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BLASTS ON R-DAY IN J&K'

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DREAM RUN END
WITH DEFEATS

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India becoming what Netaji envisioned: Modi PM says Bose would have been hugely pleased with Centre's Atma Nirbhar drive

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With Bengal elections around the corner Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday made a successful use of a Government programme organised to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose even as he linked India's soaring military prowess and Atma Nirbhar to Netaji's Azaadi dreams.

Referring to "one of the greatest sons of the country" as the "first Prime Minister of undivided India" Modi said Bose would have been hugely pleased with the current day's self reliance drive made by his Government. "Steady eradication of poverty, hunger, illiteracy, adoption of scientific techniques and strong borders was the crux of Netaji's concept of Azaadi (freedom)," Modi said.

The greatest of freedom movement would have been "highly pleased to see how Indian strength was flourishing from LAC to LoC and how it posess and manufactures state of the art aircraft like Rafale and Tejas," said Modi, adding Atma Nirbhar (self reliance) drive made by his Government was what Netaji wanted.

"The way we handled the biggest pandemic of the century and the way we are manufacturing and exporting vac-

cines to other countries too would have Netaji proud," he said adding how his Government was pursuing the policies that was once envisioned by Netaji. "Today we have a national education policy in place and are coming up with IITs, IIMs and other such institutions and legislations to take India from strength to strength... would not Netaji be proud of the developments that we are making today... he certainly would have," Modi said.

"Today India is retaliating in equal measures whenever its sovereignty is being challenged on the borders," said Modi adding how the concept of "Sonar Bangla" (golden Bengal) — a political coinage of the BJP taken out of Tagore's works — was inspired by Netaji.

"The concept of Sonar Bangla fits with Netaji's vision of India and Bengal and it is in this regard that the policy of self reliance should be applied both in the State and the entire country," Modi said.

In what local analysts said a clever ploy to use Netaji ahead of the elections, Modi said "though every drop of our blood is indebted to Netaji and though we cannot pay back his debt a time has come to remember his contributions to Indian freedom struggle through various programmes".

One such initiative the Prime Minister said was the renaming of Howrah Kalka Mail as Netaji Subhas Express.

Modi's "finely decorated and well-packaged" statements was aimed at not only the Congress which is often regarded as the mastermind behind the disregard and abandonment Netaji suffered in the

pages of history but also support the BJP's cause in election bound Bengal, experts said.

"On the 125th birth anniversary of the leader, I bow to him on behalf of the grateful nation. Today, I also salute this virtuous land of Bengal, which made the child Subhash Netaji," Modi said.

Addressing the Prakram

Diwas celebrations in the city, Modi said, "On this day, that brave son was born in the lap of Mother Bharati, who gave a new direction to the dream of independent India."

"On this very day, there was that consciousness in the darkness of slavery, who stood in front of the biggest power of the world and said, I will not

ask you for freedom, I will take it away," Modi said in his tribute to Bose.

Earlier in the day, Modi paid floral tributes at Netaji Bose's statue at the National Library in the city. Modi went around seeing paintings by around 100 artists on a 40-metre long canvas on the sprawling lawns of Belvedere House at the

National Library compound. He was accompanied by West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar. "His bravery and ideals inspire every Indian. His contribution to India is indelible. India bows to the great Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

PM@narendramodi began his Kolkata visit and #ParakramDivas programmes by paying homage to Netaji Bose at Netaji Bhawan," Prime Minister's Office said in a tweet after PM Modi reached Kolkata.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee releases a book during 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Victoria Memorial in Kolkata on Saturday

PTI

Peeved by Jai Shri Ram slogans, Didi walks off stage without speech

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Irrked by Jai Shri Ram slogans raised by a section of the audience, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday walked off the podium refusing to deliver a speech at an event — attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi — to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The Central Government programme was organised at the iconic Victoria Memorial. Alleged saffron supporters raised the slogans moments before Mamata was to deliver her speech.

Walking up to the podi-

um the Chief Minister said, "I am grateful to the Central Government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for organising this programme in Kolkata and calling me to be a part of the celebrations... but it must be remembered that this is not a political but a Government programme and its dignity must be preserved..."

"I must also remind that no one has the right to insult someone after inviting that person... so on protest, I desist from delivering a speech."

Then she walked off in a huff leaving back a befuddled silence.

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Delhi Police OK's farmers' tractor parade on R-Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Saturday gave permission to protesting farmers' unions to hold their tractor rally on January 26 in the city. Meanwhile, Anil Mittal, the Additional Public Relations Officer (APRO) of Delhi Police, claimed that the police and farmers' unions are in final stage of talks for the routes regarding tractor rally.

After attending the meeting with Delhi Police, its counterparts Haryana and Uttar Pradesh Police, farmers' union member Abhimanyu Kohar said the tractor parades will start from Ghazipur, Singhu and Tikri border points of Delhi, but details will be finalised on Saturday night.

Kohar claimed that the Delhi Police has given its nod to the farmers' tractor parade on Republic Day in the national Capital.

Another farmer leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni said as thousands of farmers will participate in the parade, there will



Farmers march towards Delhi to join their agitation against the Centres farm reform laws in Amritsar on Saturday

PTI

be no single route. Farmer leader Darshan Pal said barricades set up at Delhi border points will be removed on January 26 and farmers will take out tractor rallies after entering the national Capital. Thousands of farmers,

mostly from Punjab and Haryana, have been protesting at several Delhi border points against the Centre's new agriculture laws for nearly two months. The unions representing the farmers have begun holding tractor rallies at villages

Kisan unions, cops agree on routes for march from Singhu, Ghazipur, Tikri

in Punjab to mobilise people for the demonstration on Republic Day.

The farmers are vehemently opposing the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020.

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

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

Another Pak tunnel found along border, 4th in 6 mths

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Jawans of the Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday detected another 150-metre long and 30-feet deep cross-border tunnel, fourth in the last six months, in the Pansar area of Kathua district.

The tunnel was detected between border pillar number 14 and 15. A similar tunnel was detected barely 10 days ago in the Bobiya area of Samba sector on January 13.

Ground reports suggested the starting point of the tunnel was located closer to two Pakistani border outposts Abhiyal Dogra and Kingrede-Kothe located in Shakargarh area. On the Indian side, the local BSF commanders passed necessary instructions to their foot soldiers to remain in a state of high alert in the run up to the Republic Day celebrations as Pakistani rangers may try to push heavily armed infiltrators inside the Indian territory to launch terror attacks on vital security installations.



Till the time of filing the report the BSF authorities were trying to ascertain whether the same tunnel was recently put to use by the Pakistan-based handlers to push a group of terrorists inside the Indian territory. After supervising the tunnel on ground zero, Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontier NS Jamwal told reporters, "The tunnel was detected by the BSF troops during an ongoing anti tunneling drive launched in the area on Saturday". He said after

receiving intelligence inputs about the presence of another tunnel an extensive drive was carried out in the forward area which resulted in detection of this tunnel.

Briefing media persons, IG BSF also claimed the tunnel was designed on the same pattern as all previous tunnels. "Without the active connivance of Pakistani establishment and their consent it is not possible to come closer to the zero line," he said.

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India, China's 9th round of LAC parleys today to end face off

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and China will hold the ninth round of military level talks on Sunday to find ways to defuse stand-offs now on for the last nine months at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. The latest talks take place after a gap of nearly two months and chances of a major breakthrough are unlikely.

The logjam is persisting as China wants India to first withdraw its troops from the heights of southern and northern banks of the Pangong Tas (lake). In August, the Indian Army secured these hilltops overlooking all the crucial Chinese deployments thereby putting them at a disadvantage.

Both the sides have so far not managed to reach a mutually agreed plan for disengagement and de-escalation.

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Lalu shifted to Delhi AIIMS after his health deteriorates

PNS ■ RANCHI

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Lalu Prasad — convicted in fodder scam cases — on Saturday was shifted to AIIMS, Delhi after his health condition deteriorated while undergoing treatment at a hospital at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) in Ranchi for multiple ailments.

Earlier, the Inspector General of the jail said Lalu will be flown to Delhi and should be back in Ranchi within a month, said.

"Lalu is having trouble breathing for the last two days. On Friday, he was found to be having pneumonia. Considering his age, we have decided to shift him to AIIMS-Delhi on the advice of doctors for better treatment," RIMS Director Dr Kameshwar Prasad told news agency PTI.

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15.4L get Covid jabs in 8 days

Govt says 6 deaths after jab have no link with shots, experts ask ICMR to probe cause

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the past eight days since the launch of the mega anti-Covid-19 drive on January 16, 15.37 lakh persons have been vaccinated till Saturday. Six have died after taking the shots, but the Government has maintained that their demise has no link with the vaccination.

Around 500 cases of AEFI have been reported. Health experts have, however, urged the Union Health Ministry and ICMR to investigate these deaths even if these were not directly linked to the vaccine against the coronavirus.

On Saturday, a 56-year-old woman who was a resident of Gurugram, succumbed. After taking the jab.

"The post-mortem confirms



A medic administers the first dose of Covishield vaccine on frontline worker Pawan Saraswat at a city dispensary in Bikaner on Saturday

PTI

that cardio-pulmonary disease was the reason for her death and it was not related to vaccination. None of these deaths have been causally linked with Covid-19 vaccination," said an official from the Union Health Ministry here on Saturday.

"Is anybody investigating deaths after vaccination so as to come out with do's and don'ts about vaccination. This is the science we need to contribute

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US Senate to start Trump impeachment on February 8

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States Senate would begin the impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump on February 8, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said.

"The January 6th insurrection at the Capitol, incited by Donald J Trump was a day none of us will ever forget. We all want to put this awful chapter in our nation's history behind us. But healing and unity will only come if there is truth and accountability. And that is what this trial will provide," Schumer said on the senate floor.

Both the Republican and the Democratic Party now have 50 seats each in the 100 member Senate. Schumer said the house managers will come to read the article of impeachment at 7 pm on Monday.

Somnath Bharti gets 2-yr jail for assaulting AIIMS staff; AAP cries injustice

STAFF REPORTER/PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Saket court on Saturday sentenced Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Somnath Bharti, a former Delhi Law Minister, to two years in jail for assaulting AIIMS security staff in a case registered in 2016. Bharti, however, was granted bail to enable him to file an appeal before the High Court against his conviction in the case and jail term.

"The AAP on Saturday said that "injustice" has been meted out to Bharti. "We respect the judiciary and have full faith in the judiciary. However, we feel injustice has happened to Bharti in this case," the party said in a statement.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Pandey also imposed a fine of ₹ one lakh on the AAP leader.

According to the prosecu-

tion, on September 9, 2016, Bharti, along with nearly 300 others, brought down the fence of a boundary wall at AIIMS here with a JCB operator.

"The court is of the considered view that the prosecution has duly proved its case beyond all reasonable doubt against accused Bharti," the magistrate said.

The court convicted Bharti for various offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including under sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 353 (assault or use of criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) and 147 (rioting).

It also held the AAP MLA guilty under section 3 (mischief causing damage to public property) of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act. The offences carry a maximum punishment of five years in jail.

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CAPSULE

50 SHANTIES GUTTED IN FIRE IN EAST DELHI

New Delhi: Over 50 shanties were gutted in a massive fire that broke out in east Delhi's Ghazipur Dairy Farm area on Saturday, officials said. Fire officials received information about the blaze at 1.41 pm, following which 17 fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

GEN (RETD) AUSTIN US FIRST BLACK DEF SECY

Washington: The United States Senate has confirmed the nomination of General (retired) Lloyd Austin to serve as secretary of the defence department, making him the first ever African American to occupy the top Pentagon position.

GOVT TEACHER DIES OF COVID IN LUDHIANA

Ludhiana: A 48-year-old Government school teacher, who had tested positive for Covid-19, died at a private hospital here on Saturday, following which her 12 colleagues and three students also returned positive results, an official said.

CM Yogi asks ministers to ensure utilisation of budgetary grants

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Saturday, directed the ministers to ensure utilisation of the budgetary grants of their respective departments and to also apprise the people about the achievements of their departments. He said the focus of the budget would be on people's welfare.

The chief minister held marathon meetings with the ministers and senior officials of the departments regarding the annual budget of over Rs 5.16 lakh crore. He said the government was accountable to the people and directed the ministers to keep touring the districts and also remain in touch with the Union ministries for the release of the pending grants.

The chief minister directed the ministers to ensure that the utilisation certificates for the Centrally-sponsored schemes were submitted to the Union ministers within the current fiscal 2020-21.

As per the information presented in the meeting, against a provision of Rs 5.36 lakh crore in the budget for the

current fiscal, financial sanctions of Rs 3.82 lakh crore have been released so far, which is 71.2 per cent of the budget. Against the financial sanction of Rs 3.82 lakh crore, the departments have allocated Rs 3.26 lakh crore, which is 85.9 per cent of the total financial sanctions. Against utilisation certificates of Rs 94.778 crore to be sent to the Union government, so far the state government has sent certificates for Rs 81.369 crore, which is 85.6 per cent of the target.

The annual budget for the next fiscal 2021-22 is likely to be presented during the budget session of the UP Assembly in February. This will be the fifth and the last budget of the Yogi Adityanath government which was assumed office in March 2017. UP will go to polls in February 2022 and the government will table the vote on account for 2022-23 fiscal in February next year.

Expressing satisfaction at the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, Yogi Adityanath said, "It is a matter of great satisfaction for the government that we were able to save the lives and livelihood of the 24

CM inaugurates Hunar Haat

Lucknow(PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Saturday, inaugurated the 24th Hunar Haat of indigenous products of artisans and craftsmen at Awadh Shilpgram in the state capital.

"For us, self-reliance is the mantra with which we successfully handled the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi for giving us the honour to give this platform to the artisans and craftsmen who have come here from across the country," the chief minister said.

For the first time, ODOP products have been added to the Hunar Haat.

"The ODOP (One District, One Product) scheme has created new possibilities in the state. Be it the chikankari of Lucknow, carpets of Bhadohi or the terra-

cotta of Gorakhpur, all are hallmarks of the districts of our state and local artisans of the state are getting recognition," the chief minister added.

The theme of the Hunar Haat this year is 'Local for Vocal' and about 500 artisans and craftsmen from Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and other states are participating. "We have seen that whenever our artisans and craftsmen did not get a platform, our state went backward. But in the past three years, we have taken a big leap and as our prime minister says, whether it is Hunar Haat or ODOP, it achieves the goal of a self-reliant India. The Ministry

of Minority Affairs has done an unprecedented work and over five lakh artisans across the country are getting a new platform, further strengthening the resolve of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat," the chief minister said.

It may be mentioned that indigenous products such as ajrakh, applique, art metal ware, Bagh print, batik, Banarasi saree, bandhej, Bastar art and herbal products, block print, brass metal bangles, Kota silk, Pashmina shawls, cane and bamboo products, canvas painting, chikankari, copper bells are on display at the Hunar Haat.

Exclusive handloom textile, kalamkari, mangalgiri, lac bangles, leather products, Rampuri violins, wooden and iron toys, kantha embroidery, crystal glass items, sandalwood products are also available on display and sale.

The chief minister said that the campaign for job creation would continue and generation of fresh jobs should be the important component of all the new schemes to be

launched by the government.

Yogi Adityanath directed rigorous monitoring of the ongoing works of electrification and also cleared the outstanding of the executing agencies.

He said the convenience of the power consumers was the main objective of his government and there should be no complaints of overbilling and flaws in smart meters.

The chief minister said that accountability should be fixed for the lapses by the officers and employees of the power distribution companies. He also directed for an integrated system for the payment of electricity dues by the government departments to the power distribution companies.

Yogi Adityanath said that construction of community toilets and rural secretariat be expedited and the pending works of the PWD should be completed within the approved estimate. He said as the India-Nepal border was of strategic importance for the country, the construction of border roads should be expedited.

"Top priority should be accorded to the completion of the Saryu canal and Madhya Ganga canal," he added.

The chief minister asked the officials to expedite the Smart City projects and resolve all issues pending at the district level on priority. He said spe-

cial efforts were needed for ensuring that the benefit of the Urban Livelihood Mission reached the beneficiaries.

Yogi Adityanath said the government was committed to providing shelter to all under the Housing for All project. He said the beneficiaries were identified and the requirement of funds should be sent to the Centre. The chief minister also reviewed the progress of con-

struction and renovation of the buildings of government intermediate colleges and the appointment of teachers in Sanskrit schools.

The other issues covered in the meeting were expediting the process of land acquisition for the Gang Expressway project, implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Bundelkhand and Vindhya regions and the Namami Gange project.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notification No. 15/2021
Important Notice for Rail Passenger
 It is notified for information of general public that following Puja Special train will be extended as under :-

Train No.	Train Name	Days of run	Notified Up to	Extended Up to
03019	Howrah-Kathgodam Special Train	Daily	31.12.2020	31.03.2021
03020	Kathgodam-Howrah Special Train	Daily	02.02.2021	02.04.2021

Please Note :- • These trains will run with fully reserved accommodation • It is mandatory for the passengers to follow the guidelines issued for prevention and safety from COVID-19.
 CPROT-104 Chief Pass. Traffic, Manager, Gorakhpur
 About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955
 Do Not smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

Pachayat poll voter list finalised at 12.5 crore

Lucknow (PNS): UP Election Commission announced the final electoral rolls consisting of estimated 12.50 crore eligible voters for the imminent three-tier Panchayat elections.

During the 2016 elections, there were 11.76 crore voters and poll to the three tier bodies are scheduled by March end. Additional Election Commissioner Ved Prakash Verma said on Saturday that during the past five years, around 52 lakh voters were added to the reolls. During revision of voters held during the last couple of months names of over 2.10 crore voters were updated and amended names of 1.08 crore voters were deleted from the electoral rolls. Besides address and other details were changed of 39.36 lakh voters. Verma said that the number of women voters was 5.76 crore. There were over 69 lakh voters in 18 to 21 yrs age group, around 5 crore in the 22 to 35 yrs group and over 5 crore in the age group of 36 to 60 years.

Notification for Panchayats polls has already been delayed and was likely to be done in February. Dasna Gram Panchayat has the maximum number of 38,077 voters.

CLASSIFIEDS
 NOTICE

I, ARCHANA is W/o No-13698660 H Hav SUNIL KUMAR SHUKLA, presently residing at village-Nibaiya, Meja, Prayagraj. I have changed my name from ARCHANA to ARCHANA SHUKLA as per affidavit No-22AE 842069.

सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैंने अपना नाम इमरान खान से बदलकर इमरान अहमद रख लिया है भविष्य में मुझे इसी नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाए इमरान अहमद खान S/o मोहम्मद अखलाक खान R/o-101/135 देना अपार्टमेंट फ्लैट नंबर 301 लखनऊ

सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पहले मेरा नाम CHARANJIT SINGH था जो अब बदलकर CHARANJEET SINGH हो गया है। भविष्य में मुझे इसी नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाये। Charanjeet Singh S/o Iqbal Singh F-1, Push Panjali Apartments, 10, Clive Road, Civil Lines Allahabad.

आवश्यकता

आवश्यकता है
 मद्रस हबीबिया साहगोपालगंज प्रयागराज (उच्च आरिथ) में प्रधानाचार्य का एक पद तथा सहायक आरिथ का एक पद एवं अनुसूचित जाति अत्याधिक का एक पद रिक्त है। प्रधानाचार्य हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता फाजिल एवं कामिल (फारसी) की उपाधि, मुन्शी/मौलवी या उपरान्त कक्षाओं का न्यूनतम पाँच वर्ष का शैक्षिक अनुभव अथवा दीर्घावधि अरबी/फारसी में 50 प्रतिशत अंकों सहित एमएड तथा उपरोक्तानुसार पाँच वर्षों का शैक्षिक अनुभव अथवा फाजिल/एमएड तथा दीर्घावधि/अरबी/फारसी परम्परागत प्राथमिक विषय में दुरुस्त सहित उपरोक्तानुसार तीन वर्षों का शैक्षिक अनुभव। वेतनमान 47600-151100 लेकिन-8 एवं अन्य मते न्यूनतम आयु 30 वर्ष। तथा सहायक आरिथ (मुन्शी/मौलवी) हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता फाजिल अथवा अरबी/फारसी/दीर्घावधि से स्नातकोत्तर उपाधि तथा फौजानिया कक्षाओं का तीन वर्षों का शैक्षिक अनुभव। वेतनमान 44800-142400 लेकिन-7 एवं अन्य मते न्यूनतम आयु 21 वर्ष। तथा अनुसूचित जाति अत्याधिक हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता परम्परागत या प्रविष्टित स्नातक या स्नातक वेतनमान भारत सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित न्यूनतम आयु 18 वर्ष। इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी विज्ञापन की तिथि से 21 दिन के अन्दर अपना आवेदन पत्र समस्त शैक्षिक योग्यताओं के साथ प्रत्येक के पदनाम से मद्रस उपरोक्त पर भेजे।
प्रत्येक मद्रस हबीबिया साहगोपालगंज प्रयागराज

Meritorious girls to double up as admin officers on National Girl Child Day

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Constantly working to uplift and provide equal opportunities to the fairer sex under its visionary scheme 'Mission Shakti', Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will participate in a unique mega event coined 'Nayika' on the occasion of 'National Girl Child Day' on Sunday.

The Chief Minister will honour 450 meritorious girls and 5000 gender champions and give them the chance to function as Divisional Commissioner, District Magistrate, Chief Development Officer and SSP in the districts for a day. They will also be presented as role models to encourage girls of their age.

As per an official communique, the CM believed that for any state to develop, it was imperative for women and daughters to feel safe and follow their dreams without barriers.

"The state government will make sure that women of the state are empowered and protected at the grass-root level," he stated.

The government will also encourage the achievements of girl students of Classes 10th and 12th standard with cash rewards of Rs 5000 and Rs. 20,000 respectively in collaboration with Women Welfare department and Department of Child Nutrition and Development.

Besides, at the instructions of Chief Minister, the birthday of around 2005 newborn daughters in government hospitals was celebrated by distributing gifts to the mother and child on January 22.

राष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस
 24 जनवरी, 2021

माँ ! मुझे जन्म लेने दो, मैं परियों की आत्मा हूँ देवताओं की प्रार्थना हूँ अपना भाग्य साथ ला रही हूँ...

माँ ! मुझे जन्म लेने दो, मुझे गर्भ में न मारो अन्यथा श्रापित हो जायेगी तेरी कोख सात जनम के लिए माँ ! मुझे जन्म लेने दो...

बेटी है कुदरत का **उपहार**, जीने का इसको दो **अधिकार**।

गर्भधारण पूर्व एवं प्रसव पूर्व निदान तकनीक (लिंग चयन प्रतिषेध) अधिनियम 1994''

प्रदेश में जन्म के समय का लिंग अनुपात चिंता का विषय है।

गर्भस्थ शिशु/भ्रूण के लिंग की जाँच कराना/करना कानूनी अपराध है। इसलिए "गर्भधारण पूर्व एवं प्रसव पूर्व निदान तकनीक (लिंग चयन प्रतिषेध) अधिनियम 1994'' पी.सी.पी.एन.डी.टी. एक्ट, 1994, प्रदेश में प्रभावी तरीके से वर्तमान में लागू है।

लिंग निर्धारण के लिए प्रेरित करने तथा अधिनियम के प्रावधानों/नियमों के उल्लंघन के लिए कारावास एवं जुर्माने का प्रावधान है।

प्रदेश में अवैध रूप से लिंग जाँच करने/करवाने वाले व्यक्तियों की सूचना दिये जाने तथा पकड़वाने पर सूचना देने वाले व्यक्ति "मुखबिर" मिथ्या ग्राहक तथा मिथ्या ग्राहक सहायक को पुरस्कृत किये जाने का प्रावधान मुखबिर योजना के अन्तर्गत किया गया है। यह योजना प्रदेश में 01 जुलाई, 2017 से प्रभावी है।

अधिनियम के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन हेतु संचालित वेबसाइट "प्यारी बिटिया" www.pyaribitiya.in पर किसी भी व्यक्ति द्वारा लिंग चयन में संलिप्त चिकित्सकों/व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध ऑनलाइन शिकायत की जा सकती है। इस हेतु शिकायतकर्ता द्वारा अपना व्यक्तिगत विवरण दिया जाना अनिवार्य नहीं है।

समस्त जानकारियों हेतु सम्पर्क करें **104**

WE-WIN

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17,000 health workers to get vaccine shots in next phases

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A total of 17,000 health workers will be vaccinated in the next sessions in Lucknow on January 28 and 29. A senior health official said 8,500 health workers would be covered on each day. He said they had set the targeted of covering 30,000 health workers by the end of this month.

Regarding the preparations for the next session, he said they have already trained the vaccinators and will hold a meeting of nodal officers of all the departments concerned, including the administrators, local hospital bodies and police. "We will all sit together and strategise on how we can the figure of vaccine beneficiaries be improved," he said.

"On Friday, there were three units in Sarojininar, Bakshi-Ka-Talab and Aliganj where the turnout was poor. Aanganwadi workers turned up in less numbers at these units. The response in rural areas was less as compared to urban parts in the vaccination drive on Friday," he said. He claimed that there was no case of adverse reactions of the vaccines anywhere in the district," he added.

The official pointed out that with 4,182 out of 8354 beneficiaries turning up for the vaccination, the

turnout was average. "However, there were some reasons because of which people did not get themselves vaccinated. There were lactating mothers, pregnant women and others who had some sort of illness and they they chose to stay away," he said. With the Covid cases having come below 50, the senior health official said they are trying to bring the number further down. "We are going in the right direction and there is a gradual decline in the number of cases. With the vaccination drive already underway, the spread of infection will be less," he said. He added that their target of sampling is still the same in Lucknow — 3,000 antigen and 1,300 RT-PCR tests per day. District immunisation officer MK Singh said a meeting will be called by the district magistrate in order to ensure that Aanganwadi workers get themselves vaccinated in the next two sessions.

"On Friday, several Anganwadi workers who did not turn up could not be contacted. It is possible that messages were sent to their CUG numbers while they may be using their personal numbers," he pointed out.

Chief medical superintendent of Civil hospital Dr SK Nanda said there was no adverse reaction

amongst the beneficiaries. "In the next sessions, we will ensure that more health workers turn up. On Monday, we will have a meeting with all the health workers in this regard," he said.

Nodal officer for Covid immunisation at Lok Bandhu Hospital Dr Arun Tewari also said that there was no case of adverse reactions. "I have talked to more than 20 beneficiaries and all are doing fine. The vaccine is hundred per cent safe and has no side-effects," he said.

Meanwhile, only 40 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow on Saturday while 123 patients recovered, taking the recovery figures to 78,241. Lucknow's death toll stands at 1,165 while there are 1,656 active cases.

The fresh cases included five each from Talkatora & Indiranagar, four each from Chowk & Hazratganj, and three each from Ashiyana & Gomtinagar.

In the state, 323 persons tested positive for coronavirus, including 15 in Kanpur, eight in Ghaziabad, three in Gautam Buddha Nagar, 12 in Varanasi and 15 in Meerut, taking the UP tally to 5,98,445.

There were four Covid deaths in the state, including one each in Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Chandauli & Bahraich, taking the toll to 8609.

CM for proper preps for vaccination

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials concerned for proper preparations for the vaccination to be conducted in the state on January 28 and 29. He has the situation in the state was under control as a result of Covid management by the government, but the guard must not be lowered.

The chief minister also directed the officials to maintain an effective system of prevention and treatment of Covid-19. He was reviewing various activities conducted in the state in relation to control of coronavirus pandemic in a meeting at his official residence in the state capital on Saturday. He was informed that on Friday, more than 1.01 lakh health workers in the state were given the vaccine shots.

Directing the officials to ensure vaccination of all health workers, he said that the second dose of vaccine should be given from February 15. He said that arrangements at Covid hospitals should be up to the mark, and availability of oxygen, medicines and medical equipment must be ensured. He said testing should continue in the same manner, as also contact tracing and surveillance system.

BTech girl student found hanging

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A BTech student was found hanging at her house in Madiagon on Saturday. The girl was identified as Manisha Kushwaha (20) of Kushinagar. She was living in a rented accommodation in Kamlabad Gadhauli locality of Madiagon where several students preparing for competitive exams stay. Manisha stayed in a room on the second floor of the house.

As per reports, a youth, identified as Ranjeet, went to serve tea

to Manisha but found the door of her bolted from inside. He repeatedly knocked the door but did not get any response. He later called other inmates and the house owner, Navneet Singh.

They broke open the doors, only to find Manisha hanging from the ceiling with a rope tied around her neck.

On being informed, police reached the place but could not find any suicide note.

In another incident, a dentist, who lived in a flat in Chinhat, was found hanging on the intervening

night of Friday and Saturday. The deceased was identified as Amit Pratap Singh (25) of Vishnu Lok Colony in Krishnanagar. He was staying in Mohan Apartment near BBDU.

As per reports, Amit was rushed to RMLIMS after some neighbours found him hanging in his flat. However, he died during treatment. The hospital staff sent a memo to police and later, a team of cops reached the scene. The police said Amit was found hanging from the ceiling with a bed-sheet tied around his neck.

लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण (ISO 14001 : 2004, ISO 9001 - 2008 प्रमाणित संस्था) प्राधिकरण भवन, विपिन खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ (उ.प्र.) Ph: 0522-2307833/39/45 वेबसाइट: "http://www.ldaonline.in"							
:- सार्वजनिक सूचना :-							
सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण की आवासीय/व्यवसायिक/रेल/नजूल/इन्फ्रामेन्ट ट्रस्ट योजनाओं के निम्नलिखित आवेदकों द्वारा उनके नाम के सामने अंकित सम्पत्ति का हस्तांतरण/व्यापारण किये जाने हेतु प्राधिकरण में प्राथम्यता प्राप्त प्रस्तुत किया गया है:-							
क्र. सं.	मूल आवेदक का नाम	भवन/भूखण्ड संख्या	योजना का नाम	मूल का दिनांक	मूल आवेदक के उत्तराधिकारी अथवा आवेदक का नाम	उत्तराधिकारी के पत्र में अनापत्ति कर्तव्यों के नाम	मूल आवेदक से (मृतक) सम्बन्ध
1	श्रीमती संतोष कुमारी अरोड़ा	भूखण्ड संख्या-डी-434 से.-डी	कानपुर रोड योजना	23.04.2008	श्री सुनील अरोड़ा	श्रीमती सुनीता धवन-पुत्री (विवालिनी) श्रीमती ज्योति कुंभार-पुत्री (विवालिनी) श्रीमती मीनू ओबराय-पुत्री (विवालिनी)	पुत्र
2	श्रीमती प्रीतिकार रावत	भूखण्ड संख्या 4/608	गोमती नगर विस्तार	03.06.2020	श्री पंचम राम सान्नी कृ. अशिका सान्नी श्री आर्य सान्नी	---	पति पुत्री पुत्र
3	श्री रघुनन्दन सिंह	भूखण्ड संख्या एम-340, से.एम	कानपुर रोड आशियाना	04.02.2019	श्री देवेश सिंह श्री योगेश सिंह	श्रीमती शैलेजा सिंह श्रीमती नीरजा श्रीमती श्रद्धा	पुत्र पुत्री
4	स्व.मो.शरीफ	भवन संख्या 2/184 विनोद खण्ड	गोमती नगर	29.05.2020	श्रीमती सन्तो	श्री उदय, श्री शा फैसल कुमारी मन्सा, कुमारी शहर महक	पत्नी पुत्री पुत्र

उपरोक्त नामान्तरण के आवेदन के सम्बन्ध में यदि किसी भी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति हो तो वह साक्ष्य सहित प्रकरण तिथि से 30 दिनों के अन्दर अपवादसूचनाकर्ता के कार्यालय में प्राप्त कराये। निष्पत्ति तिथि तक कोई आपत्ति प्राप्त न होने पर प्राधिकरण अधिकारियों में कोलम-6 पर लिखित व्यक्ति का नाम दर्ज कर लिया जायेगा तथा उसके बाद किसी आपत्ति पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

Two children die as fire breaks out in basement of house



(Above) The broken roof through which firefighters and cops reached the basement. (Right) The children who died in the incident Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a tragic incident, two minor sons, including a toddler, of a daily wagger, died of suffocation in the basement of an under-construction house where a fire broke out, in Krishnanagar police station area on Saturday afternoon. Locals played police for delayed response to distress calls. However, the police claimed they reached the place in time but the lives of children could not be saved.

The victims were identified as Ritik (4) and Shantanu (1). Their father Shami was working at the under-construction house, situated in Virat Nagar locality of Krishnanagar and owned by Ashutosh Verma. Inspector, Krishnanagar, Mahesh Dubey claimed that he, along with a team, reached the scene instantly after being informed about the incident. "We were informed by house owner Ashutosh Verma," Dubey said. There were unconfirmed reports that the kids suffered burns, the police did not endorse the same.

The local police and fire fighters broke the roof of the basement in a bid to rescue the children. The inspector said the children were taken out of the basement and rushed to Civil hospital by an ambulance. However, both the kids were declared brought dead. The police said that the children died of suffocation. "There was not a single burn on the bodies," he added. "The basement is huge and there is only one exit route. Also, over 150 cushions/quilts of a tent house were stored there. Shami's wife Khushboo was cooking food on a stove and threw a burning matchstick in a corner. Unfortunately, the matchstick landed on a heap of cushions and the fire spread in no time," Dubey said. He added that the house is located in a narrow bylane. The entire basement was filled with smoke and flames, and it was difficult to carry out the rescue operation, the inspector said. The firemen tried to enter the basement after wearing masks and safety gadgets, but in vain. "We later broke the roof to gain entry to the basement. The children could be located in 3-4 attempts," the inspector said. It later surfaced that Khushboo was present in the basement while her children were playing nearby. Khushboo got scared soon after the fire broke out and she went out without her children, and the fire spread in no time. No one could go inside to bring the kids out even as their screams could be heard.

Meanwhile, locals were teary-eyed as the children succumbed. They said the father of deceased is a well-mannered person. "The children used to play in the basement where their family was staying. They were crying for help while engulfed in flames in the rear portion of the basement, and nobody could rescue them.

समृद्ध विरासत तीव्र विकास

उत्तर प्रदेश को बनाते हैं ख्यास

उत्तर प्रदेश दिवस

24-26 जनवरी, 2021

त्रिदिवसीय समारोह का शुभारंभ

मुख्य अतिथि

आनंदीबेन पटेल
राज्यपाल, उत्तर प्रदेश

योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

द्वारा गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

केशव प्रसाद मौर्य
उप मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

डॉ. दिनेश शर्मा
उप मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

सिद्धार्थ नाथ सिंह
मंत्री, खादी एवं ग्रामोद्योग, रेशम उद्योग, वस्त्र उद्योग, सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम निर्यात प्रोत्साहन, एन.आर.आई. तथा निवेश प्रोत्साहन, उत्तर प्रदेश

डॉ. नीलकंठ तिवारी
राज्य मंत्री, पर्यटन, संस्कृति एवं धर्मार्थ कार्य (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) तथा प्रोटोकाल (एमओएस), उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 24 जनवरी, 2021 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे | स्थान : अवध शिल्पग्राम, अमर शहीद पथ, लखनऊ

मुख्य आकर्षण

- प्रदेश सरकार की उपलब्धियों पर आधारित प्रदर्शनी
- कला-संस्कृति प्रदर्शनी
- हुनर हाट का आयोजन
- उत्तर प्रदेश गीत का लोकार्पण
- एक जनपद-एक उत्पाद (ओडीओपी) की प्रदर्शनी
- विश्वकर्मा श्रम सम्मान योजनान्तर्गत टूल किट का वितरण
- बड़े मास्क का बैलून द्वारा प्रदर्शन
- सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम
- किन्नर कलाकारों द्वारा शबरी प्रसंग की प्रस्तुति

- शिल्प मेला एवं लोह मेला
- श्रीराम मंदिर के भव्य मॉडल का प्रदर्शन
- विश्व के सबसे बड़े मास्क का बैलून द्वारा प्रदर्शन
- सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम
- किन्नर कलाकारों द्वारा शबरी प्रसंग की प्रस्तुति

- सीता, द्रौपदी, लक्ष्मीबाई, झलकारी बाई, ऊदा देवी आदि पौराणिक ऐतिहासिक नारियों की वेशभूषा में बालिकाओं की प्रस्तुति
- दिव्यांग बालिकाओं द्वारा जूडो प्रदर्शन
- विद्युत चालित चाक, दोना पत्तल मेकिंग मशीन एवं सोलर चरखों का वितरण
- लक्ष्मण पुरस्कार एवं रानी लक्ष्मीबाई पुरस्कार, स्वामी विवेकानंद यूथ अवार्ड, गोकुल/नन्दबाबा पुरस्कार, कृषक पुरस्कार एवं बेगम अखतर पुरस्कार वितरण
- युवक मंगल दल व महिला मंगल दलों का सम्मान

- महिलाओं द्वारा मार्शल आर्ट प्रदर्शन
- स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के गौरवमयी प्रसंगों की प्रस्तुति
- लक्ष्मण पुरस्कार एवं रानी लक्ष्मीबाई पुरस्कार, स्वामी विवेकानंद यूथ अवार्ड, गोकुल/नन्दबाबा पुरस्कार, कृषक पुरस्कार एवं बेगम अखतर पुरस्कार वितरण
- युवक मंगल दल व महिला मंगल दलों का सम्मान

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

IDBI BANK
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POSSESSION NOTICE
 [Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]
 Whereas The undersigned being the authorized officer of the IDBI BANK LTD, NPA MANAGEMENT GROUP, 7TH FLOOR, WTC COMPLEX, MUMBAI-400005 under the Securitization and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 19/04/2018 Calling upon the Borrower(s) 1. M/s Lanco Amarkantak Power Ltd., At: Plot No. 397, Udyog Vihar, Phase-3 Gurgaon-120216, and the guarantor Himavat Power Ltd., At: Lanco House, Plot No.-4, Software Units Layout Hitech City, Madhapur, Hyderabad-50008 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 169,15,91,233/- (Rupees One Sixty Nine Crore Fifteen Lakh Ninety One Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Three Only) as on 01/01/2018 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice with future interest and incidental charges w.e.f. 02/01/2018.
 The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 18th Day of January of the year 2021.
 The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the IDBI BANK LTD, NPA MANAGEMENT GROUP, 7TH FLOOR, WTC COMPLEX, MUMBAI-400005 for an amount of Rs. 169,15,91,233/- (Rupees One Sixty Nine Crore Fifteen Lakh Ninety One Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Three Only) as on 01/01/2018 with future interest and incidental charges w.e.f. 02/01/2018.
 The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
Description of the Immovable Property
 1. Himavat Power Ltd: mortgaged movable and immovable properties situated at various Plot/Gat/Block/Survey Nos. Admeasuring 572.302 hectares, or thereabout, situated within the Village Chaparghata, Village Amelia, Village Kachhgaon, Village Sihari, Pargana and Tehsil Bhognipur and Registration District Ramabainagar (Kanpur Dehat) in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The movable and immovable properties are hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Secured Assets", particulars whereof are given in Annexure-IB
 2. Lanco Amarkantak Power Limited, the security documents including the guarantee(s) and other securities ("the Security Documents"), the particulars whereof are given in Annexure 1A Annexure-IB
 Particulars_of the Secured Assets in tended to be enforced
 M/S Himvat Power Ltd Properties Movable and immovable properties situate at various Plot/Gat/Block/Survey Nos. admeasuring 572.302 Hectares, or thereabouts, situate within the Village Chaparghata, Village Amelia, Village Kachhgaon, Village Sihari, Pargana and Tehsil Bhognipur, and Registration District Ramabainagar (Kanpur Dehat) in the State of Uttar Pradesh (More details given in attachment)
 The aforesaid Various Plot/Gat/Block/Survey Nos admeasuring 572.302 also include the Free Hold Land admeasuring 350.838 Hectors (equivalent to 867.22 Acres) and Lease Land admeasuring 221.464 Hectors (equivalent to 547.249 Acres).
 "The IDBI Bank Ltd is taking the possession of only Free Hold Land admeasuring 350.838 Hectors (equivalent to 867.22 Acres) as described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002."
Part -1 - Acquired Land
 All part piece and parcels of Land 208.205 Hectors (equivalent to 514.267 Acres) situated at Village Chaparghata, Village Amelia, Village Kachhgaon and Village Sihari, Pargana & Tehsil Bhognipur, District Ramabainagar, bearing Khasra Nos. and Khata Nos. and admeasuring as detailed below:

S. No.	Khatauni No.	Plot No./ Survey No.	Date of Possession Letter	Place	Gross Area (In Heers)	S. No.	Khatauni No.	Plot No./ Survey No.	Date of Possession Letter	Place	Gross Area (In Heers)
87	111	333	15.12.2011	Amelia	0.277	11.	00166	1139	27.09.2012	Sihari	0.2460
88	66	334	15.12.2011	Amelia	0.512				15.12.2011		
89	44	335	15.12.2011	Amelia	2.458			1 किला			0.2460
90	60	336 फि.	15.12.2011	Amelia	1.946	12.	00202	1189 क	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.4410
91	60	337 फि.	15.12.2011	Amelia	1.435			1 किला			0.4410
92	26, 37, 87, 111, 144, 150, 196	338 फि.	15.12.2011	Amelia	2.572	13.	00203	1187	15.12.2011	Sihari	1.0240
93		338 फि.	15.12.2011	Amelia	0.1025			1189 ख	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.5020
94	449	3 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	1.536	14.	00208	2 किला			1.5260
95	897, 823, 822	7	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	0.819			1115 ग	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.7170
96	784,940,571,751,854	8, 8 अ. 8 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	1.69	15.	00217	1 किला			0.7170
97	779, 792, 1073, 1041	9, 9 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	1.025			111	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.1540
98	1044,803,840,942,981	10, 10 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	2.049			1131	15.12.2011		0.2460
99	759	11	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	0.307			1140	15.12.2011		0.3380
100	375, 743, 986	12, 12 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	2.048			1141	15.12.2011		0.1020
101	887, 947, 764	13, 13 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	0.798			4 किला			0.8400
102	766,1021,952,902	14, 14 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	2.255	16.	00256	1095 ख	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.0460
103	753, 974, 760	15, 15 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	1.742			1 किला			0.0460
104	831,833,841,974,960	16 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	2.358	17.	00285	1182	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.5940
105	808,988,866,920,844	17, 17 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	2.255			1184	15.12.2011		0.2460
106	880, 898	18	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	1.64			2 किला			0.8400
107	983, 918	19 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	0.922	18.	00311	1128 ख	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.0040
108	247, 872, 947, 1024	20, 20 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	2.05			1129 ख	15.12.2011		0.0060
109	247, 383	21, 21 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	2.857			1137 ख	15.12.2011		0.0160
110	933, 1010, 973	22, फि.	22.12.2011	Chaperghata	2.07	19.	00312	3 किला			0.0260
111	780, 865, 745	23, 23 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.05			1128 क	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.1190
112	177,629	24 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.335			1129 क	15.12.2011		0.1680
113	9,718.133,77, 236, 364, 428,462,488, 534,635	25 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.336			1137 क	15.12.2011		0.4550
114	387	26	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.233			3 किला			0.7420
115	137,629	27 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.233	20.	00323	1092 क	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.2660
116	389,581	28, 28 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.457			1115 क	15.12.2011		0.1020
117	548,628	29 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.468			1093	15.12.2011		0.2050
118	405,548, 628	30 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.14			3 किला			0.5730
119	64,137,390	31 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.089	21.	00452	1116 घ	27.09.2012	Sihari	0.8810
120	366,64	32 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.56			1 किला			0.8810
121	371,797	33 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.151	22.	00453	11192/1202	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.0820
122	104,103,581	34, 34 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.385			1094	15.12.2011		0.3070
123	103,581	35 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.068			2 किला			0.3890
124	103,374	36,36 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.223	23.	00458	1092 ख	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.0310
125	1076, 672	37 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	1.946			1108	15.12.2011		0.3070
126	993,911	38,38 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	1.64			1115 ख	15.12.2011		0.4200
127	693	41 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	1.485	24.	00474	3 किला			0.7580
128	164	42 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	1.536			1109 क	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.1540
129	805,817,971,978,806	15,45 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	1.332			1110	15.12.2011		0.1840
130	876	47 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	1.454			1127	15.12.2011		0.2150
131	687	53	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	0.543			3 किला			0.5530
132	815(755) 739, 795, 860, 782	56, 56 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	1.229	25.	00500	1113	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.7420
133	931	59 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	1.997			1119	15.12.2011		0.3790
134	16,855,858	60 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.561			1120	15.12.2011		0.2660
135	365	61	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.654			1122	15.12.2011		0.2770
136	14, 277	62 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.315			1123	15.12.2011		0.1330
137	104,103	63, 63 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.428	26.	00502	1185	15.12.2011		0.3590
138	451, 103	64 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.328			6 किला			2.1560
139	36	65	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.551			1109 ख	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.0200
140	86,718,236,428,488,9	66 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.295	27.	00536	1125 ख	15.12.2011		0.1640
141	77,133,194,364,488, 534, 635	67 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.295			2 किला			0.1840
142	1,42,22,316,299,354, 1067, 580, 711,683	68/4, 68/6, 68/5, 68/8, 68/8,68 म्त्र (68/9), 68/3, 68/2,68/7, 68/10	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.425	28.	00631	1188 फि.	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.1020
143	233,42,256, 84,711, 267,296, 600, 1, 683	69, 69/4, 69/5, 69/7, 69/2,69/3, 69/6,69/1	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.479			1 किला			0.4100
144	387	70	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.151			1188 फि.	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.1020
145	164(176), 245, 259	71/1,71/2, 71/3	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	1.946			1 किला			0.1020
146	135	74	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	1.936			TOTAL Acquired Land (Ha.) 19.411 Hectares			
147	387	75	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.028			C] All that piece and parcels of Land admeasuring 123.222 Hectors (equivalent to 304.488 Acres) situated at Village Chaparghata, Pargana & Tchsil Bhognipur, District Ramabainagar, bearing Khasra Noo. and Khata Nos. and admeasuring as detailed below:			
148	387	76	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.326	1	9	625 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.2150
149	387	77	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.397	2	42	706/1	22.11.2012	Chaparghata	0.2050
150	36	78	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.623	3	43	697 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.6150
151	36	79	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.51			698 फि.			0.6160
152	103	80	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.223	4	44	620	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	2.0080
153	637	81	22-12-2011	Pukhrayan	2.121	5	69	709 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.6150
154	205	88	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.162			710/1			1.1680
155	103,389	89 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.16	6	71	723 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	1.5360
156	36	90	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.397	7	77	624 फि.	22.11.2012	Chaparghata	0.1430
157	277, 386	91/1, 91	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.294			626 फि.			1.530
158	365	94	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	2.695	8	78	696 फि.	22.11.2012	Chaparghata	0.3070
159	121, 144	95 म्त्र	22-12-2011	Chaperghata	3.021	9	79	697 फि.	22.11.2019	Chaparghata	1.2290
Total Acquired 208.205 Hectors						10	83	631 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.1230
B] All that piece and parcels of Land admeasuring 19.411 Hectors (equivalent to 47.965 Acres) situated at Village Sihari, Pargana & Tehsil Bhognipur, District Kanpur Dehat (Ramabainagar), bearing Khasra Nos. and Khata Nos. and admeasuring as detailed below:						11	84	747/1	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.2670
1.	00020	1115 घ	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.2050	12	86	625 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.4100
		1116 ग	15.12.2011		1.0550			626 फि.			0.1530
		2 किला			1.2600	13	87	431	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	1.3360
2.	00026	1116 क	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.7790	14	92	612	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.8190
		1118 क	15.12.2011		0.3070	15	133	624 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.0830
		2 किला			1.0860			625 फि.			0.1330
3.	00052	11191 क	27.09.2012	Sihari	0.5330	16	145	682 फि.	22.12.2012	Chap arghata	0.5120
			15.12.2011		0.3070	17	152	726	21.11.2012	Chaparghata	1.044
		1192 क	27.09.2012		0.4410	18	178	625 फि.	22.11.2011	Chaparghata	0.2150
		1194 क	27.09.2012		0.4410	19	194	624 फि. 626 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaparghata.	0.1840
			15.12.2011		1.2810			623 फि. 745			0.123
		3 किला			1.2810	20	197	739	21.11.2012	Chaparghata	3.0630
4.	00064	1095 क	15.12.2011	Sihari	0.0880	21	214	681 फि.	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.5150
		1 किला			0.0880	22	221	706/7	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.2050
5.	00072	1189 ग									

S. No.	Khatauni No.	Plot No./ Survey No.	Date of Possession Letter	Place	Gross Area (In Heers)	S. No.	Khatauni No.	Plot No./ Survey No.	Date of Possession Letter	Place	Gross Area (In Heers)	S. No.	Plot No./ Survey No.	Gross Area (In Hec.)	Name of Village/Location of Property
		736			0.6150	123	936	610	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.4100	86	1118 ख	0.031	SIHARI
33.	270	619	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	4.6600	124	944	432	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.6150	87	1121	0.102	SIHARI
34.	273	628	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	1.5360	125	950	621	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.6150	88	1124	0.020	SIHARI
35.	284	724	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.7170	126	954	611	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.4100	89	1126 ख	0.066	SIHARI
36.	293	735	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.748	127	962	688	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.6150				
37.	296	706/3	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.2050	128	966	743	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.4560				
38.	299	706/2	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.2050	129	970	608	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.205				
39.	316	706	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.2050	130	976	687	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.4300				
40.	317	793	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.3180	131	977	689	27.09.2012	Chaparghata	0.4100				
		793			1.5360										
41.	346	711	27.09.2012	Chaparghata	0.1130			693	22.12.2011		0.1020				
		713	27.09.2012		0.0510				(.0512ha)						
42.	349	694	22.12.2012	Chaparghata	1.5360	132	980	627	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	1.1060				
43.	350	700	22.12.2012	Chaparghata	1.4360	133	983	718	27.09.2012	Chaparghata	0.1020				
44.	353	707	22.12.2012	Chaparghata	1.5360	134	991	687	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.4100				
45.	354	705/3	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.1600	135	1023	421mtr	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.4100				
46.	359	724	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.3070	136	1027	609 mtr	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.1020	91	1389 mtr	0.082	KACHHGAON
47.	361	713	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.9220			610 mtr			0.1020	92	1390	0.092	KACHHGAON
		715			0.1740	137	1038	745 mtr	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.4810	93	1395 mtr	1.434	KACHHGAON
		717			0.6660	138	1039	743 mtr	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.1020	94	1396 mtr	1.331	KACHHGAON
		710/2			0.0200	139	1043	695 mtr	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.6150	95	1399 mtr	0.532	KACHHGAON
48.	362	698	27.09.2012	Chaparghata	0.4100	140	1047	683 mtr	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.5120	96	1402	0.768	KACHHGAON
49.	364	624	27.09.2012	Chaparghata	0.2050	141	1081	621 mtr	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.6150	97	1404	0.881	KACHHGAON
50.	399	727	27.09.2012	Chaparghata	0.2050							98	1416	0.512	KACHHGAON
		728			0.4400							99	1417 mtr	0.215	KACHHGAON
		730			0.6150							100	1738	1.249	KACHHGAON
TOTAL Acquired Land (Ha.) 123.222 Hectors												101	1740	1.331	KACHHGAON
Part II - Leased (Government) Land												102	1741	8.533	KACHHGAON
All that piece and parcels of Land admeasuring 221.464 Hectors (equivalent to 547.249 Acres) situated at Village Chaparghata, Village Amelia, Village Kachbgaon and Village Sihari, Pargana & Tehsil Bhognipur, District Ramabainagar, bearing Kharn Nos. and Khata Nos. and admeasuring as detailed below::												103	1743	2.766	KACHHGAON
						S. No.	Plot No./ Survey No.	Gross Area (In Hec.)		Name of Village/Location of Property		104	1744	6.156	KACHHGAON
51	420	708	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	12290	1	1	3.462		CHAPERGHATA		105	1745 mtr	7.395	KACHHGAON
52	428	628	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.1950	2	2	3.643		CHAPERGHATA		106	1746	6.935	KACHHGAON
53	429	693	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	1.5360	3	3	1.27		CHAPERGHATA		107	1747	0.512	KACHHGAON
54	430	702	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.5940	4	6	3.196		CHAPERGHATA		108	1748	1.024	KACHHGAON
55	448	630	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.8190	5	7	0.799		CHAPERGHATA		109	1749	1.229	KACHHGAON
56	462	622	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.9120	6	8 mtr	0.676		CHAPERGHATA		110	1752	3.216	KACHHGAON
		626			0.2160	7	9 mtr	1.383		CHAPERGHATA		111	1754	0.615	KACHHGAON
57	466	698	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.6150	8	10 mtr	0.215		CHAPERGHATA		112	1755	6.678	KACHHGAON
58	483	746	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.2250	9	11 mtr	1.824		CHAPERGHATA		113	1756 mtr	6.658	KACHHGAON
		741			0.1130	10	12 mtr	0.287		CHAPERGHATA		114	1757	4.916	KACHHGAON
59	487	742	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.4100	11	13 mtr	1.435		CHAPERGHATA		115	1759	6.197	KACHHGAON
		746			0.4610	12	14 mtr	0.153		CHAPERGHATA		116	1760	7.919	KACHHGAON
		742			1.3420	13	15 mtr	0.491		CHAPERGHATA		117	1761 mtr	0.718	KACHHGAON
		746			0.1950	14	16 mtr	0.05		CHAPERGHATA		118	1762 mtr	1.301	KACHHGAON
		741			0.8190	15	17 mtr	0.04		CHAPERGHATA		119	1764	0.205	KACHHGAON
		746			0.7170	16	18 mtr	0.491		CHAPERGHATA		120	1765	0.41	KACHHGAON
60	488	625	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.8400	17	20 mtr	0.163		CHAPERGHATA		121	1768 mtr	0.614	KACHHGAON
61	503	701	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.6250	18	22 mtr	0.43		CHAPERGHATA		122	1769	1.434	KACHHGAON
62	505	422	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	1.2290	19	23 mtr	0.491		CHAPERGHATA		123	1770 mtr	1.024	KACHHGAON
63	506	422	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.1130	20	30 mtr	0.051		CHAPERGHATA		124	1771	0.646	KACHHGAON
		423	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	1.1160	21	33	1.875		CHAPERGHATA		125	1772	0.174	KACHHGAON
64	510	702	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.5120	22	37	0.277		CHAPERGHATA		126	1773	0.584	KACHHGAON
		741			1.0240	23	38	0.911		CHAPERGHATA		127	1777	2.664	KACHHGAON
		692			1.5360	24	39	3.165		CHAPERGHATA		128	1780	4.671	KACHHGAON
65	511	744	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	1.5360	25	40	2.192		CHAPERGHATA		129	1781	1.147	KACHHGAON
66	514	704	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	1.5360	26	42 mtr	0.563		CHAPERGHATA		130	1782 mtr	1.741	KACHHGAON
67	516	719	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.2050	27	43	2.233		CHAPERGHATA		131	1783 mtr	0.922	KACHHGAON
		720			0.7890	28	45 mtr	0.42		CHAPERGHATA		132	1784	0.102	KACHHGAON
		722			0.720	29	46	3.022		CHAPERGHATA		133	1787	8.134	KACHHGAON
68	545	698	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	1.5360	30	47 mtr	1.209		CHAPERGHATA					
		696			0.3070	31	48	1.7		CHAPERGHATA					
		701			0.4100	32	55	0.01		CHAPERGHATA					
		707			0.8190	33	56 mtr	1.198		CHAPERGHATA					
69	551	737	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.4610	34	59 mtr	0.616		CHAPERGHATA					
70	552	747/2	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.3330	35	60 mtr	0.747		CHAPERGHATA					
71	557	686	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.4100	36	71	0.123		CHAPERGHATA					
72	571	712	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.5870	37	91	0.031		CHAPERGHATA					
		716			0.2970	38	95	0.205		CHAPERGHATA					
73	580	705/4	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.1600	39	421	0.41		CHAPERGHATA					
74	593	721	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.46100	40	422	0.195		CHAPERGHATA					
		723/1			0.1540	41	431	0.123		CHAPERGHATA					
75	600	706/4	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.2050	42	432	1.075		CHAPERGHATA					
76	628	683	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	1.5360	43	607	0.174		CHAPERGHATA					
77	640	624/2	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	1.1370	44	608	1.085		CHAPERGHATA					
78	648	733	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	2.0690	45	610	0.102		CHAPERGHATA					
		738			1.7310	46	611	0.419		CHAPERGHATA					
79	650	696	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.6150	47	622	0.819		CHAPERGHATA					
80	666	421	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.799	48	623 mtr	0.235		CHAPERGHATA					
		422			0.43	49	628	0.432		CHAPERGHATA					
81	674	607	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	1.5360	50	630	0.635		CHAPERGHATA					
82	682	691	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.6150	51	680	0.184		CHAPERGHATA					
		692			0.1430	52	681	0.532		CHAPERGHATA					
83	683	706/6	22.12.2011	Chaparghata	0.6390	53	682	0.47		CHAPERGHATA					
		747/5			0.2520										

CM Yogi pays tribute to Bose

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Saturday, paid floral tributes on the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose by garlanding his statue in the state capital.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was a great son of Bharat Mata and the frontline hero of the freedom movement. He said Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose gave a direction to the freedom movement in the country and inspired the youth to join the freedom struggle by forming the Azad Hind Fauj outside the country.

The chief minister said that for Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, India's independence was paramount and nationalism was his religion. He said Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had pledged to lead the people of the oppressed country to a new dawn by liberating India from the shackles of subjugation and for this, every person in the country was today remembering him on his birth anniversary. The chief minister hailed



Prime Minister Narendra Modi for declaring the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose as Parakram Diwas.

He said Netaji's slogan 'Give me blood, I'll give you freedom' was not just a slogan

but it became the mantra to connect the countrymen with the freedom movement.

On this occasion, Urban Development Minister Ashutosh Tandon, Minority Welfare Minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi', Water Power Minister Mahendra Singh, Lucknow Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia and other dignitaries were present.

Day temperature plummets by 6.3 degree C

Lucknow (PNS): Dense fog and absence of sun made the day temperature plummet by 6.3 degrees on Saturday. Lucknow recorded the maximum temperature at 16.4 degree Celsius while the minimum settled at 9.1 degree Celsius, which was 1.3 degrees above normal.

MeT director JP Gupta said the chill increased due to the absence of sunshine. "From Monday onwards, the minimum temperature will fall as the north-westerlies will start blowing. Currently, it is the south-easterlies which are leading to the chill. However, similar conditions will prevail on Sunday," he said. The day temperature dipped across the state. The forecast for Lucknow is moderate to dense fog likely in the morning and clear sky thereafter. The maximum and minimum temperature is expected to be around 18 degree Celsius and 11 degree Celsius, respectively. The weather is likely to be dry over the state. There is warning of dense to very dense fog at a few places over east UP in the morning and at isolated places over west UP. Cold day to severe cold day conditions are also likely at a few places over east UP and isolated places over west UP.

Police stop farmers taking out protest march

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Hundreds of farmers going to Gherao Raj Bhawan in Hazratganj were stopped by police in Gosainganj on Saturday morning. The deadlock ended after the police agreed to allow a delegation of 12 farmers to hand over a memorandum which was received by Home department officials.

A huge number of farmers, under the banner of Bharatiya Kisan Union, turned up on the road in Gosainganj and started marching towards Hazratganj. As the police was already alert and had barricaded several places, they stopped the farmers.

Senior officers, including the DCP and ADCP, kept the farmers engaged in dialogue and prevented them from moving forward. In the meantime, more farmers joined the protest and the police came



under pressure. Senior officer later summoned PAC personnel to deal with the situation. However, by afternoon, the farmers agreed to the proposal to send a delegation of 12 farmers to hand over their memorandum.

Farmer leader Harinaam Singh flayed the BJP government in UP and at Centre, saying that it was least bothered about the hardships of farmers who have been protesting for over 50 days.

"If the government was concerned about farmers' problem, it would have repealed the farm bills," he said.

DCP (Central) Somen Barma said a delegation of farmers was allowed to hand over their memorandum of demands to Home department officials.

Meanwhile, the CPIML state secretary condemned the state government for stopping the farmers. He claimed that the police arrested several farmers who were taking out a protest march from Charbagh to Raj Bhawan in support of the those protesting at the Delhi border for several days. He said Left wing leaders IP Kushwaha, Afroz Alam, Ramesh Sengar, Om Prakash and several others were arrested and taken to Eco Garden. Yadav said the farmers were taking out the protest march on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Police inaction forces girl to end life in Etawah

Lucknow (PNS): Depressed with sexual advances by local goons and questionable police inaction, a 17-year-old girl jumped before a speeding train to end her life in Etawah on Saturday morning. Last Wednesday, the victim's family had submitted a complaint

alleging that a local goon was making sexual advances at the girl with the Balrai police station. SHO of Balrai, Brijendra Singh refused to register a case and did not initiate any follow up action. When the victim pleaded with the SHO to take

action, he allegedly shooed her away from the police station after hurling expletives at her. Later, the police did not take any follow up action. Depressed with the police conduct and inaction, the girl jumped before a speeding train on Delhi-Howrah rail

route near Balrai station. A senior official said that now a case has been registered and efforts were being made to arrest the accused. The SP City has been asked to probe the police apathy and initiate action against the errands.

RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, JAIPUR

E-BID NOTICE

निगम की नकारा-रूप का ई-ऑक्शन वेब-साइट Transport.Rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc एवं rsrtc.procure247.com के माध्यम से जहाँ है, जहाँ ही कि स्थिति में किया जाना है जिसका विवरण निम्न प्रकार है:

S. No.	Event's Name	EMD Deposit Start Date	EMD Deposit End Date	BID Start Date	BID End Date
1	SCRAP MATERIAL OF BUSES	07.01.21	28.01.21	28.01.21	29.01.21
2	SCRAP SPARE PARTS/ASSY/ ACCESSORIES OF BUSES	07.01.21	28.01.21	28.01.21	29.01.21

नोट-1. ई-ऑक्शन में शामिल होने से पूर्व कृपया नीचे दिए गए EMD राशि जमा करवाना अनिवार्य है।
2. ई-ऑक्शन का सम्पूर्ण विवरण, नियम एवं सर्वे वेब-साइट पर उपलब्ध है।

राज.सं.सा.व/सी/9063/2020-21 **Financial Advisor**

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. TENDER NOTICE

NOTICE. Following sealed tenders are invited from the experienced/reputed contractors/agencies for the following work on the prescribed tender forms to be obtained from the office of undersigned on working days on payment of tender cost through RTGS/NEFT.

1. Tender No. 62/AETC/2020-21: Providing One No. light Diesel vehicle (Jeep/Bolor) along with driver for a period of 12 months for the use of SDO, ETDSD/II under ETD, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 2500.00 (Rs. Two Thousand Five Hundred) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 280.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Eighty) only. Earnest money will be in shape of RTGS/NEFT duly pledged in favour of Superintending Engineer, Electy, Transmission Circle, UPPTCL, Azamgarh. Documents of this tender No. 62 can be purchased upto 12.00 hrs. of 26.02.2021 and completed tender bids will be accepted upto 14.00 hrs. same day in the office of undersigned and will be opened on same day at 16.00 hrs. In case the tender opening date is holiday or undersigned remain out of headquarters the date of submission and opening of the tender shall stand extended to the next working day. Undersigned has the right to reject/divide any tender without assigning any reason thereof. Conditional tenders shall not be accepted. Superintending Engineer (Trans.) UPPTCL, Hafizpur, Azamgarh No. 97, Date 22.01.2021. **SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION.**

Yogi inaugurates Noida indoor stadium

Lucknow (PNS): Pledging that his government was committed to facilitating all support to players and promote sports activities in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath virtually inaugurated an indoor stadium in Noida on Saturday.

Stressing to back the 'Khelo India' campaign inspired by Prime Minister Modi, the CM said, "Talented players of our state have been deprived of adequate resources since long. However, our government will leave no stone unturned to provide all necessary assets to them in order to promote sports."

Yogi also announced the commencement of 65th National Freestyle Senior Wrestling Championship in collaboration with Wrestling Federation of India as the first sports contest at the new Noida indoor stadium.

On the occasion, the CM spoke to several eminent wrestlers including Narasimha Yadav, Amit and Gaurav Kumar and urged them to convey wrestlers' expectations from the state government. Yogi further mentioned that a 'Sports University' would soon be set up in Meerut which would act as an important platform for players to further hone their talents. Emphasising the importance of teamwork, the CM said, "Just as 'Team Spirit' is crucial to winning any sport, combined efforts of the government and people of the state against the Coronavirus have resulted in a successful victory." The new multipurpose indoor stadium at Noida is spread over 8040 square metres with a seating capacity of 4000 spectators. Various indoor games like badminton, table tennis, basketball, handball, volleyball, gymnastics, judo, weight lifting taekwondo would be organised there.

UP fifth largest exporters of goods during pandemic

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh emerged as the fifth largest exporter of goods and services during the pandemic and goods like rice, medicines, carpets, silk, fertilisers, sugar, toys, fish and software were exported abroad.

The state government

under its 'Ease of doing business' policy offered huge concessions to the exporters so that all products could be easily shipped abroad.

As per latest data released by the Union government, UP outpaced many states, including Telangana, Kerala, Punjab

and West Bengal, in terms of exports during the pandemic. Between April and November 2020, goods (including milk, flour, sugar, artificial flowers, rice, silk etc.) worth Rs 72,508 crore were exported from UP. Similarly, from April to November 2020,

export of flour, bakery and milk doubled. Between April and November 2020, food grains worth Rs 1,054.20 crore were exported from Uttar Pradesh. According to export-oriented traders, black rice from Chandauli was in huge demand in foreign countries.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

No.- Dy. CEE/INCR/Kanpur /19-20/Tender No.- 105/Dt- 11.08.2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all users of railway way lines and premises situated Under Noted Section of North Central Railway that 132kv TR line shifting work is in progress in connection ROB at LC No-1 Jhinhak West at Loc 108/1-1-3. This TR Line will be shifted in between Tower No 165 to 185 Near village chandupur, NASAR Khera, Mudera, Shahpur Distt. Kanpur Dehat UP.

During shifting of This TR Line loss of all trees and crops will be compensate to the Owner of the land as per rules. In this work all the train are being operated through this TR Line. The Construction of this TR Line Proposed by Ministry of Railway Government of India.

104/2021 V
North Central Railways @CPRONCR

North Central Railway, Prayagraj

Tender Notice No. 7220202021 Tender Notice Dated: 21.01.2021

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tender on prescribed form for the following works upto 13:30 hrs. on 17.02.2021. The details of the tenders are as under:-

SN	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx Cost of work ₹	Completion Period	Similar work for Eligibility Criteria
1	184	Provision of Ballast less Track (Washable Apron) on BPLC Sliding and other associated works in BPLC Pankidham Kanpur under ADEN/Line/Kanpur	4,38,73,253.88	03 Months	Any RCC/ PSC work
2	185	Complete Track Renewal (Secondary) for various Loop Lines/ Yard Lines in the section ADEN/Line/Kanpur	1,41,61,282.51	05 Months	P-work

Date of Opening of tender: 17.02.2021. Note: 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders is available on website www.reps.gov.in up to 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 17.02.2021. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000.3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightly ignored and shall not be considered. 4. The tenderer shall submit a copy of certificate as given in tender document in standard format for Tender No. 184 & 185 having advertised value more than ₹ 50 Lakh, without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. 5. The supplier/contractor of goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act. and Rules as applicable from time to time. 6. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 7. This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 8. The tenderer/Bidder shall mandatorily submit Bid security declaration form as given in tender document for non submission of Bid security/EMD/ Earnest Money) deposit otherwise Tender offer will be considered as incomplete offer & shall be summarily rejected. 9. In case of any difficulty/helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 10. Tender on line can be submitted up to 13:30 hrs. on 17.02.2021. 11. Along with other instructions given to Tenderers, Tenderers are required to Pay special attention on Para 10 of Tender document for document submission alongwith tender & Para 12.0 of Tender Document for Bid security declaration/EM Deposit & Security deposit. 12. E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. 13. The tenderer has to submit necessary documents in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-1) of GCC July '2020 mandatorily, otherwise offer will be considered as incomplete offer and accordingly shall not be considered. 103/21(D)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकीय रीवा खंड रीवा (म.प्र.)

निविदा सूचना क्र. 38/20-21/ब.ले.लि./का.यं./लो.स्वा.यं./20, रीवा, दिनांक 11.01.2021

ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

(1) निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से ऑन लाईन निविदायें एप्रेन्डिक्स 2.10 में प्रतिशत दर पर प्रमुख अधिग्रहण, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकीय विभाग, भीपाल को नलकूपों के खनन एवं अन्य कार्य से संबंधित दिनांक 03.07.2018 से प्रभावशाली एकीकृत दर सूची एवं निविदा सूचना जारी होने के दिनांक तक किए गए समस्त संशोधनों के आधार पर केन्द्रीयकृत नवीन पंजीयन के तहत लोक निर्माण विभाग में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेक्रेटारों से निविदा ऑन लाईन टेंडर प्रक्रिया के तहत आमंत्रित की जाती है।

ऑन लाईन निविदा पब्लिशिंग का दिनांक 15.01.2021 डायन्यूट डीडन लोड/टेंडर फार्म क्रय प्रारम्भ बिदिंग 15.01.2021, टेंडर फार्म क्रय की अंतिम तिथि 01.02.2021, बिड सबमिशन प्रारम्भ का दिनांक 15.01.2021 एवं बिड सबमिशन का अंतिम तिथि 01.02.2021 को सायं 5.30 बजे तक निर्धारित है। Mandatory 'A' & Financial bid Open का दिनांक 03.02.2021 को अपराह्न 3.30 बजे निर्धारित है।

(2) उक्त निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना विभागीय वेबसाइट (<https://www.mptenders.gov.in>) पर प्रदर्शित है।

(3) निविदाएँ, निर्धारित तिथि दिनांक 03.02.2021 को खोली जावेंगी।

(4) कार्य का विवरण :-

रीवा जिले के विभिन्न विकासखण्डों के विभिन्न ग्रामों में जल जीवन मिशन के अन्तर्गत ट्यूबवेल पर आधारित रेगुलैटेड पाईप जलापूर्ति का निर्माण, निपादन, आर.सी.सी. टंकी (OHT) का निर्माण, सबमर्सिबल मोटर पंप की स्थापना, 90 दिवस के ट्रायल रन एवं कमिश्निंग आदि समस्त कार्य सामग्री एवं लेबर सहित।

ई-टेंडर नं. योजनाओं विकासखण्ड कार्य की अनु. लागत प्रतिभूति निविदा प्रपत्र कार्य पूर्ण करने की की संख्या (रु. लाख में) राशि रु. में का मूल्य अवधि

2020_PHED_123179_1	5	रीवा	430.21	430210.00	15000.00	9 माह (वर्षा ऋतु सहित)
2020_PHED_123181_1	3	रीवा	451.81	451810.00	15000.00	9 माह (वर्षा ऋतु सहित)
2020_PHED_123182_1	3	रीवा	470.14	470140.00	15000.00	9 माह (वर्षा ऋतु सहित)
2020_PHED_123183_1	5	रीवा	399.60	399600.00	15000.00	9 माह (वर्षा ऋतु सहित)
2020_PHED_123184_1	4	रीवा	278.38	278380.00	15000.00	9 माह (वर्षा ऋतु सहित)
2020_PHED_123186_1	4	रीवा	223.39	223390.00	15000.00	9 माह (वर्षा ऋतु सहित)
2020_PHED_123188_1	4	रायपुर	422.12	422120.00	15000.00	9 माह (वर्षा ऋतु सहित)
2020_PHED_123191_1	1	गोंपे	134.00	134000.00	12500.00	9 माह (वर्षा ऋतु सहित)

निविदा फार्म ऊपर दर्शित वेबसाइट पर (Online System) क्रेडिट कार्ड या ऑन लाईन भुगतान कर ही क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा एवं उससे संबंधित जानकारी ऊपर दर्शाई गई वेबसाइट पर देखें।

कार्यपालन यंत्री लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकीय खंड, रीवा (म.प्र.)

G-1797/20 जब तक कारोना की दवाई नहीं, तब तक हिलाई नहीं।

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, GANGA POLLUTION PREVENTION UNIT, BHAGWANPUR, VARANASI-221005

Letter No.: 176/08-81-005/21 Date: 19.01.2021

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE

U.P. Jal Nigam, E-tenders are invited on two bid system "Survey, Investigation both surface and sub-surface, Re-design (if necessary) for laying of sewer line by Micro Tunneling method in Mohan Katra-Konia Ghat area of Varanasi city including all necessary appurtenant works required for commissioning the system including one year defect liability period after successful trial run and commissioning under AMRUT Program" from reputed, experienced and eligible tenderers having qualification, capabilities and experience". Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Interested Bidders/vendors may view & download tender document and upload their tender, duly filled, online as per schedule given below. Date for (i) Uploading bid document at website: 27/01/2021 at 05:00 PM (ii) Pre-bid Meeting: 03/02/2021 at 12:00 Noon (iii) Online Submission of e-bids (last date): 25/02/2021 up-to 05:00 PM (iv) Opening of application for qualification: 27/02/2021 at 01:30 PM.

INDIA BECOMING...

The Prime Minister also visited the ancestral house of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the afternoon as he came to the city to take part in the revolutionary's 125th birth anniversary celebrations.

He was received at the entrance of the house by Sugato Bose and his brother Sumantro Bose, the freedom fighter's grandnephews.

Modi was shown the 'Wanderer' car, which Netaji used to escape from Kolkata to Gomoh, said Sugato Bose. The prime minister was also shown the bedrooms of Netaji and his brother Sarat Chandra Bose, news agency PTI reported.

PEEVED BY...

Mamata had similarly reacted to Jai Shri Ram slogans raised by BJP supporters at Barrackpore and West Midnapore during 2019 general elections inviting large-scale criticism from the people.

"Bengal Minister Partho Chatterjee faulted the saffron Government for "planting the mischief mongers inside the state against the Coronavirus have resulted in a successful victory." The new multipurpose indoor stadium at Noida is spread over 8040 square metres with a seating capacity of 4000 spectators. Various indoor games like badminton, table tennis, basketball, handball, volleyball, gymnastics, judo, weight lifting taekwondo would be organised there.

There a politics in shouting Jai Shri Ram." Senior TMC MP Saugato condemned "indecorous conduct" of the BJP men saying "Jai Shri Ram is BJP's political slogan and everyone knows it ... They could have given this slogan elsewhere but not in a Government programme ... It was intentional-ly done to provoke Mamata Banerjee and she has done the right thing by boycotting the speech." Making a strong pitch for declaring January 23 a national holiday at a party rally during the day, Banerjee said "for long we have been demanding the day to be declared as a national holiday ... a time has come when this should be done."

Also demanding "declassification of defence files on Netaji," the Chief Minister asked for making four separate capitals for India where parliament sessions can be held in rotation. "Why Delhi should be the only capital ... there should be four capitals in four regions where parliament sessions may be held in rotation," Banerjee said. In a circuitous attack on Prime Minister's party for trying to divide India along communal lines and appropriate power, Banerjee earlier said that "Netaji was always for unity and he did not support divide and rule policy which some people are pursuing these days." Questioning the "real intention" behind slogans like

ANOTHER PAK...

He also added, apart from providing technical support, the Pakistani establishment had carefully studied the soil engineering to see whether it can sustain a tunnel or not and also provided other logistics to smoothly execute the task. "All this is done as per their nefarious designs and with an aim to disturb peace in the region", IG BSF said.

The area where the tunnel was detected remained active in the past as well. BSF had shot down a Pakistani Helicopter carrying load of weapons and ammunition in June 2020 in the same area. BSF troops had also foiled an infiltration bid in the same area in Nov 2019 wherein BSF troops had fired upon the party trying to infiltrate into India. Earlier, BSF had detected a 20-25 feet deep and 160 metres long cross border tunnel, along the International border in the Regal area of Samba sector on November 22, 2020. The tunnel was believed to be used by the four-member fideayen squad (members of a suicide squad) of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), to infiltrate into the Indian territory before they were neutralised at Ban Toll Plaza near Nagotra on November 19.

Another 'rat hole' tunnel, which was at least 25 feet deep and 170 metres long, was detected by the Border Security Force (BSF) jawans along the International border in Galar village of Samba sector on August 28, 2020. Besides the 1,700-km-long LAC sector in Ladakh, the armed forces have ramped up their military strength in terms of personnel and weapons all along the other LAC stretching from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.

SOMNATH BHARTI...

The court, however, acquitted Bharti's associates and co-accused — Jagat Saini, Dileep Jha, Sandeep Sonu and Rakesh Pandey — citing a lack of evidence against them. The case was lodged on the basis of a complaint from R S Rawat, Chief Security Officer, AIIMS. Bharti had told the court that police officials and other witnesses had deposed against him in order to falsely implicate him in the case. The AAP said, "Somnath is filing an appeal. We are confident that justice will be done to him at the appellate level. He is a very popular leader and is loved by everyone in his constituency. He works 24 hours for his people. People are quite

besides those aged above 50. Prime Minister Modi and all Union and state ministers and lawmakers are likely to get jabbled.

He also added, apart from providing technical support, the Pakistani establishment had carefully studied the soil engineering to see whether it can sustain a tunnel or not and also provided other logistics to smoothly execute the task. "All this is done as per their nefarious designs and with an aim to disturb peace in the region", IG BSF said.

The area where the tunnel was detected remained active in the past as well. BSF had shot down a Pakistani Helicopter carrying load of weapons and ammunition in June 2020 in the same area. BSF troops had also foiled an infiltration bid in the same area in Nov 2019 wherein BSF troops had fired upon the party trying to infiltrate into India. Earlier, BSF had detected a 20-25 feet deep and 160 metres long cross border tunnel, along the International border in the Regal area of Samba sector on November 22, 2020. The tunnel was believed to be used by the four-member fideayen squad (members of a suicide squad) of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), to infiltrate into the Indian territory before they were neutralised at Ban Toll Plaza near Nagotra on November 19.

Another 'rat hole' tunnel, which was at least 25 feet deep and 170 metres long, was detected by the Border Security Force (BSF) jawans along the International border in Galar village of Samba sector on August 28, 2020. Besides the 1,700-km-long LAC sector in Ladakh, the armed forces have ramped up their military strength in terms of personnel and weapons all along the other LAC stretching from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.

The court, however, acquitted Bharti's associates and co-accused — Jagat Saini, Dileep Jha, Sandeep Sonu and Rakesh Pandey — citing a lack of evidence against them. The case was lodged on the basis of a complaint from R S Rawat, Chief Security Officer, AIIMS. Bharti had told the court that police officials and other witnesses had deposed against him in order to falsely implicate him in the case. The AAP said, "Somnath is filing an appeal. We are confident that justice will be done to him at the appellate level. He is a very popular leader and is loved by everyone in his constituency. He works 24 hours for his people. People are quite

LALU SHIFTED...

"He is likely to be shifted to AIIMS today. We have already spoken to the experts at AIIMS," he added. Dr Prasad further said that the authorities and his family are arranging for an air ambulance to shift him to AIIMS-Delhi. On Friday, Prasad's wife Rabri Devi, daughter Misa Bharti, sons Tej Pratap and Tejashwi reached Ranchi and met him in the night. According to PTI, Tejashwi told reporters that his father's condition was worrisome. Tejashwi also met Chief Minister Hemant Soren at his residence during the day to seek cooperation from the state government in arranging to take his father to Delhi.

Varanasi second in NRLM ranking in Uttar Pradesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district has been ranked second in the state till December last in the implementation of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) which is an important scheme being launched with the support of Central government for the economically backward, exploited and deprived women in rural areas. Under the scheme, the poor women are identified on the basis of socio-economically backwardness and they are linked to the groups by providing various types of training and funds. District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma has informed that more than 7,000 groups have been formed in the district under the scheme, in which more than 84,000 families have been benefited.

According to him, after joining the groups, women get start funds for running their groups and receive bank loans as revolving funds at the rate of ₹.15,000 per group to meet the small needs and a maximum of 1,10,000 per group as community investment funds for starting larger needs and livelihood work.

The district has got the second position in the state-level December ranking under the scheme. The ranking is done on 24 indicators including group formation, account opening, bank linkage, linking livelihood and providing funds.

Women join the groups in the district to make papad, fish farming, animal husbandry, floriculture, agriculture and vegetable farming, grocery store, crown making, nutrition garden, running Prerna canteens, giving food in primary health centres, fruit and veg-

etable supply to Kasturba Gandhi girl schools and sewing in view to get employment on one hand and help their families increase incomes on the other. The educated women in these groups are now making other women of their own groups aware of savings, insurance and pension etc and also helping other sister groups coming to the banks for loans. The women of the group are also actively participating in other government sponsored programs like Cleanliness Fortnight, Plastic Free Campaign, World Breastfeeding Day, Nutrition Month etc and are contributing in making them successful.

Meanwhile, DM who is also District Election Officer (DEO), has been selected for Annual State Best Electoral Practices Award 2020 (Electoral Role Management). He will get the honours by the

Chief Election Officer, UP for his tireless effort and preparing an error-free voter list during special brief revision on 01.01.2020.

The award will be conferred on him at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Vibhuti Khand, Lucknow on National Voters Day on January 25 at 11.30 am. During the revision, out of a total of 39,549 new voters, 21,948 voters were included in the age group of 18-19, in which there were 11,413 males and 10,535 females. The gender ratio of the district has increased from 818 to 819. During the revision, the names of the 1,506 missing disabled voters were also included in the voter list while the same of 24,654 deceased, shifted and duplicate voters were removed. During the revision, 3,546 logical errors of various types existing in the voter list were corrected.

Maurya pays rich tributes to Netaji

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

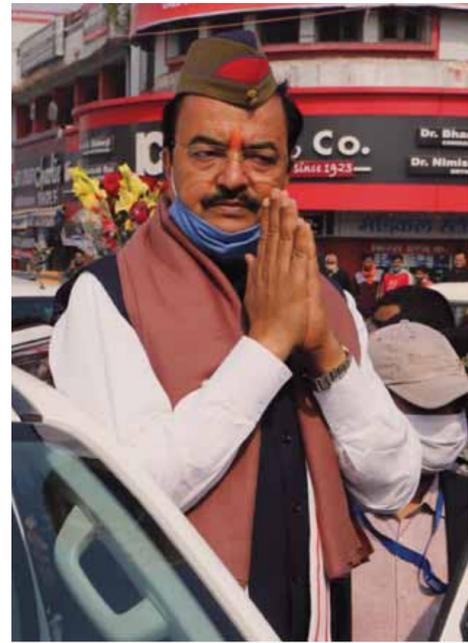
Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya reached Subhash Chowk in Civil Lines and paid rich tributes to Netaji on his 125th birth anniversary.

Several other programmes were also organised at Subhash Chowk besides at schools and colleges, and by the Bengali Social and Cultural Association.

At Maharshi Patanjali Vidya Mandir the students under the guidance of the teachers participated online to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The day was celebrated as Parakram Diwas and the students from class Vth onwards enthusiastically presented speeches, quotes, anecdotes from the life of Netaji, beautiful posters were designed with the great patriot's thoughts and slogans. The programme ended with a beautiful song 'Ai watan tujhe shat shat naman' sung by Tejas Dayal Kashyap. The Principal of the school, Sushmita Kanungo along with the senior teachers paid their homage by offering flowers to the great patriot.

KINRAR AKHARA TO PERFORM 'PESHWAI': Kinnar Akhara would perform 'peshwai' along with Juna Akhara at the upcoming Kumbh in Haridwar.

'The akhara will also participate in the 'shahi snan' and other activities along with the Juna Akhara,' Acharya Mahamandleshwar Swami



Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya returning after paying floral tribute to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary in Prayagraj on Saturday

Pioneer

Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, head of the akhara, said.

The decision was taken in a meeting of akhara office-bearers in Delhi on Thursday.

Tripathi said, 'It is a good news that Juna Akhara has also included Dandi seers and saints with them at Haridwar and all Dandi swamis and seers would also perform 'peshwai' and

'shahi snan.' They will arrive at Magh Mela on February 5 and will stay till Maghi Purnima.

INDIGO TO START FLIGHT TO BHOPAL, BHUBANESWAR, DEHRADUN: This is indeed good news for the denizens of Prayagraj. From here, approval has been given to start direct air services to Bhopal,

Bhubaneswar including Dehradun from March 28. IndiGo is going to start flights for these three cities. The slot for the three cities has also been released in the DGCA summer schedule.

Actually, Alliance Air and IndiGo have one airline each from Prayagraj to Delhi. Apart from this, IndiGo also operates direct air services to Mumbai, Pune, Raipur, Kolkata, Bangalore and Gorakhpur. In this context, air services by Indigo are also being started from Prayagraj for Dehradun, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar.

It may be pointed out here that for the three cities (Dehradun, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar), these services were to start in March last year. However, air services could not be started due to lockdown. Currently, IndiGo has also released flight schedules for Dehradun, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar starting March 28. With the introduction of air services to Dehradun, those attending Haridwar Kumbh will also get relief.

The flight will depart from Prayagraj at 1:00 pm and will reach Bhopal at 2:35 pm. In return, the flight will take off from Bhopal at 2:55 pm and will reach Prayagraj at 4:20. At the same time, there will be a flight from Prayagraj at 4:40 pm and reach Dehradun at 6:20 pm. In the return direction, one will fly from Dehradun at 7:15 pm and reach Prayagraj at 11 pm. Apart from this, it will fly to Bhubaneswar at 9:30 am and arrive at 11:30 am. In return, it will fly at 11:50 am and reach Prayagraj at 2:05 pm.

Programmes held on Netaji's birth anniversary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

To mark the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, several organisations organised various programmes in the district on Saturday.

The social organisation Vishal Bharat Sansthan held a programme at Subhash Mandir in Lamahi in which the member of All India Executive Committee of the RSS Indresh Kumar said, Netaji sacrificed his life for the cause of nation with pious intention and made effort to eradicate social evils such as discrimination in caste, untouchability and conflict in the name of religion. The president of Sansthan Dr Rajiv Srivastava and others also put their views.

The Jayanti Samaroh was organised in Premchand Nagar in which the senior RSS leaders participated. Recalling the contribution of Netaji to get country free from the British Rule, the noted haematologist Dr Manoj Kumar Srivastava said, if we think about the life of Netaji, we will find that he had always focused on nationalism and struggle and added, the government should observe the Jayanti of Netaji as Sankalp Day instead of Prakram Day, as



Senior RSS ideologue Indresh Kumar paying tributes to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Lamahi in Varanasi on Saturday

the government decided. The life of Netaji should also included in the curriculum so that the schoolchildren could aware about the works done by him for the sake of nation, he said further.

The Zila Pracharak of RSS Rajat Pratap said, Netaji had formed many organisations to get the nation free and added,

his life was like that of a Pracharak of RSS. Surendra and others were present on the occasion.

The social organisation Amar Shahid Sewa Samiti held a programme at the statue of Netaji in Durga in which the participants said, Netaji was view that the regionalism, casteism, etc weakens the

nation and added, Netaji had got success on each and every front in fighting against the British Rule. Prof Vagish Chandra Nirmal, Prof Vindyeswari Prasad Mishra, Dr Aarti Nirmal, Dr PK Pandey, Sudhanshu Chandra Pandey, LP Singh and Shiv Sunder Ganguli were mainly present on the occasion.

Road Safety Week concludes at BLW

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The 32nd Road Safety Week, organised under the aegis of Safety Section in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), concluded here on Saturday. During the week, people were made aware through banners, posters and digital media. On the last day, a seminar on road safety was organised in the auditorium of Technical Training Centre (TTC) in which the chief guest was Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer (PCME) Vineet Kumar Saxena, while key speaker was Dr Ankit Kumar Gupta of Banaras Hindu

University (BHU). The seminar was also attended by Principal Chief Personnel Officer Pradeep Kumar Singh, Chief Quality Assurance Manager Mahesh Kumar, Chief Safety Officer Nitin Mehrotra, Chief Marketing Manager Ganesh Tripathi, Chief Electrical Engineer (Inspection) PP Raju, CME (Service) Sunil Kumar, TTC Principal Ram Janam Choubey and other officers, supervisors and staff members of Staff Council. The seminar started with lighting of lamp and presentation of Saraswati Vandana. Deputy Chief Safety Officer US Srivastava proposed the vote of

thanks.

Earlier, General Manager (GM) Anjali Goyal inaugurated the welding simulator in the Test Lab of the Indian Railways Welding Research Institute (IRWRI), TTC in BLW here. This simulator provides training on electrode arc welding, mig welding and tig welding. By this welding simulator, one can be trained by virtual welding (augmented reality) without using any welding consumables. It is the first welding simulator for training welders in the Indian Railways. It is eco-friendly by which trainees are trained by providing virtual environment without fumes, arcs and radiation through

green training.

Non-use of a welding consumable would result in an extraordinary reduction in training costs. The cost of this simulator is ₹ 21.57 lakh and its uses will save ₹ 4.71 lakh per year. Thus the cost of this welding simulator will be recovered in four-and-half years. In addition, machine, fittings and electrical workshops were also inspected by the GM.

The function was also attended by Chief Electrical Engineer (Planning) Ranvijay, Secretary to GM Vijay, TTC Principal Ram Janam Choubey and AME (Training) Dr Bipin Kumar Srivastava.

10 new Covid cases in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 10 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Saturday, increasing the total number to 21,840. No casualty has been reported during the day and the death toll remained at 375. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 25 and 23 of them have been recovered from home isolation while two from the hospitals, increasing the number to 18,390 and 2,965 respectively. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 21,355, leaving 110 active cases. The recovery rate is 97.77 per cent, while the mortality rate is 1.71 per cent.

In the first report of the day, six positive patients were found out of 1,897 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 5,77,582 and the results of 3,421 are awaited.

negative while 21,836 were positive.

The total number of samples collected was 6,04,586. Meanwhile, mass / group corona antigen tests continued and all the 200 tests were found negative at SSPG Hospital Kabirchaura apart from 27 at CHC Shivpur, 63 at Vivekanand Hospital Belapur, 225 at LBS Hospital Ramnagar and 210 at SSH BHU. Along with this, samples of 100 from SSPG, 132 from LBS Hospital, 28 from Vivekanand Hospital and 140 from SSH BHU have been sent for RTPCR investigation.

FOMER GRAM PRADHAN, SON SHOT AT, INJURED: In an attempt of murder, a youth reportedly shot at former gram pradhan and his son at Puranpatti village, under the Chaubeypur police station on Saturday early morning and fled away from the scene. The injured were admitted trauma centre in Sir Sunderlal Hospital, BHU where

the condition of son was stated to be critical. The police raided some places to nab the attacker but to no avail.

According to the information, there is straw pile at the house of former gram pradhan of the village Surendra Kumar Pandey (65). It was said that one of his neighbours found inconvenience about 10 days ago when he was passing through the way by car where the straw pile has been kept. He said to former gram pradhan to remove the straw pile from the way and the latter denied for the same which led to a heated exchange between both. It was said that the neighbouring youth had issued life threat to former gram pradhan at that time but the latter had taken it casually.

It was said that on Friday night, the neighbour had opened fire in the air outside the house of former gram pradhan to terrorise his family but despite, this he did not take it seriously.

On Saturday early morning, Pawan Pandey (26), son of former gram pradhan fed the poddar to his cattle and thereafter was urinating along the field. In the meantime, the neighbour came there and opened the fire targeting the son from back side. He sustained two bullets one in back and another in one of leg. The cow also sustained bullet.

Hearing the gunshot, the former gram pradhan came out from the house and ran towards his son. Seeing this, the neighbour opened fire targeting him too and he received bullet at one of his leg. After committing crime, the attacker fled away from the scene.

On hearing gunshot, the villagers gathered there and rushed the injured to local community health centre where the doctors referred both to trauma centre in SSH, BHU. The condition of son was stated to be critical but same of former gram pradhan was said to be out of danger.

Felicitation ceremony organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi and Mayor Abhilasha Gupta organised a felicitation ceremony at their residence in Bahadurganj. In this, all the sector conveners, ward presidents and divisional presidents of the city south assembly constituency were invited along with the family.

On this occasion, the Cabinet Minister said that the party workers and office-bearers as well as their family members also work hard with body and soul. In such a situation, not only the worker but also their family is entitled to respect. This is the reason that everyone is being honored with family in this event. During this period, all 80 sector conveners, 28 ward presidents and 5 divisional heads along with their family were present.

Mayor Abhilasha Gupta said that 80 municipal corporators and 80 sector conveners of BJP are playing an important



role in the development of the city. On this occasion, Principal of Aryakanya Degree College, Dr Rama Singh was the chief guest. BJP city unit vice-president Anil Kesarwani Jhaller, Kishori Lal Jaiswal, Dinesh Vishwakarma, Manoj Mishra, Ranvijay Singh, Dilip Kesarwani, Manoj Gupta, Sumit Vaishya, Pankaj Gupta etc were present in the programme.

Meanwhile, Samajwadi

Party city unit president Iftekar Hussain announced the presidents of the three constituencies of the city. Advocate Om Prakash Yadav is given the City North, Abhimanyu Patel is the City Western and Mohd Gauss was made president of the City South.

Mohd Gauss will perform this responsibility for the seventh consecutive time. The three presidents were asked to

link people with the party at each booth and ward level and to promote the development works done during the SP rule.

During this, Ravindra Yadav, Mohd Askari, Vikram Singh Patel, Ramakant Patel, Mayank Yadav Janti, Pintu Yadav, Mohd Mujib, Dharampal Patel, Rahul, Jayabharat Yadav, Rohit Yadav etc were present on the occasion.

Award distribution function held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Principal Chief Engineer Award Distribution Function was held on Saturday at NCR headquarters. During the function SK Mishra, Principal Chief Engineer felicitated 98 officers and staff of Engineering department of NCR for doing commendable work.

SK Mishra greeted and congratulated the awardees. He motivated officers / employees to continue their commendable work. He directed the officers and staff for ensuring use of good quality material in construction of boundary



wall over North Central Railway, improvement in drainage arrangements in Limited Height Subways, and expediting works related to increasing the speed of trains to 160 km per hour and laid special focus on safety.

Nitin Garg, Secretary / Principal Chief Engineer, PK Gupta, Chief Project Director / Station Development, AK Dadarya, Chief Track Engineer, Narendra Kumar Singh, Chief Bridge Engineer and other officers were present on this occasion. The programme was conducted by Awadhesh Kumar Yadav, Uday Prakash Prajapati and Ratnesh Kumar.

22 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The corona report of 22 people, including a doctor and two review officers of the Allahabad High Court have come positive in the last 24 hours in Prayagraj district here on Friday night. About 6,770 people were screened during the day. About 18 people also became infected-free. No corona infected died even on the same day.

According to the Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai, the number of corona infected is steadily decreasing as the scope of testing increases. Still people are being made aware to apply masks, make

proper distances and wash hands frequently with soap.

So far a total of 28,828 people have been infected with 22 patients. About 21,259 people have been discharged from various Covid hospitals after treatment and 21,060 people have become infection-free in home isolation.

According to Dr Rishi Sahai, the medical college has received a positive report of a judicial officer, an ASI, a constable, a constable of the RAF along with the former head of the gastro department.

DEMOLISHED: In a big action against the mafia dons, the Prayagraj Development Authority on Saturday bull-

dozed the properties of Mohammad Azam and Asif alias Durrani. Both are close associates of Atique Ahmed and had accumulated properties worth crores of rupees on muscle power. Both are history sheeters and dozens of cases of serious nature of crime are pending against them.

Azam, a relative of Atique, had built illegally a market on 60 feet road in Kareli, while Durrani had constructed a double storeyed palatial house there without any approved plan.

The PDA officials reached the spot with JCB machines and heavy police force to pull down the above constructions.

The officials gave enough of time to the shopkeepers of the market and the residents of the house to remove their belongings.

Owing to heavy police deployment, no voice could be raised against the PDA action, and in the afternoon hours the JCB machines were pressed on job to demolish the above construction worth crores of rupees. The market was constructed in Kasari Masari area of Kareli under the Dhoomanganj police station.

Durrani had been working for Atique Gang for decades together as a trusted member of the gang while Azam is a relative of Atique.

Principal blames CMO for poor vaccination at medical college

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

GSVN Medical College Principal Prof RB Kamal has blamed Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra for the poor COVID-19 vaccination at the centre on the medical college campus.

The poor turn-up for vaccination at the medical college centre had come under fire. There were rumours that the majority of doctors and paramedical staff of the medical college hospital were apathetic to the vaccination. Both the medical college principal and the CMO had started washing dirty linen in public which had slowed down the process of vaccination.

The CMO had claimed that initially a list of 6,500 people who were to be vaccinated had been given the CMO office and an appeal was made that doctors should be given priority. He said the list that

was provided later had 450 names out of which only 381 had been uploaded on the official website and the remaining names which were in the old list could not be incorporated at that point of time.

Coming up strongly in support of the CMO, Additional Director Medical Health Dr GK Mishra said due to reasons best known to the frontline health workers, they were not volunteering for COVID-19 vaccine. He said this issue had to be viewed transparently and that too immediately instead of blaming each other.

This subtle message clearly showed that as the doctors and paramedical staff refrained from volunteering for the vaccine, the CMO office had to push up the names of the class four employees and clerks.

The principal blamed the CMO for the shuffle of the

names in the priority list and said the names of doctors and paramedical staff who had done their duty religiously at a time when COVID-19 was at its peak, were not incorporated in the present list.

He said this could be the main reason for the poor vaccination in the medical college, especially of doctors and paramedical staff.

He said the issue had been brought to the notice of the district magistrate and a protest had been made.

The principal claimed that when 250 plus doctors had been summoned later and they had assembled for the vaccine, they were returned that particular day.

Sources in the medical college pleading anonymity said the fact was that a very big section of doctors was playing truant and evading the vaccine for reasons best known to them.

They said when all had been summoned on the particular day that was the need for the principal to strictly and forcibly summon doctors and paramedical staff for the vaccine. They pointed out that in Kanshiram Hospital, the medical and paramedical staff were forcibly summoned when they failed to turn up for vaccination.

While the DM pleaded ignorance on the issue, he said the issue would be taken up on priority to ensure that the vaccination was carried out as per the given target.

Dr GK Mishra on Saturday claimed that "it seems there is some confusion". He, however, said this was a minor issue and would be sorted out at the earliest.

It may be mentioned here that this is not the first time that a row has erupted between the medical college and the PMS doctors.

9 more test positive in Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said 9 more people tested positive of coronavirus infection in Kanpur Nagar during the past 24 hours.

With this, the tally of confirmed coronavirus infections detected in the city reached 32,761 on Saturday evening.

The CMO said one COVID-19 death was reported in the city during the past 24 hours.

Dr Mishra said 213 active cases were undergoing treatment in the city at present. He said 3099 samples were taken in the city on Saturday for testing.

Raghav's photograph wins second prize



Raghav Gupta

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Goals are the stepping stones for realising one's dreams so to achieve them, one needs motivation to keep one moving towards them and the best motivation comes from the family. Motivation is the defining factor that turns a good thought into an immediate action and it turns a good idea into a business and positively impacts the world.

This was stated by Raghav Gupta (IRS), winner of the second prize in the UP Ecotourism Photography Competition-2020 organised by Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation.

Giving full credit to family motivation to pursue his passion of photography, he said motivation was an important life skill. He added that the reason it was important was because every person on this earth was unique and had a purpose.

He said to steward one's purpose well, one had to be motivated to work towards one's goals which helped one's dreams become a reality.

Raghav Gupta is currently posted as Deputy Director (Investigation) in Kanpur Nagar and he bagged the second prize for his photograph of a snipe bird flying over a mustard field, captured at the Sandi Bird Sanctuary in Hardoi.

He said in November, 2020, entries were sought from all over the country for pictures of flora and fauna found in Uttar Pradesh. He said the names of winners and selected entries would also be published in a book.

He said this award was a memorable moment and achievement of his photography journey and the credit went to the family.

Recently, Gupta's photograph of swamphen bird near Kanpur Ganga Barrage was also awarded the third place by Wildlife Institute of India (Dehradun) on the occasion of Wildlife Week, 2020.

His photograph of a goral goat had also been selected for the renowned wildlife photography competition Nature-in-Focus 2020.

KAMDHENU CHAIR

KANPUR (PNS): Vice Chancellor of Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Dr DR Singh, said the academic council, on Saturday, unanimously approved the setting up of Kamdhenu Chair which had been the initiative of the National Kamdhenu Commission and it would mainly focus on breeding and developing better breeds of cows.

DM inspects ongoing works

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar inspected the ongoing works under AMRUT scheme on Friday. He first saw the work on the bank of Ganga from where potable water was to be lifted



and took Jal Nigam engineers to task for failing to produce the estimate, recent laboratory report etc and asked them to place the records before him in his office. About the deadline for the completion of work he was apprised that it was October last year but due to Covid-19 it got delayed and now it was targeted to be completed in November this year. The DM asked the working agency to speed up the work. The DM inspected the site of treatment plant at Laldigi and directed the officials concerned to carry out the work with quality and ensure their regular laboratory testing and that of the material. The DM was apprised that only 63 km distance could be completed against the plan of laying of new pipeline in 210 km and for the rest progress was on. He directed the engineers to get the roads

repaired after laying of pipeline. At the site the engineers were warned to place updated records during inspection in future.

VACCINATION: Divisional Commissioner Yogeshwar Ram Mishra inspected district hospital and women's hospital in connection with Covid vaccination. He inquired about the entire process, saw the arrangements related with it, registration counter, vaccination room, sitting arrangements for vaccine beneficiaries etc. The CMO apprised him of the updated guidelines. He directed the officials concerned to follow the government guidelines and take proper care of vaccines. On the occasion the DC was accompanied by CMO Dr PD Gupta, SIC district hospital Dr Kamal Kumar and other officials concerned with vaccination.

CASH RECOVERED: Police recovered ₹1 lakh cash of a man which had gone missing recently. Reports said Sheshmani Dubey of Pachavra village under Chhill police station had withdrawn ₹1 lakh from a bank. After leaving it he was stunned to find the cash missing. He tried his best to search for it but to no avail. Ultimately he approached incharge of Vaslignaj police outpost Ravi Kant Mishra. Taking the matter seriously the incharge launched a search along with his team and succeeded in recovering the money. The police later handed over the cash to Sheshmani. The police earned the appreciation of the residents of Vaslignaj area for it.

Howrah-Kathgodam spl extended

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration has for the convenience of the passengers decided to extend the run of 03019/03020 Howrah-Kathgodam-Howrah daily puja special train. Consequently, the 03019 Howrah-Kathgodam daily puja special to run till January 31 has been extended till March 31 while the 03020 Kathgodam-Howrah daily puja special to run till February 2 has been extended till April 2. All coaches in this train will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, Chief Public Relations Officer PK Singh said.

TWO GIRLS FOUND: Railway Protection Force (RPF), North Eastern Railway (NER), makes constant efforts to protect passengers and

provide them better travel facilities. In the same sequence, the RPF, Daliganj, found two girls aged 10 and 11 years respectively in an unclaimed condition on platform No 01 of Daliganj railway station recently. After interrogation, the two girls were handed over to the Child Line, Daliganj. Besides the RPF, Basti, and CIB, Gorakhpur area, caught two persons with 11 illegal e-tickets from a shop in Kusaura Bazar. Action was taken against them under the Railway Act and a case was registered in this regard. The RPF post, Kasganj, caught one person from a shop who will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, Chief Public Relations Officer PK Singh said.

NCL gets 'Coal Minister-2020' Award

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a flagship subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL), was conferred with the prestigious 'Coal Minister-2020' Award by the Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, Pralhad Joshi recently. NCL has been given this award for outstanding performance in production and productivity in the year -2020 at a function held in New Delhi. CMD Prabhat Kumar Sinha and Director (Personnel) Bimlendu Kumar received the award on behalf of NCL. The award has been given to NCL for meeting the energy requirements of the nation by excelling and adopting innovative mechanisms in production and productivity in its coal mines. In the 'Chintan Shivir' held in February last year Coal India was given a target of one billion tonnes coal production by year 2023-24 to make the country self-reliant in coal sector. Aiming to create positive competitive climate and to recognise the innovative and relentless endeavours taken in the coal sector, the 'Coal Minister-2020' Award was announced in categories like production and productivity, safety and sustainability. NCL CMD PK Sinha and other functional directors congratulated the employees and stakeholders of the company for this achievement and

expressed the hope that the NCL family will set new records in future too. Meanwhile the newly-constructed CHP of NCL Krishnasila Project was also inaugurated and dedicated to the nation by the Coal Minister during the award function by virtual means. The inaugurated CHP with a coal handling capacity of four million tonnes per annum (MTPA) is equipped with the state-of-the-art and environment-friendly technologies such as rapid loading system, 3,000 ton capacity silo, 15,000 ton capacity bunker, dust extinguishing technology, fire hydrant system, coal crusher, pre-way hopper etc. With the construction of this CHP, there will be a reduction in coal transport of about 10,000 tons per day by road, resulting in a reduction in environmental pollution. Notably, the NCL is spending about ₹2,700 crore capital expenditure on nine projects of first-mile connectivity. The implementation of FMC projects will facilitate coal transportation from mechanised conveyors and loading from computerised silos, which will pave the way to dispatch of more than 130 MT of coal in environmentally friendly ways and simultaneously will curb the coal transportation by road. NCL is also playing a pivotal role in reducing coal imports of the nation.

Conference on open cast mining tech inaugurated

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Coal India Limited (CIL), the world's largest coal producing company, Pramod Agrawal, on Friday inaugurated the two-day 'International Conference on Open Cast Mining Technology and Sustainability' ICOMS 2020 held in NCL through virtual medium. In his presidential address during the programme, Agrawal described the organising of ICOMS 2020 in the present situation as very relevant for the coal industry where the world's reputed mining professionals, technical experts, academicians, scientists, researchers and students are brainstorming and presenting research papers to give a new direction to the coal sector in accordance with the country's dynamic economy. On the occasion Agrawal underlined production, productivity and financial benefits along with environmental balance and commitment towards the educational and economic development of the nearby society, their health and safety as a criterion of the long-term development of the company. During the programme NCL Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) Prabhat Kumar Sinha, Director (Personnel) Bimalendu Kumar (through virtual medium), Director (Technical/ Operations) Dr Anindya Sinha, Director (Finance) Ram Narayan Dubey, Director (Technical/Project & Planning) SS Sinha, JCC Member BMS PK Singh, from CMOAI Sarvesh Singh, former General Managers of NCL, departmental heads from the headquarters, Regional General Manager, from IIT (BHU) Prof Piyush Rai and his team, officers and employees from various areas of NCL were present. NCL CMD Prabhat Kumar Sinha, who was present as a distinguished guest on the occasion, said that 'ICOMS' in open cast coal mining provides a platform for sharing the

latest global technologies, innovations and researches which brings multi-faceted benefits to the coal industry. Sinha said that NCL in the direction of making the country self-sufficient in the coal sector will through eco-friendly mediums produce and despatch 130 MT of coal by the year 2023-24. For this about ₹7,000 crores will be spent on modernisation and development of structures. He said that in the light of the growing energy needs of the nation, coal will continue to play an important role for the next several decades. In the near future NCL will also play a significant role in reducing coal imports in the country. In the exhibition organised on the occasion around 50 multinational companies, MSMEs and start-ups affiliated with the NCL-IIT BHU Incubation Centre are showcasing the latest technology and innovations related to the mining sector. On the other hand, Director (Technical/Operations) of NCL Dr Anindya Sinha said through this event we are studying better and environmental methods of coal mining and new possibilities in the field of clean energy. Dr Sinha expressed the company's commitment towards coal production, safety, restoration of ecosystem and overall development of the surrounding community while keeping environment in mind. The IIT (BHU) while playing an important role as a knowledge partner in organising 'ICOMS', provided assistance in research papers selection, website management and other technical support. A number of start-up companies supported by NCL-IIT BHU Incubation Centre are making everyone aware of their innovative products at the exhibition organised during the conference. During the programme General Manager (CP) Satish Jha welcomed all the guests and GM Nigahi JP Dwivedi proposed the vote of thanks.



Ensure uninterrupted pumping of sewage at tapped nullahs: DC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar has directed Jal Nigam general manager to arrange standby generators at all the five temporarily tapped points so that the pumping work is not hampered in case of power failure.

He has also directed the Jal Nigam GM to depute a junior engineer for each of the temporarily tapped nullahs and direct them to visit the site daily and report the situation in writing to the EE, SE and GM on a daily basis.

He said the Government of India and the Uttar Pradesh government through the National Mission on Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Namami Gange were doing tremendous work in this direction. He said this included mega awareness camp, setting of new STPs, tapping of all sources of sewage flow, setting up of new pumping stations. He said keeping Ganga clean and ensuring its flow in abundance should be the priority of every one.

The divisional commissioner took a round of all the ghats and nullahs on a boat along with officials of Jal Nigam, Kanpur Nagar Nigam and district administration on Saturday.

He was accompanied by BK Garg, GM Jal Nigam (Ganga Pollution Control Unit), apar nagar ayukt, chief engineer Irrigation, EE Jal Nigam, EE Kanpur Nagar Nigam and other Irrigation, Jal Nigam officials. He toured from Atal Ghat to Siddhant Mandir near Budhiya Ghat.

A total of 16 major nullahs used to discharge their waste and storm water into the Ganga earlier and out of these 11 have



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar inspecting various ghats on Saturday

Pioneer

been fully tapped under the Namami Gange project and have been connected to nearby sewage pipelines. Five nullahs have been tapped temporarily by making a pit (sump well) near the entry point and then pumping the waste water to the nearby sewage pumping station by motor pumps.

The DC witnessed the effluent released in the Gola Ghat nullahs and the Dubka nullah. He asked the Jal Nigam GM to take note of the same and get it rectified immediately. The Gola Ghat nullah, which was tapped on a temporary basis, was overflowing because of power failure at the point

and it was immediately rectified by the Jal Nigam and the sewage was stopped.

Shekhar stressed on monthly random inspection of all the ghats and nullahs for any discharge and asked officials to ensure that all nullahs were tapped effectively. He said the local administration would depute two high resolution drone cameras to fly over the Ganga for the whole length of the city to check the discharge from nullahs.

He said the GPS coordinates of all the nullahs and ghats would be fed in the drone camera and they would be monitored from the control

room. The Jal Nigam GM informed the divisional commissioner that a project estimate of Rs 48 crore was sent to Government of India through the UP government under the Namami Gange project to fully tap and connect the temporarily tapped five nullahs to the nearby pumping stations. He said if the proposal was approved, then the pending works would be completed in six months after the sanction of funds.

The DC directed the Jal Nigam GM to follow up the proposal personally and get it sanctioned as soon as possible.

KDA VC redresses grievances of allottees

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh heard the grievances of the allottees and other applicants in the 3-day grievance redressal camp being organised from Thursday.

As many as 135 applications relating to Zones 2 and 4 received on Friday were taken up by the vice chairman and other officials. On the complaint of some of the applicants about the lack-adaisical attitude of the KDA employees in executing their work relating to mutation, registry and layout, the vice chairman directed the officials to quickly resolve the allottees' problems within prescribed time limit.

The applicants who appeared in person before the KDA vice chairman included Chandrapal, Sangam Tewari, Shyam Tewari, Ram Naresh, Shiv Nath Singh, Shahnawaz, Arti Shukla, Shiv Bahadur Singh Chandel and Kali Charan. KDA Secretary SP Singh, Additional Secretary Gudakesh Sharma, OSD Alok Kumar Verma, Joint Secretary KK Singh, Executive Engineer

Manoj Upadhyaya and Ashu Mittal were present in the camp.

Earlier on Thursday, 113 applications were received relating to Zone 1 and Bulk Sale department and were heard and resolved by the officials.

Complaints relating to Zone 3 and World Bank were heard on Saturday.

STP CONTRACT WORKERS THREATEN TO INTENSIFY STIR: Members of Ganga Pradushan Evam Jal Nigam Shramik Sangh, Kanpur, have threatened to intensify their agitation if the district administration tries to create hurdles in their ongoing stir against the privatisation of 130 MLD sewage treatment plant in Jajmau.

Addressing media persons on Saturday, Ganga Pradushan Evam Jal Nigam Shramik Sangh president Sunil Tewari and general secretary Diwari Lal Tewari said they had been sitting on indefinite dharna at the main gate of the sewage treatment plant since January 15. They said that the Jal Nigam had awarded the tender of the sewage treatment plant to a private company in 2018 and it had

refused to accommodate the contract workers engaged there for the past around 30 years.

The trade union leaders said they were staging a dharna before the main gate of the sewage treatment plant since January 15 and would intensify the agitation if they were forcibly removed from there by the district administration.

Shyam Singh, Vinod Tewari, Rakesh, Narendra Bajpai, Sita Kant, Babulal, Gorakhnath, Yogendra, Santosh, Kamlesh Singh, Sanjay and Anil Sharma were also present at the press conference.

TRADER ABDUCTED, RESCUED BY COPS: A sanitary hardware trader was abducted by car-borne suppliers from his Barra house on Friday.

The trader's wife lodged an FIR against four persons, including one Anil Gupta.

With the help of electronic surveillance, the police, on Saturday, traced out the abductors and rescued the trader from their clutches. Three abductors were also arrested from Shahjahanpur. According to reports,

Pawan Kumar Tewari lives with wife, Seema, and son, Pratham, in Barra-3. He runs a sanitary hardware shop in Barra-8.

According to Seema, there was a slump in trade as her husband, Pawan Kumar Tewari, was suffering from heart disease. The goods were supplied from the factory of Jitesh Gupta of Shahjahanpur.

On account of slump in sales, Rs 1.40 crore was due for payment by Tewari since 2018. During talks held a few days ago, it was decided that Tewari would pay Rs 25,000 per month to Gupta.

When Tewari failed to pay the first installment of Rs 25,000 on January 20, factory manager Anil Gupta along with three others arrived here by car on Friday and abducted the trader.

In the evening, when Seema contacted her husband, he informed her about his presence in Shahjahanpur. Thereafter, Seema lodged FIR with the police and with the help of electronic surveillance, the cops rescued the trader and arrested three persons from Shahjahanpur.

'Terrorists planning IED blasts on R-Day in J&K'



RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

A group of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) is preparing for a Lethpora (February, 2019) type IED attack in Jammu and Kashmir in the run up to the Republic Day celebrations or in the subsequent period.

Other groups like Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and Hizbul Mujahideen are separately fabricating IEDs to carry out hits in the Valley.

A group of the LeT operating in Hajin area have fabricated an IED and concealed it at an undisclosed location in Parry Mohalla, Hajin in Bandipore district of Jammu and Kashmir, according to an input with the security agencies.

The IED is likely to be used in the Pattan-Baramulla highway stretch to target security forces in the near future, according to the input.

An IED is being fabricated in village Gundibagh under Kakapora police station in Pulwama) by the JeM operatives for the planned hit.

Sameer Ahmad Dar, a local terrorist of JeM along with three to four other militants are involved in this preparation, according to the inputs.

Sameer Ahmad Dar is being assisted by Riyaz Ahmad Dar alias Khalid of LeT/The Resistance Front. Two bags of around 15-20 kg each of explosive material are in their possession for fabrication of the IED, the inputs have revealed.

Sameer Ahmad Dar is cousin of Adil Ahmed Dar, who carried out the CRPF convoy attack on February 14, 2019 at Lethpora, Pulwama.

Another group of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militants is planning an IED attack on security forces near Lethpora, Pulwama around January 26, 2021. An IED weighing around 15 kg, fabricated in a gas cylinder, has been prepared.

Security forces camps of CRPF and a nearby Army camp on National Highway-44 and a security force Naka (check post) near Ladhoo Crossing (NH-44), where a SF vehicle is routinely parked, are assessed to be likely targets.

A recce of the area has already been carried out by the Hizbul operatives.

Protect transgenders' rights, sensitise police, UTs, States told

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has written a letter to all chief secretaries of Union Territories and States on protection of rights of transgender persons and also directed them to sensitise police and prison officials in this regard.

The Ministry has also said that all States are required to protect and rehabilitate transgenders.

"The law mandates adequate steps to be taken by the State Governments/Union Territories for not only providing for welfare measures to be taken but steps to be taken for rescue, protection and rehabilitation of a transgender person," read the MHA's letter.

The MHA has said that under section 18 of the Transgenders (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, it is a punishable offence in case anyone compels or entices a transgender person to indulge in the act of forced or bonded labour other than any compulsory service for public purposes imposed by the government.

While giving details of the act, MHA said if someone denies a transgender person the right of passage to a public place or obstructs such person from using or having access to a public place to which other members have access to or a right to use, forces or causes a transgender person to leave the household,



village or other place of residence, it also falls under the category of punishable offence.

The MHA highlighted that harming or injuring or endangering the life, safety, health or well-being, whether mental or physical, of a transgender person or tending to do acts including causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse is also a punishable offence.

"Rule 11 provides for adequate measures to be taken to prevent non-discrimination of transgender persons, including setting up of a Transgender Protection Cell under the charge of District Magistrate in each District and a State Level Cell under the Director General of Police, to monitor cases of offences against transgender persons and ensure timely registration, investigation and prosecution of such offences," read the letter.

"You are requested to initiate necessary measures in terms of the Act immediately and undertake necessary sensitization programmes for the police and prison officials," the MHA stated.

Rabi crops sowing acreage touches all time high this season

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Rabi crops sowing acreage has touched an all time high this season. According to data furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture, rabi crop sowing completed 675 lakh hectare this year, up from 662 lakh hectare last year, an increase of 2.86 percent. This is an indication that farmers have not boycotted the farming activities despite protests since October last year.

The record rabi crops sowing acreage is the indication they participated in the protests in a planned manner. With a majority of farmers pitching in at Delhi borders in protest against the new central farm laws, their family members have been left taking care of standing wheat crop in the field and other allied activities back home. In absence of adult males, women have taken the charge of irrigating fields, sprinkling fertilisers in them, tending cattle, milking cows and chopping fodder for them. In some villages, committees have also been formed in several villages where fellow villagers irrigate crops of those who are at the protest site. The sowing in the current season is not over yet while their protest enters the 59th day.

As per the data, all major rabi crops, barring a few coarse cereals, surpassed the area planted in the previous season, which was by far the best, already.

As per the data, all major rabi crops, barring a few coarse cereals, surpassed the area planted in the previous season, which was by far the best, already

With 345 lakh hectare acreage, the coverage of wheat has also touched the highest level 3.13% more than last year. Much of the increase in wheat planting was reported from Madhya Pradesh — which planted an additional area of 8.3 lakh hectare, Maharashtra 1.07 lakh hectare and Bihar 0.84 lakh hectare more. Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Uttarakhand among those states which planted less wheat this season. Madhya Pradesh has surpassed Punjab in wheat cultivation for the past two years.

The paddy acreage has also gone up sharply by 15.24% from last year but significantly down by more than 28% as compared to average area during this time. Much of the increase in rice area came from Telangana which planted an additional 3.49 lakh hectare under rice.

Gram and mustard are two other crops which have done exceedingly well in terms of cov-

erage. Gram has been planted over nearly 111 lakh hectare, while mustard fields covered close to 74 lakh hectare. At the end of the previous rabi season, the area of gram and mustard was around 107 lakh hectare and 70 lakh hectare, respectively.

However, there is a dip in area under coarse cereals. As compared to nearly 55 lakh planted in the same week last year, coarse cereals covered only around 51 lakh so far.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar congratulated farmers in the country for their tireless hard work. "Despite the corona epidemic, farmers have achieved record area coverage under rabi crops as well as in kharif season, which is remarkable," Tomar said.

According to summer crop campaign, a target of 51 lakh has been fixed to cover summer season with pulses, oil seeds and nutri-cereals crops this season. Further, as per 4th Advance Estimates (2019-20), total food grains production in the country is estimated at 296.65 million tonnes, and horticulture production 319.57 which will be an all time record in 2019-20.

The pulses and oilseeds production is at 23.15 and 33.42 million tonnes, respectively. Production of cotton is being estimated at 354.91 lakh bales with which India is set to rise to the top producing countries in the world.

'High blood sugar may increase risk of Alzheimer's'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

People with high blood sugar may have an increasing risk of Alzheimer's than those with normal blood sugar—whether or not their blood-sugar level technically made them diabetic — scientists said on the basis of following the health status of over 5,189 people for over 10 years.

In other words, the higher the blood sugar, the faster the cognitive decline, said their longitudinal study which has been published in the journal Diabetologia.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease needing intake of insulin injection, and type 2 diabetes is a chronic disease caused by diet.

"Dementia is one of the most prevalent psychiatric conditions strongly associated with poor quality of later life," said the lead author, Wuxiang Xie at Imperial College London.

"Currently, dementia is not curable, which makes it very important to study risk factors," Melissa Schilling, a



professor at New York University, performed her own review of studies connecting diabetes to Alzheimer's in 2016.

She sought to reconcile two confusing trends. People who have type 2 diabetes are about twice as likely to get Alzheimer's, and people who have diabetes and are treated with insulin are also more likely to get Alzheimer's, suggesting elevated insulin plays a role in Alzheimer's.

In fact, many studies have found that elevated insulin, or "hyperinsulinemia," significantly increases your risk of Alzheimer's. On the other hand, people with type 1 dia-

betes, who don't make insulin at all, are also thought to have a higher risk of Alzheimer's.

How could these both be true? Schilling posits this happens because of the insulin-degrading enzyme, a product of insulin that breaks down both insulin and amyloid proteins in the brain—the same proteins that clump up and lead to Alzheimer's disease.

People who don't have enough insulin, like those whose bodies' ability to produce insulin has been tapped out by diabetes, aren't going to make enough of this enzyme to break up those brain clumps. Meanwhile, in people who

use insulin to treat their diabetes and end up with a surplus of insulin, most of this enzyme gets used up breaking that insulin down, leaving not enough enzyme to address those amyloid brain clumps.

According to Schilling, this can happen even in people who don't have diabetes yet—who are in a state known as "prediabetes."

Diabetes can also weaken the blood vessels, which increases the likelihood that you'll have mini-strokes in the brain, causing various forms of dementia.

A high intake of simple sugars can make cells, including those in the brain, insulin resistant, which could cause the brain cells to die.

The extra fat in obese people releases cytokines, or inflammatory proteins that can also contribute to cognitive deterioration, doctors say.

Diabetes may also increase the risk of developing mild cognitive impairment (MCI), a condition in which people experience more thinking (cognitive) and memory problems than are usually present in normal aging.

India has received 8 Rafale jets, 3 more expected by month end: IAF chief

PTI ■ JODHPUR

Eight Rafale aircraft have already arrived in India and three more are expected by the end of this month, Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria said here on Saturday. The IAF chief was speaking at a press conference after the conclusion of 'Exercise Desert Knight-21' held in Jodhpur by the air forces of India and France.

He said IAF has initiated a fifth-generation fighter aircraft programme with the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) and plans to incorporate some sixth-generation capabilities in it as well. "Our present vision is to incorporate all the latest technologies and sensors in our fifth-generation aircraft," Bhadauria said.

"We started work on fifth-generation aircraft a little late. So technologies and sensors contemporary to that period of development would be added into fifth-generation fighters," he added.

'Exercise Desert Knight-21' held by Air Forces of India and France

Bhadauria said when IAF received the Rafale aircraft, the first priority was to operationalise it and integrate it with the existing combat fleet. "It has already been done, and the current exercise Desert Knight was the result of that," he said.

"We have some Indian pilots training in France and some in India itself. We have enough pilots to have a right pilot-cockpit ratio," the Air Chief Marshal said, adding that the entire induction would be completed by next year.

Earlier, Bhadauria congratulated both the air forces for successfully completing the exercise in just four days. Desert Knight-21 was scheduled to be held over five days.

"It is not in terms of interoperability which has been learnt in this exercise, but

employment of best practices, operational philosophies and mutual as well as professional interaction," he said.

Later, talking to the media, French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain said bilateral cooperation between the two countries has been going on ever since the first French aircraft landed in India in 1953.

"Now Rafale is the reflection of this strengthened cooperation and partnership," Lenain said.

He said this partnership has persisted through good and bad times.

"When India faced difficulties during its atomic test in Pokran in 1998, we were at your side while other countries opposed and objected. And we were also by your side in cooperative manner when you had difficulties with one of your neighbours," the ambassador said.

He said this exercise would further help in building mutual trust and pave the way for more cooperation.

Severe cold likely to prevail in northwestern India till Jan 27

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

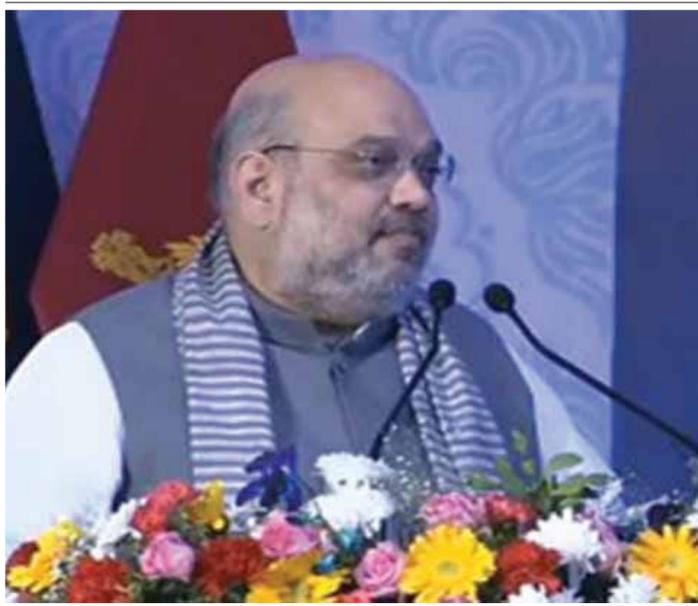
The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted cold wave to severe cold wave conditions in isolated pockets of northwestern India starting Sunday till January 27. IMD has also issued orange alerts for Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Chandigarh and Uttar Pradesh for Sunday. The warning for Delhi, Punjab, Chandigarh and Haryana are from Sunday to Monday to alert citizens for dense fog and cold weather conditions.

The IMD said, cold wave to severe cold wave conditions likely to prevail over north Rajasthan during January 24-27, 2021. While Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh can witness cold to severe cold waves during January 26-27.

The IMD explained that the weather conditions were influenced by a western disturbance lying over Afghanistan and the presence of cyclonic circulation in lower levels over central Pakistan and Punjab northern Indian states including the Himalayas can likely witness rain, thunderstorm and snow during the next few days. A cold day is declared when the minimum temperature is below 10°C and the maximum temperature is 4.4°C below the regional normal.

Dense to very dense fog in isolated pockets of northern plains of India comprising states like Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, north Rajasthan, Bihar and north Madhya Pradesh has also been anticipated during the next 2-3 days.

"Dense to very dense Fog in isolated/some pockets very likely over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, UP, north Rajasthan, Assam and Meghalaya and Manipur and Tripura during next 4-5 days; over Bihar, north Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim and Odisha during next 2-3 days," the IMD said.



Home Minister Amit Shah launches Ayushman CAPF for paramilitary in Assam

Legal education in the country needs urgent reforms: SC judges

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There is an urgent need for reforming legal education in the country as its quality is being affected due to the "mushrooming" of law colleges, two Supreme Court judges said on Saturday.

"I do believe we are churning out too many lawyers without any analysis of the number of lawyers required," Justice S K Kaul said.

He said the quality of legal education has suffered as a result of a large number of "not so great law colleges" and the "crying need of the hour" was to see how legal education can be improved.

Similar issues were also raised by senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi.



Referring to the concerns raised by Justice Kaul and Singhvi, Justice

N V Ramanna said, "I welcome this thought-provoking discussion and

I agree with what they have expressed. It (legal education) requires urgent and immediate reform."

"I hope something can be done and we can take up this issue in the coming days," he added.

The remarks by the two apex court judges came during an event for the release of the book — The Law of Emergency Power— authored by Singhvi and professor Khagesh Gautam,

Singhvi lamented upon the glaring absence of genuine legal research in large parts of India

who teaches law at Jindal Global Law School, on a legal and constitutional study of emergency powers.

Speaking at the event, Singhvi lamented upon the "glaring absence of genuine legal research in large parts of India".

"Part of this is due to the many factories of legal education we produce with hardly any quality control. The negative impact of the stratification of law colleges must be urgently addressed.

"Central universities set up by Parliament operate their law faculty as law schools, while state universities act mostly as affiliating universities which are affiliating colleges set up by private trusts and societies," he said.

ED files chargesheet against Haryana firm, directors for duping 31L investors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate Saturday said a money laundering chargesheet has been filed against a Haryana-based company and its directors accused of cheating about 31 lakh investors by way of a Ponzi or fraud multi-level marketing scheme.

It said a prosecution complaint or chargesheet has been

filed against Hisar-based Future Maker Lifecare Pvt Ltd and its two directors Radhe Shyam and Banshi Lal under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The chargesheet has been filed before a special PMLA court in Panchkula "with a prayer for awarding punishment to the accused persons and confiscation of attached

assets to the tune of ₹261.35 crore".

According to an ED statement Radhe Shyam and Banshi Lal, both residents of Haryana, floated companies in the name of Future Maker Life Care Pvt Ltd and FMLC Global marketing Pvt Ltd.

"Through these companies they have duped innocent persons in guise of a multi-level marketing (MLM) scheme that

promoted various Ponzi schemes in many parts of the country," the Enforcement Directorate alleged in the statement issued here.

An MLM scheme works in a pyramid structure where the persons at the top gain at the behest of the loss borne by the persons at the base of the pyramid.

The ED's money laundering case against the accused

was filed after taking cognisance of multiple Haryana and Telangana police FIRs registered against the accused for "cheating lakhs of investors".

The Haryana Police had slapped charges of cheating and conspiracy under various sections of the IPC and those under the prize chit and money circulation banning Act of 1978 read with Haryana protection of interest of

investors and entice current ones to invest more money. When other investors begin to participate, a cascading effect begins," it said.

The ED said its probe found that "around 31 lakh investors lost their money by making investments in the schemes floated by the accused".

"In this scheme, the initial investors were paid high returns to attract more

innocent persons through speeches in fancy seminars conducted across India promising high returns of up to 5-8 times of the investment in two years."

"Banshi Lal was the financial mastermind whose role was layering and laundering of the tainted money collected from the investors in various paper concerns," the ED claimed.

Ex-Gen Austin to be first Black Def Secy

Washington: The United States Senate has confirmed the nomination of General (retired) Lloyd Austin to serve as secretary of the defence department, making him the first ever African American to occupy the top Pentagon position.

The nomination was confirmed in an overwhelming 93-2 vote.

Soon he was sworn in by Tom Muir, acting director of Washington Headquarters Services. Thereafter, Austin received an intelligence briefing.

Vice President Kamala Harris would administer the ceremonial oath to Austin next week.

President Joe Biden thanked the senate for confirming Austin and working to get his cabinet in place.

"It's an honour and a privilege to serve as our country's 28th secretary of defence, and I'm especially proud to be the first African American to hold the position. Let's get to work," Austin tweeted.

A day earlier, the House of Representatives voted 326-78 to pass a waiver exempting Austin from the seven-year 'cooling off period' for retired generals taking over as defence secretary.



The senate approved the waiver by 69-27 votes.

This is the third time that Congress has given such a waiver to a retired general. The previous one being of General (retired) James Matin who was appointed as defence secretary by former President Donald Trump in January 2017 and George Marshall in 1947.

Austin had retired as a four-star Army general in 2016.

"I am honoured to have this chance to serve again and to do so alongside you and your families. My wife, Charlene, and I know all too well the sacrifices you make to keep this country safe. That safety is job one, and I promise to work as hard as you do at it," Austin said in his message to the defence forces soon thereafter.

According to new Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby, the president called Austin in the afternoon, shortly after his arrival at the pentagon.

"The president congratulated the secretary on his swift confirmation and thanked the secretary for agreeing to serve the country again. Secretary Austin expressed his gratitude to the president for his trust and confidence and for his support during the confirmation process," Kirby said.

Later in the day, Austin spoke to NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg over phone. The call was his first to a foreign leader as the defence secretary, and reinforces the importance of the NATO alliance to the US, Kirby said.

"The two leaders discussed the importance of our shared values, the current security environment including maintaining a strong NATO deterrence and defence posture, and the ongoing missions in Afghanistan and Iraq. They also briefly reviewed the upcoming NATO Defence Ministerial and agreed to discuss it again in more detail in the coming weeks," Kirby said. **PTI**

Taiwan claims 8 Chinese bomber planes, 4 fighter jets enter air space

AP ■ TAIPEI

Eight Chinese bomber planes and four fighter jets entered the southwestern corner of Taiwan's air defence identification zone on Saturday, and Taiwan's air force deployed missiles to "monitor" the incursion, the island's Defence Ministry said.

China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, has conducted almost daily flights over the waters between the southern part of Taiwan and the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands in the South China Sea in recent months.

However they have generally consisted of just one or two reconnaissance aircraft.

The presence of so many Chinese combat aircraft on this mission - Taiwan said it was made up of eight nuclear-capable H-6K bombers and four J-16 fighter jets - is unusual.

A map provided by Taiwan's Defence Ministry showed that the Chinese aircraft, which also included a Y-8 anti-submarine aircraft, flew over the same waters where the most recent Chinese missions have been taking place near the Pratas Islands, though still well away from mainland

Taiwan.

Taiwan's air force warned away the Chinese aircraft and deployed missiles to monitor them, the ministry added, using standard wording for how it responds to such activities.

"Airborne alert sorties had been tasked, radio warnings issued and air defence missile systems deployed to monitor the activity," it said in a brief statement.

There was no immediate comment from China. In the past China has said it has been carrying out exercises to defend the country's sovereignty and security.

Beijing has watched with growing concern increasing US support for democratic Taiwan, especially during Donald Trump's administration which left office on Wednesday.

Last year during visits by senior US officials to Taipei Chinese aircraft briefly crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, which normally serves as an unofficial buffer.

The flight by the Chinese bombers and fighters on Saturday came just days after Joe Biden assumed the US presidency.

UK: Debate rages over 12-week gap between Covid vaccine doses

London: Senior medics are at odds in the UK over the optimum gap between the two doses of vaccines being administered for protection against COVID-19.

The two vaccines currently being injected among the country's priority groups, Pfizer/BioNTech and Oxford/AstraZeneca, both require a booster shot a few weeks later.

Initial advice for the second dose to be delivered within 21 days was modified by the UK government scientists to up to 12 weeks apart, with the aim of vaccinating larger numbers with at least one jab to inject some level of immediate protection.

The Government's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) claims unpublished data suggest that the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is still effective with doses 12 weeks apart.

But American pharmaceutical major Pfizer has said it has tested its vaccine's efficacy only when the two doses were given up to 21 days apart, creating some doubt over its efficacy with a larger time gap.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a gap of four weeks between doses, to be extended only in exceptional circum-



stances to six weeks.

Speaking alongside UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson at a 10 Downing Street briefing in London on Friday, England's Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Professor Chris Whitty reiterated that increasing the gap between doses to a maximum of 12 weeks would allow "many more people to be vaccinated much more quickly".

In a letter to Prof. Whitty, the British Medical Association (BMA) has said it agreed that the vaccine should be rolled out "as quickly as possible" - but called for an urgent review and for the gap to be reduced.

Dr Chaand Nagpaul, chair of the BMA Council, told the BBC there were "growing concerns" that the vaccine could become less effective with doses 12 weeks apart.

"Obviously the protection

will not vanish after six weeks, but what we do not know is what level of protection will be offered [after that point]. We should not be extrapolating data when we don't have it," he said. The debate is playing out as Johnson confirmed 5.4 million people across the UK have now received their first dose of the vaccine against COVID-19, with a record 400,000 vaccinations between Thursday and Friday.

"In England one in 10 of all adults have received their first dose, including 71 per cent of over-80s and two thirds of elderly care home residents... There is much more to do, and the target remains very stretching indeed, but we remain on track to reach our goal of offering a first dose to everyone in the top four priority groups by the middle of February," said Johnson. **PTI**

Protests across Russia demand Navalny's release

Over 850 arrested

Moscow: Protests erupted in over 60 Russian cities on Saturday to demand the release of opposition leader Alexei Navalny, the Kremlin's most prominent foe.

Russian police arrested more than 850 protesters, some of whom took to the streets in temperatures as frigid as minus-50 Celsius (minus-58 Fahrenheit).

In Moscow, about 5,000 demonstrators filled Pushkin Square in the city centre, where clashes with police broke out and demonstrators were roughly dragged off by helmeted riot officers to police buses and detention trucks. Navalny's wife Yulia was among those arrested.

The protests stretched across Russia's vast territory, from the island city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk north of Japan and the eastern Siberian city of Yakutsk, where temperatures plunged to minus-50 Celsius, to



the Russia's more populous European cities.

The range demonstrated how Navalny and his anti-corruption campaign have built an extensive network of support despite official government repression and being routinely ignored by state media.

The OVD-Info group that monitors political arrests said at least 191 people were detained in Moscow on Saturday and

more than 100 at another large demonstration in St. Petersburg. Overall, it said 863 people had been arrested by late afternoon in Moscow.

Navalny was arrested on Jan. 17 when he returned to Moscow from Germany, where he had spent five months recovering from a severe nerve-agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin and which Russian authorities deny. Authorities

said his stay in Germany violated terms of a suspended sentence in a 2014 criminal conviction, while Navalny says the conviction was for made-up charges.

The 44-year-old activist is well known nationally for his reports on the corruption that has flourished under President Vladimir Putin's government.

His wide support puts the Kremlin in a strategic bind - risking more protests and criticism from the West if it keeps him in custody but apparently unwilling to back down by letting him go free.

Navalny faces a court hearing in early February to determine whether his sentence in the criminal case for fraud and money-laundering - which Navalny says was politically motivated - is converted to 3 1/2 years behind bars.

Moscow police on Thursday arrested three top Navalny associates, two of whom were later jailed for periods of nine and 10 days. **AP**

HK locks down 10K for mandatory Covid testing

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's Government locked down an area of Kowloon peninsula on Saturday after an outbreak of the novel coronavirus, saying 10,000 residents must stay home until they have been tested and the results largely determined.

The first such measure the city has taken since the pandemic began has occurred in the densely populated neighbourhoods of Jordan that is home to many ageing, subdivided flats in which the virus could spread more easily.

The Government said there are 70 buildings in the restricted area, which is close to the International Commerce Centre (ICC), and it aims to finish the process within about 48 hours, so that people can start to return to work on Monday.

Hong Kong leader Carrie



Lam said 50 makeshift testing points had been set up and 3,000 civil servants were assisting.

"We are doing this also to dispel worries of the residents because there was talk that this is an epidemic area and it affected the life, psychology and business of the people here," Lam said at a briefing close to the cordoned-off area.

By 1 pm (0500 GMT) local time on Saturday, the government said about 3,000 people had been tested in the restricted area. **AP**

French doctors: Don't talk on public transport

AP ■ PARIS

French doctors have new advice to slow the spread of the virus: stop talking on public transport.

The French Academy of Doctors issued guidance Friday saying people should "avoid talking or making phone calls" in subways, buses or anywhere in public where social distancing isn't possible. Masks have been required since May, but travellers often loosen or remove them to talk on the phone.

Other French experts are urging more dramatic measures - notably a third lockdown - France's hospitals now hold more COVID patients than in

October, when President Emmanuel Macron imposed a second lockdown. Virus patients occupy more than half of the country's intensive care beds.

Infections in France are gradually rising this month, at more than 20,000 per day. France currently has the longest virus curfew in Europe, from 6 pm to 6 am, and restaurants and tourist sites have been closed since October.

The Government has so far sought to avoid a full new lockdown. Protests are expected around France on Saturday against virus-related layoffs and to support those arrested for holding a techno rave party despite virus restrictions.

France has seen 72,647 virus-related deaths.

Petrol, diesel prices touch all-time highs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices in the country on Saturday touched new all-time highs after rates were increased for the fourth time this week.

Petrol and diesel prices were hiked by 25 paise per litre each, according to a price notification from oil marketing companies.

This took the petrol price in Delhi to ₹5.70 per litre and in Mumbai to ₹92.28.

Diesel rate climbed to ₹75.88 a litre in the national capital and to ₹82.66 per litre in Mumbai, the price data showed.

This is the second consecutive day of rate increase and the fourth this week. In all prices have gone up by Re 1 per litre this week.

Fuel prices, which vary from state to state depending on local sales tax or VAT, are now at record highs in the

country, prompting cries for a cut in excise duty to ease the burden on consumers.

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan earlier this week blamed Saudi oil output cut for the surge in oil prices but remained non-committal on tax cuts.

Top oil explorer Saudi Arabia has pledged additional voluntary output cuts of 1 million barrels per day in February and March, which has led to price climbing to most since the pandemic broke out.

State-owned fuel retailers -- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) -- had on January 6 resumed daily price revision after nearly a month-long hiatus.

Since then, rates have gone up by Rs 1.99 a litre on petrol and Rs 2.01 in case of

diesel. This comes after international oil prices firmed up on hopes of demand returning from the rollout of coronavirus vaccines in different countries, including India.

Prior to the current highs triggered by the price hikes this month, fuel prices had last touched record high on October 4, 2018.

At that time the government had cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 1.50 per litre in a bid to ease inflationary pressure and boost consumer confidence. Alongside, state-owned fuel retailers cut prices by another Re 1 a litre, which they recouped later.

This time, there are no indications of a duty cut so far.

Petrol and diesel prices are revised on a daily basis in line with benchmark international price and foreign exchange rates.

Policy proposal for employment generation, scale-up in MSME sector

ANS ■ NEW DELHI

A new policy proposal for creating an Udyog Sahayak Enterprises Network (USENET) was released on Saturday. The proposal is the result of a collaboration between Azim Premji University, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

The report proposes the creation of a support system that will improve Ease of Doing Business for largely informal micro and small entrepreneurs. Udyog Sahayak Enterprises will take services such as digitisation and formalisation, availing of government loans, subsidies or other benefits, ensuring compliance with local, regional and national regulations, aiding partnership with digital marketing platforms and digital payment platforms, to the micro-entrepreneurs at their doorstep.

The report estimates that by enabling scale-up, USENET can aid in the creation of an

Presenting the policy proposal, Chairman FICCI Telangana State Council and co-author of the report, T. Muralidharan underlined the problem of 'jobless growth' and pointed out that we are in danger of losing our demographic dividend

additional 1 crore (10.3 million) jobs over five years going up to nearly 6 crores (56.9 million) over 10 years. Based on value-added per worker observed in this sector and assuming a 12 per cent nominal rate of growth in GVA, these jobs represent an additional economic value of Rs 2,16,000 crores at the end of 5 years and over 19 lakh crores at the end of 10 years.

Inaugurating the event, Anurag Behar, Vice-Chancellor

of Azim Premji University, underlined the role played by automation in weakening the connection between growth in value-added and growth in jobs.

He observed that "this endeavour is truly remarkable as you are putting a possible solution out there, not only identifying a problem."

TISS Director, Prof. Sahlini Bharat, noted the resonance with TISS' mission of fostering socially relevant entrepreneurship and called the proposal "simple in approach but lofty in goal." She also observed that the idea is an excellent example of supporting technology for society.

Presenting the policy proposal, Chairman FICCI Telangana State Council and co-author of the report, T. Muralidharan underlined the problem of "jobless growth" and pointed out that we are in danger of losing our demographic dividend. He called for giving micro-entrepreneurs their due recognition in the making of the nation.

Fiscal support for growth in 2020 decade likely to be lower, says report

ANS ■ MUMBAI

The fiscal support toward economic growth in the 2020 decade is expected to be lower than in the previous corresponding period, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said in a report.

According to the report, the likely lower support will be caused due to Centre's efforts for fiscal consolidation.

Notably, the report pointed out that government has shown 'remarkable' resistance to any major stimulus, which provides further confidence that Centre's finances could improve consistently over the next decade.

"While the fiscal deficit would remain above 3 per cent of GDP for the next few years, the path to fiscal consolidation would be watched closely," the report said.

"The faster the fiscal consolidation, the lower would be the fiscal support toward economic growth and vice-versa.

It could take many years for the general government to bring its debt-to-GDP ratio (at 86 per cent of GDP in 2QFY21) back down to pre-COVID levels (of 68 per cent)."

As per the report, the growth in the 2000s decade was led by investments, while consumption was the key driver in the 2010s decade.

"The 2020s decade could be seen as the 'Healing Decade', wherein all efforts are toward just one objective - to regain lost economic strength."

"If, however, this healing does not happen, it is very likely the economy would continue to crawl sideways - with some years of decent growth and some years of weak growth - leading to subdued average growth."

Besides, the report cited that Covid impacted 2020 led to extreme behaviors, pushing financial savings sharply higher, this would start reversing from 2021 as things begin to normalise.

Vijay Mallya applies for 'another route' to stay in UK, says his lawyer

PTI ■ LONDON

Vijay Mallya, who is due to be extradited to India, has applied for "another route" to be able to stay in the UK, the embattled liquor tycoon's barrister representing him in bankruptcy proceedings in the High Court here confirmed in

the court for the first time.

The 65-year-old businessman, whose legal challenge to the Indian government's extradition request was turned down at the Supreme Court level in the UK last year, remains in Britain on bail until UK Home Secretary Priti Patel signs off on the order for him to be extra-

ditioned to India to face charges of fraud and money laundering related to the now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines.

"The extradition was upheld but he [Mallya] is still here because as you know there is another route for him to apply to the Secretary of State [Patel] for status," said

barrister Philip Marshall, when specifically asked by Deputy Insolvency and Companies Court Judge Nigel Barnett about the status of the extradition proceedings during a remote hearing on Friday.

The UK Home Office has so far only confirmed on background that a confidential legal

process remains ongoing before the extradition request, signed by the Home Secretary on February 3, 2019, can be certified and executed.

This had raised widespread speculation that Mallya had sought asylum in the UK, details of which are neither confirmed nor denied by the

Home Office in Britain while an application is pending.

It is likely that the reference made by Mallya's barrister is to an asylum route which, according to legal experts, would depend upon whether Mallya applied for asylum prior to the extradition request or after. "He would need to argue

much stronger grounds.

There are specific rules that detail when asylum is a bar to extradition, it is clear that claiming asylum after all appeals have been exhausted is unlikely to be considered a valid claim to asylum protection," explains Toby Cadman, co-founder of

Guernica 37 International Justice Chambers and a UK-based extradition specialist.

The court on Friday also heard how Mallya, who submitted written evidence for the hearing, was in a "constrained" position as a close relative had passed away as a result of COVID-19.

HOME THEATRE

Adarsh Gourav roars



THE WHITE TIGER
Netflix
***ing: Adarsh Gourav, Priyanka Chopra, Rajkumar Rao, Mahesh Manjrekar**
Rated: 6/10

There is something about a subject on class friction that is intriguing and fascinating especially for those who are far removed from the actual reality. *The White Tiger* based on Aravind Adiga's book by the same name is a movie that makes for a must watch for several reasons.

First, Ramin Bahrani, the director, takes us on a journey that is filled with a satirical commentary on the class divide that exists even today and the constant struggle between the upper class and lower. With the upper class wanting to dominate the other by keeping them under their thumb by forcing them to remain in poverty.

Second, the portrayal of this scenario is extremely realistic. People who have been under the thumb of zamindars, and they still continue to be so, don't have a choice. The entire village

is a slave to one master and strangely despite the subjugation, they continue to serve the master as if it is an honour to be serving him so closely.

Third, despite the film starting off on a dark note and continues to be on a dark note till the very end, the story resonates with everyone—even those outside of India. The struggle by a poor man wanting to make it big in life is what almost all of us aspire.

Fourth, and the most important is the absolutely brilliant and awesome performance by Adarsh Gourav. This actor-singer as Balram Halwai, a slave to his master, who dreams of becoming something in life plays the part to a T. From a driver to the owner of a company, each part of his journey has been done to perfection. His fascination with things that he sees for the first time, is so natural. It is difficult to imagine anyone playing this role but Gourav. Watching him go from an unassuming personality as a driver to an entrepreneur who is comfortable in his skin is amazing to watch.

Definitely, Gourav is the white tiger here who roars brilliantly.

TELLY TALE

'IPML WAS WAJID'S DREAM'

Zee TV has been a front-runner in revolutionising television content over the past three decades and it is all set to change the face of music reality shows once again with its latest non-fiction property, the *Indian Pro Music League* (IPML). In what will be a clutter-breaking format innovation, Zee TV is all set to present audiences with the world's first ever music league in early 2021. While the world of sports has seen several league



competitions, this unique music league will have six teams representing different regions of India, battling it out against each other in a musical championship. Each of these six teams supported by leading Bollywood and sports celebrities will have top playback singers as their captains, one reality show star and one fresh voice. The likes of Mika Singh, Kailash Kher, Sajid Khan, Shaan, Ankit Tiwari, Javed Ali, Asees Kaur, Bhoomi Trivedi, Akriti Kakar, Payal Dev, Neha Bhasin, Shilpa Rao have been signed on to captain the six zonal teams.

For such a mammoth music reality show, the channel recently launched a vibrant anthem that showcased each of its 12 team captains coming together for the very first time. Composed by Sajid - Wajid, this musical masterpiece is amongst the last few compositions of the duo before Wajid Khan's tragic demise. In fact, Wajid was one of the first people on board for the show and Indian Pro Music League was his dream as per Sajid Khan. He was so passionate about it that the late musician worked on it ever since the idea was born. After Wajid passing away, Sajid is fulfilling and living his brother's dream.

As the captain of Delhi Dhurrandhars and the composer of the Indian Pro Music League anthem, Sajid Khan, revealed: "I have been associated with this show since its start, in fact, the owners and Wajid had dreamt about this show together and they

were all working towards it. He had told me that I needed to be a part of the show and hence, I came on board for it. So, the Indian Pro Music League was Wajid's dream and here I am putting my 500 per cent into it."

TIMNASA PLANS TO TRAP PICHKU

After Bhayrani Timnasa's (Pavitra Punia) comeback in Sony SAB's *Baalveer Returns*, havoc has redefined itself. The upcoming episodes will witness Timnasa getting even fiercer than before. After poisoning Baalveer (Dev Joshi) with a spider and leaving him paralyzed, she has set her eyes on someone who can be the ultimate catalyst for destruction.

With her newly acquired powers, Timnasa creates a magical spider which secretly bites Baalveer, leaving him partly paralyzed. Unable to heal Baalveer, the fairies and Shaurya decide to get a baby ghost — Pichku out his box who easily heals Baalveer. Pichku a mischievous but an immensely powerful baby ghost has been residing in Veer Lok where he couldn't be manipulated and misused by any evil.

While Pichku heals Baalveer, Timnasa, through a magical portal, witnesses the entire act and decides to get her hands on Pichku who can aid her to create the ultimate havoc on earth. On the other hand, as Vivaan (Vansh Sayani) goes back on earth from Veer Lok, Pichku secretly reaches Vivaan's house on earth. Pichku reveals that he has not been able to go back to his planet and to return, he is required to do one good deed.

Will Pichku be able to perform a good deed before Timnasa captures him? How will Vivaan help Pichku reach his home?

Vansh Sayani, essaying the role of Vivaan said, "When I learnt about this baby ghost story, it was thrilled and I am sure everyone will love mischievous and cute Pichku. The upcoming episode will witness Timnasa's deadly trap for Pichku and it will be upon both the Baalveers to ensure Pichku accomplishes his good task in order to reach his planet but it will not be that easy. With Timnasa's return, the challenges ahead of Vivaan and Debu are dangerous and it will be exciting to watch how Vivaan helps Pichku. On the other hand, it has been exciting to have Pavitra di back on the sets and shooting with her again was a wonderful experience."

Plan Your Day

Heritage of India Exhibition

Venue: Good Earth City Centre Mall, Sector 50, Gurugram, Haryana
When: Till January 26, 2021
Time: 12 noon to 8 pm

Extending the holidays season, Good Earth City Centre mall presents a rejuvenating Indian Artisans' Exhibition-cum-festival, curated by One World Foundation — an NGO with the objective to promote artisans extending the right platform to showcase their art & craft. The event named 'Heritage of India' is set to treat you till January 26, 2021.

The extravaganza will comprise all the key artisans from different regions from all over India. Almost 40 artisans' categories including the Madhubani Paintings from Bihar, Pottery from Khurja, Tamil Nadu's Waagai Wood, Brass Artwork from Delhi and many more are going to take the spotlight over a fortnight, only at Good Earth City Centre Mall.



Wall of Hope

This year, The Body Shop is urging each one of you to come together and act on our collective power to care and transform the world into a fairer and more beautiful world. To make the Christmas magic real for every beautiful body, The Body Shop unveiled its Christmas Wall of Hope in collaboration with Delhi Street Art, showcased at Select Citywalk in Saket, New Delhi.

The Body Shop continues to shine a light on India's female wastepickers who are rarely acknowledged as frontline warriors in the Covid crisis. India has 1.5 million waste pickers — mostly women — who collect and sort over 6,000 tonnes of plastic every day that would otherwise pollute rivers and oceans. To give back to this community of green crusaders, The Body Shop launched Project NARI (Nutrition | Ability | Retraining | Inclusion) in association with Plastics for Change India Foundation in October, 2020. With the ambition of raising up to ₹5 million till March 2021, the project benefits female wastepickers in Karnataka with PPE kits, direct financial support, daily meals, nutrition supplements, healthcare awareness and training towards becoming plastic quality engineers. Every purchase with The Body Shop, including the new Christmas collection, will help support the safety and security for female wastepickers who are most affected by the crisis of Covid-19. So go and grab your favourite product.



Story of young dreams

GRACY BITIN GOSWAMI and KANIKA MAHESHWARI tell MUSBA HASHMI what SET's *Kyun Utthe Dil Chod Aaye*, all set to go on air from Monday, is about, their roles and how challenging it is to be a part of period drama

It is rare that one gets to see stories with deep meaning that immediately catches one's attention, on TV. A case in point is SET's *Kyun Utthe Dil Chod Aaye*. Set in 1947, Lahore, pre-partition India, the show narrates the story of three young girls — Amrit, Vashma and Radha. This story brings forth their dreams, hope, aspirations and new found love — all this at the brink of Independence. Knowing that tomorrow will be different, the three girls will set out to conquer love and will stand the test of time across borders.

Gracy Bitin Goswami, who plays Amrit tells you that it is the simplicity of the character that attracted her to play Amrit.

"It's a pre-partition era story about a girl who loves her family so much. She has many dreams, but is ready to sacrifice them for the sake of her family. This is why she decides to publish her poems with another identity so that her father, who is not a fan of such pieces, doesn't get hurt by her actions.

She goes through different stories and has many emotions. She is the reason behind everybody's smile. She is the most beautiful girl of Lahore, not only because of her appearance, but because how she is as a person.

This was the reason I was attracted to play Amrit.

Also, she is so poised and has the ability to deal with any situation. I have been wanting to play such a character. This is the first time I am not playing a teenager, whereas in my real life I am, so I will be seen emoting romance scenes. This is a big deal and break for me. So, there was no reason to turn down the project," she tells you.

It was hard, she says, to get into the skin of the character. "The character is living in 1947. She is shy and lives with a lot of restrictions and today we are in 2021, so confident of whatever we do and having the ability to speak up for ourselves. So, I had to take care of that and be poised. Also, it was difficult to bring in that body language and the punjabi accent," she tells you.



It took Goswami a lot of research and hard work to get into the skin of such a different character than hers. "I had to watch a lot of 1970's films and shows and see how the actors carried themselves and how they dealt with situations. I listened to the kind of songs we had back then. I read a lot of thick Sanskrit, Urdu and Punjabi. I took tuitions to get the diction right. I had to do a lot of research to be able to play Amrit," she explains.

Goswami is not the only jewel of the show, there is *Diya Aur Baati Hum's* fame Kanika Maheshwari too, in a negative role. She is back on TV after three years and is excited to play the role.

"I play Mogar, a widow. She is very harmful and a dangerous lady. She aims to create

unhappiness in the family and is never happy with anything in life. She thinks that it was because of her brothers that she ended up as a widow. She blames them for marrying her off at a young age in a small house. She has this bitterness and hence, wants to see others unhappy too," Maheshwari tells you.

She tells you that she had no apprehensions before taking up the role. "This is a tailor-made role for me. I have been waiting to play such a role for a long time. There is so much to do in this show. Playing an antagonist gives you a lot of space to enhance your acting skills. I am learning every day and getting better at my craft," Maheshwari, who will be sporting no makeup, tells you.

One thing that Maheshwari likes about role is that though the character has no colours (dressed up in white clothes), it is yet so colourful.

"The thing that I disliked is that I am not getting to put any makeup. As an actor, I like to do makeup, but the role demands me to look simple," she says.

Just like Goswami, Maheshwari too had to get her punjabi accent right.

As appealing and unique the trailer of the show looks, the audience can hope they are in for an entertainment ride with this new offering with so many good actors.

'Playing Mahi is not easy'

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with AMANDEEP SIDHU, who plays Mahi in Zee TV's latest offering *Teri Meri Ikk Jindri*, about the challenges associated with the role and her day on the sets as the lead



■ **This is your first show as a lead, how was the experience? Did you have some kind of pressure?**

Yes definitely. There was a lot of pressure. It was fun, but challenging. Mahi is an independent girl, motivated multitasker, who is *betaab* to contribute to her family by making a mark of her own. She is the first woman cab driver of Amritsar and juggles between household work and her career at ease. However, on the other hand, Amandeep is not so expressive. So it was challenging for me to do justice to my character. Also, being the lead came with a lot of responsibility.

■ **Were there any apprehensions before taking up the role?**

Yes, a lot. The creatives kept on telling me that I have to carry the

show on my

shoulders. They said: "Aman yeh show tera hai, tujhey hi sambhalna hai." This made a nervous. I thought whether or not I will be able to take this responsibility. Also, the character was not so easy. But at the end of the day, I was convinced I can do it.

■ **What all preparations did you have to do?**

First, I am a fitness freak and I spent the lockdown keeping fit. But then I was told that I am too slim for the role. I was given 25 days to gain some weight. I gained about six kgs. That was a challenge. Second, the role demanded me to drive a car. I was well-versed with

automatic cars, but here I have to learn driving from the scratch in 15 days. I was made to drive on the *galis* of Amritsar that too while delivering dialogues on the go. I told them that I can only do the dialogue delivery when the car is on a halt because it was difficult to do the two things at the same time. This was not all. I was also asked to learn to drive a heavy bike. I found it extremely dangerous, because I can drive a scooter but bullet is way too heavy. But then I learnt it as well.

■ **How was the day one on the sets?**

Initially, I was excited for the shoot to begin. But once I reached the sets and was made to shoot, I got blank. First, there were so many cameras and I had to perform in front of so many people with so much of responsibility. Second, I had to perform opposite Adhvik Mahajan who is an experienced actor. It made me even more nervous. For a few minutes, I went blank and couldn't do anything. Then the director told me that he has faith in me and that I have performed so good during the mock shoot. It took me a couple of days to get into the skin of Mahi.

■ **How did Yeh Pyaar Nahi To Kya Hai happened to you?**

After completing my Class XII, I told my parents that I want to do modeling. I was pursuing my BA and also modeling. I went for a few shoots. One day, my friend told me that the auditions are happening for *Yeh Pyaar...* and that had given my profile for it. I was shortlisted and was called for the auditions. They liked it and called me for re-auditioning.

Back then, I thought you have to audition only once and if you are selected you begin shooting. But reality hit me and went for re-auditioning.

They liked my performance but said that I was too young to play the lead. I was only 17 and the character was of a 28-year-old girl. But they liked my audition and asked me if I would play the character of the lead's sister. I said yes.

■ **Wha kinds of roles would you like to experiment with?**

My tummy is full with having got a chance to play Mahi. It is all I could have ever asked for. There is a lot to play in the character. But, if given a chance, I would like to play a cop some time.

MAHI IS ALL I COULD HAVE ASKED FOR. BUT, IF GIVEN A CHANCE, I WOULD LIKE TO PLAY A COP SOME TIME

YOUNG GO GETTERS

From developing a medical app to help people find a doctor that they want, to starting a revolution to save the Indian rivers, to launching a digital solutions company at 16 — the young brigade is breaching new frontiers to better the lives of others. SHALINI SAKSENA brings you a report



Pledging to save the rivers



SUMAIR BAKSHI
17 YEARS OLD
FOUNDER, SAVE THE SPIRIT OF THE SEA FOUNDATION

What would one expect from a student of The British School, New Delhi? Definitely not getting his hands dirty. But this exactly what Sumair Bakshi and his team is doing — helping save the rivers of India. In addition to cleaning the river, the team has been educating locals about sustainably living by the river. Through a series of self-curated content, they plan to spread the word and make the cause of the Ganga and her species viral.

In November 2019, Bakshi gathered a team of 15 people who travelled to the Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary in Bihar to film the last remaining dolphins. "Swimming with these rare species and being in their presence was nothing short of a blessing. This is key for our upcoming movie which aims to create awareness about the species of the river and raise the platform for the Ganga and raise funds," Bakshi says. The funds gathered will be used to help expand their clean-up operations, start monitoring dolphins and species in the river to provide regular updates about their situation as well as launch the film to commemorate our efforts and inspire more people to act. Bakshi raised ₹10 lakh from friends and family, some from crowd funding, to save the river — from Nissan and an additional ₹4 lakh from ImpactGuru. His interest began in 2013. Back then it was just a website with a few social media pages creating awareness about marine life. "I was born and brought up in Botswana, South Africa. I had the privilege and the opportunity to travel the world and see wildlife and developed a passion. When I was six, I

visited Ganga in Haridwar, I was shocked to see the pollution. This is when my mother told me about the dolphins. When I turned 13, I created a website and a few social media handles and as I grew my passion and vision grew as well," Bakshi tells you. In 2015, he got a petition signed by 4,000 people across Delhi and with a few friends visited the Japanese Embassy in India to submit the petition with a protest against dolphin slaughter. In 2017, he started his most ambitious project yet — on river Ganga — creating awareness and sensitisation about the species. "I was taken aback when I visited Bihar and found that there is Ganges shark and there are less than 10 left in the river today. The same holds true for the gharials; their number less than 600 and for the dolphins, it is less than 2,000. I believe that through a series of content we can spread awareness not only nationally but locally too. Also, through

a series of five-seven minute films, we can bring not only educate the locals who are living alongside the river but the youth as well. We are going to release the first part in February," Bakshi tells you. One of the largest projects was for river Yamuna where over 100 students came together to collect the trash and talk to people to not throw plastic bags into the river with the flowers. "Though the river may be dead in Delhi, but if river Thames can be revived, the same can be done in the Capital as well. Now that I will be off to college soon, I want to raise funds through merchandise and hence not rely on donations," Bakshi says who is heading to the US for further studies to pursue a career in renewable energy and international business. However, his foundation will continue to work towards conservation even though he will be away, for the time being.

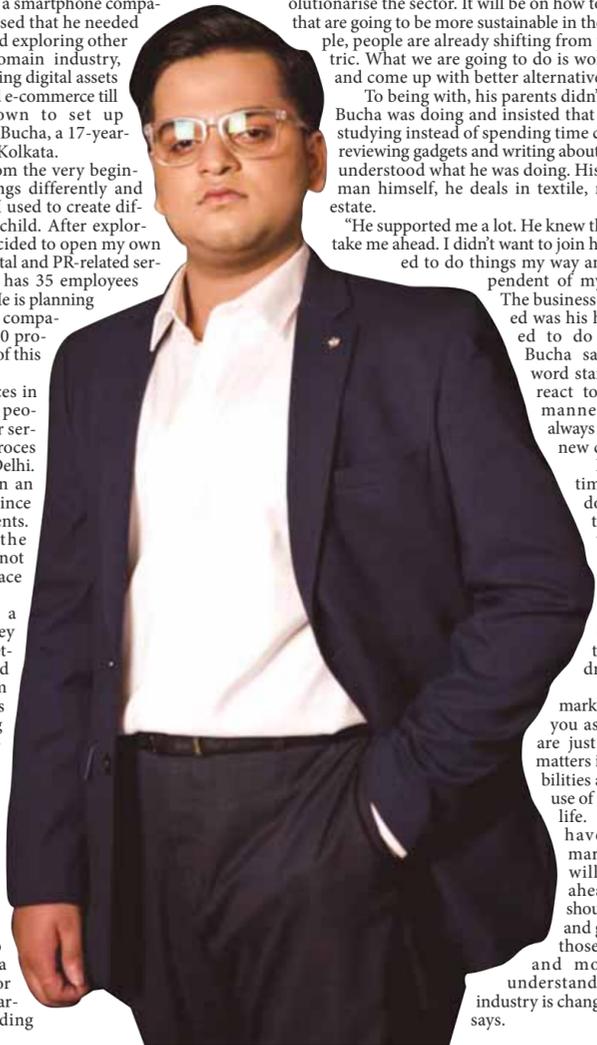
Delivering brand solutions at 16

LAKSH BUCHA
17 YEARS OLD
FOUNDER, GROWTHXO

He started on his entrepreneurial journey when he was just 13; he was writing tech-related content. From there he went on to exploring starting a smartphone company but realised that he needed huge funds. So he started exploring other avenues like stocks, domain industry, crypto trading and creating digital assets that include affiliates and e-commerce till he finally settled down to set up Growthxo. Meet Laksh Bucha, a 17-year-old entrepreneur from Kolkata. He tells you that from the very beginning he wanted to things differently and think out-of-the-box. "I used to create different things even as a child. After exploring a lot of avenues I decided to open my own company to provide digital and PR-related services," Bucha says who has 35 employees working for at present. He is planning to bring more under his company — hiring another 200 professionals — by the end of this year.

They have two offices in Kolkata where there are people who come to him for services. He is also in the process of opening an office in Delhi. There are plans to open an office in the US as well since he started with US clients. However due to the COVID-19 things have not been able to move at the pace that he had set. His company has a good reputation as they have successfully completed many projects. Word of mouth also gets him clients. Other times, his team goes out looking and offering their services. The next few years will be spent in making a conglomerate and going public with it. Plans are also afoot to enter the power, transport, EV and Logistics by providing them with different kinds of services. "Our vision is to go bigger by providing a plethora of services for different industries — various companies providing

different service to different industries. At present, Growthxo is doing well and pushing growth with a good client base. But I am tech-driven and looking for ways on how to amalgamate the same and create business solutions. "We are still in talks and early to give a concrete picture but what we are planning to do in the automobile industry, if it pans out and we are in talks with big players, it will revolutionise the sector. It will be on how to shift to resources that are going to be more sustainable in the future. For example, people are already shifting from petrol cars to electric. What we are going to do is work on similar lines and come up with better alternative," Bucha tells you. To being with, his parents didn't understand what Bucha was doing and insisted that he spend his time studying instead of spending time creating content by reviewing gadgets and writing about them. Slowly, they understood what he was doing. His father a businessman himself, he deals in textile, medicine and real estate. "He supported me a lot. He knew that my work would take me ahead. I didn't want to join his business. I wanted to do things my way and do things independent of my family business. The business that my dad created was his hard work, I wanted to do things my way," Bucha says. He hates the word start-up since people react to it in a different manner which doesn't always work i work for the new company. Instead of wasting time during the lockdown, he spent time to better his services. "We have seen how big a role technology has played in our lives and future business is going to be more tech-driven," Bucha says. He tells you that marks don't really define you as a person. "Marks are just a number. What matters in life is your capabilities and how you make use of that to get ahead in life. A lot of parents have realised that marks are not what will get their ward ahead in life. What should focus is on goals and go about achieving those. With time, more and more parents will understand this. Education industry is changing as well," Bucha says.



App XDOC+ to help a patient find relevant doctor



PRANET PAHWA
NINE YEARS OLD
MEDICAL APP

One would not expect a Class V student to spend his time coding and making an app when most kids his age are busy playing or spending their time time games online. But Pranet Pahwa of Shiv Nadar School, Faridabad is not your average kid. While most children were busy enjoying the free time that they had got due to the present pandemic Pahwa was busy making a medical app. An app, one is told, is not a profit making app but to explain about various healthcare issues in detail so that patients can understand the disease and reach the right consultants for treatment and their overall healthcare management. Besides, providing

information about the disease and identifying the right doctors associated with its treatment, this app also helps in getting the appointment under one platform. It took Pahwa approximately three weeks to develop. "My father is associated with healthcare organisations. Therefore, I developed interest around issues of patient care, doctors and healthcare at an early age. During the lockdown due to COVID 19, I could understand the worries around healthcare and poor accessibility, so I decided to do something about it. Besides academics, my school helps me engage in building skills to solve real life problems and this is how I decided to create this app. My coding skills were helpful to get started in creating a user-friendly healthcare app XDOC+ which provides easy access to healthcare experts for people," the nine-year-old says. During the pandemic, he realised the

importance of healthcare and the necessity of it to be easily accessible to the patients. I also felt this problem could be best addressed with the use of technology and creating an app was a natural steep to take. "My aim was to develop a platform which would be easy to use and provide a range of services for patients with healthcare needs," Pahwa tells you. All one has to do is register. Once, it gets registered it will work as a live app where timely updates would be followed with more features. At present, it works on android and is easy to use. "The pandemic has adversely affected the entire world and our everyday lives. However, the lockdown also gave us enough time to think creatively about resolving issues related to the pandemic and be more innovative. I have been exposed to the creative uses of technology from an early age given that our school exposes us to different ways

technology can be leveraged to solve real world problems," Pahwa says. His favourite subjects are Math and Computer science. The app is an effort in the same direction and he was able to achieve this goal with a lot of hard work and focus juggling both online classes and app development work. Not only did this Class V student make an app, he was awarded for the same last month. "While surfing the Internet, I found about the MIT App competition. I found more details about it on their website and realised that students from across the globe participated in the competition. Once I was convinced I discussed it with my teachers and parents and they encouraged me to apply. My parents helped me fill out the registration and submit my app. I feel motivated that such honour has come to me at this age. I want to do more and provide better solutions through digital medium to

our community at large," Pahwa tells you. He used to discuss the concept with his father who is in a private sector with a leading healthcare organisation and his mother who is a homemaker. His teachers also motivated him to take this up and finally create a platform which is useful for the people. "When I came up with this idea, my parents were really excited and encouraged me to pursue my goals. I love coding so I want to pursue a career in computers. My aim is to become a leader of a leading global organization and work towards providing solutions to the problems people face in their everyday lives," Pahwa says who is on to his next app already. "I have a couple of ideas which I want to work on but it is too early to share my thoughts. I want to have a concrete plan before I disclose the details of my work," Pahwa says.

Dream run end with defeats

Indian doubles pair challenge comes to halt after Satwik-Ashwini, Satwik-Chirag lose in Thai semis

PTI ■ BANGKOK

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa produced a spirited performance before going down narrowly to top seeds Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai in the semifinals of the Toyota Thailand Open here on Saturday.

The impressive run of Satwik and Chirag Shetty also came to an end after a close 18-21, 18-21 semifinal defeat to world number nine Malaysian combination of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik in men's doubles.

Up against the world number three Thai pair, Satwik and Ashwini, who are ranked 36th, showed great skills and temperament as they scripted an extraordinary fightback after losing the opening game by a whisker.

However, in the end, Dechapol and Sapsiree prevailed 22-20, 18-21, 21-12 over the Indians in a 57-minute battle.

"The quality of the last two games were good. I think we have played one of the best matches of our careers against these top players," said Satwik. "We couldn't even practice before coming here. We just



Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, left, Ashwini Ponnappa and Chirag Shetty, right

wanted to play. We gave it a good fight today, it was very close."

Satwik and Ashwini, who spent most of the last year away from the court in two different cities and could only practice together for a few weeks, on Friday became the first Indian mixed doubles pair to reach the semifinals of a Super 1000 event.

"We ended up making a couple of crucial mistakes, starting with my serve and then we lost points one after the other from there. Then we changed

sides and they got smarter, they changed their game style," Ashwini said.

"Overall, the game was good for us and I'm happy that our partnership has gotten a lot better during this tournament."

World No 10 Satwik and Chirag, had won their maiden super 500 title in Thailand and entered the finals of French open super 750 event in 2019 but this is the first time they entered the semifinals of a super 1000 event.

"We are happy to play in the semifinals, but we didn't play our best today. We couldn't score points on our service but we were receiving well. I think if we'd been able to take a few points and converted the first game, the scenario would have been a lot different," Chirag said.

In mixed doubles, Satwik and Ashwini had played twice against the Thai pair but could never take a game away. The duo showed great resilience on

Saturday to catch up with their fancied rivals throughout the match before succumbing to a few unforced errors in the decider.

The two pairs played some fabulous rallies and the Thai players were up 11-10 at the break before jumping to a 17-12 lead at one stage but Satwik and Ashwini showed great determination to draw parity at 20-20. But still, Dechapol and Sapsiree managed to pocket the first game.

In the second game, Dechapol and Sapsiree opened up a 11-6 lead but the Indian pair won 8 of the next 9 points to make it 15-15 and then went into the lead with Satwik unleashing a powerful smash. The duo kept moving together till 18-18. But Dechapol found the net and then Satwik produced another trademark smash as the Indian duo roared back into the contest.

In the decider, the Thai pair had managed to create a gap of 15-11 after Ashwini found the net at one stage.

The Thai pair then stepped up the pressure as Satwik found the net thrice, which created a decisive gap. Soon they led 18-11 and held match points when

the Indians erred at the net again. Dechapol sealed it with a smash.

Earlier, the Malaysian were more alert on court and also managed to diffuse any attack from Satwik and Chirag to emerge victorious.

The Indian duo had a 4-2 lead early on but the Malaysians managed to grab slender 11-10 advantage at the break. Satwik and Chirag stayed close till 15-16 when their rivals reeled off four points to eventually close out the opening game.

In the second game, the Indian duo was up 3-1 but again the Malaysians produced four straight points to move to 7-3. A precise serve and then their rivals finding the net helped Satwik and Chirag make it 8-8.

However, two smashes at the backcourt gave Aaron and Soh a three-point advantage at the interval. The Malaysians grabbed six match points but the Indian pair managed to save four before Chirag found the net.

"We didn't control the shuttle. We tried to pick things up in the second game. We could have been calmer. We're disappointed but happy to play in the semifinals," Satwik said.

Saina going through toughest career phase: Vimal

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Former world No 1 Saina Nehwal is going through the toughest phase of her career and needs to take care of herself so as to avoid any more defeats, says former national champion and coach U Vimal Kumar.

Saina, currently ranked 20th in the world, was knocked out of the first round of the ongoing second Thailand Open. She had earlier fallen in the second round of the first Thailand Open, which was also her first tournament since the All England Championships in March 2020.

Kumar said that Saina looked "out of shape" in Thailand. "It is not going to be easy for her to bounce back. I have always said that if she has no pain, she will play well. More than the pain though she didn't look very fit to me. Maybe after the Covid issue and all she is still recovering from it," Kumar said.

A two-time national champion, Kumar felt Saina is going through the toughest phase of her career.

"I think so. Things have not been going well for her for the past couple of years. She needs confidence to get going and the last she had a good result was in 2019 at the Indonesia Masters," said the man who won the national title in 1988 and 1989.

"The workouts, physical training and other things have to be really specific. She has to plan all this a lot better and that is the only way she can come out of this. Losing more matches like this will affect her confidence. It is not only just physical, there is a lot of mental aspects (at play) as well. She is a strong girl but these results can affect her," he said.

Saina had worked with Kumar in her formative years and later between 2014 and 2017 when she became the first Indian badminton player to achieve a No 1 ranking and won Silver at the badminton World Championships.

The Hyderabad-based Saina's best finishes in 2020 came when she reached the quarter-finals in the Malaysia Masters in January and the Barcelona Masters in February. The last time she won a title was the 2019 Indonesia Masters held in January.

Saina is currently 15th in the rankings for the Tokyo Olympics. With Sindhu already ranked seventh, Saina needs to break into the top eight to qualify for the Games. The tournaments in Thailand are not part of the Olympic qualifying period, which is scheduled to start with the Swiss Open on March 2. "The next one or one-and-a-half months will determine her chances. The next five-six weeks will be key and give us an idea," said Kumar.



Neymar finds net on his 100th PSG game

AFP ■ PARIS

Neymar made his 100th appearance for Paris Saint-Germain on Friday and marked the occasion with a goal in a 4-0 rout of 10-man Montpellier that took Mauricio Pochettino's side clear at the top of Ligue 1.

Kylian Mbappe scored twice and Mauro Icardi was also on target with PSG leading 1-0 before netting three times in the space of four minutes around the hour mark.

The game, played behind closed doors at the Parc des Princes, was conditioned by the early sending-off of Montpellier goalkeeper Jonas Omlin for a foul on Mbappe, as PSG made the most of their extra man.

It was their fourth straight win since drawing at Saint-Etienne in Pochettino's first match in charge after the Argentine was appointed as coach on January 2.

The former Tottenham Hotspur boss was back on the Paris bench having spent a week self-isolating following a positive Covid-19 test that forced him to miss his new team's 1-0 win at Angers last weekend.

PSG are now three points clear of second-placed Lille, who go to in-form Rennes on Sunday. Lyon in third are five points behind the leaders before visiting derby rivals Saint-Etienne, who will be without seven players because of a coronavirus outbreak.

81 GOALS Neymar's goal took his tally to 81 in 100 appearances for PSG since his world-record 222 million-euro move from Barcelona in August 2017. His time in Paris

has been marred by injuries at important moments but there can be no disputing his impressive record in front of goal as he prepares to face his old club in the last 16 of the Champions League next month.

Mbappe was more prominent in this game, however, as he scored his first goals of the Pochettino era.

Pochettino said: "I was already happy with Mbappe's performances before tonight. I am pleased that he scored because scoring goals is crucial for a striker's confidence. But we knew it was only a matter of time."

The France World Cup-winning star was scythed down just outside the box by Omlin in the 16th minute, with the Swiss goalkeeper initially shown a yellow card before the punishment was upgraded to red following a VAR review.

PSG made the extra man count as Di Maria played in Mbappe to open the scoring with a dinked finish over substitute goalkeeper Dimitry Bertaud in the 34th minute.

Pochettino lost goalkeeper Keylor Navas to injury at half-time, while captain Marquinhos was also forced off early in the second half. The coach later said he thought it was "nothing serious" for either player.

Mbappe cut the ball back for Neymar to make it 2-0 on the hour mark, before Icardi tucked in his third goal in four games.

It was 4-0 in the 63rd minute when Icardi set up Ligue 1's leading scorer Mbappe to finish for his second of the night and 14th of the season.

Layvin Kurzawa almost provided the cherry on top of the cake soon after, but his stunning overhead kick was tipped onto the crossbar by Bertaud.



Mbappe still thinking about signing new deal

AFP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappe says he is still "thinking about" whether to agree to a new contract at Paris Saint-Germain, with the France superstar's existing deal set to expire at the end of next season.

"We are in discussions with the club to try to find a suitable project. I said I was thinking about it because I think that...if I sign it would have to be a long-term commitment to Paris Saint-Germain," Mbappe told TV channel *Telefoot* after Friday's 4-0 win over Montpellier.

"I am very happy here. I have always been very happy. The supporters and the club have always helped me and for that alone I will always be grateful."



Kylian Mbappe scores against Montpellier

"But I want to think about what I want to do in the coming years, where I want to be. That's what I am reflecting on."

Mbappe, who turned 22 in December, joined PSG from Monaco in a blockbuster 180 million-euro transfer in 2017.

He chose to join his hometown team rather than Real Madrid but the Spanish giants have continued to court him ever since.

Last month PSG president Nasser al-Khelaifi said he was "very confident" Mbappe and Neymar — who is also out of contract in 2022 — would sign new terms.

"I will need to make a decision soon but I am thinking about it," Mbappe added. "If I had the answer today I would say so. This is not about buying time. For example, I don't want to sign a contract and then leave a year later. If I sign it would be to stay here."

Gladbach finally win against Dortmund

AFP ■ MÜNCHENGLADBACH

Defender Nico Elvedi netted twice as Mönchengladbach ended their six-year wait to beat Dortmund when their 4-2 home win on Friday lifted the Foals to fifth in the Bundesliga table.

Two goals by Dortmund striker Erling Braut Haaland were bookended by Elvedi netting from set-pieces in the action-packed opening 32 minutes.

Algeria left-back Ramy Bensebaini restored Gladbach's lead early in the second half before substitute Marcus Thuram headed the hosts' fourth.

Dortmund are now seventh — out of the European places — after failing to win any of their last three games since their impressive 3-1 win at RB Leipzig in early January. In the other direction,



Gladbach are fifth having taken 13 points from a possible 15 in 2021. They are eight points behind leaders Bayern, who are at bottom side Schalke on Sunday.

Following home wins over league leaders Bayern and second-placed RB Leipzig already this season, Gladbach claimed another big-name Bundesliga scalp.

It was also a significant win for their coach Marco Rose, who the German media are tipping to replace caretaker boss Edin Terzic at Dortmund next season.

"We went 3-2 up at just the right moment and then defended well, so we're very happy," said Rose.

After 12 straight defeats to Dortmund, Gladbach earned their first win over the Black-and-Yellows since April 2016. "We're finally ended the run of defeats," Rose added.

Dortmund made a lethargic start at Borussia Park and a Gladbach goal after 44 seconds was ruled out by the VAR.

However, the hosts took the lead with 11 minutes gone when Lars Stindl's curling free-kick was headed home by Elvedi.

Dortmund roared back with two goals inside six minutes, both created by Jadon Sancho for Haaland, who fired home his first from a tight angle on 22 minutes.

After Jude Bellingham

won the ball back for Dortmund, great footwork by Sancho then again unpicked Gladbach's defence for Haaland to blast his side 2-1 ahead on 28 minutes.

However, another Stindl free-kick on 32 minutes could only be parried by Roman Buerki and Elvedi tapped home the rebound from close range to make it 2-2 at the break.

Gladbach regained the lead five minutes into the second-half when Bensebaini swung in a shot which curled outside Buerki's grasp.

Dortmund conceded their third goal of the night from a set-piece when Thuram headed home a Florian Neuhaus corner 11 minutes from the whistle.

It was the France forward's first appearance after suspension for a spitting at an opponent last month.



Goggia wins 4th straight WC downhill

AP ■ CRANS-MONTANA

Olympic champion Sofia Goggia is dominating the World Cup downhill season like no woman since ski great Lindsey Vonn.

Goggia won her fourth straight downhill on Saturday to tie a World Cup streak last achieved by Vonn in 2018.

The Italian star finished 0.27 seconds faster than Lara Gut-Behrami as both thrived on icy snow slicker than in Friday's race at Crans-Montana also won by Goggia.

Goggia's teammate Elena Curtoni was third, 0.60 back, ending Breezy Johnson's streak of four third-place finishes in



downhill.

Johnson was fifth, 0.89 behind Goggia, giving the United States its most consistent threat in downhill since Vonn's stellar career ended two years

ago. Vonn's best streak in World Cup downhill was six straight wins in 2009-10, according to the *ski-db.com* database. That matched her childhood idol Picabo Street's run in 1995.

Vonn won four straight World Cup downhill from January to March 2018 to complete that season. They were the last of Vonn's 82 career World Cup victories, more than any other woman on the circuit that began in 1967.

During Vonn's winning run, Goggia was runner-up three times and also won the Pyeongchang Olympics downhill in South Korea where Vonn took Bronze.

Buenos Aires: Indian women's hockey team suffered first defeat on tour of Argentina

Ralph Hasenhuttl fielded a strong side at St Mary's, with Danny Ings returning after a hamstring injury and a positive coronavirus test alongside former Arsenal forward Theo Walcott.

Mikel Arteta made seven changes from their 3-0 Premier League win against Newcastle on Monday. Southampton, who had never previously beaten Arsenal in the FA Cup, were the brighter team in the first half in the winter sunshine on England's south coast.

James Ward-Prowse rattled the crossbar from a swerving corner and Che Adams forced a fine save from Arsenal goal-

Saints dump holders Arsenal out of FA Cup

AFP ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton dumped FA Cup holders Arsenal out of the competition on Saturday, winning 1-0 courtesy of a Gabriel own goal to set up a fifth-round meeting with Wolves.

The much-changed Gunners, who have won the competition a record 14 times, fell behind midway through the first half and could not find a way back.

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Chorley's manager Jamie Vermiglio reacts after FA Cup fourth round match

keeper Bernd Leno.

Southampton got the reward their positive approach deserved in the 24th minute.

Mohamed Elneny gave away possession on the edge of his own box and the ball was worked to Kyle Walker-Peters on the right side of the Southampton attack.

The defender drilled it across the six-yard area and it was inadvertently turned in by Gabriel — the first time rejuvenated Arsenal had conceded since December 26 against Chelsea.

attack as Arsenal pinned Southampton back. Lacazette was inches away from getting on the end of a teasing cross by fellow substitute Bukayo Saka as the minutes ticked away but Arsenal could not find an equaliser.

The exit will be a bitter disappointment for Arsenal, who have won the FA Cup four times in the past seven seasons — in sharp contrast to their toils in the Premier League.

Arteta's side will return to Southampton for a league meeting on Tuesday, aiming to continue their fine recent run that has lifted them to 10th in the table.

Ward-Prowse then struck a shot from distance that sailed wide and Ings hit a fierce volley that was blocked by Hector Bellerin.

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The Premier League millionaires also only managed a single shot — the goal — against the part-timers from the sixth tier. Vitinhas's 35-yard, swerving strike in the 12th-minute moved Nuno Espirito Santo's side into the round of 16.

CHORLEY SHINE BUT LOSE

On Friday night, Separated from Chorley by 109 places in the English football pyramid, Wolverhampton didn't only manage a single goal in its 1-0 win.

The Premier League millionaires also only managed a single shot — the goal — against the part-timers from the sixth tier.

Vitinhas's 35-yard, swerving strike in the 12th-minute moved Nuno Espirito Santo's side into the round of 16.



'I don't hesitate in giving retakes'

■ **What is keeping you busy these days?**

I have several projects in the pipeline. First, I am working on *Cirkus*, a Rohit Shetty film. Second, my goal in life was to work with the best people from cinema. For me it is Santosh Sivan. I was fascinated by his work and

wanted to get associated with him. Fortunately, now I am doing his film and have completed the shoot on Friday. Third, I am going for *Bachchan Pandey* and will start shooting from February 1. For the time being, I am concentrating on these projects only. But have other things planned for March and the months to come.

several losses, many families were tore apart. We still mourn those losses, but that phase was a different experience for everyone.

■ **You once said that for *Chankaya* (1991) you took 25 takes on day one. How is it now? Do you mind giving retakes?**

Absolutely not. Until and unless you aren't satisfied with your shot, why should we be hesitant in a retake. For a particular scene in *Cirkus*, I have given 19 takes. Why? Because both Rohit and I felt that something wasn't right. I was stuck in a scene. But, it was all fun and we enjoyed giving those retakes. There shouldn't be a problem in giving retakes, because at the end we all want the best of the best shots. Having said that, yes it feels good when people say that you are able to get the perfect shot in one take.

■ **You said you don't read scripts and go by the director's words. Was there a moment when you realised that you should have read the script once?**

■ **A lesson that the lockdown taught you.**

Don't leave your homes unless for good. No one would have ever imagined that we would be left cooped up in our homes. But that happened and for the good. The Nature rejuvenated itself. We saw several different species of birds here in Mumbai which were not there for years. The pollution levels came down considerably. I would say that we should implement a lockdown for a month every once in a while in order to protect and revive the Nature. Not to mention, there were

It's not as if I have vowed not to read the scripts, I just don't feel the need of it. The reason is the narrator is able to make me visualise the story. But during this, it is just the two of us and when the shooting starts there are a whole lot of people involved. If the camera person is not good enough, it is then I realise that the director is good but he hasn't chosen the other departments wisely. This happens a couple of times. But reading scripts isn't my nature. It is not just about remembering the dialogues, one should also understand it. If not, then the chemistry won't be seen onscreen.

■ **There was a time when you were excited about working with Amitabh Bachchan and now the new actors feel the same for you. How does that feel?**

It is an experience for me as well. They learn from me and I learn from them. I make people feel comfortable. I sit with them and talk. It is fun. Also, I am not that old and haven't done that much work. There is more to come.

■ **Do you think that the industry needs some changes?**

I don't feel the need. What change do we need? That actors should play actresses' role and vice versa? The industry's work is to make films and it is doing it well. And the audience is there to watch it. They won't if it is not worthy enough. There was a debate about nepotism, but one shouldn't forget that talent is the priority. Even I have two children, if in future they want to make a career in this field, shall I tell them they can't? This doesn't make sense, everyone has their aspirations and they follow it.

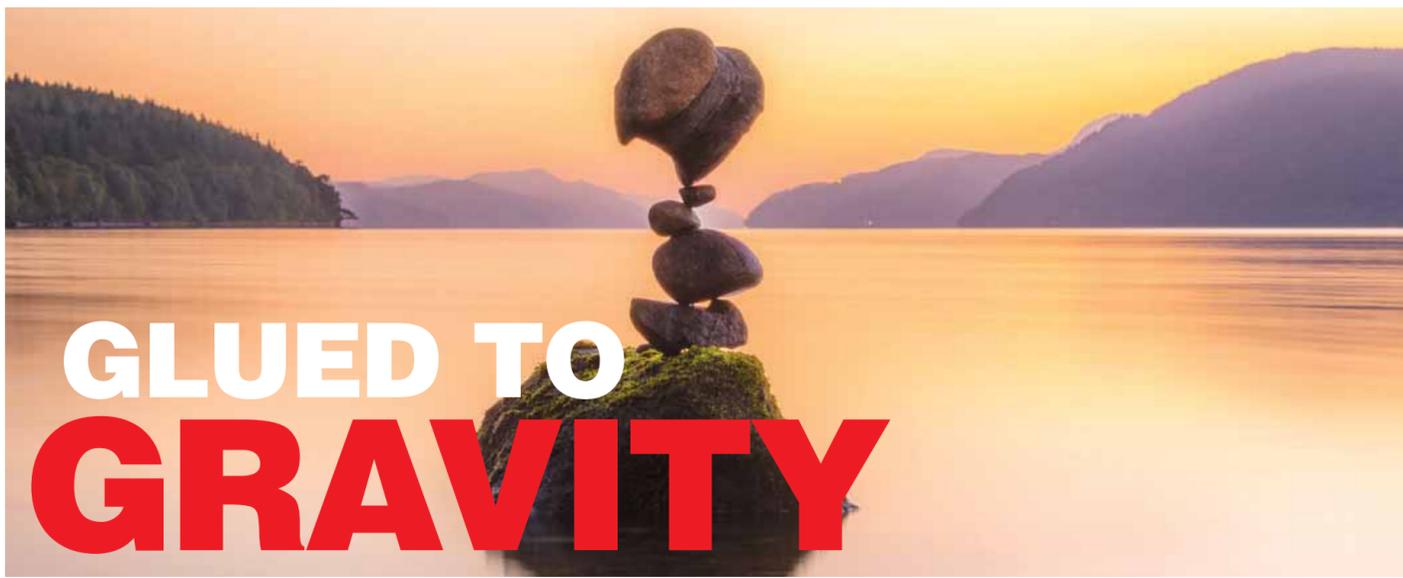
■ **You said you came to Mumbai for the love of cinema and not to just become an actor. Do you still feel the same?**

My love for cinema can never die. *Mera kuch pata nahin, main kal bol sakta hun ki mujhe ab art director banana hai* ya costume designer *banana hai*. Not that I don't love acting, I do and I thoroughly enjoy it, but it is the love for cinema that keeps me alive and it cannot die.

Talktime

SANJAY MISHRA

It goes without saying, he is a gem of an actor. Be it his comic timing or the ability of perfecting a serious role, he never disappoints. Musba Hashmi speaks with Mishra about what is keeping him busy, whether he minds giving retakes and what he learnt from the lockdown



MICHAEL GRAB, 36-year-old artist based out of the US, has been taking the Internet by storm through his works. He speaks with MUSBA HASHMI about how the idea of using gravity as glue to balance stones hit him and the challenges associated with it

What if one tells you that you don't need glue to stick together, or balance, stones to create structures? Many will laugh it off. Meet Michael Grab, a 36-year-old USA-based artist, who has been doing this so effortlessly that it is almost hard to believe whether they are for real. Not to mention, this unique form of art has earned Grab, the most sought after blue tick on his social media accounts.

Grab has been using gravity as his glue to balance stones for years now.

"I began balancing in the summer of 2008, almost by accident. I was at the local creek here in Boulder with a friend. We were casually looking for a mineral called obsidian. As we were moving some rocks around, we began balancing them on top of one another. We were also having a psychedelic experience at the time. I fell in love with the process of balancing almost immediately, found it to be highly meditative and generally therapeutic. So, I decided to continue practicing on my own in the free time," Grab, who goes by the name Gravity Glue on Instagram, tells you.

The practice got Grab interested, so much so that he decided to bid adieu to his job. "I decided to quit my regular job and pursue the practice full time in 2012, when I also started traveling internationally to practice and sometimes perform/teach at public and private events along the way," Grab, who has so far done this art in 25 countries, including all over Europe, parts of Asia, and Australia, as well as in

North/Central America, tells you.

Initially, Grab didn't think of becoming a full time artist, it was only because of curiosity that he decided to make these creations. It was not as if he intended to give out some message. "I began practicing regularly for the therapeutic and artistic qualities I felt. I did not foresee becoming a full time artist, with a message, nor having the ability to reach such a large audience, hence I did not intend much to begin with, other than following this newfound curiosity, which quickly grew into a full time passion. For me, it's a literal message of balance, with Nature. I enjoy sharing the meditative quality and yoga of both the process and the subject. I hope to draw viewers' attention into this kind of transcendental beauty I experience working in and with Nature. The precariously balanced structures also serve as a symbol that "anything is possible," he explains.

One may wonder if what Grab does is permanent. The answer is, obviously, no. "So far, none of my work is permanent. But I've done my ephemeral stone balance work almost all around the globe," he says.

Grab is not at all choosy in terms of stones for his balancing work, but he prefers the harder stones as they work better. "I use whatever stones are available in the variety of locations I've been. But generally, I hope to find harder stones, because they work better for balancing. I also look for interesting shapes and colours, depending on what is indigenous to the location. In



Boulder, I mostly use types of granite that are found here in the creek," he says.

Nothing comes easy and when talks about balancing stones, it is sure shot a difficult art to master. "There are many challenges associated with the practice. One of which is direct interaction/integration with nature, which means I need to be aware of wildlife, wind, tides and anything else that can happen inside this system of Nature, and outside my control. Conditions often force me to listen and adapt,

which is an element I highly enjoy, despite the challenge at times. But, probably the biggest challenge is the focus that's sometimes involved to create more technically advanced structures. This focus is required to tune into tiny vibrations of the rocks, in order to adjust them correctly into a balanced position," he tells you.

For those, who are curious enough to know about the trick that Grab follows, there is none as such. "There are no tricks. It's simply a matter of prac-

and patience. But physically, the balance works like a camera tripod, where the mass of the rock is centered between three points. These points are found in the natural texture, or natural indentations in the surface of the rocks. When the contact edges are close together, it looks like a point. And, also the closer together the edges are, the more focus is required to achieve the balance. I find the balance by feeling for tiny vibrations that travel through the rocks anytime they touch one another. When the balance is reached, I call it the zero point, when I intuitively feel that the rocks are balanced," Grab explains.

Each creation, Grab says, has a unique feeling or experience associated with it. "It is a difficult to name a creation that comes close to my heart because most creations I attempt are right at the edge of my skill at the time. So most of them were the most challenging at the time they were created. Each creation also has a unique feeling or experience associated with it, which seem cumulative and also complement one another, past, present and future," Grab, who has made thousands of such creations till date, tells you.

His inspiration behind these creations, he says, comes from everything that he experiences in a day. "My inspiration comes from everything I experience, but more particularly, the beauty I see in rocks and nature, the challenge I experience in the process, and the way humans, for the most part, tend to enjoy and relate to the work," he says.

Desi twist to Western & Eastern flavours

SHALINI SAKSENA tells you how a restaurant is amalgamating flavours from the West and East by spicing up its dishes with Indian condiments to give a taste that is unique and makes one go for second helpings



Most people would agree that a twist to a dish doesn't really do much to the taste palate. But then it is also true that when we add our Indian spices, it takes the flavours to another level that makes one craving for more even though the tummy says — enough.

One may wonder why three friends from different backgrounds — one from the media, one a doctor and another from a totally different profession — with no knowledge of how the food industry works decided to open a restaurant back in 2009. Nitin Arora, one of the co-founders, tells you that it was the sheer love for food that propelled them in this direction. So much so that 11 years down the line, their brand The Tummy Selection is all set to open its fifth outlet in the Capital, in Malviya Nagar set to open its doors on January 20, 2021, that offers dine-in experience as well. Two are in West Delhi, one in Gurugram and one in Sonapat.

"It was our love for food that made us venture in this line. Over the years we have been experimenting with various dishes and the end-result is what you see in our menu that has been curated over the years with spices that are truly Indian even though the dishes are not. We have taken the *shawarma*, given it an Indian twist, called it *shawario*, and plated it for Delhiites who have been loving our twist to this otherwise very popular roll. It is the sauces, spices and the way we make these rolls that makes us unique," Arora says.

This is true to a certain extent. The Chicken Shawario Crunchwich definitely is a delight for all those who love chicken. One can't one go wrong when you have a fried chicken on top with chicken *masala* as a filling and another fried chicken making it a chicken sandwich. The sauce served with it is tasty and full of flavours even though one doesn't need this extra bit given that this crunchwich offers a burst of flavours. If you are a vegetarian go for the paneer crunchwich. Sadly, the

vegetarians will have to make do with either paneer or potatoes. For the chicken lovers, the other delights are Chicken Shawario and the chilli chicken. The good part is that each has a different flavour.

The let down was the veg nachos. By the time it was delivered, the nachos on top had become soggy. Even the good old microwave couldn't come to its rescue. The chilli chicken was a disappointment too — not spicy enough.



The menu tells you that every tummy has a story and hence for those looking for something different try the dishes that are marked OG and New (addition). Also, each dish has a mini and a monster variant. One can order either, depending on one's hunger pangs.

While many would have apprehensions given the Bird Flu scare, Arora assures his customers that his chicken is brought only from licensed sellers and checked regularly. "While there has been a dip due to Bird Flu, I want to assure my customers that we have a centralised kitchen where we do all the testing so far, we have had no problems with the vendor. We buy 200-250 chicken each day and anything that is left is discarded. We don't use the chicken from the previous day, the next day. Also, the chicken cooked at a high temperature kills any infection," Arora says.

Next time, one gets hunger pangs, try a *shawario* instead.

'I don't see what others are doing, I do my stuff'

Singer-songwriter-rapper BADAL speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about his latest track *Bas Ka Nahin*, how he got into music and the reason for growing popularity to rap in the country

■ **What is the latest single about?**

It is about a man who is focused on his career and goals and has no time for love or commitment. It is pretty much all about this person.

■ **What was the inspiration behind it?**

The song didn't need inspiration. I didn't have to look beyond myself — it was self-experience. There was a phase in my life when I was totally committed to my work and my goals. The song is about what I went through.

■ **How did you get into music**

— that too rap?

I got into music after I completed my schooling. I had to choose a career and I didn't know what I wanted to do. I was already writing songs, I used to write rap to begin with; this was when I was in Classes X and XI. My friends were already talking about what profession they were pursuing since I only knew music, I went with it. I started a YouTube channel and started posting cover videos. I got a good response and I don't know when I became an artist.

■ **What is the reason for the growing popularity of rap in India?**



There are several. For me, it was Bohemia when he dropped his *Ek Tera Pyar*. It was only after I had heard him did, I started rapping myself. Then came Honey Singh who brought rap to the forefront commercially. Slowly, rap became popular in the North and still continues to be so. Then came Badshah. Gully Boy helped the rap scene in the country. Now, it has spread all over the country.

■ **How is the underground rap scene changing here?**

I really don't have much idea about the underground scene since I don't listen to music. This may sound weird, but I don't keep track of what is happening. I have never thought of spending time and researching what

is happening in the music world. I don't pay attention to what others are doing. I just do my stuff. I sit in the studio and make music.

■ **Tell us about your collaboration with TM Music?**

It has been an honour to work with TM Music. They have a great team. They understand my perspective and music. They let me do my own thing which works brilliantly for me.

■ **What next?**

I have many projects in the pipeline. Each is a different genre. I love it when people give me so much love. It makes me want to better myself and my craft.

the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

Freedom from worry

The next time you start to worry, consider whether it is worth the time to engage in thoughts about things that may/may not happen

2



4

Dhyana for a powerful mind

It is no one other than one's own self, which holds the key to how we conduct in life

I've been searching for ways to heal myself, and I've found that kindness is the best way
— Lady Gaga



Through her culinary forays and concoctions, VEENA SHARMA tries to join and connect rather than separate or divide the food story from the northern India hills in her book, *Vegetarian Cuisine from the Himalayan Foothills*. An edited excerpt:



THE SACRED LAND

A CULINARY SMORGASBORD

It is not for nothing that the Garhwal region of the Himalayas is referred to as *deva bhumi*, the land of gods. The topography and climate of this sacred land has spawned a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna, which is a natural heritage of the area. Water currents carrying rocks and herbs, fed by high-altitude minerals and vegetation irrigate the soils. Steep hillsides etched by terraced farms and, fed by mountain streams produce crops suited to their particular terrains. The diversity of crops resulting from the variations in elevation, differences in orientation and gradient, as also the velocity of winds and quality of precipitation they are exposed to is what gives to this area its environmental uniqueness.

The different crops provide rare nutrients that cannot be obtained from any single crop. Relying on elements such as sunlight, biomass from forests, and crop residues, farmers here have traditionally worked from an understanding of the ecological principles that underlie natural phenomena, to grow crops suited to their specific area. Respect for, and a connection with nature has led to the emergence of many important religious shrines along the confluences of major tributaries of the sacred river Ganga.

Since the choice of the food we eat is influenced and determined by the society and culture we live in, food in these hills, till recently, had not been driven by fashion or commercialization. For millennia, these hill people lived on whole grains and unprocessed fresh produce. Being connected to nature and the environment, they consumed that which nature provided in different times of the year, as that is what the body requires in those seasons. A combination of natural whole foods and physical exertion in this undulating region is what traditionally gave these people their sturdiness. Hill women are slender and strong as they move up and down the slopes like mountain goats.

Today, our 'technologically advanced' society has introduced abundant and easily available packaged, preserved foods that often call for no preparation. Heavy with unwanted fats and carbohydrates, these 'empty foods' result in the overfed and undernourished persons we encounter, especially in metropolitan areas. The hill people are also becoming victims of the smart inroads made by these foods resulting in sluggishness and uncalled-for fatigue, dull hair and skin, and other troublesome afflictions that can often be traced back to the food consumed.

Perhaps, it is a recognition of this fact that is turning our gaze on ancient grains and herbs that have nourished societies since millennia. We are well aware that macronutrients — carbohydrates, proteins, and fats — give us energy, build muscle, and strengthen our physiological equipment, which are necessary for the efficient functioning of our minds and bodies. But we often do not give enough attention to micronutrients — the vitamins, minerals, fibres, and trace elements — that are essential for the metabolism and absorption of the macros for their optimal functioning and becoming suitable for our bodies. Macronutrients are like fuel, which demands a clean and greased engine for proper combustion. Micronutrients are

the grease and oil that not only maintain the cleanliness and smoothness of the engine, but actually break down the heavy macronutrients so that our bodies may absorb them easily. So, it is not just what we put into our mouths but how we process it that matters.

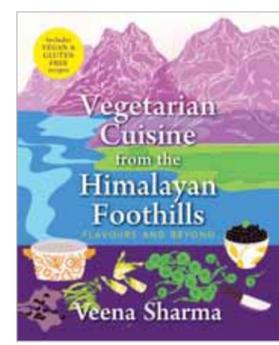
Our finely tuned bodies do not absorb macronutrients in the form they are received. Rather, by a complex metabolic process, they first break them down to their molecular forms and then re-form them into subtler varieties of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats — like amino acids, fatty acids, and glucose. These are the forms in which these nutrients are received by the trillions of super-microscopic cells and tissues that our bodies are made up of. It is the minute micronutrients that enable this breakdown of food, which otherwise would either pass out of the system undigested or block some of the subtle passages and cavities causing unwanted deposits. Micronutrients are what combine with the numerous bodily secretions and catalyse chemical reactions to promote 'communication' among the millions of cells, and enable the subtle nutrients to reach where needed, and/or make up a deficiency of one by taking up and converting energy from another. So, there is a riotous intelligent activity of breaking down, reconstitution, and absorption ceaselessly raging within our systems. The better supplied our system is, the more efficient this activity.

No one food can give us all the multitudines of micronutrients that are required for the breakdown and release of the macros. Hence, the need for diverse foods that Nature, in her abundance, supplies us with at different times of the year. While macronutrients can be stored in the body for some time, the delicate micronutrients have to be supplied regularly. The hills abound in seasonal foods that provide these nutrients according to the needs of the body, enabling it to cope with different requirements — keeping it hydrated in summer, warm in winter, etc.

Classically, we eat to gain energy and build our bodies. But we also eat for pleasure. Eating is the most satisfying activity we undertake, as food caters to a deep-seated human craving. When cravings, motivated by commercial pressure, take over, we tend to lay stress on certain foods at the expense of others, ignoring the nutrients that our superiorly operating bodies demand. The minute cells and nerve tissues are the foremost sufferers in this process, as the gross foods are not transformed into subtle forms for transportation and absorption into our ultra fine crevices due to lack of consumption of micronutrients. It is, perhaps, these artificial cravings (or just thoughtlessness) that deprive our tables of the numerous natural textures and colours that are often the indicators of the nutrients those foods carry.

The science of Ayurveda informs us that there is a connection between what we eat and how we act or behave. Our food has an impact on our sense of well-being and harmony, as also our levels of aggression and depression, and, of course, satisfaction. So not only at the individual, but at the societal level also, food tends to have an impact on our interactions.

Ayurveda tells us that just as our physical constitution is characterized by different proportions of *vata* (air), *pitta*



“OUR FOOD HAS AN IMPACT ON OUR SENSE OF WELL-BEING AND HARMONY, AS ALSO OUR LEVELS OF AGGRESSION AND DEPRESSION, AND, OF COURSE, SATISFACTION. SO NOT ONLY AT THE INDIVIDUAL, BUT AT THE SOCIETAL LEVEL ALSO, FOOD TENDS TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON OUR INTERACTIONS”

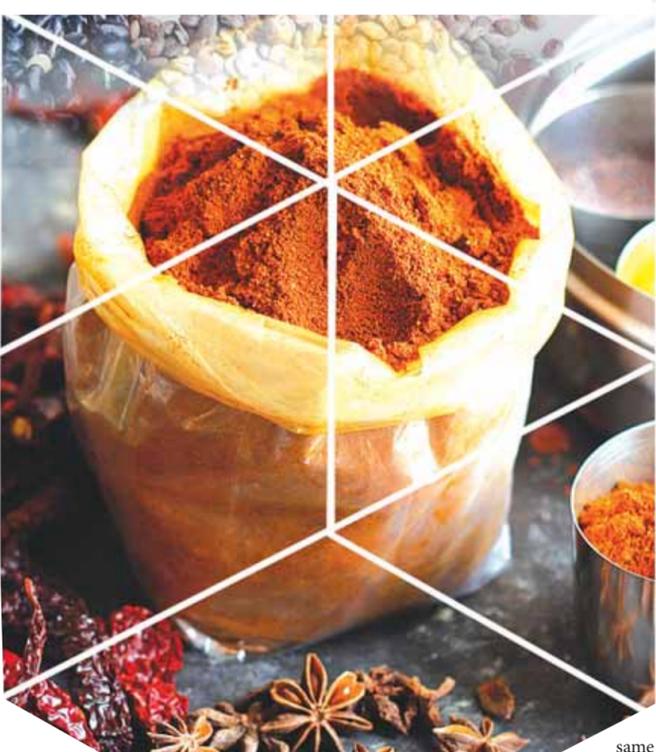
(heat or fire), and *kapha* (viscosity or water), we also have a corresponding mental constitution determined by the qualities of *sattva*, *rajas*, and *tamas*. A balance of the three is required for normal functioning in the world. Each personality is made up of a different balance of these qualities. The balance needs to be maintained for a creative and harmonious functioning at the individual and societal levels.

On the physical side, *vata*, the mobile energy and life force of air and ether, governs movement, including the flow of breath, pulsation of the heart, muscle contractions, and cellular mobility. It promotes the faculty of communication by strengthening the mind and the nervous system. It is, thus, linked to creativity and flexibility, as also levels of anxiety and overactivity. As a general rule sweet, sour, and salty food cooked with ghee and served warm suits the *vata* element.

Pitta, carrying the healing and transformative energy of heat, governs digestion as it sustains metabolism and body temperature. It is related to intelligence, understanding, thoughts, and emotions. It also engenders physical and psychological endurance. Pungent and bitter foods, ripe fruits and vegetables cooked in less oil regulate *pitta*. Sour food may not be too appropriate for the *pitta* constitution.

Kapha, the viscous and binding energy reserve of the body, being associated with the earth and water elements, lends structure, solidity, and cohesiveness to the body. It hydrates the cells, lubricates the joints, and moisturizes the skin. It also helps maintain immunity and protect body tissues. Equated to the watery energies of empathy and compassion, it creates a sense of peace and patience to sustain consistent effort. It is perhaps also conducive to good sleep. The sluggishness of *kapha* is pacified with pungent, bitter, and astringent food using a minimum of oil and fat. Mucous-provoking food could aggravate this element.

On the mental side, *sattvic* personalities display greater creativity and mental and physical alertness. They remain enthusiastic with regard to what they undertake and are able to solve life's problems more easily. They display a cheerful and serene countenance, and do not suffer from mental fatigue even after working mentally for long hours. *Sattvic* food is light, unctuous, and packed with nutrients. Milk, butter, ghee (clarified butter), fresh and dried fruits like almonds, dates, lentil sprouts, and whole grains, and a number of seasonal vegetables contribute to this type of personality. Gourds of different kinds are also suited to this type. Spices used in *sattvic* cooking include turmeric, ginger, cinnamon, coriander, fennel (*saunf*),



car-damom, and several digestive herbs.

Rajas is characterized by an aura of restlessness. *Rajasic* personalities tend to be somewhat ambitious, aggressive, and competitive. There could even be a tendency in them to control others. On the hand, *rajas* provides energy to perform and actualize the creativity of the *sattvic* mind. *Rajasic* personalities favour food that is oilier and spicier as compared to *sattvic* food. They prefer foods that are bitter, sour, salty, pungent, hot, and comparatively dry.

Tamasic personalities are generally depressive and sluggish, given to much eating and drinking. A little mental work tires them easily. *Tamasic* food is generally overcooked, preserved and processed — food made from refined flour (*maida*), pastries, pizzas, burgers, chocolates, soft drinks, tea, coffee, tobacco, alcohol, canned and preserved food like jams, pickles, and fermented food, fried food, ice creams, puddings, and a number of 'fun food' are unfortunately included in this list. The good news is that when freshly prepared at home with wholesome ingredients, these same foods can provide fun as well as nourishment!

As there is an absence of micronutrients in *tamasic* food, they leave us with a sense of non-satiety even after we have eaten a full meal. This is because the body secretes a number of juices and enzymes to mingle with micronutrients to help the breakdown of larger foods. When those are not supplied, there is a sense of craving and one puts in more of the same kind of heavy food, stretching the stomach walls, burdening the digestive system and retaining a sense of dissatisfaction. Overstretched stomach walls can also impact the functioning of the heart and lungs, which share the

same general space. Too much *rajas* or *tamas* can have a negative impact on our lives. A balance of all three is what makes up an efficient and healthy mind. As such, a combination of varied foods to cater to the differing needs of the body at different times is needed. In a well-balanced system, the digestive fires would further 'cook' the foods to draw out their optimal nutrients.

I felt that the several prescribed days of fasting in this area (these days are also known in other parts of India, but perhaps observed more avidly here) are an important contributor to physical and mental well-being. Our rubber-ball-like stomachs, normally about the size of our fists, stretch to accommodate the food we put into it, which in three to five hours is pushed out to other parts of the digestive tract. During days of fasting, by either refraining from food or eating limited quantities of light food, we allow the stomach to rest, become empty, and regain its natural contour and size. That is the time when we experience 'real' hunger as against craving. With a little sensitivity and observation, as also experimentation, we can train our brains to signal 'real' hunger as against 'nutritional' hunger that manifests as craving.

Consequently, it is worth investing a little time and resources in the quality of ingredients and the mode of preparation of food. For, that goes a long way in determining the health of the molecules, those microscopic constituents that carry nutrients to every cell and tissue in the inmost recesses of the body and determine the state of our bodies and minds.

Excerpted with permission from *Vegetarian Cuisine from the Himalayan Foothills: Flavours and Beyond*, Niyogi Books, ₹750



KINDNESS IN WORDS CREATES
CONFIDENCE. KINDNESS IN THINKING
CREATES PROFOUNDNESS.
KINDNESS IN GIVING CREATES LOVE
— LAO TZU



FREEDOM FROM WORRY

The next time you start to worry, consider whether it is worth the time to engage in thoughts about things that may/may not happen, writes **SANT RAJINDER SINGH**

There has been a great interest among doctors, researchers, and people in the field of psychology concerning the effect worry has on health. Worry is one of the causes of stress that can, in turn, create stress-related illnesses. The word "worry" comes from old English and means to choke or strangle. If we think about the original meaning of the word "worry," we find that it accurately describes what worrying does to us.

When we choke or are strangled, we cannot breathe. Our air supply is cut off and we struggle for life. While we may not associate choking with worry, if we think about it, when we worry we are actually cutting off our life. We may not show signs of physical distress right away, but slowly over time, our body exhibits some form of deterioration. Stress produces hormones that were meant for escaping danger. We either run or fight. It sends hormones that pump up our strength in our arms or legs to run or fight. But when we feel stress without the necessity of running or fighting, those hormones circulate through our body. An excess of these hormones have the effect of causing long-term damage to different parts of the body. Although we do not choke or become strangled, they definitely cause physical illness over time.

Thus, doctors and psychologists have been focusing their attention on helping people avoid worry as a means to better health, both mentally and physically. Some of the research points to the fact that worry is a condition that arises from fear. A study

was done about worry that analysed the kinds of worry that people have. More than one-third of what people worry about deals with things that never happen. Another one-third of worry deals with things that happened in the past that cannot be changed. The remaining one-third of worry is divided between worrying about things that concern other people and are not our business, things that deal with sickness that we really have or imagine we have, and a small percentage are real things about which we should worry.

Think of how often we worry about things tremendously, yet they never happen. For example, consider how many times in the past years that the weather reports spoke of heavy rains and thunderstorms that threatened to ruin the plans over the Fourth of July holiday. Yet, the day turned out to be sunny and beautiful. Our mind projects events into the future that cause us to worry, with some people even worrying themselves sick over some impending disaster. They may think about the perceived threat day and night. They may talk about it with others. Some people may even lose sleep over it. Most of the time, whatever they worried about never came to pass. The results are that all those days and weeks they spent thinking about their fear of the future has wasted much precious time of their life. It was as if they were choking on their fears. Those life-breaths allotted to them were wasted. The quality of their life was cut short due to worry.

ONE WAY TO DEVELOP TRUST IN GOD IS TO MEDITATE. WHEN WE MEDITATE AND GO WITHIN WE DISCOVER GOD WITHIN US. THEN, THERE IS NO MORE QUESTIONING OF WHETHER THERE IS GOD OR NOT. WE COME TO SEE GOD AND ALL THE WONDERS WITHIN

HOW TO AVOID WORRYING

The next time we start to worry, we must consider whether it is worth the time of our precious lives to engage in thoughts about things that may or may not ever happen. If there is really a danger, then instead of worrying, we should make specific plans to avert the threat. If we take actions, we have done all we can do. We do not need to supplement those actions with worry. Taking action is useful; but worry is useless. We do our best, and then put in the remaining time to something that is going to be beneficial to other people or ourselves. In this way, we can eliminate one-third of our worries.

Another cause for worry is events that happened in the past that we cannot change. It may be true that what has happened in the past was not to our liking or to the liking of other people. Once the event is gone, it does no one any good to worry about it. What has happened has happened. Worrying about it will not change it; worry will only make us sick. Thus, we suffer doubly for the events of the past. We suffered once for the situation we did not like. But then we suffer repeatedly each moment we worry about it because it makes us relive that situation again and again in our minds. It is like replaying the same bad movie over and over. Isn't once enough?

LEARN FROM THE PAST, BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT

The value in thinking about the past is only to learn from it, take steps not to repeat our mistakes, and then move on. Worrying about it will not change it. Worry will not even make us

avoid the same mistakes in the future. We should take a lesson from the past, and we should resolve to do better in the future. If we could forget the past, we could eliminate another large chunk of our worries.

TRUST IN GOD

One of the best ways to declare freedom from worry is to trust in God. Sometimes in life we go through good times and at other times, difficulties. When things are going well for us we believe in God. However, when despite our best efforts and goodness of heart we hit bad times, then we question whether there is God.

In our own lives, we can reflect on times when we worried that things were not going our way. We began to question God and how bad things could happen to us. Yet, later we come to realise that in the end all worked out for the best. What seemed to be a setback actually was a blessing, because things in the end worked out better than we could have arranged them for ourselves.

We realise that God is always with us and looking out for us. Sometimes we cannot see it right away but at the appropriate time we find out that God's wisdom knew what was best for us.

One way to develop trust in God is to meditate. When we meditate and go within we discover God within us. Then, there is no more questioning of whether there is God or not. We come to see God and all the wonders within. With this awareness, we no longer have to question God's wisdom. We see God's hand in all things and know that whatever happens is for the best for us.

The writer is a spiritual leader



HIDDENSOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Democracy wins in the US, but...



It is ironic that the person who promised to make America great again, could only prove to be an anti-thesis of the idea. Now that the old order changeth and there is a sense of relief, some issues need to be debated and discussed. Not with reference to some individual but in the context of the system. It was largely for this reason that the US Presidential elections gave no less anxiety the world over than the Covid-19 pandemic. Though coronavirus also had a role to play in the outcome, yet the US elections leave many a lessons to learn. The first and foremost is that it validated the hypothesis of Abraham Lincoln, one of the greatest US presidents. Yes, you can fool some people all the time, all the people some of the time, but not all the people all the time. Incidentally, he was from the same party as Trump, though they were poles apart in terms of their value system. And that made the difference. Even if you can fool some people all the time and all the people sometime, you can rule. That is how the world got to experience the likes of Hitler and Mussolini. They were able to fool a large number for a long time. Democracy is a workable system that rests on the principle of maximum good to maximum number. But there is an inherent weakness. Sometimes majoritarianism becomes the norm. Race or religion may create false sense of pride and make people believe in the unbelievable. Memories of Hitler's rule in Germany still send chill down the spine and suggest how a democratic rule can become undemocratic. That the US could ward off this threat may give a sigh of relief to majority of Americans and most of the world, yet what happened on 6th January at the Capitol Hill is a grim pointer to the way a democracy can be distorted. If such a thing could happen in the US that claims to be a global champion of the cause of democracy, then what about countries that are on weaker grounds. There is a need to think over this issue deeply because one person can hold the nation to ransom and run amok. How to rein in such aberrations is a big question. Systemic checks and balances are very important. The strength and independence of various institutions determine the success of a democracy. Fortunately in the US there were those institutions that did not succumb to whims and fancies of one person. The judiciary and the media remained largely objective and even the sections of legislature, the republicans, refused to act like apparatchiks. Democracy is not leader driven. It is institution driven. The integrity of such institutions depends on values of individuals manning them. Chances of a leader going astray are always there but institutions must stand firm. The simple prescription is by putting right men rather than Yes men in places. It is meritocracy, thus, that can steer democracy. When self-infatuated leaders start getting carried away by their own slogans institutions must act as a check. Slogans don't make Nations great. It is the actions that matter. Actions based on sound reasoning and noble intentions. Democracies are fragile systems that can easily become totalitarian. Strengthening the institutions makes Democracy survive and thrive. Mr President has a task cut out for him. Democracy has survived. But it should thrive. For a more democratic and just post corona world order.

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Ways to thrive in new normal

The pandemic and its aftermath induced several behavioural changes within us, says **SAMRIDH SETH**, as he hands out tips to handle the new way of life better

The year 2020, although full of adversities, has directed us to the path of the new normal, and how we can take care of ourselves and also prosper moving forward. Let us go through 7 things you can consider to thrive in the new normal.

● **It's the Age of The Polymaths.** Learn a variety of things and be ready to adapt and change from one topic/subject to another as the tides turn. The pandemic year has made us vulnerable but at the same time, as fluid to adapt to new conditions too. Take up that long-desired activity; engage in taking baby steps for all that you have wished or dreamed to accomplish. There are no boundaries.

● **Curiosity is the key.** Be curious and use your time wisely to learn as much as you can. A to-do list of activities for the day and planning them out certainly arrest from wasting any time, especially on social media and various other apps due to extra time that we all have at home, away from our work environments. Killing time is certainly losing an opportunity in disguise. Try and avert engaging in any unnecessary activities by the day.

● **Not sticking to one project but multitasking will certainly keep your mood uplifted and your mind innovative.**



Keep your mind working on a side project that may one day become a side hustle. Keep innovating, thinking and exploring new ideas. Innovation always is indispensable. Learn to master your multiple qualities by putting them to use continuously.

● **Self-love should not be seconded.** Remember to take care of yourself and love yourself. Make sure you are eating right,

exercising right, keeping motivated and moving onwards and upwards. Let not negativity or unforeseen thoughts linger on your mind. It is hard to go at it on your own sometimes but that's the path we are all on now.

● **Complaining is never the answer.** Don't complain about what's going on but try to understand, adapt and improve with the given situa-

tion if you can or adjust to the new way the world is. Remember, you can only play the cards you have been dealt with, not the ones in the pack.

● **If you like painting, sketching, or even swimming, you must take up all the therapeutic hobbies that keep you calm from within.** Pick up a new hobby, not dependent on anyone or anything, something you can do yourself. Don't wait for others, go at everything you want, yourself. If others want to join in for the ride, welcome them with open arms but don't be dragged down by them.

● **Getting over the predecessor self is important.** Try and be better than you were and strive to always get better than you are. See yourself in the future and chase that goal, play catch up but never reach it. Why? Because you will have bigger and better goals the better you become. Most importantly, you must have fun and enjoy whatever that you are doing. Live life on your terms.

The life ahead is going to be full of challenges and it will be all the more unpredictable with the new normal kicking in, but as much will the challenges be, seeing the opportunities emerging out of the same will be a silver lining in turn for one to adapt and thrive in the new normal.

The writer is the author of Past Dwellers

God is always listening

God is omnipresent and giving. Work on improving your *karma* to get rewarded by the divine powers that be, writes **AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI**

What does God do being all-pervasive? He sees, hears and even knows what we are thinking. Why does God do this, because He must respond, if required. Suppose a little girl is praying in her home for quick cure of her sick mother, then, God must act, because He must respond. Such is the Cosmic Design. How He will act and when is entirely upto Him, but He will definitely do something. No prayer ever goes waste except when it is against "dharma". Similarly, all our spiritual acts will be noticed by God and duly rewarded, again as determined by Him. Because God must encourage such acts. These distinguish one from a good person. Such souls are spiritual besides being good persons.

Good people are born with divine endowments. (16.1-3) They have yet not progressed to the spiritual level. However, as their purity level goes up, they will ultimately accept the existence of God and begin doing spiritual acts such as chanting Lord's names. Good people are rewarded for their pious deeds by the divine authorities. And if such good persons become doers of welfare acts, they are assured of not ending up badly. (6.40)

Spiritually-minded persons on the other hand are known as devotees of God. As God is seeing, hearing and is aware of everything, all their spiritual acts are noticed by God, and He takes cognizance of them through appropriate rewards. For instance, when you chant "Rama", God hears it. And as God knows what your thoughts are behind doing so (13.2), He must respond suitably. As God is unlimited, He can give whatever He feels His devotees deserve. God's reaction is very different from what a common man will



do in these circumstances. Suppose someone calls my name, I must be within hearing distance to be able to hear. If I do hear, then, I have to ascertain the purpose of such an act. Even after that, I have to determine whether I can help or want to help, because we are limited and have narrow self-interest; God does not have such limitations.

Back to God's motivation for wanting to be aware of everything. The first is the need for continuity. The creation lasts millions of years. God cannot allow any act, which could endanger the longevity of the Creation. Therefore, He must be aware of everything, i.e. which goes on in His Creation, even what we are thinking. God will not allow any serious damage to His Creation. The second motivation is proper functioning of the Creations. That is why gods and goddesses have been created; these are special souls different from us. They administer the *Karmaphala* principle under His superintendence. (9.10) The

third motivation is to encourage good people, who are vital for the functioning of the Creation. Imagine a world with only bad people, i.e. those in whom demonic qualities are predominant. (16.6) That will not work. Such good persons are duly rewarded for their pious deeds by the divine authorities.

The fourth motivation is to reward those good souls, who have progressed from the level of goodness to the spiritual level, i.e. those who are now also engaged in doing spiritual acts, as mentioned earlier, when goodness increases, one will be inclined to turn spiritual; this is natural. And when one does spiritual acts goodness and purity increase manifold. Such persons are extremely useful for the Creation and must be encouraged, which God does as He notices them. These spiritual acts differentiate devotees of God from good persons.

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Modi, public will and intellectuals' club

"The struggle for material existence is over. It has been won.

The need for repressions and disciplines have passed.

The struggle for truth and that indescribable necessity,

Beauty, begins now, hampered by none of the lower needs.

No one now needs live less or be less than his utmost."

Scottish Poet Hugh MacDiarmid in Lament for Great Music.

I know some people may brook no immodesty but relevance overshadows immodesty when occasion demands it. My sincere apologies for reproducing from my own book — *Soliloquy of a Small-Town Uncivil Servant*. In a chapter titled "Within the Cave or Cave Within" there is a depiction of a civil servant visiting his superior officer fictitiously named *Madam Mahavipida Devi*, supposedly in charge of transfers and postings of officers (looking at the name one can imagine the plight of lesser mortals). Not a sanctimonious subordinate, his fault was he wanted to present her his book of poems in place of things that pleased her. Conversation ensued:

"And then she talked about that book. 'A book in Hindi.' She kind of condescended. 'No in English.' Keeping her eyes peeled — 'Your wife has written it. Does she know English?' 'Is she from Delhi?' 'No, I have.

Her eyes become wider and wider. 'You have written?' There was utter disbelief in her.....

'How come you are stationed at such a place? How long has it been?' Completed two years?"

'Yes, madam.'

'Move from there immediately.'

'Where?'

'Oh, oh, you don't meet the parameters. You must understand that.'

'Yes, madam. Parameters. Which parameters madam? None told me of them.'

'Yes, you don't meet these. Do I owe you an explanation? I know you from the cow belt?'

The character Mahavipida Devi, who pooh-poohed the visiting civil servant for belonging to the "cow belt" and his not meeting "parameters" for posting to certain cozy stations represented that elite group whose members decide the parameters for access to certain rose things, including postings and high positions, and also decide the persons who meet parameters to get these. How relevant it is in today's context!

Professor Jonah Ruskin, the 78-year old American critic of renown, while reviewing my aforementioned book for *New York Journal of Books*, opined, "...Henry David Thoreau, the author of *Walden* and the essay 'Civil Disobedience,' said that the person he knew best was himself. Hence, Thoreau announced he would write about himself. If he knew another person as well or better than himself he would write about that person, he explained." Great thinkers carry wonderful serenade with their thoughts leaving behind everlasting intellectual fragrance. Let me move to the principal theme of this article.

Of all my postings, three I identified for their uniqueness: Pondicherry, Rajkot, and then Trivandrum. Of relevance for this article is Rajkot. The time I spent in Rajkot in Gujarat brought me both as a citizen of the country and as Accountant General of the State face to face with a different place altogether. It was an enthralling place with smiling and welcoming faces and a whole mass of cultured, motivated people, ever ready to help anyone in need. People were industrious and society had no idleness in any sphere. It was not an idle society. Uninterrupted power and water supply, a highly responsive administration to citizen's needs, almost perfect law and order situation in the entire State, and people with a sense of responsibility carrying on, with remarkable zeal, their responsibilities in various capacities were some of the attributes I noticed. One could earn well, live well and sleep well. My interaction with people — vegetable vendors, barbers, taxi drivers, students — I met during my evening trolls in the big campus of Saurashtra University, and a whole lot of people during my visits throughout the State gave me two messages. First, it was a well-governed State. Second, they loved and respected their then Chief Minister Narendra Modi because of whom and his model of governance they were enjoying high quality of life. For them, Narendra Modi was the be-all and end-all. I got to know what it meant by public will. I left Rajkot in 2009 with a question lurking in my memory. Why was

Modi so popular? 2014 was not far behind.

Pontificated way back John Kenneth Galbraith in his celebrated book *The Age of Uncertainty*, based on his experience of interaction with a few world leaders like Hermann Goering, Joachim van Ribbentrop, Albert Speer, Walther Funk, Julius Streicher and Robert Ley who, to use Galbraith's own words, "did pass under my inspection and interrogation" that great leaders were ones who had the willingness to confront unequivocally the major anxieties of their people in their time. They not only shared what he called "mass anxieties" of their times but also altered themselves with changing "mass anxieties". Galbraith found fault with late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on this count in as much as late Prime Minister Nehru did not keep pace with changing mass anxieties and the current problem in main Opposition parties is a reflection on their failure to live up to the expectations of what Galbraith referred to as "changing mass anxieties". Galbraith also talked of "vested interests" to which I will come later.

The year 2014 saw dawning of a historical new world for India. People of India revealed their preference for a change. They had experienced a long rule by the Congress and coalition Governments but despite some good work done during last sixty years or so, there was a sense of desperation, a sense of suffocation, a sense of collective helplessness. Or alternatively put a collective desire for a change. In power in 2014, Prime Minister Modi meant change; a shift. The manifesto of party set the ball rolling. He believed in experimenting with growth agents. He knew the behaviour of markets, producers and consumers. He had guts. He knew how a leader in the BJP is born and evolves in the hands of stalwarts and statesmen like LK Advani and Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He inherited collective traits of a party that had struggled to keep its ideals and ideas aloft amid swinging fortunes. He started taking macro socio-economic decisions in overall national interest. He knew people's disillusionment with previous regimes and the reasons for the disillusionment. People were watching him how he was going ahead with implementing the manifesto the BJP presented before them and they voted the party to power. Very importantly, people having evaluated "Gujarat Model of Development" decided to vote for Modi and expected results from him. What he inherited from the majority of previous regimes was at best an inheritance of great loss. He had two choices; implement manifesto; he had clear majority given by the people of India or slip into quagmire like other parties in the past. Gujarat model of economic development showed a pious path. It was a clean path too. I am not going astray but let us understand who is an intellectual?

For the league of people called "intellectuals", the world has always been a complex place where they watch powers and countervailing powers vying with each other. They possess well-rounded worldview, have the capability to indulge in logical thinking and absorb happenings correctly and fairly. They are meant to observe and interpret national and international trends, relationships between countries, functioning of economy and democracy. They have a responsibility towards the plebeians to make them understand complex issues and mold their thinking and behaviour for a much enhanced sense of fairness and justice and better governed society.

Looking back at history of post-independence India, one realises the crucial role assigned by the rulers to members of the coterie or "elite group" that were fiercely driven by what John Kenneth Galbraith in his aforementioned book called "vested interests". "People have an enduring tendency to protect what they have, justify what they want to have. And their tendency is to see as right the ideas that serve such purpose." For example, in 2015, returning awards as a method was adopted by the intellectual elite to create superfluous controversies and divert attention from good work done by the Government. Controversies bring limelight and this is the raison d'être of the annoyance of some of the puzzled intellectuals who choose not to blind themselves to the invading imaginary apocalypse when time ticks away and things don't seem to be going their way. They don't accept today's New India where there is no space for the "coterie", "elite group" or "vested interests". True democracy nestles not in clubs of "elite groups" and "coter-



ies", with a sense of kinship, but inside the ordinary person who is a voter. Gone are the days when people obtaining degrees from "prestigious" colleges of metros particularly Delhi were destined to push elite culture in whatever walk of life they moved forth at the cost of umpteen number of ordinary folks far more talented than the former but pushed to the backwater. In Prime Minister Narendra Modi's period everyone has equal opportunity to ride the ladder and reach top positions. The Prime Minister himself being a shining example who has soiled his hands in the dusty streets of democracy which in turn has gifted him the wisdom and insight into segregating the important from the circumferential on what matters are important. Once important matters to be further pursued are decided, difficulties don't matter nor difficult decisions. To answer a question raised earlier, this is the precise reason that accounts for Modi's popularity, something I experienced in Gujarat.

Immense popularity brings with it critics who constantly look forward to use groups, elite groups, coteries of selected people in love for being branded as "intellectuals" to create controversies as they enjoy their oneness with Miley Cyrus's averment: "People like controversy because that's what sells." This class of closely knit people gathers in the evenings in clubs, hotels or even someone's house to exchange their points of views remarkably similar to views of other members. Thus homogeneity of views defines this class of intellectuals. Heterogeneity is unacceptable to them or their masters. Heterogeneity uncovers masks. It shows mirror and hence is an anathema. Second, each member considers herself/himself as past master expressing her/his point of view at the earliest available opportunity. Third, in the event of being in oblivion for long, they bring out their jointly nourished weapon from their armory; they become habitual signatories to letters addressed to no less than the President or the Prime Minister of the country. They know how to make efforts to draw attention and steal the limelight. Momentarily pleasures in waning hours are something to live by.

The problem with this elite group is that even a democratically elected Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not acceptable to them as they don't realise their failure to identify themselves with the average citizen whose vote reigns supreme in a democracy. Any democratically elected leader represents the voice and concerns of the man in the street: the average man who represents the "mean" of the democracy. Fortunately elite groups of intellectuals don't represent the "mean" of democracy. The "mean" of democracy is not merely a numeric figure implying number of votes fetched in an election but a trust that average Indian reposes in the leader and party that he leads. Trust implies the voters believe that the leader and party they voted to power will treat them well and fairly, look after their

welfare and let them live and function with dignity. Indian society that is governed by democracy moves by and large on the principles of trust. Voting system implies trust and reciprocal faith.

Trust begets fairness: a fair deal to people. Here Narendra Modi has established his credentials. The huge victory of the BJP in 2019 under Modi's leadership confirms it beyond doubt. Fairness calls for transparency and visibility. Provision of equality of opportunity to all, to the maximum extent possible, is not a myth. It's possible. Schemes benefitting common people like water conservation efforts through Jal Shakti Ministry, reduced use of plastic, surrender by over one crore people of their LPG subsidy to enable the needy get LPG connections, States pairing with one another for interaction between their people, arrival of electric vehicles, Self4Society bringing volunteers to teach underprivileged children, innovation of ecosystem, phenomenal increase in Khadi sales, Beti Bachao, Bati Padhao scheme helping sex ratio at birth rise from 918 in 2014 to 931 in 2019, taking care of mentally disordered people through websites like Kiran, etc. are a few examples. People voting for the BJP are not guided by belief in Hinduism or Hindu model of society and development but by their belief in leadership's competence, honesty, transparency and involved approach. Benefits from schemes flow to all citizens irrespective of their origin or religion.

Another issue that figures regularly is that of intolerance and a hostile attitude towards dissent. This is far away from reality. Those who quarrel on this count must remember Emergency days and nights. Journalist and thinker A Surya Prakash' book "*The Emergency: Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour*" and other writers' books throw ample light on the consequences of dissent during Emergency. Yet another point of view presented by some intellectuals is that the present regime is psychologically thwarting the thinking capability of a category of people by not allowing them to express their views frankly and openly. Last six years have witnessed significant positive changes in the quality of society, and when these happen, sporadic noises by some are normal consequence. But when such noises continuously seem to aim at diverting attention from fruitful things being done by the Government and creating psychological hurdles in the process of development, there is a need for much deeper and more explicit "self-observation" as psychologist Wundt called it, of themselves by voice-makers in the context of their imagined fears and agonies.

Sometimes one looks amusedly at discussions centering on if there has been "too much" and "too less democracy". There can never be at any time in the history of mankind a completely ideal democracy, for the word "ideal" renders itself to differing interpretations and when some titans from the same league clash

over what level and kind of democracy be there as per their desire and choice, the battle, inter alia, boils down to exquisitely crafted English prose taught in posh colleges of metros. Democracy is decided by people and not by warring titans or intellectuals in cozy chambers where outside temperature gets regulated by machines hanging on walls. Those who don't respect will of the people must feel enraged enough to come out to see natural warmth of air.

Yet another oft-repeated charge: Modi-led BJP is pro-Hindu and anti-minorities. India is a country which has a national character, national ethos and a national conscience and Hinduism is at the core of that character, ethos and conscience. By virtue of its benevolence and all-encompassing nature, it assimilates and absorbs. It does not discriminate. It believes in flexibility. Rigidity towards other religions is an anathema for it. It has suffered many onslaughts on its character and has emerged more and more vast, clean and large-hearted religion. Anyone disrespecting Hindu religion has to be condemned and dealt with accordingly. Appeasement policies to please minorities are not good for overall growth of the nation. A former Prime Minister went on saying, "We will have to devise innovative plans to ensure that minorities, particularly the Muslims, are empowered to share equitably the fruits of development." Though later on clarifications poured in clarifying the intent but the cat was already out of the bag. The assertion raised two important questions. Did Muslims not enjoy equitably the fruits of development? Second, if minorities particularly the Muslim minority did not share equitably the fruits of development, which Government ruled for the large period of sixty years after Independence and was it not responsible for it? These need to be viewed in the context of constant hue and cry by some public opinion makers against the present Prime Minister and BJP.

The heart of the matter lies in the fictitiously named lady Mahavipida Devi who not only believed in the "parameters" she, in cahoots with her ilk, made for selecting the kind of people who could fill the slots in posh stations and posh charges but also determined who didn't meet the parameters. These persons form the coterie or elite group that thrives at the cost of majority of people in any organisation or country at the peril of the organisation or the country. Anyone from the marginalised segment coming to limelight attracts vehement criticism, whispering voices and slanderous propaganda against them by members of elite groups. Therefore these intellectuals' puzzle is perfectly understandable but fortunately the man in the street resolves the puzzle quickly just like the civil servant who met Madam Mahavipida Devi and heard her lecturing him about parameters. Unwanted criticism by certain sections of society running contrary to public wisdom, verdict and will is not

relevant. Why?

Viewing democracy in today's India with jaundiced eyes by some of these intellectuals will produce for them only person perceptions but certainly not common perspectives. These men, gossiping in clubs and coffee houses, taken together believe they are supplying outside world very impressive amount of information but the harsh truth is they deplorably possess limited knowledge about real India and what makes real India. People in the service of pre-conceived ideas, policies and politics have fundamental problems in gaining insight into the modes of working of present Government that is determined to create a New India. For understanding a New India, one has to come out of the old India. Real problem lies there. New India has no "comfort zones" for anyone. Common perspectives come from masses who have felt the impact of various reforms and measures initiated by the Government. That accounts for continuing popularity of Modi and BJP's victory in various elections.

There are two most important contributions of Prime Minister Modi. First, for a huge majority of population in the country, the necessity, to use Hugh MacDiarmid words "to live less or be less than his utmost" is over and equally importantly, he has made not only India but to a considerable extent, the world safe for democracy. Safety of democracy is vital as only a safe democracy serves majority of citizens and does not cater to requirements of a group of powerful individuals. The period of these groups enjoying disproportionate voice and control over words and national resources is over. Modi has given people a sense of identity. He has been extraordinarily influential in spreading globally the ideas of equality, human dignity, market, transparency, democracy, self and collective discipline and national glory. It is because of these and his popularity and connectivity with common people that Narendra Modi has acquired a clean, respectable international image and the world sees him and his vision of new India as a new hope for the world.

(KK Srivastava hails from Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh. He did his Masters in Economics from Gorakhpur University in 1980 and joined Civil Services in 1983. He superannuated in July 2020 as Additional Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General from the office of Comptroller & Auditor General of India. He is a poet, writer and columnist. Author of three volumes of poetry, his poems have been translated into Hindi (Andhere Se Nikli Kavayitayani PRAKASHAN (2017) and his book 'Shadows of the Real' into Russian by veteran Russian poet Adolf Shvedchikov. His fourth book *Soliloquy of a Small-Town Uncivil Servant: a literary non-fiction published in March 2019 by Rupa Publications, New Delhi has been receiving international acclaim in literary field. Views expressed here are his personal views.)*

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KK SRIVASTAVA



MAN HAS TWO GREAT SPIRITUAL NEEDS. ONE IS FOR FORGIVENESS. THE OTHER IS FOR GOODNESS —BILLY GRAHAM



YOUR YEAR AHEAD

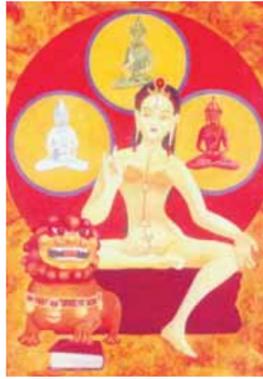
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

You are expected to follow a new health regime. You have been slacking for a long time and now things are out of your control. You need rest, a planned diet, and peace of mind. So, work out accordingly. Remember health is wealth and there are no other commitments as important as looking after your wellbeing. On the work front, if you are waiting for the results of an interview, you may still have to wait. Try to be patient and refrain from pushing people to move before they are ready. Make sure you have done your share of work, and if you haven't, figure out how to explain or make amends. On the relationship front, there may be the end of a relationship. Try to give your beloved some breathing space.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week your health remains good and you will bring balance in your life. Professional, personal, and emotional all fronts go well with your wisdom. Amidst the busy schedule, you take time out for your wellbeing. Family members will be supportive to you in whatever you do. On the work front, you feel the powerful energy and want to achieve the best in all your tasks. You may be bothered by a gentleman's behaviour at work but it could just be that you are being too sensitive. He's just doing his job. An exciting opportunity is likely come to you to represent your institution on the academic front. On the relationship front, some moments in life will bring pure ecstasy and you may wonder why. A new bonding is on the horizon.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Wednesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week heart patients should be careful. Avoid anger and aggression. You will be full of life. You have great stamina and vitality, but be careful when exercising; there are indications of minor injuries or sprains. Career-wise you feel important as new job opportunity will come your way with a better perspective. You might get a bit busy in planning your life. Use your intelligence and hard work, it will pay you rich dividends. You may face a tough time in your relationship. It can be that your beloved or someone in blood relation (your mother or sister) is undergoing mental tension and needs your support. Those who are seeking love, don't worry. Your time will eventually come but for now, it's good to stop with your search for some time.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

You are in the best of health. Use the good energy of this time to enhance your habits, improvising your exercise routine or adding to your knowledge of nutrition. Trust yourself. You come back in life with double enthusiasm and creativity. On the work front, it is vibrant and action-packed time. There will be sudden outbursts of emotions and passions as well. You start the work to finish and with quality. Support of seniors will give a boost to your career this week. On the personal front, give with kindness and compassion, and know that what goes around always comes around. Some of you might spoil your relations with the loved ones, due to your sensitive nature. This time career is very important for you and romance and love will take backstage.

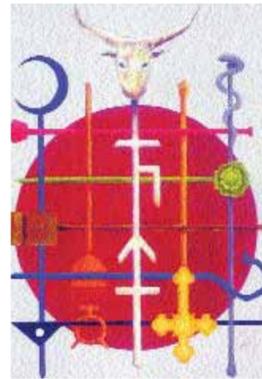
Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week your physical and mental health needs to be looked after. You want to learn and solve every problem using your resources, overlooking others' advice. This way you may end up feeling isolated and excluded. Even in health matters, don't try to escape the situations if you have issues. Take the advice of a health practitioner. On the work front, expect good news about finance. A female may prove beneficial to your career. No matter what is happening in your financial life, give yourself a break, and know that you can make a positive difference to make more prosperity in your life. Some of you may get a promotion and higher positions. On the personal front, relationships will be satisfactory. This is the time when married couples will share good understanding.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Caramel Brown
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You need to be careful about being overworked and overstressed. Addictions and obsession might harm you, stay away from them. You are likely to lose self-control. Bad company is not advisable. Balance is the key to keeping good health. On the work front, a pleasant surprise will come your way. A new project or assignment is on the cards. This could even be a new job opportunity. You may come up with new systems or processes that make your work-life simpler and less stressful. Ignore workplace gossip. Rely on your intuition and your inner knowledge, rather than your conscious mind or intellect. On the relationship front, this is a good week for singles. Those in a committed relationship, it is time to consider some action to bring romance back.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Monday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Any kind of ritual such as reading a book will be helpful for your health. At this time, a person is likely come into your life, who will be a mentor or teacher. You will learn from them at several levels. You will soon be feeling much more social. Career-wise, you may face tough competition or rivalry. You will get good news about finance. With your creativity, you can reach out to others particularly females, and get the help and advice that you need to make a positive difference financially. On the relationship front, do not get too domineering for your partner. You may face conflicts, both external and internal. Do not escalate conflicts unnecessarily. Think before you act. Things may not work out as you would hope with a love relationship.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you will feel strong both physically and mentally. You will be full of vigour and vitality. You may decide to finish the pending tasks and many other works which you were not able to do in the past weeks. Word of caution though: do not overdo things or push your body further. Rest is also a critical part of health. Career-wise, this is a very positive time for you in financial terms. Wise investments will keep your bank balance in a healthy state. Money inflow will be good. There will be an improvement in your career life. On the relationship front, you need to be careful. Your obsession and passion might give you a jolt. Secret affairs or extramarital relations might put you in trouble. For those who are seeking love, this is not a favourable time for them.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Saturday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Your health will be on the upswing. You will feel find a healer who works with something besides allopathy. Follow your instincts about what is best for your health. Taking advice from physiotherapist and experts in meditation and yoga will work in your favour. On the work front, this is the time when you get the results with least efforts. You are nearing the point where work success and recognition are well within your reach. Do your best to be organised and productive. Do the right thing even if nobody is watching. Your honesty and integrity will pay you well. In the matters of heart, there will be some quick happenings this week which will surprise you. Some of you are feeling ready for a commitment that doesn't seem to be forthcoming.

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week you may be more determined to give up bad habits in the interest of your health. You are energetic, feel a lot of stamina and vitality. Avoid aggression. Give yourself time and space for meditation. Walking can also be very effective as well. A good massage is advised. On the career front, you are either getting a good job offer or a promotion in the existing one. Your projects are likely to be more successful than expected. You have a lot of reasons to feel pride. If you're waiting on results from an interview, you are likely to get a good response. On the love front, ensure that you are counting your blessings. Focus on the things and people in your life that you have to be thankful for.

Lucky number 30
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week your health may suffer if you ignore it. Get a second or even third opinion before you sign up for anything that is irrevocable health-wise. Be open to spiritual healing. On the career front, if you are not happy with the current job, believe that you hold the power to change your situation. Maybe you cannot change your work environment, but that should not keep you from looking for a different or better situation. On the relationship front, although your intentions are good your sharp attitude may put people off. Try and enhance your communication skills. While you are busy with career, money and family taking your time and energy you are suddenly tossed into a whirlwind romance that leaves you empty and lost.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You may feel exhausted in the first part of the week. But you will still be left with at least a short period when you will feel exceptionally well and upbeat about your future. Give thought to how you may support and continue this good health. You can deepen your spiritual growth. Share the good feelings with your near and dear ones. On the career front, things are changing positively. It is advised to take counselling and seek advice on the career front, it will be beneficial at this point. Your efforts are likely to be valued. Just continue what you are doing. There is promotion and recognition on the cards. On the relationship front, there is romance in the air. There is fruition in your affair and you will find yourself in the pool of bliss. You feel happy and contented with life.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Dhyana for a powerful mind

A good number of readers recently requested me to explain the *Dhyana* process as propounded by sage Patanjali in detail. I am sharing a write-up on the subject from my book *God or No God. Awareness enriches life.*

Going by its literal meaning, *Dhyana* implies paying attention. It is on none other than one's own self, which holds the key to how we conduct in life. Foremost, it calls for observing and becoming aware of one's limitations of mind. Second, the workable part of one's indwelling potential. And finally, explore one's wholesome latent potential, unexplored and untapped thus far out of ignorance, which when unfolded in full would know no limits.

The method involved is to first disengage one's attention from external distractions, and then look within to explore and scan what lies in store at the various levels of the inner realms of mind. Having become aware thus, to consciously deliberate upon and accordingly redefine the thought process, with the intent to come out with one's best.

In English *lingua franca*, Meditation is the word commonly used to give a sense of *Dhyana*. Although, it doesn't

reflect true spirit and essence of *Dhyana*, it however, stands close by. For, the word meditation, seemingly hints at reflecting upon deeply over some idea, thought, or concept. *Dhyana*, on the contrary, is a process directed towards attaining a state of being, when mind gets riveted to the root of all thoughts. It becomes possible only when flirtation of mind almost comes to an end. Evidently, therefore, mind gets quietened and relaxed, when it comes out with its wholesome creative potential. Meditation, of course, remains a necessary part of the process, and so contextually remains relevant.

Dhyana is a time-tested self-empowerment mechanism, which calls for paying attention to the self. The process as such first lets you discover your own nature — the vulnerabilities, the virtues and attributes, in and out. Following which, one gets the opportunity to address one's fault lines through fresh educative inputs. In the process, sufficient mind-space gets created by clearing off the clutter, making way for absorption of fresh educative inputs. Second, one is able to identify and acknowledge one's workable part of indwelling potential, which when honed, augments one's



creative abilities. Finally, one realises true nature of mind, covering both its micro and macro aspects. Following which, body, mind, and soul, being operating in a coordinated way as a unified whole. Mind, thus, comes out with its wholesome powers that would know no limits. *Dhyana*, therefore, is a holistic programme, in fact a mental therapy, directed towards integrated development of the self from the base level.

It will be interesting to note here that more the physical efforts one puts in, better would be the fruits of action. The chemistry of the mind, however, runs just to the contrary. The more relaxed mind is; all the more creative it becomes. And this state is gained when one is in a state of Yoga, which is arrived at pursuing *dhyana*. Once mind becomes peaceful and relaxed, the thought process becomes easy and simple, as the mind becomes free from any complexity, pre-conditioning or limitation. Please bear in mind, simplicity is clarity, directness, and purity. It is free from complications, clutter, and confusion. Simplicity paves the way to success, peace, focus, and happiness. Evidently then, one would in full control of the self, when wholesome powers of mind shall be available.

Following which, one's integrated self would be spontaneously moving in consonance with the callings of larger orderliness of nature. One would then be able to use mind as an instrument, which it is, rather than playing second fiddle to its vagaries. Consequently, mind comes out with its creative best, when it qualifies to spontaneously lead us towards the right course due. Free from any extraneous influences, one looks at issues in hand with an open mind. Consequently, one is able to have a full hand view of whatever is explored. One would then be able to intuitively get to the root of wherever attention is paid. Spontaneity becomes the rule of mind's game play. Also, one would be able to distinguish between "what one wants and what is right" and make most appropriate choices in life. The process, however, is not easy. For, invariably, we are all born with a pre-conditioned mind, which plays spoil sport with our efforts to streamline our mind following *Dhyana* process.

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