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## BJP pits Suvendu against Didi

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



Mamata Banerjee.

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

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.

"She is a rank outsider here and I am the Bhumi Putra (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 reply."

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 phases on Friday.

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



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

PTI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the West Bengal Apolls, former Railway Minister and Trinamool Congress Member of 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 about it.

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 Covid  
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 Municipal Corporation hospital at Vashi, Navi Mumbai on Saturday

PTI

## 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 Study.

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

**Modi addresses  
Combined  
Commanders'  
meet in Guj**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits an exhibition of innovations by our armed forces during Combined Commanders' Conference at Kevadia, in Narmada district

PTI

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 coronavirus 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

also in the doctrines, procedures and customs practised in the armed forces, a statement 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 Junior Commissioned Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers this year.

Incidentally, this was the

first time that personnel below officer rank were part of the high-level meeting held annually. The jawans shared their views on operational matters with the top military leadership besides the Prime Minister.

Emphasising the need for planning 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 making."

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Farmers protesting the Centre's three farm laws on 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 Sonapat and Jhajjar districts and some other places brought their tractor-trolleys and other vehicles and parked them in the middle of the KMP Expressway in some stretches. 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.

Protesting farmers squatted on the expressway and criticised the Narendra Modi government for not withdrawing the farm legislations, which they called as "black laws".



Farmers during Kisan Ekta Morcha protest at KMP Expressway near Kundli in Haryana on Saturday

PTI

"Our agitation against the three farm laws will continue unless the Centre withdraws these laws. We will not step back," said a protester in Sonapat. Farmers held protest at the KMP Expressway near

Mandothi village in Jhajjar district. Some people from nearby villages joined them.

"We are holding our protest in a peaceful manner," said a farmer, adding that they were also observing "black

day" on Saturday.

Protesting farmers said the government should withdraw these laws. Farmer leader Balbir Singh Rajewal, while addressing a gathering on the KMP Expressway, asked the

Modi Government to withdraw these laws.

This agitation will certainly put pressure on the Central Government, he said. Farmers claimed that their five-hour protest remained peaceful.

Sonapat Superintendent of Police Jashandeep Singh Randhawa said arrangements were made for traffic diversions. Heavy vehicles were diverted from Panipat and others from Ganaur to Delhi, said officials. Traffic was also diverted from Murthal via Sonapat city to Narela and Bawana and from Bahadurgarh to Baghpat, they said.

Officials said traffic resumed at KMP expressway after farmers lifted their blockade at 4 pm. In Palwal district also, farmers staged a 'dharna'. At some places in Haryana, farmers even put up black flags atop roof of their houses as a mark of their protest against the government for not withdrawing the farm laws.

The 136-km Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway is also known as the Western Peripheral Expressway. The 53-km Manesar-Palwal section was inaugurated by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in 2016 and 83-km Kundli-Manesar section was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018.

**Kejriwal announces  
Delhi Board of Education  
for holistic learning**

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced the setting up of the Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE). It was approved in a meeting held by the Delhi Cabinet on Saturday.

Kejriwal said the DBSE will conduct assessments throughout the year to develop holistic learning outcomes instead of the once-a-year assessment that focuses on rote learning. "The DBSE will empower students to stand on their own feet and prepare students to take responsibility for their country beyond all religion, caste, and class differences. Around 20-25 schools will become a part of the Delhi Education Board in the 2021-22 academic session, after which the other schools will be looped in eventually in the next 4-5 years," he added. **PNS**

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the run-up to Assembly Elections in four States and a Union Territory, the Election Commission (EC) has asked 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 Banerjee'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 body had first 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 scheme. 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 force.

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.

The clause 7 of the ECI Model Code of Conduct says that the "issue of advertisement at the cost of public exchequer... regarding achievements with a view to furthering the prospects of the party in power shall be scrupulously avoided".

## Spinners demolish England

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin once again made a mockery of an eternally confused English batting line-up as India cantered 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 Patel (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.

**Related reports on P8**



Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli holds the trophy after defeating England during the third day's play of the 4th and last test match of the series between India and England, at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Saturday

PTI



HOME THEATRE

Big disappointment



**COMING TO AMERICA 2**  
**Amazon**  
**\*ing: Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall, Jermaine Fowler, Wesley Snipes, James Earl Jones**  
**Rated: 3/10**

It 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 even remotely romantic in

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

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 oblivate his better work — *Blade* series comes to mind.

Directed by Craig Brewer 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 bore.

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

— Shalini Saksena

Riveting true story told well

**MURDER AMONG THE MORMONS**

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

Off late Netflix has been releasing true-crime 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 suspects.

*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

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 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 forging 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.

— Shalini Saksena



Plan Your Day

**Treat for all women**

**Venue:** All MOD Outlets

**When:** March 8, 2021

**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 better!

Mad Over Donuts is celebrating 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.



**Celebrate womanhood**

**Venue:** Horizon Plaza- Artisanal Market, Sec-43, Golf Course road, DLF Phase-5

**When:** March 7, 2021

**Time:** 3:30 PM-8:30 pm

This 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 PC.

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

Shop and mingle 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 your day.



TELLY TALE

**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 two-year 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 *cherni* and is set to bring much chaos in his life. 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 Aaye*.

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 saying 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 Aaye*. I don't feel like raising my voice at 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, Sajid 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 well-known 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 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.

**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 Dhamecha) 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 other.

In the current track of the show, Shiva 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 Sarraaarni* (played by Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia), who help her with some useful advice and motivates her. Meher gives her the much-needed courage to do the right thing.

Commenting on the Mahasangam episode, Dhamecha said, “As a viewer, I have enjoyed watching *Choti Sarraaarni* 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 too.”

**SPOTIFY PRESENTS SUPERHEROES**

When it comes to Indian epics such as 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 excite, captivate and inspire generations of readers. However, these mythological tales record thousands of heroes and heroines, with many either overlooked or whose feats simply remain unheard. Spotify's newest podcast *Superheroes of Indian Mythology* spotlights the gamut of these larger-than-life characters — both big and small.

What popular culture refers to as “supporting roles”, often turn out to have the most interesting stories to tell. Let's look at unique names who played a pivotal role in history.

Bheeshma, revered as the eighth son of Goddess Ganga, was a learned scholar and one of the greatest examples of an honorable, loyal, duty-bound commander.

Karna, famously referred to as Suryaputra or Sun's son, is one of the 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?**

I was on look out for a show 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 reason?**

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

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 people who died years ago

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# No new taxes in Himachal Budget presented by CM Jai Ram Thakur

**PNS ■ SHIMLA**

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday presented his fourth budget for 2021-22, proposing no new tax which pegged total expenditure at ₹50,192 crore for 2021-22 against ₹49,131 crore in the last fiscal despite the Covid-19 crisis.

The Chief Minister announced a budgetary allocation of ₹8,024 crore for education and ₹3,016 crore for health services during 2021-22. After presenting the Budget for three hours in the House, Thakur said the State has a debt burden of ₹60,500 crore. The debt burden has increased by ₹4,763 crore from ₹55,737 crore in the last financial year.

Earlier Thakur announced in the assembly that MLAs will get their full salary from April 1. Thakur, who also holds the finance portfolio, said the MLA local area development (MLALAD) fund will not only be restored, but it will be hiked by ₹5 lakh — from ₹1.75 crore to ₹1.80 crore. The State Government had last year decided to cut 30 per cent salary of MLAs and suspend the MLALAD fund for two years to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

While presenting the budget, the Chief Minister said total revenue receipts are estimated at ₹37,028 crore during 2021-22, whereas total revenue expenditure is estimated to be ₹38,491 crore, leading to a revenue deficit of ₹1,463 crore. Fiscal deficit is estimated at ₹7,789 crore which

is 4.52 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product, he added.

“I believe that necessary resources will be mobilised through effective tax administration, funding from international funding agencies, continued support from the Government of India and prudence in fiscal management,” Thakur said. Out of every hundred rupees to be spent by the Government in 2021-22, ₹25.31 will be spent on salaries, ₹14.11 on pension, ₹10 on interest payment, ₹6.64 on loan repayment and ₹43.94 will be spent on development works and other activities, he added.

Covid-19 has impacted revenue receipts adversely during 2020-21, he said adding that its impact on the state's own revenue cannot be ruled out during 2021-22.

## 12 NEW SCHEMES ANNOUNCED

The Chief Minister announced 12 new schemes with focus on women welfare and empowerment, expansion of social security net, strengthening and expansion of health services, increasing income of farmers, swarn jayanti aashray yojana, employment creation, infrastructure and industrial development and quality education.

Announcing social security pension of ₹1,000 per month to elderly women in the age group of 65-69 years under “Swarn Jayanti Nari Sambal Yojana” besides other existing pension schemes for the woman, Thakur said that that



additional amount of ₹55 crore would be spent for that. Further declaring the new scheme “Shagun”, Thakur said that a grant of ₹31,000 would be given to the daughters of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes from BPL families at the time of marriage. Besides, two girls of BPL families will now be given Post-Birth grants of ₹21,000 as fixed deposit, he added. Thakur further stated that 40,000 new beneficiaries would be brought under Social Security Pension Schemes.

## EXPANDING HEALTH FACILITIES

Announcing about expanding health facilities, the chief minister said PET scan in IGMC, CT scan and MRI machines in RPMC Tanda and CT scan machines in medical colleges in Hamirpur and Nahan would be installed at a cost of ₹70 crore.

Besides, a super speciality hospital in Chamyana, New OPD Block and Trauma Centre in IGMC will be dedicated to the people, he added. All persons above the age of 70 years

and orphans living in Bal Ashrams will be covered free of cost under HIMCARE, he added.

The Chief Minister said that Mission “Drishti” would be started for free eye check up and providing of free spectacles to the students of class 6 to 10 in Government schools. An amount of ₹250 crore will be spent for providing health related services under Ayushman Bharat, HIMCARE, Mukhya Mantri Chikitsa Sahayta Kosh, free medicines, Sahara, Sammaan, he added.

For making available the high density fruit plants at reasonable prices, the “Swarn Jayanti Smridh Bagwan Yojana” will be started, he added. An expert group will be set up to restructure various schemes and enhance income of the farmers, he added. Under “Swarn Jayanti Ashraya Yojana”, 12,000 beneficiaries will be provided with houses equipped with all basic facilities, he said.

## EMPLOYMENT CREATION

Regarding employment creation, Thakur said that an amount of ₹100 crore will be spent on expansion of the scope of “Mukhya Mantri Swavlamban Yojna.”

The Chief Minister said that 7,000 unemployed youth will be provided employment in the private sector through Rozgar Melas and campus interviews. Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board will extend increased assistance to more workers, he said adding that the government has kept a target of filling up 30,000 functional posts in 2021-22: 4,000 posts in different categories in Health Department, 4,000 posts of different category teachers in Education Department; 8,000 posts of Multi task Part Time Workers in Education Department; 5,000 posts of Multi Task Part Time Workers in PWD and 4,000 posts of Para Fitter and Pump Operator & Multi Task Part Time Workers in Jal Shakti Department.

Handicraft and traditional products sale centres will be developed near Atal Tunnel (on both sides) for convenience of the tourists, he added. Budget of ₹1,016 crore has been earmarked for construction of

Mandi Airport and expansion of Shimla, Kullu and Dharamshala Airports, he added. The Planning Department of the state would be renamed as Niti Vibhag, the Chief Minister said.

## Himachal Cong says State Budget is directionless

**PNS ■ SHIMLA**

Himachal Pradesh Congress on Saturday termed the State Budget presented by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur as “directionless”, saying the Government has failed to give relief to the people from rising inflation.

Leader of Opposition Mukesh Agnihotri said the budget presented in the HP Assembly was a “half-baked document” in which false promises had been made to the people of the state. “The state government presented a deficit budget in the assembly in which there is no mention of the total debt on the state and gap funding,” he added.

Agnihotri said though the chief minister claimed to have presented a tax-free budget, there were chances that the government will impose taxes during the year to meet revenue deficit gap. The document was also silent on loans or funding for the schemes that were announced in the budget, he said. The Leader of Opposition accused the BJP Government of not providing

any relief to the people from rising inflation and said the government should have lowered VAT on petrol and diesel to ease the burden of price-rise.

Besides, the Government should have provided subsidy on LPG gas cylinders as the people were bearing the brunt of rising prices, he said. Agnihotri further stated that the State Government had only refurbished the central government schemes in the budget and was giving false hopes to the people.

The Leader of Opposition added the Congress will demand a white paper from the State Government on fiscal health of the state as the government had indulged in financial mismanagement in its three-year tenure. Lone Communist Party of India (Marxist) MLA Rakesh Singha also termed the budget “fictional” and said the chief minister has made big announcements without any provision of funds. Singha said there was complete mismatch between the Economic Survey and Budget presented by the BJP Government.

## INBRIEF

### 122 NEW COVID-19 CASES IN CHANDIGARH

**Chandigarh:** The UT of Chandigarh on Saturday reported a surge in the Covid-19 cases with 122 more people getting infected which took the infection tally to 22,238, according to a medical bulletin. No Covid-19-related death was reported on Saturday. The toll stands at 355, as per the bulletin. The number of active cases in Chandigarh is 675 on Saturday. A total of 34 patients were discharged after they recovered from the infection, taking the number of cured persons to 21,208, as per the bulletin. A total of 2,65,479 samples have been taken for testing so far and of them, 2,42,276 tested negative while reports of 138 samples are awaited, it said.

### PUNJAB VIGILANCE NABS ASI FOR TAKING BRIBE ₹5,000

**Chandigarh:** Punjab Vigilance Bureau on Saturday nabbed an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Manmohan Krishan posted at City Police Station, Division No. 6, Jalandhar red handed while accepting a bribe of ₹5,000. An official spokesperson of the State Vigilance Bureau said accused ASI was arrested on the complaint of Robin Verma of Gurdaspur. The complainant has approached the VB on toll free number and alleged that the accused police official was demanding bribe ₹5,000 to release his car on ‘supardari’ confiscated in a case. After verifying his information, the vigilance team from Jalandhar laid a trap and the accused ASI was caught on the spot while taking a bribe of ₹5,000 from the complainant in the presence of two official witnesses. He informed that a case under section of prevention of corruption act has been registered against him at VB police station, Jalandhar and further investigation is under progress.

### BLOOD DONATION CAMP ORGANISED AT PGIMER

**Chandigarh:** Thalassaemic Charitable Trust PGI-GMCH, Chandigarh organised its 210th Blood Donation Camp on Saturday in PGIMER, Chandigarh. 61 units of blood were collected from voluntary blood donors for Thalassaemics and other serious patients. This Trust has so far organised 26 Blood Donation Camps since 6th June 2020 and has mobilized more than 2380 units of blood from voluntary donors during COVID19 period. Thalassaemic Charitable Trust is serving thalassaemics since 1985. Presently about 450 Thalassaemics are availing blood transfusion facilities in our two Day Care Centres in PGIMER & GMCH Chandigarh. Free medicines are also provided to poor patients by the Trust.

### SJE MINISTER HAILS HIMACHAL BUDGET 2021-22

**Shimla:** Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Sarveen Chaudhary has hailed the budget 2021-22 presented by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur in HP Vidhan Sabha on Saturday. Appreciating the provision of additional amount of ₹60 crore on social security pension schemes, the Minister said it would boost the morale of beneficiaries of social security pension schemes. She said that 40,000 new beneficiaries would be brought under the ambit of the scheme and about 6.60 lakh beneficiaries would get covered, with an expenditure of ₹1,050 crore. Chaudhary also expressed happiness on proposal of new scheme Shagun, under which a grant of ₹31,000 would be provided at the time of marriage of daughters of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes from BPL families. The Minister said a provision of social security pension of ₹1,000 per month to elderly women in the age group of 65 to 69 years under Swarn Jayanti Nari Sambal Yojna, with an expenditure of ₹55 crore, shows the commitment of State Government towards welfare of women.

### WOMEN'S DAY: HPTDC ANNOUNCES DISCOUNTS

**Shimla:** HP Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) has announced 15 percent discount on food and 10 percent in bus fares to all the women guests visiting HPTDC properties on the occasion of Women's Day. Managing Director of HPTDC Kumud Singh here today said that apart from this, HPTDC staff would greet all women guests visiting HPTDC properties on Women's Day. Special dishes would also be served in selected properties on this occasion. She said that this special offer has been announced for the women guests to mark their importance in the society. The HPTDC is already offering a 40 per cent flat discount on room tariffs in all its properties till March 31, 2021.

### WOMEN DAY: HARYANA GOVT TO ORGANISE PROGRAMMES

**Chandigarh:** On International Women's Day on March 8, the Arts and Cultural Affairs Department of Haryana Government will organise a cultural programme ‘Aprajita-2021’ in the evening at Tagore Theater in Sector 18, Chandigarh. During the first day of the budget session that commenced on March 5, Haryana Vidhan Sabha Speaker Gian Chand Gupta announced the names of women member MLAs, including Seema Trikha, Naina Singh Chautala, Nirmal Rani Chaudhary, Geeta Bhukkal and Kiran Chaudhary to conduct the House proceedings on International Women's Day. On this day, more and more women members will get an opportunity to speak in the House. He said that a short drama based on women empowerment ‘Kitne Chehre Kitne Mukhotte’ will be presented by Dr. Mahesh Kumar during the cultural programme in the evening. Besides this, a folk dance performance based on Devi Aradhana and Ragini on women empowerment and folk dance of Haryana will also be the center of attraction for the audience. He informed that there will be no entry fee for the audience at Tagore Theater. The spokesperson said that on this occasion, district level programmes will be organised in educational institutions as well.

## Punjab Police busts inter-state sex racket in Ludhiana, 14 held

**PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA**

In an early morning operation, Punjab Police on Saturday busted an inter-state sex racket active in Ludhiana with arrest of 14 persons, including 10 girls alongwith the lady kingpin already on bail in similar case who used to target needy girls out of jobs due to Covid lockdowns from city and outside forcing them into prostitution.

Antecedents of girls found involved in the flesh trade have been traced back to as far as Nepal, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh & Amritsar and further investigations are on to unearth the complete area of their operations, said ADCP-4 Ludhiana Rupinder Kaur Sran who led the operation. We have also recovered restricted drugs Etizolam and Escitalopram Oxalate tablets which are only allowed on prescription and the accused are being interrogated to ascertain the source of their supply, the ADCP added.

Initial investigations have also revealed the names of similar operatives in other cities with whom the main accused and her girls were in touch to widen their net, Sran said adding all these angles were being probed and more arrests were likely.

Commissioner of Police Ludhiana Rakesh Agrawal had constituted a special team under ADCP Ludhiana IV Rupinder Kaur Sran,

with SHO Mohammad Jamil its member. An FIR has been registered in this case.

Giving details about the raid, the ADCP said that a tip-off was received about flesh trade activity being run by the accused and her movements were kept under watch. The main accused has been identified as Manjit Kaur alias Pammi aunty resident of street number 10 New Subhash Nagar and was also arrested in a similar case lodged at Police Station Jodheval in 2018. Three men were also arrested from the house during the raid who had come there as customers.

She was on bail now and was running the illegal activity from her house only by luring young needy girls into prostitution. Modus operandi was to engage girls once into her net to target more needy girls out of work due to Covid lockdown and force them into prostitution.

Of those arrested, one girl from Delhi was lured into the trade because she could not repay the loan she had taken from a relative to make ends meet during Covid, while another girl was picked up by the main accused from a city Gurdwara she was visiting at the pretext of a job offer. These girls back home used to tell their family members that they were working in a factory or performing in marriage parties, Sran added.

## Punjab Chief Secy reviews preparedness for 2nd wave of pandemic

**PNS ■ CHANDIGARH**

To effectively manage the second wave of Covid-19 in Punjab and to break the chain of transmission, a high level meeting was chaired by Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan, where-in the Deputy Commissioners, Police Chiefs and key officers of other stakeholder departments like health and medical education were present.

Mahajan reviewed the preparedness for the second wave of pandemic with each district along with their status of the vaccination. She said the second wave of the disease has already started and all DCs and Police Chiefs must ensure that large gatherings like marriages, religious events and social functions should be restricted as per the guidelines of the Government and COVID monitors should be deputed at marriage palaces and other places of gatherings.

She further directed the Deputy Commissioners and Police Chiefs to ensure strict enforcement of Covid-19 regulations at all places in their respective jurisdiction and people be educated for Covid appropriate behaviours.

The chief secretary also emphasized upon the detailed

assessment of Health Care Facilities to effectively combat the second wave. She asked the officers to quickly undertake an analysis of the positivity rate in towns, where elections were held recently, to assess the impact of crowding at these places. She said that as the overall positivity rate in schools is low, hence there is no need to close the schools. She however added that the school teachers should be encouraged to get tested and eligible teachers must be vaccinated as front line workers on priority. She expressed concern that the number of cases and positivity rate has increased in the last

two weeks in the state and 9 districts of Punjab have shown a higher number of cases in the last two weeks with markedly increased case positivity rate. She exhorted that a major thrust needs to be given on awareness regarding COVID Appropriate Behaviors among the community.

Hussan Lal, Principal Secretary Health presented the current status of COVID-19 trends. He shared the data about some super spreader events like marriages, social gatherings and offices resulting in greater exposure and increased positivity. He informed that 238,367 persons

have already been given the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine with no major adverse events following immunization. He also appraised the Chief Secretary regarding a model which predicts a huge surge in the number of cases starting mid March to 3000 cases per day by end of March.

The virtual meeting was also attended by DGP Punjab Dinkar Gupta, Principal Secretary Medical Education D K Tiwari, Secretary School Education Krishan Kumar, Secretary Health and Family Welfare Kumar Rahul, amongst other officers.

**JALANDHAR ADMN IMPOSES NIGHT CURFEW TO TACKLE COVID-19**  
Jalandhar administration

## 2 more Covid-19 deaths, 1,179 new cases in Punjab

**Chandigarh:** Punjab on Saturday reported 1179 new Covid-19 cases, pushing the tally to 1,87,348. A total of 12 more fatalities pushed the death toll to 5910 in the State, according to a medical bulletin. Punjab has been witnessing a surge in the number of fresh Covid-19 cases for

has imposed a night curfew from Saturday to tackle the recent surge in coronavirus cases in the district. The night curfew will remain in place in the district from 11 pm to 5 am, said Deputy Commissioner Ghanshyam Thori. He said the order will be effective from Saturday till further directions.

Jalandhar on Friday had reported the maximum 134 fresh cases in the state. There are a total of 856 active cases in Jalandhar as of now, according to a medical bulletin. Punjab has been witnessing a surge in the number of COVID-19 cases for nearly four weeks. Last month, the Punjab government had authorised deputy commissioners (DCs) to impose night curfew in coronavirus hotspots in their districts if needed.

The number of active cases in the State is 7164 on Saturday. Ludhiana reported a maximum of 164 cases, Jalandhar 154, Patiala 109, among the new cases that surfaced in the State. A total of 644 patients were discharged after recovery

## 323 new Covid-19 cases in Haryana

**Chandigarh:** Haryana recorded 323 fresh coronavirus cases on Saturday, taking the tally in the State to 2,72,215, a health department bulletin said.

11,236 health workers inoculated in the State, taking total number of vaccinated people to 3, 64, 996. With three fatalities including one each from Faridabad, Hisar, Karnal districts, the total number of deaths due to Covid-19 in the State rose to 3,056, it said.

The fresh cases were reported from districts, including Karnal, Gurugram, with 58 and 48 infections, respectively.

The total number of active cases in the State was 1898. The recovery rate was 98.18 per cent, as per the bulletin. **PNS**









# Lookout notice against TMC leader’s brother

## CATTLESMUGGLINGCASE



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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 till now, officials said.

“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

chargesheet filed in the cattle-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 border.

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 Limited (ECL).

# ED arrests 2 directors of TN-based firm over ₹325 cr laundering

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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 case.

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 Prevention of Money 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 further 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-to-house 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 drive.

“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

responses were received from 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 from Kerala.

# Hybrid physical hearings in SC from March 15

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 video-conferencing 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

hearings are to commence with effect from March 15, 2021,” it added.

It said unless otherwise 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

20 per courtroom at any given time, shall invariably be listed for hearing through the video 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 SOP said.

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

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 courtrooms.

# 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 borders.

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 their lives at the country’s borders, for them nails have been laid at the borders of Delhi. ‘Annadaatas’ demand their rights, government commits atrocities,”

Rahul said in his tweet, Congress general 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 ‘100DaysOFBJParrogance’, 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, whichever category we may belong to, have our own struggles and that is the awareness on which the Government 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

The CPI(M) Polit Bureau on Saturday accused the BJP-led 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 intensified. The Customs 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 not work,” Customs (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 court.

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 pre-

sented 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 smuggling involving UAE consulate.

# Frontier Gandhi’s autobiography released in English

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

First published in Pashto in 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 India. His life was dedicated to

the social reform of the Pukhtuns and he continues to be revered across the world by 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 world.

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 offline and online stores.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists have developed a platform to detect the effect 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 blood.

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 a 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 micro-pores at the tip of a glass capillary with careful fabrication, flame polishing, and image verification.

# Pon Radhakrishnan BJP candidate for bypoll to Kanyakumari LS seat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 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 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 “Vetri Kodi Eandhi” (Vijay Sankalp Mahasamprk Abhiyaan - a door to door campaign) in Suchindram Town, Kanyakumari.

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

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

parliamentary and inducted in then Modi-led NDA dispensation 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.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Court has ordered to summon 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

various occasions, Patkar 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 application 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 rediff.com.

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 withdrawn.

Metropolitan Magistrate Animesh Kumar after hearing

both the sides said, “it is a case 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

where she has categorically admitted that she made averments against the complainant.”

The Magistrate further said that relevant record related to 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.



# SHARE OF TAX DEVOLUTION TO STATES

## 15th Fin Comm opted for continuity: Singh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 15th 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 Saturday.

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 15th Finance Commission 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

increasing.

The 15th Finance 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 period.

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

February 2.

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 cent.

# Govt open to evaluate, explore cryptocurrencies, says Thakur

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself is a strong advocate of embracing technology in various aspects of governance, 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 emerging technology. 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



**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 process**

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 issue.

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 bank.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the government is still formulating its opinion on cryptocurrencies and will take a calibrated position.

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

over the impact cryptocurrencies may have on the financial stability in the economy and has conveyed the same to the government.

The RBI had virtually 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.

# Goyal stresses on manufacturing high quality containers in India

New Delhi: Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday emphasised on the manufacturing of the indigenous high quality containers in India saying that India has excellent steel making capabilities.

Addressing a webinar here at the Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR) on 'Indigenous Manufacturing of Containers', Goyal said, "We should be aspiring for a much bigger play in container manufacturing. We have absolutely excellent steel making capabilities, we have an MSME sector with good skills and the frame making capabilities are also good."

The minister stressed that 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 flag vessels," he said.

Goyal said, there is a lot of buzz and excitement in our manufacturing sector, to meet domestic and international requirements. "We are part of the resilient global supply

chain, which are looking at alternate supplies," he said.

"If India starts manufacturing 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 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 said.

# Tech bids open for Mum-Ahm Bullet train bridge project

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

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.

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

bridges for the MAHSR corridor in the state of Gujarat as well union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

She said that 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

FIANS ■ 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

automaker had previously 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".

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

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 month.

# 'Privatisation will lead to increase in service charges'

FIANS ■ 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 man.

In a statement, the AIN-BOF said privatisation 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

nationalization," it said.

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 status.

"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

FIANS ■ 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-high level of \$70 a barrel.

Petrol continues to be priced 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 remained 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 the OPEC+ decision to continue with crude production cut in April.

Petrol and diesel prices have been rising continuously since February 9.

**Public Notice**

This is to inform general public that Mrs. 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, in 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 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 Ltd. & 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 Ventures, Unit no 405, 4th Floor, GD-ITL Northex Tower, (A-09), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/ 9818228636 (M).

**LOST AND FOUND**

ORIGINAL SALE DEED OF RESIDENTIAL 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 IN OR UPON THE ABOVE PROPERTY, IS HEREBY CALLED UPON TO MAKE THE SAME KNOWN, IN WRITING 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**

**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 Channel Sleepers with H-Beam Sleepers under the jurisdiction of DEN/ Central-II/ BSP.

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 e-Tender Notices is available over website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders.

Divl. Railway Manager (Engg.) CPR/10/468 S.E.C. Railway, Bilsapur

South East Central Railway @secrail

# Covestro pulls through fiscal 2020

Mumbai: Covestro saw a strong end to an exceptional year in 2020 and benefited, 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 CEO Markus Steilemann.

# Base effect subdues pharma market's growth in Feb

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

High base effect along with volume decline subdued 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 month.

"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."

"However, IPM grew 1.1 per cent YoY during February 2021, due to a 5.8 per cent volume decline, price growth of 4.8 per cent and products launches at 2.1 per cent."

According to Ind-Ra, acute therapies such as gastro and vitamins witnessed sales growth of 9.9 per cent YoY and 8.6 per cent YoY, respectively, while anti-infectives declined 11.3 per cent YoY during February 2021.

"A growth outperformance was observed in chronic therapies during the month, with cardiac and anti-diabetic growing 7.3 per cent YoY and 4.3 per cent YoY, respectively."

# NMDC leaves iron ore rates unchanged

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Country's largest iron ore miner NMDC has left the price of lump ore unchanged at ₹5,100 per tonne and ₹4,210 per tonne for fines in its latest price revision announced on Saturday.

Iron ore is the key raw material used in steel making. Any change in its prices has a direct impact on the rates of steel. In a filing to the BSE, NMDC said it fixed the price of lump ore or high-grade iron ore at ₹5,100 per tonne, and that of iron ore fines or inferior grade ore at ₹4,210 a tonne.

The revised prices are effective from March 6, 2021 and exclude royalty, District Mineral Fund (DMF), National Mineral Exploration Trust

(DMET), cess, forest permit fee, and other taxes, the company said.

Last month, NMDC reduced the price of lumps to ₹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 tonne.

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.

**AXIS BANK**

**SME Centre, Delhi:** 4th Floor, Ashoka Estate, 24 Barakhamba Road New Delhi-110001, Also at III Floor, Red Fort Capital Parswanath 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 Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301, Corporate Office: 'Axis House', Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025

Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

**POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002**

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction 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 said notice.

The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice 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 of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.

The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

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

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice 2. Date of Possession 3. Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1. <b>MNG International</b> , Registered Office At 185-186 , 2nd Floor, D-14, Sector 7 Rohini, Delhi - 110085	1. Equitable Mortgage over ground floor of freehold residential property bearing No. 128, in PKT 14, Sector 24, Rohini, Delhi - 110042, situated in the layout plan Rohini, Residential Scheme, Rohini, Delhi, admeasuring 68sq. mtrs., along with the proportionate free hold rights of the and under the said property owned by Mr. Anshuman Mohanty & Mrs. Pranti Mohanty built on a phot admeasuring 60 sqm.	1. 26-11-2020 2. 04-03-2021 3. Rs. 1,00,04,592/- (Rupees One Crore Four Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Two Only)
2. <b>Mr. Anshuman Mohanty</b> , Proprietor of M/S MNG International 185-186 , 2nd Floor, D-14, Sector 7 , Rohini, Delhi - 110085	2. Equitable Mortgage charge over freehold residential Property situated at House No. 63, Second Floor, with Roof Rights Pocket 21 , Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085	1. 26-11-2020 2. 04-03-2021 3. Rs. 1,00,04,592/- (Rupees One Crore Four Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Two Only)
Also At - : Property No. 128 in Pkt-14, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110042		
3. <b>Mrs. Pranti Mohanty</b> 185-186, 2nd Floor, D-14, Sector 7, Rohini, Delhi-110085		
Also At - Ms. Pranti Mohanty House No. 63, Second Floor Pocket 21 , Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085		
Also At - Ms. Pranti Mohanty Property No.-128,In Pkt-14, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110042		

The above-mentioned Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 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 Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Sd/-  
Authorized Officer,  
Axis Bank Ltd.,

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**TENDER NOTICE**

Re-Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

1 Name of work with its location	Strengthening of rail and cross girder, providing screen over web of cross girder on Br. No.-176A UP DLI-UMB section under AXEN/Br/SP/TKJ.
2 Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 26,14,403.75
3 Completion period of Work	(02) Two Months
4 Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 14.00 hrs. on 30.03.2021 Opening of tender after 14.00 hrs. on same day
5 Website particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

Tender Notice No. 32-W-BR-176A-DLI-2021 Date: 06.03.2021 517/2021

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

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

Corp. Off.: E-2&3, DDA Market, MOR Land, New Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi-60

Phone : 011-28741801-02, 28741821-22, E-mail : [ssstarsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:ssstarsociety@yahoo.com), website : [southernstar.org](http://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.

S/d

**NEW DELHI -60**  
Date : 01.03.2021

**(VENKIDESWARAN POTTY P.N.)**  
HONY. SECRETARY

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ICICI Bank**

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohitak 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.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
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/-	17-02-2020
2.	Pankaj Bakshi, Meena Bakshi, 641 New Ashiana Apartment 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	DDA LIG Flat No-137F, 2nd Floor Pocket-A-2, Kondli Gharoli, Mayur Vihar, Phase 3, Delhi	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 37,60,624/-	29-02-2020
4.	Rana Singh, Aarti Bhagwan Singh Thakur, 402 AI Ikrema Building, Near Grand Cafe, Al Jurf Ajman, UAE A/c No:-LBNOD00002008679	Flat No-g-3/19, Diamond-4, 19th Floor, Ganga Apartment, Sidharth 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 Smallo 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, Ft, Sec-12A Dwarka, Delhi A/c No:-LBDEL00001866197	Plot No-73,first Floor Sector-12 A, Dwarka Delhi	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 20,23,764/-	31-07-2018
7.	Utkarsh Jhingran, Niti Jhingran, Block 24 Unit Number 02-13 Simet Street Melville Park, Singapore, Singapore A/c No:-LBDEL00001879850	Flat No- Ptt- 09-0001, Palm Terraces, Sector- 66, Gurgaon, Haryana, Gurgaon	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 2,47,782/-	31/08/2018
8.	Sukhvinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh Arora, A-4/24, 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 Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : March 06, 2021  
Place: Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited



# 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 elections.

Prime Minister Khan secured 178 votes in the 342-member 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 68-year-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 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

Party, three from the Grand 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 dis-

rupt a press conference of Opposition 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 said.

His reference was towards reports stating that the government 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.

## 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 important to use them to counter the voter fraud claims 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 said.

"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 elections were held as per the Constitution and it has "never come under any sort of pressure and God willing, will not in future as well."

## Protests, tear gas in Myanmar after UN envoy urges action

AP ■ YANGON

Security forces in Myanmar again 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 demonstrators. 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, Myeik in the far south, where police fired tear gas at students, and Dawei in the southeast, where tear gas was also used. Officials are believed to



Anti-coup protesters prepare water and wet cloths to help extinguish tear gas 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. The woman, Kyal Sin, had been photographed taking part in the protests before her death, and images of her on the front lines have made her a high-pro-

file martyr.

Security forces on Friday night sealed off the cemetery where she was buried, and when residents visited in the morning, her grave was freshly plastered over and shovels and other evidence of digging were found at the site.

## 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 Francis will now pray.

"I never could have imagined that his holiness, the pope, would visit this church, not even in my dreams," said Yako, who has been

overseeing reconstruction at the church. "It's a very, very unexpected event and a very happy one."

It is also one rich in symbolism. 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 exodus fueling existential anxieties about Iraq's already dwindling Christian population.

Many hope the pope's trip can focus attention on their struggles and send a message of encouragement, but they also point to security, economic and social challenges deterring many Christians from returning. AP

The Vatican said Francis 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 months in the making, with every detail painstakingly discussed and negotiated between the ayatollah's office and the Vatican. Early Saturday, the 84-year-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 golden-domed Imam Ali Shrine, one of the most revered sites in Shiite Islam. He then walked the few meters (yards) to al-Sistani's modest home, which the cleric has rented for decades.

A group of Iraqis wearing traditional clothes welcomed him outside. As a masked Francis entered the doorway, a few white doves were released in a sign of peace.

He emerged just under an hour later, still limping from an apparent flare-up of sciatica nerve pain that makes walking 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 not authorised to brief media.

## Senate works through night, virus aid on path to passage

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Beary-eyed lawmakers worked through a mountain of amendments Saturday as the Senate plodded toward passage of a \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 relief bill that President Joe 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 midmorn-

ing 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 eyes 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 chamber and did a prolonged stretch.

## Biden White House: message discipline, no news conference

**Washington:** No news conference. 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 gaffe-prone 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-

ances, trying to lower the temperature from Donald Trump's Washington and to save a 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-and-forth that can draw out information and thoughts that go beyond the administration's curated talking points. AP

## NASA's Perseverance rover performs first test drive on Mars

PTI ■ LOS ANGELES

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.



This photo made available by NASA was taken during the first drive of the Perseverance rover on Mars. Perseverance landed on February 18, 2021

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 Red Planet

fident our drive system is good to go, capable of taking us wherever the science leads us over the next two years," Zarifian said.

Regular commutes of over 200 metres are expected once the rover begins pursuing its science goals, including the search for signs of ancient microbial life, NASA said.

As part of its mission, the rover would characterise the Red Planet's geology and past climate, and pave the way for 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 software update, replacing the computer program that helped land Perseverance with one NASA will rely on to analyse the

planet.

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

"Every picture from Perseverance is relayed by either the European Space Agency's Trace Gas Orbiter, or NASA's MAVEN, Mars Odyssey, or 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.



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 of Nasiriyah, Iraq on Saturday

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

AP ■ PLAINS OF UR (IRAQ)

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 long-beleaguered 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 Iraqis.

<b>Rajasthan Skill &amp; Livelihoods Development Corporation</b> EMI Campus, J.S.A., Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur-302004 (Rajasthan) Ph: +91-0141-2705917, 9103246, Fax: +91-0141-5103246, www.rajasthanlivelihoods.org F ( ) No: RSLDC/SDT/2021-22/50976 Dated: 05-03-2021		
<b>Office Order</b>		
Subject: - Extension of Bid submission last date and opening date for procurement of Services for providing Self-Defence Training to girls/women through training partner for RSLDC.		
Reference: - RFP No. RSLDC/SDT/20/30473 dated 3rd Feb, 2021		
Due to some unavoidable circumstances the last date and Bid opening date of above referred Bid is hereby extended as per the following –		
Activity	Old Date & Time	New Date & Time
Last Date/Time for Submitting / uploading of offer/Bid	8th March, 2021 up to 3:00 PM	18th March, 2021 up to 03:00 PM
Last Date / time for submitting original hard copy of Bid Security Demand Draft	8th March, 2021 up to 3:00 PM	18th March, 2021 up to 03:00 PM
Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid	8th March, 2021 up to 05:00 PM	18th March, 2021 at 05:00 PM
The interested bidders may submit the proposal as per the above amendments and all other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.		
UBN No. SLD2021RFP0003		Managing Director, RSLDC
Raj.Sanwad/C/20/10627		

<b>AXIS BANK</b> SME Centre, Delhi: 4th Floor, Ashoka Estate, 24 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001. Also at III Floor, Red Fort Capital Park/Parvatham Tower, 5th Floor, Vignana 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 Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301. Corporate Office: Axis House, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025 Registered Office: "Trishul", 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006			
<b>POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002</b>			
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction 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)/ Mortgagee(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd. The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.			
Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice	2. Date of Possession
1. M/S Lakhmi Chand Om Prakash (Through Its Proprietor) Mr.Ashish Gupta Registered Office At: 2745/9, Sushila Mohan Marg, Naya Bazar, Delhi-110006 Also At: - 3963/108, 1st Floor Naya Bazar, Delhi-110006	Equitable Mortgage on Property No.-5, In Block C – 5 Out of Khassana No.- 262/258/217/4/3 with all roof/terrace rights, Built on land area measuring 105.5 Sq. yards, Situated in the area of village Dharoli, colony known as Adarsh Naga on Cottage Road Cottage Road Delhi – 110033	2. 04-03-2021	2. 04-03-2021
2. Mr. Ashish Gupta At: 2745/9, Sushila Mohan Marg Naya Bazar, Delhi-110006 Also At: - 3963/108, 1st Floor Naya Bazar, Delhi-110006		3. Rs. 3,16,89,855/- (Rupees Three Crore Sixteen lakh ninety nine thousand Eight hundred and fifty five only)	
Also At: - : R/O C-5, Cottage Road, Near Azadpur Sabzi Mandi, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033.			
3. Mrs. Shahsi Gupta, R/O C-5, Cottage Road, Near Azadpur Sabzi Mandi, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033.			
4. Mr.Om Prakash Gupta, R/O C-5, Cottage Road, Near Azadpur Sabzi Mandi, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033.			
The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) are hereby given a 30 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 Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.			
Date: 07-03-2021 Place: Delhi		Sd/- Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.,	



# 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

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin once 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



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

PTI

**STATE BANK OF INDIA, MAIN BRANCH CHANDIGARH**  
SCO 43-48, SECTOR 17-B CHANDIGARH  
PH: 9041022690, 8567028811  
**GENERAL NOTICE**  
Consequent upon service of three notices for recovery of rent and final Notice to breakopen of lockers. We are going to breakopen unattended lockers on 18.03.2021. If any of the aforesaid locker hirer mentioned hereunder has any objection, he can contact SBI Main Branch Chandigarh upto 12.03.2021.

Sr. No.	LOCKER No.	CUSTOMER NAME	ADDRESS
1	317	VED VERMA/ SHASHI VERMA	#1566, SEC-10-D, CHANDIGARH
2	457	RAVI MEHRA /SANJEEV MEHRA	# 1393, SEC-18A, CHANDIGARH
3	547	IK MALHOTRA /SWATANANTAR /MANIK	FLAT NO 3053 POCKET B4 VASANT KUNJ, NEW DELHI
4	634	SHEKHAR BAKSHI /SHILPA BAKSHI	# 2383, SECTOR 35C, CHANDIGARH
5	640	KAMNEEV NAYAR/ GAURAV	# 1016, SECTOR 39B, CHANDIGARH
6	714	RAVINDER KAUR SODHI	# 464, SECTOR 20A, CHANDIGARH
7	772	BALBIR KAUR	# 2248, SECTOR 15C, CHANDIGARH
8	887	SHAMA BAI	# 719/10, BAPU DHAM COLONY, SECTOR 26, CHANDIGARH
9	894	GURTEJ SINGH LEHGAISHHEENA	#7422, SECTOR 5A, CHANDIGARH # 71, BLOCK-1, SARABHA NAGAR, LUDHIANA
10	936	RAMANDEEP KAUR VIRK	# 3015, SECTOR 30B, CHANDIGARH
11	991	RAJINDER KUMAR /RICHIA BATHLA	# 408, Phase 10, MOHALI
12	2	Aseem Malhotra /Renu Malhotra	# 1571, SECTOR 18D, CHANDIGARH
13	126	SUDHIR SIDIHU/ HARJIT KAUR	# 1542, SECTOR 51B, CHANDIGARH # 24, LOHARJI, ZIRAKPUR
14	186	GURBAK SINGH KANWAL JEET KAUR	# 1757, SECTOR 23, CHANDIGARH
15	224	SURINDERJIT SINGH /RACHPAL	# 863, PHASE 7, MOHALI
16	299	Ravinder kaur/ PRITAM SINGH	SHOP NO. 22, SECTOR 18D, CHANDIGARH
17	299	SHIVS MATHURANILMA /MATHURANILMA	# 14302, SECTOR 43B, CHANDIGARH
18	305	SUNISH JINDAL	# 1594, SECTOR 7-C, CHANDIGARH
19	148	MOHINDER SINGH BHALI MANJIT KAUR	# 10012, SECTOR 71, SAS NAGAR, MOHALI # 45 ALCESTER DRIVE, LEICESTER UK LE5 4LB
20	196	RAHUL KUNDRA	14A SKYNET ENCLAVE, LOHARJI, PATIALA ROAD, ZIRAKPUR
21	386	NARINDER KAUR ANJ /MANJIT SINGH	# 3994, SECTOR 27-D, CHANDIGARH
22	608	D S MOON KULDIP KAUR (DECEASED)	# 425, SECTOR 44, CHD # 289, SECTOR 42C, CHD

A lot of credit for this victory should go to the indomitable Rishabh Pant, who 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 couple of months back, may not get to play a Test in near future. 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 his next Test. The story of the third day was similar to the one that has

object 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 play 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 in his kitty.

played out for most of the series. With shoulders already drooping after the humiliation 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

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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 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 ball.

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

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.

**'BENCH STRENGTH'** India's supremely talented bench strength has made skipper Virat Kohli quite confident that the team will have a relatively smooth ride 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,

**PRESS NOTE TO BE ISSUED FOR PUBLICATION IN NEWS PAPERS FOR OFFLINE TENDERING**  
The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Dehra invites following tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work through offline process:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Time completion
1	Retrofitting of WSS Bara Gopipur Kasba Kohasan Bharoon Har Pukhar Har Dhajag & Karol in Tehsil Dehra Distt. Kangra (HP)(Under JJM)(SH:- Laying jointing & testing of GI pipe 15 mm dia for functional house tap connection)(Job No.1)	213150/-	4265/-	Two months
2	Retrofitting of WSS Bara Gopipur Kasba Kohasan Bharoon Har Pukhar Har Dhajag & Karol in Tehsil Dehra Distt. Kangra (HP)(Under JJM)(SH:- Laying jointing & testing of GI pipe 15 mm dia for functional house tap connection)(Job No.II)	222146/-	4445/-	Two months
3	Retrofitting of WSS Bara Gopipur Kasba Kohasan Bharoon Har Pukhar Har Dhajag & Karol in Tehsil Dehra Distt. Kangra (HP)(Under JJM)(SH:- Laying jointing & testing of GI pipe 15 mm dia for functional house tap connection)(Job No.III)	192303/-	3850/-	Two months
4	Improvement and Aug. of Distribution system of LWSS Dhaliyara Surajpur for Providing FHTC in Tehsil Dehra Distt. Kangra (HP)(Under JJM)(SH:- Laying jointing & testing of GI pipe various dia for functional house tap connection)(Job No.1)	264962/-	5300/-	Two months
5	Improvement and Aug. of Distribution system of LWSS Dhaliyara Surajpur for Providing FHTC in Tehsil Dehra Distt. Kangra (HP)(Under JJM)(SH:- Laying jointing & testing of GI pipe various dia for functional house tap connection)(Job No.II)	279173/-	5585/-	Two months
6	Improvement and Aug. of Distribution system of LWSS Dhaliyara Surajpur for Providing FHTC in Tehsil Dehra Distt. Kangra (HP)(Under JJM)(SH:- Laying jointing & testing of GI pipe various dia for functional house tap connection)(Job No.III)	283228/-	5665/-	Two months
7	Retrofitting of WSS Bara Gopipur Kasba Kohasan Bharoon Har Pukhar Har Dhajag & Karol for Providing functional house hold tap connection (FHTC) in Tehsil Dehra Distt. Kangra (HP)(SH:- Laying jointing and testing of rising main 65mm dia (MC) RD 0/0 to 1290 mtr.)	294151/-	5885/-	Three months
8	Providing WSS to Harizan Basti village Tikar Jamula and Chir under LWSS Jakhnal in Tehsil Khundian Distt. Kangra (HP)(SH:- Supply & erection of submersible pumping machinery with allied accessories)	270000/-	5400/-	Three months

Last date of submission of tender:- 12.03.2021 upto 3.00 P M.  
Last date sale of tender from the Division office:- 10.03.2021 upto 5.00 PM.  
The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website [www.hpihp.org](http://www.hpihp.org) or from office of the Executive Engineer upto date specified above.

**Executive Engineer**  
**Jal Shakti Division Dehra**

RO 6334/20-21 Dt 06.03.21

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा**  
**Bank of Baroda**  
बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा  
बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा

**ROSARB, SCO -62-63, THIRD FLOOR, SECTOR 17, CHANDIGARH - 160017**

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

**ANNEXURE-E**  
**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
**APPENDIX-IV-A [SEE PROVISIO TO RULE (2) & 8(6)]**  
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) / Guarantor(s) / Secured Assets(s) / Dues / Reserve Price / E-Auction Date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) & Owner(s)	Description of the Movable / Immovable Property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-Auction	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive / Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1.	Borrower(s):- (1) M/s Aman Collection, Booth No. 300, Shashtri Market, Chandigarh-160022 (2) Mr. Lakhbir Singh (Proprietor M/s Aman Collections) House No. 2868/1, Sector 22-C, Chandigarh-160022	Equitable mortgage of Booth No. 300, Area- 7.11 Sq. yards or 64 Sq. feet situated at Shastri Market, Sector 22-C, Chandigarh in the name of Mr. Lakhbir Singh S/o Bhola Singh, R/o House No. 2868, Sector 22-C, Chandigarh.	Rs. 21,59,833.71 + interest & other charges.	25.03.2021 from 11:00 A.M. to 03:00 P.M.	Rs. 1,18,88,100/- Rs. 11,88,810/- Rs. 10,000/-	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION	23.03.2020 from 10:00 A.M. to 04:00 P.M.
2.	Borrower(s):- (1) Mr. Parveen Tayal S/o Jeet Pal Tayal (2) Mrs. Neha Rani W/o Parveen Tayal, R/o Flat No. 203, E-Block, Imperial Residence, Peermuchalla, Zirakpur, Distt. Mohali.	Muchalla, MC Zirakpur, Distt. Mohali, SAS Nagar in the name of Mr. Parveen Tayal S/o Jeet Pal Tayal.	Rs. 25,48,053.60 + interest & other charges.	25.03.2021 from 11:00 A.M. to 03:00 P.M.	Rs. 38,47,500/- Rs. 3,84,750/- Rs. 10,000/-	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION	23.03.2020 from 10:00 A.M. to 04:00 P.M.
3.	Borrower(s):- (1) M/S ONS Trader, Prop. Sh. Praveen Tayal (2) Mr. Parveen Tayal S/o Jeet Pal Tayal and Mrs. Neha Rani W/o Parveen Tayal, R/o Flat No. 203, E-Block, Imperial Residence, Peermuchalla, Zirakpur, Distt. Mohali.	Flat No. 203, 2nd Floor, Tower E, Imperial Residence, Peermuchalla, Hudbast No. 53, Sub-Tehsil Zirakpur, Tehsil Derabassi, Distt. Mohali in the name of Sh. Praveen Tayal, Covered Area: 1426.00 Square Feet	Rs. 62,40,483.33 + interest & other charges	25.03.2021 from 11:00 A.M. to 03:00 P.M.	Rs. 38,47,500/- Rs. 3,84,750/- Rs. 10,000/-	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION	23.03.2020 from 10:00 A.M. to 04:00 P.M.

**NAME OF THE CONTACT PERSON AND CONTACT NUMBER: MR. VIJAY KUMAR, CHIEF MANAGER, M.: 8558846401/8558900364**

**• LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD: 23.03.2021 BY 5:00 P.M. • DATE AND TIME OF COMMENCEMENT OF E-AUCTION: 25.03.2021 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 03:00 P.M. • MODE OF PAYMENT OF EMD: NEFT**

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> and <https://ibapi.in>.  
**IT MAY BE TREATED AS STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT 2002**

Date: 06.03.2021 Place: Chandigarh **AUTHORISED OFFICER**

**DHFL**  
**DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED**  
National Office: HDIL Towers, B-wing, 6th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400005.  
Branch Office: A- 301 -302, 3rd Floor, Elante Office Complex Industrial Area, Phase I, Chandigarh-160002.  
Changing Rules: Changing Lives  
For Immovable Property as per Rule 8-(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and Appendix- IV  
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of DHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
(Loan Code No. 00002184) (Bathinda Branch) Satwinder Singh (Borrower) Karamjit Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Guru Tegh Bahadar Nagar, Jalalabad By- Pass, Jalalabad Bye Pass Rd Teh & Dist- Sri Muktsar Sahib Sri Muktsar Sahib Muktsar Punjab- 152026	29-Oct-2019 for Rs. 10,85,592/- (Rupees Ten Lac Sixty Five Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Two Only)	04-03-2021
(Loan Code No. 00001013) (Patiala Branch) Avtar Singh (Borrower) Jaspreet Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of House No 206 , Century Enclave Village Dulladi Near Dav Sachool Navi Biding Patiala Patiala Punjab- 147201	19-Dec-2019 for Rs. 2,28,472/- (Rupees Two Lac Twenty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Two Only)	04-03-2021
(Loan Code No. 00000908) (Patiala Branch) Harbans Singh (Borrower) Avtar Singh (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Ward No- 5 Fatehpur Road Near Ishar Singh School, Patiala, Patiala-147001, Punjab.	20-Feb-2020 for Rs. 17,67,416/- (Rupees Seventeen Lac Sixty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Only)	01-03-2021
(Loan Code No. 00001423) (Patiala Branch) Satpal S (Borrower) Sinder Kaur (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Khasra No. 57/ 16/ 1/2 (1-13) Sas Nagar, Nirwana Road Old Chungi Old Chungi Patran Patiala Punjab:- 147105	18-June-2020 for Rs. 5,20,531/- (Rupees Five Lac Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Thirty One Only)	04-03-2021
(Loan Code No. 00004965) (Patiala Branch) Manjeet Kaur (Borrower) Jangir Singh (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Plot At Dashmesh Nagar Patiala Road Khata No. 492/754 Sangrur Sangrur Sangrur Punjab:- 148001	19-Aug-2020 for Rs. 12,39,903/- (Rupees Twelve Lac Thirty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Three Only)	04-03-2021
(Loan Code No. 00003766) (Ludhiana Branch) Bunty Diary Farm (Borrower) Trudy Trading Co, Shree Sachidanand Traders, Meena, Manju, Sanjeev Kumar (Co-Borrower/ Guarantor)	All the Part & Parcel of House No. 37, Golden Avenue Baranahra Ludhiana Ludhiana Punjab:- 141001	19-Aug-2020 for Rs. 71,99,961/- (Rupees Seventy One Lac Ninety Nie Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty One Only)	04-03-2021
(Loan Code No. 00002609) (Ludhiana Branch) Sanjeev Kumar (Borrower) Monika (Co-Borrower)	All the Part & Parcel of Plot No 16, Abadi Sun City Colony, Cheems Colony, Ludhiana, Ludhiana, Punjab:- 141001	09-Sep-2020 for Rs. 3,27,864/- (Rupees Three Lac Twenty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Four Only)	04-03-2021

Date : 07-03-2021 Place: Punjab Sd/- (Authorised Officer) Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

**ICICI Bank**  
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd First Floor, Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust Building, Feroze Gandhi Market Ludhiana 141001  
**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**  
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
**Notice for sale of immovable assets**  
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) /Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Ashat Jewellers 18930500428, Gurdeep singh (LBAMT00002439078, LBAMT00002438945), Ranjeet Kaur	This Is A Residential Property Bearing Address Plot No. 31-32 Khasra No.1269,1270 Min, Village Sultanwind Urban Abadi Kot Atma Ram, Tehsil And Distt Amritsar Punjab. Land Area- 720 Sq. Ft, Super Built Up Area 1440 Sq.Ft.	Rs 19,38,730.5/- (as on 31Jan 2021)(BLG), Rs.24,33,079 as on 31Jan 2021(HL)	Rs. 32,00,000/- Rs. 3,20,000/-	March 26, 2021 From 11 AM To 1 PM	April 06, 2021 From 11 AM To 1 PM
2.	G S TRADERS (Loan No. 659305600314), Puneet Kapoor, Ashok Kapoor	Residential Property Plot No.198, Khasra No.8/21/2, Khata Khalauni No.907/1282, Hadbast No.368 Situated At Kala Ghanapur Sub Urban Navi Abadi, Dist Amritsar, Punjab, Having Area of 136.80 Sq. Yard.	Rs. 25,27,786.43/- as on 23, Feb, 2021	Rs. 18,88,000/- Rs. 1,88,800/-	March 26, 2021 From 11 AM To 1 PM	April 06, 2021 From 11:30 AM To 1:30 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till April 05, 2021 before 5 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.  
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Ltd, First floor Feroze Gandhi market, Ludhiana, and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before April 05, 2021 before 5 PM along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Ltd, First floor Feroze Gandhi market, Ludhiana on or before April 05, 2021 before 5 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Ludhiana.  
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 9780139915/ 73402015 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/ 9810029926/ 0124423933.  
Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augoe Assets Management Private Limited 3. Props AMC have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.  
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)


Date: March 06, 2021 Place: Punjab Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

**UNION BANK OF INDIA**  
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)  
Hansi Chowk Branch, BHIWANI-127021 Email: [bhiwani@unionbankofindia.com](mailto:bhiwani@unionbankofindia.com)  
**PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE {Rule-8(1)} (UNDER SARFAESI Act. 2002 for immovable Property)**  
Whereas the "Authorised Officer" under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with 2[rule 3] of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002, issued demand notice u/s 13(2) to borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) on the dates mentioned hereunder; calling upon the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the respective demand notice within 60 days of the date of the notice.  
The Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount (s) notice is hereby given to the respective Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the "Authorised Officer" has taken Possession of the Property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on him/har under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules, on the dates mentioned against the account.  
The Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Union Bank of India**, for the amount(s), mentioned herein below besides interest and other charges / expenses against the account  
The borrower/guarantor attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act. In respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Loan A/c/ Borrower/Guarantor/ Borrower & Loan A/c No.	Description of the immovable mortgage property	Date of demand notice	Amount as per demand notice	Date of possession notice
1.	M/s. Chokhani Distributor Prop. :- Sh. Pawan Kumar Chokhani S/o Sh. Murari Lal Chokhani, R/o Chokhani estate, Mehrom Road, BHIWANI Guarantor:- Sh. Rattan Lal Chokhani S/o Sh. Murari Lal Chokhani, R/o Chokhani estate, Mehrom Road, BHIWANI (Loan A/c No. 483005040050005)	(1) Shop Measuring 80 Sq. Yds. M. C. Unit No. T-21, Situated at Near Somwari Mata Mandir, Lohar Bazaar, BHIWANI in the name of Sh. Rattan Lal and Sh. Pawan Kumar S/o Sh. Murari Lal, Vide Sale Deed No. 3406 Dated 13-01-1987, (2) Shop Measuring 105 Sq. Yds. M. C. Unit No. T-19, Situated at Near Somwari Mata Mandir, Lohar Bazaar, BHIWANI in the name of Sh. Rattan Lal Chokhani, R/o Chokhani estate, Mehrom Road, BHIWANI (3) Shop Measuring 17 Sq. Yds. M. C. Unit No. T-20, Situated at Near Somwari Mata Mandir, Lohar Bazaar, BHIWANI in the name of Sh. Rattan Lal S/o Sh. Murari Lal.	29-10-2019	Rs.1,05,10,380.34 as on 30-09-2019.	05-03-2021
2.	M/s. Himani Steels, Add. Shastri Nagar, Dabur Colony, Tosham Bye Pass, BHIWANI Prop. Sh. Anil Kumar S/o Sh. Raj Kumar, R/o Gali No. 2, Dabur Colony, Tosham Bye Pass, BHIWANI Guarantor:- Smt. Manju w/o Sh. Anil Kumar, vide sale deed no. 1450 dated 28-05-2007.	Equitable mortgage of Property Land & building Situated at jompal-1, tosham bye pass road, BHIWANI, having area 158.22 Sq. Yds. comprised in khewat no. 41/41, khatoni no. 57, khasra no. 97/13/2(4-8) in the Name of Smt. Manju w/o Sh. Anil Kumar, vide sale deed no. 1450 dated 28-05-2007.	02-12-2019	Rs. 22,35,380.96 as on 31-10-2019.	05-03-2021

This is without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank.  
Place: Bhiwani Date: 06/03/2021 Authorised Officer Union Bank of India






the pioneer

agenda

I think that an actor is more likely to be forgiven in the public's eye than an actress  
— Mila Kunis

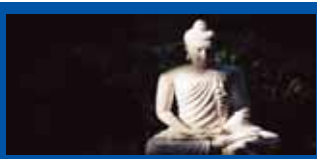


FROM THE INSIDE

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

2



4

Calm mind for *dhyana*

Train your mind to remain disengaged as a silent witness. Only when you pay attention, you get affected

# MAPPING THE SACRED DWELLINGS OF SHAKTI

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:

Originating 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, avatars 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 potentially 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 always powerful.

I 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



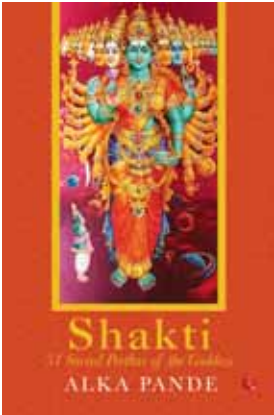
Kottari Devi (Hinglaj Mata) Temple, Pakistan

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 MORE POPULAR THAN SHIVA AND VISHNU. ALL THE MANIFESTATIONS, AVATARS 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 *Kamyas*, 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 *gnanaindriyas*, or senses, are included in the aspect of puja:

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

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 kichdi 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 51 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.



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# Syrian quagmire: How long and for what?

The Syrian Civil War started 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 jihadi 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 non-violent 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.

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 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 Iran-backed 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 500-hundred-pound joint direct attack munitions at a crossing used by Iranian backed groups reportedly

killing 17. The particular groups hit by the limited US strike are Kataib Hezbollah and Kataib Syiaid al-Shuhada. Meanwhile, Dennis 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.

It's really ironic that Biden and Harris, the duo is repeating what once Trump simply did. When Trump ordered a

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 likely."

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 outdated and dangerous. It's meddling carelessly with Iraq, Iran and Syria. Washington has no coherent policy to deal

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 Kadhim (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 isolating Iran was purely counterproductive. So to address, Tehran's troublesome behav-

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 far-away battle for Putin regime. The life-time monarch is longing for stability at any cost. He knows fully well that the jihadists 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?

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 Syria 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 handle the dictators in WANA.

*(The writer is an expert on international affairs)*



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 utilisation.

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 filled.

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 generate 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.

Continued and effective functioning of these forums will 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 implementation.

The call for a Jan Andolan by Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan is timely and aims to engage 1.3 billion people of this country to take ownership of the programme and ensure we achieve the target of a TB free India. It is crucial 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 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 Medicine, PGIMER, Chandigarh)*





A SINGLE DAY IS ENOUGH  
TO MAKE US A LITTLE  
LARGER OR, ANOTHER  
TIME, A LITTLE SMALLER  
— PAUL KLEE



YOUR  
WEEK  
AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



**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 your 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 this week.

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

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**ASTROTURF**

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

# Calm mind for *dhyana*

Attaining 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 mind-space becomes available. The scope of vision thus expands to its optimum best. Intuition gets sharpened. Armed as such, mind explores the targeted subject with an open mind, and so is able to per-

ceive 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 unwieldy 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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