

WORLD 6
ANOTHER UN PEACEKEEPER
KILLED IN MALI, 5TH IN A WEEK

MONEY 7
PETROL, DIESEL PRICES
UNCHANGED ACROSS METROS

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

Published From
**DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD
VIJAYWADA**

RANCHI, SUNDAY JANUARY 17, 2021; PAGES 8+4 ₹3



sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



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 the dose of Covishield vaccine to Mariam Gudia a staff of Sadar Hospital in the presence of Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Health Minister Banna Gupta during launching ceremony of vaccination drive, at Sadar hospital in Ranchi on Saturday. Ratan Lal | 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.

Covid-19: No fresh cases in 10 districts

Over 60% cases from Ranchi

PNS ■ RANCHI

At least 10 of 24 districts in Jharkhand did not report fresh cases of Covid-19 infection on Saturday, while recoveries outnumbered cases in most of the districts on the day, bringing the number of active cases down at 1,249, figures compiled by the health department revealed.

Ranchi, the worst-affected district in the state, accounted for close to 65 per cent of the 119 fresh cases reported in Jharkhand on the day. The district also accounted for half

of the 158 Covid recoveries on Saturday.

As per a bulletin released by the National Health Mission (NHM), Ranchi reported as many as 71 cases against 78 recoveries in the past 24 hours. East Singhbhum reported 15 cases against 16 recoveries, while Dhanbad reported 10 cases against five recoveries.

While the number of patients reduced on the day, East Singhbhum reported a Covid casualty, taking the Covid toll in Jharkhand up at 1050, the NHM bulletin stated.

East Singhbhum accounts for 356 of the total Covid fatalities in the day — the highest among all the districts.

The government on Saturday tested swab samples of as many as

13,761 people and less than 1 per cent of them were found infected. So far, health workers have collected swab samples of 50.48 lakh people and tested 50.35 lakh of them.

Of the 117599 people infected so far by the virus, at least 115300, around 98 per cent, have recovered. The Covid mortality rate in Jharkhand was 0.89 per cent against the national average of 1.40 per cent.

As per the NHM bulletin, the growth rate of the viral infection in Jharkhand was 0.10 per cent against the national average of 0.13 per cent. At this pace, it would take more than 700 days for the cases to double in Jharkhand, revealed government data. The doubling rate in India was 551 days.

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 this (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 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



USHA SRIVASTAVA
FEB 12, 1961 — JAN 16, 2021

to her family. Union Minister Nitin Gadara and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar were among those who mourned Usha's death.

The Pioneer CEO Shobori Ganguly described Usha as a "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.

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

Usha completed her study from Kashi Hindu Vishwavidyalaya and then started her journalist career from Hindi daily *Aaj* as a correspondent from Varanasi. Later, she moved to Delhi and worked with *Amar Ujala*, *Rajasthan Patrika* and *Dainik Bhaskar* before she joined as the Resident Editor of the *Hindi Pioneer* in 2011. She would be always the last to leave the office. But when it came to leave us for one last time, she seemed to be in such a tearing hurry.

Goodbye, Usha...

Over 3,200 Jharkhandis get first Covishield shot

CM oversees first shot administered in Ranchi

PNS ■ RANCHI

Around 3,200 of the 4800 health and sanitation workers registered for Covishield shots on Day 1 of the vaccination programme against Covid-19 virus turned up at the various vaccination centres across the 24 districts on Saturday and were administered the 0.5ml injections — first of the two shots required for developing optimal levels of antibodies against the lethal virus over a period of 42 days.

"More than 3,200 people were administered the vaccine shots in Jharkhand today (Saturday) across the 48 vaccination centres. All the ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) guidelines were strictly followed at all the vaccination centres," Health Minister Banna Gupta said during a meeting over video conferencing with Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan soon after the vaccination for Day 1 concluded.

Gupta also requested the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to grant permission to the state for setting up 139 vaccination booths across Jharkhand. He urged his counterpart from the Centre to include journalists and frontline workers in the list of beneficiaries for the vaccination programme.

A senior official from the National Health Mission (NHM) said that the response to the vaccination programme was positive in Jharkhand despite rumours over social media triggering fear of side effects among locals.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren inaugurated the vaccination programme at Sadar Hospital in Ranchi and hoped that the vaccine proves to be a boon for

the people of the country.

"I personally saw the first shot being administered to a sanitation worker here. It is important to keep the beneficiary under observation for at least 30 minutes after the vaccine shot is administered," said Soren, adding that all necessary arrangements were made at the vaccination centres in Jharkhand for safe immunization.

The vaccination programme began at around 11.30 am on Saturday, but shots will be administered at the various centres 10pm onwards from Sunday, health officials said. The vaccine shots, officials said, will be administered from 10pm to 5pm at all the centres.

Mariam Gudia, a sanitation worker at Sadar Hospital in Ranchi, was the first sanitation worker to get the Covishield shot in the city on Saturday. The second shot was administered to Dr. Vijay Mishra, a senior doctor working at Bhagwan Mahavir Medica Superspecialty Hospital in Ranchi.

Dr Mishra said that he was not feeling any immediate side effects of the vaccination and encouraged people to take the shots without any sense of apprehension. "I was under observation for about 30 minutes after the shot, and my blood pressure, pulse and heart rate were monitored. The vaccine is safe and people must not reject it as all rumours have been put to rest," said the doctor, who treated State Education Minister Jagarnath Mahto at Medica Hospital before he was sent to Chennai.

The vaccination programme was run at 48 centres across Jharkhand on the day, and about 100 beneficiaries were registered to get the shots at each centre, the Government had stated earlier.

However, the list of beneficiaries at Sadar Hospital in Ranchi carried only 72 names on Saturday.



Medical staff showing victory sign after receiving the shots of Covishield vaccine, during the launch of Covid-19 vaccination drive, at Sadar Hospital in Ranchi on Saturday. Ratan Lal | Pioneer

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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, Gaahar 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 has 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-of-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 actor 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 a lot. I can't wait for the day my fans will finally get to watch the show on TV."

न्यायालय प्राधिकृत पदाधिकारी-सह-वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी, बोकारो वन प्रमंडल, बोकारो

:- सूचना :-

एतत् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस न्यायालय में निम्न जत बाहनों एवं उसपर लदे सामग्री के विरुद्ध राज्यसत वाद विचारणीय है। प्रतिवादीयों को डाक के माध्यम से, प्राथमिकी में वर्णित पते पर नोटिस भेजी गई है। न्यायालय द्वारा निर्धारित तिथि को जप्त वाहन/वन पदार्थ के स्वामी स्वयं या अधिवक्ता के माध्यम से इस न्यायालय में उपस्थित होकर अपना पक्ष प्रस्तुत करें।

क्र० सं०	जप्त वाहन एवं वन पदार्थ	थाना काण्ड संख्या/जुर्म प्रतिवेदन सं० एवं तिथि	बोकारो वन प्रमंडल का राज्यसत वाद संख्या	वाहन स्वामी/ प्राथमिकी अभियुक्त का नाम एवं पता	सुनवाई की तिथि
1	1. मोहन्दा मेसिको पंजीयन सं० JH05R-6374 एवं इस पर लदा 253 पीस चिरान लकड़ी	पेटरवार वन प्रखंड का जुर्म प्रतिवेदन सं०-3342, दिनांक-02.11.2017	22/2017	1. शमीर अंसारी, पिता-कुतुब अंसारी, ग्राम-पो-करक, जिला-सुरसिया	20.01.2021
2	1. LML वेसा स्कूटर पंजीयन सं० BR-13/C-1153 एवं उस पर लदे 2.5 क्वीटल कोयला	पेट नारायण थाना, थाना काण्ड सं०-07/2017, दिनांक-21.01.2017	08/2017	1. कुष्णा ठाकुर पिता-बासुदेव ठाकुर उर्फ गजधर ठाकुर सा०-मन्डरो, पी०-बराय, थाना बिष्णुगढ़, जिला-बोकारो	20.01.2021
3	1. HMT 3522 EID ट्रेक्टर, डाला सहीत, चैचिस नं० 4591 एवं इंजन नं०-5585 एवं इसके डाला पर लदा 04 टन कच्चा कोयला	नावाडीह थाना, थाना काण्ड सं०-108/2014, दिनांक-19.07.2014	15/2017	1. सुभाष कुमार महतो, पिता-श्री किमुत्त महतो, ग्राम-पलामू, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो	20.01.2021
4	1. मारुती वैन पंजीयन सं० JH-01B/C 5525 एवं इस पर लदा 09 क्वी कच्चा कोयला	नावाडीह थाना, थाना काण्ड सं०-58/2016, दिनांक-05.10.2016	10/2017	1. रामचन्द्र यादव, पिता-स्व० बृज यादव, सा०-बराय, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो	20.01.2021
5	जप्त 02 ट्रेक्टर डाला एवं उस पर लदा 04-04 टन कोयला	पेक नारायणपुर थाना काण्ड सं०-37, दिनांक-05.12.2019	07/2017	1. जीवरल अंसारी, पिता-जहरीलो मियाँ, सा०-परसावेडा, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो। 2. सफरुद्दीन अंसारी, पिता-काशीम मियाँ, सा०-परसावेडा, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो। 3. महरू महतो, पिता-मुनिट महतो, सा०-जुडामना, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो।	20.01.2021
6	1. ट्रेक्टर HMT 3522 EDI (लाल पीला रंग का) एवं उस पर लदा डाला पर करीब 03 टन अक्व कोयला 2. HMT ट्रेक्टर 3522 EDI (लाल पीला रंग का) एवं उस पर लदा डाला पर करीब 03 टन कोयला	बेरोम (गांधीनगर) थाना काण्ड सं०-28/2017, दिनांक-10.03.2017	23/2017	1. समीर मियाँ, पिता-कमरुद्दीन मियाँ, सा०-बडकाडीह, पलामू, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो। 2. इमरान मियाँ उर्फ इमरुद्दीन, पिता-अली हुसैन, साकिन-कोरियावेडा, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो। 3. जिवरल अंसारी, पिता-जहरी उद्दीन अंसारी, साकिन-परसावेडा, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो। 4. पलामू मियाँ, पिता-हनुमन्त मियाँ, साकिन-पलामू, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो।	20.01.2021
7	ट्रेक्टर डाला सहीत (इंजन नं०-PY3029D34188 एवं चैचिस नं०-10Y5042DCDD0 04890) एवं उस पर लदा करीब 50 Cft अक्व पत्थर।	पेटरवार वन प्रखंड के जुर्म प्रतिवेदन सं० 4111 दिनांक-17.10.2016	19/2016 9	1. शिवरंजन साय, पिता-श्री शिवाय महतो, ग्राम-जोगिया, थाना-मोटा, जिला-रामगढ़ 2. सेवा लाल कर्माली, पिता-श्री धनेश्वर कर्माली, ग्राम-जोगिया, थाना-मोटा, जिला-रामगढ़	20.01.2021
8	(1). TVS Star City-110 Moter Cycle जिसका पंजीयन सं०-JH09S-7759 (2) हिरो होण्डा Passon Plus (काला रंग) जिसका पंजीयन सं० JH09F-4210 एवं 09 (नौ) पीस शोसम के बोटा।	गोमिया थाना काण्ड सं० 115/2015, दिनांक 17.06.2015	04/2017	1. ललका मोगता, पिता-मुल्लू गंडू, साकिन-तेतरियाटीड लुकुबाद, अरमो, गोविन्दपुर, जिला- बोकारो 829111 2. ईश्वर मोगता, पिता-मोती गंडू, साकिन-लुकुबाद, टोला-तेतरियाटीड, थाना-बोकारो धर्मल, जिला- बोकारो 829111 3. लवलक कुमार, पिता-मोहन मोगता, साकिन-लुकुबाद, टोला-तेतरियाटीड, थाना-बोकारो धर्मल, जिला-बोकारो। 4. शशीर कुमार, पिता-विनोद साय, साकिन-आईईईईईई, शिव मंडिर, थाना-आईईईईईई, जिला-बोकारो। 5. विनोद साय, आईईईईईई, आरामिल के मालिक, थाना-आईईईईईई, जिला-बोकारो।	20.01.2021
9	HMT ट्रेक्टर बिना नम्बर का जिसका इंजन नं० 40987, चैचिस नं० 33297 जिसके टेलर पर लदा करीब 04 टन कोयला	नावाडीह (पेक नारायणपुर) थाना काण्ड सं० 144/2014, दिनांक 28.10.2014	12/2017	1. कमरुद्दीन अंसारी, साकिन-त्रिलोचन मोड, नारायणपुर, थाना-नावाडीह, जिला-बोकारो। 2. रोहित साय, साकिन-हरसाडीह, थाना-नावाडीह, जिला-बोकारो। 3. दिलीप महतो, पिता-सोनाराम महतो, साकिन-बरी, थाना-नावाडीह, जिला-बोकारो।	20.01.2021
10	मोटर साइकिल रजिस्ट्रेशन सं० JH09U-4923 तथा पम्प सेट एवं जप्त 175 टन कोयला	बेरोम (गांधीनगर) थाना काण्ड सं० 145/2016, दिनांक 18.10.2016	11/2017	1. सादुल अंसारी, पिता-अली हुसैन मियाँ, साकिन-लहिया, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो। 2. सलाउद्दीन मियाँ, पिता-समीर मियाँ, साकिन-दजी मुहल्ला, पलामू, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो। 3. पतलु अंसारी उर्फ मतलू उर्फ रहमान, पिता-उमर मियाँ साकिन-पलामू, पेक नारायणपुर, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो। 4. नारीश्वर महतो, पिता-हिर महतो, साकिन-बर्दू पेक नारायणपुर, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो। 5. समीर मियाँ, पिता-करीम मियाँ, साकिन-बडकाडीह पलामू, पेक नारायणपुर, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो। 6. नासीर अंसारी, पिता-शुकर मियाँ, साकिन-लहिया पेक नारायणपुर, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर जिला-बोकारो। 7. अशोक महतो, पिता-दशरथ महतो, साकिन-पोसको बर्दू, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो। 8. विनोद महतो, पिता-ईश्वर महतो, साकिन-पलामू, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो। 9. जबर मियाँ, साकिन- नारायणपुर, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो। 10. मुस्ताफ मियाँ, पिता-हनीफ मियाँ, साकिन-दजी मुहल्ला, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो।	20.01.2021
11	जप्त अक्व काण्ड, सखुआ एवं महुआ चिरान	तेनुघाट वन प्रखंड का जुर्म प्रतिवेदन सं० 26 दिनांक 08.08.2017	16/2017	1. शीरेंद्र प्रसाद, पिता-महेश प्रसाद, ग्राम-डेंडे, टोला-नंद्या, थाना-गोमिया, जिला-बोकारो। 2. रोहित प्रसाद, पिता-महेश प्रसाद, ग्राम-डेंडे, टोला-नंद्या, थाना-गोमिया, जिला-बोकारो।	20.01.2021
12	TATA ACE पंजीयन सं० JH02X-5702 एवं उस पर लदे 16 बोरा केन्दु पत्ता तथा 2 मोबाइल	तेनुघाट वन प्रखंड का अपराध प्रतिवेदन सं० 27, दिनांक 14.05.2017	06/2017	1. नमेश प्रसाद, पिता-स्व० कुंजयारी पट्टा, ग्राम-पी०-हजारी, जिला-बोकारो 829128 2. रोहित प्रजापति, पिता-तुलसी प्रजापती, ग्राम-साडम (अछैया टोला), जिला-बोकारो 3. रूपवती देवी, पिता-स्व० सतरंजन प्रसाद, ग्राम-पी०- हजारी, जिला-बोकारो 829128	20.01.2021
13	(1) ट्रेक्टर पंजीयन संख्या- JH-11B-4367, (2) बिना नं० का ट्रेक्टर, इंजन नं०-38018001, चैचिस नं०-107275 एवं (3) बिना नं० का ट्रेक्टर, इंजन नं०-38018001, चैचिस नं०-207082 एवं इनके टयर्सों पर लदा चार-चार टन अक्व कच्चा कोयला	पेक नारायणपुर थाना काण्ड सं० 23/2017 दिनांक 07.05.2017	14/2017	1. मेघलाल महतो, पिता-दरदू महतो, साकिन-जुडामना, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो 2. मिथलेश महतो, पिता-लाल मोहन महतो, साकिन-नरना, थाना-चन्द्रपुरा, जिला-बोकारो 3. कादिर जिलानी, पिता-मुस्ताज अली, साकिन-नारायणपुर, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो 4. सादिर अंसारी, पिता-सहादत अंसारी, साकिन-नारायणपुर, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो 5. कुर्बान अंसारी, पिता-इब्राहिम मियाँ, साकिन-लहिया, थाना-पेक नारायणपुर, जिला-बोकारो	20.01.2021

PR 239441 (Forest, Environment and Climate Changes) 20-21 (D)
प्राधिकृत पदाधिकारी -सह- वन प्रमंडल पदाधिकारी बोकारो वन प्रमंडल, बोकारो।

'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

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



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

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.

XAVIER INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SERVICE (XISS) CONVOCATION CEREMONY

Use 'Smart Mgmt' skills: CM

PNS ■ RANCHI

Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Saturday asked graduating management students of Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi to use their "Smart Management" skills for the development of the country and the State. The CM was addressing students as Chief Guest of the 59th Convocation Ceremony of the premier management institute organised virtually here on Saturday.

"I urge our management warriors to give back to the State and the country. The country is in high need of smart management and I believe and trust that our students will use their talents in this direction. You are now heading towards a new world, and before you embark on this journey, I urge you to keep the blessings, teachings and morals of your elders and teachers close to your heart because the road ahead will not always be easy and the only way you can be sure of success is never forgetting your roots and the people who helped you throughout this journey," said the CM to students.

"The 304 students graduating here today will go out into the world as conscious and



Chief Minister Hemant Soren, President of the XISS Governing Body, Fr. Ajit Khes S.J., Director, XISS Dr. Joseph Marianus Kujur S.J., Assistant Director, XISS Dr. Pradeep Careketta S.J and others release books during the 59th Convocation ceremony of Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS) in Ranchi on Saturday

contributing citizens. I urge these young professionals to take their responsibilities with utmost seriousness and give back to the society. These students will not only be celebrated here in this ceremony but numerous households across the country," he said.

The CM congratulated XISS for achieving many laurels in its history. "Convocation ceremonies have been celebrated before but this one stands out amongst all the previous ones. The distinction has been felt most acutely. It is supposed to be an occasion of great happiness but now it is reduced to a shadow of the

former good times due to the pandemic COVID-19. The pandemic has affected the sector of education more grievously than any other sector, but we must rise to this challenge with great enthusiasm. I believe we have figured out a way to keep the noble pursuit of education going and the celebration of the post graduate milestone in the form of this virtual ceremony," he said.

"XISS is known for helping not only the privileged but the under privileged in particular to stand on their feet," said the CM.

Earlier, the ceremony began with the opening remarks by Fr. Ajit Khes S.J,

President, Governing Body, XISS, who declared the Convocation ceremony open and in his address congratulated XISS and the graduating students for their achievements. He wished the students his best for their career and future ahead and said, "Management education is all about holistic growth and if you are able to leverage your excellent quality education from XISS and combine it with a positive attitude, I am sure you all will have something meaningful that you can contribute too."

A total of 304 students of Batch 2018-20 were awarded

their diplomas virtually in the ceremony. As many as 26 students from all five programmes were declared the top rank holders and amongst them 11 gold, 08 silver and 05 bronze medals along with 2 cash prizes were distributed respectively.

Dr. Joseph Marianus Kujur S.J, Director, XISS addressed the students and invitees of the online ceremony. He cheered the diploma recipients and extended his congratulations to the winners of the gold, silver and bronze medals along with the families of the students, faculty and staff of XISS.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Pradeep Keretta, Assistant Director, XISS amidst the presence of Fr. Xavier Soreng, Superior, XISS; Fr. Francis David Kullu, Finance Officer, XISS along with Dr. Ramakant Agrawal, Head PGDM (Human Resource Management); Dr. Himadri Sinha, Head, PGDM (Rural Management); Dr. Mahua Banerjee, Head, PGDM (IT); Dr. Arup Mukherjee, Head, PGDM (Finance) and Dr. Amar E. Tigga, (On behalf of) Head, PGDM (Marketing) respectively. The ceremony concluded with the presentation of mementos to the Dignitaries.

Recipients claim vaccine safe after getting doses

PNS ■ RANCHI

Mariyam Guriya, working as sanitation worker at Sadar hospital for past 13-year was scared when she was informed by health department on Friday afternoon that she will be the first person in State who will be administered first dose of corona vaccine. But on Saturday morning after getting the vaccine she had different feelings.

Sharing her experience, Guriya said, "I feel proud to be the first recipient of the corona vaccine in the State. There were lots of doubts and fears about the vaccine, but after the immunization I feel different. I have no problem after getting the vaccine. I am normal. The vaccine is safe, everyone should remove doubts about vaccine as this is the way through which we can win the battle against the corona pandemic."

Mariyam along with 72 other beneficiaries were administered the corona vaccine in Sadar hospital on Saturday—the day on which Country launched the world's biggest immunization drive. The main function was held at Sadar hospital where Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Health Minister Banna Gupta and



A medic administered the dose of Covishield vaccine to Jiran Kaldulna, Head Manager of Sadar Hospital after the virtual launch of COVID-19 vaccination drive at Sadar hospital in Ranchi on Saturday

senior government officials participated at the function.

The Chief Minister addressing the gathering after launching the immunization programme at Sadar hospital said, "The day is very big for the entire Country as today we launched the biggest immunization drive. Our fight against corona pandemic is much better than other states as despite limited resources we have performed much better than other states in testing." "Jharkhand is carrying out more corona tests than many other states. In immunization drive too we are confident that we will perform better than many states," added Soren.

The main venue, Sadar hospital was decorated. The

district administration had installed CCTV cameras and a large number of police personnel was deployed at the venue. Dr Vijay Mishra, medical director of Bhagwan Mahavir Medica Superspecialty Hospital who was the first medical practitioner to get Covid vaccine sharing his experience said, "The vaccine is safe as after immunization I am not having any complications. I request everyone to clear their doubts as the vaccine is safe. My entire family is excited about the vaccination drive."

Meanwhile, the Covid 19 vaccination drive was held at two places in the State Capital—Ranchi Sadar hospital and Namkum Community Health Center, where health workers were vaccinated.

INBRIEF

FIT INDIA CYCLOTHON BY ECR



Fit India Cyclothon was organized by East Central Railway under the "Fit India Movement" at Pataliputra Rail Complex, Patna under the leadership of General Manager Lalit Chandra Trivedi. The campaign was flagged off by Kaumudi Trivedi, President of ECR Women's Welfare Organization. All the officers and employees of ECR participated enthusiastically in this event. Speaking on the occasion, the GM said that the organization of the Fit India Cyclothon would serve the purpose of the Government of India and Fit India. This will send a message of fitness among the railwaymen. It is also an important initiative towards Green India. He said that all the officers and employees of RCR are very energetic and fitness conscious. In the present perspective, it is beneficial for every Indian citizen to take at least half an hour daily for their health under the principle of fitness dose half an hour daily.

RAILWAY MINISTRY ROLLS OUT NEW IRON ORE POLICY

A new iron-ore policy governing allocation of rakes and transportation of iron-ore has been issued on date by Indian Railways. The aim of policy is to attune it to the present day needs of customers and assure them that Indian Railways is fully committed to meet the complete requirement of transportation of iron ore customers and provide total logistics support to steel industry to meet the competitive challenges domestically and globally. Production of steel is critically dependent on transportation of iron and other raw materials. The policy sets down clear guidelines on how to fully meet the requirement of customers by leveraging infrastructure facilities available at loading and unloading ends to the fullest. The new policy has been named as 'Iron-ore Policy 2021' and shall come into effect from 10.02.2021. The provisions of the new policy will be updated in the Rake Allotment System module by CRIS.

SBPS STUDENTS SHINE AT BB_INFOTSAV

Sarala Birla Public School, Ranchi was all in glory when its students brought laurels to school with their outstanding performance at BB_INFOTSAV 2K21, an inter school fest organized by Birla Bharati, Kolkata. The competition was held among the Sarala Birla group of schools located in the various states of India. The competition comprised of various activities which helped the students to showcase their creativity skills and imaginative thinking. Karan Dalania and Tejus Srivastava of class XI made us proud by securing 1st position in the event Mind's Eye in which a video clip was prepared by them using multimedia tools. Adarsh Upadhyay and Nitin Kumar Dubey of class XI added yet another feather in the school's cap as they bagged the 1st runner-up prize in the event 'Pytha-Goras' in which he created a fully functional game Python framework and programming. Pranamya Adinath and Dhruv Garodia of class VIII also received 1st runner-up prize for the event 'Beam me up' by creating a story woven by them using IMS Power Point exhibiting their creativity and imagination.

BLANKET DISTRIBUTION BY MAHILA SAMITI



Blankets were distributed among the personnel working in the "Surabhi" and "Swavalamban" centers operated by the Mahila Samiti, Bokaro. On this occasion, Vice President of Mahila Samiti, Neelima Kushwaha, Shubhra Saha, Vandana Pandey, Member of Executive Committee and other members were present. It is noteworthy that the Mahila Samiti helps the needy section of the society by organizing such events from time to time for the needy people of Bokaro city.

Tribal Affairs Ministry bags 'Skoch Challenger Award' again

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs was awarded the "Skoch Challenger Award" for the second consecutive year. The award has been received for outstanding work in e-governance. Cabinet Minister Arjun Munda on Saturday virtually received the award.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has taken several transformative initiatives recently. All processes leading to a paperless office have been digitized. Monitoring is data driven. Communication to states is



Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda virtually receives the "Skoch Challenger Award" in Janshmedpur on Saturday

an online report system and is analytics based and a performance dashboard is updated on a real-time basis. There is transparency with public domain tribe related data: Performance Dashboard, Effort-PMO Dashboard, NITI Aayog and DBT Mission.

Union Minister Arjun Munda said, "There has been a dramatic change in our attitude towards policy making and action. We want an evidence based policy, which will be realistic and will solve the problems of tribals at the grassroots level. Also, we are adopting a digital route

for changes which ensures transparency and speed of delivery. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has digitized the entire process of scholarship release. Beneficiary data is available online and 19 states / UTs are sending data using web services and 12 on National Scholarship Portal (NSP). DBT Mission All 5 scholarship schemes have been digitized. 13 schemes are on the ministry dashboard, 6 initiatives are on the PMO dashboard."

"The entire process of issuing scholarships online has helped 64 lakh beneficiaries to get scholarships

directly into their accounts through DBT. The availability of data on the PM dashboard, ministry and DBT dashboard adds transparency. The Ministry has launched a unique project to solve the problem of water from ice-stupas in Ladakh. It is a way to store the frozen molten water in winter which can be used during the spring season. More than 35 villages have already benefited from this. In addition, the health portal is a one-stop solution presenting the health and nutritional status of tribal population in India," he added.

Pooja Bharti case will be solved in 2 days: DGP

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand Director General of Police (DGP) MV Rao said in Ramgarh on Saturday that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) is investigating the case of recovery of body of a Hazaribagh Medical College student, Pooja Bharti, from Patratu Dam and the police will crack the case very soon.

Rao said that the investigation is in the final stages and the matter will be revealed within two days. After that all



Jharkhand DGP MV Rao

the information will be shared with the media. The investigation should not be affected,

therefore, it is important to have a secret, he added.

The DGP held a meeting with senior police officials on Bharti's death case. IG, Saket Kumar Singh, DIG, Amol Homkar Venukant, Hazaribagh SP, Karthik S, Ramgarh SP, Prabhat Kumar, SDPO, Prakash Chandra Mahato, Patratu SDPO, Anuj Oraon, Ramgarh Headquarters DSP Prakash Soy were present in the meeting.

The body of Bharati was

found with tied hands and feet in Patratu Dam, Ramgarh on January 12. Pooja was a resident of Godda, who was studying in Hazaribagh. Police recovered plastic rope, belt, food items, water bottle and others from the spot. The DIG of Hazaribagh constituted an SIT for investigation.

Rao said that the SIT is doing research on several points. Hazaribagh, Ramgarh, Ranchi and Godda police are engaged in investigation in the case of Pooja Bharti.

NDA Govt committed to State's Development: Pradhan

PNS ■ RANCHI

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday said that the NDA Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken several reformist steps in mines and minerals, which will give maximum benefit to States like Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

Pradhan, a Rajya Sabha member, said that these reformist steps will boost employment, industry and business in these States. Pradhan, who was in the State capital on Saturday, also met Governor Droupadi Murmu and Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

The Union Minister talking to media persons at BJP office and said that the NDA Government's attitude towards Jharkhand has always remained positive. BJP State president and Rajya Sabha member Deepak Prakash and media in-charge Shivpujan Pathak were present at the meeting.

Pradhan said that many works related to steel are being done in Jharkhand. He further said, "During meeting with Chief Minister Hemant Soren works and performance of Bokaro Steel Plant, Tata Steel, Sindri Fertilizer Plant of Government of India, gas pipeline work under Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga in the state related to other petroleum related works are being executed. Specifically there was



Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan addresses the 21st Jharkhand State Convention of Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) at Dhanurva in Ranchi on Saturday

discussion to increase production of iron ore mines." He said that Union Government and State Government should work together for the development of the State, which was discussed with the Chief Minister and the Governor.

Pradhan on his visit to Ranchi said that today is a historic day as the Country has launched the world's largest and cheapest immunization programme under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that under the immunization programme in the first phase 3 crore frontline workers will be vaccinated and in second phase 27 crore people will be vaccinated.

Pune based Serum Institute of India has manufactured Covishield and Bharat Biotech has manufactured Covaxin. The price of Covishield is Rs 200 per dose (for first 100 million doses), Rs 1,000 per dose

thereafter at private outlets, while Bharat Biotech Covaxin cost is Rs 206 per dose.

Pradhan apart from official assignment also participated at Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) provincial session in Ranchi. He also had a meeting with State BJP president Deepak Prakash, organizational general secretary Dharampal Singh, State general secretaries, Aditya Sahu and Pradeep Verma about strengthening party organization.

Meanwhile, Pradhan on his visit to State Capital had to face people's protest as NSUI and Congress workers waved black flags to him on his arrival at Birsu Munda International Airport. Around a dozen Congress and NSUI workers tried to stop the convoy of Pradhan and even shouted slogans, which was protested by BJP workers who outnumbered the NSUI and Congress workers.

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The premises are required in the following localities for shifting of its existing branch premises viz. (1) Lalpur Branch (2) Giridih Branch:
(1) Lalpur Chowk, Circular Road, Purulia Road, Ranchi - RANCHI
(2) Tower Chowk, Barmasia, Gandhi Chowk, Shivam Market - GIRIDIH
More information may be collected from Bank's aforesaid branches/Zonal Office, Ranchi or can be downloaded from Bank's website at www.ucobank.com. The last date for submission of application in sealed cover on prescribed format is 02.02.2021. The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reasons whatsoever.
Zonal Head, Ranchi

SBI भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
क्षेत्रीय व्यवसाय कार्यालय, बोकारो

सिटी सेंटर, सेक्टर-4, बोकारो स्टील सिटी-827004

आम नीलामी सूचना

भारतीय स्टेट बैंक सार्वजनिक नीलामी के द्वारा वाहनों जिनके निर्माता कम्पनीयों के नाम, माडल एवं निर्माण वर्ष निम्नानुसार है की नीलामी हेतु "जैसा है जहाँ है के आधार" पर आवेदन दिनांक 22.01.2021 के अपराह्न 12.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित करता है, वाहनों के आरक्षित मूल्य निम्नानुसार निर्धारित किये गए हैं।

क्र.सं.	शाखा/मो.नं.	चूकर्ता ऋणी	निर्माता	माँडल	वर्ष सं०	रजिस्ट्रेशन	इंजन सं०	चेसिस सं० (रु.मं)	आरक्षित मूल्य (रु.मं)
1.	बोकारो यर्मल (9199755008)	अश्व किशोर महतो	टाटा	टाटा आईटीएस 4923 टीसी ट्रेलर (22 व्हीलर्स)	2016	JH-02AM -0027	B592303061 E63538369	MAT764009 O0846186	16,50,000
2.	करगली कोलियरी (9060192111)	मै. सुकर रजवार	मारुति	वेनार वीएक्सआई	2016	JH-09AE-1537	K10BN 7824660	MA3EWEID5 O0846186	2,50,000
3.	कुसरो बाजार (9929968820)	मनोज कौं पंडित	टाटा मोटर्स	टाटा स्टार बस	2018	JH-09AM-1228	B49TC41 BRYBO4144	MAT513055 JFC03710	10,80,000
4.	कुसरो बाजार (9929968820)	राहुल कुमार	टाटा मोटर्स	टाटा आईटीएस 4018 (18 व्हीलर्स)	2017	JH-09AE-8698	B591803271 A63567883	B591803271 H3A00915	13,50,000
5.	सेक्टर-9 शाखा (9470192602)	नृपन अमृत	टाटा मोटर्स	टोयोटा एक्सजेड कार	2017	JH-09AH-1981	REVTRN02 GSYK39835	MAT626281 HKG48934	3,06,000
6.	बोकारो स्टील सिटी (9470192602)	अरविन्द कुमार	जेएसए ऑटो प्राो ली०	3 व्हीलर्स बुइस	2018	JH-09AM-6090	47C1078141	MCHJ1010 4FJLA005D	1,41,000

उपरोक्त वाहनों की सार्वजनिक नीलामी भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, क्षेत्रीय व्यवसाय कार्यालय, बोकारो, सिटी सेंटर, सेक्टर-4, बोकारो स्टील सिटी में दिनांक 22.01.2021 को अपराह्न 12.30 बजे निम्नलिखित नियमों एवं शर्तों के तहत की जायेगी। प्रत्येक वाहनों का बयाना राशि आरक्षित मूल्य का 10% निश्चित किया गया है। इच्छुक आवेदक एक से अधिक वाहनों के लिए आवेदन कर सकते हैं। प्रत्येक वाहन के लिए अलग-अलग बयाना राशि आरक्षित मूल्य का 10% का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, बोकारो स्टील सिटी, बोकारो के पक्ष में बोकारो पर देय संलग्न होना चाहिए। आरक्षित मूल्य से कम मूल्य की बोली मान्य नहीं होगी। सबसे ऊँची बोली लगाने वाले को बोली की रकम का 25% तत्काल जमा करना होगा एवं शेष रकम नीलामी लिथि से 10 दिनों के अंदर भुगतान करना होगा अन्यथा उनके पक्ष में हुई नीलामी को निरस्त करते हुए उनके द्वारा जमा की गयी पूरी रकम को जब्त कर लिया जायेगा। सबसे ऊँची बोली लगानेवाले सहित किसी भी आवेदक को या पूरी नीलामी को अथवा किसी भी वाहनों की नीलामी को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त या अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार बैंक के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा।

नोट:- 1. प्रकाशन में किसी भी प्रकार की त्रुटि के लिए बैंक जिम्मेदार नहीं होगा। मौखिक निरीक्षण ही मान्य होगा।
2. प्रत्येक आवेदक पैस कार्ड अथवा आवासीय प्रमाणपत्र की छायाप्रति संलग्न करेंगे तथा मूल प्रति सत्यापन हेतु प्रस्तुत करेंगे।
उक्त गाड़ियों की विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु संपर्क करें, मोबाइल नं.- 7667985264

स्थान: बोकारो
दिनांक: 17.01.2021

ह०/—प्राधिकृत पदाधिकारी
भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, क्षेत्रीय व्यवसायिक कार्यालय, बोकारो

COVID-19 Sanitation worker at MGM College gets first vaccine

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

A 50 year old sanitation worker at MGM Medical College in Dimna was given the first COVID-19 vaccine as the East Singhbhum administration began its mass vaccination drive here on Saturday. The drive for Covid-19 kicked off here at the MGM Medical College following the inaugural speech of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that was made through video-conferencing at about 11 am on Saturday.

The sweeper posted at the medical college, Alice Biswas Banra, was the first health worker to be vaccinated whereas the principal of the medical college, BK Barla was the first doctor to get the vaccine among the 100 persons who were administered Covishield there.

According to officials, in all 49 doctors and 51 other health workers, including nursing, para-medics and sweepers were administered the vaccines and were allowed to go from an observation room where they had to remain for 30 minutes after the vaccination.

"I am really happy to get the Covid-19 vaccine. From now I will be much confident to perform my duties. I am quite normal now after getting the vaccine," said Alice, a mother of two sons.



The principal Barla also said that there was no uneasiness after getting the vaccination. "We have given a message of confidence about the Covishield vaccine and none of my medical fraternity has any suspicion or fear about it," said the medical college principal.

District civil surgeon, RN Jha who monitored the vaccination drive at both MGM Medical College as well as Tata Main Hospital, said 70 persons were vaccinated at medical college by 4 pm and 50 persons were vaccinated at the private-run health hub Tata Main Hospital by the same time, expressing his hope that by 7 pm all the 200 persons will have been vaccinated at both the places.

"It is matter of great satisfaction that the vaccination has marked our entry in the critical last leg of our fight against COVID-19. We intend to vaccinate 8,000 persons in the first drive," said another official.

DC Suraj Kumar interacted and took feedback from those who were immunised on the first day. "We will further spread the number of centres. This is a good beginning for us. A long wait finally comes to end with the vaccination programme. We are taking cooperation from doctors and health workers, who have worked hard for the past 10 months for the success of the current vaccination programme," he said.

Cleaning health workers get first vaccine shot in Bokaro

PNS ■ BOKARO

The mega vaccination drive against coronavirus was conducted at ANM Training Center at Sadar Hospital in Bokaro and Community Health Center (CHC) Chandankiyari on Saturday.

On the first day, the first vaccine was given to cleaning health workers. In Bokaro, the first vaccine was given to Anu Devi, a female cleaning staff of the district health department, and the second was given to Dr. Neeta Sinha, a renowned gynecologist of the city and the president of Indian Medical Association (IMA).



While at CHC Chandankiyari, Mukesh Kumar Bhagat, a cleaning staff of the health department got the first shot of the vaccine. We have constituted two teams of doctors and medical

experts. One team for conducting the vaccination drive while the other for keeping a close watch on the patients, post-vaccination in the observation room, said Dr NP Singh in-charge Civil Surgeon

Bokaro. "Four rooms have the needful equipment for the purpose," added Singh.

We have received 10,700 vaccine doses for the first round of vaccination.

An estimated 5500 health workers, including government and private hospital doctors, paramedical, and other health staff, were scheduled to get the vaccine shot in the first phase in the district. In the first phase, 100 persons will be vaccinated on a daily basis at the center, he said.

In the second phase around 7500 frontline workers, including armed forces (JAP 1100, CISF 1000, RPF & GRP 400),

home guards (1900), police (2000), volunteers, municipal workers would be administered the vaccine. The third phase could be taken up for vaccination would comprise persons above the age of 50 years (around 3.40 lakhs), and persons with co-morbidities (20,000), informed Singh.

"For the remaining population, we get to receive the government's guideline," he added.

Notably, around 3 lakh frontline health care workers will be inoculated at 2,934 sites across India on day one of the massive nationwide Covid-19 inoculation drive, which is set to begin on 16 January.

Covishield vaccination begins with joy in Palamu

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

It was a happy start to the health workers and officials who took the Covishield vaccine shots on Saturday. Relief and joy were writ large on the faces of those who were vaccinated. None had any post vaccination distress. They were happy to have the shot. When they came out of the observation room they looked like a warrior and a victor.

A fourth grade staff, Kunti Devi, was the first to take the shot at the community health centre, Chainpur. Ladley Hassan was the second in the line. At the Medinirai medical college hospital Daltonganj Nageshwar Dubey, a safai karamchari, was the first to get the shot. Civil surgeon Palamu John F Kennedy was the second. Anil Kr Singh the dis-

trict reproductive child health officer too took the shot. A lady doctor Garima Prakash said she felt all good all through. Slow server caused a problem in the community health centre Chainpur.

DC Palamu Shashi Ranjan said he would have loved to get it had it been permitted today as it is the day of brave health workers and officers. DC Palamu appreciated the arrangements made for the vaccination. In Palamu there are two session sites for the vaccination.

Civil surgeon Kennedy said the team worked till late at night and got things done. At the Chainpur community health centre the atmosphere was far more relaxed and joyful. Green carpet was rolled out for the beneficiaries who came for the shot. There was no noise or any hurly burly at all.

Bajrang Haari becomes first vaccine recipient in Dhanbad

PNS ■ DHANBAD

Bajrang Haari, a cleanliness worker of Topchanchi Health Centre located in a Maoist dominated locality of district, became the first Corona vaccine recipient in Dhanbad with commencement of the drive here.

Tundi MLA Mathura Prasad Mahto inaugurated the vaccination programme here and later also reached Tundi primary health centre to launch the programme. At Tundi Amrit Devi, an ANM, was first to take the vaccine. The programme began after the PM completed his speech that was televised here live.

Talking to media persons Bajrang Haari said, initially he was filled with fear but after taking the vaccine is satisfied and feeling confident. Bajrang

was not feeling any untoward even after the observation period, he said to media persons. Here eight ANMs also took the vaccine followed by Haari.

The Tundi MLA, who himself has faced the trauma of being corona positive followed by acute pneumonia three months back, expressed satisfaction over the corona vaccine beneficiaries plan. He hailed the cleanliness staff as well as the health workers for becoming first recipients.

Dhanbad deputy commissioner Uma Shankar Singh inspected the ongoing drive at Topchanchi and the Tundi vaccination centres later in day.

The drive is on as per the protocol laid down by the government. No untoward has been reported from either the centres, added Singh.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER NATIONAL HIGHWAYS DIVISION, DHANBAD (Combined Office Building Campus)
Telephone No.0326-2313339 e-mail: ceendhanbad-jhr@nic.in

CORRIGENDUM
e-procurement Notice (Very Short Term) for the work of Ordinary Repair work in Km. 8.56 to Km 20.00 of NH-419 for the Year 2020-21 as published vide Tender Reference No. NH/Dhanbad/10/2020-21 dated 11.01.2021 and Tender ID No. 2021 MoRTH 609196 1 and P.R. No- 239223 Road (20-21) D is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable reason.

(Dilip Kumar Sah)
Executive Engineer
NH Division, Dhanbad

PR.NO.239478 Road(20-21):D

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, चाईबासा

शुद्धि-पत्र
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 16 दिनांक 06.01.2021 के द्वारा निविदा संख्या WRD / MID / CHAIBASA / F2-11/2020-21 के माध्यम से निविदा आमंत्रित की गई थी जिसका PR.NO (238974 (West Singhbhum) 20-21(D) है, को अपरिहार्य कारणों से अगले आदेश तक के लिए रद्द किया जाता है।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
PR 239444 (West Singhbhum)20-21#D लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, चाईबासा

कार्यालय, विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियन्ता विद्युत कार्य प्रमण्डल, धनबाद

शुद्धि-पत्र
एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं० 16/ 2020-21 जो दिनांक 13.01.2021 को दैनिक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित है एवं जिसका PR No. 239279 Energy (20-21)D है, जिसके क्रम सं० 23 का कार्य दोबारा लिखे जाने के कारण उसे विलोपित किया जाता है एवं अन्य सभी कार्य यथावत रहेगी।

विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
विद्युत कार्य प्रमण्डल, धनबाद।
PR.NO.239457 Energy(20-21):D

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, चाईबासा

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-BCD/CHAIBASA/36/वर्ष 2020-21

- विज्ञापनदाता का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, भवन प्रमण्डल, चाईबासा।
- परिमाण विपत्र की विक्री की तिथि :- दिनांक 28 / 01 / 2021 के पूर्वदिन 11.00 बजे से अपराह्न 1:00 बजे तक।
- निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 29 / 01 / 2021 को अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक।
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 29 / 01 / 2021 को अपराह्न 3:30 बजे।
- परिमाण विपत्र विक्री की स्थान :- (क) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, छोटानागपुर अंचल, राँची। (ख) प्रमण्डलीय कार्यालय, भवन प्रमण्डल, चाईबासा। (ग) सहायक अभियन्ता, भवन अवर प्रमण्डल, चक्रधरपुर।
- निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान :- (क) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, छोटानागपुर अंचल, राँची। (ख) प्रमण्डलीय कार्यालय, भवन प्रमण्डल, चाईबासा। (ग) सहायक अभियन्ता, भवन अवर प्रमण्डल, चक्रधरपुर।
- कार्य का विवरणी :-

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
01	महिला कॉलेज, चाईबासा के नजदीक न्यायाधीश आवास सं०-05 एवं 08 का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। वर्ष 2020-21	2,44,800=00	5,000=00	500=00	15 दिन
02	सदर ब्लॉक, चाईबासा के नजदीक न्यायाधीश के आवास सं०-03 का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। वर्ष 2020-21	2,43,650=00	5,000=00	500=00	15 दिन
03	सदर ब्लॉक, चाईबासा के नजदीक परिवार न्यायाधीश के आवास का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। वर्ष 2020-21	2,49,750=00	5,000=00	500=00	15 दिन
04	सदर ब्लॉक, चाईबासा के नजदीक परिवार न्यायाधीश के आवास साहस्रदिवारी एवं पहँड पथ एवं अन्य कार्य का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। वर्ष 2020-21	2,47,000=00	5,000=00	500=00	15 दिन

नोट- यूकेन निबंधित निविदाकार ही निविदा डाल सकते हैं।
विद्युत मंदा के कार्य हेतु जिला विभाग द्वारा निर्गत अनुज्ञा प्रमाण पत्र। (निविदा की शर्तनुसार)
निविदा की शर्त अद्योहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट पर उपलब्ध है।
एक निबंधन पर दो से अधिक कार्य का परिमाण विपत्र देय नहीं होगा।
भारतीय स्टेट बैंक द्वारा निर्गत बैंक ड्राफ्ट/ डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट ही मान्य होगा। बैंक ड्राफ्ट/ ड्राफ्ट कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, चाईबासा के पक्ष में एवं भारतीय स्टेट बैंक मुख्य शाखा, चाईबासा में भुगतान होगा, जिसे लौटाया नहीं जायेगा।
झारखण्ड सरकार, पथ निर्माण विभाग के संकल्प सह ज्ञापक 2146 (S) राँची दि० 09 / 09 / 2020 के आधार पर निविदा का न्यायदान किया जाएगा।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
भवन प्रमण्डल, चाईबासा
PR.NO.239427 West Singhbhum(20-21):D

Pvt schools declare KG results, lists uploaded on websites

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

More than 60 private English medium schools on Saturday declared results of KG admission. Parents gave mixed responses on the outcome of the results of the software based admission to the entry level classes for the academic session, 2021-22. The fate of about 9000 children was decided in the result. Most of the schools have adopted a manual lottery process to select the candidates. In view of Covid-19, most of the schools posted the result lists on their websites.

The parents, whose ward qualified the random (lottery) admission test, were happy but those parents whose children failed to make it through were vocal and found fault with the admission process.

B. Uma Shankar Rao, principal, Andhra Association English School, Kadma said that the school has published the selected candidate's name for LKG - 2021-22 Admission. Total No. of selected candidates are 59No. of seats reserved under RTE Act are 22. Date of admission 18th January to 20th January, 2021.

Jharkhand Unaided Private English Schools, (JUPES) has expressed satisfaction over the



outcome of the result. "The admission process was free and fair and there was no room for manipulation. The schools are by and large satisfied with the outcome of the results," said an official of the Jamshedpur chapter of JUPES.

In tune with the guidelines of the Right to Education (RTE Act, 2009) the district education department asked the English schools to practice random admission upto standard VIII.

"The process of manual lottery lacked transparency and had several loopholes. School management finally had its way and highhandedness in the admission process

is quite apparent," said a 28-year-old mother whose male child failed in the admission.

The Jamshedpur Parents Association, (JPA) the city based outfit raising flag for long vis à-vis inaccuracy in the admission software, charged the district administration of siding with the schools.

"I know for sure only half the seats were put up for random admission while the majority of the seats will be filled up through the backdoor. Not only this, parents have found loopholes in the process but district administration didn't pay heed to our grouses," said a functionary of JPA.

Railway police nab 2 from Kalka mail, recover jewellery worth ₹85 lakh

PNS ■ GIRIDIH

GRP nabbed two persons from Kalka Mail at Hazaribagh railway station on Saturday and recovered stolen jewellery worth ₹ 86.5 lakh from a jewellery shop at Rohini in Delhi on Thursday. Acting on a tip off police tracked the DN Kalka mail at Hazaribagh road railway station at 1:42 am and when the train was stopped at station, two criminals who were travelling in A-2 coach, who tried to escape but were nabbed by the GRP.

The persons were identified as Pitu Shaikh and Ahmed, both were coming from Delhi and going to Bardawan after committing crime in Delhi. Inspector-in-charge of Hazaribagh Road Pankaj Kumar said that police raided the coach no A-2 after stopping of train at station at 1:42 am and arrested two persons Peetu Shaikh 27 son of late Sadhu Sheikh, belonging to Birbhum, district in WB Birbhum and Ahmed, 30 son of late Miyadin Sheikh, a resident of JJ Colony Babana, North West Delhi, and recovered a bag carrying gold jewellery weighing about 1 kg 800 grams, a mobile and a packet of dry fruits from them.

The estimated value of the recovered gold was estimated at about Rs 86,40,000 / - (Rupees Eighty six lakh forty thousand).

On interrogating the criminal, Peetu Sheikh, told the police that two or three days ago, they had stolen jewellery shop after cutting the shutter of a gold shop near the bus stop in Delhi. The said criminal has been released from jail a few days ago. The said train departed the destination at 01:56 am. On interrogating the criminal Peetu Sheikh, he also said that another criminal is going to Asansol by same train.

Increase in production, productivity from housekeeping

PNS ■ BOKARO

The personnel of BSL's HRCF and CRM-1, 2 departments have set an example of better housekeeping in the shop floor by disposing off old scrap and waste material by thoroughly cleaning the areas around the workplace with their internal resources. Sharing Information COC Manikant Dhan added that these efforts of the workers will also improve the productivity of these departments and safe working style will be developed.

Officers and personnel of BSL's CRM-1, 2 and HRCF departments expressed their commitment to housekeeping in their 5-S System of Workplace Management to prevent accidents, increase productivity and communicate positive energy among workers consequently made the workplace a safe and beautiful area.

By removing unnecessary items from the coil yard and plate sheet yard of HRCF, the space required for each essential item has been kept at a fixed location. The area has been beautified by engraving Madhubani and Jharcraft paintings on the garden walls developed in the HRCF side with the aim of making a positive impact on the people coming to the Plant Plaza Road.

14th Finance Commission employees stage protest

PNS ■ RANCHI

The 14th Finance Commissions Junior Engineers and Accounts Clerks cum Computer Operators on Saturday sat on a dharna on the middle of the road near Birsra Chowk in the State capital.

The protesters were going to the State Secretariat to meet the Chief Minister but police blocked the way to stop the protesters. The police had to use mild force to stop the protesters. The protesters had demanded that they have to meet the Minister and secretary of the Government to fulfill their demands. The police did not allow the march; consider it illegal to form a group.

When the protesters heading towards the Chief Minister's office a minor clash took place between police and them. Police had to use force to control the situation. Some people have suffered minor injuries in it. It is being told that the protesters have been agitating for their demands for a long time. There was an assurance from the state government that the problems would be resolved soon. The employees concerned took the path of agitation against non-action of assurance.

The protest continued for the 30th consecutive day by the 14th Finance Commissions Panchayati Raj Employees Union, in the meantime, talks were held by the officials and the Minister of Rural Development, Alamgir Alam but it failed. They staged a sit-in near Birsra Chowk at 1:00 pm on Saturday afternoon; all the agitators suddenly started marching towards the Jharkhand Secretariat with shouting slogans car-



14 Finance Commission (Panchayati Raj Department) Workers Union stage a protest against the government at Birsra Chowk in Ranchi on Saturday

rying banners in their hands. Slogans started from both sides. The agitators were trying to forcibly opening the gate. The police closed the gate from the other side.

Meanwhile, MLA Irfan Ansari reached at the spot where the protest was going on. Ansari informed the protestor that the meeting of the Legislature Party is about to take place immediately, he is going there and put their demands forward and after the meeting of the Legislature Party, the MLA will come to inform the result of the meeting. He requested to give him only two days to reach on any conclusion. He assured that the contract term of the protesters will increase because they are residents of Jharkhand. After that it was decided by the agitators union that they all leave the road and sit again at the place where they are protesting for the last 30 days.

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 Toycathon-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 Bagraich, 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/may 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 Chhatrapur district of Madhya Pradesh (crow); Surat, Navsari and Narmada districts of Gujarat (crow); Dehradun district of Uttarakhand (crow); Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh (crow). Additionally, in Delhi, Pigeon and brown fish owl in Najafgarh and Heron in Rohini have tested positive for avian influenza. "Till 16 January,

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

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

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

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

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.

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 immediately work with states to open up vaccinations to more priority groups," he said.

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

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



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

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

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 peace-

keepers may constitute war

crimes, spokesman Stéphane 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 hereby informed that one girl Namely: Droupadi, 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 Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO P.S. Laxmi Nagar, Delhi Ph. 011-22542441, 8750870622 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 Kaushik & Associates, M-52-A, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi alongwith supported documents within a period of fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the claim of such persons will be deemed to have waived and / or abandoned & our client shall proceed to complete the proposed transaction.
(Advocate) Sachin Kumar 18-52-A, Malviya Nagar, ND-17 • 9911363700, 9658150000

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**

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001. O.A.No: 67/19/19 DATE: 28.09.2020 CICI BANK LTD., Applicant MUKUL SHAH.....Respondent To: DEFENDENT Mukul Shah S/o. Ripudaman Shah Prop. Goldline Corporation (Borrower) 105, Ground Floor, Sector-03, Noida - 201301. 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. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is publically notified that the residential house No B-53B, Sector-19, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. allottee G.L. Wadhwa S/o Sh. Karam Chand Wadhwa R/o Quarter No. 66, Type-II, ESIC Colony, Basaidapur, New Delhi had sold on the basis of General Power of Attorney to the following persons. The General Power of attorney was registered on dated 03.05.1988 in the name of Mr. Mahender Pal Singh S/o Sh. Kishan Singh Adhikari R/o House No. B-53B, Sector-19, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. is going to transfer through G.P.A. in the name of Mrs. Basanti Adhikari W/o Mahender Pal Singh R/o House No. B-53B, Sector-19, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. If someone has any objection he/she file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the housing Department of Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice.

SPORTKING INDIA LTD.
CIN: L17122DL1989PLC035050 Regd. Off.: 5/69, First Floor, Guru Mansion, Padam Singh Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 Phone: 011-26754885 Website: www.sportking.co.in Email: cs@sportking.co.in

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the company is scheduled to be held on Saturday, 23rd January 2021, to consider and to take on record, inter alia, the Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended 31st December 2020. The above information is also available on the company's website www.sportking.co.in and on the website of Stock Exchange i.e. BSE - www.bseindia.com

For Sportking India Limited Sd/- Munish Avasthi Managing Director Date : 16.01.2021 DIN : 0042425

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(f) 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. Ft. (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, paths, passages, benefits, and advantages, appurtenant whatsoever to the said unit or any part thereof and to hold the same unto and to the use of the Vendee. Situated within the revenue estate of Village Fajipur Majra, Ninkha, 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, Axis Bank Ltd. Date : 17-01-2021, Place: Faridabad

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.	30.01.2021
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	Lifting Luggage 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 Stainless 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 for following tender Sr.No.811 of Tender Notice No. S/31/2020 Dt. 22.12.2020 (Constant Voltage Regulated cum Emergency Battery Charger).

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

For Principal Chief Materials Manager 0582 Like us on : [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) follows us on : twitter.com/WesternRly

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.

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.

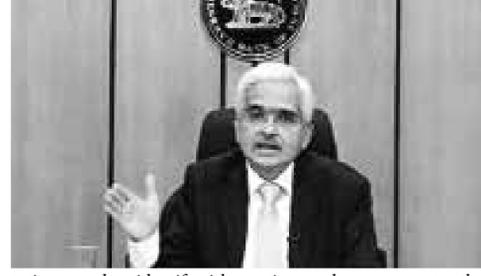
Prudently, a few large public sector banks (PSBs) and major private sector banks

(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.

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.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

With this in place, the

dependence of PSBs on government support would also come down and ease fiscal pressure.

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

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

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

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 ₹766 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.

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

Raj CM interacts with health workers

Jaipur: Chief Minister

Shri Ashok Gehlot said that due to efficient management of corona by the state government, limiting the number of Covid patients in the state and introduction of vaccine today is a happy coincidence.

Just as we have fought the corona in the best way with the cooperation of all, similarly we will set an example by making this vaccination campaign a success. To ensure that the corona is completely eradicated despite the vaccine, everyone should ensure continued adherence to other health protocols, including masking, social 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.

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.

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.

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

Sd/- Accounts Officer (Member secretary)

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

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

Last date of Opening Bid Document: 04th 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

आव सारणी- संबन्धी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

पत्रांक- 45, कटिहार

जल संसाधन विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, कटिहार

अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या -10 SBD/2020-21

(राष्ट्रीय/राजकीय स्पर्धा)

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

1. कार्य का विवरण -

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख रुप में)	अग्रपत्र की राशि (लाख रुप में) (ऑन लाइन अथवा फिजिकल/ मैनुअल मोड में भुगतान)	परिष्ठा - विपत्र का मूल्य (अप्रत्यक्षीय) (किंवा ऑन लाइन मोड में भुगतान) रुप में	सेट्टलमेंट को देय बिल प्रोसेसिंग की राशि (अप्रत्यक्षीय) (केवल ऑन लाइन मोड में भुगतान) रुप में	कार्य सम्पत्ति की अवधि
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01. लामा चौकिया पहाड़पुर महानदा दायाँ तटस्थ के किनारे 20.25 (सैन चौ 67.5) से किनारे 23.00 (सैन चौ 67) के बीच कटव निर्योचक कार्य। एंजल सं-168/322/2021

2. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्योचक की तिथि : दिनांक -13.01.2021

3. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने : दिनांक-21.01.2021 से दिनांक-24.01.2021 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

4. प्री-बिड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि : दिनांक-27.01.2021 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

5. तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक-27.01.2021 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

6. वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक-27.01.2021 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

7. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : 120 दिन

8. निविदा की वेधता अवधि : कार्यपालक अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, कटिहार

9. निविदापत्रादाता का पदनाम एवं पता : बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, कटिहार

10. निविदा जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in एवं state.bihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता

बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, कटिहार

मो 0-7463889238

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।

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 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 Mortgagees/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, 72300004964 or M/S NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933

Please note that Marketing agencies agencies 1. NexXen Solution Private limited 2. Augoe 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.

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
SONY TEN 1, 3 & SIX

inclement weather which effectively makes the home team more jittery as a draw would be enough for Ajinkya Rahane to lift the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paine was just getting into the groove with some good drives

Rohit has no regret of playing that shot

PTI ■ BRISBANE

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

"Having said that, there is a process I like to follow. Sometimes you get out and sometimes it goes over the ropes. Unfortunately 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.

when Thakur provided the breakthrough.

With the partnership broken, Green probably lost his concentration as he played for the turn to an

angle delivery from Sundar which straightened after pitching and breached through his defences.

Pat Cummins (2) was adjudged leg before as he yorked himself to

a fuller delivery from Thakur as Australia slumped from 311 for five to 315 for eight before the tail wagged once again to beef up the total.

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 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

'Natarajan is here to stay'

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

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

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 competi-

tive 158 for four.

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

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

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

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

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

Earlier, Hyderabad made 152 for 7 in 20 overs thanks to contributions from B Sandeep (41) and Pragyan 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.

best batters, and test themselves," he said.

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

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

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

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

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

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 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 his batsmen will face a tough task against a "dangerous" side like Pakistan.

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

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

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

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

Thirimanne, Perera lead SL resistance after Root's 228

AFP ■ GALLE

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

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

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

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



ing session to add the 32 runs to his overnight total. He reached 200 with a four off Lasith Emuldeniya. While the empty Covid-19-stricken stadium meant that only his

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Perera and Thirimanne made 101 for the first wicket.

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

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

PTI

agenda

the pioneer

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



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

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.

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.

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

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

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

YOUTH POWERING CHANGE

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

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

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

STARTUPS REV UP

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNICATION, CONNECTIVITY AND AWARENESS

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

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

This naturally has had a positive impact. Das says, "The perception has changed because of the development of communications network and also connectivity. Guwahati, for instance, has direct flights to all the metros." Gadi feels that a lot of festivals like the Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh, Hornbill in Nagaland have also become must-visit events for travellers. "People who have gone to these festivals return with beautiful memories. That has naturally helped create a positive impression about the people and the place," he says.

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

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

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





READING IS A CONVERSATION. ALL BOOKS TALK. BUT A GOOD BOOK LISTENS AS WELL — MARK HADDON

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

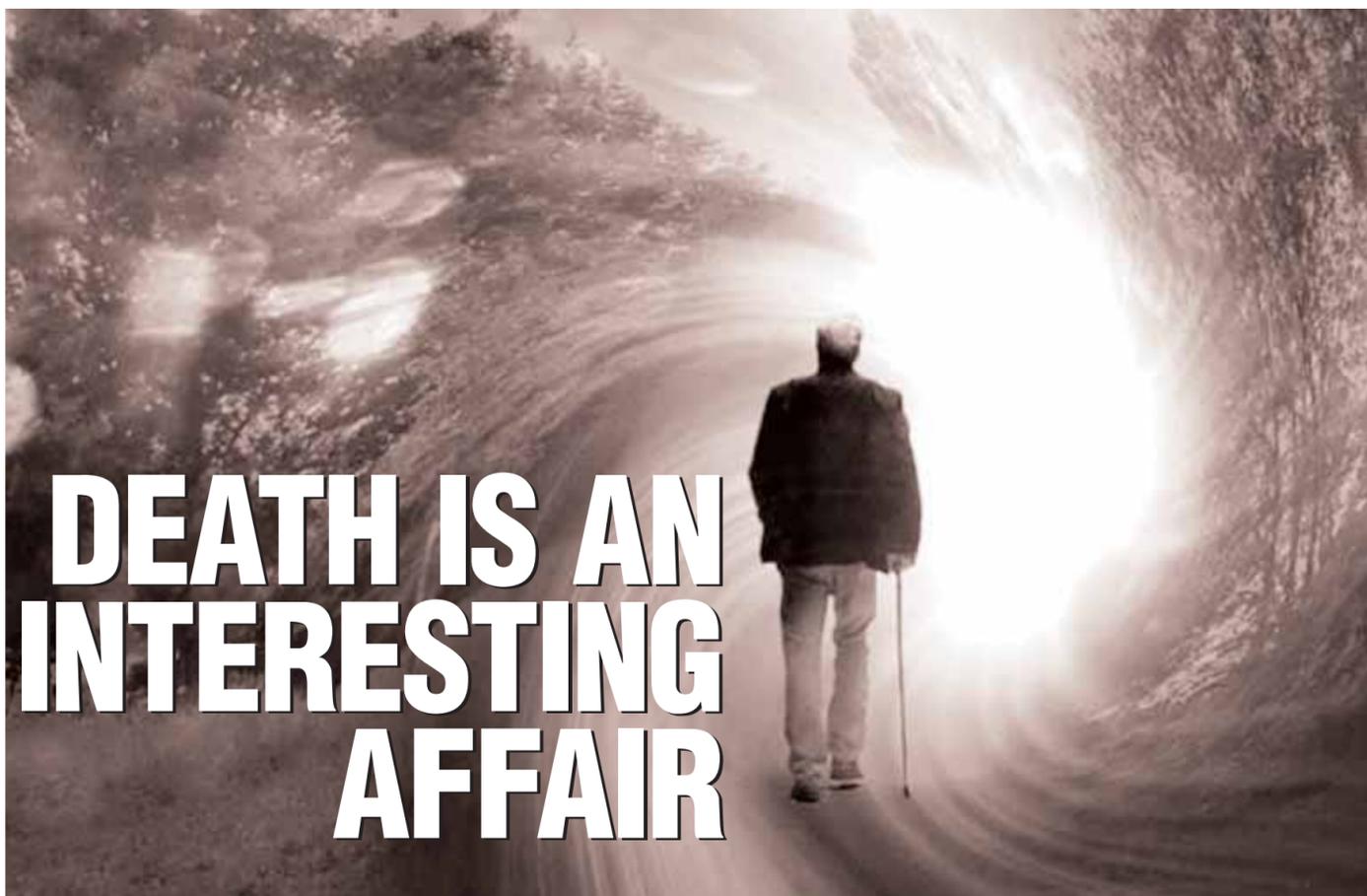
Karthiyani Kunhamma, my mother, passed away peacefully on November 6, 2020. Her departure from this world was as uneventful as she lived for 90 years. There were no theatrics or high drama accompanying the event. She was there alive one moment and then the other she was gone. My long-time friend and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

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

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

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

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



DEATH IS AN INTERESTING AFFAIR

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

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

had been cruel to him throughout this life.

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

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

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

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

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

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

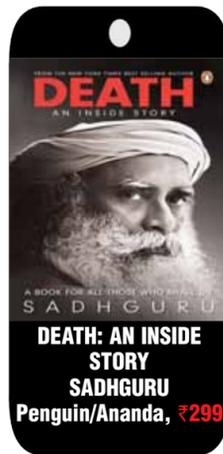
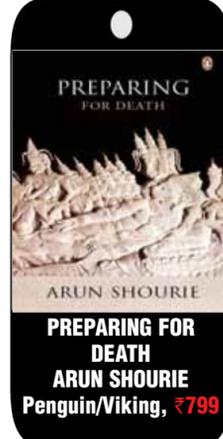
When it was time for me to be discharged from the ICU and transported to Ernakulam Medical Centre, I had graduated to reading *Death: An Inside Story* by Sadhguru. I don't have words to describe this pathbreaking book, full of humour and one which opens the windows to the world of death. "You must understand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

time. It is the last thing that you will do in your life. Moving from the physical to non-physical is the greatest moment in your life.

A lot has been discussed about life after death, rebirth, salvation and post-death phenomenon. But we are yet to discuss in detail the mysteries associated with the final moments of our life. Sadhguru, in his own inimitable style, asks hitherto unasked questions on death and explains in a scintillating style facts associated with death. I have seen Sadhguru demolishing and destroying the arguments of "self-styled intellectuals" who dared to challenge the Indian system of knowledge. But this is the first time I read a book authored by him and that too about death. What I feel after reading the book, especially the chapters, *Preparing For a Good Death* and *Assistance For The Dying*, is that I under-

stood that death is an interesting and entertaining phenomenon and it's not something bad as propagated by the Abrahamic religion. All one could feel after going through the book is, fine, here I am, waiting happily for me rendezvous with the person whom I was born with but yet to see face to face with him.

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



NEW ARRIVALS

OUT OF PRINT: TEN YEARS : AN ANTHOLOGY OF STORIES
Indira Chandrasekhar
Context/Westland, ₹499

A decade ago, in 2010, Indira Chandrasekhar set up *Out of Print* to address a need she felt as a writer: a focused platform for the short story; a space for robust editorial discussions as well as one that would serve as a platform for discoveries — of newer facets of the form itself and of new writing. This commemorative volume hopes to capture something of that adventure. It is, thus, not a 'best of' volume, but one that speaks to the spirit of the magazine: its diversity of literary voices, its openness to experimentation, its focus on Indian-language publishing and its stand against mediocrity. Most crucially, of course, this is an ode to the short-story form, its 'art of brevity and honesty'

THE RUNAWAY BOY (CHANDAL JIBON TRILOGY)
Manoranjan Byapari
(Author), V. Ramaswamy
(Translator)
Eka, ₹599

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

A guide to turning crisis into opportunity

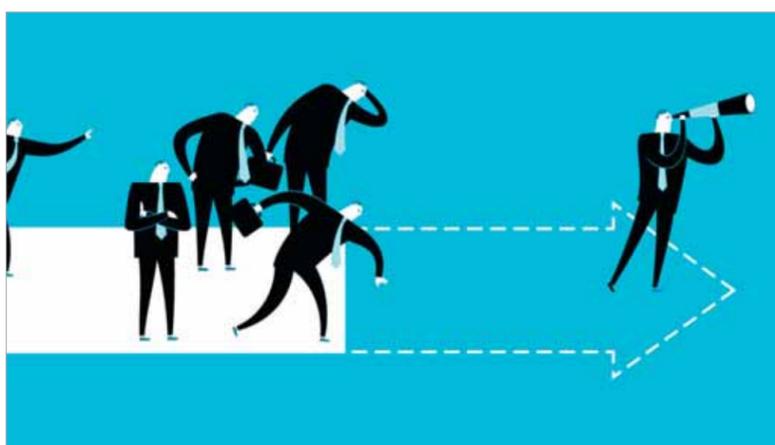
Ritesh Vig's book on leadership is a handy guide of possible solutions and has the potential to transform the outlook of the readers for better in difficult times, writes ARCHANA JYOTI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

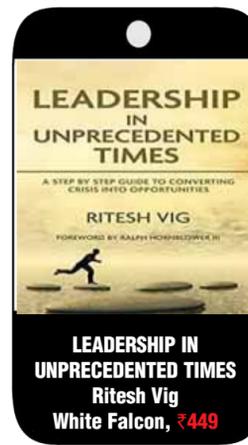
Kohli goes on to share that every company will go through multiple crisis situations. "There is competition crisis, there are regulation and government crisis, there are cost issues, and then performance and culture crisis. Strong, forward-looking leadership is the only way to success. If the leadership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

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

ness scenarios and redefine business shields for any crisis ahead.

Last but not the least, it defines the new normal for the growth of the business. To put it in other words, whether you feel like you've hit a wall, lost your fire, or are looking for innovative strategies to take your business to the next level, *Leadership in unprecedented times* has attempted to answer all.

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



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

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

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

Vig has also chronicled the integrity and strength of the leaders required to fight the pandem-

ic, sharing the thoughts that 'there are no set rules to find solutions to times of uncertainty'.

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

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

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

China angle: Biden to cement India-USA relations

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

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

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

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

region.

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

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

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

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



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

AP/File

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

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

plus with the USA. Energy partnership has also emerged as an important constituent of that relationship contributing greatly to India's quest to diversify its sources of energy supplies.

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

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

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

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

They would also move at least some of the manufacturing facilities out of China and India could offer itself as a credible alternative if we are to take further steps to improve the manufacturing climate in India and

bring our practices and regulations more in line with the international best practices.

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

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

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VIRENDRA GUPTA

PERSPECTIVE

NEP can change dynamics of Defence services

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

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

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

As India needs to diversify its strategies to counter the challenges it faces from Pakistan and China, the strategic knowledge and anticipating the move and motive would be helpful in nipping the problems in the bud.

Recently Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat lauded the NEP and found it quite useful for armed forces to identify the inner strength, resilience, intellect and accuracy of thinking and excellent coordination between mind and body among the youth, particularly from rural areas, for serving the nation with all the integrity and conviction. This is not only an attempt to bring them to the mainstream but a major step towards fulfilling the inner penchant of equity and social justice.

The procedure of accountability and disclosure were anxiously awaited and would make system foolproof. The NEP involving more practical-based approach at the tertiary level would help catching and identifying the inclination

among the new generation towards strengthening country's forces.

The new attention and scope for innovation would attract the talent and enlighten them to seek career opportunities in Defence services. The NEP 2020 has provided a new gateway to problem-solving mechanism and a huge platform for education sector in India. Undoubtedly tremendous efforts have been made towards creating an environment that generates smooth, easily understandable yet cognitive, constructive and analytical skills among the harbingers of future.

The provision of a single regulator and numerous entry and exit options with regard to formal degrees have been some of the salient features of the NEP which deserve all the appreciation as a new beginning to understand the core security problems which can be comprehended in brighter manner with an option of choosing Defence and security as one of the important subjects of the larger discipline either at the undergraduate or postgraduate levels.

The research on such issues would invite tremendous receptiveness on the part of higher education since the ongoing low intensity insurgency perpetuated by Pakistan and over expansionist mission of China have reaffirmed the obnoxious conspiracy to hit India where it matters the most by creating socio-religious and security quagmire.

Besides, it will send out a loud and clear message that India cannot reciprocate in the same manner as it has certain firm convictions and policies towards ensuring peace through defensive mechanism.



This has carried forward the question of reestablishing the credibility and confidence among people that India is not a soft state but it wants to avoid war and conflict as far as possible.

The new learning of socio-political aspects of the problem of insurgency, terrorism and Naxal violence would help security personnel get well versed with the psychology of terrorists and criminals.

John Milton once commented "hours have wings and they fly up to the author of fame dedicated to their cause". The attempt to sensitise about exploring our domestic underpinnings with renewed focus on the role of addressing the myriad shades such as gender

sensitisation and concern of marginalised communities by way of creation of Special Education Zones through inclusive social democratic ideas and values in the process deserve all the appreciation.

The provisions of Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs) on par with IITs and IIMs, the National Research Foundation, the National Educational Technology Forum and Indian Institutes of Translation and Interpretation would create an environment for students to reach their potential best by encouraging academic excellence of global level, embracing new information on the one hand and opening new areas of job-ori-

ented courses on the other.

Besides, it would help in understanding social responsibility. In addition to this a new approach can also provide a clear way forward for students interested in Defence studies by getting them to learn new techniques.

The much talked about new provisions of new education formal orientation of "5+3+3+4" and learning in mother tongue or regional language till Class V would open up fresh outlook and generate an introspective discourse and seek multiple options and viewpoints to see one's right place according to one's interest.

There are numerous provisions under NEP which can ensure a collaborative creation

of ideas and providing tips to comprehend even the tedious and complex issues.

As far as education at the tertiary level is concerned, NEP's approach appears to set out a very clear way forward by getting the mentors fully involved in new techniques and developing challenging strategies to meet the need of all categories of students.

Hence, in order to enhance the standard of students it would be imperative to develop self-academic orientation and excellence to deliver and provide a problem-solving and inquiry-based learning activities with which students can further formulate and test their ideas, draw conclusions and inferences, and pool and con-

vey their knowledge in a collaborative learning environment.

An introduction of new syllabus would provide a vivid and deeper insight into the problem of terrorism and its causes and thereby may lead to a road map towards a foolproof encountering strategy. This combating strategy will have to look into the basis of the funding for terrorism, nexus among arms dealer, drug traffickers, smugglers and terrorists. A proper knowledge about the nexus between organised crime and terrorism can be of immense use.

The vision of the NEP is bound to make India the most competitive in the field of Defence education and would have many takers. The new facilities in security and Defence areas would enthral new generation and provide new perspective to all the aspiring academicians and students who are shortly going to step out into the world of competition much beyond a regulated framework.

Our Defence policies should be able to adapt to the challenging environment as well as efficiently implement recommendations.

A modern, vigilant and assertive military, intelligence, police and paramilitary network should replace the old one.

Since it has always been the academic class which provides policy orientation to the policy makers, the NEP has the potential to produce a new breed of intellectuals to ensure fullest realisation of the much needed strategic thinking in the Defence and security area.

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

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SUDHIR HINDWAN



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



YOUR YEAR AHEAD

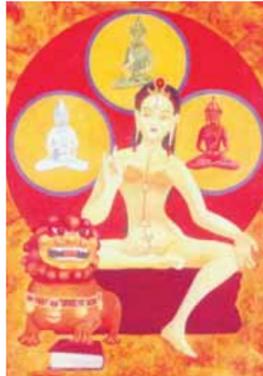
MADHU KOTIYA



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.

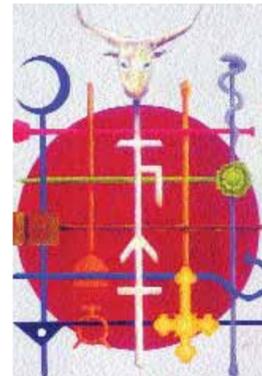
Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



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

No sooner I get into the process suggested to calm my overtaxed mind, I get into sleep mode. Obviously, when I get up, I feel temporarily relaxed. But soon after my monkey mind comes into active play. Tell me where I am going wrong. So asked a disciple, who is serious about getting over the limitations of his mind. "Getting into sleep mode during the process is not desirable," I answered. "Why then is it happening?" he asked. Well, as you close your eyes, you get cut off from all that you would be consciously watching in the outer world as well as the self-excited thoughts within, which includes lot of negative impressions. Nothing to process, mind gets into sleep mode. "How do I get over this syndrome?" he then asked.

While introducing you to the 8 fold course of Patanjali Yoga Sutra, I had explained that meditation proper begins by getting into state of Pratyahara. I had also explained the significance and application of Pratyahara. The process calls for getting disengaged from waking state consciousness and instead turning your attention inwards. Fact remains that you have ignored the most impor-

tant part of the process, which is why you get into sleep mode. Should you look within, your sub-conscious mind will come into full play. That will bring into focus random thoughts picked up in the immediate past, many of them unpleasant and inconsequential. Those thoughts keep alive your grieving mind. Also, persistent desires and feelings may keep knocking you. These thoughts engage your attention so much, that you are hardly have the space necessary to process any fresh thoughts objectively, and with obvious consequences.

Remember, mind-calming process is true to the calling of Pratyahara. Should you follow the process correctly, mind will have a task in hand. It has to witness the inflowing thoughts, but at the same time train it to remain disengaged from them. Following which, those thoughts will go out of reckoning over a period of time. Consequently, you will not only feel relaxed, but also fresh mind-space will be available to process any fresh thoughts objectively. And that makes the difference. I could make out that this fellow is not able to turn his attention inwards. To facilitate that, I suggested him to keep his attention on



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

The next time the person visited me, informed that he no longer gets into sleep mode. "In fact, I am able to see a pattern in my thought flow, which makes me understand and acknowledge my mental traits. I have realised that I carry a sense of fear and insecurity. I also suffer from a sense of 'identity crisis' which tempts me prove my point whatever way I can. Where does it come from? Also, 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 commanding. 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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