its 13th federal execution since July, an unprecedented run that concluded just five days before the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden — an opponent of the federal death

Dustin Higgs, convicted in the killings of three women in a Maryland wildlife refuge in 1996, was the third to receive a lethal injection this week at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana.

President Donald Trump's Justice Department resumed federal executions last year following a 17-year hiatus. No president in more than 120 years had overseen as many

Higgs, 48, was pronounced dead at 1:23 am on Friday.

The number of federal death sentences carried out under Trump since 2020 is more than in the previous 56 years combined, reducing the number of prisoners on federal death row by nearly a quarter. AP

# Woman arrested in Capitol attack: 'I listen to my Prez'

A Dallas-area real estate Agent who is facing charges for allegedly being part of the pro-President Donald Trump mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol last worked and the control of the cont week said she's a "normal person" who listened to her pres-

Jenna Ryan, 50, is accused of "knowingly" entering or remaining in the restricted building or grounds without lawful authority and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds on Jan. 6, according to a criminal complaint filed by the FBI in a Washington federal court.

Matt DeSarno, special agent in charge of the FBI Dallas office, confirmed that Ryan had turned herself in and that her Carrollton apartment was searched Friday. No personal telephone for Ryan was available, and court records didn't list a lawyer for her as of Friday.

Ryan shared photos and videos on social media, includ-

ing a video in which she says, "We're gonna go down and storm the Capitol," in front of a bathroom mirror, according

to the FBI criminal complaint.
The agent who signed the complaint also noted that Ryan live-streamed a 21-minute Facebook video of her and a group walking toward the

Capitol.

"We are going to (expletive) go in here," Ryan said in the video as she approached the top of the stairs on the west side of the Capitol building. "Life or death, it doesn't matter. Here we go." She then turned the camera to expose her face, the complaint noted, and said, "Y'all know who to hire for your Realtor, Jenna Ryan for your Realtor."

Nearly halfway through, Ryan appears to have made it to the front door, chanting, "USA, USA" and "Here we are, in the name of Jesus." In an interview with KTVT-TV in Fort Worth, Ryan said she hoped that Trump would par-

#### European powers press Iran to back off latest nuke move

Berlin: Germany, France and Britain pressed Iran on Saturday to back off the latest planned violation of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, saying that Tehran has "no credible civilian use" for uranium metal.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said Thursday Iran had informed it that it had begun installing equipment for the production of uranium metal. It said Tehran maintains its plans to conduct research and development on uranium metal production are part of its "declared aim to design an improved type of fuel."

Uranium metal can also be used for a nuclear bomb, however, and research on its production is specifically prohibited under the nuclear deal the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

- that Tehran signed with Germany, France, Britain, China, Russia and the United States in 2015.

Since the unilateral American withdrawal from the deal in 2018, the other members have been working to preserve the accord. Iran has been using violations of the deal to put pressure on the other signatories to provide more incentives to Iran to offset crippling American sanctions re-imposed after the US pullout.

A joint statement from the German, French and British foreign ministries said they are "deeply concerned" by the latest Iranian announcement.

"Iran has no credible civilian use for uranium metal," it said. "The production of uranium metal has potentially grave military implications."

AP

enemy bases." Iranian state television described the drill as

#### Iranian Guard holds anti-warship ballistic missile drill

**Tehran:** Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard conducted a drill Saturday launching anti-warship ballistic missiles at a simulated target in the Indian Ocean, state television reported, amid heightened tensions over Tehran's nuclear programme and a US pressure campaign against the Islamic Republic.

Footage showed two missiles smash into a target that Iranian state television described as "hypothetical hostile enemy ships" at a distance of 1,800 kilometers (1,120 miles). The report did not specify the type of missiles used.

In the first phase of the drill Friday, the Guard's aerospace division launched surface-tosurface ballistic missiles and drones against "hypothetical

taking place in the country's vast central desert, the latest in a series of snap exercises called amid the escalating tensions over its nuclear programme. Footage also showed four unmanned, triangle-shaped drones flying in a tight formation, smashing into targets and exploding. Tensions between Washington and Tehran have increased amid a series of incidents stemming from President Donald Trump's unilateral withdrawal from Íran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Amid Trump's final days as president, Tehran has recently seized a South Korean oil tanker and begun enriching uranium closer to weapons-grade levels, while the US has sent B-52 bombers, the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier and a nuclear submarine into the region.

#### **Uganda says Prez wins 6th term** Bobi Wine alleges vote rigging

Kampala: Uganda's electoral commission says longtime President Yoweri Museveni has won a sixth term while top Opposition challenger Bobi Wine alleges rigging and officials struggle to explain how polling results were compiled amid an internet blackout.

In a generational clash widely watched across the African continent, with a booming young population and a host of aging leaders, the 38-year-old singer-turnedlawmaker Wine posed arguably the greatest challenge yet to Museveni. He had strong support in urban centers where . frustration with unemployment and corruption is high.

The electoral commission said Museveni received 58% of ballots and Wine 34%, and voter turnout was 52%.



Uganda on Saturday

diplomat to Africa has called the electoral process "fundamentally flawed? Thursday's vote followed

the East African country's worst pre-election violence since the 76-year-old Museveni took office in 1986. Wine and other opposition candidates were often harassed, and more The top United States than 50 people were killed

when security forces put down riots in November over Wines arrest. Wine petitioned the International Criminal Court this month over alleged torture and other abuses by security

While the president holds on to power, at least 15 of his Cabinet ministers, including the vice president, were voted

didates from Wines party, local media reported.

Wine claimed victory Friday, asserting that he had video evidence of vote-rigging and saying "every legal option is on the table" to challenge the official election results, including peaceful protests. Candidates can challenge election results at the Supreme

Hours later, he tweeted that the military had entered his home compound and "we are in serious trouble," which a military spokeswoman denied. Wine, whose real name is Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, was roughed up and arrested several times while campaigning but was never convicted, and eventually he campaigned wearing a flak jacket and said he feared for his life.

A heavy presence of security forces remained around his home, where he has said he was alone with his wife and a single security guard.

# Pragmatic Governor Laschet | Another UN peacekeeper

Berlin: Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right party on Saturday chose Armin Laschet, the pragmatic Governor of Germany's most populous state, as its new leader — sending a signal of continuity months before an election in which voters will decide who becomes the new chancellor.

Laschet defeated Friedrich Merz, a conservative and onetime Merkel rival, at an online convention of the Christian Democratic Union, Laschet won 521 votes to Merz's 466; a third candidate, prominent lawmaker Norbert Roettgen, was eliminated in a first round of voting.

Saturday's vote isn't the final word on who will run as

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client inlends to entered into a agreement in respect of Plot No 2/20, land measuring 265 Sq.Yds., Lane

No.1 & 2, Anupam Garden, New Delhi

(hereinafter referred to as 'Schedule Property') with Mr. Nitin Kohli son of Shri S.L. Kohli. It is hereby informed to the general public that any

person/bank/financial institutions etc. having an

ICICI BANK LTD.....Applicant MUKUL SHAH......Respondent

DEFENDENT Mukul Shah S/o. Ripudaman Shah Prop. Goldline

Corporation (Borrower) 105, Ground Floor, Sector-83, Noida, UP - 201301

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has

whereas the above named applicant (s) has have instituted a case for recovery of Rs 27,34,851 (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty One Only against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to

the center-right candidate for chancellor in Germany's Sept. 26 election, but Laschet will either run for chancellor or will have a big say in who does.

Merkel, who has been chancellor since 2005, announced in late 2018 that she wouldn't seek a fifth term. She also stepped down from the CDU leadership. The decision ends an 11-

month leadership limbo in Germany's strongest party after outgoing leader Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, who had failed to impose her authority on the party, announced her resignation. A vote on her successor was delayed twice because of the coronavirus pandemic.

There had been no clear

favorite going into Saturday's convention, but the election of Merz would have marked at least a symbolic break with the Merkel era. Laschet will now have to work to strengthen party unity - something Kramp-Karrenbauer struggled

Laschet, 59, was elected in 2017 as governor of North Rhine-Westphalia state, a traditionally center-left stronghold. He governs the region in a coalition with the pro-business Free Democrats, the CDU's traditional ally on the right, but would likely be able to work smoothly with a more liberal partner, too.

Laschet pointed Saturday to the value of continuity and moderation.

# elected to lead Merkel's party killed in Mali, 5th in a week

Dakar: A United Nations peacekeeper from Egypt was killed in Mali's northern Kidal region on Friday, and another was seriously injured, after their vehicle hit an explosive device during a logistics convoy, the UN said.

It brought the toll to five UN peacekeepers killed in

**Sudan imposes** 

curfew in West

deadly clashes

Cairo: Sudanese authorities on

Saturday imposed a round-

the-clock curfew in the entire

West Darfur province after

tribal clashes between Arabs

and non-Arabs killed at least

six people and wounded at

al-Douma said the curfew

began Saturday and would

last until further notice, and

includes the closure of all

markets and a ban on gather-

ings across the province. Al-

Douma also granted security

forces and soldiers a mandate

to use force to control the sit-

uation, according to decrees

obtained by The Associated

weeks after the U.N. Security

Council ended the joint U.N.-

African Union peacekeeping

force's mandate in the Darfur

region, following pressure

from Sudan's transitional gov-

ernment, Russia and other

African nations. The Darfur

region remains scarred by war

after a rebellion in the early

2000s was brutally suppressed.

in Genena, West Darfur's

provincial capital, when a man

was killed at a market in the

Krinding camp for internally

The clashes erupted Friday

The violence comes two

Gov. Mohammed Abdalla

least 28 others.

**Darfur amid** 

northern Mali in just a week. Another explosive device was found at the scene in

Tessalit and disabled, the UN

mission in Mali said late Friday.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday strongly condemned the attack and said attacks against peacekeepers may constitute war Dujarric said.

Four peacekeepers from Ivory Coast died from an improvised explosive device and an attack Wednesday by unidentified gunmen in the Timbuktu region.

The UN said six were wounded.

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction o inancial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 04-02-2021, 11:30

A.M. at Axis House,Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128,Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs. 48,75,844/- due as on 13-01-2021 along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Mr. Monish Paul. The reserv

Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets possessed and put for sale PHR07920

price will be Rs. 25,49,532/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 2,54,953.2/-.

Flat No. T15-201 on Second Floor of Tower 15, having a supe area of 1225 Sq. Fts. (113.805 Sq. Mtrs.) situated in Group Housing Project known as Park Floors, Sector-76, Faridabar Haryana, alongwith the proportionate, undivided, impartible share only in the land underneath the said building in which the said unit is located, together with the right to use and access a common areas, paths, passages, benefits, and advantages appurtenant whatsoever to the said unit or any part thereof and to hold the same unto and to the use of the Vendee Situated within the revenue estate of VIlage Fajjupur Majra, Nimka, Sub

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's

Date: 17-01-2021, Place: Faridabad

43 Key for Brake Shoe

Tehsil Tiagaon, Distt. Faridabad, Haryana

Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.

T.Q.D.

25780 Nos. 12.02.2021

#### Nepali team first to top world's 2nd tallest peak in winter

claim, charge, mortgage, right, title & interest etc in respect thereof, are hereby requested to inform the undersigned in writing by Registered Posi A.D. at Kaushik & Associates, M-52-A, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi alongwith supported documents within a period of fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the Nepalese climbers on Saturday claim of such persons will be deemed to have waived and / or abandoned & our client shall proceed to complete the proposed transaction (Advocate : Sachin Kumar ) M-52A, Malviya Nagar, ND-17 # 9911363700, 9858150000 official said. BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING PARLIAMENT STREET. NEW DELHI-110001. OA NO.: 678/19 DATE: 28.09.2020

Alpine Club, Karrar Haideri, said 10 Nepali Sherpas reached the summit around 5 pm. At 8,611 metres (28,251

the Himalayan range, and the on K2 can blow at more than 200 kilometers per hour (125 miles per hour) and temperatures drop to minus 60 degrees

serve you in ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 27.01.2021 at 10.30A.M. Take notice that in default of your appearance of the day before the mentioned, the case will be hear and determined in your absence.

Seal By Order of this Tribunal For Registrar, DRT-II, Delhi

Islamabad: A team of He added that four international climbing teams had

made history by scaling the world's second highest peak — Pakistan's K2 — in the winter season, a local Alpine Club The secretary of Pakistan's

feet), K2 is the most prominent peak on the Pakistani side of world's second tallest after Mount Everest. Winter winds

Celsius (minus 76 Fahrenheit). 'This was never done by anyone before in winter," said

arrived about a month ago to try scaling K2 — the last peak above 8,000 meters in the world to not be climbed in the winter. Of these dozens of climbers, the group of 10 Nepalis have so far been the only successful team, said Since the maiden attempt

back in 1988, just a handful of winter expeditions have been the Himalayas.

attempted on the storied 8,611-metre peak in the Karakoram range along the Chinese border that leads into Haideri said no mountaineers had reached higher than 7,750 metres, until

Saturday when fair weather

conditions allowed the

climbers to push ahead.  $AP \mid$  displaced people.

#### **SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL**



General public is here by informed that one girl Namely: Dropdi, D/o Maha Nand Mandal, R/o Jhuggi E 406, Kishan Kuni, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi. Age: 13 years, Height: 152 C.M. Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black Kurta & Pink Paiama has been missing since 11.09.2019.

from the area of PS. Laxmi Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a FIR No. 292/19, dated 11.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this 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.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Website: http://cbi.nic.in Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

P.S. Laxmi Nagar, Delhi Ph. 011-22542441, 8750870622 DP/331/ED/2021

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE** It is publically notified that the residential house No B-53B, Sector-19, Noida, Distt, Gautam

Budh Nagar, U.P, allottee G.L Wadhwa S/o Sh Karam Chand Wadhwa R/o Quarter No. 66 Type-II, ESIC Colony, Basaidarapur, New Delhi nad sold on the basis of General Power of Attorney to the following persons. The General of attorney was registered on dated 03.05.1988 in the name of Mr. Mahender Pal Singh S/o Sh. Kishan Singh Adhikari R/o House No. B-53B, Sector-19, Noida and agreement to sell is not executed.

Because agreement to sell is not executed so i is publically notified that the transfer of the property bearing residential house No. B-53B, Sector-19, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P is going to transfer through G.P.A in the The above information is also available on the company's website www.sportking.co.in and name of Mrs. Basanti Adhikari W/o Mahende Noida, Distt, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.

If some one has any objection he/she file his/he objection along with the sufficient proof in the nousing Department of Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice

# SPORTKING INDIA LTD. CIN: L17122DL1989PLC035050 Regd. Off.: 5/69, First Floor, Guru Mansion, Padam Singh Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005 Phone: 011-25754885 Website: www.sportking.co.in, Email: cs@sportking.co.in

17 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the company is scheduled to be held on Saturday, 23rd January 2021, to consider and to take on ecord, inter alia, the Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended 31st December 2020.

on the website of Stock Exchange i.e. BSE

For Sportking India Limited

NOTICE

Munish Avasthi Place: Ludhiana Managing Director Date : 16.01.2021 DIN : 00442425

#### **WESTERN RAILWAY** E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/02/2021 Date 13.01.2021 Quantity Short Description of Item 21 Ball Joint Traction Lever 192 Nos. 25.01.2021 22 Rubber Spring 96 Nos. 25.01.2021

23 Set of High Tensile Hex Head Bolt 703 Nos. 29.01.2021 24 Locking Bracket 3559 Nos. 29.01.2021 25 Non Contract Tonometer 1 No. 29.01.2021 34 Set 30.01.2021 Intermediate Overhauling Kit Mobilux EP2 Grease 150 Kg. 30.01.2021 28 64 Teeth Gear Wheel 9 Nos. 01.02.2021 Insulin Analogue Aspart/Lispro 100iu/ml -3ml 11291 Nos. 01.02.2021 cartridge 2Nos. 02.02.2021 Power Supply Gate Unit (GUSP) 39 Set 02.02.2021 Air Brake Equipment 1 No. 02.02.2021 Heart Lung Machine CVTS Instruments 29 items 02.02.2021 BECU Speed Sensor Type 14 Nos. 03.02.2021 1350 Kg. 03.02.2021 Lubricating Coating Paper Duplicating White Semi 1000 Ream 04.02.2021 16500 Kg 05.02.2021 Slip Free Finish Strainless Steel Chequered Sheet 56 Set 06.02.2021 Set of Axle Box Assly. Complete 20 Nos. 08.02.2021 Tapered Roller Bearing Ophthalmic Operating Table 2 Nos. 08.02.2021 41 Hex Head Bolt M12x70 High Tensile 25460 Nos. 10.02.2021 42 Ball Joint Roll 180 Nos. 11.02.2021

CORRIGENDUM: Please visit www.ireps.gov.in for corrigendum issued to following tender Sr.No.811 of Tender Notice No. S/31/2020 Dt. 22.12.2020 (Constant Voltage Regulated cum Emergency Battery Charger). Regarding detailed notice, EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in. and

www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in. For Principal Chief Materials Manager

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# PM announces ₹1,000-cr 'Startup India Seed Fund'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday PModi on Saturday announced the launch of Rs 1,000-crore 'Startup India Seed Fund' to support startups and help budding entrepreneurs pursue innovative ideas.

Addressing the 'Prarambh: Startup India International Summit', Modi exuded confidence that the growth of startups will help in generating jobs and improving lives of people in the region.

"In order to provide initial capital for startups, the nation is launching a Rs 1,000 crore Startup India Seed Fund. This will help in setting up new startups and promote their growth," the Prime Minister

The summit marked the fifth anniversary of the Startup India initiative launched by Modi on this day in 2016.



The government, Modi added, has been implementing the Fund of Fund Scheme to help startups raise equity capital. Going forward, the government will also help startups in raising debt capital, he added. India, the Prime Minister said, is home to the world's third largest startup ecosystem which has helped several budding entrepreneurs to come up with innovative

technologies and become big

He further said that startups in India are not limited to big cities and about 40 per cent of such budding entrepreneurs are coming from tier-II and -III cities. Modi said in 2014 there were only four startups in the unicorn club, but today there are more than 30.

He informed that 11 startups entered the unicorn club in 2020 itself. India is the world's third largest startup ecosystem. There are over 41,000 startups in the country.

RBI remains steadfast to take any further measures to support growth: Das

 $R^{
m eserve\ Bank\ of\ India\ (RBI)}_{
m Governor\ Shaktikanta\ Das}$ on Saturday said the central bank remains steadfast to take any further measures as may be required to support growth without compromising on financial stability.

Palkhivala Memorial Lecture, the governor said the principal objective during the pandemic period was to support economic activity; and looking back, it is evident that policies of the RBI have helped in easing the severity of the economic ing the severity of the economic impact of the pandemic.
"I would like to unam-

biguously reiterate that the Reserve Bank remains steadfast to take any further measures, as may be necessary, while at the same time remaining fully committed to maintaining financial stability," he said. In a bid to maintain finan-

cial stability, Das emphasised the need for banks to raise resources in advance as a

Going ahead, he said,

have to walk a tightrope in nurturing the economic recovery within the overarching objective of preserving long-term stability of the financial system.

The current COVID-19 pandemic related shock will place greater pressure on the balance sheets of banks in terms of non-performing assets, leading to erosion of capital, he said, adding building buffers and raising capital by banks – both in the public and private sector – will be crucial not only to ensure credit flow but also to build resilience in the financial system.

"We have advised all banks, large non-deposit taking NBFCs and all deposit-taking NBFCs to assess the impact of COVID-19 on their balance sheet, asset quality, liquidity, capital adequacy, and work out possible mitigation measures, including capital planning, capital raising, and contingency liquidity planning, among others," he said.

Prudently, a few large public sector banks (PSBs) and major private sector banks

(PVBs) have already raised capital, and some have plans to raise further resources taking advantage of benign financial conditions."This process needs to be put on the fast track," he added. The governor said recent experience across countries during the pandemic suggest that banks, non-banks, financial markets and payment systems remain at the core of financial stability issues, there was a need to work much closer at the system in its entirety.

"In this sense, the overall objective of financial stability policies should be closely intertwined with the health of the real economy," he noted.

The financial stability needs to be seen in a broader perspective and must include not just the stability of the financial system and price stability but also 'fiscal sustainability and external sector viability, Das said.

Noting that good governance will have to be supported by effective risk management functions and assurance mechanisms, he said banks and non-banking finance institutions need to identify risks early, monitor them closely and manage them effectively.

The risk management function in banks and NBFCs should evolve with changing times as technology becomes all-pervasive and should be in sync with international best practices. In this context, instilling an appropriate risk culture in the organisation is important," he said.

A robust assurance mechanism by way of internal audit function was another important component of sound corporate governance and risk management, Das said, adding it provides independent evaluation and assurance to the Board that the "operations were performed in accordance with set policies and proce-

He said the central bank has already taken a number of measures and would continue to do so. "Recent efforts in this direction were geared towards enhancing the role and stature of compliance and internal audit functions in banks by clarifying supervisor expectations and aligning the guidelines with best practices.

"Some more measures on improving governance in banks and NBFCs are in the pipeline,"

# CAIT moves SC over WhatsApp's new privacy policy

the Supreme Court, making a plea to direct WhatsApp to withdraw its new privacy policy The body issued a statement claiming that the new WhatsApp privacy policy encroaches upon various fundamental rights of the citizens.

About the petition, the traders' body said it "has also prayed that Union of India must frame guidelines to govern big technology companies like WhatsApp and frame policies which would protect the privacy of citizens and busi-

Traders' body CAIT on Saturday filed a petition in the Supreme Court making. Supreme Court with the prayer to direct WhatsApp to withdraw its new privacy policy, which is encroaching upon various fundamental rights of the citizens granted by Constitution of India," the statement said. Meanwhile, WhatsApp has announced delaying by three months the implementation of the new privacy policy that has faced a massive backlash with tens of millions of its users moving from the platform to rivals like

#### Finmin looks at BIC model after RBI raises concern over zero coupon bonds for PSBs recap

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the RBI raising concern over the issuance of zero coupon bonds for recapitalisation of public sector banks (PSBs), the Finance Ministry is examining other avenues for affordable capital infusion including setting up of a Bank Investment Company (BIC), sources

said. Setting up a BIC as a holding company or a core investment company was suggested by the P J Nayak Committee in its report on 'Governance of Boards of Banks in India'. The report recommended

transferring shares of the government in the banks to the BIC which would become the parent holding company of all these banks, as a result of this,

all the PSBs would become 'limited' banks. BIC will be autonomous and it will have the power to appoint the board of directors and make other policy decisions about subsidiaries.

The idea of BIC, which will serve as a super holding company, was also discussed at the first Gyan Sangam bankers' retreat organised in 2014, sources said, adding it was proposed that the holding company would look into the capital needs of banks and arrange funds for them without government support.

It would also look at alternative ways of raising capital such as the sale of non-voting shares in a bid to garner affordable capital.

With this in place, the

dependence of PSBs on gov-ernment support would also come down and ease fiscal

To save interest burden and ease the fiscal pressure, the government decided to issue zero-coupon bonds for meeting the capital needs of the banks.

The first test case of the new mechanism was a capital infusion of Rs 5,500 crore into Punjab & Sind Bank by issuing zero-coupon bonds of six different maturities last year. These special securities with tenure of 10-15 years are noninterest bearing and valued at

However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expressed concerns over zero-coupon bonds for the recapitalisation of

#### HDFC Bank Q3 profit rises 14.36 pc to ₹8,760 cr; asset quality stable new chief executive and man-

 $\Gamma$ he country's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a 14.36 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to ₹8,760 crore for the December quarter, driven by a surge in core income.

At the standalone level, net profit for the three-month period grew 18.09 per cent to ₹8,758.29 crore, on the back of a 15.1 per cent growth in the core net interest income at ₹ 16,317 crore. Its deposits grew 19.1 per cent and the share of low-cost current and savings account deposits was 43 per cent. HDFC Bank is the first major lender to declare its results for the December quarter. This is also the maiden earnings declaration under

aging director Sashidhar Jagdishan, who succeeded Aditya Puri as the head of the bank. The bank's credit growth came at 15.6 per cent, while the net interest margin was 4.2 per cent. The non-interest income grew 11 per cent to ₹7,443 crore, largely on the back of a gain or revaluation in an investment at ₹1,109 crore, which stood at ₹676 crore in the year-ago period.

The results showed an improvement in the asset quality with the gross non-performing assets ratio stood at 0.81 per cent of the total assets as against 1.42 per cent in the year-ago period and 1.08 per cent at the end of the preceding September quarter, the

Supreme Court order asking banks not to classify stress during the moratorium period in NPA computation, the GNPA ratio would have been at 1.38 per cent, it added.Its overall provisions and contingencies for the reporting quarter, which saw the economy trying to recover from the reverses of the pandemic, grew to ₹3,414 crore as against ₹3,043 crore in the year-ago It held contingent provi-

sions of ₹8,656 crore and floating provisions of ₹1,451 crore as of Dec 31.It said 0.5 per cent of its ₹10.82 lakh crore in advances have been restructured under the special scheme announced by the RBI to han-

#### Stockbrokers seek rationalisation of tax structure for capital market

IANS NEW DELHI

As the Union Budget for FY21-22 nears, stockbrokers have sought rationalisation and streamlining of the structure for the capital market.

The industry body stockbrokers Association of National (ANMI) has written to Central Bank Direct Taxation (CBDT) on doing away with the multi-

Sub: Extension No. 02.

extended as per the details given below:-

Period of downloading of

Bid submission Start Date

Bid submission End Date

Date and time of Opening of

bidding document

aforesaid Tender Notice.

No. DIPK-11831/20 Dated:- 16-01-2021

**Tenders** 

ple classification system for calculating tax on capital market income.

In a statement, ANMI noted that financial markets worldwide play an important role in garnering growth capital for the economy. In the years following the coronavirus market participation will hold the key to reviving India's GDP growth, it added.

04/02/2021 up to 02:00 PM.

18/01/2021 from 10:00 AM.

04/02/2021 up to 02:00 PM.

By order

Sd/- Accounts Officer

(Member secretary)

09/02/2021 at 02:00 PM.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR** 

**DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR** 

Tel-0194-2474234 Fax - 2482032 - email :- kasflori@rediffmail.com

Ticketing System of Tulip Garden Cheshmashahi, Srinagar is hereby

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the

**BIHAR STATE KHADI AND** 

#### Newsprint cost up 20% in last 3 months, publishers seek waiver in customs duty

New Delhi: Newsprint cost has jumped 20 per cent in the last three months due to demandsupply imbalance post pandemic, prompting news publishers to petition the governimport duty to help cut cost.

The industry has been hit hard due to COVID-19 led disruptions and the most news-

papers have stopped sending newspapers to rural areas where there is less than 50 In view of no response, the last date for submission of bids invited vide this office copies to reduce the dise-Tender Notice No.12 of 2020 dated.01.12.2020 for Outsourcing of Entry tribution cost, said the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) 16/01/2021 from 11:00 AM to President L Adimoolam.

> In a representation to the Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday ahead of the forth-coming union budget, INS has suggested to take steps as to reduce the customs duty on import of newsprints, a stimat least to help the publications by releasing advertisement with an increased tariff of 50 per cent "If working out a stimulus package for print media is difficult at this juncture, DAVP (Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity) may please consider releasing advertisement for all its departments to all publications with an increased tariff of 50 per cent, which would be highly helpful for the industry as a whole," the INS representation said. It has also asked to extend the validity of RNI (Registrar of Newspapers for India) Circulation Certificates up to March 31, 2022 which will enable DAVP rates to remain

the same till next year

# Raj CM interacts with health workers

Jaipur:Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot said that due to efficient management of corona by the state government, limiting the number of Covid introduction of vaccine today is a happy coincidence.

Just as we have fought the corona in the best way with the cooperation of all, similarly we will set an example by making this vaccination campaign a

success. To ensure that the corona is completely eradicated despite the vaccine, everyone should ensure continued adherence to other health protocols, including masking, social dis-

tancing, and more.
Shri Gehlot was addressing the state-level inauguration ceremony of corona vaccination through video conference at the Chief Minister's residence on Saturday. On this occasion

पत्रांक– 45, कटिहार



simultaneous vaccination was started at 167 sites in the state. Along with Dr. Sudhir Bhandari, Principal of SMS Medical College, doctors of major medical institutes got vaccinated on these sites on the first day. The CM congratulated all the scientists, experts and other personnel associated with preparing the vaccine in a short time and said that everyone is proud of them. He said that this vaccine, which came after many trials and investigations, would help us in conquering the corona.

#### Petrol, diesel prices unchanged across metros

Detrol and diesel prices the second consecutive day on metro cities.

petrol was sold at the record high level of Rs 84.70 per litre. Prices in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata were Rs 91.32, Rs 87.40 and Rs 86.15 per litre, respectively.

Across the country, pump price of petrol and diesel remained static on Saturday.

In Delhi, Mumbai Chennai and Kolkata, diesel was sold for Rs 74.88, Rs 81.60, Rs 80.19 and Rs 78.47 per litre, respectively.

Auto fuel price rise was on hold for the last five days after petrol and diesel prices had increased on two successive days last week on Wednesday

and Thursday taking gasoline to record high levels in Delhi while keeping prices very close Premained unchanged for to record high levels in other

**CANCELLATION NOTICE** Tender No: BCT/20-21/290, dtd. 21.12.2020, DOP: 27.01.2021. Above

Tender may be treated as cancelled due to technical reason. Please visit www.ireps.gov.in in respective tender for further details & information

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#### **WESTERN RAILWAY**

**CANCELLATION NOTICE** Tender No: BCT/20-21/305, dtd. 05.01.2021, DOP: 09.02.2021. Above Tender may be treated as cancelled due to technical reason. Please visit www.ireps.gov.in in respective tender for further details & information

corrigendum. Like us on : f facebook.com/WesternRly



#### जल संसाधन विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय बाढ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, कटिहार

अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या -10 SBD/2020-21 (राष्ट्रीय / राजकीय स्पर्धा) (केवल ई-टेन्डर पद्धित के अनुसार वेबसाईटwww.eproc2.bihar.gov.inपर)

कार्य का विवरण – बिंड प्रोसेसिंग विपत्र का मूल कार्य का नाम रू० में) (ऑन लाईन अथवा

फिजिकल / लाईन मोड मे (केवल ऑन मैनुअल मोड में भुगतेय) रू० लाईन मोड र भुगतेय) रू० मे भुगतेय) 01. लाभा चौकिया पहाड़पुर महानंदा दायाँ तटबंध के कि0मी0 20.25 (चेन सं0 675) से कि0मी0 10000.00 5,900.00 681.19 13.63 15.05.2021 23.00 (चेन सं0 67) के बीच कटाव निरोधक कार्य । एजेंडा सं0— 168/322/2021 दिनांक -13.01.2021 निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने दिनांक-21.01.2021 से दिनांक-24.01.2021 के 3.00 बजे अपरा

की अवधि प्री-बिड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि

तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय निविदा खोलने का स्थान

निविदा की वैधता अवधि विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता पर देखा जा सकता है ।

कार्यपालक अभियंता बाढ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल कटिहार o विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाईटwww.eproc2.bihar.gov.in एवं state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar कार्यपालक अभियंता

तक (सिर्फ वेबसाईटwww.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर )

नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण, जल संसाधन विभाग, कटिहार।

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(सिर्फ वेबसाईटwww.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर )

दिनांक-27.01.2021 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न।

सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषितकी जायेर्ग

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दिनाक-22.01.2021 3.00 बजे अपराह्न में, मुख्य अभियन्ता, बाढ़

PR- 011283 (WRD) 2020-21

बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, कटिहार मो0:-7463889238 किसी भी तरह आपदा की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु आपदा प्रबंधन के <mark>हेल्पलाइन नं.</mark> 1070 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है

HICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd. Regional Office Jsel Building, Malviya Nagar JLN Marg-Jaipur 302017 PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest

(Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder

Sr. No.	Borrower(s) /Co- Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
1.	Mr. Joginder Kumar (Borrower) Sunita Devi (Co- Borrower) Loan no:	(C) Flat No 3803, Second Floor The Park, Block C Khasra No 200, 201, 202, 191, 181, 192, 519/189, 518/1, Village Shahpur, Tehsil Tijara Bhiwadi- 3014/11 Super built- up area- 1125 Sq Ft	(D) Rs. 24,47,941/- (as on January 08, 2021)	(E) Rs. 18,00, 000/- Rs. 1,80,000/-	(F) February 01, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	February 18, 2021 from 11:30 AM onwards.

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-https://disposalhub.com) of our auction agency M/S NexXen Solution Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till February 17, 2021 before 05:00 P.M else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Ltd. Regional Office Jsel Building, Malviya Nagar JLN Marg-Jaipur 302017. and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before February 17, 2021 before 05:00 P.M along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, incase prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Ltd. Regional Office Jsel Building, Malviya Nagar JLN Marg-Jaipur 302017 on or before February 17, 2021 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Bhiwadi

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8584874809 ,7230004964 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933 Please note that Marketing agencies agencies 1. NexXen Solution Private limited 2. Augeo Asset

Management Pvt Ltd have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: January 16, 2021 Authorised Officer ICICI Bank Limited.

#### **VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD** Department of Industries, Government of Bihar Corrigendum -1

Due to the unavoidable circumstances, the date for the submission and opening of tender is extended as follows: Previous Tender Notice 3463 dated 06.12.2020 and PR No.- 009113 dated 06/12/2020 for Leasing of restaurant with kitchen and open space in Khadi Mall,

East Gandhi Maidan, PATNA -800001 Will Appear As Wherever appear in the bid Document

or NIT Last date of Receiving Bid Document:04th January 2021, 2 PM

Last date of Receiving Bid Document: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 2 PM Last date of Opening Bid Document: Last date of Opening Bid Document:04<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 4 PM January 2021, 4 PM

Further information can be obtained from the address mentioned below during office hours (10.30 AM to 5.00 PM): Chief Executive officer

> KVIB, PATNA Chief Executive Officer, Bihar State Khadi and Village Industries Board,

East Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001, Contact: 7320923213, 7004503382 Mail id: kvibpatna@gmail.comWebsite: www.kvibbihar.com

PR. No. 011304 (Industry) 2020-21

खाव सामग्री- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु <mark>दूरभाष संख्या</mark> 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

# Rohit's dismissal puts India on backfoot

**PTI** BRISBANE

ohit Sharma's indiscreet shot Relection pegged India back after rookie bowling attack restricted Australia to 369 on a raincurtailed second day of the fourth Test on Saturday.

With heavy thundershowers preventing any play in the post tea session, India ended the day at 62

Rohit was elegant as ever in his 44 off 74 balls before Nathan Lyon in his 100th Test enticed him to come down the track but the halfchip-half-loft was safely pouched by Mitchell Starc in the deep.

India also lost Shubman Gill (7) who edged one off Pat Cummins to

Cheteshwar Pujara (8) and Ajinkya Rahane (2) added only two runs in the 6.1 overs before the There were six boundaries from

Rohit but he did not fiddle at deliveries in and around the off-stump channel even as Cummins and Josh Hazlewood bowled a testing spell under overcast conditions. The shot of the session was an

on-drive off Cummins which came after a streaky boundary through the slips in the same over. Another delightful stroke was an off-drive off Cameron Green as 49 runs were added for the second wicket.

There wasn't much swing on offer but the pace off the track has increased compared to the first day and it only helped that the Australian pace attack is a more well built one with average speed being at least 6-7 kmph more than their Indian counterparts.

Pujara, at the other end was playing his usual 'grinding out' game but it didn't look too arduous in SENA countries, Rohit just before



Rohit Sharma reacts on his way to pavilion after getting out on Day 2 of 4th Test BCCI/Twitter till Rohit kept the scoreboard tick-

ing at the other end. It wouldn't be an over statement to say that among all top order batsman across both sides, Rohit looked the most comfortable and till his dis-

bled by the four-pronged attack. However as has been his wont

missal never looked like being trou-

the tea break went after Lyon when the situation demanded that he

could have played for session-end. It was very similar to his dismissal off Moeen Ali at the stroke of tea during the 2014 series and that was also after being set in the mid-

India, who have been forced to field a depleted side won't mind an

4th Test. Day 3 SONY TEN 1, 3 & SIX

inclement weather which effective ly makes the home team more jittery as a draw would be enough for Ajinkya Rahane to lift the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.
In the first session, India's rook-

ie bowling line-up did put up a lion-hearted effort, getting the last five wickets for 95 runs.

Shardul Thakur (3/94) along with debutants Washington Sundar (3/89) and Thangarasu Natarajan (3/78) got the breakthroughs while Mohammed Siraj (28-10-77-1) got one on the opening day.

For an attack as thin on experience as India, the effort in adverse times can only be commended. India lost five main bowlers through the three Test matches and were forced to hand Test debuts to Natarajan and Washington.

Nathan Lyon (24 off 22 balls) and Mitchell Starc (20 off 35 balls) counter-attacked the inexperienced Indian attack with a brisk 39-run partnership to take Australia past 350-run mark.

Going by statistics, Australia have never lost a Test match at the Gabba after scoring 350 in the first

Resuming at 274 for five, Tim Paine (50) and Cameron Green (47) extended their stand to 98 before the home team encountered a mini-

Thakur bowled a fuller delivery that shaped away and Paine's lazy drive without going to the pitch of the delivery saw Rohit Sharma take regulation catch at the second slip.

Paine was just getting into the groove with some good drives

#### Rohit has no regret of playing that shot

Rohit Sharma understands the Criticism that his untimely dismissal has invited but the India vice-captain has "no regrets" about going after Nathan Lyon, saying that's his way of putting bowlers

under pressure.
Rohit looked in good touch during his 44 off 74 balls but was dismissed trying to loft Lyon over mid-wicket, the kind of shots that has often brought about his dismissal even during earlier Test

"You always have a plan and I actually have no regret of playing that shot. It is something that I always like to do — put pressure on bowlers. Nathan Lyon is a smart bowler and he bowled into me which made it difficult for me to get some elevation," Rohit said at the post-match virtual conference.

His shot selection invited criticism from the commentary box. India were 62 for two at stumps when Rohit could have gone for a big score after a good start. Rohit understands the disap-

pointment but in his defence would explain why he went for that kind of a high-risk stroke.

"It's not that it is (that shot) coming out of nowhere. It's a shot that I have played well in the past.

when Thakur provided the break-

Green probably lost his concentra-

tion as he played for the turn to an

With the partnership broken,

That's something that I back myself to play and that's the kind of role I play in this team. When it looks like that, it looks bad, but I don't think too much as my focus is to make it count once I am in,"

"Having said that, there is a process I like to follow. Sometimes you get out and sometimes it goes over the ropes. Unfortunate and sad dismissal in the end to be honest. Like I said, those are my shots and I will keep playing them," the senior player was forthright about his mind-set.

angle delivery from Sundar which

straightened after pitching and

leg before as he yorked himself to

Pat Cummins (2) was adjudged

breached through his defences.

As he has always maintained, he doesn't have much time for his critics and would rather focus on the role his team wants him to

perform. "The team has shown lot of confidence in me. It's just that I have to do what the team expects me to do and not worry about what happens anywhere else or

what people talk about." On the match situation, Rohit said that although 369 at the Gabba was a very good first innings score and there is no reason why India with two of their most seasoned campaigners at the crease can't match the home team's total on a good batting track. "We have got solid batters to

come in now. Two of the most experienced players are still out there in the middle. The pitch is good and I don't see any reason why we can't get to that total of first innings.

His advice for the batsmen is to play session by session rather than looking at the final total.

"We should focus on what's there in front of us rather than thinking too far ahead. It's a big score and we have to focus on sessions, take it as it comes. The pitch is playing good and we have to back ourselves. We have the guys to do it and I don't see why we can bat well on day three," he said.

a fuller delivery from Thakur as

Australia slumped from 311 for five

to 315 for eight before the tail

wagged once again to beef up the

#### Disciplined Sundar fill Ashwin's shoes well: McDonald

PTI BRISBANE

ustralia's assistant coach Andrew Australias assistant coach Andrew McDonald on Saturday praised the highly inexperienced Indian bowling attack for the final Test and singled out Washington Sundar, saying the young off-spinner filled the shoes of Ravichandran Ashwin "quite

Hit by a barrage of injuries through the series, India picked debutants Washington (3/89) and medium pacer T Natarajan (3/78) in the playing eleven on Friday.

The duo was travelling with the squad as net bowlers.

"I thought they (the Indian bowlers) were very consistent. I thought Washington Sundar in particular was disciplined and fill that role of Ravi Ashwin quite well and key wickets on the way," McDonald said at post-day conference.

"So, for me I suppose, he is a bowler who controlled well the tempo of the game and I think it stood out for me.

McDonald, who also coaches in the IPL, was also impressed by Natarajan.

...Natarajan shaped the ball early, there is lot (to like) about him, left-arm swing bowler, no doubt he is inexperienced but has enough played first-class games to be play his first Test on this tour, (that) is a great achievement, so I think they held



their own," the 39-year-old said. The left-arm pacer had

the tour after making the Indian team at the back of a stellar IPL.

Australia were bowled out for 369 in the first session of the rain-curtailed second day. Like Washington and Natarajan, Shardul Thakur also took three wickets..

"They (Indian bowlers) applied pressure throughout the innings and they made (it) difficult for ourselves. Times when we felt we would get on the top, they were able to bounce back and get key wickets at crucial times. It was great armwrestle, so full credit to their attack," the Australian assistant coach said.

#### **PTI** ■ BRISBANE

India's vice-captain Rohit Sharma is extremely impressed with Thangarasu Natarajan's "solid character" and bélieves that the Tamil Nadu left-arm seamer is here to stay with his insatiable hunger to succeed at the top

Natarajan, who came in as a net bowler, joined fellow rookies Mohammed Siraj, Washington Sundar and Shardul Thakur to restrict Australia to 369, which according to Rohit is no

# 'Natarajan is here to stay'

through.

"Natarajan bowled pretty well, to be honest. Playing outside the country (internationals) for the first time and bowling to such batsmen, it wasn't going to be easy and he was not under any pressure," Rohit said about the debutant, who was the pick of the bowlers with 3/78 in 24.2 overs.

"From ball one, he was right up there. He showed a

character who doesn't speak much but we all know he has a solid personality. He wants to do well for the team and also for himself. He is here to stay," he said.

For Rohit, considering that cumulative experience of the bowling attack was four Test matches, they need to be lauded for keeping Australia under check on a good batting wicket.

playing first time in Australia. Siraj has played a couple of games and Saini played in Sydney. Obviously, there's not a lot of experience there.

'They showed a lot of discipline and overall if I had to analyse the performance of these bowlers, I would say they bowled pretty well. It's a good pitch still. This is a great experience for them bowling against the

best batters, and test themselves," he said. Rohit believes that each

and every youngster in this set-up knows that with so much competition for places, there aren't too many chances that will be up for

"Basically it boils down to where they are coming from. There is a lot of hunger to perform. You don't get a lot of opportunities at this level and we all know that. So when you get an opportunity, you have to make that

It's not every team that can restrict Australia to less than 400 hundred in six completed innings and that's a big credit to bowling unit. The A tours must have

helped. Shardul, Navdeep and Siraj have played a lot of A team cricket. They know how difficult it can be in Australia. Their understanding of conditions helped them.

"To not let Australia score 400 is an achievement in itself. These tours they have done has helped them stay in control," he said.

# Punjab, Baroda, TN close to Mushtaq Ali knock-outs



Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Saturday, their fourth win in a row.

Shubham Pundir top-scored with 42 to take J&K to 139 for eight in 20 overs.

Punjab made short of the target, cantering to victory in 14.3 overs with openers Simran Singh (59 not out off 42) and Abhishek Sharma (73 not out off 46) sharing an unbeaten 140-run stand.

Sharma smashed half a dozen sixes and his opening partner hit four of them. Senior pacer Siddarth Kaul was the pick

of the Punjab bowlers with four wicket for 33 runs in four overs. In other Group A games, Karnataka

defeated Railways for their third win in four A struggling Uttar Pradesh recorded their first win of the tournament with nine-

wicket victory over Tripura. Opener Karan Sharma top scored for UP with an unbeaten 68 off 36 balls. Suresh Raina too remained unbeaten with 36 off 23 balls. In Vadodara, Baroda too continued their winning run by claiming a 60-run vic-

tory over Maharashtra in an Elite 'C' Group game.
This is Baroda's fourth win on the trot

in the league stage after having defeated Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in their first three outings.

Put in to bat, Baroda rode on stand-in skipper Kedar Devdhar's stroke-filled unbeaten 99 off 71 balls to post a compet-

reach England's total.

Right-arm medium pacer Atit Sheth Punjab inched closer to a knockout berth with a 10-wicket rout of Jammu Maharashtra for a meagre 98 and give his

Devdhar was handed the captaincy after regular skipper Krunal Pandya left the bubble following his father's demise. In Group B match at Eden Gardens in

Kolkata, Assam pulled off an upset 13-run win over Bengal while Tamil Nadu won its fourth straight match to go top of the points Bengal opted to field and saw the tal-

ented Riyan Parag (77, 54 balls, 5 fours, 5 sixes) help Assam put up a fighting 157 for 5 in 20 overs. The visiting team restricted Bengal to 144 for 8. In another match, skipper Dinesh

Karthik (40 not out, 30 balls, 2X4, 2X6) and N Jagadeesan (78 not out, 51 balls, 4X4, 5X6) saw Tamil Nadu home against Hyderabad after a brief stutter in the middle of the

Earlier, Hyderabad made 152 for 7 in 20 overs thanks to contributions from B Sandeep (41) and Pragnay Reddy (30) and late hitting by C V Milind (30, 11 balls, 3

TN leads the group with 16 points after four consecutive wins followed by Bengal (12). The two teams face off on January 18 with the top spot on the line.

As per the format of the tournament, the top ranked teams from each group (Five in Elite and 1 Plate) will qualify for the knockout stage along with the next two teams in Elite Groups A to E with the most points.

Thirimanne, Perera lead SL resistance after Root's 228

#### Indian fan complains of racism at SCG during 3rd Test Sydney: Sydney Cricket Ground officials have launched

an investigation after an Indian supporter alleged that he was subjected to racial profiling and abuse by a security

The incident took place after Indian fast bowler Mohammed Siraj was allegedly racially abused by spectators on the third and fourth day of the drawn Test at SCG. Sydney resident Krishna Kumar met Venues NSW legal

personnel on Thursday to lodge an official complaint, accusing the security at the venue of racial profiling and unjustified frisking.

He informed the authorities that he felt "stripped and

naked" by his treatment on the final day of the third Test (January 11), according to a report in the Sydney Morning Kumar, who attended three days' play of the third Test, told *Venues NSW* that he was targeted after trying to carry

four banners reading: "Rivalry is good, racism is not", "No racism mate", "Brown inclusion matters" and "Cricket Australia more diversity please". A security officer stopped Kumar, informing him that

that one of the banners exceeded the permitted dimensions. When he requested to speak to a security supervisor, Kumar was asked to leave.

"He told me, 'If you need to address this matter, go back to where you belong," Kumar said. Kumar said the official then told the junior guards to "make sure we give him a complete frisking when he gets

'To me this a pure case of profiling. They changed their

entire formation so the guy next to the boundary is standing right in front of me and facing me," Kumar said. T want justice. I want accountability. I was feeling

stripped, feeling watched and I went there to fight racism. Why should I be stopped from addressing racism, especially at a ground where it was debatable whether it was happening or not?," he added.

# Proteas not easy to beat but Pakistan banking on home advantage: Misbah

South Africa have always been a difficult opposition but Pakistan will have the home advantage this time as they host the visitors for the first time in nearly 14 years, said head coach Misbah-ul-Haq.

Back from New Zealand after a disappointing tour which ended with a 0-2 loss in the two-Test series, Pakistan will now play two Tests against South Africa at Karachi (January 26-30) and Rawalpindi (February 4-8), followed by a threematch T20I series at Lahore, beginning from February 11.

South Africa has never been an easy side to beat, but them playing after 13 years in Pakistan will be an advantage for us, and we have a great chance to improve our record against them," Misbah said.

He said the two Test matches are part of the ICC World Championship and are very important for the home side which will try to get maximum points out of it to improve their position on the table. "Playing at home ground is

always encouraging for the players, and it reflected in our performances in the series against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh last year," Misbah said. Pakistan won Tests against Sri

Lanka and Bangladesh in late 2019



Officials and players of South Africa's cricket team come out from airport terminal upon

and early 2020 at home but have lost successive away Test tours to Australia, England and New Zealand leading to a criticism of the team's performances and selection policies with Misbah under-fire.
Following their dismal tour of

New Zealand, Pakistan's new chief selector Muhammad Wasim named nine uncapped players in a revamped 20-member squad for the test series

against South Africa. "The series against South Africa

is an important one, and I am sure the players selected in the squad have the potential and hunger to give best results in the series," Misbah said.

The South African cricket team,

which last toured Pakistan in late 2007, arrived in Karachi on Saturday. The visiting team's head coach Mark Boucher cautioned his team, saying his batsmen will face a tough task against a "dangerous" side like

"Pakistan is a dangerous side at home; we will have to come up with a proper strategy to beat them at their own backyard," the former wicketkeeper said. The wickets here in Pakistan are

on our batsmen to score runs. Their confidence will be high after scoring runs against Sri Lanka. Our fast bowlers will have to work very hard to get wickets." "Pakistan bowlers will have home advantage, so this series will be a test for our batsmen, but once they are successful in occupying the

expect a great series ahead with all focus on the game." South Africa had won the two-Test series 1-0 during their last tour of Pakistan in 2007.

crease, they will be able to score freely," Boucher said. "We are excit-

ed to play in Pakistan again, and

#### Toe Root completed his fourth double century for England on Saturday but insisted it will mean nothing if his side cannot overcome a defiant Sri Lanka in the first Test. The England captain made 228 of his team's 421 all out — 26 runs short of his brilliant 254 career best against Pakistan at Old Trafford in But Lahiru Thirimanne led Sri Lanka's stubborn resistance, hitting an unbeaten 75 while Kusal Perera made 62 as the home team reached 156/2 in their second innings. After their disappointing 135 in the first innings, they need another 130 to

Root's 321 ball innings with a six and 18 fours dominated the day. It took less than an hour in the openstricken stadium meant that only his

ing session to add the 32 runs to his

overnight total. He reached 200 with a four off Lasith Emuldeniya. While the empty Covid-19-

teammates in the pavilion and a lone England fan watching from a nearby fort could applaud, the performance confirmed Root's return as a batsman after a barren 2020 saw him fall to number 11 in the ICC rank-

He had not reached three figures in a Test since his 226 in New Zealand in November 2019.

But he indicated his disappointment after seeing six wickets fall to Sri Lanka's bowlers in the morning session and then the struggle by his own attack.

Running out of partners, Root was the last man out, caught by Emuldeniya on the boundary as he

went for a six off Dilruwan Perera. He saw fast bowler Asitha Fernando take Jos Buttler (30) and Sam Curran (0) with successive

landmark four then Dom Bess was run out as the tourists suffered a bout of nerves. Perera also took Jack Leach and

Mark Wood in successive overs to finish on four for 109 runs. After their first innings collapse, Sri Lanka looked a different side in

the second. Perera and Thirimanne made 101 for the first wicket.

Perera took a fiery Mark Wood bouncer on his hand and needed a tight bandage to continue. He eventually gave a catch to Jack Leach on the boundary off a wayward Sam Curran delivery.

After four straight Test zeros Kusal Mendis broke the spell and scored 15 patient runs before he gave a catch to wicketkeeper Jos Buttler off Leach's bowling.

sunday magazine

January 17, 2021

# the pioneer

You cannot live your life looking at yourself from someone else's point of view

Death is an interesting affair

Preparing For Death by Arun Shourie & Death: An Inside Story by Sadhguru speak of death in a matter-of-fact manner



**Meditate for a better future** 

The process helps you to disengage from waking state consciousness and instead turns your attention inwards

A region, that was considered to be shrouded in mystery and inaccessible, is turning into a hot destination for business and leisure, writes SAIMI SATTAR, as she explores the reasons behind it

n 2013-14 racial attacks on North Easterners were common. We were more often than not referred to as Chinki or Chinese. In 2014, a boy, Nido Taniam, was killed for his hairstyle in Delhi. This shook the conscience of the entire community, recalls Shyam Kanu Mahanta

It was this incident that made Mahanta sit up and take notice, egged on by other youngsters from the North Eastern states to do something to bring about a positive change. After careful thought, Mahanta, who after having worked across the country had turned entrepreneur, decided to start a festival that would represent the distinct culture, food and more of the place. Over the years his brainchild, the North East Festival, has become a must-visit event on the capital's social calendar and in many ways representative of the changes that are gradually enveloping the perception about a region which for the longest of time was considered distant, different and inaccessible.

Powering this perception are several reasons which lie within the region as well as in the larger ecosystem of the country and the world.

#### **FOCUS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**

Mahanta believes that while the new government has undertaken several measures, it was former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee who kick-started the effort of connecting North East to the rest of the country. "He travelled to the region and then Manmohan Singh carried this integration forward when he became a Member of Parliament from Assam. Though he was not very vocal, this choice registered in the mind space of people," says Mahanta who runs MMS Advisory Pvt Ltd, a consultancy for road construction, besides the festival which he is better known for.

Ranjit Das, President of the Tour Operators Association of Assam (TOAA), while talking about his industry pins the beginning of the rise in tourist numbers to one particular decision. He says, "In 2009-10 the DoNER Minister Mani Shanker Aiyer promoted tourism by persuading government officials to use their Leave Travel Concession to visit the region which led to a huge surge of tourists in the North East."

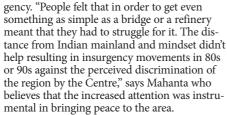
The changed political thought process, where there was focus on the region, meant that connectivity improved and development accelerated. Mahanta believes that the present government and especially the Prime Minister and the DoNER Minister Jitendra Singh's attention has been important in creating a positive impression among

people and has put the region on the highway to develop-Riniki Bhuyan Sharma,

Chairman and Managing Director, Pride East Entertainments Pvt Ltd, a regional media house, agrees when she says, "With Modiji's emphasis on development, investment has poured in and new avenues have opened up." This naturally meant a positive impression all around.

#### **FALLING INSURGENCY**

Earlier the perception within the region of being neglected, and often times exploited, by the Centre gave rise to insur



Dr Parveez Ubed, CEO & Founder, ERC Eye Care (P) Limited which works towards democ ratising digital health (eye) care for the people in India & South-East Asia points out that insurgency affected business in different ways. "It meant that the offices were not operational every day which naturally led to erratic work conditions," he says.

Mahanta says that with more peace having prevailed, the conditions in Guwahati are almost similar to Delhi. "In fact, it is much safer for women. It has good restaurants, discotheques, all the major brands and a lot of people are coming to work here. It's very cosmopolitan. During insurgency people were scared of flaunting their wealth. Now they are buying expensive cars and splurging money which naturally helps the economy," says Mahanta.

#### **STATE GOVERNMENT CHIPPING IN**

Smitakshi B Goswami, Director, Pratidin Group which owns Asomiya Pratidin (the largest circulated Assamese daily) and Pratidin Time (a 24-hour Assamese news channel) says that the efforts of the state governments shored up the remaining gap. "When Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal conducted Khelo India in January last year, sports tourism got a fillip and people who came here saw the development as well as the future potential of the place. The international level stadiums were important in changing the thought process of the people who came from outside," she says.

#### **ROLE OF TRADITIONAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

So, rather than the news of a flood or insurgency activities, there was positivity emanating from the region which grabbed eyeballs. While the ones who had visited the area saw the change for themselves, there were still others

who were prompted to plan a trip because of the positive impression in the media. Das says, "During the TOAA's annual convention, we discussed the changing perception and dynamics due to the print and electronic media coverage. The international audience became

more aware of the different kinds of experiences that the region held out thanks to programmes on channels like National Geographic." Road shows and participation in travel fairs by tour operators created awareness among domestic and international tourists about the scenic beauty of the region.

Moreover, the growth of social media meant that potential travellers often got the

information from people in their own circle who had been to the region. "Live streaming of a destination creates an impact like

no other. The trav el industry too tapped into the potential of the new media," says Das.

#### **YOUTH POWERING CHANGE**

Designer Jenjum Gadi, who calls Delhi home, believes that the change has been brought about primarily by the youngsters. "We have faced a lot of racism in metros and the youngsters worked on countering it by engaging in discussions, both online and offline, about the people, food and culture. This created awareness and dispelled myths." He has noticed a marked shift in the number of people wanting to travel to the region and being more tolerant of the food habits than they were when he came from a remote village in Arunachal Pradesh to the capital to study 16 years back. The fashion world was the one of the

first industries to integrate people from the North East since they have an inherent sense of style. "There are stylists, designers, graphic designers and more in the industry which, to begin with, was always open," feels Gadi.

Sharma believes that the new crop of youngsters has done their bit in bridging the gap which existed on both sides. "Slowly we are trying to assimilate ourselves in the mainstream. Earlier, people found a million reasons not to return to Guwahati after having studied or worked outside. It could be low salaries, standard of living or opportunities," she says and adds that media, like her channel, bring together all the eight states which, in turn, fuels newer ideas for cooperation and development. "We often hear of stories of a boy from some remote area developing software or something equally amazing. There is no dearth of talent here. With the availability of internet, there is an exchange of ideas and more exposure for the younger generation. The basic education system has been strengthened. The economically independent young minds are applying their knowledge everywhere," she says.

#### **STARTUPS REVV UP**

The entry of youngsters in tourism has transformed the way even this industry operates. Das says, "About 20 colleges and universities in Assam offering a course on tourism came up in the last four-five years. There are thousands of students pursuing these courses and, when they graduate, they are getting into different kinds of activities, exploring new destinations and looking at giving an authentic experience to tourist. People are now looking at tourism as an avenue

of income and employment." Dr Ubed, who faced an uphill task while setting up his company in 2013, recalls, "People were surprised as they felt I was giving up a great career as

a doctor. Start-ups were not a badge of honour. It was very difficult to get mentors to structure the business properly. I had to reach out to some friends in the US on Facebook who helped me. When I started in Jorhat, the local chartered accountants were not sure about how to register a local company as they hadn't done it before. Investors liked me, my idea and the opportunity it held out but did not want to come down to Assam to meet me.

He feels that the transformation in the eco system where there is a change in attitude as well as money and mentorship being easily available are the reasons why start-ups are thriving.

Gadi believes that a lot of youngsters have decided to head back home after getting an education in the metros as they no longer want a government job. "Home delivery for medicines, grocery and more are run by start-ups by youngsters. These developments are at par with what is happening in the country. Earlier, they did not think that this kind of thing can happen

However, Smitakshi says that it is the companies which are working with unique products like Eri Silk, organic farming and ingredients like Bhut Jolokia, the hottest chilli in the world, have created a unique footprint.

The change in the attitude towards start-ups, says Dr Ubed, is evident in the way he can now have the pick of people he employs. "Earlier they asked a lot of questions and would want to work for two-three days to see if the environment was good and whether I could pay or not. There is an attitudinal shift and the start-ups are now considered cool," he says.

#### COMMUNICATION, CONNECTIVITY AND AWARENESS

The connectivity has improved dramatically. According to the Ministry for Road Transport & Highways, 4484.9 km of National Highways were built in between 2014-2018 in the region. Guwahati, which was the first airport in the North East, is now the eighth busiest in the country. The Lokapriya Ğopinath Bardoloi International Airport, which till three decades ago was handling only two or three flights a day, has over 120 commercial flights — both arrival and departure — in addition to chartered flights and aircrafts of the Indian Air Force. It registered over six million footfalls during 2018-19, which is a whopping 27.46 per cent increase from 2017-18. According to Airports Authority of India the airport handled 55,066 aircraft movements during 2018-19 which is a 20.99 per cent increase of aircraft movement over the previous 12 months.

Gadi's home state does not have an airport but Arunachal Pradesh would be getting one in another three-four years which, he says, would naturally make it more accessible. Sharma says that there is a flurry of activity, "Airports are coming up, there are investment summits taking place as the CMs take initiatives to improve connectivity."

This naturally has had a positive impact. Das says, "The perception has changed because of the development of communications network and also connectivity. Guwahati, for instance, has direct flights to all the metros."

Gadi feels that a lot of festivals like the Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh, Hornbill in Nagaland have also become must-visit events for travellers. "People who have gone to these festivals return with beautiful memories. That has naturally helped create a positive impression about the people and the place," he says.

Mahanta offers a different take when he says, "The North East festival has united the states of the region. It is a meeting point where disagreements have been sorted out and barriers been broken. There is a common agenda for infrastructure, tourism, industry and more. The festival in Guwahati this year had just 100 visitors but saw three lakh digital footfalls

As Sharma puts it, "Earlier, the odds seemed to be insurmountable but now the dots are being joined and everything is coming together." This is certainly not the last we have heard of the North East success story. ■



THE GROWTH OF

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**ARUN SHOURIE** 

Penguin/Viking, ₹79

#### Preparing For Death by Arun Shourie & Death: An Inside Story by Sadhguru speak of death in a manner that is matter-of-fact and yet eye-opening at the same time, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

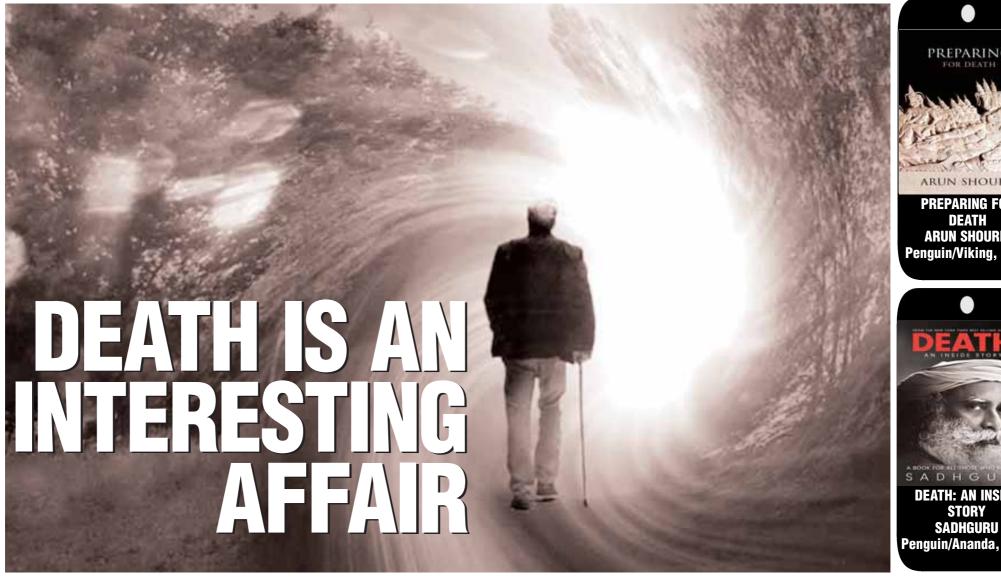
Kunhamma, my mother, passed away peacefully on November 6, 2020. Her departure from this world was as uneventful as she lived for 90 years. There were no theatrics or high drama accompanying the event. She was there alive one moment and then the other she was gone. My longtime friend and physician Dr Rajiv rushed home upon hearing the news and certified that Amma was

Death was not a painful event as far as my mother's departure was concerned. On the seventh day, we completed the the last rites immersing the ashes in Poorna River flowing through Perumbayoor. Within the next two days, I was admitted to the ICU of Kochi Medical College having tested positive for Covid-19 and diagnosed with pneumonia. Two books that gave me company during this period were *Preparing For Death* by Dr Arun Shourie and Death: An Inside Story by Sadhguru.

The books were an eye opener for me, surrounded as I was by more than 25 Covid-19 patients who were in various phases of the pandemic. Some of them highly critical while others in an aggressive mood, testing the patience of doctors, nurses and other paramedical staff, working round the clock taking care of the patients.

It was the stay in ICU which made me think about my own death for the first time. I was worried only about whether my demise would be painful, suffocating or peaceful. The only time I have read about a person's last minutes in this world was about Sir C P Ramaswamy Aiyer, the former Divan of the princely State of Travancore who was also a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council and the Constituent Assembly. Sir CP, as he was addressed had the "most sudden, painless and peaceful end," according to his biographer Saroja Sundararajan

"A journalist who came to the National Liberal Club where he was staying in London at 11.30 am on 26 september 1966, enquired if he was not well , thinking Sir CP had a cold. CP laughed loudly at this and replied in a cheerful voice, "My dear lady, I have never been ill a day in my life." So saying he leaned back in his upholstered chair when his head drooped and he was no more,"



writes Sundararajan. Prof TMP Mahadevan, eminent philosopher, has been quoted as saying in his tributes: "The world envies various aspects of the life of Sir CP, from his birth with a silver spoon in his mouth, through a multifaceted career. I envy him his death. What a wonderful way to

With the oxygen mask connected to my face, I had nothing else to do other than 'scanning' the pages of Preparing for Death, Dr Shourie's account of the final hours of some of the great men and a woman in the sub continent. He recounts the last days and last moments of Lord Budha, Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa, Ramana Maharshi, Kasturba, Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave. What makes the book unique is Dr Shourie's description about his own life and how fate

had been cruel to him throughout this life.

Even if one is born great or becomes great through his/her deeds, death follows us from the moment we come into this world as an uninvited friend. But the tragic truth is that none of us think or worry about this eternal and omnipresent character shadowing us all the from mother's womb

The pain and sufferings undergone by Ramakrishna Paramahamsa and Ramana Maharshi in the prelude to their samadhi should be read to be believed. These great men never prayed to God Almighty to lessen their sufferings and tribulations. The reminiscences stand out because of the unique Arun Shourie style. Dr Shourie is brilliant in his description of the final hours of Ramakrishna, Ramana,

Kasturba and Gandhiji. The books he refers to, the quotes he uses and the way he projects the events on a wide canvas... only a master story teller could do the same.

Add to this his sense of humor even in the face of adversities. "Just like those whom we don't know, our closest relatives, among them those whom we have loved the most and our friends die ever so often-some months it seems as if we have to set up a camp office at the Lodhi Road crematorium. Fed up, a relative has declared, "I am not going to any more cremations. If possible, I will skip my own too."

Thus begins Dr Shourie his latest work that also includes his recent brush with death in Pune. The collage like articles have everything that elevates the readers to new levels of thinking. While there are ever so many

books and articles about life postdeath, the sad thing is that we are ignorant about the complex nature of death. This is a subject one should be thorough and knowledgeable to condition us about our own final hours.

When it was time for me to be discharged from the ICU and transported to Ernakulam Medical Centre, I had graduated to reading Death: An Inside Story by Sadhguru. I don't have words to describe this pathbreaking book, full of humour and one which opens the windows to the world of death. "You must understand that what you refer to as death is a unique happening. It is the very last moment of your life. Almost everything in your life may happen many times over, but the final moment when you transcend the limitations of your physical body will happen only once in your lifetime. It is the last thing that you will do in your life. Moving from the physical to non-physical is the greatest moment in your life. A lot has been discussed about

life after death, rebirth, salvation and post-death phenomenon. But we are yet to discuss in detail the mysteries associated with the final moments of our life. Sadhguru, in his own inimitable style, asks hitherto unasked questions on death and explains in a scintillating style facts associated with death. I have seen Sadhguru demolishing and destroying the arguments of "selfstyled intellectuals" who dared to challenge the Indian system of knowledge. But this is the first time I read a book authored by him and that too about death. What I feel after reading the book, especially the chapters, Preparing For a Good Death and Assistance For The Dying, is that I understood that death is an interesting and entertaining phenomenon and it's not something bad as propagated by the Abrahamic religion. All one could feel after going through the book is, fine, here I am, waiting happily for me rendezvous with the person whom I was born with but yet to see face to face with him.

**DEATH: AN INSIDE** 

STORY

SADHGURU

Vayalar Ramavarma, a leftist poet in Kerala, had written a poem way back in the 1970s spitting venom at death. "Oh death, get lost. I am not willing to join you in your solitude as I don't have death and I am immortal" he had written in the revolutionary song. Had Ramavarma read what Sadhguru has to speak about death, I am sure, he would have simply welcomed death for that enlightening encounter. Yes, Death is beautiful provided you learn the basics of its science.



**YEARS: AN ANTHOLOGY OF** Indira Chandrasekhar Context/Westland, ₹499

A decade ago, in 2010, Indira Chandrasekhar set up *Out of Print* to address a need she felt as a writer: a

focused platform for the short story; a space for robust editorial discussions as well as one that would serve as a platform for discoveries — of newer facets of the form itself and of new writing. This commemorative volume hopes to capture something of that adventure. It is, thus, not a 'best of' volume, but one that speaks to the spirit of the magazine: its diversity of literary voices, its openness to experimentation, its focus on Indianlanguage publishing and its stand against mediocrity. Most crucially, of course, this is an ode to the short-story form, its 'art of brevity and honesty

#### THE RUNAWAY BOY (Author), V. Ramaswamy



The first part of Byapari's extraordinary trilogy of novels begins in East Pakistan. It tells the story of little Jibon, who arrives at a refugee camp in West Bengal as an infant in the arms of his Dalit parents escaping from the Muslim-majority nation. He grows up perpetually hungry for hot rice in the camp where the treatment meted out to dispossessed families like his is deplorable. Jibon runs away when he's barely thirteen to Calcutta because he's heard that money flies in the air in the big city. And once he leaves home, through the travels of this starving, bewildered but gritty boy, we witness a newly independent India as it grapples with communalism and grave disparities of all kinds.

# A guide to turning crisis into opportunity

#### Ritesh Vig's book on leadership is a handy guide of possible solutions and has the potential to transform the outlook of the readers for better in difficult times, writes ARCHANA JYOTI

t a time when the entire world is struggling with Covid-19 pandemic, which has brought the economy almost to a standstill, it becomes impending on the leaders to go the extra mile, exhibit resilient behaviour and leadership qualities to help the common man sail through this trying time safely.

And, the passion to drive this resilience requires a clear understanding to help and guide the right behaviour. Author Ritesh Vig has tried to catalyse this human trait through his book Leadership in Unprecedented Times that offers help to business leaders, special business entrepreneurs, common man and youngsters to build confidence to fight back by deploying unprecedented

There are no set rules to find solutions to times of uncertainty in the midst of whirlwind, rightly asserts Vig, a financial strategist in his debut book. He tries to address today's unprecedented challenges being faced by the leaders while laying the foundation that is needed to emerge stronger. When confidence level of many people is at its low, leaders need to retain their moral high, maintaining 'never say die' attitude, says the writer, who has over two decades of experience as a financial consultant.

Soft Bank, India Country Head Manoj Kohli who launched the book at an online event recently, lauded the writer's thoughtful initiative of penning the inspiration, saying that it provides a future context of constant disruption for entrepreneurs and

senior management. In this regard, he also drew the attention towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-reliant India) in the unprecedented times which, he said, has given us opportunity to be part of the changing face of the market where digital and start-ups are the focus of the business.

Agreeing with the book's pitch, Kohli said that leaders need to keep in mind that "It is about acceptance of the change. We can say there are courageous and bold decisions to be made, but it isn't like that. It is sometimes difficult to accept major change and this causes problems. According to me (and the book), look at the change; accept, embrace, and love it. Once you do that, it will be easier for you to

change the model, the culture, and the product range accordingly. All changes become easy

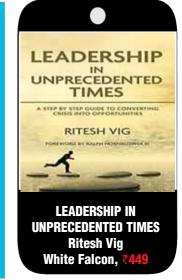
Kohli goes on to share that every company will go through multiple crisis situations. "There is competition crisis, there are regulation and government crisis, there are cost issues, and then performance and culture crisis. Strong, forward-looking leadership is the only way to success. If the leadership can do things in a systematic and orderly way, it can overcome every single crisis."

Published by 'White Falcon' the book, divided in seven sections or 'milestones', aims to offer a step by step guidance to convert crisis into opportunities and presents a strategy to define robust framework, evaluate new busi-

ness scenarios and redefine business shields for any crisis ahead. Last but not the least, it

defines the new normal for the growth of the business. To put it in other words, whether you feel like you've hit a wall, lost your fire, or are looking for innovative strategies to take your business to the next level, Leadership in unprecedented times has attempted to answers all.

According to the author, people from all walks of life and all kinds of readers will be enlightened by this book, which he says, has the potential to transform their outlook for better in difficult times. In one of the milestones, for instance, the writer tries to advice a clueless business leader to how to identify strategic live asset and minimise loses besides understanding internal



strength of his business. Leadership quality is not just a domain of a certain group of

Vig writes that a common man too can display leadership at three levels: at home as parents, at job as an employee and for the nation, building true values in children.

Parents should use these unprecedented times as an opportunity to inculcate leadership qualities in their children and save them from anxiety and fears. The book is more relevant for youngsters, who the author says, can understand how leadership should be embedded within them to take on the future role of leaders

Vig has also chronicled the integrity and strength of the leaders required to fight the pandemic, sharing the thoughts that 'there are no set rules to find solutions to times of uncertain-

Real leadership, Vig stresses, requires clear communication, compassion for others, and a commitment to truth-telling no matter how frightening the times may be. Going further, the writer has also touched upon the past pandemics and key learnings from them. For instance, Vig points out, how soon after The Great Depression that started in 1929 till 1941 left the economy reeling with unemployment, poverty, deflation and ill regulated loans among other financial cri-

But that did not overshadow the spirit of leaders of those times who rose to the occasion to face challenges thrown by the turbulent environment. Ralph Hornblower III, a well known global investment manager in his foreword compliment the writer for reminding "us that we must stay positive if we want to succeed and vanquish the tsunami waves of humanitarian challenges that such calamities as the 2008 financial crisis and the present Covid 19 pandemic have brought to the doorstep of virtually every country on the planet."

Priced at ₹449, the book, overall is a good read, that no business leader, entrepreneur or a serious executive or for that matter a common man can afford to miss. For, it attempts to help driving people out of the myriad of crises created by the coronavirus pandemic.

# **China angle: Biden to cement India-USA relations**

There has been understandable concern in India at the change of guard in the United States of America on January 20 after the election of Democratic candidate Joe Biden as the new President, particularly since the bilateral relations registered remarkable progress under President Donald Trump, given his determination to deal with China headlong and his hard-line views on Pakistan's complicity and direct involvement in international Islamic terrorism. Trump was outspoken and made his point without any prevarication which was liked in India. Warm personal chemistry between him and Prime Minister Narendra Modi also, no doubt, has been seen as a positive contributing factor.

However, it needs to be noted that Biden has been very supportive of strong ties with India. As Chairman of powerful Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate, he played a pivotal role in getting the India-US civil nuclear cooperation agreement cleared. Later, he served as Vice President in the Obama Administration when the US and India signed LEMOA paving the way for India's recognition by the USA as a "major Defence partner" and licence- free access to a wide range of dual use technologies.

Writing in an ethnic Indian community journal, Biden promised that his administration would "build on the great progress" made in the relationship with India during Obama years. He also asserted that India and the USA "can and should be natural allies". Significantly, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee had also described the India-USA relationship as being that between nat-

In geo-political terms, it is widely expected that the firm line against China initiated under the Trump presidency would broadly continue because of rather combative stance of China, which seems to be in a hurry to assert its primacy on the global stage. Its aggression against India and other neighbouring countries surrounding South China Sea has also not gone unnoticed by the Biden team. In fact, Secretary of State nominee Blinken has been on record as having said that "strengthening and deepening of relationship with India is going to be a high priority" for the US particularly in the context of its objectives of peace, stability and rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific

Under these circumstances it can be expected that the USA under Biden would continue to regard India as a "key partner". Notably, India's External Affairs Minister Jaishankar, while commenting on this issue, expressed his confidence that Indo-US relations could only move up further in the coming

The presence of Kamala Harris as Vice President and likely induction of several persons of Indian origins (PIOs) in senior position in the new administration is also a factor which would favourably impact on the bilateral relationship. In fact, election of a PIO as the Vice President of the country itself is a landmark development. The credit for it obviously goes to Biden for having chosen Kamala Harris as his running mate, but it also signifies the coming of age of the vast and influential Indian community in the USA. It is well recognised that given their large numbers and relatively high income levels, PIOs in the USA have begun to play increasingly salient role in the country's politics and in providing a generally positive thrust to furthering India-US ties.

In the last two decades there has been a steady and continuing growth in Indo-US Defence and intelligence cooperation despite government changes in both countries indicating a broad bipartisan support on both sides for closer relations. Shared democratic and liberal values and generally positive perception that both countries have about each other have, no doubt, contributed to creation of a positive climate but there is no denying that common threat from China and consequent convergence of geo-political interests has mainly brought the two countries together.

Starting with the "General security of military information agreement" in 2002, India and the USA have now completed the full spectrum of foundational Defence agreements at the recently concluded 2+2 dialogue with the signing of BECA providing for sharing of geospatial intelligence. In the meanwhile, the USA has also eased export restrictions on India for high tech equipment, including sensitive Defence technologies by designating it as a "Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1)" country even though India is yet to gain entry into the



Then-Vice President Joe Biden escorts Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi off stage during a luncheon in his honor at the State Department in Washington DC, on Sept. 30, 2014

NSG club. In fact, the USA has plus with the USA. Energy partneremerged as a major arms supplier to India over the last few years. This momentum is bound to continue because both countries face the joint challenge of countering China's growing military weight. India and the USA also actively cooperate in countering terrorism, another major threat to the world peace and stability. There are understandable concerns in India about the need to maintain country's strategic autonomy but that does not get compromised by a closer military coordination with the USA in order to deal with our existing security threat

India has a massive economic and commercial relationship with the USA with trade in goods and services totaling \$150 billion. Unlike China with whom we have a huge deficit, India enjoys considerable trade sur-

ship has also emerged as an important constituent of that relationship contributing greatly to India's quest to diversify its sources of energy supplies.

Biden has been quite emphatic about bringing the USA back into the Paris Climate Accord and in ensuring greater coordination and alignment with the allies on global political and economic issues. India's sterling record on promised reduction of emission levels jells quite well with his priorities.

It is widely expected that under Biden, the USA will seek to reclaim its centre stage role in global affairs which could, inter alia, see it playing a reinvigorated role in Indo-pacific region involving closer coordination with India and traditional allies such as Japan and Australia, including military and maritime exercises

to enhance inter-operability both in bilateral and "quad" framework.

The onset of Covid-19 pandemic which has affected millions across the world resulting in heavy casualties would in all likelihood deepen the fissures between China and the western countries. China's dubious role in the spread of virus and suppression of information in the early stages has already come in for sharp criticism by western leaders and general population alike. Consequently, one could well see the western countries acting in concert to keep China's rise in check and India could play a pivotal role in that

They would also move at least some of the manufacturing facilities out of China and India could offer itself as a credible alternative if we are to take further steps to improve the manufacturing climate in India and bring our practices and regulations more in line with the international best practices.

To conclude, the evolution of geo-political dynamics in the Indopacific region and indeed the world at large and emergent threat from China's aggressive posture would require both India and the USA to continue to work as close strategic partners. Based on current indications and affirmations on both sides, the cooperation between them at the Government level is likely to further solidify in Biden presidency.

(The writer retired from the Indian Foreign Service a few years ago after having served as Indian Ambassador in several countries and continues to take active interest in foreign policy issues. He is currently president of well-known NGO Antar Rashtriya Sahyog Parishad).

The evolution of geo-political dynamics in the Indo-pacific region and the world at large and emergent threat from China's aggressive posture would require both India and the USA to continue to work as close strategic partners



VIRENDRA GUPTA

#### PERSPECTIVE '

# can change dynamics of Defence services

Over the years sufficient literature has appeared on India's strategic planning. Many foreign scholars have made contributions towards the research on the modernisation of our Defence programme and the need for gearing up and updating.

One rarely comes across a balanced and dispassionate assessment of the issue since there hasn't been enough focus on a precise strategic planning.

However, the National Educational Policy (NEP) 2020 is a sincere effort to fill the gap in the existing realms of knowledge about the contemporary importance of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary studies.

As India needs to diversify its strategies to counter the challenges it faces from Pakistan and China, the strategic knowledge and anticipating the move and motive would be helpful in nipping the problems in the bud.

Recently Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat lauded the NEP and found it quite useful for armed forces to identify the inner strength, resilience, intellect and accuracy of thinking and excellent coordination between mind and body among the youth, particularly from rural areas, for serving the nation with all the integrity and conviction. This is not only an attempt to bring them to the mainstream but a major step towards fulfilling the inner penchant of equity and social justice.

The procedure of accountability and disclosure were anxiously awaited and would make system foolproof. The NEP involving more practicalbased approach at the tertiary level would help catching and identifying the inclination

among the new generation towards strengthening country's forces.

The new attention and scope for innovation would attract the talent and enlighten them to seek career opportunities in Defence services. The NEP 2020 has provided a new gateway to problem-solving mechanism and a huge platform for education sector in India. Undoubtedly tremendous efforts have been made towards creating an environment that generates smooth, easily understandable yet cognitive, constructive and analytical skills among the harbingers of future.

The provision of a single regulator and numerous entry and exit options with regard to formal degrees have been some of the salient features of the NEP which deserve all the appreciation as a new beginning to understand the core security problems which can be comprehended in brighter manner with an option of choosing Defence and security as one of the important subjects of the larger discipline either at the undergraduate or postgraduate levels.

The research on such issues would invite tremendous receptiveness on the part of higher education since the ongoing low intensity insurgency perpetuated by Pakistan and over expansionist mission of China have reaffirmed the obnoxious conspiracy to hit India where it matters the most by creating socio-religious and security quagmire.

Besides, it will send out a loud and clear message that India cannot reciprocate in the same manner as it has certain firm convictions and policies towards ensuring peace through defensive mechanism.

This has carried forward the question of reestablishing the credibility and confidence among people that India is not a soft state but it wants to avoid war and conflict as far as pos-

The new learning of sociopolitical aspects of the problem of insurgency, terrorism and Naxal violence would help security personnel get well versed with the psychology of terrorists and criminals.

John Milton once commented "hours have wings and they fly up to the author of fame dedicated to their cause". The attempt to sensitise about exploring our domestic underpinnings with renewed focus on the role of addressing the myriad shades such as gender sensitisation and concern of marginalised communities by way of creation of Special Education Zones through inclusive social democratic ideas and values in the process deserve all the appreciation.

The provisions of Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs) on par with IITs and IIMs, the National Research Foundation, the National Educational Technology Forum and Indian Institutes of Translation and Interpretation would create an environment for students to reach their potential best by encouraging academic excellence of global level, embracing new information on the one hand and opening new areas of job-ori-

ented courses on the other.

Besides, it would help in understanding social responsibility. In addition to this a new approach can also provide a clear way forward for students interested in Defence studies by getting them to learn new techniques.

The much talked about new provisions of new education formal orientation of "5+3+3+4" and learning in mother tongue or regional language till Class V would open up fresh outlook and generate an introspective discourse and seek multiple options and viewpoints to see one's right place according to one's interest.

There are numerous provisions under NEP which can ensure a collaborative creation

of ideas and providing tips to comprehend even the tedious

and complex issues. As far as education at the tertiary level is concerned, NEP's approach appears to set out a very clear way forward by getting the mentors fully involved in new techniques and developing challenging strategies to meet the need of

all categories of students. Hence, in order to enhance the standard of students it would be imperative to devel op self-academic orientation and excellence to deliver and provide a problem-solving and inquiry-based learning activities with which students can further formulate and test their ideas, draw conclusions and inferences, and pool and conlaborative learning environ-An introduction of new syllabus would provide a vivid

vey their knowledge in a col-

and deeper insight into the problem of terrorism and its causes and thereby may lead to a road map towards a foolproof encountering strategy. This combating strategy will have to look into the basis of the funding for terrorism, nexus among arms dealer, drug traffickers, smugglers and terrorists. A proper knowledge about the nexus between organised crime and terrorism can be of immense use. The vision of the NEP is

bound to make India the most competitive in the field of Defence education and would have many takers. The new facilities in security and Defence areas would enthrall new generation and provide new perspective to all the aspiring academicians and students who are shortly going to step out into the world of competition much beyond a regulated framework.

Our Defence policies should be able to adapt to the challenging environment as well as efficiently implement recommendations.

A modern, vigilant and assertive military, intelligence, police and paramilitary network should replace the old

Since it has always been the academic class which provides policy orientation to the policy makers, the NEP has the potential to produce a new breed of intellectuals to ensure fullest realisation of the much needed strategic thinking in the

(The author is a professor and expert on strategic affairs)

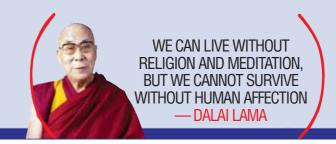
Defence and security area.

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SUDHIR HINDWAN



























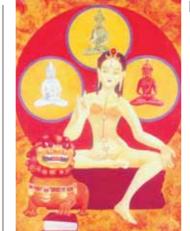




#### ARIES March 21-April 19

As the week proceeds, you will overcome all your struggles. Your determination will help you achieve your goals and it will be acknowledged and celebrated. On the work front, you have done a good job on a project and now deserve all the credit. A fulfilled ambition and greater success than you expected will make you happy. Domestic travel is also indicated. Be cautious as this success may make you heady and you may go wild. Uncertainty in some matters may prove harmful. On the relationship front, you are likely to make a choice in family matters. The week does not predict stability on emotional front. You might face disappointment in love affairs. Open discussion with your loved ones will help improve the situation.

Lucky number 9 Lucky colour Orange Lucky day Saturday



#### **LEO** July 23-Aug 22

Do not become the prey to external forces like fears, addictions, and other harmful impulses. You are likely to fall victim of deception and illusion. Follow meditation or pranayama to stay focused. On the career front, this is not the right time to look for another job or enter any venture. A rash decision could result in loss. An honest and genuine methodology will pay rich dividend later in life. You live life king size. More projects or business opportunities are coming your way, that will keep you busy. Your skill and expertise will be in demand. On the relationship front, your connection with the partner is getting stronger. By the end of the week, you will experience a celebration or an auspicious moment of your

Lucky number 6 Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Friday



#### **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you would be energetic. Take time out to pamper yourself. You will have the drive and determination to move towards your goals. Do not try to force things, as it might backfire on you. On the career front, do not engage in arguments that might make the environment tense. Secret motives and information will keep you in a troublesome situation. You need to go deep into the topic and look for your anxieties, fears, and psychic blocks. You need to keep an eye on your subordinates. On the relationship front, avoid heated arguments. While taking decisions, be grounded and firm. In love relationships, your partner may be very challenging. You are likely to be very emotional and critical and this may affect your relationship.

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Wednesday



#### **TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week your home and family life will keep you happy. There will be discussions concerning future events. You will experience family traditions and learn wisdom of the elders. On the work front, you would like a career that gives you a sense of completion, financial security and connection with others. This week you need to use your intelligence to get your way. Your generous, insightful and analytical approach can bring transformation in your life. You will experience financial security and will attain a comfortable life. You have the time to breathe and enjoy the material pleasures. On the personal front, relationships will be satisfactory. Ensure that your partner and you discuss issues to avoid complex situations. Avoid arguments with family members.

Lucky number 18 Lucky colour Green **Lucky day** Friday



#### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You will complete all essential work with confidence, selfdiscipline and patience. You will realise the importance of self-awareness and comfort. As the days pass, you will evaluate what matters in life. There will be peace and happiness at home. You may enjoy solitary leisure. On the work front, a salary increase is indicated in the cards. You shall draw support and protection from your past ties. Avoid conflicts with conflicts. Finance inflow looks good but do not consider any kind of investment at this point. On the personal front, shopping, eating, earning and spending money shall be the theme of the week. There is fortune and security in your life. Relationship with family members will give warmth and confidence. A marriage ceremony is likely to take place.

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Tuesday



#### CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You will feel healing and rejuvenating energy around you. Purity of energy will enhance your creativity. Positive thought will come to you. Ensure you continue with your health regime. Physical workout will add extra charm to your personality. Those who are having health issues are likely to recover, but it is still advisable to consult a doctor. On the career front, you are creative, original, and free from restrictions imposed by ideas and criticisms. How you speak your mind is as important as what you say. For some, promotion, salary hike or desirable transfer is on the cards. This is a very eventful week in all aspects. In a relationship, you are making a lot of efforts. Be very clear about your boundaries and preferences. Whatever is the final decision, you need to stick to it.

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Indigo **Lucky day** Tuesday



#### **GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week you would be enthusiastic, innovative and all set to get things rolling. Some of you may be impatient too. You want your self-worth acknowledged; selfrealisation is the theme of the week. To test your limits. you may go to an extent to accomplish any difficult task. Some of you will experience a creative restlessness, that will unlock a new phase of life. This will be an opportunity to change your destiny. Your curiosity urges you to express yourself and your personality. Domestic travel for business purpose is likely. The card foretells a new beginning of a business or a new careers field. On the personal front, those who are dreaming of a house may move into a new house. Bonding with your near and dear ones are satisfactory.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Golden Lucky day Sunday



#### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week try to stay cool and avoid getting into any arguments. Else, you might get into a fight. You need to experience what competition means. Respect your opponent but stand up to your point of view. Since the past is over and the future is uncertain, there is no need for you to be faithless or fearful. Be at peace with yourself, independent. Devote your full attention to your situation. Professionally, you may experience heated arguments and violence in the work area. Focus on the work and be friendly with your juniors or peers. This will get you some support in terms of harsh times. On the personal front, you are likely to be a victim of the seriousness of a mature personality which is lacking emotion. Conflict with a family member is likely.

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour Sky Blue **Lucky day** Friday



#### **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will be filled with immense energy and vitality. You are likely to enjoy sports and adventurous activities. You must follow a strict health regime like diet, exercise, and vitamins/minerals. A brief vacation to enjoy the energy is indicated. On the career front, there could be frequent journeys which may open great avenues for your professional growth. Those who are appearing for an interview or competitive exam, stars are favourable. Patience and persistence will help resolve business-related issues. You are likely to face some challenges in terms of a relationship. Accusation and misunderstandings between the married couples is indicated. As for singles, this is not the right time for a relationship.

Lucky number 22 Lucky colour Red Lucky day Wednesday



#### CANCER June 21-July 22

Your persistence, determination and efforts will allow you to make your dreams true. Enhancing your skill will help increase the chance of success. Ensure continuation of craft, educational pursuits. On the career front, promotions or increase in salary is likely Respond to friends and opponents equally. Your achievements will make you the subject of envy. Doing your work with commitment will lead to selfdevelopment. By the end of the week, you may spend time alone to re-evaluate your life. On the personal front, you may need some privacy to recharge our battery and rejuvenate the spirit. This will help you experience greater inner strength and confidence. Relationships will give you the strength.

Lucky number 21 Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Wednesday



#### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week evaluate where you stand now and where you feel you should be to increase your effectiveness and make the move accordingly. You will be full of enthusiasm and energy. You are likely to get a helping hand from a male friend or a relative. You are in rush with everything in life. This rashness, an impulsive nature may turn a good situation into a bad one. On the work front, you may be concerned about the lack of business or money and may feel that you have made a mistake with decisions made in the past. But you will try to take a positive point of view and wait for the final verdict. On the personal front, you need to experience childlike happiness. Spend time with younger members of the

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Blue Lucky day Thursday



#### PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Your sentiments and emotions will rule your heart and mind this week. You will have the opportunity to resolve a conflict over an important issue or a discord with important people in your life. You are likely to help or make amends with your family. Irrespective of negotiation, one must stay try to maintain balance. There will be times when you need to spend time alone to reevaluate your life and situation. A fourfold process is experienced at the levels of consciousness, mental. emotional, spiritual and physical. Surrender yourself to the higher wisdom, conquer material temptation and giving up something to gain something better is beneficial. Your patience and endurance will be put to

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour White Lucky day Monday

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#### **ASTRO**TURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

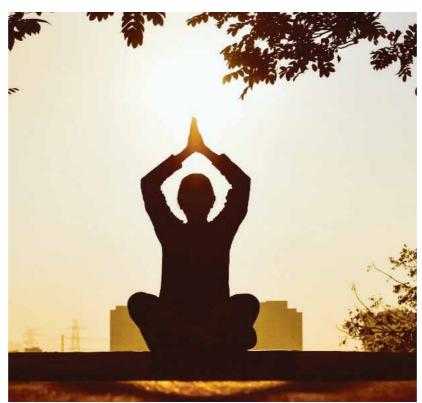
# Meditate for a better future

o sooner I get into the process suggested to calm my overtaxed mind, I get into sleep mode. Obviously, when I get up, I feel temporarily relaxed. But soon after my monkey mind comes into active play. Tell me where I am going wrong. So asked a disciple, who is serious about getting over the limitations of his mind. "Getting into sleep mode during the process is not desirable," I answered. "Why then is it happening?" he asked. Well, as you close your eyes, you get cut off from all that you would be consciously watching in the outer world as well as the self-excited thoughts within, which includes lot of negative impressions. Nothing to process, mind gets into sleep mode. "How do I get over this syndrome?" he then asked.

While introducing you to the 8 fold course of Patanjali Yoga Sutra, I had explained that meditation proper begins by getting into state of Pratyahara. I had also explained the significance and application of *Pratyahara*. The process calls for getting disengaged from waking state consciousness and instead turning your attention inwards. Fact remains that you have ignored the most impor-

tant part of the process, which is why you get into sleep mode. Should you look within, your sub-conscious mind will come into full play. That will bring into focus random thoughts picked up in the immediate past, many of them unpleasant and inconsequential. Those thoughts keep alive your grieving mind. Also, persistent desires and feelings may keep knocking you. These thoughts engage your attention so much, that you are hardly have the space necessary to process any fresh thoughts objectively, and with obvious consequences.

Remember, mind-calming process is true to the calling of Pratyahara. Should you follow the process correctly, mind will have a task in hand. It has to witness the inflowing thoughts, but at the same time train it to remain disengaged from them. Following which, those thoughts will go out of reckoning over a period of time. Consequently, you will not only feel relaxed, but also fresh mind-space will be available to process any fresh thoughts objectively. And that makes the difference. I could make out that this fellow is not able to turn his attention inwards. To facilitate that, I suggested him to keep his attention on



his breath cycle during the process inbreath and outbreath both included.

The next time the person visited me, informed that he no longer gets into sleep mode. "In fact, I am able to see a pattern in my thought flow, which makes me understand and acknowledge my mental traits. I have realised that I carry a sense of fear and insecurity. I also suffer from a sense of 'identity crisis' which tempts me prove my point whatever way I can. Where does it come from? Also, İ wish to realise my dream perceptions fast, which is not happening on expected lines. You have to now guide me how to resolve them and also realise my potential fast." the person

The sense of fear and identity crisis has actually become a part of your psyche, coming as them may as reflection of your unpleasant memory imprints picked up during early childhood. The Sun, which is marked with your identity and confidence level is in debility, and is placed opposite its dire enemy Saturn, which too is in debility. It implies that during early childhood, your parents would have tried to forcefully discipline you. You would have been subject to beating and chastised on every occasion

you committed some mistake or when your performance level was not on expected lines. Your parent's intent can't be questioned. But instead of handling you with a sense of love, they forcefully tried to impose their whip on you. The irony of the whole situation is that born with Aries lagna ruled by fiery Mars, and prominently placed, it was difficult for you to digest commandeering. In the process, your confidence level got down and developed a sense of fear, which with time became a part of your psyche. Now that you are on your own, there is no relevance of those past happenings. Once, this thought gets registered in your mind, you will get over this hang. He began working on suggested lines, and soon he overcame this problem.

This way, with time, he went on identifying and acknowledging his mental limitations one by one, and then got over them. As he got over his negatives, his performance level too began to improve.

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