

MONEY 6
PETROL, DIESEL PRICES
UNCHANGED ACROSS METROS

WORLD 7
ANOTHER UN PEACEKEEPER
KILLED IN MALI, 5TH IN A WEEK

SPORT 8
PUNJAB, TN CLOSE
TO MUSHTAQ ALI K/O

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USUAL SUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Need for a measure of juridical predictability

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

Despite the Government's unwillingness to take a public stand on the court's stay, there is a sense of outrage among the supporters of the reforms. This stems from a belief that the court has clearly exceeded its constitutional mandate governing judicial review. In normal circumstances, a court assesses the legality of legislation, properly enacted by elected representatives, on two counts. First, it assesses whether or not the legislation is in accordance with the letter and, occasionally, spirit of the Constitution. Secondly, it may extend its view to take into account the adherence to natural justice. In recent times, the principle of "judicial conscience" has made an entry in the thinking of some judges. However, since this is a nebulous and totally subjective principle, it is best to disregard it as an aberration.

On the question of the Constitution, the court would have been entirely in order to examine if the Centre had the necessary constitutional mandate to undertake legislation to abolish the APMC and the existing anti-hoarding rules. It is beyond the jurisdiction of the judiciary to question the wisdom and appropriateness of the legislation. That power vests entirely with the legislature, in this case both Houses of Parliament. The debate on the merits and demerits of the new laws belongs in the realms of politics. Although there is a school of thought that believes political decision-making is too crucial to be left to elected politicians and should be

vetted by a smaller group of wise people, this belief has no place in a democracy. The principle of judicial review has to be selective. If it becomes all-pervasive, the governance of the country passes to the hands of unelected representatives. What the Indian Constitution stipulates is that governments have the absolute right to take bad decisions as long as they don't violate the "basic structure" of the Constitution. What constitutes the "basic structure" is a matter that the courts have arrogated to themselves. It is not an idea that finds any mention in the Constitution. There have been a series of protests against the farm bills in northern India. However, I don't see there anyone in their

right mind has presumed to suggest that the right of farmers to sell their produce across state boundaries is unconstitutional. Nor is there any suggestion that it is constitutionally obligatory to inject the Minimum Support Price into the rules governing the relevant Act. The debate on the subject is partly grounded in economics and partly in politics. That is where the battle must be conducted, not in the courtrooms.

The highest court in the land has made some adverse observations on the paucity of public consultations prior to the passage of the Bills. Politically, this is a worthwhile objection, although it could be said that the waging pandemic didn't allow too much scope for village councils all over India to debate its merits and demerits. At an electoral level too, the new laws don't seem to have been a factor in influencing voting intentions in Bihar and in the series of by-elections all over the country, but notably in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. Nor for that matter has the apparent haste in which the bills were enacted in Parliament triggered farmer unrest in any part of the country, apart from Punjab and Haryana. The observation by economists that the big farmers who are spearheading the agitation — with a great deal of logistical support from professional, rent-a-cause agitators who have a track record of dismal failure in electoral politics — are among the top eight per cent in terms of income has also not been challenged.

India is not a plebiscitary democracy. Democracy vests the responsibility of assessing public opinion on elected representatives whose mandate is periodically renewed. It is their duty to uphold the "public interest" — often by championing change. The courts are meant to see that the rule of law is upheld. Safeguarding the public interest is a lofty concept but that is outside the purview of the judges.

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

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

2L get 1st dose of anti-Covid protection

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



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

Ranjan Dirmir | Pioneer

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India launched its mammoth vaccination drive on Saturday to bring the pandemic under control with two locally-produced vaccines — Covishield and Covaxin — with nearly two lakh out of targeted three lakh taking shot against the pathogen on the first day on Saturday.

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

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

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

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

The PM cautioned people to ensure that they take both the doses at one month's gap and show patience as the country begins to give the antidote to its huge population.

"Don't make the mistake of taking one dose and then forgetting about dose two and don't forget coronavirus appropriate behaviour after getting the dose. The patience with which you fought coronavirus, show the same patience during vaccination now," Modi said.

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

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

here organised late evening after the drive was wrapped up for the day. Of three lakh planned to be inoculated, around 1,91,181 beneficiaries were given the shot of Covid-19 vaccines on first day involving 16,755 personnel at 3,351 vaccination sessions.

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

SII CEO receives 1st dose of Covishield

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

Bird Flu: 10,500 birds culled in Balod

RAIPUR: A total of 10,500 poultry birds were culled in Chhattisgarh's Balod district on Saturday following the confirmation of bird flu.

Chhattisgarh is the 11th state where avian influenza has been confirmed.

As a part of preventative action, the department eliminated 10,500 poultry birds in Gidhali, said K.K. Dhruv, Additional Director, Directorate of Veterinary Sciences.

To a query about cases of bird flu reported in other districts, he said by Saturday his department had not received reports of any further spread of the avian influenza. But if samples confirmed the infection, further action will be taken, Dhruv said.

Meanwhile, after the bird flu was confirmed, movement of poultry birds in the contaminated zone was banned at Gidhali and steps to curb human movement in the contaminated zone were implemented.

A 10-km range in Gidhali was notified as an area under observation, Dhruv said.

SR

Covid vaccination begins in Chhattisgarh, all good

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The much-awaited vaccination against Covid-19 began on Saturday in Chhattisgarh, with a health worker, Tulsa Tandi, working at the Pt JLN Memorial Medical College in Raipur becoming the first to receive the Covidshield dose.

Tulsa Tandi works in the operation theatre of the college. Director AIIMS Raipur Dr Nitin Nagarkar received the first dose of vaccine at AIIMS Raipur, a press release said.

"By Saturday late evening at 97 centres across the state, 5,592 persons had received the first dose of vaccine," Chhattisgarh immunization officer Dr Amar Singh Thakur said. He added that all the parameters set by Union Health Ministry were followed.

No way to go, no age to go

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

A host of political leaders and journalists have mourned her death.

An emotional Chandan Mitra, the Editor-in-Chief of *The Pioneer*, nearly broke down on hearing the news of Usha's demise. "She nurtured



USHA SRIVASTAVA

FEB 12, 1961 — JAN 16, 2021

the *Hindi Pioneer* like her own baby. She was a spirited, committed, and lively colleague, whose absence cannot be filled easily. I'm speechless with grief," he said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath mourned Usha's death and conveyed his condolences to her family. Union Minister Nitin Gadara and Haryana Chief Minister

Manohar Lal Khattar were among those who mourned Usha's death.

The *Pioneer* CEO Shobori Ganguly described Usha as a "valuable" colleague who also cared for everyone around her. "I find it so difficult to come to terms with her passing away. She was such a noble soul," she said.

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

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

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

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

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

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Haryana recorded 13 adverse event cases following the immunisation.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

● Bharat Biotech will pay compensation to recipients in case of any 'serious adverse' effects experienced after receiving the antidote

● Prime Minister Narendra Modi kicked off the vaccine rollout with a click of a button, a video message played the Sanskrit chant — *sarve bhavantu sukhinah, sarve santu niramaya*

● Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan: These vaccines are 'sanjivani' in our fight against this pandemic. We have won the battles against polio and small pox. Now, we have reached the decisive phase of winning the war against coronavirus

● Manish Kumar from Delhi: Many of them (staff) were scared. So, I went to my seniors and said I should be given the vaccine first. I wanted to prove to my colleagues that there is no need to be scared

● Abdul Qayyum, security guard at Era Medical College in UP: There was always fear in mind because of close proximity to coronavirus patients. But now I am feeling much safer after the shot

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HOME THEATRE

Plenty of twists and intrigue



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— Shalini Saksena

Starts on a good note



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

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

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

Then there is the whole thing about using machines to fight this unrest and caught in between are the locals who only want peace and go on with their lives. Machines fighting? Sound familiar? Remember the Terminator series? *Outside The Wire* takes that on to a whole new dimension — a humanoid — a prototype — capable of doing things out-the-box; a lean mean fighting machine but capable of emotions. Definitely dangerous because it means it can think independently of its maker.

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

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

— Shalini Saksena

TELLY TALE

ADITYA IS BACK WITH BAWRA DIL

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

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

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

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

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

DHARMESH ONBOARD FOR DD

Life is always better when you dance! With the lockdown behind us and

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

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

WHO'S YOUR ROOMMATE?

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

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

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

Of history and hope

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

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

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

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

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

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

With such roles, he says, comes a lot



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

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

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

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

'I had never done fantasy thriller'

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

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

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

■ What all can the audience expect from this new entry?

There is a lot of craze for *Naagin* among the audience. I can't reveal the track but I am sure it will be as interesting as it has been all these years with me joining the show as a cameo.

■ Did the role offer any challenges?

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

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

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

■ You have been a part of a few music videos as well. How did that happen?

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

■ How did acting happen to you?

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



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

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

■ Did you have any apprehensions?

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

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

■ What next?

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

We now have the weapon against coronavirus: Singh Deo



Chhattisgarh Health minister T. S. Singh Deo interacting with health worker, Tulsa Tandi who received the first shot of Covishield vaccine at Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur.



Renowned paediatrician and Padma Shri Dr A.T. Dabke (78) being administered the Covishield vaccine at Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur, on Saturday.



AIIMS Raipur director Dr Nitin Nagarkar being administered the Covishield vaccine at AIIMS on Saturday.



Manendragarh MLA Dr Vinay Jaiswal at Urban Primary Health Centre, Doman Hill, administered the first Covishield vaccine to senior Medical Officer Dr Jayant Yadav on Saturday as part of commencement of vaccination drive in Chhattisgarh.

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

“We now have the weapon against coronavirus. With precaution, we have to end

this pandemic,” Chhattisgarh Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo declared on Saturday.

Singh Deo visited Pt JLN Memorial Hospital and met health workers who received

Covid vaccine on the first day of the Covid vaccination drive, a press release said.

“We now have the weapon against coronavirus. By following rules and with

precaution, we have to end this pandemic. The vaccine is completely safe and it has been certified by scientists,” he said.

No one should hesitate in

taking it, the Minister added.

“If there are any side effects, then under proper medical observation and care they will be resolved. I am also waiting for my turn to

get the vaccine,” he said.

He also met Padma Shri Dr A.T. Dabke, who had voluntarily come to get the vaccine. He inquired about his health.

On the occasion,

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Renu Pillai and Director National Health Mission Dr Priyanka Shukla were present.

The Covid vaccination was

held in five places in Raipur district including AIIMS Raipur, Pt JLN Memorial Medical College Raipur, NHMMI Hospital Raipur, District Hospital Raipur and Mission Hospital Tilda.

CRPF constable among four held with illicit liquor

STAFF REPORTER ■ BILASPUR

A CRPF constable was among four people arrested in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district and 11 cartons of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) worth Rs 3.69 lakh were seized, the Excise Department announced on Saturday.

Bilaspur Deputy Excise Commissioner Neetu Notani said the four, including CRPF's 65th Battalion constable Ganesh Kumar Jain as well as Manoj Khanna, Amit Yadav and Sarojani Bai Soni were taken into custody.

Acting on a tip, officials held Manoj for illegally transporting a carton of liquor on



his two-wheeler from Nehru Nagar area in Bilaspur city.

He confessed he got

liquor from Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal and supplied to high-profile clients in

Bilaspur. He said that his next consignment of three cartons of IMFL would arrive from Raipur.

After this, the excise officials nabbed the CRPF constable Ganesh and his accomplice Amit. The officials also seized three cartons of liquor, four travel bags and a car (CG-04, B-7535).

Notani said the CRPF constable, posted in the IGP's office, confessed that he crossed all checkpoints and nakas on the way by presenting himself as a CRPF jawan.

Meanwhile, the excise officials seized seven cartons of liquor and arrested Sarojani from her house in connection with illicit liquor trade.

CM holds pre-budget discussions

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

As part of discussions on the budget preparation, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for a second day on Saturday had discussions with Ministers and officials of Women and Child Development, Social Welfare, Public Health Engineering and Gramudhyog, Commercial Tax (Excise) and Industries departments.

Baghel discussed in detail the budget provisions concerning women and child development and social welfare with Minister Anila Bhediya and other officials, said an official communication.

Later, he met Public Health Engineering and



Gramudhyog Department Minister Guru Rudra Kumar and officials.

The Chief Minister then chaired a meeting with

Commercial Tax (Excise) and Industries Department Minister Kawasi Lakhma.

In-charge Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo, Finance

Secretary Alarmelmangai D, General Administration Department Secretary Dr Kamalpreet Singh and other officials were present.

Masked robbers loot ₹31L

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

In broad daylight, three bike-borne masked turbaned robbers on Saturday robbed and injured the cashier of a steel plant of ₹31 lakh near Sarora in Urla industrial area of Raipur, police said.

The injured man was admitted in a private hospital while the accused are at large.

Raipur Senior Superintendent



of Police Ajay Kumar Yadav told The Pioneer that the incident took place in the morning when cashier Nityananda Chura alias Amit (32) was on his way to the plant in Sarora.

Eight to nine masked robbers turned up on three separate motorcycles. One of them hit him with a steel rod. They also tried to throw chilli powder in the cashier's eyes.

As the cashier lost control over

the wheels and fell from the bike, the robbers looted the money totaling ₹31 lakh kept in a bag and escaped, Yadav said.

The victim had withdrawn Rs 20 lakh from the bank for paying the labourers, contractors and truck drivers while he had Rs 11 lakh, the officer said.

The police are exploring all angles and have reportedly questioned some suspects, Yadav added.

Hardcore Maoist killed in Bijapur

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bijapur

A hardcore Naxalite carrying a cash reward of Rs 8 lakh on his head was killed on Saturday in a gun battle between security forces and Maoists in a forested patch in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said.

The encounter happened between Kutru and Ketulnar in the Kutru police station limits around 4:30 pm,” Bijapur Superintendent of Police Kamlochan Kashyap said in a press release.

A joint team of Bijapur DRG (district reserve guard) and police launched an anti-Naxalite operation from Kutru police station, about 440 km south of Raipur, he said.

During the drive, the police force had a face-off with Maoists which resulted in fighting. Soon the



Maoists disappeared into the jungle. While searching the spot, the police found the body of a Maoist identified as Saybo alias Ranu.

Ranu was commander of the Maoist Farsegarh Action Squad and Deputy Commander of Farsegarh

LOS (local operating squad), the officer added.

Pistol rounds, arrow bombs and daily use items were found at the spot. Ranu carried a reward of Rs 8 lakh, he said, adding a search operation was on in Kutru.

Ranu was wanted in about a dozen violent crimes.

KNOW MORE ABOUT 2 INDIAN VACCINES

AMID THE VACCINE ROLLOUT IN INDIA, HERE ARE FEW THINGS THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVAXIN AND COVISHIELD

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is made of an inactivated vaccine that kills the live microorganisms of coronavirus

This vaccine destroys the ability of the virus to multiply in the human's body and increases immunity system to fight the virus

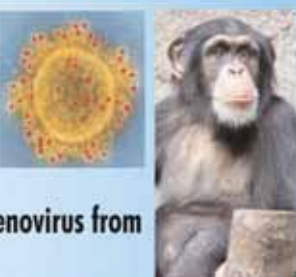
For Covaxin, possible adverse events may be injection site pain, headache, fatigue, fever, body ache, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting, dizziness, tremor, sweating, etc



Covishield is made by taking a common cold virus called an adenovirus from chimpanzee

It follows genetic instructions to successfully provoke a strong immune response

The possible adverse events may be injection site tenderness, injection site pain, headache, fatigue, myalgia, malaise, pyrexia, chills and arthralgia, and nausea





बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Bank of India

Branch Office: Padmanabhpur, Durg (C.G.)

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)

[Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas,

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Bank of India, Padmanabhpur Branch** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued Demand Notice on the dates, mentioned against each Account (given below) calling upon the Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgages to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notices / date of receipt of the said notices. The Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgages having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgages and the public in general that the undersigned has taken of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below.

The Borrower's / Guarantors' / Mortgage'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.

The Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgages in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of **Bank of India** for the amounts and interest thereon.

Sl. No.	Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Description of the Properties	Demand Notice	Amount Due
1.	Borrower Shri Chanchal Singh S/o. Shri Hem Singh	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Khasra No. 1000/14 (new) 1000/2 part (old), Ph No. 14/19, Plot No. 9, Kurud, Bhalai, Area- 0.012 Hac. (1346 Sqft.), City/Tehsil-Durg, District- Durg	19.10.2019	₹ 5,79,724.00 + uncharged interest thereon
(Chhattisgarh) in the name of Mr. Chanchal Singh S/o. Shri Hem Singh Within the registration Sub-district- Durg and District-Durg (C.G.) Boundary: On the North by- Plot No. 10, On the South by- Plot No. 8, On the East by- 25 feet Road, On the West by- Land of Khan.			Possession Notice	
			15.01.2021	

Date: 16.01.2021, Place : Durg (C.G.)

Authorized Officer/Bank of India

Army has boosted country’s morale during standoff with China: Rajnath

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

He said this while addressing a gathering here during the 'bhoomipujan' and foundation stone laying ceremony of the new Command Hospital.

"The charismatic (karishmaayi) performance by the Army during the India-China standoff has boosted the morale of the country and also enabled the citizens to hold their heads high," he said, drawing a thunderous applause from the crowd. "The entire world is facing COVID-19. Pandemic No one had thought that with the onset of the pandemic, celebrating festivals such as Holi, Eid and Diwali will be without much fanfare (dhoom-dhaam). No one had imagined that trains will come to a halt, and schools and markets will remain closed. However, the good thing was that under the leadership Prime Minister Narendra Modi, efforts to deal

with the crisis started with courage and understanding (of the issue)," he said.

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

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

The doctors, para-medical staff, san-

itation workers have worked as frontline soldiers and I salute their commitment and dedication."

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

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

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

Stalin, Kamal Haasan makes poll promises on Pongal

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

"We will write off all farm

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

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

the Hindutwa leaders," said Stalin.

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

rupees.

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

Kamal Haasan said he

Palghar lynching case: Thane court grants bail to 89 accused

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

the validity of the three FIRS filed against them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Traffic restored on Jammu-Srinagar Highway



PNS ■ JAMMU

After the successful completion of the trial run of the 40 ton Bailey bridge, completed within 60 hours by the men and machinery of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) team headed by Brigadier IK Jaggi, along with Commandant, 760 Border Roads Task Force (BRTF), N K Dixit and OC, 99 RCC (Road Construction Company), GREF, Lt Colonel Varun Kherra.

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

Jaggi, the Bridge was put to trial at 2.45 PM and traffic was allowed to pass in a regulated manner after giving some final touches and verification.

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

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

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

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

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

J-K LG Sinha calls Covid vaccination drive historic

PNS ■ JAMMU



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

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

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

end.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Goa records 83 fresh cases of coronavirus

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

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

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

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

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

Maha: SII CEO, ex-Health Min among vaccine recipients CM UDDHAV KICKS OFF DRIVE, CALLS VACCINATION AS REVOLUTIONARY STEP

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

In a confidence building exercise, SII CEO Adar Poonawalla, whose company is the major manufacturer of Covid vaccine, took a life-saving jab of the Covishield Vaccine produced by his company in Pune.

Soon after having been vaccinated against Covid-19 virus on the inaugural day of the vaccination drive launched earlier in the morning in

Maharashtra by chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, Poonawalla posted a video of him rolling up his sleeve and taking the Covid vaccine from an administrator at an unidentified location in Pune.

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

"It brings me great pride that Covishield is part of this historic effort and to endorse its safety and efficacy, I join our health workers in taking the vaccine myself," Poonawalla added.

While launching Covid-19 vaccine drive in Maharashtra, Chief Minister Thackeray said: "With this, we have taken a revolutionary step today... During the Covid-19 pandemic, the health workers cooperated with us in a big way. Even after the vaccination, all Covid-19 precautions must continue to be observed". Amid the media glare, Dr. Patil took the first Covishield vaccine dose in the

presence of the chief minister, Mayor Kishori Pednekar, BMC Commissioner I. S. Chahal, Starve ministers, civic and medical officials and other invitees..

Beginning Saturday, the Covid-19 vaccines are being administered at 285 centres in all 36 districts across Maharashtra, including 9 centres in Mumbai where an average of 4,000 shall be vaccinated daily, from 9 am to 5 pm.

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

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

For the first two phases,

people would have to register through the CoWin digital platform, officials said. Earlier this week, Maharashtra received 963,000 doses of Covishield and another 20,000 vials of the Covaxin which have been despatched all over the state.

On his part, Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope has made no bones about his displeasure over the short supply of Covid-19 vaccines by the Centre. "While our requirement for the first phase of vaccination was 17.50 lakh doses, the cedntre has supplied us approximately 10 lakh doses. We need another 7.5 lakh doses. Eight lakh medical workers have registered themselves for vaccination on Covid-19 App," Tope said.

In Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has drawn up plans to vaccinate more than 35 lakh people in the coming months. For the purpose, the BMC has trained more than 7,000 people, while it is currently training another 10,000 people.

Reunion plan ended in tragedy: 11 lives lost in road accident

Dharwad: Little would 11 of the past School students have expected this: A planned reunion in Goa ending on a tragic note.

All of them being girl students of 1989 batch from Saint Paul's School at Devangere, now in their mid-40s, constituted the group travelling in the ill-fated mini-bus that collided with a tipper-lorry at Itigatti village near the city on Friday, claiming their lives.

The former had planned a three-day sojourn to Goa and visit places of tourist attraction.

Two of them had taken their daughters along.

According to police, 14 had left for Davangere in the van in the morning.

While 13 of them hailed from the district headquarters town of Davanagere, one was from Bengaluru. They were on the way to pick up their former classmate from Dharwad when the accident happened,

police said.

The deceased have been identified as Preethi Ravikumar (46), Manjula Natesh G B (47), Paramjyothi Hunchur (47), Varshita (47), Rajeshwar Bandammanavar (46), Dr Veena Prakash Mattihalli (47), Ksheera Sureshbabu Poral (21), Hemalatha (48), Yashmitha (20) and mini-bus driver Raju Gorabannavar and cleaner Millikarjun Udagatti (27).

The driver and cleaner hailed from Ranebennur, the police said.

The injured were Asha Betur (47), Veda Manjunath (46), and Praveena Prakash (46), Usharani Ramesh (46), Poornima Prakash (46), and the driver of the truck Basavaraj Khadroli.

The police said two of the injured were in a critical state. One of them, Veda, has been airlifted and admitted to a hospital in Bengaluru for treatment. **PTI**

533 new Covid cases take UP's tally to 5,96,137

Lucknow: The COVID-19 death toll in Uttar Pradesh rose to 8,570 on Saturday with 12 more fatalities, while 533 new cases pushed the state's infection tally to 5,96,137, an official said.

Giving updates on the vaccination drive against the coronavirus, Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad told reporters that 13,419 health workers were administered COVID-19 vaccine in the state till 3:30 pm.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched India's COVID-19 vaccination drive and asserted that made-in-India vaccines being rolled out will ensure a 'decisive victory' for the country over the pandemic.

On the COVID-19 situation in Uttar Pradesh, Prasad said, "The number of active cases in the state stands at

9,162. So far, 5,78,405 people have recovered from the infection and have been discharged from hospitals."

He said that in the past 24 hours, 533 new cases have been reported and 930 people have been discharged after recovery.

The death toll stands at 8,570, Prasad said, adding that the recovery rate of the state is now at 97.02 per cent.

Over 2.60 crore tests have been done in the state so far, with over 1.23 lakh conducted on Friday, he said.

Prasad said besides health workers, the director general for family welfare and head of various institutions like the SGPGI also voluntarily took the COVID-19 vaccine.

"In UP, till 3.30 pm, 13,419 health workers were vaccinated and everyone has given a positive feedback," he said. **PTI**



Jammu: A milkman rides a horse cart amid dense fog on a winter morning in Jammu on Saturday

Roshni scam: CBI books 13 in Pulwama

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



Majid Sheikh and Ghulam Rasool Wani.

The accused have been booked under Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Ranbir Penal Code and relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. "In pursuance of the J&K High Court, FIR No 29/2015 OF Police Station-VOK, now ACB, J&K is re-registered," reads the FIR.

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

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

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

PC slams Centre for stalemate over farm laws

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The fault lies with the Government because it will not agree to get rid of the disputed laws, the former Union minister said. "RTI responses have exposed as a lie the government's

claim that there were extensive consultations before the Farm Laws Ordinances were promulgated. The truth is that no one was consulted. In particular, state governments were not consulted," he alleged.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To promote toy manufacturing among domestic players, particularly among rural entrepreneurs, the Common Service Centre (CSC), an SPV under the Ministry of Electronics and IT Ministry, has joined hands with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to organise "Toycathon-2021".

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

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



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

Broadcasting.

Toycathon-2021 will be conducted through CSC Academy, an arm of CSC, at 6,000 block and taluka level where CSC Academies are present. "CSC Academy, a not-for-profit society which delivers specialized courses/training programmes, and promotes entrepreneurship among the rural masses, is best suited for



this unique initiative due to its reach and expertise.

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

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



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

The body issued a statement claiming that the new WhatsApp privacy policy encroaches upon various fundamental rights of the citizens.

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

"The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has today filed a petition in the Supreme Court with the prayer to direct WhatsApp to withdraw its new privacy policy, which is encroaching upon various fundamental rights of the citizens granted by Constitution of India," the statement said.

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



with tens of millions of its users moving from the platform to rivals like Signal and Telegram.

The policy change was originally scheduled to come into effect on February 8, the Facebook-owned company said.

It has clarified that the update does not affect data sharing with Facebook with regard to personal conversations or other profile information and only addresses business chats in the event a user converses with a company's customer service platform through WhatsApp.

"The petition especially highlights the difference of approach in EU and India countries with respect to the privacy policy of WhatsApp and how the data of Indian users can be misused by such big tech companies," CAIT said.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

A bench, headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, pulled up the state for approaching the apex court in a "casual manner" and dismissed the plea on the ground of delay.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

According to IMD, Ludhiana, Patiala, Karnal and Aligarh reported visibility-50 meters each at 5:30 pm on Saturday and Bahraich, Gangtok, Cooch Behar-200 each. As regards Delhi and Safdarjung have reported visibility 500 meters while visibility in Palam was reported 1000 meters.

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



two-three days," the IMD said. "This will also lead to dense fog conditions with visibility at below 200 metres in the morning hours, which can impact the transport and power sectors," it said.

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

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

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

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

Cold wave conditions prevailed in Punjab and Haryana on Saturday, with Bathinda registering a minimum temperature of 4 degrees Celsius. Among other places in Punjab, Amritsar, Ludhiana and Patiala braved the chill at 6.5, 7.8 and 6.7 degrees Celsius, respectively, up to three degrees above normal.

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

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

CBI suspends its 2 officials for taking bribe

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

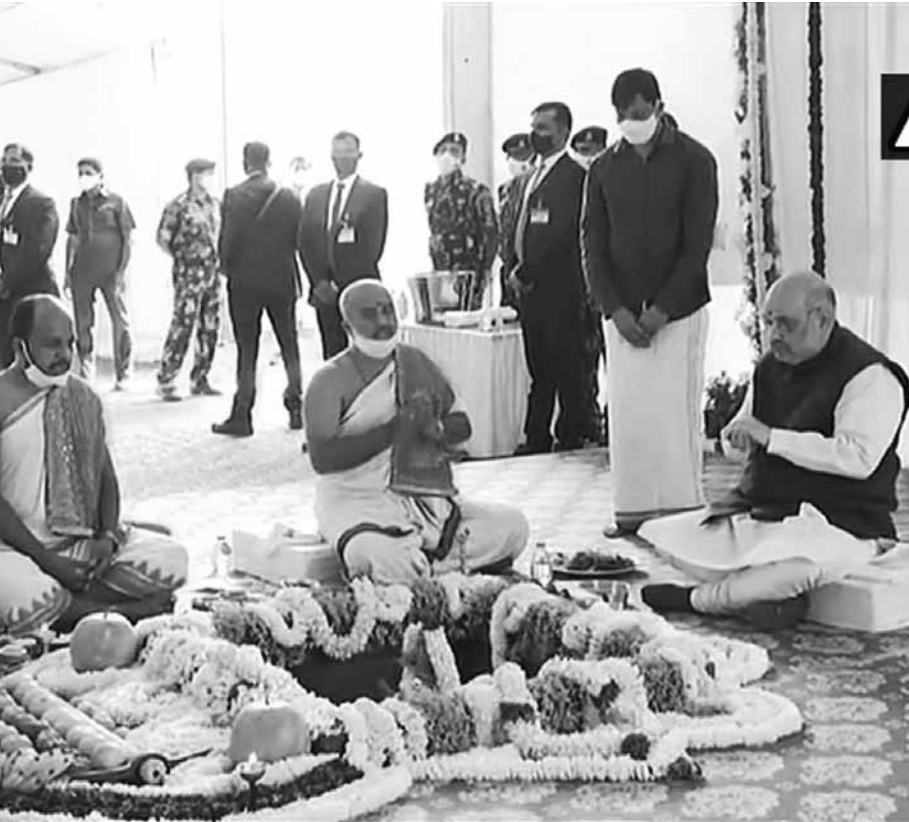
Former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and senior advocate Vikas Singh on Saturday requested Chief Justice S A Bobde to constitute a bench to resolve the election stalemate of the professional body of lawyers.

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

"He delayed the decision by a month. Even after deciding on December 4, he delayed communicating to the election committee by another week. When the EC had already decided to conduct the election virtually, there was no occasion for him to call an EC to ratify the election committee decision of appointing NSDL," Singh said in a letter to the Registrar General of the Supreme Court.

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

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



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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

interference," the Nepalese foreign minister said.

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

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

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

criticism within Nepal.

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

CAIT moves SC over WhatsApp’s new privacy policy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Traders’ body CAIT on Saturday filed a petition in the Supreme Court, making a plea to direct WhatsApp to withdraw its new privacy policy. The body issued a statement claiming that the new WhatsApp privacy policy encroaches upon various fundamental rights of the citizens. About the petition, the traders’ body said it “has also prayed that Union of India must frame guidelines to govern big technology companies like WhatsApp and frame policies which would protect the privacy of citizens and busi-

nesses”. “The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has today filed a petition in the Supreme Court with the prayer to direct WhatsApp to withdraw its new privacy policy, which is encroaching upon various fundamental rights of the citizens granted by Constitution of India,” the statement said. Meanwhile, WhatsApp has announced delaying by three months the implementation of the new privacy policy that has faced a massive backlash with tens of millions of its users moving from the platform to rivals like Signal and Telegram.

Stockbrokers seek rationalisation of tax structure for capital market

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

As the Union Budget for FY21-22 nears, stockbrokers have sought rationalisation and streamlining of the structure for the capital market. The industry body stockbrokers Association of National Exchanges Member of India (ANMI) has written to Central Bank Direct Taxation (CBDT) on doing away with the multi-

ple classification system for calculating tax on capital market income.

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

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

New Delhi:Newsprint cost has jumped 20 per cent in the last three months due to demand-supply imbalance post pandemic, prompting news publishers to petition the government for waiver of 5 per cent import duty to help cut cost.

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

papers have stopped sending newspapers to rural areas where there is less than 50 copies to reduce the distribution cost, said the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) President L Adimoolam. In a representation to the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday ahead of the forthcoming union budget, INS has suggested to take steps as to reduce the customs duty on import of newsprints, a stimulus package for the industry or at least to help the publications by releasing advertisement with an increased tariff of 50 per cent “If working out a stimulus package for print media is difficult at this juncture, DAVP (Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity) may please consider releasing advertisement for all its departments to all publications with an increased tariff of 50 per cent, which would be highly helpful for the industry as a whole,” the INS representation said. It has also asked to extend the validity of RNI (Registrar of Newspapers for India) Circulation Certificates up to March 31, 2022 which will enable DAVP rates to remain the same till next year.

Just as we have fought the corona in the best way with the cooperation of all, similarly we will set an example by making this vaccination campaign a success. To ensure that the corona is completely eradicated despite the vaccine, everyone should ensure continued adherence to other health protocols, including masking, social distancing, and more. Shri Gehlot was addressing the state-level inauguration ceremony of corona vaccination through video conference at the Chief Minister’s residence on Saturday. On this occasion



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

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR
Tel-0194-2474234 Fax - 2482032 – email :- kasflori@rediffmail.com

Sub: Extension No. 02.

In view of no response, the last date for submission of bids invited vide this office e-Tender Notice **No.12 of 2020 dated.01.12.2020 for Outsourcing of Entry Ticketing System of Tulip Garden Cheshmashahi, Srinagar** is hereby extended as per the details given below:-

1. Period of downloading of bidding document	16/01/2021 from 11:00 AM to 04/02/2021 up to 02:00 PM.
2. Bid submission Start Date	18/01/2021 from 10:00 AM.
3. Bid submission End Date	04/02/2021 up to 02:00 PM.
4. Date and time of Opening of Tenders	09/02/2021 at 02:00 PM.

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid Tender Notice.

By order
Sd/- Accounts Officer
(Member secretary)

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

BIHAR STATE KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD
Department of Industries, Government of Bihar

Corrigendum -1

Due to the unavoidable circumstances, the date for the submission and opening of tender is extended as follows:
Previous Tender Notice 3463 dated 06.12.2020 and PR No.- 009113 dated 06/12/2020 for Leasing of restaurant with kitchen and open space in Khadi Mall, East Gandhi Maidan, PATNA -800001

Wherever appear in the bid Document or NIT	Will Appear As
Last date of Receiving Bid Document:04 th January 2021, 2 PM	Last date of Receiving Bid Document: 27 th January 2021, 2 PM
Last date of Opening Bid Document:04 th January 2021, 4 PM	Last date of Opening Bid Document: 27 th January 2021, 4 PM

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

Chief Executive officer
KVIB, PATNA
 Chief Executive Officer, Bihar State Khadi and Village Industries Board,
 East Gandhi Maidan, Patna- 800001, Contact: 7320923213, 7004503382
 Mail id: kvibpatna@gmail.com/Website: www.kvibbihar.com

PR. No. 011304 (Industry) 2020-21

सावधानी- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, कटिहार

पत्रांक- 45, कटिहार

अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या -10 SBD/2020-21
(राष्ट्रीय /राजकीय स्पर्धा)

(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाईट**www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in**पर)

1. कार्य का विवरण –	प्रारंभिक राशि (लाख रु० में)	अंशज की राशि (लाख रु० में) (ऑन लाइन अथवा फिजिकल/ मैनुअल ब्रीड में मुताबिक)	परिमाणु – विपत्र का मूल्य (अंशज/सीपी) (केवल ऑन लाइन/ ऑन मुताबिक) रु० में	सेट्टर्न को देय बिड प्रोसेसिंग की (अंशज/सीपी) (केवल ऑन लाइन/ ऑन मुताबिक) रु० में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
01. लामा चौकिया पहलपुर महानंदा दर्या तटबंध के किमी० 20.25 (सैन रां 675) से किमी० 23.00 (सैन रां 67) के बीच कटाव नियंत्रक कार्य । एंजेंडा रां- 168 / 322 / 2021	681.19	13.63	10000.00	5,900.00	15.05.2021

- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गम करने की तिथि : दिनांक – **13.01.2021**
- निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने : दिनांक-21.01.2021 से दिनांक-24.01.2021 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक (सिर्फ वेबसाईट**www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in** पर)
- ब्री-बिड नीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि : दिनांक-22.01.2021 3.00 बजे अपराह्न में, मुख्य अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सर्जन, जल संसाधन विभाग, कटिहार।
- तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक-27.01.2021 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट**www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in** पर)
- बिडी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक-27.01.2021 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट**www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in** पर)
- निविदा खोलने का स्थान : **www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in** पर
- निविदा की वैधता अवधि : 120 दिन
- निविदा पत्रिका का पदनाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, कटिहार
- विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाईट**www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in** एवं state.bihar.gov.in/pr/bd/bihar पर देखा जा सकता है ।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, कटिहार
मो० :-7463889238
 PR- 011283 (WRD) 2020-21
 किसी भी तरह आपदा की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु आपदा प्रबंधन के हेल्पलाइन नं. 1070 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

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

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Saturday said the central bank remains steadfast to take any further measures as may be required to support growth without compromising on financial stability.

Delivering the 39th Palkhivala Memorial Lecture, the governor said the principal objective during the pandemic period was to support economic activity; and looking back, it is evident that policies of the RBI have helped in easing the severity of the economic impact of the pandemic.

“I would like to unambiguously reiterate that the Reserve Bank remains steadfast to take any further measures, as may be necessary, while at the same time remaining fully committed to maintaining financial stability,” he said.

In a bid to maintain financial stability, Das emphasised the need for banks to raise resources in advance as a buffer.

Going ahead, he said,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Noting that good governance will have to be supported by effective risk management functions and assurance mechanisms, he said banks and non-banking finance insti-



tutions need to identify risks early, monitor them closely and manage them effectively.

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

A robust assurance mechanism by way of internal audit function was another important component of sound corporate governance and risk management, Das said, adding it provides independent evalu-

ation and assurance to the Board that the “operations were performed in accordance with set policies and procedures”.

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

“Some more measures on improving governance in banks and NBFCs are in the pipeline,” he said.

HDFC Bank Q3 profit rises 14.36 pc to ₹8,760 cr; asset quality stable

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Petrol, diesel prices unchanged across metros

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged for the second consecutive day on Saturday.

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

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

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

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

and Thursday taking gasoline to record high levels in Delhi while keeping prices very close to record high levels in other metro cities.

WESTERN RAILWAY

CANCELLATION NOTICE
Tender No: BCT/20-21/290, dtd. 21.12.2020, DOP: 27.01.2021. Above Tender may be treated as **cancelled** due to technical reason. Please visit **www.irops.gov.in** in respective tender for further details & information corrigendum. **0579**

Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

WESTERN RAILWAY

CANCELLATION NOTICE
Tender No: BCT/20-21/290, dtd. 05.01.2021, DOP: 09.02.2021. Above Tender may be treated as **cancelled** due to technical reason. Please visit **www.irops.gov.in** in respective tender for further details & information corrigendum. **0580**

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ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd. Regional Office Jsel Building, Malviya Nagar JLN Marg-Jaipur 302017

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

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

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) /Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. Joginder Kumar (Borrower) Sunita Devi (Co-Borrower) Loan no: LBBWD00003939712	Flat No.- 3803, Second Floor The Park, Block C Khasra No 200, 201, 202, 191, 181, 192, 519/189, 518/1, Village Shahpur, Tehsil Tijara Bhiwadi-301411 Super built-up area- 1125 Sq Ft	Rs. 24,47,941/- (as on January 08, 2021)	Rs. 18,00,000/- to 1,80,000/-	February 01, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	February 18, 2021 from 11:30 AM onwards.

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

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

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited** on 8584874809, 7230004964 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. **NexXen Solution Private limited** 2. **Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: January 16, 2021
Place: Delhi/NCR

Authorised Officer
ICICI Bank Limited.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

“Let me be clear; I am convinced we can get it done, and this is the time to set big goals to pursue them with courage and conviction because the health of the nation is literally at stake. First, we will imme-

diately work with states to open up vaccinations to more priority groups,” he said.

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

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

Pence congratulates Harris, offers peaceful transition of powers

Washington: Outgoing US Vice President Mike Pence has called his soon-to-be successor Kamala Harris to congratulate her and offer his full co-operation in the transition of power, according to multiple media reports said.

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

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

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

election.

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

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

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

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

Trump admin carries out 13th and final execution

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

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

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

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

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

Woman arrested in Capitol attack: ‘I listen to my Prez’

AP ■ DALLAS

A Dallas-area real estate agent who is facing charges for allegedly being part of the pro-President Donald Trump mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol last week said she’s a “normal person” who listened to her president.

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

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

Ryan shared photos and videos on social media, includ-

ing a video in which she says, “We’re gonna go down and storm the Capitol,” in front of a bathroom mirror, according to the FBI criminal complaint.

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

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

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

European powers press Iran to back off latest nuke move

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Iranian Guard holds anti-warship ballistic missile drill

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

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

In the first phase of the drill Friday, the Guard’s aerospace division launched surface-to-surface ballistic missiles and drones against “hypothetical enemy bases.” Iranian state television described the drill as

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

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

Uganda says Prez wins 6th term

Bobi Wine alleges vote rigging

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

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

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

The top United States



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

diplomat to Africa has called the electoral process “fundamentally flawed.”

Thursday’s vote followed the East African country’s worst pre-election violence since the 76-year-old Museveni took office in 1986. Wine and other opposition candidates were often harassed, and more than 50 people were killed

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

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

out, with many losing to candidates from Wines party, local media reported.

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

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

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

Pragmatic Governor Laschet elected to lead Merkel’s party

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

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

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

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

Merkel, who has been chancellor since 2005, announced in late 2018 that she wouldn’t seek a fifth term. She also stepped down from the CDU leadership.

The decision ends an 11-month leadership limbo in Germany’s strongest party after outgoing leader Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, who had failed to impose her authority on the party, announced her resignation. A vote on her successor was delayed twice because of the coronavirus pandemic.

There had been no clear

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

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

Laschet pointed Saturday to the value of continuity and moderation. **AP**

Another UN peacekeeper killed in Mali, 5th in a week

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

It brought the toll to five UN peacekeepers killed in

northern Mali in just a week.

Another explosive device was found at the scene in Tessalit and disabled, the UN mission in Mali said late Friday.

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

crimes, spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

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

The UN said six were wounded. **AP**

Sudan imposes curfew in West Darfur amid deadly clashes

Cairo: Sudanese authorities on Saturday imposed a round-the-clock curfew in the entire West Darfur province after tribal clashes between Arabs and non-Arabs killed at least six people and wounded at least 28 others.

Gov. Mohammed Abdalla al-Douma said the curfew began Saturday and would last until further notice, and includes the closure of all markets and a ban on gatherings across the province. Al-Douma also granted security forces and soldiers a mandate to use force to control the situation, according to decrees obtained by The Associated Press.

The violence comes two weeks after the U.N. Security Council ended the joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force’s mandate in the Darfur region, following pressure from Sudan’s transitional government, Russia and other African nations. The Darfur region remains scarred by war after a rebellion in the early 2000s was brutally suppressed.

The clashes erupted Friday in Genena, West Darfur’s provincial capital, when a man was killed at a market in the Krinding camp for internally displaced people. **AP**

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



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

from the area of PS. Laxmi Nagar, Delhi.

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

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **P.S. Laxmi Nagar, Delhi**
Fax: 011-24368639 **Ph. 011-22542441, 8750870622**
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 **DP/331/ED/2021**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client intends to enter into an agreement in respect of Plot No 2/20, land measuring 265 Sq.Yds. Lane No. 1 & 2, Anupam Garden, New Delhi, (hereinafter referred to as “**Schedule Property**”) with **Mr. Nitin Kohli** son of **Shri S.L. Kohli**. It is hereby informed to the general public that any person/bank/financial institutions etc. having any claim, charge, mortgage, right, title & interest etc., in respect thereof, are hereby requested to inform the undersigned in writing by Registered Post A.D. at Kavush & Associates, M-52-A, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi alongwith supported documents within a period of fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the claim of such persons will be deemed to have waived and / or abandoned & our client shall proceed to complete the proposed transaction. (Whereas the above named applicant (s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 27,34,851 (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty One Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 27.01.2021 at 10.30A.M.

To: DEFENDENT Mukul Shah S/o, Ripudaman Shah Prop. Goldline Corporation (Borrower) 105, Ground Floor, Sector-63, Noida. U.P. - 201301.

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

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

Islamabad: A team of Nepalese climbers on Saturday made history by scaling the world’s second highest peak — Pakistan’s K2 — in the winter season, a local Alpine Club official said.

The secretary of Pakistan’s Alpine Club, Karrar Haideri, said 10 Nepali Sherpas reached the summit around 5 pm.

At 8,611 metres (28,251 feet), K2 is the most prominent peak on the Pakistani side of the Himalayan range, and the world’s second tallest after Mount Everest. Winter winds on K2 can blow at more than 200 kilometers per hour (125 miles per hour) and temperatures drop to minus 60 degrees Celsius (minus 76 Fahrenheit). “This was never done by anyone before in winter,” said Haideri.

He added that four international climbing teams had arrived about a month ago to try scaling K2 — the last peak above 8,000 meters in the world to not be climbed in the winter. Of these dozens of climbers, the group of 10 Nepalis have so far been the only successful team, said Haideri.

Since the maiden attempt back in 1988, just a handful of winter expeditions have been attempted on the storied 8,611-metre peak in the Karakoram range along the Chinese border that leads into the Himalayas.

Haideri said no mountaineers had reached higher than 7,750 metres, until Saturday when fair weather conditions allowed the climbers to push ahead. **AP**



AXIS BANK

Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301. **Controlling office:** Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on “As is where is”, “As is what is” and “Whatever there is” basis on **04-02-2021, 11:30 A.M.** at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs. 48,75,844/- due as on 13-01-2021 along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Mr. Monish Paul. The reserve price will be Rs. 25,49,532/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 2,54,953.2/-.

Account Number	Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets possessed and put for sale	Encumbrances, if any known to the Bank.
PHR07920 1317106	Flat No. T15-201 on Second Floor of Tower 15, having a super area of 1225 Sq. Fts. (113.805 Sq. Mtrs.) situated in Group Housing Project known as Park Floors, Sector-76, Faridabad Haryana, alongwith the proportionate, undivided, impartible share only in the land underneath the said building in which the said unit is located, together with the right to use and access all common areas, patios, passages, benefits, and advantages, appurtenant whatsoever to the said unit or any part thereof and to hold the same unto and to the use of the Vendee Situated within the revenue estate of Village Fajipur Majra, Nimka, Sub Tehsil Tagaon, Distt. Faridabad, Haryana	

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. <https://www.axisbank.com/auction-notices/> **Sd/-, Authorized Officer,**
Date : 17-01-2021, Place: Faridabad **Axis Bank Ltd.**

WESTERN RAILWAY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/02/2021 Date 13.01.2021

S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
21	Ball Joint Traction Lever	192 Nos.	25.01.2021
22	Rubber Spring	96 Nos.	25.01.2021
23	Set of High Tensile Hex Head Bolt	703 Nos.	29.01.2021
24	Locking Bracket	3559 Nos.	29.01.2021
25	Non Contract Tonometer	1 No.	29.01.2021
26	Intermediate Overhauling Kit	34 Set	30.01.2021
27	Mobilux EP2 Grease	150 Kg.	30.01.2021
28	64 Teeth Gear Wheel	9 Nos.	01.02.2021
29	Insulin Analogue Aspart/Lispro 100iu/ml -3ml cartridge	11291 Nos.	01.02.2021
30	Power Supply Gate Unit (GUSP)	2Nos.	02.02.2021
31	Air Brake Equipment	39 Set	02.02.2021
32	Heart Luv Machine	1 No.	02.02.2021
33	CVTS Instruments	29 items	02.02.2021
34	BEUC Speed Sensor Type	14 Nos.	03.02.2021
35	Lubricating Coating	1350 Kg.	03.02.2021
36	Paper Duplicating White Semi	1000 Ream	04.02.2021
37	Slip Free Finish Strainless Steel Chequered Sheet	16500 Kg	05.02.2021
38	Set of Axle Box Assly. Complete	56 Set	06.02.2021
39	Tapered Roller Bearing	20 Nos.	08.02.2021
40	Ophthalmic Operating Table	2 Nos.	08.02.2021
41	Hex Head Bolt M12x70 High Tensile	25460 Nos.	10.02.2021
42	Ball Joint Roll	180 Nos.	11.02.2021
43	Key for Brake Shoe	25780 Nos.	12.02.2021

CORRIGENDUM: Please visit www.ireps.gov.in for corrigendum issued to following tender Sr.No.811 of Tender Notice No. S/31/2020 Dt. 22.12.2020 (Constant Voltage Regulated cum Emergency Battery Charger).

Regarding detailed notice, EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in

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Rohit's dismissal puts India on backfoot

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Rohit Sharma's indiscreet shot selection pegged India back after rookie bowling attack restricted Australia to 369 on a rain-curtailed second day of the fourth Test on Saturday.

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

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

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

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

There were six boundaries from Rohit but he did not fiddle at deliveries in and around the off-stump channel even as Cummins and Josh Hazlewood bowled a testing spell under overcast conditions.

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

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

Pujara, at the other end was playing his usual 'grinding out' game but it didn't look too arduous



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

till Rohit kept the scoreboard ticking at the other end.

It wouldn't be an over statement to say that among all top order batsman across both sides, Rohit looked the most comfortable and till his dismissal never looked like being troubled by the four-pronged attack.

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

the tea break went after Lyon when the situation demanded that he could have played for session-end.

It was very similar to his dismissal off Moeen Ali at the stroke of tea during the 2014 series and that was also after being set in the middle-order.

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

4th Test. Day 3
Live from 5:00am IST
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inclement weather which effectively makes the home team more jittery as a draw would be enough for Ajinkya Rahane to lift the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

In the first session, India's rookie bowling line-up did put up a lion-hearted effort, getting the last five wickets for 95 runs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paine was just getting into the groove with some good drives

Rohit has no regret of playing that shot

PTI ■ BRISBANE

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

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

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

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

Rohit understands the disappointment but in his defence would explain why he went for that kind of a high-risk stroke.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Disciplined Sundar fill Ashwin's shoes well: McDonald

PTI ■ BRISBANE

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

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

The duo was travelling with the squad as net bowlers.

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

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

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

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



their own," the 39-year-old said.

The left-arm pacer had impressed in the limited overs leg of the tour after making the Indian team at the back of a stellar IPL.

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

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

PTI ■ BRISBANE

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

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

mean feat.

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

"From ball one, he was right up there. He showed a lot of composure, is a strong character who doesn't speak much but we all know he has a solid personality. He wants to do well for the team and also for himself. He is here to stay," he said.

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

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

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

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



PTI ■ ALUR

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

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

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

Sharma smashed half a dozen sixes and his opening partner hit four of them.

Senior pacer Siddharth Kaul was the pick of the Punjab bowlers with four wicket for 33 runs in four overs.

In other Group A games, Karnataka defeated Railways for their third win in four games.

A struggling Uttar Pradesh recorded their first win of the tournament with nine-wicket victory over Tripura. Opener Karan Sharma top scored for UP with an unbeaten 68 off 36 balls. Suresh Raina too remained unbeaten with 36 off 23 balls.

In Vadodara, Baroda too continued their winning run by claiming a 60-run victory over Maharashtra in an Elite 'C' Group game.

This is Baroda's fourth win on the trot in the league stage after having defeated Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in their first three outings.

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

itive 158 for four.

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

Devdhar was handed the captaincy after regular skipper Krunal Pandya left the bubble following his father's demise.

In Group B match at Eden Gardens in Kolkata, Assam pulled off an upset 13-run win over Bengal while Tamil Nadu won its fourth straight match to go top of the points table.

Bengal opted to field and saw the talented Rryan Parag (77, 54 balls, 5 fours, 5 sixes) help Assam put up a fighting 157 for 5 in 20 overs. The visiting team restricted Bengal to 144 for 8.

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ KARACHI

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

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

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

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

"Playing at home ground is always encouraging for the players, and it reflected in our performances in the series against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh last year," Misbah said.

Pakistan won Tests against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in late 2019



Officials and players of South Africa's cricket team come out from airport terminal upon arrival their arrival in Karachi AP

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

Following their dismal tour of New Zealand, Pakistan's new chief selector Muhammad Wasim named nine uncapped players in a revamped 20-member squad for the test series against South Africa.

"The series against South Africa

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

The South African cricket team, which last toured Pakistan in late 2007, arrived in Karachi on Saturday.

The visiting team's head coach Mark Boucher cautioned his team, saying the batsmen will face a tough task against a "dangerous" side like Pakistan.

"Pakistan is a dangerous side at home; we will have to come up with a proper strategy to beat them at their own backyard," the former wicket-keeper said.

"The wickets here in Pakistan are batting friendly, and we are relying on our batsmen to score runs. Their confidence will be high after scoring runs against Sri Lanka. Our fast bowlers will have to work very hard to get wickets."

"Pakistan bowlers will have home advantage, so this series will be a test for our batsmen, but once they are successful in occupying the crease, they will be able to score freely," Boucher said. "We are excited to play in Pakistan again, and expect a great series ahead with all focus on the game."

South Africa had won the two-Test series 1-0 during their last tour of Pakistan in 2007.

Indian fan complains of racism at SCG during 3rd Test

Sydney: Sydney Cricket Ground officials have launched an investigation after an Indian supporter alleged that he was subjected to racial profiling and abuse by a security officer during the final day of the third Test against Australia.

The incident took place after Indian fast bowler Mohammed Siraj was allegedly racially abused by spectators on the third and fourth day of the drawn Test at SCG.

Sydney resident Krishna Kumar met *Venues* NSW legal personnel on Thursday to lodge an official complaint, accusing the security at the venue of racial profiling and unjustified frisking.

He informed the authorities that he felt "stripped and naked" by his treatment on the final day of the third Test (January 11), according to a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Kumar, who attended three days' play of the third Test, told *Venues* NSW that he was targeted after trying to carry four banners reading: "Rivalry is good, racism is not", "No racism mate", "Brown inclusion matters" and "Cricket Australia more diversity please".

A security officer stopped Kumar, informing him that that one of the banners exceeded the permitted dimensions.

When he requested to speak to a security supervisor, Kumar was asked to leave.

"He told me, 'If you need to address this matter, go back to where you belong,'" Kumar said.

Kumar said the official then told the junior guards to "make sure we give him a complete frisking when he gets back".

"To me this a pure case of profiling. They changed their entire formation so the guy next to the boundary is standing right in front of me and facing me," Kumar said.

"I want justice. I want accountability. I was feeling stripped, feeling watched and I went there to fight racism.

"Why should I be stopped from addressing racism, especially at a ground where it was debatable whether it was happening or not?," he added.

PTI

Thirimanne, Perera lead SL resistance after Root's 228

AFP ■ GALLE

Joe Root completed his fourth double century for England on Saturday but insisted it will mean nothing if his side cannot overcome a defiant Sri Lanka in the first Test.

The England captain made 228 of his teams 421 all out — 26 runs short of his brilliant 254 career best against Pakistan at Old Trafford in 2016.

But Lahiru Thirimanne led Sri Lanka's stubborn resistance, hitting an unbeaten 75 while Kusal Perera made 62 as the home team reached 156/2 in their second innings. After their disappointing 135 in the first innings, they need another 130 to reach England's total.

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



ing session to add the 32 runs to his overnight total. He reached 200 with a four off Lasith Emuldeniya.

While the empty Covid-19-stricken stadium meant that only his

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

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

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

Running out of partners, Root was the last man out, caught by Emuldeniya on the boundary as he went for a six off Dilruwan Perera.

He saw fast bowler Asitha Fernando take Jos Buttler (30) and Sam Curran (0) with successive balls.

In the next over Root hit his landmark four then Dom Bess was run out as the tourists suffered a bout of nerves.

Perera also took Jack Leach and Mark Wood in successive overs to finish on four for 109 runs.

After their first innings collapse, Sri Lanka looked a different side in the second.

Perera and Thirimanne made 101 for the first wicket.

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

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

the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

Death is an interesting affair

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

2



4

Meditate for a better future

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

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



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

NORTH EAST ON THE RADAR

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

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

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

FOCUS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

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

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

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

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

FALLING INSURGENCY

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

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

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

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

STATE GOVERNMENT CHIPPING IN

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

ROLE OF TRADITIONAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA

So, rather than the news of a flood or insurgency activities, there was positivity emanating from the region which grabbed eyeballs. While the ones who had visited the area saw the change for themselves, there were still others who were prompted to plan a trip because of the positive impression in the media. Das says, "During the TOAA's annual convention, we discussed the changing perception and dynamics due to the print and electronic media coverage. The international audience became more aware of the different kinds of experiences that the region held out thanks to programmes on channels like National Geographic." Road shows and participation in travel fairs by tour operators created awareness among domestic and international tourists about the scenic beauty of the region.

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



of income and employment."

Dr Ubed, who faced an uphill task while setting up his company in 2013, recalls, "People were surprised as they felt I was giving up a great career as a doctor. Start-ups were not a badge of honour. It was very difficult to get mentors to structure the business properly. I had to reach out to some friends in the US on Facebook who helped me. When I started in Jorhat, the local chartered accountants were not sure about how to register a local company as they hadn't done it before. Investors liked me, my idea and the opportunity it held out but did not want to come down to Assam to meet me."

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

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

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

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

COMMUNICATION, CONNECTIVITY AND AWARENESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

information from people in their own circle who had been to the region. "Live streaming of a destination creates an impact like no other. The travel industry too tapped into the potential of the new media," says Das.

YOUTH POWERING CHANGE

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

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

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

STARTUPS REVV UP

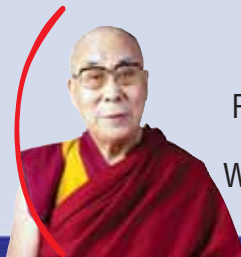
The entry of youngsters in tourism has transformed the way even this industry operates. Das says, "About 20 colleges and universities in Assam offering a course on tourism came up in the last four-five years. There are thousands of students pursuing these courses and, when they graduate, they are getting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

THE GROWTH OF SOCIAL MEDIA MEANT THAT POTENTIAL TRAVELLERS OFTEN GOT THE INFORMATION FROM PEOPLE IN THEIR OWN CIRCLE WHO HAD BEEN TO THE REGION. LIVE STREAMING OF A DESTINATION CREATES AN IMPACT LIKE NO OTHER. THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY TOO TAPPED INTO THE POTENTIAL OF THE NEW MEDIA



SUDHIR HINDWAN

(The author is a professor and expert on strategic affairs)



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



YOUR YEAR AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

As the week proceeds, you will overcome all your struggles. Your determination will help you achieve your goals and it will be acknowledged and celebrated. On the work front, you have done a good job on a project and now deserve all the credit. A fulfilled ambition and greater success than you expected will make you happy. Domestic travel is also indicated. Be cautious as this success may make you heady and you may go wild. Uncertainty in some matters may prove harmful. On the relationship front, you are likely to make a choice in family matters. The week does not predict stability on emotional front. You might face disappointment in love affairs. Open discussion with your loved ones will help improve the situation.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Saturday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Do not become the prey to external forces like fears, addictions, and other harmful impulses. You are likely to fall victim of deception and illusion. Follow meditation or *pranayama* to stay focused. On the career front, this is not the right time to look for another job or enter any venture. A rash decision could result in loss. An honest and genuine methodology will pay rich dividend later in life. You live life king size. More projects or business opportunities are coming your way, that will keep you busy. Your skill and expertise will be in demand. On the relationship front, your connection with the partner is getting stronger. By the end of the week, you will experience a celebration or an auspicious moment of your life.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Friday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you would be energetic. Take time out to pamper yourself. You will have the drive and determination to move towards your goals. Do not try to force things, as it might backfire on you. On the career front, do not engage in arguments that might make the environment tense. Secret motives and information will keep you in a troublesome situation. You need to go deep into the topic and look for your anxieties, fears, and psychic blocks. You need to keep an eye on your subordinates. On the relationship front, avoid heated arguments. While taking decisions, be grounded and firm. In love relationships, your partner may be very challenging. You are likely to be very emotional and critical and this may affect your relationship.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week your home and family life will keep you happy. There will be discussions concerning future events. You will experience family traditions and learn wisdom of the elders. On the work front, you would like a career that gives you a sense of completion, financial security and connection with others. This week you need to use your intelligence to get your way. Your generous, insightful and analytical approach can bring transformation in your life. You will experience financial security and will attain a comfortable life. You have the time to breathe and enjoy the material pleasures. On the personal front, relationships will be satisfactory. Ensure that your partner and you discuss issues to avoid complex situations. Avoid arguments with family members.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You will complete all essential work with confidence, self-discipline and patience. You will realise the importance of self-awareness and comfort. As the days pass, you will evaluate what matters in life. There will be peace and happiness at home. You may enjoy solitary leisure. On the work front, a salary increase is indicated in the cards. You shall draw support and protection from your past ties. Avoid conflicts with conflicts. Finance inflow looks good but do not consider any kind of investment at this point. On the personal front, shopping, eating, earning and spending money shall be the theme of the week. There is fortune and security in your life. Relationship with family members will give warmth and confidence. A marriage ceremony is likely to take place.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Tuesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You will feel healing and rejuvenating energy around you. Purity of energy will enhance your creativity. Positive thought will come to you. Ensure you continue with your health regime. Physical workout will add extra charm to your personality. Those who are having health issues are likely to recover, but it is still advisable to consult a doctor. On the career front, you are creative, original, and free from restrictions imposed by ideas and criticisms. How you speak your mind is as important as what you say. For some, promotion, salary hike or desirable transfer is on the cards. This is a very eventful week in all aspects. In a relationship, you are making a lot of efforts. Be very clear about your boundaries and preferences. Whatever is the final decision, you need to stick to it.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week you would be enthusiastic, innovative and all set to get things rolling. Some of you may be impatient too. You want your self-worth acknowledged; self-realisation is the theme of the week. To test your limits, you may go to an extent to accomplish any difficult task. Some of you will experience a creative restlessness, that will unlock a new phase of life. This will be an opportunity to change your destiny. Your curiosity urges you to express yourself and your personality. Domestic travel for business purpose is likely. The card foretells a new beginning of a business or a new careers field. On the personal front, those who are dreaming of a house may move into a new house. Bonding with your near and dear ones are satisfactory.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week try to stay cool and avoid getting into any arguments. Else, you might get into a fight. You need to experience what competition means. Respect your opponent but stand up to your point of view. Since the past is over and the future is uncertain, there is no need for you to be faithless or fearful. Be at peace with yourself, independent. Devote your full attention to your situation. Professionally, you may experience heated arguments and violence in the work area. Focus on the work and be friendly with your juniors or peers. This will get you some support in terms of harsh times. On the personal front, you are likely to be a victim of the seriousness of a mature personality which is lacking emotion. Conflict with a family member is likely.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will be filled with immense energy and vitality. You are likely to enjoy sports and adventurous activities. You must follow a strict health regime like diet, exercise, and vitamins/minerals. A brief vacation to enjoy the energy is indicated. On the career front, there could be frequent journeys which may open great avenues for your professional growth. Those who are appearing for an interview or competitive exam, stars are favourable. Patience and persistence will help resolve business-related issues. You are likely to face some challenges in terms of a relationship. Accusation and misunderstandings between the married couples is indicated. As for singles, this is not the right time for a relationship.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Your persistence, determination and efforts will allow you to make your dreams true. Enhancing your skill will help increase the chance of success. Ensure continuation of craft, educational pursuits. On the career front, promotions or increase in salary is likely. Respond to friends and opponents equally. Your achievements will make you the subject of envy. Doing your work with commitment will lead to self-development. By the end of the week, you may spend time alone to re-evaluate your life. On the personal front, you may need some privacy to recharge our battery and rejuvenate the spirit. This will help you experience greater inner strength and confidence. Relationships will give you the strength.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week evaluate where you stand now and where you feel you should be to increase your effectiveness and make the move accordingly. You will be full of enthusiasm and energy. You are likely to get a helping hand from a male friend or a relative. You are in rush with everything in life. This rashness, an impulsive nature may turn a good situation into a bad one. On the work front, you may be concerned about the lack of business or money and may feel that you have made a mistake with decisions made in the past. But you will try to take a positive point of view and wait for the final verdict. On the personal front, you need to experience childlike happiness. Spend time with younger members of the family.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Thursday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Your sentiments and emotions will rule your heart and mind this week. You will have the opportunity to resolve a conflict over an important issue or a discord with important people in your life. You are likely to help or make amends with your family. Irrespective of negotiation, one must stay try to maintain balance. There will be times when you need to spend time alone to re-evaluate your life and situation. A fourfold process is experienced at the levels of consciousness, mental, emotional, spiritual and physical. Surrender yourself to the higher wisdom, conquer material temptation and giving up something to gain something better is beneficial. Your patience and endurance will be put to test.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Meditate for a better future



his breath cycle during the process — inbreath and outbreath both included.

The next time the person visited me, informed that he no longer gets into sleep mode. “In fact, I am able to see a pattern in my thought flow, which makes me understand and acknowledge my mental traits. I have realised that I carry a sense of fear and insecurity. I also suffer from a sense of ‘identity crisis’ which tempts me prove my point whatever way I can. Where does it come from? Also, I wish to realise my dream perceptions fast, which is not happening on expected lines. You have to now guide me how to resolve them and also realise my potential fast.” the person asked.

The sense of fear and identity crisis has actually become a part of your psyche, coming as they may as reflection of your unpleasant memory imprints picked up during early childhood. The Sun, which is marked with your identity and confidence level is in debility, and is placed opposite its dire enemy Saturn, which too is in debility. It implies that during early childhood, your parents would have tried to forcefully discipline you. You would have been subject to beating and chastised on every occasion

you committed some mistake or when your performance level was not on expected lines. Your parent's intent can't be questioned. But instead of handling you with a sense of love, they forcefully tried to impose their whip on you. The irony of the whole situation is that born with Aries lagna ruled by fiery Mars, and prominently placed, it was difficult for you to digest commandeering. In the process, your confidence level got down and developed a sense of fear, which with time became a part of your psyche. Now that you are on your own, there is no relevance of those past happenings. Once, this thought gets registered in your mind, you will get over this hang. He began working on suggested lines, and soon he overcame this problem.

This way, with time, he went on identifying and acknowledging his mental limitations one by one, and then got over them. As he got over his negatives, his performance level too began to improve.

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