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**USUAL SUSPECTS**
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Need for a measure of juridical predictability

The 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 Punjab and Haryana 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 natural 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 do not 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 politics. That is where the battle must be conducted, not in 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-a-cause 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 not a 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 change. The courts are meant to see that the rule of law is upheld. Safeguarding the public interest is a lofty concept but that is outside the purview of the judges.

It is sometimes mistakenly believed that anything pronounced by the courts is law. It is also presumed that law is absolute and written in stone. Both these ideas are often responsible for facile conclusions, particularly in the media. The reality is that the interpretation of what is law often depends on the subjective orientation and personal philosophies of the judges. A decision by one Bench can often vary dramatically from the same case heard by another Bench. This is why there is such a tussle in the United States over the appointment of "liberal" or "conservative" judges. The composition of the Bench will shape the verdict — although this is not to say that the judges are willfully political.

The reactions to the Supreme Court order have initiated a debate which is instructive. It is time that this debate finds reflection in the deliberations of Parliament in the forthcoming Budget session. India needs a measure of juridical predictability to confront turbulent politics.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India launched its mammoth vaccination drive on Saturday to bring the pandemic under control with two locally-produced vaccines — Covishield and Covaxin — with nearly two lakh out of targeted 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

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

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 sessions.

Agnani said that Covid-19 vaccines 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.

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SII CEO receives 1st dose of Covishield

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 vaccination drive.

BKU Lokshakti requests SC to replace members for panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Bhartiya Kisan Union Lokshakti approached the Supreme Court on Saturday, requesting it to remove the remaining three members of a committee it had set up to hold talks with the farmers protesting against the three contentious farm laws.

The BKU (Lokshakti) has requested the court to nominate people to the committee who can do the job "on the basis of mutual harmony". The BKU (Lokshakti) is one of the 40-odd farmer unions spearheading the agitation on

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Army boosted country's morale: Rajnath

PNS/AGENCIES ■ LUCKNOW

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said the Indian Army has boosted the morale of the country and also enabled the people to hold their heads high during the border standoff with China.

He said this while addressing a gathering here during the 'bhoomipujan' and foundation stone laying ceremony of the new Command Hospital. "The charismatic (*karishmaayi*) performance by the Army during the India-China standoff has boosted the morale of the country and also enabled the citizens to hold their heads high," he said, drawing a thunderous applause from the crowd.

"The entire world is facing COVID-19, pandemic No one had thought that with the onset of the pandemic, celebrating festivals such as Holi, Eid and

Diwali will be without much fanfare (*dhoomdhaam*). No one had imagined that trains will come to a halt, and schools and markets will remain closed. However, the good thing was that under the leadership Prime Minister Narendra Modi, efforts to deal with the crisis started with courage and understanding (of the issue)," he said.

He added that the biggest challenge at the time of the pandemic was testing.

"There were barely two laboratories, but today there are over 1,000 laboratories. There was a shortage of masks, ventilators and PPE kits. But the swiftness and understanding of the issue which India displayed, masks, PPE kits and ventilators are now being exported. This has been done in 4-6 months," Singh said.

Hailing the doctors and healthcare

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No way to go, no age to go

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

It was neither the age, nor the way to go. Usha Srivastava, 59, who headed the Hindi Pioneer in the Capital 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 find 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 complications.

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



USHA SRIVASTAVA
FEB 12, 1961 — JAN 16, 2021

those who mourned Usha's death. The *Pioneer* CEO Shobori Ganguly described Usha as a "valuable" 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.

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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.

Haryana 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 and 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.

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Dr Reddy's gets nod to hold ph-3 trials of Sputnik-V in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has given approval to Dr Reddy's Laboratories to conduct phase 3 clinical trials of Russia's Covid-19 vaccine candidate, Sputnik V, in the country.

The phase 3 trial will be conducted on 1,500 subjects as part of the randomised, double-blind, parallel group, placebo controlled study in India. Dr Reddy said in a statement here on Friday.

Earlier, the Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) reviewed the safety data from the phase 2 clinical trials of the vaccine and recommended phase 3 recruitment. In its report, the DSMB concluded that no safety concerns were identified and the study met the primary endpoints of safety.

Dr Reddy's Laboratories co-chairman and MD GV Prasad said, "This is an important milestone in the progress of this pivotal clinical trial of the vaccine. We expect to commence phase 3 study within this month and will continue to fast-track our efforts to bring in a safe and efficacious vaccine for the Indian population".

In September 2020, Dr Reddy's partnered with the Russian Direct Investment Fund to conduct the clinical trials of the Sputnik V vaccine and for its distribution rights in India.

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- Bharat Biotech will pay compensation to recipients in case of any 'serious adverse' effects experienced after receiving the antidote
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi kicked off the vaccine rollout with a click of a button, a video message played the Sanskrit chant — *sarve bhavantu sukhinah, sarve santu niramaya*
- Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan: These vaccines are 'sanjivani' in our fight against this pandemic. We have won the battles against polio and small pox. Now, we have reached the decisive phase of winning the war against coronavirus
- Manish Kumar from Delhi: Many of them (staff) were scared. So, I went to my seniors and said I should be given the vaccine first. I wanted to prove to my colleagues that there is no need to be scared
- Abdul Qayoom, security guard at Era Medical College in UP: There was always fear in mind because of close proximity to coronavirus patients. But now I am feeling much safer after the shot


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CM to virtually open Strawberry Festival in Jhansi today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Fulfilling his commitment for a more vibrant Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will add another chapter of growth in the area on Sunday when he will virtually inaugurate the Strawberry Festival in Jhansi.

The Bundelkhand Expressway and the Defence Manufacturing Corridor are some of the mega initiatives taken by the Yogi government to transform this region. The fresh impetus to the agriculture sector in Bundelkhand is sure to change the lives of farmers for good.

The soil of Jhansi is very suitable for the cultivation of strawberries and in order to promote it in the entire Bundelkhand region, the ‘Strawberry Festival’, being organised from January 17 to February 16, will showcase the potential in strawberry cultivation.

Informing about the new step in terms of looking for new avenues in the field of agriculture, Jhansi District Magistrate Andra Vamsi said that the region was known for the production of pulses and ginger but fruit cultivation was being taken up in a big way by promoting strawberry production.

He said the chief minister personally took interest in the development of the Bundelkhand region and saw to it that the farmers got an option for better income through strawberry cultivation. “It has been cultivated for the first time in the region and two families of Jhansi have successfully cultivated strawberry without any aid from the government,” he said.

The region was never known for growing fruits and these families successfully took to strawberries cultivation with the help of drip irrigation and sprinklers.

“A work plan has also been made

to encourage strawberry farming in Jhansi and other regions and this (strawberry) could well become a new option of better income for farmers,” Vamsi said. Workshops would also be organised during the festival and farmers would be encouraged to opt for cultivation of strawberries. The district administration would also be providing strawberry plants to the people, Vamsi added.

According to Gaurav Garg, an expert on strawberry farming, it can well be a profitable option for the farmers.

“A plant of strawberry costs about Rs 70 to Rs 80 and it gives about one kilogram of strawberries. The taste of the strawberry grown in Jhansi is just like those of Mahabaleshwar. The festival will definitely boost the possibilities of growing strawberries in the region and provide another option in agriculture,” he said.

BJP announces 6 more candidates for council polls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Bharatiya Janata Party, on Saturday, announced six more candidates for the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council polls.

The BJP has declared 10 candidates for 12 Legislative Council seats while two candidates of the Samajwadi Party have already filed their nominations on Friday.

The BJP, by announcing only 10 candidates, has cleared the decks for the unopposed election of all 12 candidates to the Legislative Council as only 12 nominations are likely to be filed against 12 seats. BJP sources here said that all the 10 candidates will file their papers on Monday, the last day for filing of the nominations.

The six candidates announced on Saturday are Kunwar Manvendra Singh, Govind Narain Shukla, Salil Bishnoi, Ashwini Tyagi, Dr Dharmveer Prajapati and Surendra Choudhury. Among the 10 candidates, four are from OBCs, five upper castes and one from the Scheduled Castes. On Thursday, the BJP had announced four candidates, repeating Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma, state BJP president Swatantra Dev Singh and Laxman Acharya and bureaucrat-turned-politician AK Sharma who joined the party a day earlier.

Meanwhile the Election Commission has issued guidelines to be followed during the election process. Every person will have to wear a face mask during all election-related activities and at the entry of the hall/room/premises used for election purposes. Thermal scanning of all persons shall be carried out and sanitiser will be made available at all locations.

5-year-old raped in Banda

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth was arrested for raping a 5-year-old girl in a village in Banda district.

The police said that the minor girl was raped in the village under Girwa police station on Friday night.

Circle Officer Nareni Siyaram said that a 23-year-old youth lured the minor girl to a deserted place and raped her.

Police said that when the girl’s family came to know about the incident, they reached the accused’s house to complain but his family members threatened to kill them.

The CO said that an FIR was registered against the accused under the POCSO Act, after which he was arrested on Friday night.

Along with him, three members of the family of the accused were also arrested for threatening to kill the victim’s family.

Police said that the girl’s condition was critical and she was admitted to the hospital.

Police said that as a precaution, additional force had been deployed in the village, so that there was no threat to the girl and her family members.

Meanwhile in Shahjahanpur, a woman alleged that she was raped twice by a sub-inspector who also made a video of the incident, police said on Saturday.

The woman alleged that the sub-inspector posted at

the Jalalabad police station took her to a secluded place when she was returning from Shahjahanpur on January 8 and raped her for the second time.

“She alleged that the sub-inspector also threatened her not to pursue the case,” Superintendent of Police, S Anand said, quoting the complaint of the victim.

A first information report (FIR) was registered on Thursday. The SP said the transfer of the sub-inspector had been recommended and the allegation of the woman was being probed.

The woman claimed that she first lodged an FIR on September 2, 2020 against the officer for raping her when he was posted at the Kalan police station.

The woman alleged that she came in contact with the sub-inspector during a case of dowry filed against her husband, the SP said.

A case for making the video of the incident was also registered against the officer.

Police said a final report on the FIR lodged by the woman in September was filed and the woman had gone to Shahjahanpur to file her protest petition on January 8.

In Pratapgarh, a woman officer posted in the district filed a complaint against a man, accusing him of raping and blackmailing her.

Police said on Saturday

Police said that as a precaution, additional force had been deployed in the village, so that there was no threat to the girl and her family members

the woman officer filed a complaint with the police alleging that the man used to beat and harass her during her coaching days and he also made an obscene video and clicked pictures of her.

The officer alleged that when she got a job in a bank in Bareilly, the accused used to come there and blackmailed her.

Later on her selection in the Provincial Civil Service, she was posted in Pratapgarh in 2017 and the woman officer said the accused used to come to her officers’ colony residence there along with his two associates and tried to sexually exploit her.

The accused visited her again on December 18 last year but fled when she raised an alarm. Acting on the complaint, the police on Friday arrested the accused who hails from Basantpur in Shahjahanpur district.

Further investigations are on.

PNG being supplied to over 3,500 houses in VNS

Lucknow (PNS): Under the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Project, piped natural gas (PNG) is being supplied to more than 3,500 houses in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s constituency, Varanasi.

According to the information received from GAIL India Limited, within two years, clean-burning natural gas or PNG has been supplied to as many as 3,900 houses by laying a 62-kilometre-long steel line and 364-

kilometre-long pipeline. This pipeline connects 25,000 houses located at BHU, BLW, Bhelupur and PWD colonies.

Giving information about how to install PNG connection, the government spokesman claimed that a normal family consumes LPG gas of approximately Rs 500 in a month but for the installation of PNG connection, all one needs is to follow three simple schemes:

Under the standard option, a person has to deposit Rs 4,000 as security amount which is refundable. Under the installation option, a person needs to deposit Rs 5 per day for 1,000 days and under the flexi option, a person only has to pay Re 1 every day (as well as tax) till the time PNG connection is used by the family. The spokesman claimed that in all schemes, Rs 500 has to be deposited before the supply of PNG as security money.

Gorakhpur to be developed as a garment industry hub soon

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced to develop Gorakhpur as a garment industry hub, saying that it will give an impetus to garment industries in the eastern Uttar Pradesh.

For the development of the garment industry hub, the Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA) will be providing four-acre land on which a flattened factory will be built and will make it available for entrepreneurs.

During his two-day visit to Gorakhpur on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met a delegation under the banner of the Chamber of Industries and discussed the progress report in this regard. Telling officials that it was a great opportunity for the city as well as the state, the chief minister

said, “You people should work and take the development of garment hubs in the interest of Purvanchal and your-

self in order to encourage self-employment.”

In this regard, Additional Chief Secretary (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Navneet Sehgal, during his visit to Gorakhpur on the occasion of Gorakhpur Mahotsav, spoke to the people associated with the garment industries at the Circuit House.

Sehgal said, “I request you all to visit Noida once and see the method of working there. Also, decide the expansion plan and let us know how many machines, and how much space is required. Everything will be provided accordingly to the flattened factory.”

This initiative of the Uttar Pradesh government of building a flattened factory will not only boost the textile industries (that also falls under the One District One Product scheme) but will also generate employment opportunities for the workers who have returned to UP during the COVID-19 lockdown.

It is worth mentioning that as soon as Yogi Adityanath was elected as a Member of Parliament from Gorakhpur, he took serious initiatives to make his dream of making Purvanchal a hub of textile industries come true. Now, being the chief minister of the state, he has started a serious exercise to build garment parks and textile parks here, Sehgal asserted.

From the roots to the fruits:

Sehgal claimed that over time, the textile industries gradually succumbed to a lack of technology and the neglect of governments and people associated with these industries switched their profession and sought another occupation.

Under the Bharatiya Janata Party government, the skill mapping of more than 50 lakh migrant workers who returned to UP from other states during the lockdown showed that they have considerable proficiency in the garment sector.



Mayor of Meerut Sunita Verma taking Samajwadi Party membership along with many workers of BJP and BSP in Lucknow on Saturday

30-bed rehab centres to be set up in Lko and Gkp

Lucknow (PNS): To make sure that no person struggles with drug addiction, the Uttar Pradesh government, under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction Scheme, would set up 30-bed drug addiction centres at King George’s Medical University in Lucknow and BRD Medical College in Gorakhpur.

To make sure that youth get rid of drug addiction and alcohol, the Yogi Adityanath government is already providing free treatment and publicising drug abuse results through rehabilitation centres.

The state prohibition officer claimed here on Saturday that 10-bed addiction treatment centres will be set up in government hospitals in other districts of UP along with 30-bed de-addiction centres in Lucknow and Gorakhpur.

In these centres, drug addiction along with treatment, educational awareness, identification, counselling and treatment will be provided.

A fund of more than Rs 6 crore has been provisioned for this scheme by the Government

of India for the financial year 2020-21.

As many as 23 de-addiction centres are being operated in the state by non-government voluntary institutions funded by the Government of India on behalf of the state Prohibition department. These centres are providing free treatment to patients struggling with drug addiction.

These rehab centres of the state, till November 2020, have rehabilitated over 1,800 addicts and connected them with the mainstream of society. After the construction of new de-addic-

tion centres in Lucknow and Gorakhpur, the drug eradication programmes will gain momentum.

According to the department, after the creation of two new de-addiction centres in Lucknow and Gorakhpur, the drug eradication programme will gain momentum.

Wide-scale awareness programmes, including documentaries, sports competitions, rallies, seminars, exhibitions, etc. are being organised in the state by the Prohibition department for the eradication of intoxication.

Under these programmes, students and young people are motivated and made aware to quit the addiction to drugs and alcohol.

It may be recalled that last year, over 300 sports competitions, 88 documentaries, 112 exhibitions and 571 seminars were organised by the Prohibition department. In these programmes, more than 1,000 students who took part in educational and sports competitions were also honoured by the department.

Mission Shakti making women self-reliant

Lucknow (PNS): Under the successful Mission Shakti initiative, the Uttar Pradesh government claimed to have spared no efforts to not only make women aware of their rights but to also make them self-reliant and self-independent.

A government release issued on Saturday confirmed that under this campaign launched by the UP government, Pallavi Tiwari, a government teacher from Sultanpur, is working to ensure every woman of the district gets employment and every girl gets complete education.

Describing her initiative towards making women self-reliant, Pallavi said, “I am working day and night to make sure every rural woman of the district gets government facilities so that they may improve their living standards. Also, I am connecting girls with education so that they can set their future.”

“I am also making women aware of Mission Shakti by giving detailed information about government schemes in rural areas,” she added.

Working in the direction of mak-

ing women and girls self-reliant, Pallavi along with other NGOs has provided employment to more than 10,000 women and girls and free education to over 2,500 children. She has so far enrolled about 150 girls in primary schools and financially helped the daughters of poor families in their marriage during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Inspired by this successful initiative of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Pallavi said that other state governments should also organise such programmes. It may be mentioned here that with the aim to make the new generation the carrier of culture that guarantees respect for women, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had launched the Mission Shakti programme on October 17, 2020 for six months and it will come to an end on Basant Navratri in April 2021.

It may be recalled that many non-governmental organisations and government organisations have already taken a few steps to ensure women’s security and empowerment and make them aware of their rights by organising various awareness programmes.

Job-seeker duped of ₹10,000

Lucknow (PNS): Unidentified miscreants duped a man of Rs 10,000 in cash on the pretext of getting his job profile shortlisted, in Sushant Golf City area on Saturday.

As per reports, Ambrish Singh of Chinhat got a call from an unidentified number and was asked if he had to get his job profile shortlisted. As Singh had registered for a job site, he agreed to the proposal after which he was asked to pay Rs 10. When the victim asked for the mode of payment, he was directed to click a link sent to his phone. The victim made the payment after clicking the link and a message of ‘error’ popped in the process. Later, he got a message regarding deduction of Rs 8890 from his account. He again clicked the link and a Rs 1,900 were deducted from his bank account. Singh then called on the number from which he had got the call, and a girl attended it. He was asked to send the bank account details for refund of money. However, he did not share the bank account details and lodged a case in this connection.

Meanwhile, a 34-year-old hotel employee was found hanging in a forest cover under PGI police station area on Saturday. As per reports, Irfan of Gonda worked at the hotel owned by Faraz Ahmad and located near a colony in the area.

आवश्यकता

आवश्यकता है मदरसा जामिया निजामिया
243ए दायरा शाह अजमल प्रयागराज (उच्च आलिया) में

एक सशस्त्र फौजियों व दो सशस्त्र तहसीलों एवं दो आधुनिकीकरण अकादमि की आवश्यकता है। फौजियों हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता कोषित अथवा न्यूनतम 50 प्रतिशत अंको सहित स्नातक तथा आलिया अथवा उर्दू सहित इस्लाम का प्रमाण-पत्र आवश्यक है। वेतनमान 44000-142400 लेवेल-7 एवं अन्य नते न्यूनतम आयु 20 वर्ष। तथा सशस्त्र तहसीलों हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता आलिया अथवा इस्लाम उर्दू से अथवा साहित्य वेतनमान 35400-112400 लेवेल-6 एवं अन्य नते न्यूनतम आयु 18 वर्ष। तथा आधुनिकीकरण अकादमि हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता परास्नातक या प्रशिक्षित स्नातक या स्नातक वेतनमान भारत सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित मानदेय न्यूनतम आयु 18 वर्ष। इच्छुक अर्जियों विज्ञापन की तिथि से 21 दिन के अन्दर अपना आवेदन पत्र सम्पन्न शैक्षिक योग्यताओं के साथ प्रत्येक मदरसा के पदान्त से मदरसा उपरोक्त पर भेजें।

प्रबन्धक
मदरसा जामिया निजामिया
243ए दायरा शाह अजमल
प्रयागराज

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838 health workers get vaccine jabs



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

On the launch of Covid vaccination drive on Saturday, 838 health workers were given jabs in Lucknow. There was enthusiasm and excitement as the vaccination rooms resounded with a hearty applause as the first batch of health workers were vaccinated soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address. It was business as usual for most of the health employees some time after being given the shots.

District immunisation officer MK Singh said the vaccination drive on the first day was smooth and there were no reports of any technical glitches or side-effects. "Of the 1,200 health workers, 838 were administered the vaccine, and it is a good figure. The rest who did not report included pregnant women and others who did not respond when called,"

he said, adding Covishield had been distributed at all the 12 centres in Lucknow.

At several centres, heads of respective institutions were administered the first dose, which boosted the confidence of their subordinates. As many as 57 out of 100 health workers got vaccinated at KGMU, 63 out of 100 at RML, 74 out of 102 at Balrampur, and 82 out of 100 at Medanta.

SGPGI director Prof RK Dhiman, who was the first person to get vaccinated at 10:55 am, was sent an SMS soon getting vaccinated.

"It's a great feeling as it is the beginning of an end to Covid-19," said Prof Dhiman, who is 61 years old and has no comorbidities. He said he had no side-effects. "I did not even feel the pain in the local site and have normal respiration," he added. The SGPGI director said he came to know on Saturday morning that he was

to be vaccinated. "The list which was released on Friday did not have my name, but the one which we received this morning had my name, hence my family was not aware. My wife, who is a paediatrician, was having a discussion with me the previous night and we had decided that whenever the vaccine comes, we will go for it," he said. The SGPGI director said that all the vaccines are safe and he had personally gone through their phase-1 and phase-2 trials. Till 2 pm, a total of 35 health workers had been vaccinated at the institute.

RMLMS director Dr AK Singh, who was amongst the first ones to get vaccinated, said he was given the jab at 11:02 am. "I had no side-effects and was feeling fine after vaccination. ANM Garima gave the shot to me and did a fine job. She explained everything very well and I did not even feel the prick," he said. Singh said they

had staggered the beneficiaries while calling them for the vaccination.

DG, Medical Health, DS Negi, who was also vaccinated at Balrampur Hospital, said he was back to work soon after getting the shot. "I felt no side-effects and we have also not received any reports of side-effects or technical glitches from anywhere," he said.

Balrampur Hospital director Dr Rajeev Lochan, who was also given the shot, said he was feeling fine and all those who got vaccinated at the hospital also faced no problems. "Till 3 pm, 70 out of the total 102 had been vaccinated," he said.

Arun Kumar Srivastava (51), an accounts officer at RMLMS, said he was the first to get vaccinated at the hospital. "I had been waiting for a long time for this moment. I was vaccinated at 10:59 am," he said. He added that he did not have any apprehensions about

getting vaccinated. However, my wife was a little apprehensive and she wanted me to not be a part of the first batch to see if there were any side-effects. However, I told her that there would be no side-effects and if there is any, I will be looked after at the hospital itself," he said. He added that he had not tested positive for Covid-19 as he was taking all precautions.

Vinay Kumar Tewari (43), also an accounts officer at RMLMS, was the second one to get the vaccine shot. He said he also had no side-effects.

"I had no apprehensions as I had full faith in the scientists of my country. I did not even feel the prick. My wife was a little worried but I categorically told her that it was important to get vaccinated," he said.

Anita Walter (52), an SGPGI nurse who suffers from diabetes, said she was the third person to get vaccinated at the institute and that she had no side-effects.

Nodal officer for Covid immunisation at KGMU, Dr Nishant Verma said 43-year-old Amar Bahadur Singh, an employee at the registrar's office, was the first one to get vaccinated. A total of 57 persons got vaccinated because 10-15 per cent were out of station, a few had mild illness and some could not be contacted while there were still others who were apprehensive of side-effects.

Head of KGMU's Pulmonary department Dr Surya Kant Tripathi, who also got vaccinated, said he was feeling fit and fine. He said people should not pay heed to rumours and follow what the PM said. Joint director of RMLMS Dr Sanjay Singh said he was vaccinated at 11:23 am and was out at 11:53 am. He said his family was not at all apprehensive about vaccination.

Medanta Hospital director Dr Rakesh Kapoor also got vaccinated on the first day of the drive. "I was the first one to get vaccinated and soon after, I performed three surgeries. I had no side-effects and am glad that the highest number of health workers got vaccinated at our hospital," he said.

Everyone to be vaccinated, wait for your turn: Yogi



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The much awaited COVID-19 vaccination drive started in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visiting Balrampur Hospital in Lucknow in the morning and reviewing the vaccination programme. In the Balrampur Hospital, the first dose of the vaccine was administered to Dr Praveen Kumar and staff nurse Geeta Devi and the chief minister interacted with the staff of the hospital.

"Today is a day of happiness and excitement for the people of the country. The vaccination, which began under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will prove to be the final blow against COVID-19 in the country. India is the first nation that has launched two vaccines against coronavirus. I congratulate the scientists and the doctors, including the PM, on this achievement," the CM said.

Some selfish people with vested interests were spreading rumours about the coronavirus vaccine, he said.

"We are always vigilant. There is a need to avoid any kind of rumour and people should wait for their turn," he added. The CM said the vaccination also carried forward PM Modi's resolution of Make in India. "The vaccination has started country-wide on Saturday in India. Those who have been administered the vaccine on Saturday will get the second dose after 28 days. People should wait for their turn and everyone's order has been set," the CM said and added, "We have to break the chain of coronavirus."

It may be mentioned that many doctors and nurses were vaccinated in Balrampur Hospital. They were kept under observation for half an hour



(Top) CM Yogi Adityanath taking stock of the Covid vaccination drive at Balrampur Hospital. (Above) PM's address being live-streamed at KGMU

and all of them were completely healthy. "Initially I was scared but after taking the dose, I am feeling completely healthy. I am happy that India is the first country in the world to successfully make the vaccine," said Geeta Devi, the staff nurse of Balrampur Hospital, who took the first shot of the vaccine. "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, we have to remain alert for the people who are spreading rumours," the chief minister said.

Meanwhile, COVID-19 vaccination was underway at 317 centres in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday. Over 31,700 health workers across the state's 75 districts were vaccinated on the first day. In the first phase, health workers are being administered the vaccine.

Balrampur Hospital is among the 12 vaccination centres in the state capital. Other vaccination centres in Lucknow included King George's Medical University (KGMU), Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI), Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, Sahara Hospital, Medanta Hospital, Veerangana Avantibai Hospital,

Era's Medical College, TS Misra Medical College and two community health centres located on the city outskirts.

The vaccination drive was successfully flagged off in other major cities of the state, including Noida, Varanasi and Prayagraj. Member of Lok Sabha from Gautam Buddha Nagar, Dr Mahesh Sharma, became the first parliamentarian to be vaccinated on the first day. The state has so far received over one million vaccine doses against 1.1 million sought for the first phase.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) Amit Mohan Prasad said the first phase vaccination was to be largely organised in government hospitals, health centres, primary health centres, district hospitals, district women's hospitals, urban health centres, government and private medical colleges.

A health worker at King George's Medical University said, "We are ready for the vaccination. It's the first day, so we are excited but nervous too."

"All preparations have been done. I want to get vaccinated because I worked throughout this COVID-19 phase," he said. As many as 1,200 health workers were to be vaccinated at 12 centres in Lucknow on Saturday.

When will poor get free vaccine, asks AKY

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Close on the heels of his controversial statement calling the coronavirus vaccine as BJP's vaccine, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said here on Saturday said he had faith in doctors of the country but not the government. He also suggested that the BJP functionaries should first line up in queues and get themselves vaccinated.

Akhilesh Yadav sought to know from the government how the COVID-19 vaccination drive would be conducted and when the

poor would get the shot free of cost. The former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh said he had faith in doctors of the country but not the government. He also suggested that the BJP functionaries should first line up in queues and get themselves vaccinated.

"After one year, when the SP will come to power, we will ensure free vaccines for all," he said, seeking to know when the poor would be vaccinated free of cost.

He sought to know if the staff on vaccination duty had been given proper training and all logistics had been

taken care of.

He also attacked the state government over allegations of fake encounters, custodial deaths and crime against women. The SP chief alleged that his party workers had been framed in fake cases.

Reiterating his party's support to the farmers' agitation, Yadav said the three new farm laws would ruin the poor.

Meanwhile, in a big setback to the Bahujan Samaj Party several leaders of the dalit based political party joined the SP on Saturday.

Mayor of Meerut Sunita Verma along with her former

legislator husband Yogesh Verma joined the SP on Saturday in the presence of party chief Akhilesh Yadav.

Former BSP MLA from Bareilly Vijay Pal also joined the SP. Welcoming the BSP leaders in the party fold, Akhilesh Yadav said with the joining of the BSP leaders, his party would get a major boost in western UP and other parts of the state.

Others who joined the SP included former BSP MP Dawood Ahmed, former BJP MLA from Mirzapur Sriram Bharti and former minister in BSP government Avadesh Verma.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notification No. 12/2021						
Important Notice for Traveling Public						
1. Existing Festival Special extended till further advice						
Train No.	From	To	Days	Presently Notified Upto	Extended Upto	
02167	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Manduadih	Daily	31.01.2021	Until Further Advise	
02168	Manduadih	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Daily	01.02.2021	Until Further Advise	
2. Existing Festival Special Trains extended till end of March 2021						
Train No.	From	To	Days	Presently Notified Upto	Extended Upto	Extended Trips
01033	Pune	Darbhanga	Wed	27.01.2021	03.02.2021 to 31.03.2021	9
01034	Darbhanga	Pune	Fri	29.01.2021	05.02.2021 to 02.04.2021	9
01115	Pune	Gorakhpur	Thu	28.01.2021	04.02.2021 to 25.03.2021	8
01116	Gorakhpur	Pune	Sat	30.01.2021	06.02.2021 to 27.03.2021	8
01407	Pune	Lucknow Jn.	Tue	26.01.2021	02.02.2021 to 30.03.2021	9
01408	Lucknow Jn.	Pune	Thu	28.01.2021	04.02.2021 to 01.04.2021	9
02135	Pune	Manduadih	Mon	25.01.2021	01.02.2021 to 29.03.2021	9
02136	Manduadih	Pune	Wed	27.01.2021	03.02.2021 to 31.03.2021	9
02165	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Gorakhpur	Thu, Mon	01.02.2021	04.02.2021 to 29.03.2021	16
02166	Gorakhpur	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Fri, Tue	02.02.2021	05.02.2021 to 30.03.2021	16
02031	Pune	Gorakhpur	Tue, Sat	30.01.2021	02.02.2021 to 30.03.2021	17
02032	Gorakhpur	Pune	Thu, Mon	01.02.2021	04.02.2021 to 01.04.2021	17
01079	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Gorakhpur	Thu	28.01.2021	04.02.2021 to 25.03.2021	8
01080	Gorakhpur	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Sat	30.01.2021	06.02.2021 to 27.03.2021	8
Please Note: 1. The above train will run with full reserved accommodation 2. It is mandatory for the passengers to follow the guidelines issued for prevention and safety from Covid-19.						
CPROT-101B Chief Passenger Trans. Manager, Gorakhpur						
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955						
Do not travel with flammable items in trains						

Youth arrested for running job racket

Lucknow (PNS): A youth was arrested while two of his aides, including a girl, escaped in Gudamba police station area on Saturday. The trio were on police radar for their alleged involvement in a job racket. The accused would take money for gullible people on the pretext of facilitating them jobs in foreign countries and would provide them fake visas. As per reports, the police got a complaint about a company which charged hefty sums from people for sending them to foreign countries for jobs. The company owner and his staff were accused of sending people abroad with fake visas.

By the time police acted on the complaint, the accused got a whiff of the same and they went into a hiding. Senior officials formed a team, asking the members to ensure arrest of the accused. On Saturday, an informer tipped off police about the prime accused and owner of the company, Shubham Srivastava of Bakshi-Ka-Talab, who was in Gudamba. The police detained him. During interrogation, Shubham owned his crime and disclosed the names of his aides as Vishal Singh (manager) and Akanksha Shukla (receptionist).

In another case, a youth was arrested for raping a girl at some place in Alambagh. Police arrested the accused nearly two months after the case was registered against him. Earlier, the police had recovered the girl and sent her for a medical test. After confirmation of rape in medical test, the police expedited the investigation and arrested the accused, who was identified as Mehtab Raza of Faizabad. Reports said that father of the girl had lodged a complaint on November 18 at Alambagh police station, alleging that Mehtab lured the girl and raped her. The police registered a case under Section 363/366 and also booked him under POC SO Act. After confirmation of rape, the police also invoked Section 376 of IPC. However, the accused went into a hiding. The police said an informer tipped them off about Mehtab who was present at Alambagh bus station and a team nabbed him.

127 test +ve

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as 127 persons tested positive for coronavirus in city on Saturday while 165 patients recovered. The death toll stands at 1,154 while there are 2,090 active cases in the district. In the state, 533 persons tested positive while 12 patients died, including three in Lucknow.

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रिकवरी अनुभाग Recovery Section, मण्डल कार्यालय, रायबरेली Circle Office: Raebareli- 229001							
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES							
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 constructive/ physical/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/Secured Creditor from the respective borrower(s) and guarantor(s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.							
Lot No.	Name of the Branch		Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged /Owner's Name (Mortgagors of property(ies))	A. Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002	A. Reserve Price (in Lacs)	Date/ Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
	Name of the Account			Outstanding Amount	B. EMD		
	Name & Addresses of the Borrower/ Guarantors Account			C.Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI ACT 2002	C. Last date of deposit of EMD		
				D.Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/ Constructive	D. Bid Increase Amount		
1.	BO:Banda M/s Versha Trading Prop. Mr. Ajay Kumar Bulani S/o Mr. Anand Kumar Bulani H. No. 1035-1036 Mochiyana Mohalla Banda, Uttar Pradesh		Property No.1 A triple storey residential building measuring total area 1950.90 Sq. feet. Situated at H. No. 1035 & 1036 Mohalla- Muchiyan, Banda (Owner- Mr. Ajay Kumar S/o Mr. Anand Kumar Bulani. Boundaries- East- Property of Mr. Dayal Das, West- Entrance & 5 ft. wide lane, North- Property of Sh. Hafiz ji, South- Khan Khah Dargah. Property No.2 A six storey commercial cum residential building (including basement) measuring total area 31.02 Sqm. or 333.79 Sqft. Situated at Land No. 7391, H. No. 269/24 (old) /288/24 (New), Mohalla- Kalwan Ganj, Near Masjid. Main Kotwali- Chhoti Bazar road, Banda (Owner- Sh. Manoj Kumar Chaurasiya S/o Sh. Ganesh Prasad Chaurasiya. Boundries- East- Main Kotwali- Choti Bazar Road, West- Prop. of Sh. Chhote Miyan, North- Prop. of Sh. Late Chandni Deen, South- Prop. of Sh. Sanjay Gupta.	A.17.07.2017 B. Rs.84.33 C. 14.03.2018 D. Symbolic possession	A. Rs.30.60 B. Rs.3.06 C. 09.02.2021 D. Rs.0.10	11.02.2021 From 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon	No
				A.17.07.2017 B. Rs. 84.33 C. 14.03.2018 D. Symbolic possession	A. Rs.26.00 B. Rs.2.60 C. 09.02.2021 D. Rs.0.10	11.02.2021 From 12.00 Noon to 01.00 PM	No
TERMS AND CONDITIONS							
(1)- The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:- (2)-The properties are being sold on „AS IS WHERE IS BASIS“ and „AS IS WHAT IS BASIS“ and „WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS“, (3)- The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule here in above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. (4)- The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website:- https://www.mstcecommerce.com on 11.02.2021 @ 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM. 5- For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer www.mstcecommerce.com , https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app .							
Date: 17.01.2021				Place: Raebareli		Umesh Kumar Authorized Officer: Punjab National Bank	

Covid vaccination begins in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is also a local parliamentarian, launched the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination programme, it also began at all the selected hospitals in this holy city here on Saturday. While data entry operator Ajay Kumar Mishra of Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Divisional Hospital got the first vaccination at Government Women's Hospital, Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) Dr V Shukla received the first dose of vaccine at Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU) Hospital. After launching the drive through video conferencing, Modi said that in a very short time the corona vaccine has arrived in India and today the world's largest corona vaccination campaign is being started, specifically emphasised that it takes years to make one vaccine, but in such a short time, two 'Made in India' vaccines have been made which is an example of India's scientific skills and talents.

The Covid vaccination started in Varanasi under the supervision of District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma. A total of six locations have been set up including four in urban area and two in rural.



COVID-19 vaccination begins at SSH BHU in Varanasi on Saturday

Pioneer

A total of 600 people, including 100 at each centre, were vaccinated. In the first phase, vaccination is being done on health workers.

During the drive, the DM inspected Women's Hospital at Kabirchaura and DDU Hospital at Pandepur. In his presence, the first vaccine was given to Ajay Kumar Mishra at Women's Hospital.

The vaccination programme was started with full fervour at Women's Hospital where the vaccination ward

was fully decorated with flower, leaves and balloons.

There was excitement among the people, seeing the live telecast of the Corona Vaccination Inaugural Programme by the PM on the large LED screen.

For popularising the programme, the big LED screens were installed at six places including at Cantt, Nadesar, Manduadih, Kashi station and Kabirchaura by the Information department. On this occasion, Chief Medical

Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh and other officers of the Health department were also present. The vaccination programme also began at Sir Sundarlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU) in the presence of Rector Prof VK Shukla, Registrar Dr Neeraj Tripathi, Director of Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS) Prof BR Mittal, Medical Superintendent (MS) of SSH Prof SK Mathur, Prof Incharge of Trauma Centre Prof Sanjeev Gupta and others.

Special cover on Banarasi silk released

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Post Master General (PMG), Varanasi Region, Krishna Kumar Yadav released special cover on 'Banarasi Handloom Silk-Pride of Banaras' here on Saturday. He said that Banarasi handloom silk displays a beautiful fusion of tradition and modernity, along with enriching the economy of the city and introducing the art and culture of the country to the world. The programme to release this special cover was held at Varanasi Head Post Office under the aegis of Prayag Philatelic Society which was broadcast in India as well as

other countries through Zoom App.

Yadav said that from time to time, the Department of Posts has issued postage stamps and special covers on all the various personalities, institutions and diverse subjects related to Varanasi, through which the coming generations will also be aware of their rich culture and heritage. According to him, a stamp on Banaras silk has also released in 2009. 'Banarasi handloom silk art is an ancient and glorious tradition. For thousands of years, the weavers here have done many experiments in this, keeping

the original tradition of Banarasi bunkari (weaving) alive. It is also being promoted in the district under One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme of the state government,' he said, adding that in such a situation, the fame of Banarasi handloom silk will be further expanded in the country and world through this special cover.

Senior Superintendent (Post Office) of Varanasi Eastern Region Sumit Kumar Gaat informed that the price of this special cover is ₹ 25 and it will be made available for sale in the Philatelic Bureau. Assistant Director Praveen

Prasun said that today's children and the younger generation can be connected to their culture and heritage through Philately. Rahul Ganguly, secretary, Prayag Philatelic Society, thanked the Department of Posts for issuing this special cover and appealed to people to join Philately. On this occasion, Assistant Superintendent of Posts RK Chauhan, Suresh Chandra, India Post Payments Bank Manager Subhesh Singh, Public Relations Inspector Arvind Pandey, Harishankar Yadav, Rahul Verma, SP Gupta, Ramchandra and others were also present.

PM to flag off Varanasi-Kevadia train today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off as many as eight trains from different parts of the country including his parliamentary constituency Varanasi to link Kevadia in Gujarat through video conferencing on Sunday, helping the people go to see the world's tallest 'Statue of Unity'. In this direction, the Divisional Railway Minister (DRM) of Northern Railway (Lucknow Division) Sanjay Pandey visited here ahead of the inaugural run of Varanasi to Kevadia

Superfast train to review the preparations. A big LED screen has already been installed at the station.

Meanwhile, in a tweet Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said that with the starting of eight trains to Kevadia, connectivity for Statue of Unity would be improved and it would boost tourism and economic activities. During his visit, NR DRM inspected all the preparations. Senior local officers were also present. In an informal chat with the reporters, he said that after completion of some pro-

jects, these eight trains from various parts of the country are going to be started for Kevadia and the Varanasi-Kevadia train will run between the two destinations thrice a week.

The proposed train will not only help the people of this region to see the tallest statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel located near Sardar Sarovar Dam, but also link the two great rivers of Ganga and Narmada. The rake comprising Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches have already been brought here almost a

week ago from Railway Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala (Punjab) and this 20 coach train has four general compartments apart from eight Sleepers, two each of Third AC and Second AC and one First AC coaches apart from two power cars. In this train, general compartments are designed in such manner in view to provide better facilities to the passengers including mobile charging points, bio toilets, clean drinking water from water purifier machines and comfortable seats.

A rare surgery at BLW Hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A rare surgery was done on an 85-year-old retired employee of the Design department (Eastern Railway) Raghubir Singh Yadav, whose hip was damaged accidentally making him unable to stand and walk, at Central Hospital in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW). It has become possible as recently a high-tech modern cardiac anesthesia workstation

machine was installed at this hospital. As anesthesia is considered to be the most modern tool for reducing risk, leading to large and long-term surgery, this rare surgery could be possible helping the old aged patient stand and walk 24 hours after operation and bringing a wave of joy among the family members.

As surgery was the only solution, the team of BLW doctors studied all the factors

before taking the final decision as the patient was also suffering from some lung and heart problems. The doctors had apprised Vinod Yadav, son of the patient, who is working as chief depot material superintendent here, of all the risk factors. Later, Dr Vishal Mishra, incharge of the anesthesia team and orthopedic specialist Dr Karma Raj Singh along with railway ortho surgeon Dr Amit Gupta completed this rare

surgery with a partial hip implant.

This successful surgery is considered a major achievement of BLW Hospital. Vinod Yadav and his family expressed their gratitude to the Principal Chief Medical Officer Dr Sujit Malik and Additional Chief Medical Superintendent Dr Sunil Kumar, for this safe surgery. The Staff Council of BLW also praised the team of doctors for this rare surgery.

21 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 21 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Saturday, increasing the total number to 21,750. As the day saw no casualty, the death toll remained at 374. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 50 and all of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 18,168. As no patient has been discharged from the hospital, the number remained at 2,955. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 21,123, leaving 253 active cases. The recovery rate is 97.11 per cent, while the mortality rate is 1.71 per cent. In the first report

of the day, 11 positive patients were found out of 513 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 5,58,447 and the results of 2,570 are awaited. Out of them, 5,36,707 were negative while 21,740 were positive. The total number of samples collected was 5,86,039. The number of hotspots remained at 2,666 including 187 red zone and as many as 11green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 2,479 green zones including two new ones.

BVP TO HOLD GIRL CHILD WEEK : With an aim to make the girl child self-reliant, the Women & Child Development Cell of the Bharat Vikas Parishad is going to hold National Girl Child

Week from January 17 to 24 on the occasion of National Girl Child Day which will fall on January 24.

The nation observes the National Girl Child Day each year on January 24 and so, the women and child development cell of the Parishad has decided to hold a week long service programme to mark the day for making the girls self-reliant not only financially but also physically and mentally, the national general secretary of the cell Dr Shipra Dhar informed adding, the health and education programme will be held during the week.

Talking to the pressperson at Paradkar Smriti Bhavan here on Saturday, Dhar

informed, the members of organisation will visit to the slum localities or the areas adopted by its branches on January 17 to conduct the examination of hemoglobin of girl child under to make the country free from anemia campaign. The programme of skit or dance-drama or speech will be held in slum localities and localities adopted by branches of Parishad on January 18 which subjects will be teach and save girls for the progress of country and education is boon for the girls, she informed adding, the stationary and food articles will be distributed among girls on January 19 besides making their parents aware about anemia.

Dr Parul Saxena administered first vaccine in Pratapgarh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The first vaccine in Pratapgarh was administered to Dr Parul Saxena at the District Women's Hospital. She felt dizziness after being vaccinated. Immediately the medical team started treating her. She was put in the observation room. After some time she became normal.

At the same time, Dr Sushma Srivastava, the Chief Medical Superintendent of Colvin Hospital in Prayagraj, was given the first vaccine. Similarly, the first vaccine was administered to Dr Sunil Kumar Singh, Medical Officer in charge of Community Health Centre Muratganj Alam Chand in Kaushambi district. His condition is fine. They too have been kept in the observation room.

The vaccination campaign in corona pandemic started with enthusiasm in the hospitals of division on Saturday morning. The first vaccine in Prayagraj was applied to Colvin Hospital's Chief Medical Superintendent Dr Sushma Srivastava at 11:03 am. She is seated in the observation room. Before applying the vaccine, Dr Srivastava bowed before the statue of the Lord Hanuman.

Corona vaccination was launched today in six centres in Prayagraj. Colvin, Dufferin, Kamala Nehru Memorial Trust, Medical College, Community Health Centre Soraon and its beneficiary health workers had started coming to Phulpur. CMO Dr Prabhakar Rai visited the centres to take stock of the preparedness and media personnel have been barred from visiting the centre.



A healthcare worker receives vaccine at Motilal Medical College in Prayagraj on Saturday

Pioneer

Today, a total of 600 health workers were vaccinated at six centres. For this, there was enthusiasm among the beneficiary health workers, and the joy of creating history on first vaccination. Dr Sushma Srivastava, the Chief Medical Superintendent of Colvin, prayed at Hanuman temple and wished that everything would be fine. Instructions had been given to the police guards at the centre to allow everyone to go inside after verification and get their hands sanitised.

Adequate police arrangements have also been made at Colvin Hospital. This morning ACO doctor Satyendra Rai arrived and explained the process of verification. Similarly, preparations for COVID-19 vaccination con-

tinued till evening in Motilal Nehru Mandal Hospital, Colvin. Police, guards and health workers are deployed at the gate to verify the beneficiaries.

The much awaited corona vaccination in Pratapgarh district also begun. For this, three centres had been set up in Pratapgarh district. In addition to the District Women's Hospital, it was also launched at the Community Health Centre Kunda and Raniganj. Preparations for corona vaccination at the District Women's Hospital in Pratapgarh city were fast. CMO Dr AK Srivastava said that vaccination started after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's virtual address. There was a counter for corona vaccination at

Pratapgarh District Women's Hospital where the records of the beneficiaries were checked. The CMO also inspected there.

A projector had been installed in Pratapgarh to show and narrate PM Narendra Modi's address. Earlier, CMO Dr AK Srivastava reached the district women's hospital and instructed the staff. A webcast was arranged at CHC Kunda to watch Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address on the corona vaccine. SDM Rahul Kumar Yadav reached the Trauma Centre. Health workers sanitised him. Health workers continued to repair systems before applying the corona vaccine. Physicians and security personnel were ready to apply the corona vaccine in CHC Kunda.

NCR GM convenes review meeting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

General Manager, North Central Railway and North Eastern Railway, Vinay Kumar Tripathi convened a detailed review meeting to monitor progress of important works for 160 Km/h speed raising on New Delhi-Howrah and New Delhi-Mumbai trunk routes falling under the NCR. In this meeting conducted through video conference AGM NCR, concerned PHODs, DRMs from Prayagraj and Agra and other officials from HQ and Divisions participated. PHODs from Electrical, Engineering, S&T and Mechanical branches presented detailed planning of work for speed raising along with timeline for execution of different activities.

Important works required in existing routes to make it fit for 160 Km/h operation includes modification in OHE

and power supply arrangement; strengthening of track structure specially in point and crossing zones and improved ballast cushion; construction of boundary wall; provision of improved signaling including train collision avoidance system (TCAS); provision of way side rolling stock monitoring systems like HAHW, WILD, OMRS etc. New Delhi-Howrah route between Ghaziabad-Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn. on Prayagraj division and New Delhi-Mumbai route between Palwal-Mathura on Agra division are being upgraded with estimated expenditure of ₹2437.30 crore and ₹ 393.51 crore respectively. Besides adding speed and comfort to train journey these works will also help in large-scale employment generation in Uttar Pradesh with input of approximately ₹ 2830 crore over the

next two years.

Reviewing progress of the work, GM Tripathi stressed that each and every activity related to execution of this important work must be planned in detail and well documented.

He also instructed for comprehensive and coordinated effort by all executing agencies for optimum utilisation of traffic blocks for maximum work output with least effect on train operations. The GM further directed officials to flag all issues requiring assistance from Railway Board, RDSO etc. so as this important work is completed within the specified target in financial year 2022-23.

Later the General Manager also reviewed position of safety, punctuality, freight loading and mobility improvement works over North Central Railway. Tripathi stressed that stipulated field inspections by

HQ and Divisional officials must be conducted without any exception. He also reviewed punctuality and freight loading performance of North Central Railway and laid emphasis on proper analysis of each equipment failure case to sustain as well as to further improve upon punctuality performance of North Central Railway. Reviewing critical works related to mobility improvement, Tripathi remarked that each important work be assigned specific milestones and progress of each milestone be monitored for timely completion of these critical infrastructure works. General Manager asked executing agencies to expedite works related to construction of longer loop lines, automatic signaling in Prayagraj-Kanpur section and works for speed raising in Chunar-Chopan section.

Nanha Pal's building demolished

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Prayagraj Development Authority bulldozed an unauthorised huge building of Ajay alias Nanha Pal, a history sheeter of Pipri police station. This construction was illegal raised in Ghauspur Kataula under the Pipri police station.

The whole family of Nanha Pal was involved in criminal activities, and was in close association with mafia don Atique Ahmed. Two brothers of Nanha have already been

eliminated by the police in encounters.

Just to secure a high pedestal in the crime world, Nanha became the village pradhan, and expanded his property. This palatial building of Ghauspur Kataula was also constructed by him using muscle power. He did not bother to get the building plan approved by the PDA.

A good number of cases related to murder, attempt to murder, loot, kidnapping, and extortion are registered with

the Pipri and other police stations against Nanha Pal.

BUS RAMS INTO TRUCK: Owing to thick fog and zero visibility in Prayagraj on Saturday morning, a bus rammed into a stationary truck on the Gauhania over bridge under the Ghoorpur police station. The injured passengers were taken out from the bus with the help of the local residents, who were rushed to a nearby hospital by the police. No casualty has been reported so far.

Owing to zero visibility the truck driver preferred not to proceed forward and wrongly parked his vehicle on the over bridge.

A bus coming from Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh with pilgrims on board, was approaching towards the Sangam.

Owing to dense fog, the driver could not see the parked truck and rammed into it. As the speed of the bus was a bit slow owing to poor visibility, no casualty was reported.

Mela admn starts preparations for Paush Purnima bathing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

After the first bathing festival of Prayagraj Magh Mela 2021, Makar Sankranti, has passed on Thursday, the Mela administration breathed a sigh of relief as the crowd were less significantly as compared to last year in this bathing festival. Now the second bathing festival of Magh Mela, Paush Purnima will be held on January 28. The Mela administration has started preparations for the Paush Purnima bathing. Kalpavas will also start from Paush Purnima. In such a situation, Kalpavasi will start coming to the Mela area, then the Mela administration will have to make an utmost effort.

The first bathing of Magh Mela may have passed but Kalpavasi has not yet come to the Mela area. Kalpavasi will come one or two days before the Paush Purnima. Paush Purnima's bathing is falling on January 28.

Since then, their austerity will begin across the Sangam. So far, facilities have not been provided to the Kalpavis on behalf of the Mela administration.

The order of providing facilities to them is in progress.

The Mela Adhikari has given time till January 20 to issue the facility slip to them. Land allocation was already done, now they are being allotted facilities.

Besides, land is also being

given to the Tirth Purohiths of Prayagwal.

The Mela administration claims that they will complete this work in a week. This will not hurt the devotees visiting Kalpavas. However, in view of the outbreak of corona, Kalpavasi will be less this time than last year. Nevertheless, the Mela administration has to complete the arrangements.

The Mela administration has contracted six agencies to provide goods in the camps of saints and seers. Some of it is as good and some have poor quality. It is alleged that Lallu ji & Sons and Gopaldas Agency have supplied goods of inferior quality. People complained about this to the Mela Adhikari. People alleged that the

bed, furniture and chair etc given by this agency is not good. The employees of this agency have also taken carelessness in laying the tin hoop and other arrangements. Following the complaint, the Mela Adhikari reprimanded the contractor and warned them to make amends.

ACTION DEMANDED: TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee has made derogatory remarks on Jagat Janani Maa Sita. Yet the silence of TMC chief and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is surprising. Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya tweeted that he demands strict action against Kalyan Banerjee. This incident is an insult to the women of the country.



The Chief Medical Officer, Dr AK Mishra being vaccinated first in the presence of Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, DM, DIG and other officials at Kanshiram Hospital on Friday

Pioneer

CMO receives first shot of Covid vaccine in Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar along with District Magistrate Alok Tiwari and DIG Parminder Singh jointly kicked off the COVID-19 vaccination drive in Kanpur Nagar at the Kanshiram Hospital centre on Friday.

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra received the first shot of COVID-19 vaccine in Kanpur Nagar and the DC later handed over a certificate to him after the vaccination.

The DC said that with the arrival of the vaccine and the launch of the vaccination drive the people of Kanpur Division

would be able to fight the pandemic in a big way.

He said under this drive, the COVID-19 vaccine would first be administered to the front line workers and then the rest of the people.

He appealed to the people to ensure that they took the vaccine in their own interest and help the nation fight the pandemic and save precious lives.

The DC also advised people to refrain from being carried away by rumours.

After taking the vaccine shot, the CMO said being the head of the health department in the district, the onus of taking the vaccine rested on him

and this was an effort to send across a message to the masses that the vaccine was very safe and free of any adverse reaction as was being quoted in some sections of the media.

He said special security arrangements had been made at the centre and on the inaugural day only 100 doctors or paramedical staff would be vaccinated and after proper verification of their papers and details.

The CMO said in the city, vaccination was being carried out at six places and at the entry points checking was being done to ensure only the prior registered people were allowed to enter the premises.

He said there was a waiting room with TV and drinking water facility along with a help desk to apprise the people that all those who were taking the vaccine on Saturday had to ensure that they took the second dose exactly on the 29th day.

The CMO said if one failed to take the repeat dose after 28 days the vaccine would be rendered useless.

He said after the vaccination, the person had to wait at the centre and the medical team would monitor him to see if everything was normal and only then the vaccinated person would be allowed to go home.

Contractor dies in road mishap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A shuttering contractor was fatally knocked down by a container near the cold storage in Bakothi village under Bilhaur police station on Saturday morning.

Two persons accompanying the contractor sustained injury in the mishap.

Raman Pratap (26), son of BSP leader Sobran Lal Shastri of Triveni Bazaar in Bilhaur, was a shuttering contractor. On Saturday morning, he along with labourers Mahendra Singh (20) and Rahul (22), son of Ram Kishore of Aliapur village, was going to a work site on a motorcycle for laying shuttering.

On GT Road, near the cold storage in Bakothi village, a speeding container knocked down the motorcycle while trying to overtake it.

As Raman, Rahul and Mahendra fell on the ground, the container ran over the contractor, killing him on the spot.

Rahul and Mahendra sustained injuries.

The container driver managed to escape with the vehicle.

The police sent the injured to the community health centre.

Bilhaur Inspector Prayag Narain Bajpai said efforts were on to trace the guilty container driver.

He said on the basis of complaint, FIR would be registered against the container driver and action would be taken against him.

Exports showing signs of further revival: FIEO chief

KANPUR (PNS): The Federation of Indian Exports Organisation President Sharad Kumar Saraf on Friday said that the monthly exports had moved towards positive territory as major export products showed signs of further revival as expected.

He said the marginal increase of 0.14 per cent with US\$ 27.15 billion of exports was showing signs of revival as order booking position had continuously improved and more new orders were in the offing.

Saraf said that the year 2021 had brought a ray of hope and optimism for all from the worst of COVID-19 and effective vaccines were expected to bring both life and economy back on growth trajectory with a V-shaped recovery in world trade.

He said the arrival of vaccines had also helped in boosting the business sentiments for the sector as a whole, which could be seen from the positive figures of the upcoming months.

Saraf said the December exports also signalled that the traditional and labour-intensive sectors of exports had passed the most challenging and testing times as both Christmas and New Year season sales had shown positive trends with further improvement in coming months.

He added that going ahead by this trend, it was expected that the inventories would be liquidated, adding further to the overall demand.

The FIEO chief said that the exports of other products showed either a very high or impressive growth or were in positive territory, showing signs of further revival.

He said exports of 20 out of the 30 major product categories were positive during the month.

He said the operationalisation of the new RoDTEP effective from January 1, 2021 would remove uncertainty from the minds of the trade and industry and being WTO compatible, the same would provide complete rebating of Indian exports by refunding the taxes, including embedded taxes, not rebated through any other mechanism.

KUSFTA LEADERS MEET CSJMU VC: Kanpur University Self-Finance Teachers Association (KUSFTA) president Dr Kamlesh Yadav and general secretary Dr Akhand Pratap Singh met CSJMU University Vice Chancellor Prof Neelima Gupta and Registrar Dr Anil Yadav on Saturday to press them for early settlement of their demands.

NTPC Vindhyachal honoured

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

NTPC Vindhyachal for its outstanding contribution for promoting Rajbhasha Hindi was honoured by being conferred the Rasvarsha Uttar Pradesh Ratna Alankar Award for the financial year 2021 by Rasvarsha Sansthan, a literary institution of Varanasi. The Rasvarsha Sansthan organised its 45th foundation day function at Varanasi recently in which Uttar Pradesh Minister of State for Stamp and Court Fee Registration (independent charge), Ravindra Jaiswal, Vice-Chancellor of Patliputra University, Prof Gulabchand Jaiswal, former District Judge Dr Chandrabhan Shivkumar, Chairman of Apex Hospital, Dr SK Singh, Assistant Manager (Human Resources) of North Region Headquarters, Mithilesh Kumar Srivastava, along with enlightened poets and poetesses from various zones and districts were present. The NTPC-Vindhyachal was conferred this award by



Rasvarsha Sansthan for serving Hindi properly during the corona period and outstanding contribution for its development and promotion. On receiving the Rasvarsha Uttar Pradesh Ratna Alankar Award for outstanding work in the field of Hindi, Executive Director of Vindhyachal, Munish Johri congratulated the teams of Vindhyachal and Human Resource Rajbhasha.

Chhapra Kacheri-Gomti Nagar spl from Jan 27

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration for the convenience of people will run the 05114 Chhapra Kacheri-Gomti Nagar daily special train from January 27 until further order. All coaches will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said. The 05114 Chhapra Kacheri-Gomti Nagar daily special will from January 27 daily depart from Chhapra Kacheri at 19.20 hrs, from Marhaura at 19.52 hrs, from Mashrakh at 20.17 hrs, from Dighwa Dubauli at 20.43 hrs, from Gopalganj at 21.27 hrs, from Thawe at 22.00 hrs, from Tamkuhi Road at 22.37 hrs, from Dudahi at 22.53 hrs, from Padrauna at 23.13 hrs, from Ramkola at

23.33 hrs, from Kaptanganj on second day at 00.10 hrs, from Gorakhpur at 01.20 hrs, from Basti at 02.22 hrs, from Mankapur at 03.15 hrs, from Gonda at 03.55 hrs, from Barabanki at 05.45 hrs and reach Gomti Nagar at 06.35 hrs. During the return journey the 05113 Gomti Nagar-Chhapra Kacheri daily special will from January 28 depart from Gomti Nagar daily at 21.10 hrs, Barabanki at 21.48 hrs, from Gonda at 23.30 hrs, from Mankapur at 23.54 hrs, from Basti on second day 00.48 hrs, from Gorakhpur at 02.30 hrs, from Kaptanganj at 03.35 hrs, from Padrauna at 04.10 hrs, from Dudahi 04.30 hrs, from Tamkuhi Road at 04.45 hrs, Thawe at 05.45 hrs, Gopalganj at 06.00 hrs, Dighwa Dubauli at 06.42 hrs, Masrakh at 07.10 hrs, Marhaura at 07.38 hrs

and reach Chhapra Kacheri at 08.40 hrs. A total of 20 coaches, including including two of SLRD, eight of general second class, seven of sleeper class, two of AC third class and one of AC class coach will be attached.

DIVERSION: In connection with doubling patch work between Ballia-Phephna stations of Varanasi division due to pre-non-interlocking (PNI) work from January 17 and non-interlocking (NI) work from January 27 to 30, the railway administration as per the information released earlier had diverted the 09065 Surat-Chhapra special to run from Surat on January 23. According to the revised information, now 09065 Surat-Chhapra special to run from Surat on January 25 will be diverted via Mau-Bhatni-Chhapra, CPRO PK Singh said.

MLA's appeal to people

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Chhanbey MLA Rahul Kol said connecting roads were not only a facility to commute but they were a medium to pave the way for the overall development of villages. While dedicating a connecting road to the public constructed at a cost of ₹ 9.16 lakh in Mahokhar village recently, MLA appealed to people to avail the facilities provided by government. Besides, he inaugurated another road in Semari village of a cost of ₹ 9.83 lakh and promised to render his services for the betterment of his constituency. Among those present were Santosh Pandey, Raghav Singh, Sadhu Pandey and Sanjay Singh.

TRIBUTES PAID: Under the aegis of Sadhana Lalit Kala Prashikshan Kendra artistes of different genres presented a programme to pay tributes to art maestro late Maheshwarpati Tripathi on his death anniversary recently. Throwing light on his life, his disciple Vindhayvasini Kesarwani said he was an able teacher and so dedicated to art that he spent his life to train his disciples. It was due to his able guidance that his disciples earned fame at the international level and even in the cine world, he added. Earlier the programme started with the garlanding of Tripathi's portrait by Vindhayvasini. On the occasion shehnai player Chhotel Lal was accompanied by Abhishek on tabla which was followed by a dance by Ashutosh. Besides Hardik Kesarwani's performance on guitar, other artistes who performed on the occasion were Hari Shankar Tiwari, Dhruva, Bhola Nath Mishra, Sarvottam Mishra and Purushottam Mishra. The programme concluded with a classical song as a tribute to Maheshwarpati Tripathi by Onkar Nath and Rameshwar Bhatt. The programme was conducted by Dineshwarpati Tripathi and vote of thanks was proposed by convener Om Prakash Mishra.

NER AGM inspects works

PNS ■ VARANASI

NER AGM Amit Kumar Agrawal under his two-day programme on Saturday under Manduadih-Prayagraj Rambag doubling project inspected the ongoing works at Madhosingh-Gyanpur Road rail section and stations. He was accompanied by SDE-III Atul Tripathi, SDEE/Traction Pankaj Kesharwani and CPD-1 of RVNL Vikas Chandra and other senior officers on the occasion. AGM saw the progress of the doubling works going on the Madhosingh-Gyanpur road rail section. He issued directives to complete new island platforms, railway lines and signals besides point machines, station



buildings and installation of centralised VDU panel within the stipulated timeframe as per the standard. Along with it he directed the officials concerned to adopt a safe way of working while ensuring punctuality of important trains passing through this section during the non-interlocking works on this section. He directed to arrange sand humps made for station overlap at Gyanpur Road station in accordance with safety standards. AGM also inspected passenger amenities, entrance and circulating areas at the said stations and in view of the increasing number of passengers in future directed the officials to develop them in a systematic and convenient manner. After the inspection AGM reached Varanasi and in DRM's office held a detailed discussion with divisional officers on various stages of development projects going on in the division and their implementation. On the occasion DRM Vijay Kumar Panjari, ADRM (Infra) Praveen Kumar, ADRM (Operations) SPS Yadav, CMS Dr MS Nabial, SDOM Rohit Gupta, SDE (Coordination) Rakesh Ranjan, SDCM Sanjeev Sharma, SDME (O&F) Alok Kesharwani, SDME (Carriage & Wagon) SP Srivastava, SDOM (General) AK Saxena, SDEE (General) Satyendra

Yadav, Senior Divisional Finance Manager Preeti Verma, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer Sameer Paul and senior divisional officer were present. After this Agarwal inspected the stalls of safety and other important critical materials approved by RDSO, Lucknow, at the Vendor Development Centre established at Varanasi. He saw the RDSO specifications, of all materials displayed there, annual requirement and their rates.

DRM'S DIRECTIVE: In order to see the progress made in preparation for patch and non-interlocking works apart from various ongoing projects under the Varanasi-Ballia section doubling project, (DRM), Varanasi division of (NER), Vijay Kumar Panjari made an inspection between Ballia and Phephna stations. During it along with senior officials of the division and construction organisation, the DRM first reached Ballia Jn in his special inspection vehicle. After inspecting the available passenger facilities at the railway station, he gave necessary directions to the officers. He also directed them to expedite the doubling works. He then reached Phephna railway station boarding a motor trolley. By inspecting the progress of ongoing works between Ballia and Phephna, Panjari saw the progress of various works in connection with doubling of railway section, such as levelling work, spread of ballast, installation of signals and point machines, information boards, level gates, bridges and culverts etc He also inspected passenger facilities at Phephna railway station, apart from seeing the progress made in various works of station development, including platform upgradation and extension and gave directions to the officers concerned. During his stay at Phephna, Panjari informed that the final phase of doubling project between Ballia and Phephna stations is going on as the patch works required for completion of the pre non-interlocking work is scheduled from January 17 and non-interlocking work from January 27 to 30 and after which the doubling the tracks works of this section will be completed, he added. During his inspection, the DRM was accompanied by SDE-II Manoj Kumar Singh, SDEE (Electric Traction) Pankaj Kesharwani, Senior Divisional Signal and Telecom Engineer Trimbak Tiwari, Deputy Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer (Construction) Ashutosh Pandey and some senior officers of Construction Division of NER.

Bhoomi puja performed for Metro receiving sub-station

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (UPMRC) Managing Director Kumar Keshav performed the bhoomi puja for the receiving sub-station (RSS) to be constructed in the Horticulture Research Centre premises situated at GT Road.

This receiving sub-station will provide power supply for the operations of Metro trains and stations.

Keshav said with the current pace of work the Kanpur Metro project was likely to be completed on time.

During the bhoomi puja, other senior officials of the UPMRC were also present.

Talking to the press persons, Keshav said the receiving sub-station was an important unit for Metro operations as the entire Metro system received power supply from it for the smooth functioning of the stations and trains.

He said with the bhoomi puja for the construction of the receiving sub-station, Kanpur Metro had taken a step towards the goal of providing a world-class local transit system in the stipulated time frame.

He further said that for the smooth operations of Kanpur Metro services, the UPMRC would acquire 220 kV power



The Managing Director of UPMRC, Mr Kumar Keshav, performing Bhoomi Puja at Horticulture Research Center on Friday.

Pioneer

supply from Uttar Pradesh Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (UPPTCL) grid in Bithoor, and the power received from the grid would

be converted into 33 kV supply through RSS and then converted into 415 volts AC through the various systems that would be installed inside

the Metro stations to be used for lighting, lifts, escalators and air-conditioning systems etc. at the stations.

The UPMRCMD said that for train operations the 33 kV supply would be converted into 750 volts DC at mainline. He said two RSS would be built for the proposed two Metro corridors (the first from IIT-K to Naubasta and the second one from Agricultural University to Barra-8) under the Kanpur Metro project.

He said the construction work of the first RSS had been started while the second one would be built at Phoolbagh. He said one RSS unit would be capable to provide necessary power supply for the operations of Metro stations and trains but for ensuring seamless Metro operations, two RSS were to be built and installed.

Keshav said the contract for construction and installation of RSS had been awarded to the consortium of Sterling & Wilson Private Limited and GSC-JV group.

He said the UPMRC aimed to complete the work of the RSS at the Horticulture Research Centre by September 2021 and work of electrical systems at Metro stations by October 2021 for ensuring operations on the mainline of the priority corridor.

Expert gives tips on saving crops from frost

KANPUR(PNS): In the wake of the cold wave sweeping across large parts of India, especially Uttar Pradesh, frost has emerged as a potent threat to the rabi crops. The CSA University of Agriculture and Technology will hold farmers' training camp to apprise them of how to save their crops from frost. UP and other northern states are under the grip of cold and frost and this has engendered the need to creating awareness among farmers.

This was stated by ICAR Assistant Director Dr Prabhat Singh Geharwar while addressing a virtual session on how to save crops from frost, on Friday. He said frost, both on the ground and on plants, had put a number of crops at risk — from wheat, gram and seasonal vegetables to coriander and potato. He said frost could affect crops in various ways and could form a layer on stems, leaves and fruits, causing the plant cells to rupture.

He said similarly, ground

frost limited the availability of soil oxygen and moisture to plants and when plants did not access soil nutrients in this way, it was called a physiological drought. He said the current frost conditions had seemingly resulted from a combination of factors and one was the cold wave that had been sweeping north India.

He said the onus rested on farm universities to apprise the farmers on how to tackle the challenges caused by frost. He said there were various

measures to protect crops from frost — from watering the fields in the evening to shielding the plants with straw, polythene or gunny bags, or even using heaters or certain chemicals that lower the freezing point.

He said there were long-term measures such as better site selection, choosing more weather-hardy plants and changing the sowing date to avoid frost risk. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Ghazab Singh.

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 Maqbool 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 misuse of their official position

as public servants conferred undue pecuniary benefit upon the illegal occupants of state land by arbitrarily fixing the price 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 agricultural.

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 added.

PC slams Centre for stalemate over farm laws

New Delhi (PNS): 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.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There 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) here on Saturday. According to airport sources, poor visibility conditions and non-compliant CAT III B trained pilots led to the delays.

According to IMD, 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 and 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 due to the cooling of the Pacific 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 impacted 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 said.

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 of Jammu 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, respectively, up to three degrees above normal.

In Uttar Pradesh, the lowest 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 state.

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 Keylong 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 added.

EX-SCBA president urges Bench to end election impasse of lawyers' body

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. Even 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, there was no occasion for 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 Court.

"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 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

Agency

**UCO BANK**
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Zonal Office: B-1122, Vineet Khand,
Gomtinagar, Lucknow - 226010 Phone: 0522-4937664
Email:- Zo.lucknow@ucobank.co.in

Sale Notice For Immovable Properties "APPENDIX-IV-A [See Provision Rule 8(6)]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets, under the Securitization 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), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below: Described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s)/Mortgagor (s)/Guarantor (s) / Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction Date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

Date & Time of Auction: 07.02.2021, 12:00 PM to 03:00 PM


Late Date for Acknowledgment of EMD/Bid price : 05.02.2021

Sr. No.	Name of Borrowers/ Guarantors & Their Address	Amount Outstanding	Description of the Property	Reserve Price Earnest Money Bid Increase Value.	Date & Time of Property verification	Date of Demand Notice/ Possession Notice
1.	Borrower:- Mr. Nikhil Nigam & Mr. Prem Chandra Nigam R/o: 231/12 GHA, Bagh Makka, Raja Bajar, Lucknow-226003 A/c No.07520600000489 Branch: IT College	4,42,335.00 + Interest + Other Expenses	Plot No. 16, Situated at Ganga Sharan Grihna Nirmal Samiti, Village - Ujariaon, Pargana, Tehsil & Dist. Lucknow. Owner: Mr. Prem Chandra Nigam, Boundary: North : Plot of Samiti, South - Plot of Samiti, East - Road 20 ft wide Road, West- Plot of Samiti, Area: 1200 Sq. ft. Possession -Symbolic	17,00,000.00 1,70,000.00	17.01.2021 01.02.2021 Between 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM	14.11.2019 27.02.2020

Note: This notice is also to be treated as 15 days statutory sale to borrower & guarantor (L/Rs.) under Rule 8(6) Rules, 2002.

For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **UCO Bank secured website** <https://www.ucobank.co.in>, <https://ibapi.in>. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer mobile no. 7903878330 & email on: zolucknow.rec@ucobank.co.in

Date: 17.01.2021 **Place: Lucknow** **Authorised Officer, UCO Bank, Lucknow Zonal Office**

**Baroda U.P. Bank**
Regional Office: 117/N/26, Kakadeo, Kanpur

AUCTION NOTICE

Whereas Authorized Officer of bank has issued notice under SARFAESI Act 2002 and thereafter has taken constructive possession of the charged/ hypothecated / mortgaged property and has decided to sale the property described herein below on, "AS IS WHEREIS AND WHAT IS AND WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS", under rule 8 and 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AUCTION
1. For participation in the auction by inviting tenders in sealed cover, the intending bidders will have to submit their offer alongwith details of deposit of earnest money on date of auction between 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. and the same will be opened at 3 P.M. on same day by the Authorized Officer at our Regional Office. 2. Earnest money 10% of the Reserve Price of the property will be accepted through NEFT/DD (Payable at Kanpur/Cash) with (KYC) in our A/c No.56710200000290,A/c Name- R.O SUNDARY SARFAESI IFSC- BARBOBUPGBX, which is refundable if the bidder is not successful. 3. The Successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD) on same day of the acceptance of bid price by the authorized officer. Payment to be made in the form of cash or bankers cheque/DD drawn in favour of Authorized Officer Baroda U.P. Bank, payable at Kanpur, and in the event of default in the deposit of the aforesaid 25% (including EMD) of the amount of the sale price, the earnest deposit shall be forfeited. 4. The balance amount of the purchase price shall be paid by the purchaser to the Authorized Officer on or before the fifteenth day of confirmation of sale of the immovable/ movable property. However in default of payment of the balance amount as aforesaid, the deposit already made shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold, and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claim to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold. 5. The successful bidder would bear the charges/ fees payable for, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc as applicable as per law, property tax or any other dues of the Govt. or anybody in respect of the property under sale. 6. The authorized officer will not be held responsible for any charge lien, in cumbrance, power dues & water dues. 7. The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone the same without assigning any reasons thereof. 8. The sale is subject to confirmation by the bank. 9. For inspection of the property and for ascertaining the details of property intending bidder may contact the branch office of Baroda U.P. Bank as mentioned below during office hours. 10. This publication notice will be treated as a notice to related borrowers or the mortgagors/ Guarantors of below loan account for 30 days to sale the properties.

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower /Guarantor	Owner of the Property	Description of the Property	Outstanding Dues Rs. Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Reserve Price	Place, Date & Time of Auction
BARRA BRANCH - 7310108528							
1.	Borrower:- Mr. Amar Nath Singh S/o Mr. Suresh Singh R/o 621 EWS, Azad Kutiya, Double Storey, Barra-2, Kanpur	Mr. Amar Nath Singh	EQM of H. No. 621-A, First Floor Yoyna EWS, Block-DS, Barra-2, Kanpur Area: 47.64 Sqm. Undivided land of 1/2 part 23.82 Sq. mtr. Boundaries: East: House No. 602-A West: 7.5 mtr. Road North: House No. 620-A South: House No. 622-A	Rs. 9,73,215.00 (intt. upto 31.12.2015 + Other Charges Demand Notice 16.01.2016	30.05.2016	Rs. 10.66 Lacs	Regional Office, Kanpur 22.02.2021 3.00 PM
2.	Borrower:- M/s Maha Laxmi Barta Bhandar Prop.: Smt. Shashi Gupta W/o Mr. Krishna Murari Gupta	Smt. Shashi Gupta W/o Mr. Krishna Murari Gupta	Premises No. 43/1, Yogendra Vihar Khandepur, Kanpur Nagar Area: 120.40 Sq. mtr. Boundaries: East: Part of Araz, House of Rambabu Pandey, West: 30 ft. Road, North: High-Tension Line Road, South: House of Shiv Kumar Kushwaha	Rs. 12,22,578.00 (intt. upto 31.12.2019 + Other Charges Demand Notice 20.01.2020	08.09.2020	Rs. 44.94 Lacs	Regional Office, Kanpur 22.02.2021 3.00 PM
3.	Borrower:- Mrs. Anjali Chhabariya W/o Late Vijay Chhabariya & Late Vijay Chhabariya S/o Mr. Udayveer Chhabariya	Late Vijay Chhabariya S/o Mr. Udayveer Chhabariya	House No. ME-381, Double Storey, First floor, Barra-2 Kanpur Nagar Area: 86.24 Sq. Mtr. undivided land share of which 1/2 part 43.12 Sq. mtr. Boundaries: East- House No. ME-383 West- House No. ME-379 North-House No. ME-111 S/S South- 9 Meter Road	Rs. 14,60,026.00 (intt. upto 01.01.2019 +Other Charges Demand Notice 26.07.2019	18.12.2019	Rs. 15.41 Lacs	Regional Office, Kanpur 22.02.2021 3.00 PM
CHAUBEYPUR BRANCH - 7310108539							
4.	Borrower:- M/s Prashant Trading Company Prop.: Mr. Ajeet Singh S/o Mr. Yaduveer Singh	Mr. Praveen Kumar Yadav S/o Mr. Badan Singh	Property No. 1 Gata No. 848 & Property No. 2 Gata No. 1271 situated at Vill. Malau Tehsil Bilhar Distt. Kanpur Nagar Property No. 1 Area: 0.039 het. Property No. 2 Area: 0.123 het. Property No. 1 Boundaries: East: Ag. Land of Shakeer West: Ag. Land of Naseer North: Ag. Land of Raj Kumar South: Govt. Land Property No. 2 Boundaries: East: Govt. Land West: Govt. Land North: Ag. Land of Arun Bajpai South: Chack Marg	Rs. 8,12,287.00 (intt. upto 31.01.2016 + Other Charges Demand Notice 24.09.2019	04.09.2020	Property No. 1 Rs. 2.11 Lacs Property No. 2 Rs. 6.64 Lacs	Regional Office, Kanpur 22.02.2021 3.00 PM
KALYANPUR - 7310108547							
5.	Borrower:- Smt. Anju Gera W/o Mr. Anil Kumar Gera & Mr. Anil Kumar Gera S/o Mr. Ram Narain Gera	Smt. Anju Gera W/o Mr. Anil Kumar Gera & Mr. Anil Kumar Gera S/o Mr. Ram Narain Gera	H. No. 124 A/398 (new), 174 A (old) Block No. 11 Third Floor, Govind Nagar City, Kanpur Nagar Area: 59.86 Sq.mtr. Built-up Area & undivided land share of 15.67 Sq. mtr. Boundaries: East: H. No. 175 West: H. No. 173 North: 20 ft. Road South: 15 ft. Gali	Rs. 14,18,502.00 (intt. upto 31.05.2018 + Other Charges Demand Notice 11.11.2019	21.07.2020	Rs. 14.94 Lacs	Regional Office, Kanpur 22.02.2021 3.00 PM
MALL ROAD BRANCH - 7310108557							
6.	Borrower:- Mrs. Anita Bhatia W/o Mr. Raja Bhatia	Mrs. Anita Bhatia W/o Mr. Raja Bhatia	EQM of Ground Floor in Premises No. 126/6 Block-K, Govind Nagar, Kanpur Area: 54.31 Sq. Mtr. together with undivided land shre in the measuring 16.03 Sq. mt Boundaries: East- Part of Same House No. and Flat No. G-1 West- Plot No.5 North- Part of same House owner Rajendra Singh Grover & Amarjeet Singh Grover South- Plot No-29	Rs. 10,80,488.00 (intt. upto 27.06.2019 +Other Charges Demand Notice 07.11.2019	23.01.2020	Rs. 19.06 Lacs	Regional Office, Kanpur 22.02.2021 3.00 PM
SAKET NAGAR - 7310108574 & SANIGAWAN BRANCH - 7310108577							
7.	Borrower:- M/s Mamta Bangles Prop.: Mr. Satya Narain Jangam S/o Mr. Hukum Chandra	Mr. Satya Narain Jangam	Ground Floor (part) of Premises No. 8/150-A, Arya Nagar Kanpur Area: 116.97 Sq. meter of which undivided land shares 38.99 Sq. meter Boundaries: East- 10 Feet Lane West- House No. 8/150 North- Remaining Part of H. No. 8/150A, stairs thereafter common passage and there after 40 feet Road South- Remaining part of H. No. 8/150A	Rs. 9,98,215.00 (intt. upto 01.04.2018 +Other Charges Demand Notice 26.07.2019	19.10.2019	Rs. 54.46 Lacs	Regional Office, Kanpur 22.02.2021 3.00 PM
SAKET NAGAR - 7310108574							
8.	Borrower:- Mr. Shyam Bihari Gupta S/o Mr. Ram Swaroop Gupta, Smt. Mamta Gupta W/o Shyam Bihari Gupta	Mr. Shyam Bihari Gupta S/o Mr. Ram Swaroop Gupta	Flat No. 4 Ground Floor, Premises no. 128/38, Block-K, Yoyna Second, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur Area: 116.12 Sq. mtr. & undivided land share area of 41.80 Sq. mtr. Boundaries: East- Flat No. 1 thereafter 40 ft. Road West- Plot No. 16 North- Plot No. 39 South- Flat No. 3 thereafter Plot No. 37	Rs. 17,17,700.80 (intt. upto 31.05.2017 +Other Charges Demand Notice 18.10.2019	27.12.2019	Rs. 42.18 Lacs	Regional Office, Kanpur 22.02.2021 3.00 PM
YASHODA NAGAR BRANCH - 7310108589							
9.	Borrower:- M/s Kapil Arpit Earth Movers Prop.: Mr. Babloo Dwivedi S/o Mr. Ram Chandra Dwivedi	Mr. Babloo Dwivedi S/o Mr. Ram Chandra Dwivedi	Premises No. 371, E.W.S., Block- E.W.S., Ambedkar Nagar, Gujaini, Kanpur Nagar Area: 36.75 Sq. meter Boundaries: East- 4.5 Meter West- House No. 231 North- House No. 370 South- House No. 232	Rs. 8,71,647.00 (intt. upto 31.03.2018 +Other Charges Demand Notice 26.07.2019	18.12.2019	Rs. 17.87 Lacs	Regional Office, Kanpur 22.02.2021 3.00 PM
10.	Borrower:- Mr. Mohd Islam S/o Mr. Jamaluddin Siddiqui	Mr. Mohd Islam S/o Mr. Jamaluddin Siddiqui	Premises No. 5D-166 E.W.S. Awass Vikas Yoyna No. 2, Hanspam, Kanpur Nagar Area: 24.99 Sq. meter Boundaries: East- House No. 5D-167 West- House No. 5D-165 North- House No. 5D-160 South-6.00 meter Road	Rs. 11,48,311.00 (intt. upto 27.06.2017 +Other Charges Demand Notice 28.07.2017	18.12.2019	Rs. 10.38 Lacs	Regional Office, Kanpur 22.02.2021 3.00 PM
11.	Borrower:- M/s Om Sai Cosmetics Prop.: Mrs. Vijay Laxmi Gupta W/o Mr. Mahendra Kumar	Mr. Mahendra Kumar S/o Late Binda Prasad	House No. E-16/10, Block First, EWS Yojana - Gangapur Machariya, Kanpur Area: 27.20 Sq. mtr. Boundaries: East- 6 meter Road West- House No. E-16/15 North- House No. E-16/11 South- House No. E-16/09	Rs. 10,50,000.00 (intt. upto 31.12.2018 +Other Charges Demand Notice 26.07.2019	19.10.2019	Rs. 11.25 Lacs	Regional Office, Kanpur 22.02.2021 3.00 PM

Date: 16.01.2021 **Authorised Officer, Baroda U.P. Bank**

PM announces ₹1,000-cr ‘Startup India Seed Fund’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi 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 said.



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 corporations.

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.

Palghar lynching case: Thane court grants bail to 89 accused

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Thane Special Court on Saturday granted bail to as many 89 accused in the much-discussed Palghar lynching incident, in which two Sadhus and their driver were killed by an irate mob near Kasa town in Maharashtra’s Palghar district in April last year.

Having heard arguments by Special Public Prosecutor Satish Maneshinde and defense counsels Amrut Adhikari and Atul Patil on January 6, Special Judge S. B. Bahalkar granted bail to the 89 accused against a deposit of Rs 15,000 each.

The judge scheduled the next hearing of the case for February 15.

Earlier in their defence of the accused, counsels Amrut Adhikari and Atul Patil had told the court that the applicants had no role to play in the attack and the police had arrested them on mere suspicion. They had also questioned

the validity of the three FIRS filed against them.

As many as 251 adults and 16 juveniles are being tried on various charges of rioting, attempt to murder and murder in connection with the April 16, 2020 Palghar lynching incident which created public outrage across the country.

Till date, a total of 176 accused and 11 juveniles have been granted bail while the bail applications of 36 more have been rejected.

On July 16, this year, the state CID filed a comprehensive charge-sheets against the accused before a Dahanu court in connection with the April 16, 2020 Palghar lynching incident. In its charge sheet – running into 4955 pages – filed before the court of Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) at Dahanu in Palghar district, the CID sleuths had named 126 accused in connection with the incident that took place on the night of April 16.

The investigation team, led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (CID) Vijay Pawar, filed the charge-sheet after examining 808 suspects and 118 witnesses to collect strong evidence against the accused.

It may be recalled that on the night of April 16 last year, three persons were lynched by a 200-strong mob of villagers near Kasa town in Maharashtra’s Palghar district on suspicion that they were thieves.

The villagers first hurled stones at the van, prompting the driver to stop the vehicle. Later, they pulled three persons out of the vehicle and beat them to death in Gadchinchale village on Dabhadi-Khanwel road, with sticks and rods.

The deceased – identified as Chikne Maharaj Kalpavrukshagiri (70), Sushilgiri Maharaj (35) and driver Nilesh Telgade (30) were travelling to Surat. Of them one

was the diver, while two are residents of Kandivli in north Mumbai. The place where the incident took place is approximately 120 km from Mumbai.

In their charge-sheet, the investigators have said that the incident had taken place amid rumours that child-lifters were roaming in the area during the lockdown. The villagers allegedly suspected the three deceased to be child-lifters.

The accused arrested in connection with the incident have been charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for murder, armed rioting and using criminal force to prevent a public servant from doing his duty and relevant provisions of the Disaster Management Act, the Epidemic Diseases Act (since lockdown was in force during the incident), the Maharashtra Police Act and the Maharashtra Damage to Public Property (Prevention) Act.

Stalin, Kamal Haasan make poll promises on Pongal

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

They may be rationalists and atheists but the leaders of Dravidian ideology selected the auspicious Pongal day to declare their election promises to the people of Tamil Nadu. MK Stalin, president of the DMK who is also the Leader of the Opposition, made it known that the ‘crisis ridden’ farm sector in the State stands to gain a big fortune if they vote him and his party to power in the upcoming election to the legislative assembly. Even Kamal Haasan, the cine actor-turned founder of Makkal Neethi Maam chose the Pongal day to declare his plan of action for Tamil people.

“We will write off all farm

loans and jewel loans. You should remember that the last time we came to power in 2006, the first thing done by Kalaingar (late Chief Minister M Karunanidhi) after the swearing in of his government was to issue an order waiving of cooperative loans worth Rs 7,000 crore. This time we will waive of all agriculture loans including jewel loans,” declared Stalin on Friday.

He also made it known that the DMK was not against Hindus as made out by the Fascist forces like the RSS, BJP and other Hinutwa forces. “The DMK is a political party which believes in the ideology of one god, one race that was propounded by party founder C.N Annadurai. People will not believe the allegations made by

the Hindutwa leaders,” said Stalin.

The AIADMK is on a media blitzkrieg issuing jacket advertisements to all major newspapers in the State. A pro-left daily in English has been carrying full page advertisements for the last few days listing the achievements made by the AIADMK Government during the last five years. The internal power struggle in the party is visible in the advertisements which feature pictures of Annadurai, MGR, Jayalalitha and Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy. There is no mention about AIADMK steering committee coordinator and deputy chief minister O Panneerselvam in these publicity series running into crores of

rupees.

A hurt Panneerselvam chose to strike back, without much fanfare. His followers put up advertisements in all friendly vernacular dailies and Tamil TV channels eulogizing the chosen heir of Amma (J Jayalalitha). Interestingly, there was no mention of Palaniswamy in the advertisements. Panneerselvam, it is reliably learnt that, is said that the camp followers of Palaniswamy ignored and blacked out his contribution in getting the ban on Jallikattu lifted by the Centre through ordinances. He is yet to forget the unceremonious manner in which he was evicted from the chair of the chief minister.

Kamal Haasan said he

would launch a Ministry of Possibilities, once he was sworn in as chief minister. “As part of my plans to usher in Industrial Revolution 4.0, it is a must that we should have a ministry like this to cater to science and technology, start-ups, and innovation. Also in my agenda is the development of less developed regions in Tamil Nadu,” said the actor. While the AIADMK and DMK offer more IT Parks in the State, Haasan declared that he would set up skill development parks in all districts in Tamil Nadu.

The AIADMK, BJP, the Congress, the PMK, the Hindu Makkal Katchi, and other fringe parties are expected to declare their plans of action in the coming days.

Traffic on Jammu-Srinagar Highway restored



PNS ■ JAMMU

After the successful completion of the trial run of the 40 ton Bailey bridge, completed within 60 hours by the men and machinery of the Border Roads Organisation, the traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was restored late Saturday afternoon to clear the rush of stranded vehicles in Ramban district.

The vehicular traffic on the 270 Km NH44 between Jammu and Srinagar was suspended on January 10 due to the sinking of a retention wall and about 15 Mt road stretch near a bridge at Kaila Morh in Ramban.

According to the Chief Engineer, Border Roads Organisation, Brigadier I K Jaggi, the Bridge was put to trial at 2.45 PM and traffic was allowed to pass in a regulated manner after giving some final touches and verification.

The 40 ton Bailey bridge was constructed by Border Roads Origination (BRO) team headed by Brigadier IK Jaggi, along with Commandant, 760 Border Roads Task Force (BRTF), N K Dixit and OC, 99 RCC (Road Construction Company), GREF, Lt Colonel Varun Khera.

Brig. Jaggi said that the bridge was raised within 60 hours, well ahead of the 72 hour deadline set by NHAI. “All of us, Commandant, Dixit and OC, Khara and me stayed at the site to supervise the work day and night. The material for

Bailey bridge was brought from different parts of Kashmir and Kishtwar district in as many as 30 trucks” he added.

ADGP Traffic J&K, T. Namgyal; DC Ramban, Nazim Zai Khan; SSP Traffic JS Johar; ADC, Ramban, Harbans Lal, ASP Rajni Sharma, PD NHAI, Parshotam Kumar also visited the spot.

The DC Ramban lauded the efforts of BRO for erecting the Bailey bridge in a record time to restore the National Highway – the only all weather supply line to Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the traffic authorities said that only stranded vehicles followed by Srinagar bound vehicles carrying essential commodities were allowed in the evening.

J&K LG Sinha calls Covid vaccination drive historic

PNS ■ JAMMU

Hundreds of front line health and sanitation workers were administered the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a nationwide vaccination drive dedicated to the corona warriors across different district headquarters of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The main function was attended by the Lt-Gov Manoj Sinha here in Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu. Sanitation worker, Raju, was administered the first dose in the presence of senior Health department officials and GMC staff. Along with him several senior doctors received the first dose of the vaccine. Similarly, health workers were administered the first dose of the Covid 19 vaccine in SKIMS, Srinagar.

Termining the occasion as a historic day in the fight against Covid pandemic, Lt Governor said he was delighted that the wait for this much-awaited vaccine has finally come to an



end.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt Governor recalled that COVID-19 pandemic was a big challenge for humanity and governments alike, and to steer out of this challenge was an uphill task, adding that the Coronavirus vaccine is only possible due to the untiring efforts of doctors, medical experts, scientists, and researchers.

Lt Governor informed that the vaccination would be given in three phases covering Health Care Workers followed by frontline workers (security forces, police, and other defense personnel) and elderly people in the initial phases.

Lt Governor urged people to remain vigilant and follow all Standard Operating Protocols (SOPs) even after taking COVID -19 vaccine shots, with

zero room for complacency until 14 days after the second dose is administered to them.

Lt Governor termed the launch of vaccine for coronavirus eradication as a ‘golden chapter in India’s history’ and said that the day is an important event that would be remembered for generations to come.

While detailing about the vaccination programme, Lt Governor said the government has identified 1294 private and 1177 government facilities along with 5400 vaccinators and 14,481 potential vaccinators across J&K.

Giving further details about the vaccination drive, he said that in J&K, 28 lakh have been identified who will be given Covid vaccine in the first and second phase on priority.

Missing for two days, girl found dead in agricultural field in UP

Lalitpur (UP): The body of a 14-year-old girl, who had been missing for the last two days, was recovered from an agricultural field here, police said on Saturday.

The body was found in Jamalpur village under Talbehat police station area on Friday evening, they said.

The girl went missing from her home on Thursday but her family did not inform the police, Circle Officer (CO) Devendra Kumar Singh said.

The condition of the girl’s body suggested that she had either consumed poison or was forcibly made to consume it, he said. **PTI**

Goa records 83 fresh cases of coronavirus

Panaji: Goa’s COVID-19 tally reached 52,345, after 83 more people tested positive for the infection on Saturday, an official from the health department said.

As many as 69 patients were discharged from various treatment facilities, while three died of the infection during the day, the official said.

With this, the toll in the coastal state stands at 756 and the count of recoveries has reached 50,712, he said.

There are currently 877 active cases in the coastal state, the official said.

With the addition of 670 new samples tested in the day, the total number of tests conducted in the state has gone up to 4,26,703, he added. **PTI**

Maha: SII CEO, ex-Health Min among vaccine recipients

CM UDDHAV KICKS OFF DRIVE, CALLS VACCINATION AS REVOLUTIONARY STEP

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena’s former Health Minister Dr. Deepak Sawant, a lady doctor Dr. Madhura Patil and Serum Institute of India (SII) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Adar Poonawalla were among the first lot to be administered Covid-19 vaccine in Maharashtra on Saturday.

While Dr Sawant was administered Covid-19 vaccine at the R. N. Cooper Hospital, Vile Parle in north-west Mumbai, Dr Patil was injected with the vaccine at the Bandra Kurla Complex field hospital in north-central Mumbai.

In a confidence building exercise, SII CEO Adar Poonawalla, whose company is the major manufacturer of

Covid vaccine, took a life-saving jab of the Covishield Vaccine produced by his company in Pune.

Soon after having been vaccinated against Covid-19 virus on the inaugural day of the vaccination drive launched earlier in the morning in Maharashtra by chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, Poonawalla posted a video of him rolling up his sleeve and taking the Covid vaccine from an administrator at an unidentified location in Pune.

“I wish India & (PM) Narendra Modiji great success in launching the world’s largest Covid vaccination rollout,” Poonawalla tweeted, along with the video showing him taking the vaccine dose.

“It brings me great pride that Covishield is part of this

historic effort and to endorse its safety and efficacy, I join our health workers in taking the vaccine myself,” Poonawalla added

While launching Covid-19 vaccine drive in Maharashtra, Chief Minister Thackeray said: “With this, we have taken a revolutionary step today... During the Covid-19 pandemic, the health workers cooperated with us in a big way. Even after the vaccination, all Covid-19 precautions must continue to be observed”. Amid the media glare, Dr. Patil took the first Covishield vaccine dose in the presence of the chief minister, Mayor Kishori Pednekar, BMC Commissioner I. S. Chahal, Starwe ministers, civic and medical officials and other invitees.. Beginning Saturday, the Covid-19 vaccines are being

administered at 285 centres in all 36 districts across Maharashtra, including 9 centres in Mumbai where an average of 4,000 shall be vaccinated daily, from 9 am to 5 pm.

“We have received 139,400 doses of Covishield Vaccine from the Serum Institute of India. So far, nearly 1.30 lakh people have registered themselves for vaccination,” the Mayor said.

Chahal said that as per the Centre’s guidelines, the vaccination drive will be carried out in three phases with the frontline workers, followed by sanitation and other health workers, police and those above 50 years ago, and lastly all under 50 years with comorbidities “But people below age of 18 have not been included for the time being,” he said.

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

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) 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.

Delivering the 39th 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 impact of the pandemic.

“I would like to unambiguously 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 financial stability, Das emphasised

the need for banks to raise resources in advance as a buffer.

Going ahead, he said, financial institutions in India 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, instill-

ing 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 procedures”.

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,” he said.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday said 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 Delhi. The Ministry of Animal Husbandry on Saturday said that Avian Influenza has been confirmed in Chhatrapur 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 said. 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 from Central Poultry 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.

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

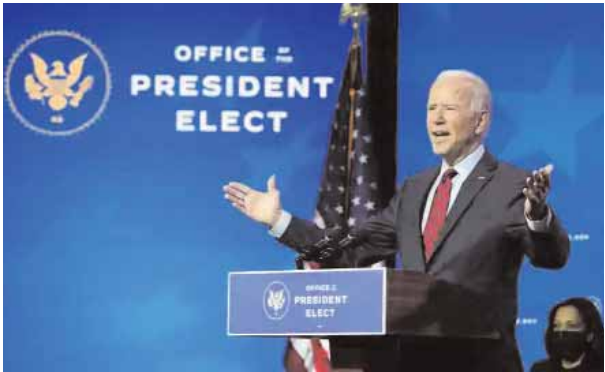
Washington: US President-elect Joe Biden has announced an ambitious goal of inoculating 100 million of total 331 million Americans with Covid-19 vaccines in the first 100 days of his administration, noting the vaccine rollout in the country, the worst hit by the pandemic, has been a “dismal failure.”

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 to voters.

“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, Delaware.

“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 imme-

diately 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. **PTI**

Pence congratulates Harris, offers peaceful transition of powers

Washington: Outgoing US Vice 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 reports said.

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

election.

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 place.

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 officer. **PTI**

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 penalty.

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 federal executions.

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’

AP ■ DALLAS

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 week said she’s a “normal person” who listened to her president.

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, including 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 pardon her.

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**

UN peacekeeper 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 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 crimes, spokesman Stephane 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.

The peacekeeping mission has been in Mali since 2013, after Islamic extremists took control of major towns in the north. A French-led military operation dislodged them, but the jihadists have since regrouped in rural areas and expanded their reach.

The UN says more than 231 peacekeepers in Mali have been killed due to hostile incidents, in what has become known as its most dangerous mission. **AP**

Uganda says Prez wins 6th term

Bob 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-turned-lawmaker 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%.

The top United States



Supporters of Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni celebrate in Kampala, Uganda on Saturday **AP**

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 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 forces.

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

out, with many losing to candidates 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 Court.

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. **AP**

FROM PAGE 1

2L GET 1ST DOSE OF ANTI-COVID PROTECTION

“Since it was the first day of vaccination, a few issues came up - delay in uploading beneficiary list at some session sites and healthcare workers vaccinated though not scheduled for today’s session; Resolutions provided for both the issues,” said Agnani. Earlier in the day, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, who was at Delhi’s AIIMS hailed the vaccines as ‘sanjeevani’ (a miracle cure) in the fight against the novel coronavirus. Sanitation worker Manish Kumar became the first recipient of the vaccination drive at Delhi’s All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), according to the Ministry.

“The vaccines have been presented before the country like ‘sanjeevani’ in the fight against Covid-19. The fight was gradually heading towards victory... but now it seems almost definite that the step towards victory will be taken quickly,” Dr Vardhan told reporters at a press briefing.

Dr Vardhan also praised the Indian scientific community for helping to develop, test and mass manufacture at least two viable coronavirus vaccines - Covishield and Covaxin - both of which have been approved for emergency use and were rolled out at different locations across the country.

“To further speed this up, our scientists developed two indigenous vaccines with the support of our scientists, doctors, researchers, vaccine manufacturing industry and citizens of India, who volunteered for clinical trials to make research of scientists successful,” he said.

According to the data shared by the Ministry, the 11 States and Union Territories where both Covishield and Covaxin were administered were Assam (65 sessions), Bihar (301), Delhi (81), Haryana (77), Karnataka (242), Maharashtra (285), Odisha (161), Rajasthan (167) Tamil Nadu (160), Telangana (14) and Uttar Pradesh (317).

The 1,65,714 beneficiaries included 78 from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 76 from Ladakh, 43 from Daman and Diu, 64 from Dadra and Nagar Haveli, 21 from Lakshadweep, 195 from Chandigarh and 373 from Goa.

Besides, 16,963 were vaccinated in Andhra Pradesh, 16,401 in Bihar, 15,727 in Maharashtra, 4,985 in Chhattisgarh, 8,557 in Gujarat, 743 in Arunachal Pradesh, 2,721 in Assam, 3,403 in Delhi, 4,656 in Haryana, 1,408 in Himachal Pradesh and 1,954 in Jammu & Kashmir.

More than one crore cases and 1.5 lakh fatalities later, India took its first steps to beat the pandemic with shots of the Covishield and Covaxin vaccines being administered at medical centres across the country.

Of the first day beneficiaries, 2,897 were in Jharkhand, 12,637 in Karnataka, 7,206 in Kerala, 6,739 in Madhya Pradesh, 510 in Manipur, 509 in Meghalaya, 314 in Mizoram, 499 in Nagaland, 8,675 in Odisha, 206 in Puducherry, 1,200 in Punjab, 9,279 in Rajasthan, 120 in Sikkim, 2,728 in Tamil Nadu, 3,600 in Telangana, 266 in Tripura, 15,975 in Uttar Pradesh, 2,226 in Uttarakhand and 9,578 in West Bengal.

The anti-Covid jab drive in the country has been planned in a phased manner, identifying priority groups. Around three crore healthcare workers including doctors, both in Government and private sectors including ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) workers, will receive the vaccine during the first phase while around 27 crore will be covered later on. This group will include those above 50 years of age and below 50 years with co-morbidities.

The Prime Minister said the vaccines approved by the Government were much cheaper than alternatives being used in the west, referring to the shots developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. He said those vaccines would cost around Rs 5,000 to vaccinate a person and would need to be stored at temperatures around -70 degree Celsius, making the logistics tougher.

“Indian vaccines are cheapest and the best in the world,” he said, adding that the administration was also much simpler as they can be stored easily.

He urged people not to fall prey to rumours and myths regarding the vaccines. “The DCGI gave approval after they were satisfied with the data of two vaccines. So stay away from rumours. Our vaccine developers have a global credibility. Life-saving vaccines given to 60 per cent children globally are made in India,” he said.

He said that India’s vaccination drive is based on principles of humanity and that those who needed the vaccine the most would get it first.

“Those who are most at risk will get it first - doctors, nurses, paramedics - they deserve it most on priority,” Modi said, as India began the exercise of vaccinating 30 million health care and frontline workers.

On Day 1, around 300,000 healthcare workers will be given the first dose of the vaccine.

Modi turned emotional as he talked about the struggles of families torn apart due to Covid. “Mothers could not be with their ailing children... Kids could not give a traditional farewell to their parents who died in the pandemic.”

All this while, he said that there was someone who was giving us hope. “*Nirasha ke usi vatavaran mein koi aasha ka sanchar kar raha tha... Humein bachane ke liye apne prano ko sankat mein daal raha tha.*”

He said that health and frontline workers stayed away from their families for months in discharging their duties and several did not make it. “Neither science or society was prepared for a situation like this... No one had imagined a challenge like Covid.”

52 ADVERSE EVENTS IN DELHI, 14 IN MAHA, 13 IN HARYANA

“We have come to know that the Covid-19 vaccination drive is being conducted by the hospital today itself. Covaxin manufactured by Bharat Biotech is being preferred in our hospital over Covishield manufactured by Serum Institute,” it said.

Dr Manish Jangra, founding chairman of the Federation of All India Medical Association (FIAMA), told The Pioneer that the residents were apprehensive about the lack of complete trial in the case of Covaxin.

“We have our family members, what if something happens to us due to the adverse event caused by the Covaxin which is yet to complete its clinical trial. We have requested the MS to vaccinate us with Covishield which has completed all stages of trial before its roll-out,” said Dr Jangra.

He asserted that science is not based on belief but on facts and it has to be clinically proven before they administer it in their bodies. Only 31 beneficiaries were inoculated the vaccine on the first day of the vaccination drive at the RML hospital.

Dr Nirmalya Mohapatra, general secretary of RML FIAMA, talked about an adverse event case reported in Norway where 23 elderly people died after receiving Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine.

He said in India the Government could have waited for few more months to let the Covaxin developer complete its third clinical trial.

Dr Rahul Bhargava, Director (Institute of Blood Disorder and Bone Marrow Transplant) Fortis Hospital, Gurugram, echoed similar views as he said the Government has tried to modify the protocols related to phase three trials.

DR REDDY’S GETS NOD TO HOLD PH-3 TRIALS OF SPUTNIK-V IN INDIA

Sputnik V developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology was registered by the Ministry of Health of Russia and became the world’s first registered vaccine against Covid-19 based on the established human adenoviral vector platform.

The vaccine’s efficacy is confirmed at 91.4

per cent based on data analysis of the final control point of clinical trials in Russia. Currently, the vaccine’s clinical trials are underway in the UAE, Egypt, Venezuela and Belarus while it has been registered in Algeria, Argentina, Belarus, Bolivia and Serbia for inoculation.

ARMY BOOSTED COUNTRY’S MORALE: RAJNATH

workers, he said, “Had our doctors, paramedical staff, whom we know as warriors, not take the risk, we could not have fought the challenge. It is for this reason that doctors are considered as second God on earth. The threat of COVID-19 was on doctors, para-medical staff, sanitation workers. They stayed away from their families, ate food outside their homes, and then left for the hospital. These warriors have rendered charismatic performance. The doctors, para-medical staff, sanitation workers have worked as frontline soldiers and I salute their commitment and dedication.”

He also said that besides the two indigenous anti-COVID vaccines used in the nationwide vaccination drive that began on Saturday, four more vaccines are coming soon.

“These vaccines will not only be administered to people in India, but will also be exported to other countries. Because, India does not think about itself alone, but is also concerned about the entire world. Seers here gave the message of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* — the whole world is a family. Since the Vedic era, the medical treatment system here has not only thought about human beings, but also of other creatures. During the reign of Ashoka, there were provisions for treatment of cows, buffaloes, cats and bats.”

Army chief General MM Naravane and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were also present at the programme.

The chief minister welcomed the defence minister and thanked the armed forces, veterans and their families for their service to the nation and applauded their bravery. He appreciated the close coordination between the armed forces and civil authorities in Covid management.

He reiterated the goal of taking cooperation between defence and civil administration forward. He assured full support of state authorities in providing better health services through such projects.

The new building of Command Hospital is spread over 40 acres of land. It will have six blocks of four wings varying from three to nine storeys.

The building complex will also cater to parking of 750 cars in addition to vertical circulation in the form of adequate numbers of elevators and ramps. It will house state-of-the-art facilities with all specialties and sub-specialties, notably cardiology with a modern interventional catheterisation lab, modular operation theatres with one hybrid operation theatre, nephrology and dialysis centre and composite oncology centre. The hospital was raised in 1859 and designated as Command Hospital in 1967.

NO WAY TO GO, NO AGE TO GO

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 New Delhi 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...

BKU LOKSHAKTI REQUESTS SC TO REPLACE MEMBERS FOR PANEL

various border points of Delhi for about 50 days now, demanding repeal of the farm laws.

In an affidavit, the BKU (Lokshakti) said the principle of natural justice is going to be violated as those appointed to the four-member committee “have already supported these laws.”

“It is important to mention here with great regret that the principle of natural justice is going to be violated by making these persons as members of the committee... how they will hear all farmers on equal parameters when they have already supported these laws,” it said.

The union also sought dismissal of a plea of the Central Government, filed through the Delhi Police, seeking an injunction against the proposed tractor march or any other kind of protest by farmers that could disrupt the gathering and celebrations of the Republic Day on January 26.

Owl found dead in Delhi Zoo, test at Bhopal lab confirms bird flu

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A dead owl in the Delhi zoo has been infected with bird flu as the samples were found positive for H5N8 avian influenza virus under RT-PCR test done by ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Disease (NIHSAD), Bhopal, on Friday, officials said on Saturday.

“The zoo witnessed the death of a brown fish owl in its captivity. Its cloacal, tracheal and ocular swabs were sent to the animal husbandry unit of the Delhi Government for serological examination,” zoo Director Ramesh Pandey said.

As per protocols and guidelines issued by the Centre and the Delhi Government, sanitisation and surveillance drills have been intensified in the zoo and all possible preventive measures are being taken, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said in a statement.

Pandey said, “Birds in captivity have been isolated and are under consistent monitoring and care for their behaviour and health. Spray of lime, virkon-S and sodium hypochlorite and foot bath of potassium permanganate are being done on regular intervals every day.”

Chicken feed to raptors and entry of vehicles inside the zoo have already been stopped. Movement of staff is also being restricted and regulated in view of the bird flu outbreak.

The Delhi zoo has both captive and free-ranging birds, including local migratory waterfowls and waders, in its premises.

On Monday, samples taken from crows and ducks at parks and lakes in the national Capital had tested positive for the avian influenza.

HOME THEATRE

Plenty of twists and intrigue



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

This 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 reality.

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 Gupral 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



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

There 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 unfolding.

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 humanoid — a prototype — capable of doing things out-the-box; a lean mean fighting machine but capable of emotions. Definitely dangerous because it 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 loses 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 has gone rogue.

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 given a good start.

— Shalini Saksena

TELLY TALE

ADITYA IS BACK WITH BAWRA DIL

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 — *Wagt 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 upcoming 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 Kol Rehita 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 Shanoor, 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 drama."

Of history and hope

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 lockdown or for that matter BR Chopra's *Mahabharat* which was also topping the list.

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 daughter-in-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 explains.

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 hassle. Also, the body language and the 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," he tells you.

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 struck 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.

'I had never done fantasy thriller'

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 an interesting character and 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

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



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 you?

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 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.



Aparna Rajawat with her Pink brigade during a workshop

BIG FIGHTBACK

SHALINI SAKSENA brings you a story of 40-year-old APARNA RAJAWAT who has overcome several roadblocks in her life to become India’s 16-time national champion in martial arts and to travel the length and breadth of the country teaching 1.5 lakh young girls mental strength, legal rights and self-defence

She was all of seven when a martial arts teacher came to her colony in Agra, Uttar Pradesh to teach children this art. Like all kids, she came home running and told her parents she wanted to join these classes. Her family was extremely conservative and with six siblings — two elder brothers, there was no way that her parents allowed her to learn the art that was considered to be only for boys. The fact that she would be the only girl in the class went against her. Back then, in the late 1980s, it was unthinkable that a girl would learn martial arts. But she never gave up hope and spent the next one year trying to convince her parents. Finally, her mother gave her consent. That day and the next 12 years, she went on to excel in martial arts. So much so that by the time she was 19 years old, she had been 16-time champion. Meet 40-year-old Aparna Rajawat.

Everyone expected great many things from her in the future but a road accident left her with seven fractures in her leg. Her career to compete in martial arts came to an abrupt end. She was in the hospital for several months and the doctors told her that if she tried to compete professionally, she may end up in the wheelchair.

“When the doctors told me to stop competing I didn’t know what to do. I could train by not compete. Martial arts had been my life. I didn’t know anything else even though I started playing other sports like basketball. Back then there was no scope to take up martial arts as a profession. At best, all I would achieve is to become a coach and teach in a school. This avenue didn’t allow any growth. My dream was to join the Army. But after my accident I became unfit for the forces,” Rajawat recalls.

She had joined martial art classes to escape the bullying from her elder brothers. They would really trouble her a lot. She thought that if she learnt this art form, she would be able to defend herself. But after the accident she found herself with nothing to do. That is when she turned to her other passion — dancing. She came to Delhi; joined some classes and worked for the likes of Daler Mehndi. She worked as a choreographer for the next few years. But her leg started giving her problems once again.

The doctor didn’t have good news for

her. He told her that if she continued to pursue her present occupation she would become paralysed neck down. Another blow to her career. But she never allowed herself to be let down by bad news. Back home in Agra, while thinking of what to do she came across a tour manager with 15-20 foreigners. That got her thinking.

“When I saw this man talk to these foreigners, I realised that the work was something that I could do. I found out everything that there was to know about how to be a tour guide and started looking for work. That it was tough, is putting it mildly. Nobody would give me work. Some even told me that this is not a woman’s job but a man’s and the best option for me would be to take up teaching. But I never gave up. For the next four-five months, I visited as many operators as I could only be come back home frustrated. Finally, I went to a tour operator who agreed to give me chance when I told him that even Amitabh Bachchan was rejected for his voice. I told him how do you know that a woman wouldn’t be able to do this job unless you give her a chance. This person agreed to give me work. He told me that he would call if something came up,” Rajawat says.

The next day she landed up at the office with a book and her lunch box. The operator was surprised to see her and asked what she was doing. She told him that her house was an hour away and if he called her, it would take her time to reach and she would lose the opportunity. She did this for the next two months.

And finally, her day came. From being a local tour guide to tour manager with a Canadian company in India to an international tour director with a company in London. She would live six-seven months there and the rest here in India for another company that dealt with tourists in American and Nepal.

In 2012, she was in London when she heard about Nirbhaya. The next few months really disturbed her as she followed the case. However, she continued to work as an international tour director. But the lockdown put traveling on hold and that is when she decided to do what she had thought of doing while she followed the Nirbhaya case — provide self-defence classes to women.

“I knew that travel will be on hold for

I KNEW THAT TRAVEL WILL BE ON HOLD FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS. SO, I HAVE DECIDED TO SPEND MY TIME TEACHING SELF-DEFENCE TO GIRLS. DURING THE NIRBHAYA TRIAL, I SPENT YEARS TRYING TO READ AND FIND EVERYTHING THERE WAS TO KNOW ABOUT CRIME AGAINST WOMEN. I WAS OBSESSED. I THOUGHT OF NOTHING BUT HOW TO PREVENT CRIME AGAINST WOMEN



Aparna Rajawat showing moves on how to defend oneself

the next few years. So, I have decided to spend my time teaching self-defence. During the Nirbhaya case, I spent the next few years trying to read and find everything there was to know about crime against women. I was obsessed. I thought of nothing but how to prevent crime against them. My bullying days and things that I faced at the hands of cousin came to mind. I wanted to teach women the difference between good and bad touch and how they could defend themselves,” Rajawat says.

She tells you that even though she was living a good life — traveling the world, earning big bucks and have every comfort one could thing of — her bled every time she heard of a crime that involved a woman. She spoke with her mother, who was alive back then. She told her that despite her success, she was not content and wanted to do something for the women of this country. Her mother, who had always been

a great support to Rajawat and encouraged her to pursue what she wanted, told her that she must follow her heart.

“When I told her that I wanted to come back home, she told me I must do whatever my heart told me to do. She said that I had overcome every obstacle that life had thrown at me and excelled in whatever I chose to do. At death bed, what will go with you is not the money that you have earned but the good deeds, my mother told me,” Rajawat recalls.

That is when she came to India, in 2016. It began with her sponsoring girls who wanted to study more and didn’t have the finance. One day she was approached to give a motivational speech at a coaching centre. She spoke for 45 minutes about her journey and given the response she got, Rajawat realised the power of her words and how it can change people’s lives. That is when she started talking about the importance

of self-defence. That is how Pink Belt Mission came to life a couple of years later.

“Till now I have taught 1.5 lakh women how to defend themselves on five different dimensions — mental, emotional, legal and digital and physical strength. These are core areas where each woman needs to be taught. Without this even if one handed a loaded gun to the woman, it would be of no use. I hold workshops form time to time as I travel the length and breath of the country. Each workshop, meant for college going students, attracts 2,000-2,500 girls. At the workshop, I give a motivational speech, basically my life story, and how I overcame them. Of course, not all the girls come for the defense classes that I teach over a period of three days. These classes are extremely taxing and at the end of the day, the girls are well-equipped to defend against any assault. My aim is to teach 50 lakh women self-defence in the next few year,” Rajawat tells you.

Once these girls are ready, they are sorted in batches of four-five each. There is a reason why Rajawat chooses only college goers. They are the one’s who have the time to go to schools and train the girls there.

However, it is not just the girls who are taught their rights and what is right and wrong. Rajawat holds classes for boys as well to tell them hoe they should behave in front of women. She tells you that not many know that if a boy stares at a girl more more than 15 seconds, it is an offense. That if they look at girl and starting singing, it is an offense.

“It is so unfortunate that we don’t teach basic rights to our children. We must teach boys how to respect the women and that they are not second-rate citizens I tell girls who attend my workshop how they must give their children a good upbringing; this change is what we will see after 20 years,” Rajawat says.

She is now working on a campaign to spread awareness on how to provide immediate help to the survivors.

“The law says that if there is a sexual assault on a woman, no hospital can deny her medical treatment; there is no need for police to finish doing its job first. But nobody is aware of this law. We have been working on this. I will travel across the country to spread this message. We hope that this will prevent the crime from taking place to begin with,” Rajawat says.

‘I cried many times during the filming of Pink Belt Mission’

■Why did you choose to tell this story in a documentary style?

We chose to shoot *Pink Belt Mission* in documentary style because Aparna Rajawat was attempting to break the Guinness World Record for most persons trained in a self-defence lesson. It was to bring worldwide attention to her cause. I wanted to film her day to day struggle in that attempt. It was thrilling because we didn’t know if she would succeed. In the movie you see her, in real life, trying to overcome the obstacles presented to her. It’s quite thrilling because you don’t know if she and her team can pull it off. For me it was like watching a great sporting event. I wanted her to win but the odds were against her.

■What made you tell her story?

I wanted to tell this story because she is a fighter, fighting for an important cause, women’s safety, education and teaching them self-defence. She is such a dynamic person you can’t say no to her. When I met her, her stories were fascinating and movies are only as good as the stories. I hope to give her stories the worldwide attention they deserve.

■What were the challenges faced?

A big challenge was the language barrier. Half of the movie is in English and half is in Hindi. I only know a few words in Hindi, so I had to have someone translate for me and each subject who didn’t speak English. Also,

it is a very tough subject matter and there are stories of violence against women that are heartbreaking. I would go back to the hotel after filming some of the sad stories and I deeply sympathised with these women’s pain. I felt it in my heart. I cried many times while filming. That was the most difficult part. And I felt such a responsibility to tell their stories the best that I could.

■The documentary is being premiered at the Jaipur International Film Festival (JIFF). How do you want people to perceive this?

I hope the film will bring attention to Aparna and the women of Pink Belt. To shine a light on all the wonderful works they are doing. It’s a story that



deserves an audience. I hope the audience will be moved and inspired by it. I hope it will reach young girls and women in the world and they will say: ‘If Aparna can do it, I can do it’.

■Don’t you think a commercial release would have been a better option?

The movie is in the competition portion of JIFF. I am hoping that it will win an award to help promote Aparna’s cause. To shine a light on *Pink Belt Mission*. One of the ways to bring attention to a film is to get laurels from film festivals like JIFF. It is our intention to release this documentary in a wide release in movie theaters when it is safe. This year the festival is online due to COVID-19.

When you met Aparna Rajawat, what was your first impression?

My first impression of Aparna was her hair. She had awesome short hair like no other woman I had seen in India. She told me the story of her family taking her to a psychiatrist because she wanted short hair when she was a young girl. That was my very first impression of her, so we filmed the very first scene of the movie at a barbershop. She is getting a haircut and telling the story of the psychiatrist.

■Do you think watching such documentaries will inspire women to be like her?

I think the Pink Belt Mission documentary will inspire young girls

and women in India, but Aparna is such a powerful person I think she will inspire women and men around the world. She never gives up no matter what obstacles cross her path. She continues to fight and it’s inspiring.

Even though it’s a very serious subject matter, Aparna triumphs and inspires. It’s the perfect time for such an uplifting film. I, as an audience member wanted to cheer for Aparna and I hoped she would win. Ultimately, I didn’t know if she would break the world record or not, but that didn’t matter. What was important is how many young lives she touched and uplifted. Aparna has really inspired me.

Rohit's dismissal puts India on backfoot

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Rohit Sharma's indiscreet shot selection pegged India back after rookie bowling attack restricted Australia to 369 on a rain-curtailed 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 for two.

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 half-chip-half-loft was safely pouched by Mitchell Starc in the deep.

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

Cheteshwar Pujara (8) and Ajinkya Rahane (2) added only two runs in the 6.1 overs before the break.

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



Rohit Sharma reacts on his way to pavilion after getting out on Day 2 of 4th Test

till Rohit kept the scoreboard ticking 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 dismissal never looked like being troubled by the four-pronged attack.

However as has been his wont in SENA countries, Rohit just before

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 middle-order.

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

4th Test. Day 3
Live from 5:00am IST
SONY TEN 1, 3 & SIX

inclement weather which effectively 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 rookie 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 innings.

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

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 a 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

PTI ■ BRISBANE

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 matches.

"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 disappointment 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.



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," he said.

"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.

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 teams 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.

Disciplined Sundar fill Ashwin's shoes well: McDonald

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Australia's 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 well".

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 kept it tight and was able to take some 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 impressed in the limited overs leg of 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 arm-wrestle, 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 believes that the Tamil Nadu left-arm seamer is here to stay with his insatiable hunger to succeed at the top level.

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

mean feat.

"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

lot of composure, is a strong 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.

"Most of these guys are 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 grabs.

"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 count."

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



PTI ■ ALUR

Punjab inched closer to a knockout berth with a 10-wicket rout of Jammu and Kashmir in a Group A game of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Saturday, their fourth win in a row.

Shubham Pundir top-scored with 42 to take 1&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 games.

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 victory 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-

itive 158 for four.

Right-arm medium pacer Atit Sheth (4/17) then wreaked havoc to scuttle out Maharashtra for a meagre 98 and give his team four full points.

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 table.

Bengal opted to field and saw the talented 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 innings.

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

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.

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

PTI ■ KARACHI

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 three-match 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 arrival their arrival in Karachi

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.

"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 wicket-keeper said.

"The wickets here in Pakistan are batting friendly, and we are relying 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 crease, they will be able to score freely," Boucher said. "We are excited to play in Pakistan again, and 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.

Thirimanne, Perera lead SL resistance after Root's 228

AFP ■ GALLE

Joe 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 2016.

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 reach England's total.

Root's 321 ball innings with a six and 18 fours dominated the day. It took less than an hour in the open-



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-stricken stadium meant that only his

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 rankings.

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 balls.

In the next over Root hit his 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.

Champions host Challengers

Manchester United visit Anfield for top of table clash against arch-rivals Liverpool

AFF ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool and Manchester United face off on Sunday as the Premier League's top two teams for the first time since 1997 — with the rivalry between England's most successful clubs rekindled by a fascinating title race.

United top the table after the New Year for the first time since Alex Ferguson's retirement in 2013 thanks to an 11-match unbeaten run to take them past Jurgen Klopp's men.

Liverpool have surrendered top spot after three league games without a win and could drop to fifth place on Sunday if results go against them.

The last time United and Liverpool locked horns in a title race was 12 years ago.

Back then United were hardened winners under Ferguson, who saw off Rafael Benitez's challengers to win a third consecutive league title.

Now it is United who Ole Gunnar Solskjaer admits are the "hunters" chasing the champions. Ferguson, who arrived at Old Trafford in 1986 with United firmly in Liverpool's shadow, once famously said his goal was to knock them "off their perch" and he went on to win 13 league titles.

But United have been displaced as top dogs even in their own city by Manchester City.

And fans have been forced to watch Klopp spearhead another era of glory at Anfield, winning the Champions League in 2019 before ending the club's 30-year wait for a league title last season — putting them just one behind United's record tally of 20.

But, in a strange and at times soulless season in empty stadiums, the relentless consistency shown by Liverpool in



recent years has dropped off.

Hampered by a series of injuries, most notably to talismanic centre-back Virgil van Dijk, Liverpool have already dropped more points in 17 games than they have in either of the past two seasons.

That has allowed United to overtake them despite a slow start to their own campaign. Ole's men won just two of their opening six games, suffering a humiliating 6-1 reverse at the hands of Spurs at Old Trafford.

But, on the road, United's form has been remarkably consistent. Come Sunday, it will be almost a year to the day since they last lost an away game in

domestic competition — on their last visit to Anfield.

Since then Bruno Fernandes' arrival has helped transform United's fortunes. On Friday, the Portugal playmaker won his fourth Premier League player-of-the-month award in 2020 by picking up the prize for December.

"Unfortunately a good signing for United," said Klopp. "He is a very influential player for United obviously, involved in a lot of things."

"I know people talk mostly about the goal involvements, which is very important stuff, but he is a link-up in a lot of other situations as well."

Without the silverware on his CV to rival Klopp or City boss Pep Guardiola, Solskjaer's credentials for one of the biggest jobs in football are questioned every time he has a couple of bad results. But the Norwegian has guided United into a position his more storied predecessors, Jose Mourinho and Louis van Gaal, could not manage.

"The last few years, there have been two teams running away with it already by the end of October," said Solskjaer.

"Now, at least, we're in it at half-way. We're a much better side now than a year ago."

Questions remain over whether United's revival is for

real or another false dawn, of which there have been several in the post-Ferguson era.

Liverpool's three-decade drought without a league title stands as a warning of how far even giants can fall.

One of Klopp's first iconic phrases when taking charge in 2015 was his ambition to change the fatalism around the club's mentality from "doubter to believer".

Should United become the first visiting side to win at Anfield in the league for nearly four years, it is they who will have the new-found confidence that a 21st league title in 2021 is possible.

WBA clinch Allardyce's 1st win

AFF ■ WOLVERHAMPTON

West Bromwich Albion won for the first time under new boss Sam Allardyce as Matheus Pereira's penalty double clinched a 3-2 Premier League victory at local rivals Wolves on Saturday.

Allardyce had failed to win any of his first five matches since replacing the sacked Slaven Bilic.

But the former England manager was finally able to celebrate after a pulsating Black Country derby at Molineux.

Pereira put Albion ahead from the spot before goals from Fabio Silva and Willy Boly put Wolves in the driving seat at half-time.

Semi Ajayi equalised after the interval and Pereira's second penalty sealed West Brom's first win in eight league games.

Albion remain second bottom of the table after their second league victory this term, but are now just three points from safety.

Wolves are winless in six league games and have not beaten the Baggies in 10 years.

It was the first time these two local rivals had met since 2012 when West Brom won 5-1 at Molineux, and this was an equally memorable success for the visitors.

Wolves had won just one of their eight league games since Mexico striker Raul Jimenez suffered a fractured skull against Arsenal in November.

They fell behind in the eighth minute with a self-inflicted wound.

Boly caught Callum Robinson with a rash challenge and, after a VAR review confirmed the foul was just inside the area, Pereira stepped up to convert the penalty.

That made it nine consecutive league games in which Wolves had fallen behind.

Silva's leveller came in the 38th minute when Albion failed to clear a Romain Saiss cross and Boly's deft backheel found the



West Bromwich Albion's Robert Snodgrass, right, challenges Wolves' Adama Traore during the Premier League game at the Molineux Stadium

teenage forward, who slotted home from close range.

Sloppy defending was Albion's downfall again as Wolves went in front five minutes later.

Joao Moutinho's corner wasn't cleared by Jake Livermore, and Boly slammed his shot past Button from seven yards.

Boly was the first Wolves player to concede a penalty, assist a goal and score a goal in the same Premier League game since Adlene Guedioura in 2011 — also against West Brom at Molineux.

Albion equalised in the 52nd minute when a long throw was flicked on by Kyle Bartley and Ajayi looped his header over Wolves keeper Rui Patricio into the far corner.

A dramatic game took another turn when Conor Coady conceded a penalty with a trip on Robinson, and Pereira stepped up to score from the spot again.

Wolves should have finished with a point, but Silva mis-

cued after Moutinho set up a potential equaliser before the unmarked Patrick Cuttrone shot over from close range.

Elsewhere, Brighton notched its first Premier League win in nearly two months thanks to Neal Maupay's first-half goal in a 1-0 victory at Leeds.

The French striker applied the finishing touch at the far post following a flowing team move in the 17th minute for his seventh goal of the season.

Brighton halted a 10-game winless run in all competitions. The last triumph was on November 21 at Aston Villa.

It was a successful return to Elland Road for Brighton's Ben White, who helped Leeds win promotion to the top-flight during a loan spell last season. His former club slipped to a third straight loss for the first time in 12 months.

At London Stadium, Michail Antonio scored in his first Premier League start for West Ham since November in a 1-0 win over Burnley.

Ozil free to join Fenerbahce

London: After months in exile, Mesut Ozil is finally free to leave Arsenal.

The World Cup winner has reached an agreement with the Gunners to terminate his contract, ending a roller-coaster seven-and-a-half-year stay in London, according to The Athletic's David Ornstein.

Despite reported interest from MLS outfit DC United, the 32-year-old is now expected to join Fenerbahce — the club he supported as a child — on a free transfer. Ornstein reports a deal is in place, and the move could happen as early as this weekend.

Ozil wrote on Twitter that the United States and Turkey were the "two countries I want to play football in before I retire."

The agreement concludes a once-happy marriage between club and player.

Ozil arrived at Arsenal on September 3, 2013, the final day of a record-breaking summer transfer window in England. The north London side agreed to pay a club-record £42.5 million to sign the midfielder from Real Madrid, a sign of intention in the transfer market that sent Arsenal fans into a frenzy.

Ozil helped Arsene Wenger



and Co win the FA Cup in 2013-14, their first piece of silverware in nine years. And in 2015-16, the playmaker nearly set a new Premier League single-season assists record, falling one short of Thierry Henry's mark with 19.

After signing a contract extension in 2017 worth a reported £350,000/week, Ozil began to fall out of favor. Wenger left the club, and successors Unai Emery and Mikel Arteta used the midfielder sparingly.

Ozil's last appearance as an Arsenal player came on March 7 in a 1-0 win over West Ham. He was omitted from Arteta's 25-man Premier League squad for the first half of the 2020-21 season and dropped from Europa League consideration. AFP

'Huntelaar infected by Schalke virus'

Amsterdam: Schalke coach Christian Gross is hoping veteran Ajax striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar can be persuaded to return on loan to help the Royal Blues fight relegation from the Bundesliga.

"If a player with this experience, aura and personality were to join us again, that would be fantastic," said Gross.

Huntelaar, 37, helped Schalke reach the Champions League semi-finals in 2010-11 and was the Bundesliga's top-scorer in 2011-12, with 29 goals.

After numerous phone calls between the pair, Gross says Huntelaar has "very, very good memories" of Schalke, for whom he scored 126 goals in seven years before rejoining Ajax in 2017. Huntelaar is still banging in the goals, having netted 53 times in 121 games for Ajax since 2017, though he has mostly been a substitute this season.

However, the striker admits to reservations about returning to Gelsenkirchen.

Huntelaar had planned to retire at the end of the season, but Gross wants him back to boost the Schalke squad. "He is infected by this Schalke virus," quipped the Swiss. AFP

Shakib included in B'desh squad for Windies series

PTI ■ DHAKA

Star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is set to return to international cricket after serving a year-long ban for not reporting a corrupt approach as he was included in Bangladesh's 18-member squad for the upcoming ODI series against the West Indies beginning here next week.

The selectors also included uncapped players Shoriful Islam, Hasan Mahmud and Mahedi Hasan in the squad, led by Tamim Iqbal, for the three one-dayers at home.

Since the ban this will be the first international assignment for Shakib, who was earlier named in the 24-man preliminary squad for the series.

The 33-year-old, who was Bangladesh's Test and T20I captain before his ban, made a comeback to competitive cricket by taking part in the Bangabandhu T20 Cup in November last year.

Besides Shakib, seamers Taskin Ahmed and Rubel



Hossain also made a return to the Bangladesh squad.

"Naturally we are delighted to have Shakib Al Hasan back in the squad as we all know he is a game changer and we are expecting him to

return to his best very soon," Bangladesh chief selector Minhajul Abedin told Cricbuzz.

"We have picked Rubel Hossain as he bowled well in the domestic tournament while Taskin was injured earlier but now as he is fit and the way he is bowling, we felt that he deserves a chance."

Among the cricketers who were left out of the squad, include former captain Mashrafe Mortaza — he was also not considered for the provisional 24-man squad — Shafiul Islam, Al Amin Hossain and Naem Sheikh.

SQUAD

Tamim Iqbal (C), Shakib Al Hasan, Najmul Hossain, Mushfiquur Rahim, Mohammad Mithun, Litton Das, Mahmudullah, Afif Hossain, Soumya Sarkar, Taskin Ahmed, Rubel Hossain, Taijul Islam, Mustafizur Rahman, Mehidy Hasan, Mohammad Saifuddin, Mahadi Hasan, Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful Islam.

Argentina tour will be good indicator of where we stand: Rani

PTI ■ BUENOS AIRES

The Indian women's hockey team skipper Rani feels the tour of Argentina will help her side "understand where they stand", nearly a year after the Covid-19 pandemic abruptly halted all competitions around the world.

The women's side will become the first of India's hockey teams to resume international matches as it plays the first of the eight games during the tour of Argentina, starting Sunday.

"It has been a strange period for sports people around the world, but to be resuming doing what we love the most, it is the best feeling," Rani said.

"We are looking forward to testing ourselves against some strong teams, and also understanding where we stand at the moment," she added.

Rani reiterated that a good show in the series will boost her side's confidence heading into this year's Tokyo Olympics.

"I think this tour is really important for us in terms of



resuming competitive hockey.

"We have a crucial year to look forward to, and with such matches against strong sides, we will be able to keep working hard towards our goal of preparing well for the Tokyo Olympics," Rani said.

The 26-year-old forward knows the importance of starting the all-important Olympic year well, but also understands that it will take time to get into the groove after staying away from competitions for nearly a year.

"We know what our aim is this year, and we want to make sure that we start the year in the perfect manner, put in some excellent performances, and build some momentum again," Rani said.

"However, we also understand and take into consideration that we haven't played an international match with the maximum intensity in these past 9-10 months, and that we might take time to get back into our groove, and that is what this tour is all about," she added.

Lazio eye CL after derby win

AP ■ ROME

Lazio revived its chances of staying in the Champions League by convincingly beating third-placed Roma 3-0 in a Serie A derby on Friday.

Luis Alberto scored twice and Ciro Immobile also found the target as Lazio controlled throughout.

Lazio moved up to seventh place, two points behind fourth-placed Juventus, which faces a challenging visit to Inter Milan on Sunday; and three points behind Roma, which saw its title hopes fade.

It was a third straight league win for Lazio, which faces Bayern Munich in the Champions League next month.

"This season it was a bit more important than usual, because we weren't doing as well in Serie A as we wanted," Luis Alberto said of the derby. "We improved a great deal, and we confirmed that in the derby."

It matched Lazio's biggest margin of victory over Roma in Serie A, having also won the derby 3-0 in March 2019 and December 2006.



Immobile opened the scoring 14 minutes in by completing a counterattack when Roma defenders Chris Smalling and Ibanez both slipped to the ground.

Lazio doubled the lead nine minutes later when Ibanez was again left on the ground following strong play from Manuel Lazzari, who set up Luis Alberto for a clear look.

Immobile threatened throughout yet it was Luis Alberto who sealed it with a shot around a defender into the far corner in the 67th.

Reus fails to deliver from spot

AP ■ BERLIN

Borussia Dortmund captain Marco Reus missed a penalty in a 1-1 draw with lowly Mainz while Leipzig again missed the chance to move to the top of the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Leipzig, which was denied top spot in losing to Dortmund 3-1 last weekend, could manage only 2-2 at Wolfsburg and it remains a point behind league leader Bayern Munich. Bayern hosts Freiburg on Sunday.

Dortmund was looking for its fourth win in five league games under new coach Edin Terzic but was frustrated by a committed performance from Mainz in Bo Svensson's second game in charge.

The draw was enough for Mainz to move off the bottom on goal difference from Schalke, which visits Eintracht Frankfurt on Sunday.

Dortmund got off to a fine start with Erling Haaland firing inside the left post in the second minute. But the goal was ruled out through VAR as Thomas Meunier was offside



in the buildup.

Jude Bellingham struck the post toward the end of the half and it was as close as Dortmund came to scoring before the break.

Mainz defended doggedly and took its chance in the 57th when Levin Oztunali eluded Mats Hummels with a back-heel trick and let fly from 20 meters inside the top

right corner. The visitors almost grabbed another shortly afterward when Alexander Hack struck the crossbar with a header.

The 16-year-old Youssoufa Moukoko had just gone on for Dortmund and he played a decisive role for his side's equalizer in the 73rd, keeping the ball in play before sending in a cross that was cleared by Mainz defender Philipp Mwene — only as far as Meunier, who fired back in to equalize.

Meunier was then fouled in the penalty area by Hack, giving Reus a chance to score from the spot. The Dortmund captain sent his kick outside of the left post.

It could have been worse for Reus' team as Mainz captain Danny Latza hit the post late on. Dortmund remained fourth, four points behind Bayern, which has a game in hand.

Werder Bremen scored late to beat Augsburg 2-0 at home, Cologne drew with Hertha Berlin 0-0, and Hoffenheim vs Arminia Bielefeld also ended scoreless.



Talktime

ZAKIR HUSSAIN

He is known for his negative and comic roles in films like Sarkar, Singham Returns and Fool N Final. He speaks with Shalini Saksena about his upcoming projects, working with Kamal Hassan and why despite being a musician, he didn't pursue the art

■ **What is your role in Satyameva Jayate 2?**

I play a minister who is extremely corrupt. His acts have resulted in death of several people and destruction. He is so corrupt that it makes no difference to

him whether people live or die; all he is interested in is filling his coffers. Looking at all the bad things that my character does in this movie, the hero of this film played by John Abraham, goes out to punish the minister and extracts revenge.

■ **You are also doing a film with Kamal Hassan. How did you come on board the project?**

The director of the second part is S Shankar who had made Indian in 1996. The film is about how a man goes about eliminating those who are a blot on society. The story is on similar lines as the first one, only the premise is a bit different. I once again play a villain here. I got a call from their team that Shankar wants me to play a role in this film. I agreed.

■ **Your work schedule is full with Thullay, Chacha Humare Vidhayak Hain 2 and Sandwich Forever 2. How are you juggling so many projects?**

It is just that I keep getting one project after the other. It is not as if I have orchestrated it that I have so many projects at hand. The good part is that I love to work, who wants to sit around with no work. With so many projects in the hand, one also gets the

Ups and downs are part and parcel of life. Yes, there was a time when I had no work but I rode that phase in my life. Now, I keep getting work at regular intervals. I don't have any complaints

opportunity to travel and see new places.

■ **How did you get into acting? Was it something that you always wanted to do?**

I was always interested and inclined towards acting. Slowly, I started doing theatre when I was in school and then in college. From there, I got into Bollywood and here I am more than 20 years down the line.

■ **How has your journey been thus far?**

Ups and downs are part and parcel of one's life. Yes, there was a time when I had no work but I rode that phase in my life. Initially, there were instances when I didn't have any work; that was the down phase. But now, I keep getting work at regular intervals. I don't have any complaints from life.

■ **You are usually seen in negative or comic roles. Any particular reason why you choose such projects?**

I don't choose such projects or roles. It is the makers who approach me and offer me these characters to play. They feel that I do a good job doing these roles. It is not as if I will only do negative roles. If I am offered a positive character, I would love to do that as well. When I am offered comedy roles, I do them as well. My aim is to give my best to each character that I am told to play.

■ **How tough is it to play such characters?**

I don't think there is a difference in playing a positive or a negative role. Each is tough in its own place. Each requires just as much effort as the other. Just because it is a positive role, it doesn't mean it is easy to essay the same. When we prepare for a role, the methodology involved is the same. Whatever effort is required to play a character — negative, positive or comedy — that remains the same.

■ **Does it make it easy to diverse roles because you have done theatre?**

To a certain extent, theatre moulds us in such a manner that we are able to play different genres. It makes it easy for us to get into the character within a short span and get out of it just as quickly. Theatre gives this training. We are able to leave behind work the minute we are off the set.

■ **You are a musician as well. Why did you not pursue the same?**

Not really. I haven't pursued it professionally. It is just that somebody on the Wiki page wrote that I can sing and am a percussionist. The truth is that when you are in theatre, one has to sing and if one has some extra ability, theatre is able to bring that out in you.

EHRAZ AHMED, 24-year-old entrepreneur and ethical hacker, had saved the data of about 700 million Indians in 2019. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with him about his journey, work and how data breach is a major cause of worry



Meet the eh-thical hacker

His love for anything tech started at an early age when he used to visit the cyber cafes to play an online game or two. It was then when he realised that one need not visit a cyber cafe everytime he wants to play a game like Counter-Strike and that it can be done at home via a desktop and an internet connection. The idea gave birth to his first-ever game server hosting company when he was merely 14.

"After looking at the craze for Counter-Strike amongst my friends, I started a game server hosting company where I used to provide online gaming servers for players to connect and play the game at home. After a few months, I expanded the company by offering web hosting to websites," Ehzaz Ahmed, a Mysore-based ethical hacker and an entrepreneur, tells you.

However, his love for technology didn't remain the same for long. An unfortunate incident made him lose his interest in his company and also studies.

"When I was Class X, my father suffered a heart attack. It was then my interest in my company and studies dropped. I felt that I would not go far with the company. With blurred and confused thoughts, I decided to put everything on hold. But that was a short hiatus and soon after I decided to start afresh with a new purpose in life. I

wanted to stand on my own two feet by doing something better and more significant," Ahmed tells you.

That wasn't a dead-end for Ahmed's curiosity and it grew by leaps and bounds when he came across a Facebook post of a security researcher who was listed on the hall of fame for finding a flaw in Google and was also paid for it.

"It was a Eureka moment for me. The entrepreneur inside me got curious and I started learning how I could do the same and earn. After a matter of few months, my hard work paid off and at 16, I got listed in 50 halls of fame for finding security flaws in companies like Microsoft, Apple, Adobe, Blackberry, Soundcloud and Netflix," he tells you.

His first hall of fame listing, he says, was on Facebook, where he discovered a cross-site scripting vulnerability that could have allowed attackers to steal your browser cookies. Using this, any hacker could log in to your account without a password.

"I was good at finding security flaws, but I was not making enough money from it. Not all companies offer bug bounty programmes, only a few provide monetary rewards and the rest mention your name for your efforts in finding the flaw," he says.

In a bid to look for ways to make money, Ahmed found someone trad-

I came across news of data breaches in Indian companies and that is when I decided to start finding security flaws to help them. This was back in August 2019. By December that year, I had already safeguarded data of over 700 million users

ing in the financial markets and that got him thinking. "I started exploring this field. And it took me a while to figure out how it all works. In the beginning, I did lose a lot of money but gradually got hold of the process," he says.

At 20, he joined an engineering college to pursue a computer science engineering course and simultaneously started a fintech company called Voxo Wealth Management to offer financial advice and analytics to traders and manage their portfolios.

"It was in 2017, during the second semester of my college that I decided to drop out and start a web security company. The reason was during the lectures, I always felt I was not learning enough and that I was going nowhere. Also, I was not getting enough time to manage my fintech company. That is how, in December that year, I launched Aspirehive to offer web security solutions for small and medium-sized companies," he tells you.

That was not all. After having started Aspirehive, there was one more tragedy waiting for him. "It was in April 2018 when my brother met with an accident. After seeing the family going through financial crisis, he had desires to start a company. Then we started StackNexo to offer all Web Services and solutions through a single platform," he tells you.

However, with that being on the sidelines, Ahmed once again, in 2019, started finding security flaws in companies.

"I came across news of data breaches in Indian companies, and that is when I decided to start finding security flaws again to help Indian companies. I started finding flaws in August 2019 and by December that year, I had already safeguarded data of over 700 million users which includes name, address, email address, contact number and date of birth," he tells you. With

all this information, Ahmed says, hackers can conduct phishing scams. They can also log in to your accounts once they have all these details.

One of the most challenging situations that he came across was when he found a security flaw in Airtel that could have allowed hackers to steal sensitive user data of 320 million users. "I was afraid back then because I too was an Airtel user. The data breach risk was very high and it could have resulted in major scams. Once, I was able to find it, the challenge was to inform the company. In such cases, one can't just call up the customer care or send an email to any random address. Through BBC, I was able to inform Airtel about the possible data breach that could have happened because of the security flaws," he tells you.

Ask Ahmed how he is able to juggle so much work and he is quick to answer — remember why you started. "One should never forget the reason why he had started in the first place. Stay goal oriented, work hard and have patience, things will eventually fall into place," he says.

This is not all, currently he is still busy in secretly finding flaws and getting them fixed. "The most recent was in a company called Thrillophilia that risked sensitive user data of 2 million users. Thankfully, it was saved," he tells you.

‘Music is my driving force’

SHILPA RAO, who will be seen leading a team on Zee TV's Indian Pro Music League, speaks with MUSBA HASHMI about what attracted her towards the project and whether she see awards as a validation for her music, among other things



■ **What made you come onboard Zee TV's Indian Pro Music League as a captain?**

There is a special connect that I have with the team. They are like a family. I have worked with them on many shows. That was one reason. The second was that the concept is good and the show is performance-oriented. I am somebody who is music driven. In fact, a lot of media people tell me that 'we don't see you anywhere'. I tell them you can see me at the airport or the studio. I know marketing and face value can take you to another level, but at the end of the day what matters is what happens between you and the mic. I stand for music and that is what this show is about so I was happy to be a part of it. In this show categorically, I was able to perform the kind of music I want and that's what attracted me towards it.

■ **What are the qualities that you will look forward to in the contestants?**

The qualities that I will be looking for is something that I have learnt from my Guru ji Hariharan that is whenever you listen to a song, always look at the good things they are doing, point it out, work on it and from there take them to the next level. Never start your sentence by taking out flaws in anyone. This is the important thing about music, it's area is so wide that one can never stop learning. The youth nowadays is always in a hurry, they want to reach heights at the drop of a hat. This makes me wonder if this is the case what will they do for the rest of their lives, what will they learn then. One should enjoy the process and have fun.

■ **You have given so many hits, but still you work with the same enthusiasm. Doesn't it get monotonous at some point?**

The answer to this is music. I love music and I live it. That's what I mentioned before, our youth has to figure out why they are in this field. If their driving force is to become a star, then after a point they will stop enjoying it. But if you do it for the sake and love of music, there will never be a day when you will feel that you don't enjoy it anymore. If you will find happiness in music, you will work with the same enthusiasm every time.

■ **You have quite a few awards to your kitty. Do you see them as a validation for your music or you don't take them too seriously?**

Everything as an affect on you. I won't lie. If you get nominated and win an award, it has an affect on you and if you get nominated but doesn't win that too affects you. A lot of great works of mine which come close to my heart like *Bulleya*, *Manmarziyaan*, *Malang* and *Meharbaan* these were never nominated at all. From 2010 to 2020, I wasn't nominated as such whereas I was coming up with great songs every year. It does affect you at some point, some times you are happy, the other times not, but then next morning you should overcome that. Start afresh, don't let the impact affect you in any way. The only thing that takes me back to work either I win or lose is my love for music.

■ **What was the most challenging song for you?**

There are a lot of songs that are very tough. *Mudi Mudi* was a difficult one because I was standing in front of such a reputed musician, half nervousness in me was because of that fact. Also, the song was in itself very difficult. *Bulleya* was also difficult because it was a complicated and an emotional song.



‘PURPOSE, THOUGHT & INTEREST MAKE ME WRITE’

GAURAV SOLANKI speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about what inspired him to write Tandav and things he keeps in mind while scripting a story



■ **How did you get your first break?**

Anurag Kashyap asked me to write songs for his film *Ugly*. This happened in 2012. I had been trying to work with him for a long time.

■ **What is Tandav about?**

About politics and human beings. I have tried to go beyond the obvious chess-like game of politics and talk about human behaviour and human condition.

■ **How did you get inspiration to write the story for it?**

Inspirations keep changing every day, sometimes some reality pushes you, another day a friend triggers a detail in some character. Sometimes music inspires you, sometimes the setting sun.

■ **What are the things you keep in**

mind while writing a script?

I keep asking myself constantly why I am writing this particular script. There should be a purpose. There would be some thoughts you want to communicate, and a story you need to tell and characters you want to know more closely. There should be an interesting mix of all these for me to keep writing. Sometimes characters decide their own stories, sometimes stories invent characters to tell themselves.

■ **What was the inspiration behind Article 15?**

There was a lot of anger against this inhuman hierarchy of human beings. That anger fueled everything else.

■ **You graduated from IIT**

INSPIRATIONS KEEP CHANGING EVERY DAY, SOMETIMES SOME REALITY PUSHES YOU, ANOTHER DAY A FRIEND TRIGGERS A DETAIL IN SOME CHARACTER

Roorkee. How did you end up in Bollywood?

I wanted to come in films even when I was a kid. I often ask myself how I ended up studying engineering.

■ **Writer, poet, screenwriter and lyricist. What role suits you best?**

It keeps changing. I don't think all these forms of writing are as different as they are presented. Poetry has often contributed in my screenplay writing and stories quite often seep into my poetry.

■ **What next?**

I have written a film *Freedom* with Dibakar Banerjee that he is directing. Apart from that, I am writing another series and a feature film that I have to direct.

the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

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

2



4

Meditate for a better future

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

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



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

NORTH EAST ON THE RADAR

In 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 development.

Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, Chairman and Managing Director, Pride East Entertainments Pvt Ltd, a regional media house, agrees when she says, "With Modi'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-

gency. "People felt that in order to get even something as simple as a bridge or a refinery meant that they had to struggle for it. The distance from Indian mainland and mindset didn't help resulting in insurgency movements in 80s or 90s against the perceived discrimination of the region by the Centre," says Mahanta who believes that the increased attention was instrumental in bringing peace to the area.

Dr Parveen Ubed, CEO & Founder, ERC Eye Care (P) Limited which works towards democratising 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 travel 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 here as well."

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 Gopinath 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."

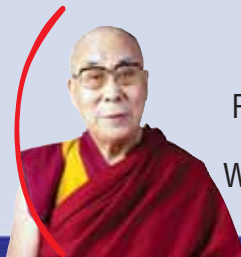
Gadi feels that a lot of festivals like the Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh, Hornbill in Nagaland have also become must-visit events for travellers. "People who have gone to these festivals return with beautiful memories. That has naturally helped create a positive impression about the people and the place,"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

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 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 TRAVEL INDUSTRY TOO TAPPED INTO THE POTENTIAL OF THE NEW MEDIA





WE CAN LIVE WITHOUT
RELIGION AND MEDITATION,
BUT WE CANNOT SURVIVE
WITHOUT HUMAN AFFECTION
—DALAI LAMA



YOUR YEAR AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



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 life.

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, self-discipline 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; self-realisation 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 self-development. 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 family.

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 re-evaluate 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 test.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday

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ASTROTURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Meditate for a better future



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, I 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 asked.

The sense of fear and identity crisis has actually become a part of your psyche, coming as they 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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