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BJP pits Suvendu against Didi

Bharati Ghosh, pacer Ashok Dinda in BJP list of 57 candidates



SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

The high-profile Nandigram Assembly seat will see a titanic clash in the West Bengal polls with the BJP fielding Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's former close aide Suvendu Adhikari against her. The BJP on Saturday released the first list of its 57 candidates for the first two phases of Bengal Assembly elections starting from March 27.

The list released a day ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Brigade rally in Kolkata carries the names of the party's star campaigner Suvendu Adhikari who will contest from the high-profile seat of Nandigram against

Mamata Baneriee.

The other two notable names on the list are former India pacer Ashok Dinda, who will contest from Moyna in East Midnapore, and former IPS officer Bharati Ghosh, who will take on another retired IPS officer Humayun Kabir from Debra Assembly seat in West Midnapore.

The saffron outfit announced candidates for all but three of the 60 seats which will go to polls in the first two of the eight-phase elections that will start from March 27 and end on April 27. One seat of Bagmundi in Purulia district has been left for alliance part-

Adhikari who reached es on Friday

Nandigram from Delhi — to a rousing welcome by party supporters shouting Jai Shri Ram slogans — hours before the list was published by the party top brass in the national Capital, attacked the Chief Minister for remembering Nandigram during the elections time only. during the elections time only.

"She is a rank outsider here and I am the Bhumiputra (son of the soil)... she remembers Nandigram that catapulted her to power in 2011 only when the polls are round the corner... the people of Nandigram have decided to teach her a lesson," said Adhikari, who has already vowed to defeat the Chief Minister by half-a-lakh votes.

Reacting to his statements, senior TMC leader Saugato Roy said, "The Trinamool does not want to talk about traitors who have stabbed in the back of Mamata Banerjee. The people will give him a befitting

Adhikari, a former MP and State Minister left the TMC in December last year.

He had been the Man Friday of the Bengal Chief Minister handling the party organisational affairs in about a dozen districts before he left the party.

Mamata had released the list of Trinamool Congress candidates on Friday. The TMC released the list for all the 291 seats and left three seats for alliance partner Gorkha Janmukti Morcha. The Left too had released its list of candidates for the first two phas-

Trivedi joins BJP; right man in right party now: Nadda

www.dailypioneer.com



Former Union Minister Dinesh Trivedi joins BJP in the presence of party president JP Nadda in New Delhi on Saturday

PNS NEW DELHI

Ahead of the West Bengal Polls, former Railway Minister and Trinamool Congress Member Parliament Dinesh Trivedi on Saturday joined the BJP.

BJP president JP Nadda welcomed him into the party's fold claiming that Trivedi crossed over not on account of opportunism" but for the "ideological reasons".

The 70-year-old Trivedi maintained that he has switched sides to "serve the country better".

"This was the golden moment I had been waiting for," Trivedi said after joining the BJP at party headquarters here in the presence of Nadda and Union Minister Piyush Goyal.

Trivedi resigned his Rajya Sabha and Trinamool membership on February 12, saying he felt "suffocated" because of the violence in West Bengal and his inability to do anything

Alluding to 'parivar' in West Bengal, he said after joining the BJP he felt being with the "janta parivar".

Centre rushes Covid teams to Maha, Punjab

Return to corona test, track, treat, **Health Ministry** tells States, UTs

PNS NEW DELHI

The Centre has rushed high-level multi-disciplinary public health teams to Maharashtra and Punjab in view of the increase in the number of daily Covid-19 cases being reported by these States. It has also asked high-case load States and Union Territories like Maharashtra and Gujarat to continue with the strategy of "test, track and treat" that had yielded rich dividends at the height of the pandemic.

The States have been asked to collaborate with private hospitals to open up vaccination time-table for a minimum of 15 days and a maximum of 28 days at a time.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan and NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr Vinod Paul on Saturday interacted with health secretaries and MDs of Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha. Goa, Himachal Pradesh,

Uttarakhand, Delhi and Chandigarh, which have reported increased number of Covid cases in the last few days.

Elderly people wait to get vaccinated against Covid-19 at Navi Mumbai Municipa Corporation hospital at Vashi, Navi Mumbai on Saturday

Mental health problems in 20% Covid survivors: Study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

One in every five Covid-19 survivors are showing symptoms including fatigue, cognitive problems and a range of psychiatric problems, a research review led by Oxford Brookes University has noted. It also painted a gloomy picture for the future, warning that more number of people will be affected by neuropsychiatric and cognitive complications.

The study has come close on the heels of similar observation from the World Health

Organization (WHO) officials who recently noted that the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic has caused more "mass trauma" than World War II.

The observation hold importance in the context of India where more number of people with mental health disorder could pose further burden on the already patchy mental health care system. One in seven people or a total of 197.3 million people live with mental illness in India, according to the 2019 Global Burden of Disease

Adopt world-class systems, **PM** exhorts defence forces

Modi addresses Combined Commanders' meet in Gui

PNS NEW DELHI

Urging the defence forces to keep pace with rapid advancements in war fighting capabilities all over world Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asked them to "rid themselves of legacy systems and practices that have outlived their utility and relevance.

Making this observation while addressing the Combined Commanders' Conference in Kevadia, Gujarat, Modi also conveyed his appreciation for the "resolute dedication" shown by the armed forces over the past year in the context of the corona pandemic and the challenging situation on the northern border with China.

He stressed the importance of enhancing indigenisation in the national security system, not just in sourcing equipment and weapons but



during Combined Commanders' Conference at Kevadia, in Narmada district

also in the doctrines, proce-

from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said. Modi was briefed by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) about the discussions during this year's conference, the statement said. He particularly appreciated the inclusion of

dures and customs practised in

the armed forces, a statement

Officers this year. Incidentally, this was the first time that personnel below

Junior Commissioned Officers

and Non-Commissioned

officer rank were part of the high-level meeting held annu-

The jawans shared their views on operational matters with the top military leadership besides the Prime Minister.

Emphasising the need for blanning in both military and civilian parts of the National security architecture, Modi also called for a "holistic approach, focused on breaking down civil-military silos and on expediting the speed of decision

State to have new Mission Shakti Dept

Lokayukta Act amended

State Cabinet OKs 16 proposals

PNS BHUBANESWAR

ACabinet chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday approved 16 major decisions pertaining to different departments.

The major approvals included creation of an independent department named Mission Shakti' separating it from the Department of Woman and Development.

The Cabinet approved construction of 10 mega rural pipe water supply schemes in Aul, Rajkanika, Chilika, Tangi, Banpur, Khordha, Jatni, Gondia, Bhubana, Golaminda, Jajpur and Binjharpur blocks.

Rural pipe water schemes for 26 GPs of Sambalpur district and two GPs of Jharsuguda district also received the Cabinet's nod.

Besides, the Cabinet sanctioned lease of 25 acres of land for construction of a Satellite Centre of the AIIMS in Remuna tehasil of Baleswar



Ministers approved an amendment to the Odisha Lokayukta Act, 2014. Besides, the annual report of Odisha Lokayukta for the year 2019 was accepted. The report will be laid in the State Assembly as per the Lokayukta Act.The Cabinet also approved construction of 2X500 MVA, 400/220/33 KV GIS sub-station at Paradip along with associated lines to be implemented over a period of three years from 2020-21.

Besides, the Cabinet approved a proposal to allow the OMC Limited to sell the entire quantity of bauxite ore meant for sale through national e-auction for the financial year 2020-21 to LTL suppliers only at the rate of Rs 1,000 per MT with a subsequent undertaking to pay the differential rate as stipulated by the Orissa High Court.A proposal for restructuring of the Odisha Excise Service Cadre also received the Cabinet's approval.

54 new Covid cases in State

□ TOTAL NOW 3,37,674

88 MORE RECOVER

PNS BHUBANESWAF

In a declining trend, the State on Saturday registered 54 new Covid-19 cases in 21 districts and the State pool, following which the total caseload

increased to 3,37,674. Of the new cases, 32 were from quarantine centres and 22 local contact cases. Sundargarh district reported the day's highest 10 cases. Besides, two cases were reported from the State

Currently, the total active cases in the State stood at 802 and the cumulative samples tested were 84,51,396.

However, 88 patients recovered on the day, taking the total recoveries to 3,34,990 in



Remove Modi's photo from jab certificates in poll-bound States: EC

In the run-up to Assembly elections in four States and a Union Territory, the Election the Centre to remove Prime Minister Narendra Modi's picture from coronavirus vaccination certificates being offered to beneficiaries in these States. The EC directive came

after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee's Trinamool Congress registered a complaint saying that it violates the Model Code of Conduct.

In its letter to the Health Ministry, the EC referred to certain provisions of the Model Code related to the use of advertisement at the cost of the public exchequer. The direction to the Ministry does not mention Prime Minister Narendra Modi's name but says the Ministry has to follow the Model Code of Conduct in letter and spirit. The Government may have used filters to hide the PM's picture from the certificate, which could take some time for the Ministry to fully implement these directions on

the certificates given to those who take the Covid-19 vaccine in poll-bound West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala and Puducherry.

The poll asked the Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal for a report on why Modi's photo was being used on vaccination certificates generated through the Co-WIN platform. The CEO responded by informing the poll panel that the vaccination drive was a Central

The panel then took up the matter with the Health Ministry and sought its response on the "factual position" on the use of the photographs. In its reply, the Ministry said the vaccination drive was an ongoing Government initiative that had started much before the Model Code of Conduct came into

The Mamata Banerjee-led party had approached the poll panel this week, citing violation of the model code as PM Modi's image reflected on vaccination certificates generated through the Co-Win platform.

Farmers block KMP to mark 100th protest day

PNS CHANDIGARH

 $F_{\text{Centre's three farm laws on}}^{\text{armers protesting the}}$ Saturday blocked the six-lane Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway at some places in Haryana to mark the completion of 100 days of their agitation at the Delhi borders.

The road blockade began at 11 am and continued till 4 pm. Farmers holding black flags and wearing black armbands and some women protesters with black "dupattas" shouted slogans against the BJP-led Government for not acceding to their demands

Protesters in Sonipat and Jhajjar districts and some other places brought their tractortrolleys and other vehicles and parked them in the middle of the KMP Expressway in some stretches.



protest at KMP Expressway near Kundli in Harvana on Saturday

The Haryana Police had made arrangements for traffic diversions and deployed adequate personnel.

The call for blocking the expressway was given by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of protesting farmer unions which is spearheading the agitation against the legislations.



PNS BHUBANESWAR

n yet another incident of the I worsening law and order sit-uation in State capital city Bhubaneswar, a youth was hacked to death in broad daylight at IRC village in the Nayapalli area by two miscreants on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Tukuna Das, a resident of Salia Sahi in the city.

Police detained two brothers, Sagar Prusty and Sudhir Prusty, also residents of Salia Sahi in connection with the incident. It was ascertained



murder. Source said that it was

locals who spotted Sagar and Sudhir attacking Tukuna in a pickup van on the road. Getting information, a PCR Van reached the spot, rescued Tukuna and shifted him to hospital by an ambulance. They also took the two brothers into

But a mob which had gathered at the spot dragged the two brothers out of the police van and brutally assaulted them with plastic pipes critically injuring them as the cops watched helplessly. Later, DCP Uma Shankar

Dash and more police personnel rushed to the spot and rescued the two accused and took them to hospital. Commissioner of Police

Sudhansu Sarangi said Tukuna and Sagar and Sudhir were neighbours at Salia Sahi. On Friday evening, they had a heated altercation over some However Tukuna, who has

criminal records, again picked up a fight with the two brothon Saturday.

Continued on Page 2



A Mass Cleaning Drive at the Bada Danda (Grand Road) in Puri is launched on Saturday

Plan Your Day



HOME THEATRE

Big disappointment



COMING TO AMERICA 2

Amazon *ing: Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall, Jermaine Fowler, **Wesley Snipes, James Earl** Jones Rated: 3/10

▼t is not only strange but bizarre that a movie's sequel would be released 33 years after the prequel. However, what is even worse is that while Coming To America (the original) directed by John Landis and based on a story originally created by Eddie Murphy was a rom-com that managed to keep one engrossed in the film — at the end it was a love story, part two is anything but funny or

nature. Unless one considers a few scenes spent on two young people talking alone with one of them aspiring to open a salon of

Here she befriends a prince no less and supposedly in love and her dream is to open a salon of her own!

One does manage to get over this rather strange dream but what one can't get over is the unfunny dialogues. Not only are the risque, the hand gestures are even worse. And what the hell was Wesley Snipes thinking when he agreed to this boggles the mind. It does obliviate his better work — Blade series comes to mind.

Directed by Craig Brewer even remotely romantic in and produced by Kevin Misher

and Eddie Murphy, this sequel may have started off on a good note but unfortunately all it manages to do in the 110 minutes is make you cringe.

May be Murphy thought that revisiting the original that had a cult following would be a great idea but all he manages to do is makes one wonder why he needed to do this in this horrible manner that take away from its prequel.

Coming To America, the must awaited film ends up disappointing and is a huge

Watch only if you have nothing else to do and want to catch up on the stars of the

Riveting true story told well

MURDER AMONG THE MORMONS

*ing: A true-Crime Rated: 5/10

ff late Netflix has been releasing truecrime sagas. Take for example The Night Stalker or The Cecil Hotel that recently found their way on the OTT platform. However bizarre or strange such docu-movies may be, one can't shy away from the truth that they are absolutely riveting and unfold rather brilliantly. It could stem from the fact that if there is a murder and then another coupled with a Church in the middle of it all, facts and and how the investigation proceeds are bound to be filled with intrigue and throw up a few

Murder Among The Mormons relate to a true investigation into twin blasts that killed two people in Salt Lake City, Utah, US. These murders were unlike anything that came to light in the October of 1985. May be because it relates to religion, murder and deception a lethal combination.

The three-part mini-series — each of approximately 46 minutes — is paced out well with part one giving the history of the town where the blasts occurred, the people who live here and the Mormon Church and the history of the Mormons — a religious group that embrace concepts of Christianity and revelations made by their founder, Joseph

killed in the first place.

Though the entire mini-series manages to keep one's interest — anything related to the Church is more so if it involves debunking the faith of the people and making them question the very basis on which the Church stands. It is the second half of part three that makes one sit up straight and watch as the master criminal emerges — a criminal who has perfected his craft since he was a only a teenager.

How he not only managed to dupe the Church but his friends and wife without remorse or guilt for his own gain; a power hungry Mark Hofmann — regarded as one of the most accomplished forger in history. He is infamous for forgering documents related to the history of the Latter Day Saint movement. What is more interesting to know is that one doesn't know how many of his forged yet authenticated documents are still in circulation.

Hofmann was given life sentence with no parole since it was found that he felt no guilt or remorse for what he had done. He is now in Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison, Colorado, US.

Smith. They primarily belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Of course, the intrigue is already there and the next two part are all about the build up up to the murders and who and why they were

Time: 1 pm onwards Age is just a number! Well, the greater the number, the sweeter your treat at Mad Over Donuts. Mad Over Donuts has consistently managed to delight its customers with its new launches and festive offers. They are at it again and this time, the surprise is bigger and Mad Over Donuts is celebrating

Treat for all women

Venue: All MOD Outlets

When: March 8, 2021

women's day in order to thank the contribution of women to the society by running a "celebrate your age" campaign. Simply walk into any Mad Over Donuts store on Women's Day to get a treat of their fresh, handmade donuts and get a discount that is equal to your age. That's a sweet treat that's hard to beat, is it not?

Mark your calendar right away and set up a date with your girl gang. After a rollicking day out and about, end it on a delectable note with some of the scrumptious donuts offered by Mad Over Donuts.



Venue: Horizon Plaza- Artisanal Market, Sec-43, Golf Course road, DLF Phase-5 When: March 7, 2021 Time: 3:30 PM-8:30 pm his Women's Day, let's

celebrate the #Womanhood by appreciating the efforts of our all inspiring women, who empower the Artisanal Market. Join us on Sunday browsing especially curated Artisanal products and produce by our Women Founders, Chefs, Bakers at one of its kind Artisanal Market, handpicked by

Well! vour weekend mornings just got healthy with a dose of refreshing handpicked homegrown products at Artisanal Market Handpicked by PC

Shop and minale with passionate home bakers, food curators and urban farmers who grow, produce and hand-craft breads, jams, honeys, turmeric, cakes and other eclectic cuisines from different parts of the world with natural ingredients and a whole lot of love.

Get a freshly brewed coffee



or a smoothie, select your fruits and veggies to cook your favorite dish. Stock up natural honey, masala and pickles from different regions of India. Bring your friends and family and to enjoy

artisanals flavours. Flower lovers take home some fresh flowers from our special lady "Phuloon Ki Rani" by Rani Chadha, the 80 year-old entrepreneur. Home chefs get ready to shop your favorite food stuff from our different stalls.

Look no forward, spend this weekend with your family and friends at Artisanal Market and make vour day.



ELLYTAIF

MANISH DONS EUNUCH LOOK

Zee TV's second season of its immensely successful weekend thriller Brahmarakshas has been keeping the audience hooked with the gripping account of the rakshas who has returned with twice as much power and is on a mission for immortality. Having enthralled the viewers with unpredictable twists and turns in Kalindi's life, the show recently took a twoyear leap, bringing in a package of surprises for its viewers. While a grieving Angad (Pearl V Puri) is seen mourning the loss of his beloved Kalindi (Nikki Sharma) who he believes has died as a result of his own actions. Kalindi's look alike -Chandni enters as the modern chorni and Amidst all of this, actor Manish Khanna who earlier played a pivotal role in the show is all set to return, this time in the character of a eunuch.

Having previously portrayed the character of Jwala, the tantric, Khanna will now be seen playing the role of his transgender brother, Irawat who bears a connection with the Brahmarakshas and enters as the new villain in Angad's life and unknowingly in Chandni's life too. The actor couldn't be more thrilled to have returned with yet another interesting character and in fact will be seen donning a look similar to Bollywood actor Ashutosh Rana's character in Sangharsh.

Sharing his thoughts, Khanna said: "From the numerous roles that I have essayed on television, this character is one of the most unique and challenging ones I have had to play until now. I was required to bring a considerable change in my body language and even practise a bit of voice modulation to bring out the perfect essence of this role Ashutosh Rana who has been a dear friend became my immediate source of reference when it came to styling this character. He played the role of a eunuch in the film Sangharsh and I absolutely loved his performance including the way his character was showcased. We have tried to bring out a similar look in my character while bringing in a few unique and creative elements to the appearance as well. I just hope the viewers love this comeback of mine.'

YASH TURNS RUDE TO PRANALI

An actor has to look 100 per cent natural on screen, even if he has to act angry, drunk, insane or even a yogi. Yash Tonk has been a method actor and has been known to give his takes naturally for every scene in just two takes maximum! While he is known to play comic characters in the past, it was easy for him to deliver in comedy scenes, but what happened when he had to deliver his part in a serious role like Brij Kishore in Sony TV's Kyun Utthe Dil Chhod Aave.

To look natural and to not scare off Pranali with his harsh tone and loud pitch. Yash Tonk rehearses his harsh fighting

scenes with Pranali prior to the final take. Those are the scenes where he has to act in a negative zone or even raise his voice on his on screen wife, Tonk could not do that in just the final take without rehearsing it because he considers Pranali as his dear friend. While rehearsing their quarrel scenes. Pranali eases out Tonk saving it's okay to raise his voice on her or even take a rude tone with her for a particular scene to look flawless.

Talking about these quarrel sequences, Tonk says: "I might be a method actor, but I'm a soft hearted person too when it comes to my friends and family. Pranali has become a dear friend ever since we started shooting for Kyun Utthe Dil Chhod her even for a scene. So for the final take to be flawless, I rehearse my harsh fighting scenes prior to the final take. She eases me out and asks me to yell at her even if that's what the scene demands."

SHAAN'S VIRTUAL ANTAKSHARI In a clutter-breaking format innovation,

Zee TV launched the world's first-ever music league championship Indian Pro Music League (IPML) on February 26, 2021. While the world of sports has seen several league competitions, this unique music league has six teams representing different regions of India, battling it out against each other in a musical championship. Each of these six teams supported by leading Bollywood and sports celebrities has top playback singers as their captains, one reality show star, and one fresh voice. Celebrated singers -Mika Singh, Kailash Kher, Saiid Khan, Shaan, Ankit Tiwari, Javed Ali, Asees Kaur, Bhoomi Trivedi, AkritiKakar, Payal Dev, Neha Bhasin, Shilpa Rao are captains of these six zonal teams.

After the epic opening ceremony, the six teams are ready to battle it out and the first set of league matches have kicked off. The upcoming episode has a Kishore Kumar theme and during the shoot, Bengal Tigers captains Shaan and Akriti Kakkar gave a spectacular performance to the song Mere Saamne Wali Khidki Mein. Right after the act, Shaan shared an emotional memory of his father while speaking to host Karan Wahi about Kishore Kumar. The Bengal Tigers captain mentioned how he lost his father — music composer Manas Mukherjee, in October 1986, but just before that, the legendary composer had written his last song Ei Jiboner path soja noy jeno that was sung by Kishore Kumar. The song came out later, but it was a big deal for the whole family, as Shaan revealed: "I felt that if Kishore Kumar is singing a song written by my father. I am sure my father was a wellknown man. I have this one last image of them together, where I am walking behind my father and Kishore da. It was raining and they were discussing this song. It's a sweet memory I have of both of them."

After this sweet revelation, Shaan also

MEHER & SIDDHI'S MAHASANGAM Colors' latest show Bawara Dil has

won the audience's heart with its captivating drama and powerful storytelling. The show is about two strong personalities Siddhi (played by Kinjal namecha) and Shiva (played by Aditya Redij) who hate each other yet are brought together by destiny. While fate brings them together, the two vow to destroy each

and Siddhi are at loggerheads as Siddhi throws a stone inside Shiva's house and breaks his TV after being upset with his behaviour. She seeks help from Meher from Choti Sarrdaarni (played by Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia), who help her with some useful advice and motivates her. Meher gives her the much-needed courage to do

Commenting on the Mahasangam episode, Dhamecha said, "As a viewer, I have enjoyed watching Choti Sarrdaarni and I truly admire Nimrit. When I heard that we are going to shoot the Mahasangam episode together. I was excited as I knew it will be a great learning experience for me. We are very excited for the episode and I hope that our viewers are

SPOTIFY PRESENTS SUPERHEROES

the Mahabharat or Ramayan, the familiar faces of Krishna, Ram or Hanuman hold dear to many of us. The fascinating characters of these books have come to with many either overlooked or whose feats simply remain unheard. Spotify's newest podcast Superheroes of Indian Mythology spotlights the gamut of these

What popular culture refers to as role in history.

honorable, loyal, duty-bound commander. Karna, famously referred to as Survaputra or Sun's son, is one of the

of Goddess Ganga, was a learned scholar

and one of the greatest examples of an

kicked off a virtual antakshari with ace musicians like Lisa Mishra, Amit Trivedi, Babul Supriyo and others joining in to sing a few Kishore Kumar classics. But wait till you see the mega battle between UP Dabbangs and Bengal Tigers. Shaan, Akriti's and their team will come out all guns blazing as they face off Ankit Tiwari, Payal Dev and their team.

In the current track of the show, Shiva

When it comes to Indian epics such as excite, captivate and inspire generations of readers. However, these mythological tales record thousands of heroes and heroines, larger-than-life characters — both big and

'supporting roles', often turn out to have the most interesting stories to tell. Let's look at unique names who played a pivotal Bheeshma, revered as the eighth son

more complex characters of the Mahabharat. There's much more in the list

'Crime stories don't bother but astonish me'

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with MANOJ TIWARI about why he chose to come on board &TV's latest offering Mauka-E-Vardaat, a lesson that he learnt while hosting these shows and how such stories leave him astonished

■ What made you come on board &TV's Mauka-E-Vardaat?

that creates awareness among people and this show fits best in the criteria. Also, I was missing my screen appearances and with this show I got to do both. Hence, I decided to take it up.

■ How is this show different from all the other crime-based shows?

I don't know what other shows are doing, but with this show our aim is to show the audience real stories and bring out the truth. However, our bigger aim is to teach people to stay alert and create awareness. This is what I think is the USP of this show.

■ What kinds of stories will be shown?

We will be showcasing shocking stories wherein the culprit has taken to such impossible ways of committing crimes that it becomes hard to understand it. Once the audience will see the show, they will get to know how strangely crimes have been committed. ■ You haven't been a part of many crime-based shows. Is there a particular Yes, I don't want to take up a show for

the sake of it. I want to resonate with it. It should have something interesting to offer. For this particular show, I have two other people with me — Ravi Kishan and Sapna Choudhary — I believe all three of us can make this show a huge success and do good to people by creating awareness. ■ Is there a lesson that you learnt while being a part of such shows? Definitely. When I was doing my

previous shows, I realised that I would have not been able to understand the different facets of life and gather so many different thoughts by reading a 100 books that I have learnt during these shows. There is one line that I always remember: Abhi samaaj mein log apni twarit safaltaon ke liye vyakti aur vastu mein farq karna bhulte jaa rahe hain (people have forgotten to differentiate between people and things for their own

benefits). This

holds true and I hope people start people who died years ago

One such story left me

shocked. It is about a

group which would take

fingerprints of dead

bodies at the

crematorium and used

them for getting fake

IDs. When they were

caught committing a

crime, it was revealed

that the identities they

were using were of

realising what is more important and learn to

differentiate between good and bad. ■ Did getting to know so many crimes so closely bother you in any way?

We are narrating the stories that have already happened with the aim of informing people about ways to safeguard themselves and their families. I don't get bothered by it. But yes, I do get astonished with such stories.

■ What makes crime-based shows so popular? People love to see a story that can shook them up. This is not imaginary, hence the interest level goes even up. The interest factor also depends on how a show has been shot and who is narrating these stories. If the person telling these stories holds a value in the minds of the people, the audience automatically wants

to see more such stories. Was there a case that left you shattered?

There is one such story that left me shocked. It is about a group which would take fingerprints of dead bodies at the crematorium and used them for getting fake IDs. When they were caught committing a crime, it was revealed that the identities they were using were of people who died years ago I told my team that it is important to put across such stories. The team too agreed and told me it has to be done in a way where people take lessons from it and stay alert. This story will be shown in Mauka-E-

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MOUNTING ROAD MISHAPS

23 black spots identified in Khordha district

PNS BHUBANESWAR

In a bid to curb the mounting road accidents and fatalities, the State Transport Authority (STA) has identified 23 black spots and vulnerable stretches on different roads coming under NH-16 and NH-57 in Khordha district.

As many as 20 black spots have been identified on NH-16 from Nakhara to Barakul covering 114 km approximately.

The black spots are Pahala to Rudrapur Cut, Acharya Vihar to Satsang Vihar, Gangapada Chhak, Pitapali Chhak, Khandagiri Chhak to Kolathia Chhak, Aiginia to Patrapada, Gohira Chhak, Kalinga Vihar Chhak, Tamando overbridge, Palasuni Chhak, Hanspal Chhak, Lingipur Cut to NH, KKMB College Square to Khordha



Sadar police station, Rameswar Chhak to Jankia police station, Chandeswar to Kuhudi Petrol Pump, Near Nachuni petrol pump, Solari railway station to Naval Outpost,AG Square to Raj Bhawan, Ram Mandir Chhak to Master Canteen and Bomikhal

Besides, three black spots have been identified on various roads under NH-57 from

Khordha to Bolgarh covering 37.7 km. They are Tartua (near ITBP), Tikatala and Bolagarh.

At a meeting, Khordha district's Parliamentary Constituency Committee for Road Safety on Saturday revealed that 504 people were killed and 855 suffered critical injuries in road accidents in Khordha district from January 2019 to December 2020.

BSF jawan Guv unveils shoots self book on mineral dead resources

PNS ■ KORAPUT

A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan shot himself dead over unknown reasons in Koraput district on Saturday morning.

The jawan, identified as Indrajit Singh, had been posted at 15th Battalion of BSF at Jalaput in Koraput district.

According to reports, he attempted to end life by shooting self on his head with his service rifle.

He was admitted in a critical condition to a hospital at Lamataput, where doctors declared him dead. Source said that the jawan had joined the camp at Jalaput on Thursday after a week-long vacation at his village in Rajasthan.

The reason behind his taking the extreme step was yet

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Abook highlighting the rich mineral potentials of the State and development prospects compiled by the Society of Geoscientists and Allied Technologists (SGAT) was released on Friday at the Raj Bhavan by Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal.

The first edition of the book was published in the year 1995; the second and third editions were released in 1998 and 2006, respectively.

Now, the revised edition contains 31 chapters dealing with all mineral resources in the State and its chapters have been authored by eminent scientists of Geological Survey of India, Directorate of Mining and Geology, IMMT, Central Ground Water Board and CMPDI.

The Governor commended the effort of SGAT in promoting minerals development in the State. The SGAT team was led by president Dr ON Mohanty.

INBRIEF

STAFF OPPOSE PRIVATISATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS

Balangir: Leaders of SBI Staff Association AGS Sambalpur Module Rohit Kumar Satapathy and zonal secretary Rupes Kumar Dalai, along with others, submitted a memorandum to Balangir MLA Narasingha Mishra against the process to privatise public sector



banks. According to reports, there would be a two-day strike in banks on March 15 and 16 against the proposed privatisation of public sector

BIJU JAYANTI CELEBRATED IN JHARSUGUDA

Jharsuguda: The 105th birth anniversary of legendary leader Biju Patnaik was observed here on Friday. Rich tributes were paid by people of the town by garlanding his statue at Badmal Square. Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das and



Brajrajnagar MLA Kishore Kumar Mohanty led the celebrations. public meeting was held in the evening where Das and Mohanty were chief guest and chief speaker, respectively. They reminded people of the great contributions made by Bijubabu to build a modern Odisha and especially the carving out Jharsuguda from undivided Sambalpur and recognising it as a district.

WOMAN, DAUGHTER'S BODIES FOUND IN WELL IN M'GIRI

Malkangiri: Police on Saturday recovered bodies of a woman and her four-year-old daughter from a well at Kaudiguda village under the Mathili police station in Malkangiri district. It was suspected to be a case of suicide. Police said the two were missing from their house since previous night. It was suspected that the woman tied her daughter with her waist before jumping into the well. Police along with fire personnel reached the spot and recovered the bodies from the well

MUSIC VIDEO 'RASIA TOKA' RELEASED

Bhubaneswar: NGR Mix's very first music video 'Rasia Toka' was released here on Friday. Sung by popular singers Mantu Churiya and Aseema Panda, the song features Survamayee and Raj Rajesh. The music was composed by Ollywood



music director Premanand, lyric by Narmada Sahu. The music video



has been choreographed and directed by Girish Mohanty. "When the album industry disappeared, people had to wait for film songs to release. Now, they have more options with YouTube and other social media channels," said NGR Mix's Bimal Kumar Panda

Devotee dies in Shreemandir

PNS ■ PURI

A devotee collapsed in the Apremises of the Jagannath Temple here and died after offering prayer to the deities on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Manohar Lal, aged about 72 years, from Cuttack

According to reports, the septuagenarian fell unconscious while he was on his way back through the Ghanti Dwar of the temple after paying obeisance to the deities in the shrine. He was rushed to the Puri District Headquarters Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Sarpanch disqualified for not knowing Odia

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Sarpanch of Agastinuagam gram panchayat under Chhatrapur block in Ganjam district P Simadri was disqualified from his post on the Panchayati Raj Divas on Friday for not knowing Odia and also for having more than two children. The action was taken on the basis of a petition filled by Simadri's nearest rival Niwasi Gouda, whom the former had defeated in the 2017 panchay-

The petitioner had claimed that Simadri had submitted false a poll affidavit as he cannot read and write in Odia language. Moreover, he has two wives and six children as against the 'two-child' norm for contesting elections to Srikant Mishr Panchayati Raj institutions Niwasi Gouda.



(PRIs). After hearing the case Civil Judge (Junior Division) Sushant Kumar Panigrahy ordered disqualification of the Sarpanch and directed the Ganjam Collector to take

action in this regard instantly. "On the Panchayati Raj Divas, the court pronounced a significant order. We are extremely happy to have won the legal battle after three and a half years," said advocate Srikant Mishra representing

BPMT celebrates Biju birthday at Paradip

The Biju Patnaik Memorial Trust (BPMT) celebrated the 105th birthday of legendary leader late Biju Patnaik with various activities here on Friday. Early morning, lamps were lighted in temples

and gods and goddesses were worshipped, after which tree were planted and foods distributed to the poor. A memorial meeting held here at the BPMT's Nuabazar premises. The meeting was presided over by senior BJD leader and BPMT working president Sumanta Biswal.

. Jagatsinghpur MP Dr Rajashree

Mallick was chief guest and for-

mer MLA Pravat Tripathy was

chief speaker on the occasion.

BJD Paradip president Basant Kumar Biswal, BJD State secretary and prominent trade union leaderi Santosh Kumar Pattnaik, Pramod Kishore Jena, Ranjan Kumar Das, BJD labour cell vice-president Jugal Kishore Nayak and BJD women cell joint secretary

Sabita Mohapatra paid tributes to Biju Patnaik and recalled his life, thoughts and dedication for Odisha and Odias. A vote of thanks was given by Ranjan

farmers will benefit from PM Kisan' Says Tomar in

'All Odisha

response to **Dharmendra's letter**

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday thanked Union Minister of Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar for taking prompt cognisance on matters relating to payment of PM Kisan instalments to all eligible farmers in Odisha on his request.Earlier, Pradhan in a letter to Tomar had requested the latter to call a meeting of the Agriculture Ministry and the Odisha Government and resolve all the payment related issues and ensuring disbursement of PM Kisan benefits to all eligible farmers. Besides, he requested the Agriculture Minister for his personal intervention for facilitating additional bulk window clearance to the State Government to enable them to expeditiously rectify details of all beneficiaries whose records were put in 'stop payment mode.' Later, concerned officials to take necessary steps so that all farmers of Odisha can avail benefits of .PM Kisan scheme. Pradhan said the Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working round the clock for the welfare of farmers in Odisha

Aditya death: Family moves SC for CBI probe

PNS BHUBANESWAR

 $T^{\text{he family of social activist}}_{\text{Aditya Dash has filed a}}$ petition in the Supreme Court seeking a CBI probe into his mysterious death last year.

The petition was filed on March 4, said Aditya's family members at a Press conference

here on Saturday.. "We had to move the Orissa High Court as we did not have faith in the Crime Branch investigation. But we only got dates after dates. Therefore, we filed the petition in the Supreme Court demanding a CBI probe," said Aditya's

"Eight months have passed since the death of our son, but not have more patience," said

They criticised the probe into the case by the Government Railway police as well the State Crime Branch. "On this day, eight months ago, our son had died. The GRP messed up with the probe. We

Branch took over the probe hoping that they would bring out the truth. But their approach has forced us to move the HC," they added.

Earlier on August 28, 2020, Bidyashree, wife of Aditya, had moved the Orissa High Court seeking a CBI investigation into the case.

A little less than four months after filing the petition, suicide by consuming sleeping pills while going live on

Facebook. Notably, Aditya's body was found along the railway tracks near the Lingaraj railway station in Bhubaneswar on July 7. The DGP had handed over the case to the Crime Branch on

Marine Biotech Centre opened at FM Varsity

A Centre for Bioresources Marine Biotechnology was inaugurated at the Fakir Mohan University here on Saturday in the presence of Union Minister of State for Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSME)

Husbandry and Dairying Pratap Chandra Sarangi, State Minister of Higher Education and Agriculture Arun Kumar Sahoo and university Vice-Chancellor Prof Dinabandhu

Sarangi said the Central Government is promoting a lot

fisheries sector. India has great potentials in the field of marine bio-resources and can exploit marine fisheries, seaweeds, horseshoe crabs and resources

beyond the textbooks and venture into new knowledge which would benefit the society and make the students self-sufficient to face the world in the future. He promised that all necessary help would be provided to the

FM University to build it as a



Vice-Chancellor Prof Sahoo said Odisha has a long coastline of 480 kilometers and it is rich in various types of marine bio-resources which are not fully exploited due to lack of scientific exploration, trained manpower and highend equipment facilities.

Lingaraj Mahadeep to be raised at 10 pm

BHUBANESWAR: The administration of Lord Lingaraj Temple has decided to raise the Mahadeep at the temple at 10 pm on the Mahashivaratri day scheduled on March 11. The other rituals at the shrine are to tradition.

A meeting was called to finalise the preparation for a smooth conduct of rituals with strict adherence to the Covid-19 guidelines. The emphasis was laid on making arrangement for lakhs of devotees who might turn to offer puja and have darshan of Lord



Lingaraj in the evening.

The devotees would not be

allowed to sit together on the temple complex for lighting diyas (lamps).

Arrangement would be made for smooth exit of the devotees from the temple in the evening.

of activities in the marine and **PNS** | and in the country. were happy when the Crime world-class institution. Prompt action needed to douse Similipal fire



SUNDARA NARAYANA PATRO

In Odisha, most of the forests 📘 are deciduous and during the season starting from late autumn through winter up to early spring, trees experience leaf fall. In this season the air remains dry, the soil loses moisture and the atmospheric temperature is high. The fallen litters including dry leaves are very vulnerable to catching fire and facilitate its spreading. Most of the forest fire incidents occur during this season.

Such incidents in Similipal forest is not new, but the recent spurt of week-long forest fire during end of February and early March is enormous in proportion and devastating, may be due to preceding scanty monsoon rain and prevailing high atmospheric temperature. In 2018 and some previous years also forest fire razed Similipal miserably. It is disturbing that Odisha tops the list of forest fire affected States, according to the recent report by the Forest Survey of India.

areas cover villages even in the core and peripheral zones where the density of wildlife is supposed to be more and cause insurmountable loss and damage to the wild fauna and flora.

The Similipal forest and the adjoining areas with good forest coverage as an ecological niche play a pivotal role in maintaining the water cycle, thermal and ecological balance. The average mean elevation of Similipal plateau is 900 The highest peaks are

Khairiburu (1,178 meters), and Meghasani (1,158 meters). It is the biggest watershed of northern Odisha, giving origin to major rivers like Budhabalanga, Khairi, Salandi, Palpala, Bandhan, Deo and innumerable perennial rivulets and streams meandering through the forest. Amongst several waterfalls Barehipani (217 meters) and Joranda (181 meters) are enchanting.

Interestingly there is a

degree of resemblance of floral and faunal composition of Similipal on the Eastern Ghats with those of the Western Ghats and North-East India, while being a representative eco-system within the Mahanadian bio-geographic region. About 55 species of mammals, 29 species of reptiles, 231 species of birds and 1,076 plant species are listed in this plateau. Among the fauna tiger, leopard, elephant, gaur,

It is stated that the fire spread sloth bear, hyena, ratel, sambar, mouse deer, chital, chousingha, deer, hill myna, peacock, giant squirrel, flying squirrels, Indian tree shrew, reptiles like king cobra and other snakes, etc are appealing. Similipal is also the abode of the rare black and melanistic tiger.

In its river and stream waters it has marsh crocodile, mahaseer fish, and numerous other aquatic species. Among the flora Sal is the climax tree species. Champa, Arjuna, Asana are some of its associated species. The rich orchid flora with about 90 species out of more than 120 in Odisha is the indicator of Similipal's ecohealth and naturalness.

Similipal forest enjoyed the status of a sanctuary from 1979 with an area of 2,200 sq km. A national park was created in 1980 with an area of 303 sq km only within the sanctuary area, which was later enhanced to 845.70 sq km in

The Similipal Tiger Reserve created in 1956 was included in the first list of nine Project Tiger areas launched in India in 1973. The Mayurbhani Elephant Reserve, notified in 2001, is one of the three elephant reserves created in The Mugger Crocodile

AS UNESCO SITE OF RICH FLORA AND FAUNA UNDER **THREAT**

taking a vast stretch of forest land measuring 5,569 sq km. Now there are 18 biosphere reserves in India. The UNESCO included Similipal in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2009.

The densely forested Similipal Biosphere Reserve (BR) area constitutes the core, the buffer and the transition zones. There are four villages in the core and 65 villages in the

The transition zone covers 1,200 villages with a population of about 5 lakhs. The core (1194.75 sq km), buffer (1555.25 sq km), and transition (2819 sq km) together compose a vast area of 5,569 sq km. The Core zone allows management and research activities that do not affect natural processes and wildlife.

This zone is to be kept free from all human pressures external to the system. The Buffer zone adjoins the

core zone. Only those activities which protect and promote cheme was started in 1979 at the core zone are allowed here. Ramatirtha near Jashipur. The It includes research, educaeighth biosphere reserve of the tion, limited recreation, country was declared in tourism, controlled grazing, Similipal forest on 22.06.1994 fishing, etc. The Transition

the biosphere reserve. Here conservation knowledge and management skills are applied primarily to foster alternate livelihood and reduce dependence on consumptive use of the forest. Eco-development activities are permitted in this zone to meet local people's need only but not for commercial purpose. The national park is established in the core zone. As per the provisions of national park, no human habitation is allowed inside it in order to facilitate movement of wild animals freely.

The State Government has successfully relocated villagers from Jenabil, Baghagahan, Upper Barhakamara, Kabatghai and Jamunagarh inside the Similipal Tiger Reserve area between 2010 and 2016. From Bakua 61 families have volunteered to move out.

The threats to the Similipal forest are loss of diversity due to forest fire, collection of timber and fire-wood, indiscriminate vegetation clearance and tree felling, invading of exotic species, Akhanda shikar (annual mass hunting ritual) and animal hunting, natural calamities, etc. Due to loss of density and fragmentation of the forest and increased human pressure the man-animal conflict is increasing.

The causes of forest fire may be natural such as lightening, friction of trees and even soaring temperature or

zone is the outer most part of man-made. Poachers set fire to scare and divert the wild animals in order to make them easy for poaching and hunting and do not douse the fire later. Akhanda Shikar, though the scale is reduced now, is the traditional annual ritual of animal hunting; the tribes set fire for making their operation easier. Partially burnt bidi or hukka is thrown on the forest floor unmindfully.

The local villagers set fire to clear the dry litter on the floor for easy collection of mohua flowers, sal seeds, plucking of kendu leaves, etc. Such fires are generally brought under control by natural rains. The tribes also collect honey and other such products in the forest using fire.

Forecasting fire-prone days, creating fire lines, clearing sites of dried biomass and crackdown on poachers and hunters are some of the methods to prevent fire.

The forest fire lines which are strips kept clear of vegetation help break the forest floor into compartments to prevent fires from spreading. Manual control of fire by branches and twigs, water spray, blowers are the traditional practices. Now with advanced technologies the fire points are identified from satellite data making it easy to locate the spots. The crown fire and to some extent ground fire could be controlled by aero-foam and water spray. Whatever may be the efficien-



cy, the rapid action teams, the handful trained staff of forest department alone cannot give justice to the job of fire control in the vast stretches of forests. Participation of the local community, Van Surakhya Samitis, eco-development committees, non-Government organisations, women's organisations, incentives to village committees for exemplary work, mass awareness are essential in forest fire control and manage-Similipal has a separate

identity as the place of domestication of tigress Khairi under the patronage of the-then Conservator Forest Padmashree Saroj Raj Choudhury. The tiger population that increased after the Project Tiger was launched has started decreasing and for the last few years the number remains confined to mere 20 plus or minus. This is only one

example to cite here. More

capacity of the Similipal forest to sustain the wildlife, more particularly the key-stone species, livelihood support of local tribal and non-tribal communities, and the anthropogenic pressure including seasonal and man-made forest fire incidents are warranted. Based on the studies, appropriate conservation and management strategies have to be worked out. As Similiapl BR is considered one of the rich natural habitats to support tiger along with other key-stone species, a bold and robust decision has to be taken to declare the entire area inviolable for wildlife. This will also help protect the livelihood of the tribes who are used to live with wildlife from time immemor (Dr Patro is president, Orissa

studies to update the biodiver-

sity status and the carrying

Environmental Society, email: snpatro11@gmail.com)

BJP STATE OFFICE-BEARERS' MEETING

Work hard, win people's trust: Purendeswari



STATE CHIEF **URGES WORKERS** TO SPREAD MODI **GOVT SCHEMES IN ALL BOOTHS**

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Aday before the State Executive Committee meeting of the party, the BJP took stock of the political and social developments in the State in its State office-bearers' meeting on Saturday.

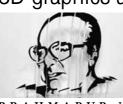
Party leaders expressed concern over the growing law and order situation, controversy over paddy procurement, increasing violence against women and children, corruption in DMF and CAMPA funds, corruption and mismanagement of Covid-19, uncontrolled sand lifting, border dispute, defective education policy, acute shortage of drinking water and cattle protection

The meeting chaired by State president Samir Mohanty unanimously hailed the achievement of the Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi for the exemplary work on Covid management and vaccination drive and thanked Modi for his commitment to the people of Odisha in providing more PMAY houses, sanctioning toilets and including farmers in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Party State observer D Purendheswari said, "Through our hard work, we should win confidence of people.

Mohanty underlined the need to spread the good and pro-poor schemes of the Modi Government and asked party workers to go to all 37,000 booths and spread awareness about these schemes.

ITI Brahmapur students create 3D graphics art



BRAHMAPUR: ITI Berhampur students under the guidance of Principal Dr Rajat Kumar Panigrahy have developed an innovative computer technology added with skill to develop the 3D graphic sculpture fabrication art.

With this, innovation sculptures up to 100 ft with sky colour background can be manufactured and installed. The most important point is that the sculptures can be easily portable where and when required. This would consume only scrap metal sheets with low cost and light weight. "This shows a new era of

skill development on computer graphics, welding, grinding, cutting, painting skills are integrated to develop the skill; and this will be a new model of attraction in the public rallies of political leaders," said Dr Panigrahy.He added this idea would pave way for creating employment in this sector.

IN BOUDH Youth dies while returning from father's funeral



PNS ■ BOUDH

Ayouth was killed in a road mishap in Boudh district on Saturday when he was returning from Puri after the cremation of his father at the Swargdwar. The deceased Arun Meher hailed from the Tarbha area of Subarnapur district.

Besides, four of Arun's relatives suffered grievous injuries after the car by which they were travelling rammed into a stationary truck on National H-57 near Karadakotha under the Purunakatak police in Boudh district today.

The injured, who hail from from Balangir district, were identified as Chhabi Meher Rugudipali), Bidubhusana Meher, Ashok Meher and Ram Meher (all from Belapadar).

On receiving information, police reached the spot and sent the injured to the Boudh District Headquarters Hospital (DHH). The police also initiated an inquiry in this con-

Sammilani demands Bharat Ratna for Biju



BHUBANESWAR: The 105th birth anniversary of Biju Patnaik was observed by Utkal Sammilani members by paying floral tributes at the statue of the legendary leader at the Biju Patnaik Park here on Friday.

Presiding over a function, Sammilani's Mancheswar branch president Dillip Dashsharma said that despite repeated demand, the country's highest civilian honour Bharat Ratna has not been given to Bijubabu. Sammialni once again voices the demand.

Among others, Sital Chandra Mohanty, Gobind Chandra Subudhi, Siddhartha Gadnayak, Shankar Maheshwar Mohapatra, Samaranjan Mohanty, Sanjay Swain, Prakash Samal and Gyanaranjan Behera were present. *PNS*

Youth hacked to death in broad...

From Page 1

The two siblings then bundled him into their pickup van to bring him to the police station. But on the way, he took out a sharp weapon and attacked them. When one of the brothers was injured, they in self-defence fought back and Tukuna was severely injured, Sarangi said.

Both Sagar and Sudhir were arrested on murder charges and forwarded to

Sarangi requested the peoole not to take the law into their hands and, instead, to inform police in case of criminal inci-

Meanwhile, DCP Dash said police would suo moto register an FIR and take stringent action against those involved in brutally thrashing

the two murder accused. Those who have thrashed the duo would be identified on the basis of video footage and statement of PCR staffs, he

Blood donation camp held by **B'pur DHC**



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

 $T^{\text{he Divine Health Care}}_{\text{(DHC), a unit of DNGH}}$ Health and Research Private Limited, organised a blood donation camp at the premises of its unit here at Gajapati Nagar on Thursday.

Brahmapur MLA Bikram Panda inaugurated the blood camp and also the newly opened "Sai Gemms SI and

Occupational Therapy Center."

MLA Panda appreciated the selfless efforts and devotion of Director of DHC and renowned Physiotherapist Dr

10 G'pati centres for orphan kids' rehab

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

The Gajapati district admin-L istration has taken a strong initiative for rehabilitation of orphan children from all over district. As per Adolescent Act 2015, by the instruction of district Collector Anupam Saha, 10 centres were opened to detect the orphan children.

The Anganwadi workers were given responsibility to conduct a survey in the first place.Accordingly, 525 were children identified from the district. The child protection unit staff were also assigned to identify the parentless children.On Tuesday a meeting was held at Kashinagar NAC premises where BDO Kashinagar Simanchal Mahanty, Chairman CWC Pramod Kumar Roul, Member of CWC Alaka Sahu,CDPO Kashinagar Kanaklata Pujari, staff of child protection unit Dambarudhar Balwant were present.

'Odisha women empowerment best model'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

While announcing the launching of the first FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) Odisha Women's Awards instituted to acknowledge and award the women achievers of Odisha on Saturday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reposed faith on women to run Panchayati Raj Institutions saying Odisha is ahead in women empowerment and the State's empowerment model for women is one amongst the best in the coun-

"My Government has always been a champion of the cause of women empowerment, Mission Shakti is one of the key initiatives of our empowerment model, has successfully brought over eight million women from the four walls of family to socio-economic vibrancy," Patnaik said.

He said the rural women in Odisha are now increasingly becoming a major contributor to the State's growing economy. Through the Government's iniO CM launches FICCI FLO Women Achievers

Patnaik said, the rural women in Odisha are now increasingly becoming a major contributor to the State's growing economy

 The CM observed that Odia women have also been achieving great feats in national and international sports

tiatives like Make-in-Odisha, Start-Up Odisha and Skilledin-Odisha, more and more women in Odisha are coming to entrepreneurship.

The CM observed that Odia women have also been achieving great feats in national and international sports. Odisha has become the first State in the country to walk the talk and it has been resolved in the State Assembly to allocate 33 per cent of seats in Parliament and State Legislative Assembly. He pointed out that since 2011, Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies in the

State are represented by over 50 per cent women.

The CM released a 'Policy Brief on Women Entrepreneurship in Odisha' Brief and thanked the efforts of FICCI-FLO for its endeavour to encourage and facilitate women to showcase their talents, skills and energy at the grassroots, middle and senior levels for an inclusive economic growth trajectory National president FICCI FLO Janhavi Phookan and State president Dharitri Patnaik also spoke on the occasion.

France Ambassador lauds Kalinga Stadium



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Ambassador of France to India Emmanuel Lenain was happy to see the worldclass sports infrastructure at the Kalinga Stadium here on Friday.

After unveiling the country's first Indo-French dual degree Master's programme in Sports Industry Management of the Xavier Emylon Business School (XEBS) at XIMB, Lenain visited the Kalinga Stadium. He was accompanied by Consul General of France in Kolkata Virgine Corteval.

Odisha Special Secretary,

Sports and Youth Services R Vineel Krishna shared the unique initiatives in the State in the sports sector.

At the Hockey HPC, the Ambassador interacted with trainee cadets and took to the stick to play a few shots of hockey with them. HPC Project Director Rajiv Seth, gave an over view of the thriving Hockey ecosystem in Odisha. At the ABTP Sports Science Centre, he had a virtual interaction with Olympian gold medalist Abhinav Bindra and was demonstrated the bio mechanical assessment and rehabilitation facilities by the

centre's head Pradeep Pillay

6-day nat'l theatre fest CANFEST begins

quality and timely healthcare

services to the needy people by

organising blood donation and

free healthcare camps in different parts of the district.

patients of diverse deceases are attracted towards medica-

tion and physiotherapy which is provided by the DHC. He assured all help for develop-

Mahaptra, senior scribe and social worker Prof KC Panda, BJD State secretary Turbanath

Panda were guests of honour.

Senior scribe Jagan Mohan

ment of the centre

He said that currently

PNS ■ PARADIP

The 18th National Theatre Festival CANFEST-2021 was inaugurated at the Jayadev Sadan here on Friday. The festival will run for six

days from March 5 to 10 in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Culture, Department of Culture, Culture, Government of Odisha, National Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, Paradip Port Trust (PPT), IOCL Paradip Refinery, IFFCO Paradip unit. English daily PBD is the media partner of the The event is being held

adhering to social distancing and Covid-19 guidelines.

The festival was declared open by Deputy Chairman, Paradip Port Trust (PPT) Asish Kumar Bose in the presence of senior GM (Finance), IFFCO Suresh Goyal and president, CANMASS Atulya Kumar



Several troupes from different parts of the State and country are participating in the festival

On the opening day, Actor's Repertory Theater (Art) group of New Delhi presented the inaugural Hindi play 'Nagin Tera Vansh Badhe'. The play was directed by Avtar Sahni. Hindi play 'Charulata' was played by Prangan group of Patna, directed by Abhaya Sinha on the second day evening.

Similarly, the Odia play 'Abhinetri', 'Swayambar', Hindi

play 'Nepathya Mein Shakuntala', Bengali play 'Tithineer' will be performed by Dynamic Platform, Bhubaneswar, Sri Sri Jagannath Lalit Kala Mandap, Paradip, Shadow Theatre, Bhopal and Sudrak group of Kolkata on the day of 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th

The festival is being organised by CANMASS president Atulya Kumar Mohapatra, secretary Sriman Narayan Mishra and coordinated by all members of CAN-MASS group.

Man, son held for abetting daughter-in-law suicide PNS SUNDARGARH members of Chandeswa

Aman and his son were arrested and forwarded to court by Tikayatpalli police in Sundargarh district on Friday allegedly for abetment of suicide of his daughter-in-law who was newly married.

The deceased Chandeswari Behera(30), a resident of Talamunda village of Jharsuguda district, had mar-ried one Bibhuti Behera, a resident of Sarsara village under Tikayatpalli police station under Bonei sub division, five months ago. As per the FIR lodged in Tikayatpalli police station by family member of Chandeswari, Chandeswari's father-in-law Laxman Behera and husband Bibhuti Behera, used to torture Chandeswari regularly for dowry.

Chandeswari's sister-in-law who is married also used to torture her. When the torture unbearable, Chandeswari reportedly had told his parents to take her to their house. On March 3 at around 10 pm, the family to know from on their relative that Chandeswari is critical and they went to the house of in-laws of Chandeswari and found the door of the house was locked from outside and saw through the window that Chandeswari was hanging from roof.

Laxman and Bibhuti had absconded. So they suspected that both Laxman and Bibhuti killed Chandeswari and later hanged her and after locking the door from outside, fled.

After getting information on Thursday morning, a police team alongwith scientific team, reached the spot and retrieved the body. Later, the police started searching both father and son.On Friday, police arrested both Laxman and Bibhuti and forwarded them to court for abetment to suicide of Chandeswari.

Significantly, accused Laxman and Bibhuti had been arrested and sent to jail in a murder case, five years ago and later had come out of jail on

Union Budget to usher in massive growth: Kharavela

PNS ■ PHULBANI

In a Press meet here former BJP MP Aira Kharavela Swain said the Union Budget of India for 2021-22 is development-oriented.

The Government focuses on infrastructure so that many manufacturering units will be ste up and employment can be generated. Our main motto is to eradicate poverty, he said.

Economic growth means to increase in national property and comfortable living of people and India can overcome poverty like East Asia countries Japan, Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia by pumping more funds into infrastructural growth and job creation, Swain told.

In the current Union Budget, Rs 5.63 lakh crore has been allocated for infrastructure development which is 15.5 per cent of the GDP. This is a record allocation since independence, told the former MP.



This would help develop road, aerodrome, railways, port, electricity and irrigation in a massive way. Government introduced three Bills for the betterment of farmers. Health insurance, social security for the farmers and repeal of old laws will foster development by ending poverty, Swain said. The Government gives priority to the private sector so that they can develop the country strongly. The Government will invest Rs 35,000 crore for Corona vaccine, he said praising the efforts.

The Government will create 15,000 new Navodoya schools for better education and to iradicate dangerous diseases 15 new national health centres will be opened, Swain told. In the Press meet Kandhmal BJP district president Jagannath Sahu and leaders Bhagaban Mohanty, Tapan Padhi among others were pre-

Mohana BDO axed for dereliction of duty

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

The State Government sus-▲ pended Mohana BDO Bansidhar Khosla on charge of dereliction of duty.

Without approval of leave, the BDO remained out of headquarters for which the action was taken against him on March 3.

On August 21 at Mandimera,a ganja loaded truck with cashew of 18 quintal was seized.

Under the instruction of a court, the BDO got power to sell the cashew

Those skinless cashew was worth Rs 1. 42 crore but the BDO sold the cashew at Rs 14 lakh only

An inquiry was instituted against 8 others in the deal including Supply Inspector Sankar Beher, IIC Adava Tapan Kumar Pati apart from the

IN BARIPADA

Ayouth died while stealing delectrification cables passed over the railway track near a temple at Baghra Road in Baripada town early on

PNS ■ BARIPADA

Saturday morning.
The deceased, identified as Chandan Sarkar (23), a resident of Baripada town, and his friend had climbed up an electric pole installed near the track for a railway electrifica-

Youth dies stealing rly electrification cables tion project.
While he was cutting the

electric wires, he slipped from the pole and died on the spot, GRP official said. Recently, the electrification project had started

between Bangiriposhi and Rupsa railway lines via Baripada. However, the trains passing through the track in the railway line are being run without electricity. The wires were not charged at the time of

mishap.
As the wires were lying on the track, the alert loco pilot of Bangiriposhi-Bhubaneswar Superfast that had left the Baripada railway station in the morning suddenly stopped the train sensing any possible mishap.

The loco pilot informed the railway officials for necessary action to clear the track. After a two-hour of halt, the train services resumed

☐ The deceased, identified as Chandan Sarkar (23), a resident of Baripada town

☐ The loco pilot informed the railway officials for necessary action to clear the track

Care Hosp staff axed for misbeahaviour

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Care Hospitals here on Thursday suspended an employee following allegations against him levelled by woman housekeeping employee of misbehaviour.

misbehaviour. The said indi-

vidual would remain suspend-An internal committee of the hospital promptly took the decision keeping in line the hospitals' zero-tolerance policy on any such complaints of

THE HOUSEKEEPING STAFFS AT THE CARE HOSPITALS ARE PROVIDED BY AN EXTERNAL AGENCY

ed till further investigations are completed. Notably, the housekeeping

staffs at the Care Hospitals are provided by an external agency, said a hospital release.

Lookout notice against ED arrests 2 directors **TMC leader's brother**

CATTLESMUGGLINGCASE



The CBI has issued a lookout notice against Bijay Mishra, brother of Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Binay Mishra who is a close confidant of party MP Abhishek Banerjee, in a cattle-smuggling case.

The agency is mulling over approaching Interpol to get a Red Corner Notice (RCN) issued against Binay Mishra, who has not joined the probe

"A lookout notice has been issued against Bijay Mishra, the brother of TMC leader Binay Mishra," the official said, without divulging any other details.

The agency has also summoned two senior officers of the West Bengal police -- an Inspector General and a Superintendent of Police -- on Monday for questioning in connection with the case, they said.

The agency had named Binay Mishra as a co-accused in its supplementary

smuggling case last month.

Binay Mishra is suspected to be close to West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee, they further said.

In its chargesheet filed before a designated CBI court in Asansol (West Bengal), the agency has already mentioned Binay Mishra as absconding.

The CBI had filed a chargesheet on February 18 in the case against Border Security Force (BSF) Commandant Satish Kumar and six others for their alleged involvement in a cattle-smuggling racket operating at the India-Bangladesh

Recently, the CBI had also questioned Abhishek Banerjee's wife Rujira and sister-in-law Menaka Gambhir in a separate case pertaining to illegal coal mining and pilferage from the mines of the Eastern Coalfields

with effect from March 15,

directed by a bench, the final

hearings or regular matters

where the number of lawyers

for the parties is higher than

the average working capacity

of the courtrooms according to COVID-19 norms, that is

It said unless otherwise

2021," it added.

of TN-based firm over ₹325 cr laundering

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said it has arrested two directors of a Tamil Nadu-based firm in a money laundering case worth ₹325 crore, linked to a bank fraud

Hittesh Patel and Suresh N Patel, directors of Shinago Plantations Pvt Ltd, were sent to 10 days' ED custody by a special court on Saturday after they were placed under arrest under sections of the Laundering Act (PMLA), the agency said in a statement.

The two allegedly laundered funds to the tune of ₹325 crore by using a network of nearly 20 group entities located across Tamil Nadu.

The PMLA investigation revealed that "the accused in collusion with the valuers



availed loans from erstwhile Corporation Bank (now Union Bank of India) on the basis of inflated value of the properties offered as collateral and indulged in wilful diversion of funds through various group accounts."

It said investigation fur-ther revealed that "the funds so availed by various individuals/group concerns in the form of Letter of Credit (LC) and Cash Credit (CC) limits/Agriculture term loans, were transferred within the group entities through circular rotation of money to avail more funds from the Bank without any actual business."

Donations for Ram Mandir cross more than ₹2,500 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Donations for the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya are estimated to have crossed ₹2,500 crore and construction is likely to

be completed in three years.
Addressing the media,
Ramjanmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust chairman Champat Rai on Saturday said that the construction will commence from April and as per banks' estimations till February 4, the donations have crossed ₹2,500 crore and house-tohouse visits for donations have been stopped.

Now only online donations will be received, Rai said adding that 10 crore households in 4 lakh villages had been approached by 9 lakh volunteers in the past 45 days during the fund collection

Four lakh cubic stones will be used to complete construction within 3 years. While construction has not



begun, the improvement of land for the foundation will start in April.

Around ₹2,500 cr have been received till 4th of March, but can't confirm the figures. We have reached 10 crore households with 9 lakh workers. The campaign is over doesn't mean that dedication towards God is over. Visit our website which has all the details of bank accounts and one can contribute accordingly."

He also said that a lot of

North East States and Southern States

To a query, Rai said that donations from Rajasthan are expected to be bigger than Uttar Pradesh.

From Arunachal Pradesh donations are estimated to have crossed ₹4.5 crore, followed by ₹2 crore from Manipur. As per the press release issued by VHP, Rs.85 crore has been received from Tamil Nadu and ₹13 crore

Hybrid physical hearings in SC from March 15 20 per courtroom at any given time, shall invariably be listed for hearing through the video

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, which is hearing cases through video-conferencing since March last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, will commence hybrid physical hearings from March 15.

The apex court has issued the standard operating procedure (SOP) for the hybrid physical hearings.

The top court has been hearing cases through videoconferencing since March last year due to the pandemic and several bar bodies and lawyers have been demanding that physical hearings should resume immediately.

"On an experimental basis, and as a pilot scheme, the final hearings/regular matters listed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays may be heard in the hybrid mode, as may be



decided by the bench, considering the number of parties in a matter as well as the limited capacity of the courtrooms; all other matters, including those listed on Mondays and Fridays, shall continue to be heard through video/tele-conferencing mode," said the SOP issued by the apex court.
"The hybrid physical

or tele-conferencing mode.
"...However, in case the

bench directs hearing of such matters to be held through the hybrid mode, the appearance of the parties, whether by physical presence or through video/tele-conferencing, will be facilitated as per the directions of the bench," the SOF

It said if the number of parties is higher than the specfied number in a matter listed for hybrid hearing, then one advocate-on-record (AOR) and one arguing counsel per party would be allowed

It said one registered clerk per party, as may be chosen by the AOR, shall be allowed entry to carry paper-books or journals of lawyers up to the

Cong: Kisan stir period black chapter in India's democracy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the farmers' protest against the Centre's new farm laws completed 100 days, the Congress on Saturday said the period was a "black chapter" in India's democracy for the treatment meted out to the protesters and also marked 100 days of the ruling BJP's "arrogance".

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi hit out at the Centre over the farmers' protest and said nails were laid at Delhi's borders for those, whose sons risk their lives at the country's bor-

His attack came after the farmers' agitation completed 100 days with the protesting union leaders asserting that



their movement is far from over and they are "going strong". "Whose sons risk lives at the country's borders, for them nails have been laid at the borders of Delhi. 'Annadaatas' demand their rights, govern-ment commits atrocities,"

Congress secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also hit out at the Centre saying, "100 days of farmers' struggle, of fight for rights, of respect for 'annadaatas', of the path shown by Gandhiji, Sardar

(Vallabhbhai) Patel, Nehruji, (Lal Bahadur) Shastriji, Shaheed Bhagat Singh." With the hashtag '100Days OfBJParrogance', she said, "100 days of BJP Government's arrogance, of assault on farmers, of lies and scorn for farmers." Congress spokesperson

Pawan Khera said the protesting farmers have been braving all odds — of nature and the might of the State for the last 100 days. "Each one of us, whichev

er category we may belong to, have our own struggles and that is the awareness on depends," Khera said.

There is one section of the society that has found time to come out and protest — farmers - against these "black laws" and they are "our voice", he added.

The Congress demands that the three new farm laws should immediately be repealed, Khera said.

Kerala gold smuggling case

CPM accuses Centre of misusing Central agencies against CM, Mins

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/KOCHI

¬he CPI(M) Polit Bureau on ■ Saturday accused the BJPled Government at the Centre of playing dirty tricks by misusing Central agencies like Customs Department to target Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Ministers during the poll season with tutored affidavits of accused persons in the gold smuggling case.
For his part, Vijayan said:

"After declaration of Assembly polls, central investigation agencies' attacks have intensi-Customs The Commissioner, who isn't party to gold smuggling case, included portions of confidential statement by accused (Swapna Suresh) in his statement in High Court. He has also leveled allegations against Kerala Speaker and Ministers to defame the LDF government."

The Customs Department in Kochi earlier alleged that a political party was trying to intimidate the investigation agency but made it clear that it will not work. "A political party trying intimidation, will (Preventive) Commissioner Sumit Kumar wrote on his Facebook page.

"She has stated with clarity about smuggling of foreign currency at the instance of the



Hon'ble chief minister and the Hon'ble Speaker with the help of the Consulate," the Customs has said in a statement filed in the Kerala high

The CPI (M) Polit Bureau alleged that the tutored statements of the jailed accused was recorded months ago and leaked to malign the party during the election time.
"The Polit Bureau of the

CPI(M) strongly condemns the Customs Authority's attempt to falsely implicate Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, three other ministers and the Speaker of the Assembly of Kerala in an alleged dollar smuggling case. The customs have cited an affidavit by one of the accused, who is in judicial custody in the gold smuggling case, for this purpose. The fact that this tutored statement was recorded some months ago and presented after the elections were announced shows the political game behind this move.

'The BJP Central government is systematically misusing the Central agencies for maligning the Chief Minister and the LDF government. The people of Kerala will see through this political chicanery and give a fitting rebuff to the dirty tactics adopted by the BJP and the UDF," said CPI(M).

In Kerala, the CPI(M) has staged protest marches at Customs offices. Recently, the Customs Department has filed an affidavit before the Court stating that the main accused Swapna Suresh has given statement before the investigators on the knowledge of the Chief Minister and three Ministers and Speaker of the Kerala Assembly about the illegal dollar trade and gold smug-gling involving UAE consulate.

Frontier Gandhi's autobiography released in English

 $oldsymbol{\Gamma}$ 1983, the autobiography of freedom fighter Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, fondly known as Bacha Khan or Badshah Khan, is now out in English, announced publishing house Roli Books.

The book, titled "The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle", is translated by former Pakistani civil servant and author Imitiaz Ahmad Sahibzada. This is the "first time" that Khan's autobiography is available in English. An earlier account of his life, published in English in 1969, and with the same title, was based on the interviews conducted with him and was not "his

written autobiography". ".. Bacha Khan felt that the 1969 account of his life and struggle was not complete and began to write his own autobiography thereafter, with the help of numerous associates. Bacha Khan's autobiography was thus first published in Pukhto in 1983, in Kabul.. This book is a translation of Bacha Khan's only written, Pukhto autobiography," writes Sahibzada in the book.

Khan (1890-1988), popularly called the 'Frontier Gandhi', was born in Uthmanzai in the North-West Frontier Province of British the social reform of the them. In India, he is known for his close association with Mahatma Gandhi and his leadership of the Khudai Khidmatgar (Servants of God) movement from 1930 - 47 one of the most successful and sustained Gandhian non-violent campaigns anywhere in

The book, whose foreword is written by historian and Mahatma Gandhi's grandson Rajmohan Gandhi, brings to life events and personalities of the independence movement as Khan records the untiring energy and sacrifices that went into winning freedom.

"If our world wants to picture non-violent defiance, or inter-faith partnership, .. Or a commitment to the rights of the vulnerable, it cannot do much better than study these two men together: Ghaffar Khan and, older by 21 years, Mohandas Gandhi, brothers in spirit, each armed with the swords of conscience and courage," writes Rajmohan, who is also the author of Khan's biography, "Ghaffar Khan: Nonviolent Badshah of the Pakhtuns".

"The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle", priced at ₹695, is available for sale in

Scientists develop platform to detect effect of alcohol exposure on red blood cells

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ccientists have developed a of prolonged exposure to alcohol on red blood cells (RBC) through high-resolution measurements of their size, according to a statement on Saturday.

The high-resolution platform that shows the reduction in size of RBCs due to alcohol exposure can be tuned for a point-of-care screening of multiple conditions that alter the size and count of red cells in

Although it is known that alcohol affects RBCs, the exact physiological changes are very subtle and difficult to measure.

In order to overcome this challenge, scientists led by Professor Gautam Soni from Raman Research Institute (RRI), an institution funded by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), have developed custom-made electro-fluidic platform that can detect the change by measuring the cell size in enhanced resolution.

The device made in RRI relies on the resistive pulse sensing principle.

The team first developed techniques for making tiny micron (1/1000th of a millimetre) sized holes or micropores at the tip of a glass capillary with careful fabrication, flame polishing, and image

Pon Radhakrishnan BJP candidiate for bypoll to Kanyakumari LS seat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{
m he\ BJP}$ on Saturday nominated senior party leader and former Union Minister Pon Radhakrishnan as its candidate for the April 6 bypoll to the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha

constituency in Tamil Nadu. As the campaign for the Assembly polls heats up, union Home Minister and former BJP president Amit Shah will also visit Tamil Nadu and Kerala on Sunday.

The bypoll was necessitated due to the death of Congress MP H Vasantha Kumar in August last year due to COVID-19.

The BJP's Central Election Committee (CEC), which met earlier under its National President JP Nadda and attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah, approved candidature Radhakrishnan. He is also a former BJP State president.

The BJP had on late Friday night finalised its seat-sharing deal with its ally AIADMK for the April 6 Assembly polls in the state where the latter, the lead partner, allocated 20 seats to the saffron party, besides the Kanyakumari parliamentary segment

Radhakrishnan had won from Kanyakumari in the 2014

both the sides said, "it is a case

parliamentary and inducted in

tion as Minister of State. He lost the subsequent 2019 Lok Sabha elections to Kumar from the same constituency. He was then MoS Finance and Shipping.

Union Home Minister and former BJP president Amit Shah will be on a one-day visit to Tamil Nadu and Kerala on Sunday to attend various important programmes.

According to a party statement here, Shah will first visit Suchindram Temple in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu ,and offer prayers. He will then launch "Ýetri Kodi Eandhi" (Vijay Sankalp Mahasamaprk Abhiyaan - a door to door campaign) in Suchindram

Town, Kanyakumari. The BJP said Shah will hold a massive roadshow "Vetri Kodi Eandhi" fom Hindu college to Veppamoodu Kamaraj statue in Kanyakumari. After the roadshow, the Union Home Minister will address a Karyakarta Sabha of the party at Uduppi Hotel in

Kanyakumari Shah will then proceed to Kerala where he will visit Shri Belur Math Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala and offer prayers. After that, he will address the Valedictory function of BJP's Kerala Vijay Yatra at Shanghumukham in

Medha Patkar defamation: Delhi court asks HC clerk to bring orginal case file

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Court has ordered to Asummon the court clerk of the record room of Delhi High Court to bring original case file of the petition filed by Medha Patkar for quashing of the defamation case filed by VK Saxena, presently the chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The original case file will help settle the dispute about the existence of the so called "defamatory' press

release issued by Patkar, something she has persistently denied in the court. Saxena has filed two

defamation cases against Patkar which are pending in the court of Metropolitan Magistrate, Saket, New Delhi. The one defamation case was related to a press note issued by Patkar on 24.11.2000, in which she claimed that Saxena visited Malegaon, praised Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA), and donated a cheque of ₹40,000 to

Lok Samiti, a support group of NBA. The news was published by a news portal rediff.com. Saxena denied that he ever

visited Malegaon or made any such donation to the NBA and said that the press note was full of false allegations and was defamatory. He subsequently issued a legal notice to Patkar. After receiving no response from the NBA leader, Saxena filed a defamation case in January 2001.

During the last 20 years on

denied that she ever issued any such press note and even claimed that it was fabricated by Saxena himself. Interestingly, Patkar filed a criminal miscellaneous appli-

various occasions, Patkar

cation No 6026 on 26.11.2018, U/S 482 of CrPC in the High Court of Delhi for quashing the proceedings in another defamation case filed by Saxena against her. An advance copy of the petition was also sent to Saxena by her advocate. In the said

criminal petition, Patkar in the list of "dates and events", mentioned that on 24.11.2000, a press note was released by her which was subsequently published in the news portal red-

Incidentally, this was precisely the case made out by Saxena. Patkar later withdrew the petition.

Saxena on February 17, 2020 filed an application in the MM Court along with certified copies of the criminal miscel-

laneous application no. 6026 of 2018 filed by Patkar in the Delhi High Court with the request for calling upon additional witness in the case, i.e. the concerned court clerk of the Delhi High Court with original case file of the above case where she has admitted to have issued the press note in question. Counsel for Saxena pleaded that judicial admission cannot be with-

Metropolitan Magistrate Animesh Kumar after hearing

of the complainant (VK Saxena) that on 26.11.2018, accused (Medha Patkar) filed a petition bearing number Crl MC 6026 of 2018 before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court U/S 482 CrPC for quashing the proceedings of CC No. 2866/1/03 pending before this court. Ld Counsel for the complainant submits that the accused has made certain judicial admissions under oath in the said petition filed before the DHC

admitted that she made averments against the complainant." The Magistrate further said that relevant record related to

where she has categorically

Crl MC No. 6026 of 2018 titled "Medha Patkar Vs State of Delhi & Others" should be summoned in the present case. "Hence, let summon be

issued to the concerned clerk of the record room of Hon'ble Delhi High Court to bring the original case file on 19.03.2021," he ordered.

Goyal stresses on

Friday emphasised on the man-

saying that India has excellent

'Indigenous Manufacturing of Containers', Goyal said, "We

should be aspiring for a much

bigger play in container man-

ufacturing. We have absolute-

ly excellent steel making capabilities, we have an MSME

sector with good skills and the

frame making capabilities are

India's exports are going to

increase significantly, as against

the imports. "Government has

made a conscious decision to

support our shipping sector so more and more of the Indian

companies start owning Indian

buzz and excitement in our

manufacturing sector, to meet

domestic and international

requirements. "We are part of

the resilient global supply

Goyal said, there is a lot of

flag vessels," he said.

The minister stressed that

steel making capabilities.

manufacturing high

SHARE OF TAX DEVOLUTION TO STATES

15th Fin Comm opted for continuity: Singh

Finance Commission opted for continuity and predictability and hence retained the share of tax devolution to States at 41 per cent of the total pool, its chairman NK Singh said on

Speaking at a webinar organised by the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), Singh said each Finance Commission in the past has somewhat increased the total amount of devolution to states, but the weighed all the options considering that the fiscal space of both states and the Centre has shrunk on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rajya Sabha member Sushil Kumar Modi highlighted that the share of divisible pool is slowly shrinking as the "cess and surcharge" component in Gross Tax revenue is

Commission has recommended that states be given 41 per cent of the divisible tax pool of the Centre during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26, which is at the same level as was recommended by the 14th Finance Commission.

Finance Commission is a constitutional body that gives suggestions on Centre-state financial relations.

As per the Commission, the gross tax revenue (GTR) for the 5-year period is expected to be Rs 135.2 lakh crore. Out of that, divisible pool (after deducting cesses and surcharges and cost of collection) is estimated to be Rs 103 lakh crore. States' share at 41 per cent of divisible pool comes to Rs 42.2 lakh crore for 2021-26

The report of the 15th Finance Commission was tabled in Parliament on

Singh said each Finance Commission has somewhat increased the total amount of devolution as percentage of divisible pool.

"We had an option of continuing this trajectory, we had an option of enhancing this devolution to somewhat higher figure. We had the option of somewhat recalibrating downwards looking at the constraints on the fiscal space of the Central Government. Finance Commission is not an encounter with shock and awe, Finance Commission has a legacy which believes in stability, continuity and predictability. We opted for continuity and predictability," he said.

Modi, in his speech, said cess and surcharge which was 10.4 per cent of GTR in 2011-12, has increased to 20.2 per cent. Even after deducting GST compensation cess, it is 15 per

Govt open to evaluate, explore cryptocurrencies, says Thakur

Union minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday said the government is open to evaluate and explore new technologies, including cryptocurrencies, for improving gover-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself is a strong advocate of embracing technology in various aspects of gover-nance, the Minister of State for Finance said while addressing an event organised by Entrepreneurs' Organisation -EO Punjab.

"Let me say that we welcome innovation and new technology...Blockchain is a new technology. emerging Cryptocurrency is a form of virtual currency. I firmly believe that we must always evaluate, explore and encourage new ideas with an open mind," he said.

A High-Level Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) was constituted under the Chairmanship of Economic Affairs Secretary on digital currencies and it has submitted its report.

The government would



take a decision on the recommendations of the IMC and the legislative proposal, if any, would be introduced in Parliament following the due process, he said while inviting suggestions and views on this

Cryptocurrencies are digital or virtual currencies in which encryption techniques are used to regulate the generation of their units and verify the transfer of funds, operating independently of a central Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman on Friday said the government is still formulating its opinion on cryptocurrencies and will take a calibrated posi-

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das had last week said the apex bank has certain "major concerns"

The Govt would take a decision on the recommendations of the IMC and the legislative proposal, if any, would be introduced in Parliament following the due proces

cies may have on the financial stability in the economy and has conveyed the same to the government The RBI had virtual-

over the impact cryptocurren-

ly banned cryptocurrency trading in 2018 and had directed all entities

regulated by the central bank to cease dealing in virtual currencies. The Supreme Court had also asked the Centre in 2019 to frame policies for crypto, and in 2020, struck down the curbs imposed by the RBI.

The Reserve Bank had through various public notices on December 24, 2013, February 1, 2017 and December 5, 2017, cautioned users, holders and traders of virtual currencies, including bitcoins, regarding various risks associated in dealing with such virtual currencies.

quality containers in India Minister Piyush Goyal on

alternate supplies," he said. "If India starts manufacufacturing on the indigenous high quality containers in India turing at scale, we will become cost-competitive to sell to all parts of the world. Scale presents huge cost-benefit opportunities," he said. Goyal emphasised that if you produce a high-quality product, our neighbours will never be able Addressing a webinar here at the Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR) on to match it. And that can be

sold in Europe and US.

"If India manufacturers a million containers in a year, we will become cost-competitive," he said.Goyal said container manufacturing business needed a LIFT, which CONCOR has been able to provide. Elaborating the meaning of LIFT, he said L - efficient logistics, I - depending on indigenous sources, F - futuristic and T - becoming a trendsetter."We should all collectively take a concrete decision to buy only Indian and support Indian industry, to meet not only India's needs but the world's needs. Container shortage and imported container should be dumped into the flames of history," the minister

Tech bids open for Mum-Ahm Bullet train bridge project

The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) on Saturday said that it has opened two technical bids for construction or building of bridges for the 508 km Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) corridor in the state of Gujarat and Dadra and Nagar Haveli in which nine companies have participated.

NĤSRCL spokesperson Sushma Gaur said that the technical bids for contract packages of P-1(B) and P-1(C) for construction or building of

dor in the state of Gujarat as well union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

She said that as of now, 5 bidders for P-1 (C) whereas four bidders for P-1 (B) have submitted their bids for the package.She said that the P-1 (C) package includes construction of bridges for double line High Speed railway for four PSC Bridges and seven steel truss bridges between Zaroli Village at Maharashtra -- Gujarat Border and Vadodara, in Gujarat and the union territory of Dadar and Nagar Haveli for the project.

Tesla, Ford only carmakers not gone bankrupt: Elon Musk automaker had previously

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

As several carmakers bleed in the US and beyond, Tesla is profitable and according to Elon Musk, his electric car company and Ford are the only two carmakers in the US which have not gone bankrupt.

Tesla reported another profitable quarter as revenue hit \$10.74 billion in the fourth quarter of 2020. In last year, Tesla achieved free cash flow of nearly \$2.8 billion after spending more than \$3 billion on building new factories and other expenditures.

US automaker Ford last month announced to more than double its investment in electric and autonomous vehicles to \$29 billion. The

"However, IPM grew 1.1

nt YoY during Februa

2021, due to a 5.8 per cent vol-

ume decline, price growth of

4.8 per cent and products

launches at 2.1 per cent."

committed to spend \$11.5 billion on electrifying its vehicle lineup through 2022.

Tesla & Ford are the only American carmakers not to have gone bankrupt out of 1000's of car startups. Prototypes are easy, production is hard & being cash flow positive is excruciating," Musk said in a tweet on Friday.

Ford CEO Jim Farley responded to his tweet, saying: Respect".

În 2020, Tesla produced and delivered half a million vehicles. In addition, Model Y production in Shanghai has

Tesla this year also registered its Indian subsidiary with the Registrar of Companies

(RoC) in Bengaluru, on January 8.
"2020 was a defining year

for us on many levels. Despite a challenging environment, we've reached an important milestone of producing and delivering 0.5 million cars," Musk had said.

On the other hand, Ford's increased investment is aimed at catching up with the EV market leader Tesla and keep pace with other automakers like GM and Volkswagen.

"We are accelerating our plans right now, breaking constraints, increasing battery capacity, improving our costs and getting more battery electrics into our cycle plan," Ford CEO Farley said last

'Privatisation will lead to increase in service charges'

IANS I NEW DELHI

All India Nationalised Banks Officers Federation (AIN-BOF) has opposed privatisation of public sector banks as it will lead to increase in service charges and will take banking beyond the reach of common

In a statement, the AIN-BOF said privatization will primarily impact the general public only as the social objectives will be lost in the name of profitability.

"Service Charges will be increased and customers who are able to bear those charges only will be serviced. This will take banking beyond the reach of the common man which was the primary objective of It said though the

Government's agenda of privatization started way back in 1991 immediately after the liberalization the trade unions were successful in thwarting the ill-conceived moves of the successive governments over the past three decades and maintaining the public sector

"Of the many private sector banks that came into existence, today only a handful which were promoted by the financial houses like ICICI, UTI, IDBI, HDFC are surviving and many of the private sector entities that commenced their banking operations after 1990 were either closed or merged", it added.

Petrol, diesel prices steady even as crude boils

IANS I NEW DELHI

Oil marketing companies have spared consumers of yet another petrol and diesel price hike even though the global oil market is on the boil with crude reaching within touching distance of year-highlevel of \$70 a barrel.

Petrol continues to be oriced at ₹91.17 a litre and diesel ₹81.47 a litre in the capital on Saturday. Across the country too, the petrol and diesel price remained

unchanged. This is seventh consecutive day when pump prices of auto

fuels have remains unchanged. After a spike in global oil prices seen over last two weeks with crude price jumping close to \$67 a barrel, prices had fallen to around \$63 a barrel but it rose again to cross \$69 a barrel mark now after after the OPEC+ decision to continue with crude production cut in

Petrol and diesel prices since February 9.

Covestro pulls through fiscal 2020

Mumbai: Covestro saw a strong end to an exceptional especially in the second half, from its consistent crisis prevention measures and a recovery in demand. However, despite the very

successful fourth quarter, the group could not fully compensate the massive, pandemic-related cut-backs that arose in the first six months.

"We were able to successfully navigate through this highly exceptional year and maintained our ability to act at all times," said ČEO Markus Steilemann.

pelow-mentioned dates.

charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

1.MNG International

Name of Borrower / Co-borrower

Registered Office At 185-186, 2nd

Floor, D-14, Sector 7 Rohini, Delhi

Proprietor of M/S MNG International 185-186 , 2nd Floor , D-14 Sector 7 , Rohini, Delhi -110085

Also At: House No. 63 . Second

Floor, With Roof Rights Pocket 21 Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085

Also At -: Property No. 128,in Pkt-14, Sector -24, Rohini, Delhi -110042 3.Ms. Pranati Mohanty 185-186, 2nd Floor, D-14, Sector 7,

Rohini, Delhi-110085

Also At – Ms. Pranati Mohanty

House No. 63, Second Floor Pocket 21 , Sector 24 Rohini, Delhi-110085

Also At: Ms. Pranati Mohanty

Date: 07-03-2021

Sector -24, Rohini, Delhi -110042

2.Mr. Anshuman Mohanty

Base effect subdues

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

the growth of India's pharmaceuticals market, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said. Accordingly, the volume

declined in the anti-infective and respiratory products was pronounced during the

"Ind-Ra expects a growth improvement over the coming months as the vaccination drive gains momentum and a lower base leads to better growth momentum."

pharma market's growth in Feb

 $H^{\mathrm{igh}\,\mathrm{base}\,\mathrm{effect}\,\mathrm{along}\,\mathrm{with}}_{\mathrm{volume}\,\mathrm{decline}\,\mathrm{subdued}}$

1. Date of Demand Notic

Notice (Rs.)

. 26-11-2020

.04-03-2021

Rs. 1,00,04,592/-

(Rupees One Crore Fou

Thousand Five Hundred

AXIS BANK SME Centre, Delhi: 4th Floor, Ashoka Estate, 24 Barakhamba Road New Delhi-110001, Also at III Floor, Red Fort Capital Parsavnath Tower, Bhai Veer Singh Marg, Near Gole Market, New Delhi-110001

Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee

Raso dari. Asis baliir kuiz, Asis House, Towar 1-2, Zilin Hout, Fria, Pockur 126, House & Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025

Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstructi of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) mentioned

below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the sai

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, no

is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise o powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general at

hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of subsection (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of Property

ground floor of freehold

Rohini, Delhi - 110042,

. Equitable Mortgage over

residential property bearing No. 128, in PKT 14, Sector 24

situated in the layout plan Rohini, Residential Scheme, Rohini, Delhi, admeasuring

60sq. mts., along with the proportionate free hold rights of the and under the said

property owned by Mr. Anshuman Mohanty & Mrs

admeasuring 60 sqm.

over freehold resid

Pranti Mohanty built on a pho

2. Equitable Mortgage charge

Property situated at House

No. 63, Second Floor, with

Rohini, Delhi - 110042

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 3 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Securit Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Sd/-,

NMDC leaves iron ore rates unchanged

Country's largest iron ore pany said.

Cminer NMDC has left the Last ₹5,100 per tonne and ₹4,210 per tonne for fines in its latest price revision announced on Saturday.

According to Ind-Ra, Iron ore is the key raw acute therapies such as gastro material used in steel making. and vitamins witnessed sales Any change in its prices has a growth of 9.9 per cent YoY and direct impact on the rates of steel. In a filing to the BSE, NMDC said it fixed the price 6.6 per cent YoY, respectively, while anti-infectives declined 11.3 per cent YoY during of lumps or high-grade iron ore February 2021. at ₹5,100 per tonne, and that of "A growth outperformance iron ore fines or inferior grade

was observed in chronic therore at ₹4,210 a tonne. apies during the month, with The revised prices are cardiac and anti-diabetic effective from March 6, 2021 growing 7.3 per cent YoY and and exclude royalty, District 4.3 per cent YoY, respectively." Mineral Fund (DMF), National Mineral Exploration Trust

(DMET), cess, forest permit fee, and other taxes, the com-

Last month, NMDC ₹5,100 per tonne from ₹5,700 per tonne fixed on January 6, 2021, while the rate of fines was also revised downwards to ₹4,210 a tonne from ₹4,810 per

NMDC, under the Ministry of Steel, is the country's largest iron ore miner.

The company, which has been in the business of mining iron ore for over six decades, produces about 35 MT iron ore from its three iron ore complexes in the country one in Donimalai in Karnataka and two in the Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh.

IndiGrid inks largest transmission deal with Sterlite Power

▼ndia Grid Trust, India's first Lpower infrastructure investment trust (InvIT), on Saturday signed a share purchase agreement to acquire NER-II Transmission Limited from Sterlite Power as part of the Framework Agreement.

The indicative value of the acquisition is ₹4,625 crore and would boost IndiGrid's AUM (asset under management) by 34 per cent to over ₹20,000 crore (\$2.8 billion). Post completion, the plat-

form's asset portfolio would consist of 13 power transmission projects, with a total netlines and 11 substations extending over 7,570 circuit kilometers and 13,350 MVA in 17 Indian states and 1 Union Territory.

NER-II is part of Inter State Transmission Scheme (ISTS) network, and was awarded on a Build, Own, Operate, Maintain ("BOOM") basis with a contractual period of 35 years.

The project has 11 elements including two substations of 1,260 MVA capacity and four transmission lines extending over 830 circuit kilometres.

Public Notice

This is to Sunita Gujral is the owner of Entire First Floor, Entire Second Floor, Entire Third Floor, with roof rights "said floors", built on Property bearing No. J-13/63, on Plot no. 63, area measuring 200 sq.yds., in Block J-13, Situated at Rajouri Garden, New Delhi vide Sale Deed dated 11.12.2020 and the vide Sale Deed dated 11.12.2020 and the same was duly registered with the Sub-Registrar-IIB Delhi, as Document No. 19218, Book No. I, Volume No. 5819, Page No. 110-128, on 17.12.2020. Now, Mrs Sunita Gujral is mortgaging the above property with Shri Ram Housing Finance td. & in case anyone has any objection the same may be raised within 15 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan. Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 405, 4th Floor, GD-ITL Northex Tower, (A-09), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/ 9818228636 (M).

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Re-Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System) Strengthening of rail and cross girder, providing screen over web of cross girder on Br. No.-176A UP DLI-UMB section under AXEN/Br/Spl/TKJ. Approx. Cost of work Completion period of Work (02) Two Months Date & time for submission Upto 14.00 hrs. on 30.03.2021 Opening of tende of tender and opening of after 14.00 hrs. on same day tender Website particulars where Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. omplete details of Tender

Tender Notice No. 32-W-BR-176A-DLI-2021 Date: 06.03.2021 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Date: 01.03.2021

SOUTHERN STAR CO-OPERATIVE (URBAN) THRIFT & CREDIT SOCIETY LTD.

vww.ireps.gov.in

Corp. Off.: E-2&3, DDA Market, MOR Land, New Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi-60 Phone: 011-28741801-02, 28741821-22, E-mail: sstarsociety@yahoo.com, website: southernstar.org

NOTICE

Notice is being published for general information of the members of the SOUTHERN STAR CO-OP. (U) THRIFT & CREDIT SOCIETY LTD. (hereafter referred to as the Society') that the 31st Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the Society will be held on Friday, 19th March, 2021 at 02.00 P.M. at the MCD Community Center, New Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi-60, to consider the Agenda already circulated and also available at the website of the Society.

(VENKIDESWARAN POTTY P.N.) **NEW DELHI -60**

HONY. SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice. Name of the Borrower/ Date of Notice NPA

Property Address

No.	Co-porrower/ Guarantor/	of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	17-02- 2020
1.	Kanchan Kumari, Raghunath Sharma, 276, Sector B2 Pocket C, Narela, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00002866980	LIG Flat No-276, Third Floor Block-B2 Pocket-C, Narela, Delhi	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 12,93,262/-	
2.	Pankaj Bakshi, Meena Bakshi, 641 New Ashiana Appartment Plot No-10, Sec 6, Dwarka South West Delhi, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00002967064	Flat No-641 4th Floor, Plot No 10, Block Ph-1, New Ashiana CGHS Ltd Cat-B, Sector-6, Delhi	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 24,47,256/-	29-02- 2020
3.	Sanjeeta Thakur, Sanjeev Kumar Thakur, Flat No.990 Jay Ambey Apartment, New LIG Dda Flats, Kondli Gharoli, Mayur Vihar- 3, Delhi A/c No:-LBGHZ00004865169	rtment, New Di, Mayur Vihar- Mayur Vihar, Phase 3, Delhi		29-02- 2020
4.	Rana Singh, Aarti Bhagwan Singh Thakur, 402 Al Ikrema Building, Near Grand Cafe, Al Jurf Ajman, Uae A/c No:- LBNOD00002008679	Flat No-g-3/19, Diamond-4, 19th Floor, Ganga Apartment, Sidhharth Vihar, Sector-7, ghaziabad,	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 1,04,25,664/-	31-05- 2018
5.	Anil Singh, Sudha Anil Singh, Flat No. 1003, Al Smafio BLDG., Jamal Ab, Sharjah, Uae A/c No:-LBDEL00001462326	Apartment No.ICD011, First Floor, Along With Parking Spaces PBD 103 And PBD 104, Revenue Estate, Wazirabad, Gurgaon	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 46,05,237/-	30-11- 2018
6.	Baljeet Garg, Mamta Garg, H No-73, Ff, Sec-12A Dwarka, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00001866197	A Dwarka, Delhi A/c No:- A, Dwarka Delhi		31-07- 2018
7.	Utkarsh Jhingran, Niti Jhingran, Block 24 Unit Number 02-13 Simei Street Melvile Park, Singapore, Singapore A/c No:- LBDEL00001879850	13 Simei Štreet Melvile , Singapore A/c No:- Tarraces, Sector- 66, Gurgaon, Haryana, Gurgaon		31/08/ 2018
8.	Sukhvinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh Arora, A- 4/424, Paschim Vihar, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00001977268	Unit No 0047, Ground Floor, Block E, Anthea Floors, Wild Flower Country, Gurgaon	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 38,13,100/-	30/11/ 2018

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Date: March 06, 2021 **Authorized Officer**

ORIGINAL SALE DEED OF RESIDENTIAL FLAT NO. SF-2 & SF-3, II FLOOR, BUILT ON PLOT NO. G-37, GREEN PARK, NEW DELHI VIDE REGISTRATION NO. 8970 AND 8971, EXECUTED ON 20.11.1992 ARE MISSING IF ANY PERSON, BANK, FINANCIAL
INSTITUTION HAVING ANY CLAIM, RIGHT,
TITLE OR INTEREST OF ANY NATURE
WHATSOEVER INTO OR UPON THE ABOVE
PROPERTY, IS HEREBY CALLED UPON TO
MAKE THE SAME KNOWN, IN WRITING
WITH DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE BY WITH DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE BY
REGISTERED AD POST TO THE
UNDERSIGNED AT THE ADDRESS
MENTIONED HEREIN BELOW WITHIN 7
(SEVEN) DAYS OF PUBLICATION OF THIS
NOTICE TO THE UNDERSIGNED ON
TELEPHONE NO:-8860074071 ADDRESS PNB HOUSING FINANCE LTD. S-8 GREEN PARK EXTENSION, NEW DELHI - 110016 SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOST AND FOUND

TENDER NOTICE FOR ENGINEERING WORK Srl. No. (1) E-Tender No. DRM-ENGG BSP-T-176-20-21, Date : 03.03.2021.

Work: Renewal of existing Channe Sleepers with H-Beam Sleepers under the jurisdiction of DEN

Tender Value : ₹ 2,88,36,781.56/-

Completion Period: 09 Months Start Date of Submission of Tender: From **11:00** hrs. on **11.03.2021**. Last Date of Submission of Tender: Upto 11:00 hrs. on 25.03.2021. The Complete information of above

Central-II/BSP

e-Tender Notices is available over website https://www.ireps.gov.in accepted against above Tenders. Divl. Railway Manager (Engg.

CPR/10/468 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur.

Pakistan PM Imran wins trust vote



Supporters of the ruling Pakistan Tehree-e-Insaf political party gather near the National Assembly to celebrate Prime Minister Imran Khan winning a vote of confidence in Islamabad, Pakistan on Saturday

PTI ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday comfortably won a trust vote in the National Assembly amid opposition boycott, bolstering his Government's position after an embarrassing defeat in this week's hotly-contested Senate

Prime Minister Khan secured 178 votes in the 342member lower house of Parliament during a special session convened on the directives of President Arif Alvi. He required 172 votes for a simple majority. The floor test took place without the Opposition as the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) - an

alliance of 11 parties — boycotted the voting, making it easier for Khan to secure the required numbers.

Khan decided to take a vote of confidence in the National Assembly after his finance minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh was defeated in the Senate election by former prime minister Yusuf Raza Gilani on Wednesday. The Opposition demanded the Prime Minister's resignation after the debacle.

Addressing the House after securing the trust vote, the 68year-old cricketer-turned politician thanked all lawmakers from his party and allies for supporting him in Parliament.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi earlier tabled a single-point resolution in the House.

"That this House reposes confidence in the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr Imran Khan, as required under clause (7) of Article 91 of the Constitution Islamic Republic Constitution Islamic Republic of Pakistan," the resolution said. Speaker Asad Qaiser announced the result, saying Prime Minister Khan had been elected to the post with 176 votes following the 2018 general elections. "Today, he has secured 178 votes," he said.

The ruling coalition had 181 members but after the resignation of one of its lawmakers, Faisal Vowda, its strength was reduced to 180. The Opposition coalition has 160 members in the House. One seat was vacant. According to the breakdown, 155 PTI lawmakers out of 156 voted in favour of the prime minister, Dawn newspaper reported.

Seven lawmakers from the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), five each from the Pakistan Muslim League-Q and the Balochistan Awami

Democratic Alliance, and one each from the Awami Muslim League and the Jamhoori Watan Party voted in favour of the resolution. Independent candidate Aslam Bhotani also voted in favour of Khan.

Earlier, unruly scenes were witnessed outside Parliament building when supporters of the ruling alliance tried to disOpposition leaders belonging to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

PML-N leaders alleged that they had been manhandled by the ruling party members who were holding up banners and chanting slogans in favour of Khan. Security forces managed to separate the political workers of the two sides.

Pakistan Opp slams PM, terms vote of confidence 'meaningless'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's leading Opposition leaders on Saturday demanded Prime Minister Imran Khan's resignation and fresh elections, soon after he won a vote of confidence in the National Assembly.

Khan secured 178 votes in the 342-member lower house of Parliament during a special session convened on the directives of President Arif Alvi. The floor test took place

without the Opposition as the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) — an alliance of 11 parties - boycotted the voting.

The first to respond was chief of the PDM Maulana

Fazlur Rehman, who told the media in Sukkur, Sindh that the vote of confidence has no meaning.
"This was not a confidence

vote. We know which agencies watched the members of the assembly the entire night. [We know] who knocked on the doors of each member to ensure they were present," he His reference was towards

reports stating that the gov-ernment kept its members inside lodges in Islamabad under strict watch so that all of them are present in Parliament during the floor test. Rehman alleged that the

lawmakers were forced to vote for Prime Minister Khan.



Pope Francis stands with religious leaders during an interreligious meeting near the archaeological area of the Sumerian city-state of Ur, 20 kilometers south-west

Pope Francis, Iraq's top Shia cleric hold historic meeting

Pope Francis and Iraq's top Shia cleric delivered a powerful message of peaceful coexistence on Saturday, urging Muslims in the war-weary Arab nation to embrace Iraq's longbeleaguered Christian minority during an historic meeting in the holy city of Najaf.

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-

Sistani said religious authorities have a role in protecting Iraq's Christians, and that they should live in peace and enjoy the same rights as other

overseeing reconstruction at the

church. "It's a very, very unex-

pected event and a very happy

ism. Coming amid a pandemic and security challenges, the pope's

historic trip is taking him to Christian communities, like Yako's,

ravaged by the ISIS onslaught in

2014. Christians in the area were

forced to escape ancestral towns

and villages as the militants swept

through northern Iraq. Many have since scattered abroad, their exo-

dus fueling existential anxieties about Iraq's already dwindling

point to security, economic and

social challenges deterring many

It is also one rich in symbol-

thanked al-Sistani for having 'raised his voice in defense of the weakest and most persecuted" during some of the most violent times in Iraq's recent history.

Al-Sistani, 90, is one of the most senior clerics in Shiite Islam and his rare but powerful political interventions have helped shape present-day Iraq. He is a deeply revered figure in Shia-majority Iraq and his opinions on religious and other matters are sought by Shiites worldwide.

The historic meeting in al-Sistani's humble home was modest home, which the cleric has rented for decades.

A group of Iraqis wearing traditional clothes welcomed

He emerged just under an hour later, still limping from an apparent flare-up of sciatica nerve pain that makes walking

months in the making, with every detail painstakingly discussed and negotiated between the ayatollah's office and the Vatican. Early Saturday, the 84year-old pontiff's convoy, led by a bullet-proof Mercedes-Benz, pulled up along Najaf's narrow and column-lined Rasool Street, which culminates at the goldendomed Imam Ali Shrine, one of the most revered sites in Shiite Islam. He then walked the few meters (yards) to al-Sistani's

him outside. As a masked Francis entered the doorway, a few white doves were released in a sign of peace.

Imran bats for electoral reforms for fair elections, to introduce EVMs

PTI ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Saturday that his government will introduce electoral reforms and electronic voting machines to ensure fair and transparent elections in the country.

Delivering a speech after

winning a trust vote in the National Assembly, the cricketer-turned-politician said his government plans to introduce electronic voting, enabling millions of Pakistanis abroad to vote in elections.
"We are bringing modern

technology in elections for a transparent election process. We have decided to use Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) in the future. It is counter the voter fraud claims Constitution and it has "never made by the candidates who lose the polls. We are also working on putting up a system

so that the overseas Pakistanis can cast their votes," Khan

"Just like in the US where former president Donald Trump's repeated allegations of electoral malpractice were debunked by a transparent system, Pakistan will also put in place the same system to ensure fair and transparent elections in the country.

"As captain in Cricket, I brought the concept of neutral umpiring, similarly my government will set in motion a fair electoral system," he said.

Khan's remarks came after Pakistan's election commission on Friday expressed shock and disappointment over the prime minister's allegations against it, asserting that the Senate eleccome under any sort of pressure and God willing, will not

Protests, tear gas in Myanmar after UN envoy urges action

AP YANGON

Cecurity forces in Myanmar Sagain used force Saturday to disperse anti-coup protesters, a day after a UN special envoy urged the Security Council to take action to quell junta violence that this past week left more than 50 peaceful demonstrators dead and scores injured.

Protests were reported

Saturday morning in the country's biggest city, Yangon, where stun grenades and tear gas were used against demonstra-tors. On Wednesday, 18 people were reported killed there.

Protests also took place in several other cities, including Mandalay, the second-biggest city, Myitkyina, the capital of the northern state of Kachin, police fired tear gas at students, and Dawei in the southeast, where tear gas was also used. Officials are believed to



canisters during a demonstration in Yangon, Myanmar on Saturday

have exhumed the body of a young woman who was killed during Wednesday's suppression of protests in Mandalay. been photographed taking part in the protests before her death, and images of her on the front lines have made her a high-pro-

Security forces on Friday night sealed off the cemetery where she was buried, and morning, her grave was freshly plastered over and shovels and other evidence of digging

Pope to visit Iraq church damaged by ISIS terrorists

Baghdad: The scenes are seared in the memory of the Rev. Ammar Altony Yako: A church that for decades has been the pride of the town of Qaraqosh, a center for Christian life in Iraq, stood badly scarred. Yako saw it in 2016 when

Qaraqosh was liberated from more than two years of Islamic State group rule. Scrawled on a wall was the proclamation, the "Islamic State will remain." Strewn amid the rubble in a courtyard were bullet-riddled mannequins and other telltale signs of a militants' makeshift firing range for target practice.

On Sunday, a new scene will play out for the world to watch at the Church of the Immaculate Conception and new memories will be created. Where the extremists once damaged, Pope

"I never could have imagined that his holiness, the pope, would visit this church, not even in my dreams," said Yako, who has been Christian population. Many hope the pope's trip can focus attention on their struggles and send a message of encouragement, but they also

difficult. The "very positive" meeting lasted a total of 40 minutes, said a religious official in Najaf, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was

Senate works through night, virus aid on path to passage

AP ■ WASHINGTON

 $B^{\text{leary-eyed lawmakers}}_{\text{worked through a moun-}}$ tain of amendments Saturday as the Senate plodded toward passage of a \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 relief bill that President Ioe Biden and Democrats say is crucial for hoisting the country out of the pandemic.

The Senate commenced a dreaded "vote-a-thon" - a continuous series of votes on amendments — shortly before midnight Friday, and by midmorning Saturday had dispensed with over two dozen.

Democrats were hoping for final passage by around midday so the Senate could send the modestly revamped bill back to the House, and then to Biden this coming week for his signature.

The Senate had been in session since 9 a.M. EST Friday. Its work on the bill was proving to be a test of both lawmakers' physical stamina and Democrats' ability to pass legislation backed by every senator in the party.

The chamber is divided 50-50, with Vice President Kamala Harris' tiebreaking vote their only edge, and Republicans are arrayed against the legislation. Overnight, the Senate was like an experiment in the best techniques for staying awake. Several lawmakers appeared to rest their eves or doze at their desks, often burying their faces in their hands. At one point, Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, at 48 one of the younger senators, trotted into the cham-

ber and did a prolonged stretch.

Biden White House: message discipline, no news conference

ence. No Oval Office address. No primetime speech to a joint session of Congress.

President Joe Biden is the first executive in four decades to reach this point in his term without holding a formal question and answer session.

It reflects a White House media strategy meant both to reserve major media set-pieces for the celebration of a legislative victory and to limit unforced errors from a historically gaffeprone politician. Biden has opted to take questions about as often as most of his recent predecessors, but he tends to field just one or two informal inquiries at a time, usually in a hurried setting at the end of an event.

In a sharp contrast with the previous administration, the . White House is exerting extreme message discipline, empowering staff to speak but doing so with caution.

Recalling both Biden's largely leak-free campaign and the buttoned-up Obama administration, the new White House team has carefully managed the president's appear-

over the next two years,"

200 metres are expected once

the rover begins pursuing its

science goals, including the

microbial life, NASA said.

Zarifian said.

ances, trying to lower the temperature from Donald Trump's Washington and to save a big media moment to mark what could soon be a signature accomplishment: passage of the Covid-19 bill.

The message control may serve the president's purposes but it denies the media opportunities to directly press Biden on major policy issues and to engage in the kind of back-andforth that can draw out information and thoughts that go beyond the administration's curated talking points.

above reffered Bid is hereby extended as per the following-New Date & Time Activity Old Date & Time Last Date/Time for Submitting / 8th March, 2021 18th March, 2021 up to 03:00 PM uploading of offer/ Bid up to 3:00 PM Last Date / time for submitting original 8th March 2021 18th March 2021 hard copy of Bid Security Demand Draft up to 3:00 PM up to 03:00 PM Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid up to 05:00 PM at 05:00 PM

Rajasthan Skill & Livelihoods Development Corporation

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NASA's Perseverance rover performs first test drive on Mars **PTI** ■ LOS ANGELES fident our drive system is good

NASA's latest Mars rover, Perseverance, performed its first test drive on the Red Planet, covering a distance of about 6.5 metres across the Martian landscape, a "major milestone" before it begins its science operations.

The drive lasted about 33 minutes, propelling the rover forward by four metres, where it then turned to the left by 150 degrees and backed up 2.5 metres into its new temporary parking space, the American space agency noted in a statement.

According to NASA, the drive served as a mobility test to check out and calibrate every system, subsystem, and instrument on the Perseverance rover, which it said is a major milestone before the science operations get underway.



Perseverance rover on Mars. Perseverance landed on February 18, 2021

"When it comes to wheeled vehicles on other planets, there are few first-time events that measure up in significance to that of the first drive," said

Anais Zarifian, the mobility test bed engineer of the Mars 2020 Perseverance rover at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Southern California

ROVING ON RED PLANET

The drive lasted about 33 minutes, propelling the rover forward by four metres, where it then turned to the left by 150 degrees and backed up 2.5 metres into its new temporary parking space

The drive served as a mobility test to check out and calibrate every system, subsystem, and instrument on the Perseverance rover

All the while, the space agency said the rover continues to send down images from Mars using the most advanced suite of cameras ever to travel to the

"This was our first chance

'kick the tires' and take

Perseverance out for a spin. The

rover's six-wheel drive respond-

ed superbly. We are now con-

human exploration of Mars. It is also expected to be the first to collect and cache Martian rock and soil. Since its landing on Mars

on February 18, the rover has undergone several routine checks, including a a software update, replacing the computprogram that helped land Perseverance with one NASA

will rely on to analyse the

to go, capable of taking us wherever the science leads us Regular commutes of over

> agency said the rover continues to send down images from Mars using the most advanced suite of cameras ever to travel

"Every picture from Red Planet's geology and past Perseverance is relaved by climate, and pave the way for either the European Space Agency's Trace Gas Orbiter, or

Odyssey, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. They are important partners in our explorations and our discoveries," said Justin Maki, chief engineer for imaging and the imaging scientist for the Mars 2020 Perseverance rover mission at JPL.

On March 2, NASA said its engineers unstowed the rover's

2-metre-long robotic arm for the first time, flexing each of its five joints over the course of two hours. All the while, the space

search for signs of ancient As part of its mission, the to the Red Planet. rover would characterise the

NASA's MAVEN, Mars

INDIA FIX LORD'S DATE

Virat & Co will face Black Caps in WTC final after Axar, Ashwin take five each to thrash England by innings & 25 runs to seal series

Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin Aonce again made a mockery of an eternally confused English batting line-up as India enter into the inaugural World Test Championship final with a resounding innings and 25 run victory on the third afternoon of the fourth and final Test here on Saturday.

All India needed was a draw to book a Lord's date in June with Kane Williamson's New Zealand but Axar (24-6-48-5), in company of Ashwin (22.5-4-47-5), literally blew England away in a session and half for a paltry 135 in 54.5 overs to complete a 3-1 rout, ensuring that the Anthony De Mello Trophy will stay at the Cricket Centre in Mumbai.

It was another two and half days finish but even the most partisan England experts like their former skipper Michael Vaughan have admitted that the 22-yard strip had almost nothing to do with their side's abject surrender.

A case in point could be India's first innings score of 365 and a lead of 160 on the same track where England could cumulatively manage only 340 runs across two innings.

This was one Test match where Indians, even before a ball being bowled, created an illusion of a turning track. It was a ploy of playing with the minds of a team that was already in a negative zone.

There wasn't much turn but enough to ensure that the visitors wilted under pressure as Patel's series tally stood at highest for a newcomer (27) while man of the series Ashwin was peerless as ever with 32 scalps

A lot of credit for this vic-



Indian captain Virat Kohli along with teammates Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Mohammed Siraj and Rishabh Pant pose with winners trophy

tory should go to the to play a Test in near future. indomitable Rishabh Pant, who World's best wicketkeep played the enforcer on the second day with a magnificent hundred, and Washington Sundar, who notched up a chiselled 96.

These two knocks literally made it impossible for England to make a comeback as a total of 365 seemed like 650.

The coming of age of Pant as a real replacement for the iconic Mahendra Singh Dhoni and emergence of Washington as a potent batting all-rounder only augurs well for the team.

So formidable is India's bench strength right now that Hanuma Vihari, who saved an epic Test in Sydney only a cou-ple of months back, may not get

World's best wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha will also find it difficult to add to his 38 Tests unless the Roorkee Rockstar gets injured. Patel, in his debut Test

series, was a powerhouse performer but he also knows that once Ravindra Jadeja is fit and available, he will have to wait for is next Test. The story of the third day

was similar to the one that has played out for most of the

With shoulders already drooping after the humilation inflicted by Pant and Washington, England's openers Zak Crawley (5, 16 balls), Dom Sibley (3, 21 balls) and Jonny

Bairstow (0, 1 ball) seemed like "walking wickets" at the start of the post-lunch session.

One had expected two of England's best players in Joe Root (30) and Ben Stokes (2 off 9 balls) to put up a fight but the all-rounder failed to gauge the extra bounce as he went for a sweep shot off Patel.

Kohli accepted the dolly at leg slip as England's resistance was blown away at 30 for 4.

Ollie Pope (15) hit Ashwin for a six, which was more desperation than finesse, and it was only a matter of time before he yorked himself as Pant fumbled while gathering but managed to effect a stumping to make it 65 for 5.

The England skipper could

India top WTC table

Dubai: India on Saturday finished on top of the league phase of the ICC World Test Championship standings after crushing England by an innings and 25 runs in the

"That victory against England means India finish the league phase of the inaugural ICC World Test Championship with a fine view from the top of the table," the ICC tweeted.

India finished the league phase with 520 points, which includes 12 wins, four loses and one draw.

New Zealand finished in the second spot with 420 points, including seven wins and four loses.

Australia finished third with 332 points ahead of England and Pakistan.

only helplessly look how his colleagues made a mess of Test match batting and Ashwin finally had his number trapping him leg before on the back-foot with another straight

The remaining wickets in the post tea session were a mere formality which the spinners completed in due course

The morning session belonged to Washington, whose 96 off 174 balls was as important as Pant's second day hundred in the final context of the match.

Washington and Axar Patel (43 off 97 balls) added an invaluable 106 runs for the eighth wicket, which ended even a miniscule chance for England to stage a recovery.



Our bench strength is extremely strong: Kohli

India's supremely talented bench strength has made skipper Virat Kohli quite confident that the team will have a relatively smoothride when the transition period dawns upon it in the next few years. With the rise of several young players like Washington Sundar,

Mohammed Siraj and the maverick Rishabh Pant, India have been on a roll both at home and abroad. "Our bench strength is extremely strong and that's a good sign

for Indian cricket. When the transition happens, the standards won't fall and Rishabh and Washy's partnership showed exactly that in a crucial juncture of the match," Kohli said at the post-match

After notching up victories in the second and third Tests respectively, India won the fourth match inside three days.

We had to pick up our body language after the first game in Chennai. Every team in International cricket is a quality side and we need to work hard to beat them, even at home. Keeping that intensity going is most important and is the hallmark of our team," Star opener Rohit Sharma scored 161 in the first innings of

the second Test and the skipper feels the knock changed the complexion of the series alongside seasoned spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's performance of 32 wickets. "Rohit's knock was the defining moment in Chennai, and Ashwin has been our most bankable player over the years so they

have been our best players this series. "Now we can accept that the World Test Championship final, which was a distraction in New Zealand in 2020, but now it's a

reality," Kohli said. Ashwin, who ended the series with 32 wickets and a century, was named *Man of the series* and the spinner was delighted to

qualify for the WTC final, adding that the win was a collective "The fact that we qualified for the WTC final is very important. The intensity was low after Chennai, despite the high in Australia. Every time there was a challenging time in the series, someone put their hand up, so this series win was right up there,"

Ashwin said. England skipper Joe Root conceded that his team was outplayed by the hosts in the series. 'The first game was a positive. We haven't matched India in

the last three, and we need to keep learning and keep getting better for this experience and this series," Root said.

Ashwin wants to leave his own legacy

To become the best version of himself while learning something new everyday is Ravichandran Ashwin's endeavour as he aims to leave his lasting legacy in the pantheon of Indian cricket greats. Ashwin has now won eight Man-of-

and is only eight wickets short of equalling Harbhajan Singh's 417 Test wickets.

It could well happen in England this summer but he doesn't want to entertain any such thoughts.

"Honestly, that's not even crossed my mind and if you want me to put my thoughts on it. He is a fantastic bowler. There's a lot that I have learnt from him. I wasn't even an off-spinner when Bhajju paa started playing for the Indian team," Ashwin's respect for another practitioner of the same craft was there for all to see.

"He (Harbhajan) was also an inspiration because of the 2001 famous series (32 wickets in 3 Tests). I never imagined in 2001 that I will be an off-spinner, and I mean who would have imagined those

"I was fortunate to play alongside Bhajju paa when I came into the team and also play under Anil bhai but I would now like to leave my own legacy," Ashwin said. Being a student of the game Ashwin

 $E_{\text{Saturday mourned the}}^{\text{ngland captain Joe Root on}}$

opportunities his team squan-

dered in the lost fourth Test,

saying they let slip the advan-

tageous position from where

they could have been on top

121 for five but ended up tak-

ing a 160-run lead in the first

innings which proved to be

match-winning.
Rishabh Pant, Washington

Sundar and Axar Patel took

the game away from England

with their fearless approach.

we had a chance to wrestle the

game in our favour, to get on

match conference.

"There have been times

India at one stage were

of the game.



son everyday.
"My growth as a cricketer is a direct

synonym to the person I am. I want to keep evolving, keep learning and that's my second nature, directly proportional to the

We failed to grab opportunities: Root

kind of cricketer I am and whatever I do the best that I can be."

"Every team in International

cricket is a quality side and

we need to work hard to

beat them, even at home.

hallmark of our team.'

Keeping that intensity going

is most important and is the

"We haven't matched India

in the last three, and we

need to keep learning and

keep getting better for this

experience and this series,

and we need to keep

evolving and move

-VIRAT KOHLI

—JOE ROOT

Ashwin's apathy for all those pitch critics is well documented and he would love to see how the global media reacts when a green top is given to India when they go for a game outside the sub-continent.

The series win is a testament to the et team. That's all I would like to say Other day, I was listening to what Sunny bhai (Sunil Gavaskar) was saying, makes sense," Ashwin said referring to Gavaskar's statement about not giving too much credence to the British pundits, whose favourite day job had been criticising the

"Only because we are giving attention to people who are making a mockery of it, we are encouraging them to do it nonstop," he said.

He then sarcastically said that he would keenly watch how foreign media cover the criticism from Indian commentators about the pitches provided when India is on tour abroad.

"I would like to a pitch covered with grass somewhere else in the world and some of our Indian commentators, taking picture and putting an Instagram post and I will like to see how the global media takes notice and then we will know who's

brave move to do and it came

off for him and got themselves

referring to the reverse sweep

which Pant played off James

Ashwin grabbed 32 wickets in

the series, while Axar snared

27 wickets to leave England

the Gujarat left-arm spinner

saying he was relentless in his

particular, has been very accu-

rate and has asked very good

questions. He has been relent-

less with his length and some

floored.

lengths.

For India, Ravichandran

Root lavished praise on

"In this series, Axar in

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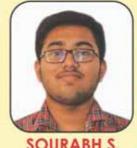
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top, just didn't manage to do it," Root said at the postpointing, it has been frustrat-"India played those ing to finish the series on a important, key moments betnote that we have but we are ter than us in these last three going to keep looking forward

as a team," said Root. games and credit for being able to do that better than we The England skipper acknowledged Indian bats-"So, it has been disapman Rishabh Pant's remark-

able ability to take the attack by the scruff of its neck. "The way he bats, he makes it difficult for bowlers to build pressure on him. Sometimes he pulls a reverse sweep to a guy, who has 600 Test wickets.

performed their roles to the "So it is quite a skill and a best of their abilities.

spun quite big and we are going to just find a way to manage it well." But not all was doom and gloom for Root, who found solace in the fact that his wicket-keeper Ben Foakes and left-arm spinner Jack Leach

STATE RANK - 3rd (JEE ADVANCED)

E-mail: davcspur@gmail.com

APPING THE SACE DWELLINGS OF SHA

Renowned writer and historian DR ALKA PANDE narrates that while the Shakti Peethas represent a single philosophical fold, they are a testament to the diverse legends of Shakti. An edited excerpt:

riginating from Sanskrit, the word 'Peetha' means 'seat, altar, shrine or dwelling'. In the case of the Shakti Peethas, it is very specific. It is the sacred space where the Supreme Goddess rakes a strong, well-founded sear on Earth. Each of the Peethas have been turned into shrines for the Goddess by the very people who believe in the absolute power of the feminine. Each site where the 51 body parts of Sati fell, came to be known as a Shakti Peetha

A teertha is a crossing. As with most Sanskrit words, there are multiple meanings of this too. Teertha is also the passing of the atman to the parmatman the crossing from the physical world to the metaphysical world. These 51 sacred sites are also linked by theologists and scholars to the 51 alphabets of the Sanskrit language. In each of the Peethas also resides Kaalbhairava, which is another name of Shiva. Most of the Shakti Peetha shrines contain a naturally appearing stone which becomes the object of worship around which the temple shrine is built.

Vindhyavasini is an additional Shakti Peetha, which I have deliberately not included in the 51 Peethas. While a powerful dwelling of Shakti, Vindhyavasini is not the abode of Shakti as Sati's body parts. It is, however, the preferred choice and home of Yogamaya, the sister of Krishna, who escaped from Kamsa's prison at Mathura.

Kalika Purana indicates that there are four Adi Shakti Peethas, which is further affirmed in the commentary and text of Brihat Samhita. It lists the names of the location at various places in India such as Vimla temple, Odisha, where her feet fell, Tara Tarini temple in Behrampur, Odisha, where her breasts fell, Kamakhya temple in Guwahati, Assam, where her *yoni* or vagina fell and lastly, the Kalighat temple in West Bengal, where her right toe fell.

THE ICONOGRAPHY OF THE DEVI

Since antiquity, Goddess worship has been part of the Indic tradition of India. In fact, the Goddess is even more popular than Shiva and Vishnu. All the manifestations, avataras or appearances of the many forms of Devi belong to the pantheon of the Shakti cult. The Supreme Goddess can be a gentle life-giver as in the case of Lakshmi, Saraswati or Parvati, or as the mistress of death in the form of Durga, Kali and Chamunda. She is a fascinating juxtaposition, both life-perpetuating and potently destructive. In her life-giving form, Shakti can be represented as beautiful, benevolent, maternal, knowledgeable, compassionate and even desirable to the best. She invigorates, cheers and brightens the entire universe. She is represented and described as an idealized woman who is imbued with beauty, virtue and righteousness, and adorned with jewels. In fact, her iconography is drawn from the pre-modern depictions of the salabanjikas, apsaras and surasundaris. In this form, Shakti embraces and enlivens all aspects of reality. As the goddess of destruction and disease, she takes on rather unattractive and repulsive forms. As Sitala Devi Manasa, or Kali, the Devi is shown as haggard, ugly, unkempt and emaciated. However, whatever the form, it is

Í have dipped into both Puranic and Shakta texts to read the many interpretations and mythologies associated with the iconography, rituals of worship, devotion and representation of the Shakti Peetha as sites of immense power and energy. Each devotee enters the site of the Peetha through their own path of worship, through their respective understanding of the Great Goddess. The wama panthis or Shakt worshippers, for whom Shakti/Devi is supreme, enter through the tantric path, which is a sectarian movement.

The 51 Peethas have their own singular iconography and their own specific modes of rituals, worship and even prasada, with some standard common offerings like flowers, sweets and vermilion.

RITUALS OF PRAYER AND DARSHAN

While the Shakti Peethas were specific to the body parts of Sati, the rituals of adoration, prayer and worship differed from region to



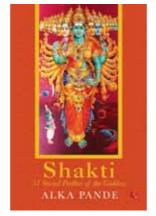
region, given the culture and history of the place. Over time, the Peethas became linked to their respective regions. The local people took ownership of them and started claiming rights over the teerthas and sites. Naturally, the local food and religious and cultural traditions started getting preference over the stated Puranic or standard Sanatan dharmashastras.

In the temples, the daily rituals of worship were similar to the presiding deity, who was normally male, i.e. Vishnu or Shiva, and the feminine was worshipped in the form of their consorts. However, in the Shakti Peethas, the presiding deity was a body part, which while having its own specific service or prayer, was enfolded in the larger narrative of the worship of Shakti in the form of Devi.

The purpose of puja (prayer) is to appease, soothe and mollify the powerful Goddess and embrace the divine energy expressed as life force. The life force itself has many variations, from auspiciousness, health, desire for children, wealth and success, gaining power over intellectual and artistic skill, even victory over enemies. The ritual of puja is heavily invested in darshan. While doing puja, the concept of making eye contact with the deity is the key. Darshan is a two-way concept where the devotee sees the divinity and in turn, the divinity sees the devotee. The concept of darshan crosses all spaces, from intimate puja corners at home in domestic spaces to large public temples including the 51 Shakti Peethas.

The very act of darshan/view is the crucial key that creates the iconic moment where the devotee and the divine are in complete sync. This is the reason why 'Shakt' worshippers make long and arduous journeys to the Shakti

SINCE ANTIQUITY, GODDESS WORSHIP HAS BEEN PART OF THE INDIC TRADITION OF INDIA. IN FACT, THE GODDESS IS EVEN MORÉ POPULAR THAN SHIVA AND VISHNU. ALL THE MANIFESTATIONS, AVATARAS OR APPEARANCES OF THE MANY FORMS OF DEVI BELONG TO THE PANTHEON OF THE SHAKTI CULT



Peethas. The idea is to take the energy of the Supreme Goddess while receiving her blessings. The religious rites have three distinct classifications: Nitya, which is daily, normally done at home; Naimittika, which are important days of the deity, and particular festivals (some special to the ishta deva at home or to the presiding deity of the temple); and finally Kamya, which are optional, but a highly

desired teertha being one of them. The ritual of prayer to Shakti is also vested in the panchbhootas, where the five jnanaindriyas, or senses, are included in the aspect of

Panchbhoota	Jnanndriya	Sense	Puja	
Akash	Space	Ear	Hear	Pushpam
Vayu	Air	Skin	Touch	Dhoopam
Agni	Fire	Eye	Vision	Lamp
Jal	Water	Tongue	Taste	Water/Ghee
Bhoomi	Earth	Nose	Smell	Chandan

Prasada is both an offering and a blessing. It is offered by the devotee when he/she begins the ritual of puja. In domestic spaces, the devotee performs the puja at an individual, intimate level, often making prasada or an offering of fruits, and a rice and milk pudding with saffron strands and sprinkled with mewa/ nuts, particularly almonds and raisins. What I have observed in the offerings by the devotees, is that for Shakti, it is a bali, or animal sacrifice, normally a lamb and sometimes even a buffalo. The very basic prasada for Shakti is meat, alcohol for Bhairava, and a sweet, normally a rice pudding Since the Shakti Peethas have been appropriated

by the devotees of the region, naturally the prasada of the Peetha also acquires a local flavour. In Eastern India, it is primarily khichdi and kheer with poori and potato curry; in South India, it is a variation of the local rice, i.e. pulihora; in Andhra Pradesh, a jaggery laddoo; and in Western India, at the Amba temple in Banaskantha, a delicious sweet made of chickpea flour, the mohanthal, is offered along with sindoor, and makhanas, or dried lotus seeds. In this way, almost every region brings in its regional flavour and speciality as part of the prasada offered at the Shakti Peethas.

Meat as prasada is served in the temple community kitchens only on special occasions when specific sacrifices are conducted. Holding water in the palm of their hands, or achaman, the devotee asks for forgiveness and blessings before beginning their prayer. In the large public temples, it is the priest who becomes the conduit of devotion and reverence. He is the intermediary who while performing the ritual acts, offers food and flowers to the presiding deity of the temple. Worship in a temple begins by circumambulating the temple and the *garbhagriha* where the deity lives.

The myth of Sati and the 5l Peethas is an important myth in the worship of the Supreme Goddess. It lays down the template for all those who believe in the Absolute Power of the Mother Goddess, crossing borders from Tantra to Mantra, from Devi Bhagwat Purana to Yogini Hridya Tantra, right down to the popular Grama Devi in a village to the Kula Devi of a Rajput clan.



THE POWER OF ATTENTION

The connection to God is not hard to make. It is just a matter of making the choice that this is what we want to do, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH



soul is sent to a life in the human body for a certain period of time. When the soul inhabits a body, the soul is still a part of God and is still one with God. The soul, however, is now overpowered by powerful forces, such as the mind, the body and the outer world, which cause the soul, over time, to forget itself. The soul slowly begins to identify itself with the body and mind and world outside. It suddenly begins to think that it can only receive information from the outer world through the senses. Thus the soul has become attuned to only one channel — the channel of the world.

If we think about our life as watching a television programme, we have multiple choices as to what to watch. Just as there are a dozen network stations and then dozens if not hundreds of cable stations from which to choose, so, too, there are many activities in this world that we can engage

Now, let us take a look at the other choices available to us. This physical planet is not a separate offshoot from

all of creation and God. Most religions believe that there are higher regions or existence to which the soul goes after it dies. Scientists and doctors have tried to verify this by documenting accounts of people who were declared clinically dead but had near-death experiences and described something beyond this world. The question is, where are these realms? They are not zones in outer space delineated by borders. All these realms exist concurrently with this one. The reason we are not aware of them is because they operate on a different frequency or vibration.

The saints and mystics tell us that we have the choice to either stay tuned to this physical world, or to tune into the channels of God. God wants us to watch God's programming. God is available twenty-four hours of the day, three hundred sixty five days of a year. God's programming does not turn off at three a.m. like some networks do. It is a free station broadcasting all the time without any cable fees. We only

The connection to God is not hard. It is just a matter of making the ONCE WE IDENTIFY WITH THE SOUL, WE WILL BE ABLE TO PICK UP FREQUENCIES THAT THE SOUL IS **CAPABLE OF** RECEIVING. WE CAN MAKE A GRADUAL SHIFT IN WHICH WE **GO FROM THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF** ONE REGION TO CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE SPIRITUAL

choice that this is what we want to do. The steps to do this are simple.

• Step one is to stop identifying with the body, mind, and world outside, and identify with the soul.

• Step two requires that when we identify with our soul that we shift our attention to the frequency or the higher realms and ultimately to God.

That is all we have to do. God did not make it hard for us to become aware of our true Home. It is we who have made it complicated.

So how do we accomplish step one and step two? To accomplish step one, we must withdraw our attention from our body, mind, and the world outside. We must decide to turn off the outer programming. When that programming is in the off mode, then in the silence we will experience ourselves as soul. That is the step that we call selfknowledge.

Once we identify with the soul, we will be able to pick up frequencies that the soul is capable of receiving. We can adual shift in which we go from the consciousness of one region to consciousness of the spiritual

anywhere physically; we are merely shifting our attention from one state of consciousness to the other. The other state of consciousness does not exist in time or space. They are operating concurrently. We are simultaneously in the other realms and in God at the same time but we are not aware of it because our attention is only

focused on one region-the physical.

So, for step one, if we meditate accurately we will experience ourselves as soul. Once we identify with the soul, then we will also be aware of the inner Light and Sound that is the radiance and vibratory sound of God within us. If we absorb ourselves in the Light and Sound within, we can then attain step two. We can shift our attention into the Light and Sound, which attracts our soul to higher levels of vibration.

It is simply a matter of choosing where we want to put our attention. This is the simplicity of spirituality. God did not make things complicatto transplant the flower of our attention from the world into God's garden.



HIDDENSOULS PRAMOD PATHAK



Best to mind your mind

The are at our wits end as no end to the pandemic appears to be in sight. Deturn to appears to be in sight. Return to normalcy appears to be a shifting goal post something like a mirage on the highways in a hot summer afternoon. The society is witnessing all kinds of negative emotions reigning over human thinking. Depression is on the rise. Aggression is on the rise. Fear and anxiety are on the rise. Human response is completely clueless. With jobs disappearing, careers jeopardised and businesses vanishing, talks of positive thinking appear hollow. Rather a gimmick of a few who have the support system to hold the fort. But can something be done about it. No not about Corona. That will take its own course and hopefully it has covered most of its journey. In the times of distress, frustration can take many forms, from most undesirable behaviours too weird responses. However, the source of all this is not Corona. Coronavirus is what it is. The problem is how we perceive corona and its consequences. It is the perceived world that is the real world and the problem lies in how we perceive Corona. So tempering the perception is the answer. But the source of this perception is the mind which is giving all kinds of warning signals and anxious moments. We can take a cue from the definition of Bhram or illusion as described in Indian philosophy. The famous rope and snake illusion. If you see a snake and believe it's a rope your response will be as if it's a rope. On the other hand if you see a rope and believe it's a snake you will behave like you do when you see a snake. To sum it up then the perception of Corona is like that. For some it is like snake so they are over anxious and for some it is a rope, not to be bothered at all. Both these positions are erroneous and the truth is somewhere in between. The solution lies in mind management. But mind management is easier said than done. It is both a science and an art. In fact it is a practice and one needs a lot of training to do it. It is important to understand the science first. We must realise that mind generates thousands of thoughts everyday, more distressful then the pleasant ones. The way out is to control that. One of the most popular idioms explain the way to control the mind very simply. An empty mind is a devils workshop. So the way out is engaging the mind constructively. That calls for the art. This has to be developed. By doing, by training. That is why practice is important. Experience of calmness or agitation depends on the mind. To train the mind there is a need to reorient the thought process. The greatest problem is in our assumption that we are entitled to a certain way of life. This is a conditioned state as we have taken many things for granted. So even the slightest disruption throws us out of gear. That way Corona has become a major disruption. Naturally we are completely off balance. The mind needs to be reassured. Our previous generations have gone through even more difficult times, and the world did not come to an end. This time also it won't. Just keep on counselling the mind to take things in

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APPING THE SACRED

A typical feature in each Shakti Peetha is the presence of a manifestation of Shiva in the form of Bhairava, Sati, whose body parts create the Shakti Peethas, is married to the primordial god, Shiva. However, the Shakti Peethas are completed with a Bhairava shrine within the complex.
In each of the 51 Shakti

Peethas, Shiva meditates as Bhairava. Each of the Bhairavas have their own unique iconography and indicators. To understand the cult of Bhairava and the different forms of Bhairavas, it is important to understand the origin, markers, manifestations, representations and expressions of the Bhairavas

The fierce form of Shiva is Bhairava, who himself has many manifestations. He is even present in Buddhist and Jaina iconographies. In Vajrayana Buddhism, he is known as the Bodhisattva Majushri, Heruka

Vajrabhairava and Yamantaka. Bhairava is also known as the wandering form of Shivathe fearful form who is the annihilator. As Mahakaal Bhairava, he is the keeper of time. As Dandapani, he holds a danda/rod to punish the sinners. And as Swaswas, he is one whose mount or vehicle is a



Kamakhya Temple

Bhairava moves into the realm of the tantric and with his consort Bhairavi. In this, he is prayed to at midnight during which time, the couple give darshan to their faithful devotees. It is believed that there are 64 Bhairavas, who are divided into eight categories, known as Astabhairavas, the guardians of the eight directions. They are Asithaanga Bhairava, Ruru

Bhairava, Chanda Bhairava,

Krodha Bhairava, Unmattha

Bhairava, Kapaala Bhairava,

Bheeshana Bhairava and Samhaara Bhairava.

The Bhairavas are ruled and controlled by the Maha Kaalbhairava, or Kaalbhairava, who as per the Shaivite tantric texts, is also the supreme ruler of the world. In the Trikha system, Bhairava as Para Brahman is also the supreme reality.

Along with Ganesha and Hanuman, the two most popular gods of the Hindu pantheon, the Mother Goddess or Maa is present in every home in the form of the domestic mother herself. I

would like to end with a shloka from Devi Upanishad where the complement of man and woman in the form of Shiv and Shakti is expressed, which is also the base of the Samkhya Philosophy:

'It is only when Shiva unites with thee, O Shakti, that he becomes the all-powerful Lord. Left to himself, he lacks even the strength to raise his little finger.'

Excerpted with permission from Shakti: 51 Sacred Peethas of the Goddess by Alka Pande, Rupa, ₹295

Thank God, we have you

We all have divine qualities that help us protect ourselves from the demons within us and outside, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

n the sixteenth chapter of the *Bhagavad Gita*, Lord Krishna states that there are two types of persons in this world. These either possess divine qualities or demonic qualities. Every person will have predominance of either of the two. (16.6) We know what divine qualities are: these are non-violence, truthfulness, not given to anger, modesty, etc. (16.2) The demonsional state of the ic qualities are: deceitful behaviour, arrogance, anger, etc. (16.4) Demons, having little intelligence, take birth to cause harm to the world. (16.9)

So, we, having divine qualities, must protect ourselves from these demonic characters. Consider what happened during the Mahabharat era. Evil forces led by Duryodhan and company came to power. Pandavas - the rightful occupants of the throne were ousted. In the same period, Kansa a demon was wrecking havoc on good people and there was no check on him. God incarnated as Lord Krishna and set the matter right. However, God does not incarnate so frequently. Then, what are we to do? In the present times, many despots have managed to take control of their nations. What should their citizens do? Good people in these countries must come together to protect themselves, and, if possible, bring change in the government as and when

there is a opportune moment.

Let me explain this philosophy of coming together. I will cite my own example. I don't like many things which happen in the country, but that does not prevent me from protecting myself from evil forces. I try to associate with mostly good people. Fortunately for me, my family consists of really good souls; I couldn't have asked for better. As far as relatives go, I am very care-



ful in choosing with whom I associate. try to maintain close relationships with only the really good ones. For others, my rule is to be strictly formal with them, i.e. what is the minimum required. Going further, I worship Shanideva", as advised by my astrologer, and I do so quite seriously. Gaining favour of gods and goddessly. Gaining favour of gods and goddesses is also important for me. I worship "Durga Ma" by chanting a particular mantra suggested by my spiritual friend. All these getting together with good people, "grahas" and gods and goddesses is very satisfactory. However, I still felt a lot of vacuum.

Over a period of many decades, I have realised that this vacuum can only be filled by God. Only He, the omnipotent, can help in certain circumstances; only He, the omniscient, can guide me in the most difficult situations; only He, the omnipresent, can be available to me at all times; and only He, the Master of the universe, can pro-

vide whatever I need, whenever I need. Additionally, I have realised that God is forever watching all of us; hearing whatever we say; and being aware of what we are thinking. And the purpose is simply to help, guide and reward in order to encourage us good people; the task of punishing is with the divine authorities. It took me quite some time to fully realise the fact that God, who is everything (7.19) has taken this duty upon Himself. This is true as realised by many. Due to this fact, I can live peacefully; I feel secure in spite of presence of many negative forces. I am so gratified that I spend fifteen minutes daily prior to going to sleep thanking the Lord for various things. The underlying emotion is: God, we have you. Without your presence I or anyone cannot gain peace, bliss or sense of security. Thank God that you are very much with us.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

Syrian quagmire: How long and for what?

L ed as a non-violent uprising in the middle of March 2011. Today it is a full-fledged war which involves several nations and world's prominent jehadi outfits such as Islamic State (ISIS), al-Qaeda and splinter groups of these two mainstream groups. However, the Baathist Syrian Arab Republic headed by President Bashar al-Assad has survived a decade in power despite military challenges from all corners of the country.

Estimates emerging from various human rights agencies and independent media reports say that by end of December last year, the death toll in the war was between 3,87,000 and 5,93,000. The UN reports that more than 5.6 million have already fled the country and over 6 million have been internally displaced so far.

Although many complex events pushed the Syrians into this war, one that stands out is the historic Arab Spring, started in the early months of 2011. This 21st century movement mainly inspired by digital platforms across North Africa through the West Asia finally triggered the uprising in Syria. But then quickly, the Arab Spring had turned into mass gathering in the form of nonviolent protests against the authoritarian and family-ruled regimes in all these countries.

In Syria, in the month of March, 15 schoolchildren were arrested and tortured for writing graffiti which was rightly inspired by the Arab Spring. One of the boys was killed as well. The arrest of these schoolchildren sparked outrage across Syria. Soon after, people came out on the road and demanded the release of all the children and raised slogans for basic freedoms for all in the country. The Assad regime responded by killing many protesters and this led to the demand for his resignation by the demonstrators. Subsequently, the clashes broke out between the masses and the supporters of the Government. This gradually spiralled into the full-blown war, what the whole world is witnessing today, involving terror groups of various nations of the world. But at its heart, the conflict highlights the tragic Shia-Sunni divide among the Muslims in the entire region.



this West Asian nation. The United Nations should take the lead and restart the Geneva process. So far, the UN strategies have broadly failed for Syria. If it moves in the same direction, can it be so that the organisation is complicit in the crimes committed by the Assad regime?

Now, what America is doing to bring peace to Syria is that it is back again. The latest American strike in Syria has signalled President Joe Biden's new war game in West Asia.

The so-called messenger of peace and reunion of America badly divided by former President Donald Trump, Biden is now targeting Iranbacked militias in Syria. His administration is justifying the attack as the missile sallies are directed towards rebels that are propping up the Assad regime. The US Air Forces dropped The failure of the UN-led 500-hundred-pound joint

again brought war clouds over killing 17. The particular groups hit by the limited US strike are Kataib Hezbollah and Kataib Syyaid al-Shuhada. Meanwhile, Deniss Ross, a former Senior US official and West Asian expert, says the attack was designed to show that there would be a military response if US forces were targeted, or the militias continued to strike. The Assad administration was quick to remind Biden that the American attacks were a cowardly act and urged Biden not to follow the law of the jungle.

The country's Foreign Ministry condemned the attack on areas in Deir al-Zor, near the Syrian-Iraqi border. The statement released by the Ministry highlighted that Biden Administration is supposed to stick to international legitimacy, not to the law of the jungle as did by the previous administration.

strike on Iran in 2019, Biden sharply reacted and tried to offer a sermon to him: "Trump's erratic, impulsive actions are the last things we need as Commander-in-Chief. No President should order a military strike without fully understanding the consequences. We do not need another war in the Middle East, but Trump's actions toward Iran only make that

And what Biden is doing now? He knows very well how an American President responds to the crisis zones in the "Middle East". Precisely, nothing has changed in Washington, except the man giving orders. What Obama did, Trump followed and now Biden is taking it forward. America clearly has no strategy for the West Asia and North African (WANA) region. Its policy towards the region is It's really ironic that Biden outdated and dangerous. It's

with Tehran, Damascus and Baghdad. So obviously, finding out a solution for the Syrian war demands a new approach with a purely humanitarian concern.

Only with the collective efforts of the US, Russia, Iran and Turkey, peace can be brought to war-torn Syria. Biden's engagement with Putin, Erdogan, Rouhani and Kadhimi (Iraq) would matter the most in bringing a permanent solution to the chaos in Syria. That is why the stability in West Asia demands more than a deal with Iran from Washington. The experts and policy practitioners opine that regional issues in this part of Asia could no way be comprehensively addressed.

They all agree that Iran would no way concede its sustained support for regional proxies and halt its ballistic missile programme in the near future. It is widely felt that isoefforts to bring the warring direct attack munitions at a and Harris, the duo is repeat- meddling carelessly with Iraq, lating Iran was purely counparties to the negotiation table crossing used by Iranian last month in Geneva has once backed groups reportedly did. When Trump ordered a no coherent policy to deal representation to the negotiation table crossing used by Iranian lang what once Trump simply large and Syria. Washington has terproductive. So to address, no coherent policy to deal Tehran's troublesome behaviors.

iour in the region, it is better to handle each regional conflict through separate and parallel platforms at the same time.

Why is Moscow equally concerned about the chaos in Syria? It is not only to save the embattled Assad regime, an old ally of Russia, but also to stave off the growth of the Islamic terror in Russia. Hence, the Syrian conflict is not just a faraway battle for Putin regime. The life-time monarch is longing for stability at any cost. He knows fully well that the jehadists may get enough ground for their subversive models in his vast country. Of course, this might alter Putin's long-term strategies to keep the opposition and western pressure at bay. His regime is not best equipped to counter the ISIS, the way it is raging its ugly head in the WANA region. Russia's relationship with Syria dates back to 1950s and the Cold War. In those days, the USSR used to train the top

brass of the Syrian military. What lies ahead in Syria? international affairs)

By 2020, the Syrian civilians faced another year confronting life-threatening challenges. It is all about their survival as all of them are fighting for basic amenities such as food and medicines. However, the last year saw

the discernible decrease in violent conflicts across the country. But this does not mean that warring groups are retreating. No single rebel group is considering withdrawing from the war zones. The reason behind is that all these groups are backed by strong allies and they want to pursue the war till the fall of the Assad Government. The Human Rights Watch

notes, "With the unprecedented depreciation of national currency, the imposition of further international sanctions and crises in neighboring countries, the Syrian economy went into freefall for much of 2020. For ordinary Syrians, this translated into an inability to procure food, essential drugs, and other basic necessities. As a result, more than 9.3 million Syrians have become food insecure and over 80 per cent of Syrians live below the poverty line."

This correctly reflects the situation on the ground and insurmountable challenges faced by the millions who are caught between warring zones.

Only way to solve the imbroglio in Śyria is to establish a UN-backed transitional regime and pressurise Assad to step down. A presidential election is meant to be taking place in Syria this summer. It would be a total disregard to millions of those who are suffering and a sham on global governance platforms such as the UN. The world body is not talking anything about this. And it is abandoning the Geneva peace process.

In fact, the Syria Constitutional Committee that demands a political process would be useless if the UN does not stop the upcoming presidential poll for Assad. This election would offer full immunity and legitimacy to the torturous and autocratic regime in Damascus. It's time to act. Ensure that no more civilians die. There is no need to secure peace when hardly anyone will be there to share the joy of the same. Washington should not employ the old tactics to han-

(The writer is an expert on

The failure of the **UN-led efforts to** bring the warring parties to the negotiation table last month in Geneva has once again brought war clouds over Syria. Only with the collective efforts of the US, Russia, Iran and Turkey, peace can be brought to war-torn Syria. Also it demands a new approach with a purely humanitarian concern



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

India's collective responsibility to eradicate TB

While the prioritisation of TB at the national level has been commendable, States must sustain this momentum by effectively implementing the policies and ensuring optimum fund allocation and utilisation. It is only with the collective approach we will be able to rid the country of this deadly disease



DIGAMBAR BEHERA

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the value of awareness on infectious diseases. Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease that needs our attention as much as the SARS-CoV2 because it affects over 26.4 lakh Indians each year. An estimated 4.45 lakh Indians lose the battle to this ancient disease that is both preventable and curable.

It has therefore been extremely encouraging to see the heightened commitment towards TB elimination from the highest levels of Government leadership. Since the announcement by the Prime Minister to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the UN Sustainable Development Goal target, at the End TB Summit in New Delhi in 2018, comprehensive plans have been developed to achieve this goal.

The launch of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for TB Elimination introduced pivotal interventions, including a four-fold increase in funding, launch of private sector engagement to improve access to care as well as initiation of social support schemes to support patients in completing their treatment. However, there is still more to be done.

While the prioritisation of TB at the national level has been commendable, States must sustain this momentum by effectively implementing



the policies and NSP interventions and ensuring optimum fund allocation and utilisa-

The funding of the NTEP is divided on a 60:40 ratio, where 60 per cent of the total funding is provided by the Central Government, and State Governments are expected to fund the remaining 40 per cent. However, in addition to fund allocation, fund utilisation and efficient implementation of the programme at the State level remains a challenge.

The Central TB Division has developed a State TB Index that highlights the performance of States based on targets achieved, funds utilised, among others towards achieving the goal of TB elimination. While some States have made significant progress towards these goals, with Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala (among the large States) performing well on all indicators, including fund utilisation, many large States such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and West Bengal still reflect poor fund

utilisation and thus have challenges in the implementation of the programme. Another critical challenge at the State level remains the paucity of human resources — with vacancies in critical positions required to be

The other challenge that the programme faces is the lack of awareness about the disease

that negatively impacts health seeking behaviour. In the past year, the pandemic has brought about a positive change in people and their appetite for information on health, thereby giving us an opportunity on this positive behaviour to generate awareness about TB.

The launch of the TB Harega Desh Jeetega campaign in 2014, with the country's biggest movie star Amitabh Bachchan as the face of the campaign, was a game changer at the national level. However, there is a need to amplify the campaign at all levels, including States, districts, blocks and villages, to improve access to information and gen-

erate the demand for TB care.
Along with improving communications for awareness generation, it is also critical for the programme to directly engage with the community at all levels. Not only do community champions aid in generating awareness to destigmatise the disease, but their voices also serve as an important feedback mechanism for the programme.

Under the NSP, the National TB Elimination Programme established TB forums at the State and district levels to bring to the fore community voices, patient perspectives and understand ground-level challenges faced by patients in accessing care.

provide the programme with independent monitors who can help in highlighting localised gaps that need to be addressed. At the district levels, elected representatives can also serve as independent monitors of the programme providing oversight and aid in addressing localised challenges to ensure effective implemen-The call for a Jan Andolan by Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan is timely and

aims to engage 1.3 billion peo-

ple of this country to take

ownership of the programme

and ensure we achieve the tar-

get of a TB free India. It is cru-

cial for the programme to take

cue from this call to action and

reflect the targets and initiatives

through direct and relatable

messaging which will generate

awareness among the people on

where to seek treatments, what

incentives they are entitled to,

and thereby improve health

seeking behaviours. It is only

with the collective approach we

Continued and effective func-

tioning of these forums will

will be able to rid the country of this deadly disease. (The author is chairman, National Taskforce, National TB Elimination Programme, and Professor and former HoD, Department of Pulmonary PGIMEŔ, Medicine, Chandigarh)























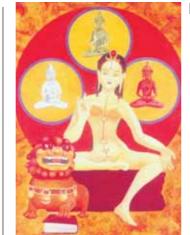




ARIES March 21-April 19

You are filled with energy this week. Health remains good and you take charge of your near and dear ones. Your theory of 'Prevention is better than cure will work well and you bear the fruits of your determination. On the work front, your creativity is reflected in your work. You will finish pending tasks. You are a workaholic and attain the favour of your seniors. You may leave your colleagues and rivals surprised and overwhelmed. In the matters of heart, you will be lucky, as this week your search for the right partner will come to an end. There will be true bonding between you and your partner. The support for each other will be strengthening and increase vour work efficiency.

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Saturday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week is a great time for rest. Take a break from difficult times such as health worries and stress. Develop your mental strength. Meditate and do some spiritual thinking. This is a time to count your blessings and take things easy. Professionally, your life is full of hope and good things. Things are going extremely well. If you are currently not happy, then, new opportunities will come knocking at your door. A deeper understanding of yourself and others with mental stability will help you ease out any difficulty at the workplace. On the personal front, you may not be in a very comfortable position in your relationship at this point. It may be that either you or your beloved is having a tough time. You need to give your support.

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week is not too good in terms of health. Anxiety, stress and worry will affect your life. Health challenges are likely to come your way. Make sure to treat yourself well. A balanced diet, exercise and fluid intake will help you. Meditation and yoga would help. Work-wise, things are going well and you are happy with your work. You may be bonding with colleagues at work and enjoying social get together with them. The work environment is also constructive. Money inflow is good. On the personal front, if you are in a committed relationship, then the bonds with your lover are stronger than before. You are tolerant of others, easily forgiving their imperfections. In doing so, you create a safe and trusting environment.

Lucky number 6 Lucky colour Purple Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

On the health front, you may encounter some health challenges. Don't try to avoid them, rather deal with them. Managing your stress level is important to stay in good health. Get enough rest and heal both physically and emotionally. On the career front, a good time is on the cards. You will experience happiness and satisfaction at work. Your near and dear ones will be happy to see your progress. Promotion, success in a project will be yours. Those awaiting interview results will get good news and will get their desired job. On the personal front, you may have to face some issues in love relationships. At such a time, don't get tensed and give yourself and your partner some space to deal with the problem.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Beige Lucky day Sunday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week your health will be good. If you are having physical problems then pay attention to diet, exercise and take some rest. You may feel disconnected or demotivated in general and try to cut yourself out from the world. This may not be the right thing to do. On the career front, things are likely to go well. If you are facing some challenges then follow a compassionate approach towards work. You may experience a sense of calm and emotional connectedness with others. Trust your intuition to bring balance. In the matter of heart, this is a make or break period. Evaluate everything and be true to yourself and your needs. Be very clear about what you want from life and your relationships and take steps to make it happen.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Peach **Lucky day** Tuesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week there will be an abundance of opportunities to entertain yourself and spend quality time. This will be reflected in your health. The charm and attraction in your persona will be magnetic and others will feel positive vibes in your company. Family plays a major role in your success, whether it is personal or professional. On the career front, something good is likely to happen. The dilemma you had been facing last few days will get over now and you can look forward to a bright future. Your colleague or friend is quite supportive of you. If you are in the line of promotion it may come to you soon. On the personal front, love and romance are in the air. Those seeking love will meet the partner of their liking this week.

Lucky number 15 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Thursday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week you may work yourself into exhaustion. Stress may take a serious toll on your body. There are things you need to do to rebuild yourself. Calm down and take adequate rest. You need to priorities your activities so that you can balance your work and health. On the career front, you may have a difficult time. Your feelings or ego might get bruised by something that happens to your work. You need to follow a different approach now and should take some assistance in this regard. Those looking for employment should probably look in a different way or a different field. On the relationship front, you need to be open to the other person for a relationship to work. Don't avoid any issues in your relations and because it will only make things worse

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Monday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you may be down with health problems or some illness but don't lose heart. You need to take a spiritual leap and heal yourself with meditation and positive thinking. Undoubtedly, this will do wonders for you. Take care of yourself and allow yourself to get in touch with your inner strength to heal faster. Work-wise, stay positive. You will have to make this your ally in difficult times. You may worry and be full of anxiety about something concerning your work. Understand that this is not going to help, rather leave your anxiety and focus on what you can control. On the relationship front, be resilient in your relationship with others. There will be challenges but if you give space to yourself and your partner, any differences can be resolved.

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will enjoy the warmth of relations and a healthy lifestyle. Things are at their right place making you tension free. Heart and BP patients will recover well with proper medical attention and their will power. Career-wise, the week promises monetary gains. Those in business could earn good money. The income may come from more than one source. Business expansion plans are successfully started. You may meet an influential person who could prove highly beneficial in terms of your career. On the personal front, you are a positive and caring person. You work for the benefit of others, and this will work very well in terms of your relations too. Love demands your attention which probably you won't be able to pay much.

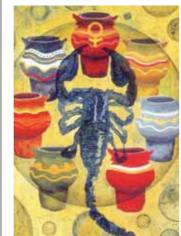
Lucky number 19 Lucky colour White **Lucky day** Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Moderation and balance is the key to good health. Ensure that you are eating well, sleeping well and exercising the right amount. Look where you are out of balance and try to remedy it. Work-wise, this week you will be enthusiastic about your job. Your confidence levels will be high and you are ready to take on new projects. However, you also tend to be impulsive. Don't rush into things and take into account what consequences of your actions can be in the future. On the personal front, you will rejoice in friendship and harmonious relationships. You are open to helping others which in turn means others are helping you. Some of you will be celebrating some special occasions with your loved ones.

Lucky number 18 Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Your energy and vitality will be high this week. Though this is a positive sign and you'll be quite active, make sure to take out time for adequate rest as well. You can take care of yourself. With a positive mindset, you will be able to conquer any health challenges. At your workplace, you may find yourself engaging in conflict or disagreeing with others. This might be due to your behaviour. Trying to accomplish your personal goals with disregard to their consequences on others, you might think to be a winner but still, end up being a loser. On the personal front, maybe you or your partner is working very hard in your jobs but this might be interfering with your relationship. The workload is not letting you take out time for each other.

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Thursday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week is not so lucky in terms of health. You may be hit by some seasonal ailments. Drink plenty of water and consume green salads. You are advised to avoid tea, coffee, or any kind of addiction this week. Avoid black colour too and wear more yellow and pastel colours in your dresses. On the work front, your wish could be accomplished this week. Those who are searching for a job will get a call from the company they have been aspiring for. Your family and friends support will boost your morale high. In the matters of love, you need to be a little soft and considerate in relations else you may end up spoiling them. Avoid any conflicts and confrontations which are likely to occur

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Magenta **Lucky day** Friday

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Calm mind for dhyana

ttaining the state of yoga is something like a river stream merging with the ocean, when the river water loses its own identity and becomes one with the sea. Having thus, struck upon the core of existence, mind realises its wholesome power, when it has nothing more to explore. Similarly, during yoga, the unitary mind gets dropped, and so too the sense of individualistic existence, leaving no scope for any differentiation. So, one is at peace.

You may ask: If mind is devoid of any thought, what purpose would it serve? For, thoughts drive all actions on our part. Let me make it clear here that attaining samadhi is not the end game. It is a self-empowerment process, which brings into play full human potential, when one would know no limits. Also, mind regains its sense of orderliness, when all its functional constituents begin to spontaneously operate in coordinated manner. Mind then becomes free from any preconditioning, when full mindspace becomes available. The scope of vision thus expands to its optimum best. Intelligence gets sharpened. Armed as such, mind explores the targeted subject with an open mind, and so is able to perceive things in the right perspective, and accordingly make right moves. In fact, you then look at things from the highest centre of consciousness, whereupon nothing remains hidden from you. Intuitively, you may get to root of whatever is looked at. The process does not end with

samadhi. Patanjali must have realised the danger of those having attained samadhi developing the tendency to get mentally disinterested from the usual course of life and get stuck to an abstract imaginary world. But that is not the purpose of samadhi. We are not only supposed to just improve our own lot, but also lead others towards that end. And that will not be possible if the seeker gets mentally cut off from the living world. Accordingly, Patanjali suggested a backward integration process, which he has termed as the process of samanvaya. It involves backward integration of samadhi, dhyana, and dharana. Having established in the process, when due attention is given to an issue and reflected upon, one may intuitively get to the root of the subject in hand. Following which, one may be able to spontaneously pick up the right lead. This is what in Kashmir Saivism is



termed as being in Sahaja Samadhi.

Having thus discussed the concept of Yoga, it is time now to get down to its application. There are hundred and odd methods of meditation in circulation, followed by various cultures all across. There is no fun in comparing and being judgmental about which one of them is superior to other. For, as already experienced by Swami Ram Krishna Paramhansa, you may follow different paths, but at the end of the day, the same sense of love overtakes you. A fresher would, however, be keen to know what particular mode of *dhyana* to follow. Experientially speaking, a three-course process is suggested — Calming down the Mind, Mind Detoxification and Contextual Meditation — that run in

conformity with the above laid principles. Calming the Mind: A fresher, before taking up the *Dhyana* process, needs to first create a favourable inner mental climate. The method calls for trying to relatively calm down the restive mind, flirting with unwieldly thought crowd playing within in immediate terms, mostly inconsequential and negative. Otherwise, the state of mind would not be conducive to pursue dhyana process in right earnest.

The method is simple, true to the callings of *Pratyahara*. You need to lie down on your back in a relaxed posture with no pillow support, preferably on a hard bed, in order that spinal-cord remains straight. Close your eyes. All your sensory instruments will naturally get disengaged from the outer world and thereby waking state consciousness. The subconscious mind immediately comes into full play, bringing into focus random thoughts picked up in immediate past that would be playing at the surface level. Persistent desires and feelings too may keep knocking your inner space. Evidently then, you will be flooded with thoughts, unnerving you from within. Allow the thoughts to naturally flow in and flow out. Continue the process for at least 20 minutes. Don't pay any attention to the thoughts visiting you again and again. Just train your mind to remain disengaged from them as a silent witness. Remember, only when you pay attention that you get affected. The irony, however, is that it is not easy to remain unaffected.

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