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*Late City **Vol.** 15 **Issue** 78 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable





A clean & safe Mahakumbh is being organised by the Uttarakhand Govt, which comes after every 12 years. It is our earnest effort that everybody who visits Kumbh, feels that sacredness and divinity all around. Kumbh is the symbol of our deep-rooted faith and rich culture and a part of our heritage, which has kept us together for thousands of years. Do come to Haridwar to be blessed by the divine forces and holy saints. Welcome to Mahakumbh, Haridwar.

Tirath Singh Rawat Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Holy Kumbh mela offers devotees from the country and abroad a special occasion to witness the spiritual, cultural and social diversity of India. The visitors to Prayagraj Kumbh had experienced the purity and sacredness of Ganga ji. Now, during the divine and magnificent Haridwar Kumbh also, pilgrims from across the globe are experiencing similar bliss while taking holy dip in clean Ganga.

> Narendra Modi **Prime Minister**

A HEARTY WELCOME TO ALL THE DEVOTEES - MAHAKUMBH HARIDWAR-2021

- Arrangement of clean drinking water for devotees
- Policemen, trained volunteers, personnel & swimmers deployed at Mela ghat area for security
 - High-tech CCTV cameras installed at Mahakumbh area for security of devotees
- Shuttle service (Buses) operational in Kumbh area for devotees
 - Proper space allocation has been made for tourists to rest near Haridwar & Rishikesh railway stations

- All medical facilities being arranged for devotees visiting Kumbh
- All pilgrims should enter the religious area wearing masks
 - 1500-bedded COVID hospital is operational
 - Arrangement of toilet, drinking water and sanitizer for drivers in parking areas
 - Time-to-time sanitization of Ashrams & Dharamshalas







Kumbh Mela Helpline No. 01334 222 725, 01334 222 726, 01334 222 727 Email: mahakumbhmela2021@gmail.com | Website : haridwarkumbhmela2021.com

Police Helpline Phone No. :- 01334-222011/222012, 259300, 9411112988 &112 | kumbhpolice2021 | f kumbhharidwarpolice













Wearing mask properly is a must | | Keep a distance of two yards | Keep washing hands with soap and water

HOMETHEATRE

Dark and thrilling



THE WILD GOOSE LAKE &Prive HD *ing: Hu Ge, Kwai Lun-Mei, Wan Qian, Liao Fan, Yicong Zhang, Dao Qi, Huang Jue, Tang Wei, Chloe Maayan, Yongzhong Chen Rated: 6/10

▼t's dark yes, definitely thrilling but in its very own unique kind of way. LEmanating from a cop-killer youth involved in a turf war with fellow gangsters, it moves on to a series of set pieces that enhance the story at various levels. However, the ambience largely remains rainy and dark, when it is not red blue or psychedelic.

Whether these shades are good props is a matter of discussion, depending on what your idea of a thriller is. But, over and above that the slowly enough to not let you off the

Add to this the almost muted character of an unapologetic matter of fact prostitute Liu Aiai who grabs the scene from the time she asks for a light from the youth under a leaky sky in the middle of the night, to the last scene which scripts the suspense and revelation to the last seconds, there is something really dramatic about this understated thriller from the celebrated director Diao Yinan.

Aiai is crucial to the film though she does well to keep the theatrics away from her story and role in the film as does Zhou Zenong around whose predicament the film beautifully revolves.

All in all a differently enabled film if you are not into a ferocious

Could have been scarier

Zee 5

*ing: Gurmeet Choudhary, Sayani Datta Rated: 5/10

¬his movie should not be confused with the 2017 film directed by Björn L Runge where a wife questions her life choices as she travels to Stockholm to see her husband receive the Nobel Prize for Literature.

This one, written and directed by Sarmad Khan, set in a metro, talks about how a witch changes the life of a young boy forever and takes him on a path from where there is no coming back. This is not a spoiler alert. As the opening credits rolls, one knows how this one is going to end. The tag: The Wife: Till Death Do Us Part is a dead give away.

There are a few let downs here. The pace and how the story is told and unfolds is rather slow. This takes away the scare element. The acting is stilted as well taking away from the jump moments.

Gurmeet Choudhary is not new to this genre; he has done Khamoshiyan (2015). His expressions and disinterest in what is happening in his house is rather strange given that he is aware of the reason of the spookiness in his

Still this makes for an interesting watch. It is rare for Bollywood to make films that will spook you with things that go bump but The Wife does manage to give a few fright moments. But given what the story is here, the scare quotient could have been a notch more to give one the heebie-jeebies.

- Shalini Saksena



Holds attention from the start

THE FALCON AND THE WINTER SOLDIER Disnev+Hotstar *ing: Sebastian Stan, Anthony Mackie, Wyatt Russell, Erin Kellyman, Danny

Rated: 6.5/10

ere is some great news for the Marvel Cinematic Universe fans. The Disney+, Last week dropped the first episode based on the Marvel Comics characters Falcon and Winter Soldier. The OTT platform will release one episode each week for the next six weeks. And this is the only downer here. The wait for what is to come next is going to leave the fans on the edge. More so, given where episode one left off. A spoiler alert: Another Captain America?

However, fans can take heart from how the mini-series starts — the Falcon jumping from an aircraft on a rescue mission. And what a rescue it is. The stunts are amazing; his flying even more awesome that gives you a bird's eye view of the ground below. Mid-air rescue is definitely something that will have viewers talk about — until the next episode. Unfortunately, the Winter Soldier here

doesn't have much to do except give a glimpse of his back story and the demons that drive him. Still it is good to see the Marvel characters come to life given how Avengers: Endgame ended — on a sad note. The Falcon and The Winter Soldier is bound

to keep the fans interested, at least till Black Widow or Spider-Man: No Way Home release.

Plan Your Day

For the love of rolls

Venue: Near HBR Chowk Ulahawas, Sec- 62, Gurugram When: Till March 31, 2021 Time: 11:30 am to 11 pm If you're someone who can eat Irolls, day in and day out, then call us your BFFs, 'cause we come bearing the bestest (trust us) news you have heard today! Rollery is out with their Buy



One Get One offer meaning that you can gobble up two of their spicy and creamy rolls at the price of one. And to make you drool even more, we would like to mention their specials that include Butter Chicken rolls, Pahadi Mutton rolls, Bengali egg Kathi rolls, Arabian falafel rolls, tower of turkey roll, and the

You can get your hands on any of their two yummilicious rolls at the price of one. So, don't wait anymore and call these sweet guys up and get rollin'!



Fridays and Sundays with Lakshay Verma

Venue: OTB Courtyard, B-49, the Corus, Rajiv Chowk, Connaught Place, New Delhi When: Every Friday & Sunday Time: 12 noon to 12 am

 $\boldsymbol{0}^{\text{ut}}$ of the Box sticks right with its name with every new outlet they open. The latest one being OTB Courtyard in CP is the talk of the town. The overall vibes and the food just make everything better. Plus, to give you a good time on weekends, they're calling in the super talented Lakshya Verma who has hot numbers like Tu Hi Hai, Middle Class and the remake of Moh Moh Ke Dhaage under his belt. He'll be performing live every Friday and Sunday night to give you a good time.



Soundscapes with Swaraaq

Venue: Online, https://www.facebook.com/HCLConcerts/

Avirtual concert featuring music that will transcend across the boundaries of Indian Folk, Sufi Fusion and Western music. Swaraag is an Indo-Western Fusion band from Rajasthan, India. The band's title Swaraag indicates an individual's state that is in union with music. They have been recognised for their mesmerizing performances featuring folk fusions of Rajasthani and Bollywood songs and have quickly become a household name.







मा० मुख्यमंत्री उत्तराखण्ड

जल शक्ति अभियान-"Catch The Rain"

(दिनांक 22 मार्च, 2021 से 30 नवम्बर, 2021)

दिनांक 22 मार्च. 2021 को "विश्व जल दिवस" के अवसर पर मा0 प्रधानमंत्री जी द्वारा जल शक्ति अभियान— "Catch The Rain" कार्यक्रम के शुभारम्भ अवसर पर वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से समस्त जिलाधिकारियों एवं ग्राम प्रधानों / सरपंचों को सम्बोधित किया जायेगा। उक्त अवसर पर समस्त ग्राम पंचायतों में ग्राम सभा का आयोजन किया जा रहा है, जिसमें ग्राम सभा में उपस्थित मा0 प्रधान / अन्य पंचायत प्रतिनिधि व समुदाय द्वारा राष्ट्रीय जल मिशन भारत सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित जल शपथ ली जायेगी।

अभियान अवधि में जल संचय, संरक्षण तथा संवर्द्धन गतिविधियों के संचालन हेतु पंचायत स्तर पर ग्राम पंचायत भवन, आंगनबाड़ी, स्कूल, सामुदायिक स्वच्छता कॉम्प्लेक्स, सामुदायिक केन्द्र, प्राथमिक चिकित्सा केन्द्र / अस्पताल, पोस्ट ऑफिस भवन, बैंक / ए टी एम भवन, पुलिस स्टेशन, बजार की दुकानों इत्यादि भवनों में वर्षा जल संग्रहण, भूजल रिचार्ज सम्बन्धी संरचनायें निर्मित की जा सकती हैं। मानसून के दौरान वृक्षारोपण हेतु नर्सेरी विकास की गतिविधियों एवं वृहद वृक्षारोपाण कार्यों को भी संचालित किया जाना है।

दिनांक 22 मार्च, 2021 को आयोजित होने वाली ग्राम सभा में मानसून की समयावधि को देखते हुए ग्राम पंचायत स्तर पर जल संचय- संरक्षण एवं संवर्द्धन से सम्बन्धित समस्त कार्ययोजना पर विचार-विमर्श करते हुए समस्त जल निकायों की मैपिंग कर ली जाये। आगामी मानसून से पूर्व माह अप्रैल / मई / जून 2021 के मध्य समस्त ग्राम पंचायतों में अग्रिम कार्यवाही हेतु बैठकों में निर्धारित लक्ष्यों के क्रियान्वयन तथा लक्ष्यों के सापेक्ष की जाने वाली गतिविधियों की प्रगति पर चर्चा की जाये। अभियान अवधि के समापन (30 नवम्बर, 2021) से एक सप्ताह पूर्व "जल शक्ति अभियान— कैच द रेन" के दौरान की गयी प्रगति हेतु ग्राम सभा का आयोजन करने

सभी प्रबुद्ध पंचायत प्रतिनिधियों से अपील है कि जल शक्ति अभियान—"Catch The Rain" को अपने व्यक्तिगत एवं सम्मिलित प्रयासों से सफल बनाकर जल संरक्षण एवं संवर्द्धन में अपना सहयोग प्रदान करें।

सौजन्य से- पंचायतीराज निदेशालय, उत्तराखण्ड।

story in itself is gripping and unfolds

TELLY TALE

RAINA RECALLS THE WIN

The upcoming episode of Indian Pro Music League is surely going to be nothing short of a delight for the viewers as the



ambassador of UP Dabbangs, Suresh Raina will be seen sharing the stage with Bollywood actor Parineeti Chopra. While the show was filled with power-packed performances from the captains and team members of Punjab Lions and UP Dabbangs the highlight of the evening was the celebration of Team India winning the Cricket World Cup 2011, 10 years ago. While paying a tribute to this glorious moment and to the Indian Cricket Team, Suresh Raina couldn't help but go down the memory lane reminiscing the biggest moment when he felt

even more proud to be an Indian! Recalling the memory, Suresh said: "A win in a team sport is not just of an individual but of an entire team which comprises coaches, team members and every single person who is connected with the team. I still remember the moment when we were in our last over and everyone was praying with their heart and soul that we win this match. As soon as that happened, it was the most surreal experience for us as the entire stadium was singing Vande Mataram with their mobile flashlights swaying in the air. That is the moment all of us had a feeling that we had truly made our country proud."

Coming together to depict their spirit of patriotism, the singers and captains of both the teams came on the stage to sing to the tunes of Vande Mataram as they collectively paid a tribute to the Indian team and the country respectively. Even superstar Parineeti Chopra couldn't stop herself from taking Suresh Raina's autograph on a bat post the performance. What is sure to excite viewers in the upcoming episode will be Parineeti and Suresh presenting a cricket and badminton fusion of sorts where Parineeti will be seen marking shots with her badminton racket while Suresh brings his

classic cricketer style on the floor.

JUHI'S EMOTIONAL CONNECT

Zee TV's Hamariwali Good News is a primetime drama that presents a heartwarming and unique role reversal between a daughter-in-law - Navya (Srishti Jain) and her mother-in-law — Renuka Tiwari (Juhi Parmar) to give their family the muchawaited 'Good News'. Over the last couple of weeks, we've seen a lot of drama take place at the Tiwari household. In fact, the show took a three-month leap recently and left everyone astonished after Renuka and Mukund (Shakti Anand) returned to find out that their son, Raghay (Aditya) and daughterin-law, Navya are heading for a divorce. Renuka was in quite a fix. She not only had well as save Raghav-Navya's relationship, but also get ready to deliver a baby.

Playing a seven-month pregnant woman with a huge baby bump is a task, but also immersing yourself in such dramatic sequences makes it even more difficult. But Juhi Parmar has been acing it! In fact, the pregnancy track has even made the actress reminisce about her real-life pregnancy. As Juhi Parmar mentions, "I have played a pregnant woman in an earlier show as well. however, during that period of time, it was different. I hadn't experienced pregnancy in real life, so I didn't know how you feel when



you're a mother. But this time around, I have been a mother, so I know how you feel when you're pregnant and it did make me nostalgic. When you have been through the journey, how I have now, it becomes more natural to enact scenes and pick up the body language as I know what it is like to be pregnant. The post leap track has really made me nostalgic, especially with all the beautiful memories of my pregnancy coming

She further added: "Personally, motherhood is my best experience till date. As an actor, when I am enacting sequences where I am pregnant, it becomes much easier to relate to the scenes as the emotions come naturally. While the sequences might be similar to other tracks I shoot, being a mother, the pregnancy scenes bring a little more attachment and emotional connection to the whole track and I am enjoying shooting as always."
In the meantime, with Aditya and Navya

heading for divorce, will Renuka be able to save their marriage? Will she be able to resurrect the Tiwari Sadan again? And what would happen to Mukund and Renuka's relationship, will it be affected, or would they be together?

MEET THE RIG'S CAST

Amazon Prime Video has unveiled casting on the highly-anticipated UK Amazon Original series The Rig, a six-part epic thriller produced by Wild Mercury Productions (part of Banijay UK), created by David Macpherson and directed by John Strickland (Line of Duty, Bodyguard). The series is set to film exclusively in Scotland later this month on an oil rig and at FirstStage Studios in Edinburgh.

lain Glen (Game of Thrones, Mrs Wilson) plays Magnus MacMillan, Offshore Installation Manager of the rig and leader of the crew, Emily Hampshire (Schitt's Creek) plays Rose Mason the scientist and oil company rep, a fresh face on-board the rig

Martin Compston (Line of Duty. Traces) plays Communications Officer Fulmer Hamilton. Rochenda Sandall (Criminal: UK, Small Axe) plays Medic Cat Braithwaite. Owen Teale (Game of Thrones, A Discovery of Witches) is Head Driller Lars Hutton. Richard Pepple (Bridgerton, Cobra) is crew boss Grant Dunlin and Mark Bonnar (Guilt, Quiz) is Deck Foreman Alwyn Evans.

Calvin Demba (Life, Last Christmas) plays Drill Hand Baz Roberts, Emun Elliott (Guilt) is rig mechanic Leck Longman. Abraham Popoola (Cruella) is rig crane driver Easter Ayodeji, Stuart McQuarrie (Des) is Head Chef Colin Murchison and Molly Vevers (The Spanish Princess) plays roustabout Heather Shaw.

Magnus and his crew aboard the Kinloch Bravo oil rig are stationed off the Scottish coast in the dangerous waters of the North Sea. When they are due to be collected and return to the mainland a mysterious and all-enveloping fog rolls through. The rig is hit by massive tremors, and they find themselves cut off from all communication with the shore and the outside world. As the crew endeavour to discover what's driving this unknown force, a major accident forces them to ask questions about who they can really trust. Bonds are broken, allegiances formed and generational fault lines exposed. The crew of the Bravo will be driven to the limits of both their lovalties and their endurance, into a confrontation with forces beyond their imagination.

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Fear sets in as corona surges on

41K infected in last 24 hours, 8 States major contributors

Poronavirus has infected a Crecord 40,953 people in the last 24 hours, highest so far since November taking the total tally to 1,15,55,284 on Saturday. Eight States, including Maharashtra, are the major contributors in the total case loads, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday.

Maharashtra, Kerala and Punjab cumulatively accounted for 76.22 per cent of India's total active caseload. The western States contributed to 62 per cent of such cases, while the south ern and northern States accounted for 8.83 per cent and 5.36 per cent of active cases respectively.

The top five districts in

Maharashtra recording the highest number of cases were Pune (37,384), Nagpur (25,861), Mumbai (18,850), Thane (16,735) and Nashik (11,867) while the top five districts in Kerala recording the highest number of cases were Ernakulam (2,673),Pathanamthitta (2,482), Kannur (2,263), Palakkad (2,147) and

Thrissur (2,065). Similarly, the top five districts in Punjab recording the highest number of cases were Jalandhar (2,131), SAS Nagar (1,868), Patiala (1,685) Ludhiana (1,643) and Hoshiarpur (1,572)



A health worker collects swab sample from a person for Covid-19 test, near Kashmere Gate in New Delhi on Saturday

"A rising trajectory of daily new cases is visible in eight States. These are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka and Haryana. Kerala is showing a consistently declining trend," the Ministry said in a statement.

The Health Ministry further said five States account for 81.38 per cent of the fresh deaths due to the virus. Maharashtra saw the maxi-

mum casualties at 70, Punjab followed with 38 daily deaths and Kerala reported 17 deaths in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, in a major relief, fifteen States and UTs did not report any Covid-19 deaths in the last 24 hours.

These were Uttarakhand, Odisha, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Sikkim, Ladakh, Manipur Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Meghalaya

Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Arunachal Pradesh.

The Ministry further said India has scaled a significant peak in its battle against Covid-19 pandemic with the total vaccination coverage surpassing four crore. "About 4,20,63,392 vaccine

doses have been administered

Restrictions

of rising coronavirus cases,

Maharashtra Energy Minister Nitin Raut said on Saturday.

and eateries can operate till 7

pm while shops can remain

open till 4 pm, said the Minister.

In Nagpur city, restaurants

in Nagpur

to 10,955, as per data shared by the health department. The number of active cases rose to 3,409 from 3,165 a day ago, according to the latest health bulletin.

through 6,86,469 sessions, as per the provisional report till 7 am today. These include

77,06,839 healthcare workers (HCWs) (first dose), 48,04,285

(second

79,57,606 frontline workers

(FLWs) (first dose) and

24,17,077 FLWs (second dose)

32,23,612 beneficiaries aged more than 45 years with specific

co-morbidities (first dose) and 1,59,53,973 beneficiaries aged more than 60 years," it said.

800 cases in

Delhi; positivity

rate breaches

1% mark again

New Delhi: Delhi reported

over 800 Covid-19 cases for the

first time this year on Saturday

as the positivity rate breached the 1 per cent-mark after over

two months, while two more fatalities pushed the death toll

dose)

Bhopal: A lockdown has been announced in Madhya Pradesh's capital Bhopal, Indore and Jabalpur. The three cities will remain shut from 10 pm on Saturday to 6 am on Monday, and their schools and colleges will remain closed till March

Scindia's pic missing from deserters' list

RNI No. Regn. UTTENG/2007/22374, REGD. No. UA/DO/DDN/126/2016-2018

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

The soft corner of Madhya Pradesh unit of Congress leaders towards their former colleague Jyotiraditya Scindia, was evident at the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC), when his pic was missing from the Congress MLAs pictures who crossed floor. The Madhya Pradesh unit

of Congress observed Loktantra Samman Diwas on Saturday, as then Chief Minister Kamal Nath had submitted his resignation on March 20, 2020.

Senior party leaders claimed that there is no authenticity of the poster, as an ordinary party workers had brought the poster having photographs of the MLAs who quit the party along with chief min-ister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's picture. However, the pic of Scindia under whose leadership, the Congress MLAs had resigned from the party membership, was not placed there.

Notably, Scindia left the Congress along with his loyalists, in March last year, starting an exodus that led to the collapse of the party's Kamal Nath become a backbencher in the government and the return of the BJP in Madhya Pradesh. Early this month, Rahul Gandhi apparently spoke about

Madhya Pradesh Congress party activists demonstrate as they participate in

'Loktantra Samman Diwas' programme organised by the party on the first

anniversary of the fall of Kamal Nath led Congress Government at PCC

मध प्रदेश कांग्रेस कमेटी, भोपाल

tance of the party at a meeting of the Youth Wing of the Congress. "He (Scindia) would have become the Chief Minister had he stayed with Congress but has

his one-time close aide while

making a point of the impor-

BJP. Scindia had the option to strengthen the organisation by working with Congress workers. I told him — One day you will become the Chief Minister. But he chose another route, Rahul Gandhi said.

Now, it is speculated that neither Congress, nor its leaders are ready to use bad words against him, as Rahul Gandhi has already opened an offer towards Scindia

Maha HM asked Vaze for ₹100 cr/m: Ex-CP

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a shocking development that further threatens the very stability of the Shiv Sena-led three party Government in Maharashtra, Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh on Saturday alleged that State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh of the NCP had asked now arrested and suspended police officer Sachin Vaze last month to "collect" a staggering ₹100 crore per month from bars, restaurants and other

Three days after he was

shunted and posted in a relatively insignificant post as the Commandant General of Home Guards, Singh dropped a bombshell on the MVA Government, in the form of an eight-page sensational letter written to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, in which he laid bare "misdeeds and malpractices" indulged in by the State Home Minister. In his swift retaliation, State

Home Minister Deshmukh — in a tweet put in the evening debunked Singh's charge and said, "The former former Commissioner of Police, Parambir Singh, has made false self as the involvement of Sachin Waze in Mukesh Ambani & Mansukh Hiren's case is becoming clearer from the investigation carried out so far & threads are leading to Singh as well."

allegations in order to save him-

In his letter, Singh claimed that he had the briefing sessions with the CM, Dy CM, NCP president Sharad Pawar and other Ministers about the "several misdeeds and malpractices being indulged in by the Home Minister. "I noticed that some Ministers were already aware of some aspects mentioned by me to them," he said.

Jabs to protect you from virus for 10 months: AIIMS head

Surge as people feel Covid over, not following norms: Guleria

PNS NEW DELHI

IIMS Director Randeep AllMS Director Address Annual Aguleria on Saturday hoped that the vaccine would be able to give good protection from the infection for eight to ten months or be even more.

"The Covid-19 vaccine should be able to give good protection from the infection for eight to ten months and maybe, even more," Guleria said at an event organised by the IPS (Central) Association.

Over four crore people in the country have been vaccinated against the virus till now. The AIIMS head also said no major side-effect of the vaccine has been recorded.

He said the biggest reason for the surge in cases is that people feel the pandemic is over and they are not following Covid-appropriate behav-



A medic prepares to administer Covid-19 vaccine to a beneficiary, during the countrywide inoculation drive, in

"There are multiple reasons for the surge, but the main reason is that there is a change in people's attitude and they feel the coronavirus is over. People should still restrict non-essential travel for some more time," he asserted.

NITI Aayog member (Health) VK Paul said the chain of transmission has to be stopped and for that vaccine is one tool but another is containment and surveillance

"Not following Covid-19 behaviour and laxity is a major reason for the surge," he said.

Responding to a question on vaccinating more people, Paul said the issue is vaccines are limited and that is why prioritisation has been done.

"If we had unlimited supply, we would open the vaccination for everyone. I nat is the reason, not everyone is getting vaccinated. Most countries in the world are not able to go beyond priority groups because of this reason," he

The NITI Aayog member also said the highest mortality was seen among people with co-morbidities and older age groups.

These people must not delay taking the vaccine. So the message is that they need it more than others. That is the reason they have been prioritised for getting the Covid-19 vaccine," he said.

Talking about the effectiveness of the available Covid-19 vaccines, Covaxin and Covishield, Guleria said, "If we look at the two vaccines, they produce equal antibodies and are very robust. We should take the vaccine available to us because both are equally effective in terms of efficacy and long-term protection."

Lockdown in Bhopal, Indore, Nagpur: Restrictions imposed in Nagpur district will contin-ue with some relaxations from March 22 to March 31 in view Jabalpur today

31, the State Government said on Friday.

US Def Secy, Rajnath review

India-Pacific situations

PNS NEW DELHI

 $I_{
m called}$ and the US on Saturday called for deepening defence and strategic ties with the US terming the partnership as a "stronghold" of a free and open India-Pacific region. This was in obvious reference to growing Chinese assertiveness in the region.

This takeaway came out after visiting US Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held wide-ranging dis-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and US Secretary of Defence Lloyd James Austin at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Saturday

relations and situation in the India-Pacific. They also reportedly reviewed the situation on the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh where

cussion on bilateral defence stand-off was still on at some flash points.

After the talks, Lloyd said elevating the India-US defence partnership is a "priority" of the Biden administration, and

that India is an increasingly important partner amid rapidly shifting international dynamics and a "central pillar" in Washington's approach towards the region.

Describing the talks as "comprehensive and fruitful," Rajnath said the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation between Indian military and the US India-Pacific Command, Central Command and Africa Command. Moreover, both the countries are keen to work together to realise the full potential of the India-US global strategic partnership, he said.

Referring to India-US foundational agreements on defence cooperation, Rajnath said both sides discussed steps to be taken to realise the full potential of pacts such as LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement), COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) and BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation

Agreement). He also said the recent summit of leaders of India, the US, Japan and Australia under the Quad framework emphasised the resolve to maintain a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

Discussed human rights of minorities, says Austin

PNS NEW DELHI

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said he had talked about human rights of minorities in India during his meeting with Cabinet Ministers here during his ongoing visit. It was important for partners to have "those kinds of discussions," he said.

In an interaction with media, "We have to remember that India is our partner, a partner whose partner-ship we value. And I think partners need to be able to have those kinds of discussions. And certainly, we feel comfortable doing that. And you can have those discussions in a very meaningful way and make progress." he added.

His response came in the backdrop of US Senator Robert Menendez, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee mentioning about "the deteriorating situation of democra-

Opp parties in Parliament panel OK farm law **Essential Commodities Act is one of farm laws against which kisan protesting**

PNS NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties — Congress, TMC, AAP, DMK, SP, PMK and NC — have supported "the Essential" Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020", one of the three farm laws against which farmers are protesting at Delhi borders for more than 100 days

Committee on the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, comprising Farooq Abdullah, GS Basavaraj, Shafiqur Rahman Anbumani Ramadoss, Fauzia Khan, Shanta Chhetri and

"letter and spirit" the Essential

Commodities (Amendment)



three farm laws enacted by the

ment the

The panel said although the country has become sur-Commodities Act, 1955.

panel said. High Powered Committee for Transformation of Indian

there was a need to create an

doing business and for removing the fear of frequent statutory controls under the Essential Commodities Act in order to boost immediate investment in agriculture sector, increase competition and enhance farmers' income.

enacted become a catalyst for unlockductive competition in agri-Agriculture had suggested that

report added.

Doorstep ration scheme to drop **Mukhya Mantri** environment based on ease of name: Kejriwal **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's doorstep ration delivery scheme will be implemented in the national Capital without any name and a fresh proposal will be control for al will be sent to the Centre for its approval, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Saturday. The announcement came a

"Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojna", saying subsidised foodgrains under the "National Food Security Act" cannot be

obstruction of the scheme."

CAPSULE PM MODI WISHES IMRAN RECOVERY FROM COVID New Delhi: Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on Saturday extended his best wishes to his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan for a speedy recovery from Covid-19.

AADITYA THACKERAY TESTS COVID POSITIVE Mumbai: Maharashtra Minister Aaditya Thackeray on Saturday said he has tested positive for coronavirus and urged people

not to let their guard down. MIZO CM WANTS ASYLUM FOR MYANMAR REFUGEES

Aizawl: Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga has called "not acceptable" the Centre's order to prevent illegal immigration from Myanmar and ensure speedy deportation of refugees and urged PM Narendra Modi to provide them asylum on humanitarian grounds

Dattatreya Hosabale next RSS general secretary

DEEPAK K UPRETI **NEW DELHI**

 $T^{
m he\ Rashtriya\ Swayamsevak}_{
m Sangh\ (RSS)}$ on Saturday elected Dattatreya Hosabale as the next sarkaryavah (general secretary). Hosabale replaces Suresh Bhaiyyaji Joshi, 73, who held the position since 2009 for the fourth time.

Hosabale, 65, was serving as the organisation's sahasarkaryavah in the RSS. The important decision

for the change of guards was taken at RSS' "Akhil Bharatiya Prathinidhi Sabha", the highest annual decision-making conclave of the Sangh, which was held near Bengaluru this year from March 19 to March 20.

under the said Act.

A Parliamentary Standing

Bhagwant Mann, Ganesan Selvam, has asked the Government to implement in

political parties have been demanding the repeal of all

Centre recently and backing the farmers' protect against it. The report was tabled in Parliament on March 19, ask-

ing the Government to "imple-Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 so the farmers and other stakeholders of the farming sector in this country receive the benefits intended

plus in most agri-commodities, farmers have been unable to get better prices due to lack of investment in cold storage, warehouses, processing and export as entrepreneurs get discouraged by the regulatory mechanisms in the Essential This has resulted in farm-

ers suffering huge losses when there are bumper harvests, especially of perishable commodities, much of which could have been reduced with adequate processing facilities," the Also, it noted that even the

"The Committee hope(s) and expect(s) that the recent-'Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020', which was aimed at addressing the issue, will

ing vast untapped resources in the agriculture sector by creating an environment for enhanced investments in agriculture sector, fair and procultural marketing and increase farmers' income," the

day after Centre red-flagged

used for State specific scheme. Kejriwal said, "We will accept all conditions of the Centre but will not allow any

cy in India."

CM inaugurates works worth ₹120 cr in Haridwar



Reiterates commitment on holding divine & grand Kumbh Mela

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

hief Minister Tirath Singh CRawat inaugurated various works amounting to ₹120 crore in Haridwar on Saturday. He reiterated that the State Government is committed to facilitating a divine and grant Kumbh Mela here.

Speaking on the occasion, Rawat said that devotees around the world were enthusiastic for Kumbh but there was also confusion due to Covid-19. He said, "Apart from the devotees, there was concern among the business fraternity and the general public. Considering this, our Government has removed unnecessary restrictions but the Central government's Covid guidelines will also have to be followed. We are focusing fully on the Kumbh and all attempts are being made to

Rawat further said that the State Government had discontinued the functioning of development authorities in

rural areas

make it divine and grand. To improve transportation during the Kumbh Mela, the number of passenger vehicles has been increased about fourfold," said the CM.

Rawat further said that the State Government had discontinued the functioning of development authorities in rural areas. The State Government has also withdrawn cases lodged against those who had violated Covid guidelines during the

Stating that people in the mountains who used to demand roads in the past are now talking of train, he said that the dream of train service in the mountains has become possible under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Union Education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', assembly speaker Premchand Agrawal, BJP state president Madan Kaushik other public

representatives and officials were also present on the occa-

Later, the CM held a meeting with senior officials regarding the Kumbh Mela. He expressed satisfaction at arrangements made in pursuance of earlier instructions to expedite the Mela works. He directed the officials to work in coordination and in a timebound manner to ensure successful conduct of the coming Shahi Snans.

Construction of internal roads in the city should be expedited, he stressed. Stating that construction at Damkothi should be expedited, he stressed on laying special focus on sanitation in the Mela area. The CM said that the attempt should be on providing better facilities to devotees arriving here for the Kumbh

Earlier, while inspecting the command and control centre at the Mela control building, the CM said that the arrangements here should be made more effective, adding that it will help more in crowd control, traffic management and other aspects.

BJP to send six names of probable candidates for Salt bypoll



The Bharatiya Janata Party's ■ State unit will send a list of six names to the party's central parliamentary board which will finalise the name of the BJP candidate for the Salt Assembly by-election to be held on April 17. The name of Chief Minister Tirath Singh

Rawat is not in this list. The BJP state president Madan Kaushik said this after the meeting of the party's core group held in the BJP state office here on Saturday

Talking to media persons, Kaushik said that the three member team which had conducted a survey in Salt had

listed six names of potential candidates. The BJP State unit will send this list to the party's central parliamentary board probably on Sunday morning. The board will finalise the name of the candidate which will be announced probably Sunday evening or Monday, he said. Stating that

the Chief Minister Tirath

THE HUGE TURNOUT IN THE 'JAN

AKROSH' RALLY IN SRINAGAR

GARHWAL INDICATES THAT THE

PEOPLE OF THE STATE HAVE MADE

UP THEIR MIND TO CHANGE

GOVERNMENT IN THE ASSEMBLY

Singh Rawat's name is not in this list, he said that a family member of the late Salt MLA Surendra Singh Jeena and other contenders are named in the list. Kaushik further said that the works done by Jeena in the constituency had strengthened the trust of the public in the party which will definitely work in favour of the BJP in the assembly by-

According to sources, Mahesh Jeena, the elder brother of the late MLA is among those named in the list. It will be recalled that the by-election in Salt Assembly constituency has been necessitated by the demise of sitting MLA Surendra Singh Jeena in November last year.
Along with Kaushik, chief

minister Tirath Singh Rawat, Union Education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', party's state co-in-charge Rekha Verma, cabinet minister Banshidhar Bhagat, State minister Dhan Singh Rawat, MPs Ajay Bhatt, Ajay Tamta, Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah and Naresh Bansal among others were also present in the core group meeting.

Police HQ buying rescue motorboats & other equipment to boost rescue & relief works



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The police headquarters is purchasing one speed rescue motorboat and two rescue motorboats to be used in rescue and relief operations. The director general of police, Ashok Kumar informed that these boats will be used for the tourists visiting the Tehri dam reservoir, the local residents, during water related emergencies, during ceremonial baths held from time to time, Kanwad Mela and the Kumbh

The speed rescue motorboat will be capable of reaching speeds of upto 25 nautical miles per hour while the rescue motorboats will be able to reach speeds of upto 20 nautical miles per hour. The DGP said that the induction of these rescue boats will definitely enhance the work efficiency of the Uttarakhand police water rescue teams.

In addition to this, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) deep diving team, water police and flood relief PAC team are being equipped with latest disaster related equipment. Various items including life jackets, rafts, personal throw bag, scuba diving suit, floating rescuer station, rechargeable mobile remote area lighting system, dry bag, dry suit and other equipment are being purchased for these teams. It is pertinent to mention here that the water police, SDRF deep diving team and flood relief PAC team are posted along with the necessary equipment in the Kumbh Mela area in Haridwar, Tehri lake, Muni Ki Reti, Devprayag, Shivpuri, Lakshmanjhula, Srinagar, Rishikesh, Vikasnagar, Haridwar, Roorkee, Rudraprayag, Nainital, Bhimtal, Ramnagar, Kathgodam, Nanakmatta, Gularbhoj, Banbasa and Tanakpur. Apart from this, in order to further improve the response time of the fire service, various fire fighting and emergency related equipment like mini high pressure pump, proximity suit, backpack set with water mist

and other items are also being

procured.

Cong challenges CM Rawat to contest Salt bypoll THE STATE IN-CHARGE CLAIMED THAT

BJP Govt has betrayed the people of U'khand: Yadav

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Congress party has challenged the Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat to contest the upcoming Assembly byelection from Salt. This challenge was given by the in charge of Uttarakhand Congress, Devendra Yadav during his Facebook live programme on Saturday. He said that the CM should not hesitate to contest from Salt if he feels that the BJP has fulfilled the promises made to the people of Uttarakhand in the last four years. Accusing the BJP and its government in Uttarakhand for betraying the people of the state, Yadav said that instead of fulfilling the promises made by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP leadership during the assembly elections of 2017, the BJP Government has taken decisions which have hurt the people.

He said that the people of the state are asking about Lokayukt which the BJP Government had promised to bring within 100 days but even after 1,462 days it is nowhere in

ELECTION OF 2022 sight. Yadav also put the state government on dock for on price rise, highest unemployment rate in Uttarakhand and its zero tolerance on corruption

The State in-charge claimed that the huge turnout in the 'Jan Akrosh' rally in

Srinagar Garhwal indicates that the people of the State have made up their mind to change Government in the Assembly election of 2022. He also said that the organisational activities of Congress party in the State would be intensified fur-

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my army record, my brother's name Devendar Rana has been accidentally recorded. Whereas, his correct name is Devendra Rana.

(Army no. 5460156K.) 5/5 GR Hari Bahadur Rana, Kistud Kerad, Tuni, Dehradun

The general public is informed that i have changed my name from Narender Singh to implementation of the Narendra Singh and in future I Ayushman Bharat and the Atal should be known as Narendra Singh s/o Harbhajan Singh Address:- VPO - Aithal Buzurng, Teh- Laksar, Haridwar, Uttarakhand,

I, No 18018651N RANK SPR Narendra Bhandari S/o Gopal Singh Bhandari R/o Molnau Pokhal, Tehri Garhwal Uttarakhand declare that in my army record my mother's name mistakenly written as CHHUMA BHANDARI whereas her correct name is CHHUMA DEVI and it should be updated.

In my service record, name of my wife Puspa wrongly recorded. Her correct name is Pushpa Ali.

Army No.9422513W Hav Dilshad Ali Unit-HQ 135 INF BDE CAMP, C/o 56 APO.

मैं नजमा इकबाल W/o जावेद इकबाल अपर्न ऑरिजनल रजिस्टी पेपर लेकर फोटों कार्प कराने के लिए हरबर्टपुर में गई थी। घर आउ समय मेरी ऑरिजनल रजिस्टी पेपर कहीं खे गए हैं। जिसका विवरण : Book No. 1, Vol No. 633, page - 131, Addl. File Book No. 1, Vol. No. 1393, Page - 341 to 356, Document No. 3772, Date 31-05-2010. अगर किसी को मिले तो निम्न पते पर बतायें। एडवोकेट आलोक पुण्डी मो0 9412054582

पता : चैम्बर नं0 1 व 2 डिस्ट्रीक्ट कोऑपरेटि लेन, कोर्ट कम्पाउण्ड, देहरादून।

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that my father-in-law Late Siri Chand Bhatia passed away on 22.10.1981 and in his name shares of Akzo Nobel India Limited (Fromerly India Explosiee Ltd, ICI India Limited) Geetanjali Apartment 8B. Middleeton Street, ist Flroo. Kolkata-700071 value Rs 10 per share, was there in Folio/Account No SCB022 and Share Certificate No. 51228, 173398-173399, 192278, Distinctive No. 21111001-21111200, 22667075-22667140, 28751302-28715308 & No of shares 200, 66 & 7 respectively Total 273 shares. The said share certificate has been actually lost in Premnagar Dehradun. FIR in this regard has already been lodged at Premnaga Dehradun police station on 22.07.2017. Swarn Kanta Bhatia, W/o Late Indra Pal

Disclaimer

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Bhatia, R/o Wing No-3/17/5, Premnagar,

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-

Ayushman Yojana: Free golden health cards to be made in Villages Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana out beneficiaries to the Village lagers. Terming the making of cards have so far been made in

State Health Agency to organise special camps in 662 Nyay **Panchayats across** the State

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

 $T^{\text{he State health authority}}_{(\text{SHA}) \text{ entrusted with the}}$

(AAUY) in Uttarakhand would now organise camps in the villages for making the golden cards. In these camps the cards would be made free of cost.

The chairman of the SHA. D K Kotia addressed the 600 Village Pradhans via video conferencing session on Saturday. He said that the role of Pradhans is of paramount importance in making the golden cards of vilcards as an auspicious work, Kotia appealed to Pradhans that they should help in the work of public welfare and ensure that the card of every beneficiary is made. It is pertinent to mention here that a fee of Rs 30 was being charged for making golden cards but these cards are being now made free of cost in the special camps in the Nyaya Panchayats. Kotia informed that 43 Lakh

the state and 35 Lakh more are needed to be made. These camps would be organised in two phases in 662 Nyay Panchayats of the state. The first phase is from March 23 to 27 while the second would be from March 30 to April 5.

Under the campaign the cards would be made in the nearest 'Ian Sewa Kendra" and the SHA has made the list of left

Pradhans. The employees of the Panchayati Raj and Women and Child Development department would help in organising these camps. The SHA has decided to honour the first three village Panchayats in every block while the Panchayats securing first place in the district would be specially honoured by

the chief minister himself. Speaking on the occasion,

the secretary Panchayati Raj, HC Semwal said that the campaign of making free cards is a golden opportunity and it should be availed. He also directed the officers and employees of Panchayati Raj and Women and Child Development departments to ensure that the campaign is successful. The SHA director Dr Archana Srivastava, IEC officer J C Pandey and others were present.

Education dept proposes to open schools for all students from April 15



THE SCHOOLS ARE STILL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS OF CLASSES I TO V

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The education department of **■** Uttarakhand is planning to start the next academic session from April 15. The department has submitted its proposal regarding the new academic session and opening of the primary schools of the state to the State Government for approval. In the recent

meeting of the officials of the education department chaired by education minister Arvind Pandey detailed discussions on the opening of the schools and new academic session were held. It was also decided that the primary schools (class I to V) which are closed from last one year should now be opened. The education director R K Kunwar told The Pioneer that the final decision on primary schools would be taken by the government. He said that the schools of the classes VI onwards are open and all precautions are being taken to prevent infection of

THE SCHOOLS IN UTTARAKHAND WERE CLOSED IN THE LAST WEEK OF MARCH 2020 WHEN THE PANDEMIC OF COVID-19 STARTED IN THE **STATE**

schools opened on February 8.

Covid-19 from spreading. Uttarakhand were closed in the

last week of March 2020 when the pandemic of Covid-19 started in the state. The education department opened the schools for students of class X and XII were opened in the month of November last year while the students of classes VI VII, VII, IX and XI were

PUBLIC NOTICE Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road,

Rarol 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

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	NI Da
Ashok Giri, Neetu Giri, Pandey Wala, Gughal Road New Dheerwali, Jwalapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand, A/c No:- LBDEH00004898082	Plot No. 49-C, Khasra No. 452/15, Shivalik Nagar, Village Ranipur, Nagar Palika Parishad S, Pargana Jwalapur Tehsil, Haridwar, Uttarakhand - 249407	04-Nov-2020, Rs. 8,11,838/-	29/ 20

construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Date: March 20, 2021 **Authorized Officer**

NAPSR seeks strict action against schools exploiting parents

The State Government and I the High court of Uttarakhand have allowed private schools just to take the

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Tuition fees from the parents but in the name of tuition fees schools are arbitrarily taking money from the parents said National Association of Parents and Student Rights (NAPSR) president Arif Khan. "Some schools have even raised their fees even after the prohibition on this by the high court. Private schools are exploiting parents mentally and economically. The high court has also ordered that even if a family is not able to pay fees on time a child should not be deprived of education because of this but what we are witnessing nowadays is just the opposite. Private schools are not allowing children to appear in exams without submitting their fees," he

Khan also stated that NAPSR wants the education department to take action on such schools which are not adhering to high court and state government orders. "If strict action is not taken against such schools, such institutions will keep exploiting parents willfully.

The chief education officer should also face action for her irresponsible and careless attitude towards students. Schools are saying that they will make a committee to address parents' problems but we know most of them are going to be fake. We want the education department to form a committee to look into parents' problems," he

Vaccination drive: 1,09,148 fully vaccinated in U'khand

83 new cases of **Covid-19 reported** on Saturday

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

mid fears of a second wave And the pandemic of novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) in some states of the country, the vaccination drive against the disease is going on at a satisfactory pace in Uttarakhand. In the drive 13,870 people were vaccinated in different parts of the state on Saturday. In the state 109148 people have been fully vaccinated so far as they have received both the first and second dose of the vaccine. A total of 1,97,811 senior citizens (60 Plus) have received the first dose of the vaccine in the state. Similarly 11,785 persons in the age group of 45-59 years having co-morbidity have been vaccinated.

The Chief Operations Officer (COO) of state Covid-19 control room, Dr Abhishek Tripathi said that 276 vaccine sessions were organised in different parts of the state on Saturday. In Dehradun 40 vaccine sessions were organised in which 1,596 senior citizens, 121 people with co-morbidity, 647 healthcare workers and 573 frontline workers were vaccinated on Saturday.

Similarly, 902 senior citizens, 128 persons with comorbidity, 42 health care workers and 337 front line workers were vaccinated in 75 vaccine sessions in Haridwar district on

The State health department reported 83 new cases of the disease on Saturday which increased the cumulative tally of the disease to 98,311 in the state. Death of no patient was



reported by the department on the day. The disease has so far claimed 1,704 lives in the State. The authorities discharged 50 patients from different hospitals of the state following their recovery on Saturday.

A total of 94,430 patients have recovered from the disease in the state so far and the recovery percentage is now at 96.05. The State health department reported 35 new cases of the disease from Dehradun, 23 from Haridwar, seven from Almora, six from Nainital, four from Udham Singh Nagar, three from Rudraprayag, two

from Uttarkashi and one each from Champawat and Tehri districts on Saturday. No new patient was reported from Bageshwar and Chamoli dis-

tricts on the day. The State now has 756 active patients of the disease. Haridwar district is at the top of the table of active cases of the disease with 266 patients, Dehradun has 183, Udham Singh Nagar 72, Pauri 37, Almora 30, Champawat 17, Uttarkashi 14, Rudraprayag 12, Bageshwar six, Pithoragarh four and Chamoli three active patients of the disease.

NOTICE FOR LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATES ESTER INDUSTRIES LIMITED Regd office: Sohan Nagar, P.O Charubeta, Khatima, Distt Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand-262308 the registered holder of under mentioned shares hereby give notice that 4 shares certificates (in the name of K S Yadav) in respect of following shares have been lost and I have applied to the company to issue duplicate share certificates:

Name of the Folio no No of Certificate No Distinctive No

113.	I Maille Of Life	rono no	14001	Certificate NO	Distilletive NO		
No.	Shareholder		Shares		From-To		
1	K S Yadav	0057322	100	000009338	015636901 - 015637000		
2 KS Yadav 0057322 100 00042076		00042076	022631701 - 022631800				
3	3 KS Yadav 0057322 600 000433		00043351	022758701 - 022759300			
4	K S Yadav	0057322	100	00046890	023113101 - 023113200		
	Any person who has claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the compan-						
at it	s registered office	within 15 day	s from this	date, else the com	pany, will issue duplicate share		

tificate in lieu of the lost share certificate Date: 21.03.2021

Antilia bomb scare

NIA to probe Hiran death

The Centre has handed over the probe into the death of Thane-based businessman Mansukh Hiran to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Hiran's body was found in a creek days after a vehicle laden with explosives was parked near the Mumbai residence of industrialist Mukesh Ambani.

The NIA is already probing the case related to the recovery of a Mahindra Scorpio SUV (sports utility vehicle), parked near Ambani's residence 'Antilia', with gelatin sticks and has arrested an Assistant Police Inspector, Sachin Waze.

The SUV was in possession of Hiran before his death.

The Union Home Ministry has handed over the probe into the Mansukh Hiran case to the NIA, an official said.

Earlier, the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) was probing the case related to the death of Hiran. Hiran was found dead in

Thane, a creek near Mumbai, on March 5. His wife has accused Waze of involvement in her husband's suspicious death. On March 8, the Union Home Ministry had entrusted the investigation of case FIR No. 35/2020 registered at Police Station Gamdevi, Mumbai on



to recovery of explosives from a Mahindra Scorpio parked at Carmichael Road, Mumbai. Subsequently, the NIA had reregistered the case.

Around midnight On March 13, the NIA had arrested Mumbai police API Sachin Waze in the case relating to recovery of explosives laden SUV near Ambani's residence in Mumbai.

Waze has been booked under Indian Penal Code

Sections relating to negligent conduct relating to explosives, punishment for forgery, making or possessing counterfeit seal, criminal intimidation and criminal conspiracy besides Explosive Substances Act 1908.

Sachin Waze, API Mumbai Police Crime Branch, was arrested for his role and involvement in placing explosives-laden vehicle near Carmichael Rood on 25th February 2021," the NIA had

Covid-hit pregnant women need spl care: Journal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Doctors managing Covid-19 afflicted pregnant women should be more careful and adopt effective strategies to prevent or reduce risks to patients and fetuses, researchers have cautioned stating that such pregnancy is associated with adverse outcomes like preeclampsia, stillbirth, preterm birth and others,

"Our findings suggest that pregnant people with Covid-19 have an increased risk of high blood pressure, stillbirth and preterm birth. Their newborns are more likely to need intensive care. Pregnant people with severe COVID-19 symptoms have a particularly high risk of these complications," said Dr. Nathalie Auger, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, School of Public Health, University of Montreal, Montréal, Quebec, with coauthors.

Their study 'The impact of Covid-19 on pregnancy outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis' is published in CMAJ (Canadian Medical Association Journal)

The researchers reached this conclusion after reviewing 42 studies involving 438 548 pregnant women from around the world to determine the association between SARS-

CoV-2 infection and adverse pregnancy outcomes.

They found double the risk of preterm birth and a 50 per cent increased risk of cesarean delivery in pregnant women with symptomatic Covid-19 than in those with asymptomatic patients. Those with severe virus had a 4-fold higher risk of high blood pressure and preterm birth.

The reason for the increased risk of adverse outcomes is unclear, but could be

because SARS-CoV-2 may lead to vasoconstriction and stimulate an inflammatory response affecting blood ves-

The findings of this systematic review differ from prior findings from case reports and case series. "Our meta-analysis of recent goodquality cohort studies with comparative data does not align with these previous reviews, and provides clear evidence that symptomatic or

severe Covid-19 is associated with a considerable risk of preeclampsia, preterm birth and low birth weight," wrote the authors.

This is for the first time that the researchers have reached this conclusion. Prior to this study, though there were apprehensive that patients who may get infected with symptoms like high fever may increase the risk of birth defects, there was no evi-

SC OK's disbursal of ₹50,000 to widow of man who died due to negligence of AAI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has given its nod for disbursal of ₹50,000 deposited in its "suitors fund" by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to the widow of a man who had died of cardiac arrest owing to negligence in shifting him to the nearest hospital in Kolkata in

The AAI, under provisions of the Consumer Protection Act has deposited ₹50,000 with the top court while filing an appeal against the October 7, 2015 order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) which had held its negligence or deficiency in shifting the patient to the nearby hospital and directed payment of ₹10 lakh as compensation to the widow.

Under the Consumer Protection Act, if an appeal is preferred against an order of the NCDRC by a person who is required to pay any compensation, it would be entertained by the top court only if that person has deposited fifty per cent of that amount or Rs 50,000, whichever is less.

The amount is deposited in the "suitors fund" of the top court and under the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, if the appeal is allowed by the court, then the amount deposited by the appellant would be refunded without interest but if it is dismissed, the amount will be allowed to be withdrawn by the other party or disbursed according to the directions of the court.

A bench of Justice Ajay Rastogi on Friday allowed disbursal of ₹50,000 to the widow after she moved an application on the ground that the appeal filed by the AAI had been dismissed by the court on

November 29, 2019. Advocate Dushyant Parashar, appearing for the widow, contended that since the top court had upheld the order of the NCDRC that the AAI was negligent in shifting the man who had suffered cardiac arrest to the nearest hospital in Kolkata and dismissed the appeal, the amount deposited in suitors fund shall be disbursed to her.

NRIs may vote online from 2024 LS poll PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has expressed hope the concept of remote voting will see "the light of day" by the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and said that a pilot project could begin in the next two-three months. According to the EC, after the Assembly polls in five States, the Election Commission will hold consultations with all stakeholders to allow non-resident Indians (NRIs) to vote remotely through electronically-transmitted postal ballot system (ETPBS) from their country of residence.

Addressing at the Sansad Ratna awards function on Saturday, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said the EC had early this year started a research project for enabling remote voting, in consultation with IIT Madras and eminent technologists from IITs and other leading institutions. He also expressed hope



the concept of remote voting will see "the light of day" by the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and said that a pilot project could begin in the next two-three months. Over the last few months, a dedicated team has been working hard for giving shape to this project, he said, adding the concept would hopefully "see the light of day" by 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The first pilot project could be soon be giving shape to the rolled out in the next "two to final model of such voting, after

three months", the CEC said.

It needs to be underscored that the project is neither aimed at internet-based voting nor does it imply voting from home, he observed. For the Commission, transparency and confidentiality of voting has always been a guiding consideration in ensuring free, fair and credible elections, he said, adding the Commission will

due deliberation on various options. This will entail some process changes as well, he said, adding there will be wider consultations with political parties and other stakeholders.

Explaining the "blockchain" technology involved in the project, former Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Sandeep Saxena had earlier said the concept is a "two-way electronic voting system in a controlled environment on white-listed IP devices on dedicated Internet lines enabled with biometric devices and a web camera". Saxena, however, had made

it clear that voters will have to reach a designated venue during a pre-decided period of time to be able to use this facility. It does not mean voting from home, Saxena had said.
On the issue of the

Commission's proposal to allow eligible overseas Indian voters use one-way electronically transferred postal ballots to cast vote. Arora said after the elections to five assemblies are over, the poll panel would hold a seminar with all stakeholders as suggested by the govern-ment. He expressed hope that the concept would materialise in the next six months or a year. At present, non-resident Indians can vote in the constituency in which their place of residence, as mentioned in the passport, is located. Some time ago, the Commission began to look for options to enable NRIs to vote from overseas after it received several requests for expanding their voting options.

At the event, Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJD), Supriya Sule (NCP) and Shrirang Appa Barne (Shiv Sena) were given the 'Sansad Maha Ratna Award' for their sustained qualitative overall performance in the 16th Lok Sabha. Twelve Parliamentarians including the Chairman of a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture were given the Sansad Ratna Awards.

Restrain political picks in municipalties from work, EC orders Bengal CS

Taking note of political **1** appointments in municipal bodies, the Election Commission has asked the West Bengal Chief Secretary to temporarily restrain such political appointees, who are holding the office of Administrators/ Head of Board of Administrators in the Municipal Corporations and appoint Government officials to discharge the func-tions during the period of model code of conduct (MCC).

In its order on Saturday, the EC said that a committee headed by Chief Secretary, and Principal Secretary Urban Development, and Principal Secretary Personnel as members shall appoint the gov-ernment officials, keeping in

charge the functions of the Administrators/ Head of Board of Administrator, as the case may be, during the period of MCC. The BJP has urged the EC

to remove 'political appointees' from various boards of administrators in civic bodies appointed by the West Bengal Government, saying it appointed the same representatives who had completed their term of five years in blatant violation of constitutional and legal provisions. "Since the tenure of former elected representatives has expired, they cannot be conferred powers to manage affairs of the municipality

Rly mulls severe under any pretense, the BJP penalty for smoking delegation told the EC and cited a Supreme Court ruling in trains, arrest if it to back its demand. leads to fire incident

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The railways is set to get cracking against those found smoking in trains and is mulling severe penalties, even arrest, for damaging public property after an initial probe in the recent fire in a coach of the Shatabdi Express, a senior offi-

cial said on Saturday.

Officials in the know said that the initial report has found that cigarette or bidi butts were thrown into the dustbin of one of the toilets which were filled with soiled tissue paper. This led to a fire in the S5 coach of the New Delhi-Dehradun Shatabdi Special. The incident happened on March 13 near Raiwala in Uttarakhand.

Section 167 of the Railways Act specifies that anyone found smoking in a compartment despite prohibition or objection from a co-passenger is liable for

a fine of up to Rs 100. Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal in a meeting with Railway Board members and general managers of zones asked them to take proactive steps towards sensitising passengers against smoking in trains and also urged that erring passengers need to be deterred from causing risks to others by smoking in trains.

"The railways will crackdown on smoking in trains. The fire most likely started in one of the toilets and initial investigations revealed that the fire was in all probability caused by simmering cigarettes/ beedi thrown in the dustbin. The continuous air flow in a fast moving train would have fanned it. "We are contemplating severe penalties. In some cases, even arrests can be made for causing damage to public railway property and risking the lives of others to deter irresponsible and errant per-

sons," a senior officer said. The official refused to come on record as the investigation into the incident is still under-

Mujib Jackets all set to catch eyeballs during Modi's visit to Bangladesh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

hadi's "Mujib Jackets', is Knadis widit jacket, and all set to catch eyeballs during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh on March 26th and 27th as the garment will be the key attire of dignitaries. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) have supplied 100 such custom-designed 'Mujib iackets' to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.

"As Bangladesh celebrates 'Mujib Borsho', the birth centenary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Cultural Centre of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, had placed an order for 100 Mujeeb Jackets, ahead of the Prime Minister's visit," KVIC Chairman, Vinai Kumar Saxena said.

The "Mujeeb jacket" is an immensely popular outfit in Bangladesh. For the older generation, it is symbolic of the ideology of their great leader, while it has increasingly become a fashion statement for the youth of Bangladesh. Modi has always been particular about Khadi and its heritage and cultural value to strengthen diplomatic ties with foreign coun-

In 2016, the BRICS leaders, which also includes Modi, had attended the summit in Khadi jackets in Goa."The Prime Minister always accorded top priority to Khadi during his diplomatic visits. This is to carry forward the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi who always carried Khadi products specially a Khadi handkerchief with him

taries during his foreign visits," Saxena said.

The specially designed "Mujeeb Jackets" have been made of high-quality hand-crafted Khadi fabric. The black Mujeeb Jackets have been designed with six buttons, two pockets on the lower half and a front pocket on the left, as worn by Rahman.

In keeping with the eco-friendly nature of the fabric, the zip-covers for these jackets too have been made of black cotton fabric with "Khadi India" logo embroidered over it. These jackets will be carried in specially designed white coloured waste plastic-mixed carry bags made at KVIC's Kumarappa National Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI) in Jaipur. "Mujeeb Jacket" is histor-

ically significant in Bangladesh and it is a matter of great pride that these jackets made of Khadi fabric be adorned during the Bangladesh visit of Prime Minister Modi who is the biggest brand ambassador of Khadi, Saxena said. "Mujeeb jackets made of

Khadi will add significantly to the historical and cultural values of the celebrations," he said, adding, this will also promote Khadi on the global and diplomatic platform in a big way. Since the jackets were

meant for diplomatic purposes, KVIC accorded top priority to it and delivered the consignment before time. Earlier KVIC sent its high-quality cotton and silk masks to var-

Sensor developed for identification of new cancer therapeutic drugs

 $R^{\text{esearchers} \ \text{from inStem,}}_{\text{Bangalore in collaboration}}$ with Curie Institute, Orsay, France, have developed the first tubulin nanobody - or sensor to study the dynamics of microtubule modifications in living cells and use this for identification of new cancer therapeutic drugs.

Microtubules are part of the cytoskeleton, a structural network within the cell's cytoplasm, and they alter in response to several chemicals.

This work published recently in the Journal of Cell Biology has been funded by Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR/CEFIPRA), a bilateral organization supported by Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Government of France

challenge till date because of unavailability of tools that can mark them in living cells. The researchers from

Bangalore and Orsay devised a method to design synthetic proteins, known as nanobodies, which can bind specifically to modified microtubules. These nanobodies are sim-

ilar to antibodies made in our body as a defense mechanism against pathogens. However, unlike antibodies, the nanobodies are smaller in size and easily amenable for protein engineering, said Minhaj Sirajuddin (inStem) Bangalore,

The nanobody was then coupled with a fluorescent molecule to serve as a detection tool, called sensor. They developed and validated a live cell sensor against a unique

called tyrosinated form of microtubules that is already known to be important for cell division and intracellular organization, added researcher Carsten Janke (Institut Curie)

Orsay, France
The tyrosination sensor is the first tubulin nanobody - or sensor - that can be used to study the dynamics of microtubule modifications in living cells. CEFIPRA researchers have shown the application of this sensor in studying the effect of small-molecule compounds that target micro-

These chemicals are frequently used as anti-cancer drugs. Thus, the tyrosination sensor will facilitate studying microtubule functions for many researchers and will aid identifying new drugs of therapeutic value, as per the study.

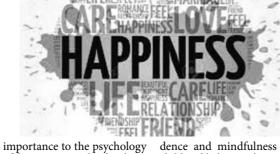
Policymakers should accord importance to psychology of happiness: Naidu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On International Day of Happiness, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday asked people to shun negative emotions and said policymakers should accord importance to the psychology of happiness. March 20 is celebrated as

International Day of Happiness. It is a UN designated day dedicated to the importance of happiness in

people's life.
"On this day, I call upon the policymakers to accord



of happiness, and schools to inculcate 'happiness curriculum, as it plays an important role in boosting self-confi-

dence and mindfulness in a child and helps instil a positive outlook from a young age," the Vice President Secretariat

Nucleic Acid Amplification Test lab inaugurated

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan on Saturday inaugurated a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAT) lab at the headquarters of Indian Red Cross Society here.

The lab has been set up by the Thalassemia Patients Advocacy Group (TPAG), the patient wing of Thalassemics India as part of their Safe Blood Campaign to prevent transmission of infectious diseases such as hepatitis B, C or HIV through blood transfu-

The event also involved the launch of Thalassemics India three blood collection vehicles - 2 vans funded by DXC and 1 tempo travelers funded by LIC. This was Thalassemics' India's contribution for voluntary blood donation. Dr. Harsh Vardhan said that while, the government is

taking relevant steps towards prevention and better management of Thalassemia in the country, these steps to initiate blood collection vans and advanced blood-screening technology are just in the right direction to support safe-blood

availability for the patients.

He also appealed for blood donation to save lives of patients during any medical emergencies or chronic health conditions like Thalassemia and Blood Cancer. Anubha Taneja Mukherjee,

Secretary, Member Thalassemia Patients Advocacy Group, said, NAT is a world class blood screening methodology believed to be extremely effective in screening transfusion transmitted infections (TTIs) due to its reduced window period. "The technology is even more relevant for patients



The event also involved the launch of **Thalassemics** India three blood collection vehicles — 2 vans funded by **DXC** and 1 tempo travelers funded by LIC

of thalassemia, who depend on frequent transfusion and are more susceptible to infections as compared to others." Later Mukherjee shared

that they have been stressing on inclusion of patients in policy making as decision makers may not be experts in every subject or issue. "It would therefore be pertinent to include a patient representative who understands the trials and tribulations involving the relevant condition. For instance, the decision makers could invite thalassemia patients to be a part of the policy making while devising a new policy on thalassemia as patients are the ones who undergo the hardship of a particular disease."

20 States complete ease of doing biz reforms: Govt

s many as 20 States have Asuccessfully completed ease of doing business reforms, the Finance Ministry said on

States completing the reforms are eligible for additional borrowing of 0.25 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

"The number of States who have successfully completed the 'Ease of Doing Business' reforms has reached

Five more states namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Meghalaya and Tripura have completed the 'Ease of Doing Business" reforms stipulated by the Department of Expenditure," the Ministry said in a state-

The Department of



Expenditure has granted permission to these 20 States to raise additional financial resources of Rs 39,521 crore through Open Market

The ease of doing business is an important indicator of the investment friendly business climate in the country. Improvements in the ease of

doing business will enable faster future growth of the

Therefore, the government of India had in May 2020, decided to link grant of additional borrowing permissions to States who undertake the reforms to facilitate ease of doing business, the Ministry

EPFO's net new enrolments up 28 pc to 13.36 lakh in Jan

PTI NEW DELHI

Net new enrolments with retirement fund body EPFO grew 27.79 per cent to 13.36 lakh in January compared to the same month in 2020, according to the payroll data released on Saturday, providing a perspective on formal sector employment amid the pan-

demic.

"The provisional payroll data of EPFO published on 20th March, 2021 highlights a growing trend of subscriber. base with the addition of 13.36 lakh net subscribers during January 2021," a labour ministry statement said.

It stated that the data reflects growth of 24 per cent for January 2021 over December last year.

"Year-on-year comparison of payroll data indicates an increase of 27.79 per cent in net

the corresponding period last year (January 2020), indicating return to the pre-COVID levels of subscriber growth for February. EPFO," it said.

Despite the pandemic, EPFO added around 62.49 lakh subscribers during the first tens month of the ongoing fiscal year, the data showed.

During 2019-20, the number of net new subscribers rose to 78.58 lakh as compared to 61.12 lakh in the preceding

The number of net enrolments with the body was revised downwards to 10.81 lakh for December 2020 from earlier provisional estimates of 12.53 lakh for the month released in February 2021.

been releasing payroll data covering the period September 2017 onwards.

According to the latest

Since April 2018, EPFO has

subscribers as compared to data, net new enrolments in April were in the negative zone at (-) 2,55,559 against the figure of (-) 2,35,911 released in

> This means that the number of members who exited the EPFO subscription was more than those who joined or rejoined the scheme.

In July, provisional showed that net new enrolments for April stood at 1 lakh, which was revised down to 20,164 in August and further lowered to (-) 61,807 in September, (-) 1,04,608 in October, (-)1,49,248 in November, (-) 1,79,685 in December 2020 and (-) 2,11,073 released in January 2021. The number of net new enrolments in May was also revised downwards to (-) 2,47,991 from (-) 2,19,810 estimated last month and from (-) 1,86,659 estimated in January 2021 and from (-)1,43,540 estioperations during pandemic though product demand remained sluggish

PSU oil companies expanded retail

IANS NEW DELHI

 $P_{\text{companies}}^{\text{ublic sector oil marketing}}_{\text{companies}}$ Hindustan Petroleum and privation bound Bharat Petroleum remained active in the country's oil market in 2020 even though the pandemic and lockdown severely dented demand

for petroleum products. Even with petrol and diesel sales remaining below the pre-Covid levels in the last part of 2020, the PSU oil companies continued to invest in expanding their retail outlets with the three adding 5482 retail outlets in the 10-month period of FY21 up to January end 2021.

The private sector on the other hand remained mute on their marketing initiatives adding a mere 376 fuel outlets.

Among the PSUs, IOC added 2147, BPCL - 1,792 and HPCL - 1543 retail outlets in the April-January period of

FY21. According to a report by Emkay Global Financial Services, retail outlets' market share increase has been the highest for BPCL followed by HPCL, though IOCL and others saw a decline yoy. RIL added only 12 new outlets, while Nayara added 298 during the April to January period.

BPCL also maintained the lead in retail outlet petrol throughput: the company's petrol throughput per retail outlet (RO), a key efficiency indicator, was 56.2kl/month in Q3FY21 vs 52.4 for HPCL and 49.5/48.3 for IOCL/others.

For diesel, the brokerage said, it cannot be properly ascertained due to the lack of proper bulk-direct sales data company wise. Players like RIL have reported much higher overall throughput/RO, though diesel has a B2B character, which can be utilized to push

Make 71% recycling must for packaging producers, Govt urged

New Delhi: Seeking to boost Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plan to eliminate single-use plastics waste by 2022, over 45 academicians, scien-tists, and NGOs have come together to appeal to the FSSAI and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change "not consider any non-recycled, nonbiodegradable materials (Tetra pack, plastic/glass bottles, aluminum cans) for new food/beverage packaging, till the time packaging waste producers do not deploy their resource under the EPR framework to collect and recycle waste generated by their prod-

The group has proposed 61%-71% recycling rate as a benchmark to allow any nonbiodegradable packaging material for new product/beverage categories

POWERGRID signs agreement with Jaiprakash power ventures limited

Gurugram:Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has signed a SharePurchase Agreement with Jaiprakash Power Ventures Limited (JPVL) to acquire74% Limited-JV (JPL) in which POWERGRID holds26% equi-ty. JPL will become a wholly owned subsidiary of POWERGRIDfollowing this acquisition.JPL-JV has developed a 214 Km long EHV power transmission project toevacuate power from Karcham-Wangtoo project in the state of



HimachalPradesh

The power transmitted is meant for distribution and consump-

tion instates of Himachal Pradesh. Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.POW-

ERGRID is a Maharatna PSE under Ministry of Power,

Fuel prices unchanged for 3 weeks

 $F^{\text{uel prices in the country}}_{\text{have remained steady for}}$ three weeks now as softening crude and upcoming assembly elections in a few states have kept Oil companies from revising the retail prices.

Accordingly, petrol continues to be priced at Rs 91.17 a litre and diesel Rs 81.47 a litre in the capital on Saturday. Fuel prices have not been revised now for 21 days.

Across the country as well, the petrol and diesel prices remain unchanged. But the

pause has not helped in bringing down petrol prices that have crossed Rs 100 per litremark in several parts of the country.Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur said in Parliament on Tuesday that states and Centre should look at taxes on petroleum products

ed to consumers. Since the beginning of February, crude has gained more than \$7 per barrel that has pushed OMCs to increase fuel prices on 14 occasions raising the prices by ₹4.22 per litre for petrol and by ₹4.34 a litre for diesel in Delhi.

Mining reforms to increase employment, GDP: Ficci CEO, Aluminium and Power,

IANS NEW DELHI

The reforms in the mining sector will play a fundamental role in enhancing the sector's contribution to the employment and GDP of the country, and contribute immensely to the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat, industry body Ficci said on Saturday.

The Lok Sabha on Friday passed a bill to amend the and (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, that aimed to create employment opportunities by allowing the entry of private enterprise and enhanced technology in mining activities.
The bill is yet to be tabled

in the Rajya Sabha.

The industry body said that it has always been advocating for increasing the contribution of Indian Mining industry to national GDP; focusing upon increasing mineral exploration, production and domestic supplies, reducing financial stress for the miners, attracting investments into the sector and enhancing Ease of Doing Business Quotient. Tuhin Mukherjee, Chair,

Ficci Mining Committee and Managing Director, Essel Mining and Industries Ltd., termed the amendments as a step forward for enabling mining sector's contribution to the nation's economic growth.

"With these reforms in the Indian mining and mineral sector, the Government has embarked on increasing the sectoral contribution to the Indian GDP and also to increase the competitiveness, ease of doing business and creating a favourable investment environment for the sector," he added.

Rahul Sharma, Co-Chair, Ficci Mining Committee and

Vedanta Ltd. "Amendments in the MMDR are reflective of the fact that the government considers mining sector as a key contributor to the vision of Atmanirbhar

These amendments shall result in enhancement of mineral production across the spectrum, creating more jobs and will be a major boost to critical industries like cement, aluminium and steel, which are primarily dependent upon key raw materials provided by the mining sector.

A renewed focus on exploration will attract huge invest-

He also applauded the Government's move for promoting ease of transfer for non-auctioned captive mines to increase mineral production from such mines in the coun-

DESI CONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED

REGD. OFFICE: ARM NO. 100, SILVER OAK LANE-3, OPP. SAHNI FARM HOUSE, GHITORNI, NEW DELHI-110030 Website: <u>www.dcl99.com</u>, Email ld: <u>legal@dcl99.com</u>, phone: 9953463800, 9999310694 CIN: U45200DL2011PTC212556

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, we Desi Construction Private Limited are in the process of undertaking of development of an Affordable Residential Plotted Colony under DDJAY in Village Sohna, Sector-5, Sohna, District Gurgaon, Haryana over an area measuring 10.83125 Acres in the revenue estate of Sohna, Distt. Gurgaon (Haryana) in accordance with the license granted for an Affordable Residential Plotted Colony, License no. 68 of 2019 dated 26.06.2019 by Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh.

And whereas, the Layout cum Demarcation Plan earlier approved at the time of grant of license for the said colony is now proposed to be revised on account of request made by Desi Construction Private Limited for revision of Lavout cum Demarcation Plan of the said

And whereas, the office of Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objections against the revision of Layout cum Demarcation Plan, as a pre condition for allowing such revision in the Layout Plan.

Accordingly vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from any of the public in the said colony on the proposed revision of the Layout Plan of the said colony. A copy of the earlier approved Layout cum Demarcation Plan bearing drawing no. 7438, dated 17.06.2020 & Zoning Plan bearing drawing no. 7439, dated 17.06.2020 and the layout now proposed to be revised bearing drawing no. 7696, dated 16.03.2021 is available for perusal at our Registered Office. The said layout can also be perused at the office of undersigned as well as in the office of District Town Planner (Planning) / Senior Town Planner, Gurgaon and also on company's website i.e. www.dcl99.com

Any public having any objection on the proposed revision in the approved layout Plan, may file his objection in the office of District Town Planner (Planning), / Senior Town Planner, Gurgaon, within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision of the Layout Plan.

Date: March 21, 2021

बिहार 🅍 सरकार

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

E-mail - wwdivsion2014@gmail.com /mobile-7463889909 अल्पकालिन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या -19/2020-21 राष्ट्रीय स्पर्द्धा निविदा

(केवल ई-टेन्डर पद्धित के अनुसार वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

ग्रुप सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित	अग्रधन की	परिमाण—विपत्र	बेल्ट्रॉन को	कार्य समाप्ति
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निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की

निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड करने की

पी-बिद्ध मीटिंग का समय स्थान एवं तिथि

निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि

एवं समय तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

निविदा की वैधता अवधि (निविदा प्राप्ति

दिनांक: 26.03.2021 से दिनांक-01.04.2021 के 3.00 बजे अपराहन तक (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर

दिनांकः 27.03.2021. 12.00 बजे अपराहन में. कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, मुजफ्फरपुर। दिनांकः 03.04.2021 समय 3.00 बजे अपराहन तक। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) दिनांक : 06.04.2021 समय 3.30 बजे अपराहन। (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी

(सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर 120 दिन

कार्यपालक अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, मुजफ्फरपुर। विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in एवं वेबसाईट state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखा जा सकता है ।

PR- 14723 (W R D) 2020-21

कार्यपालक अभियंता बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल, मुजफ्फरपुर।

नोयल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु 🚁 Toll Free No.: 🕇 🛈 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely Pooja D/o Ravinder R/o 532, Gali No.7, Shalimar Village, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 07.03.2021 at 10.30 AM her house. In this regard a **DD** No. 008A Dated 08.03.2021 has been lodged at PS, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as Name: Pooja, Father's Name: Ravinder, Age: 19 year 9 Months,

Height: 5'3", Face: Oval, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: White Pant Blue Shirt and Black Jacket, Black colour Shoes in feet. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the

undersigned at following phone numbers. Website: http://cbi.nic.in e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641 Extn.-210

SHO P.S., Shalimar Bagh, Delhi Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-27495198, 8750870227 DP/719/NW/2021

India cities to be greener with E20 fuel-run transport network

IANS NEW DELHI

This is one reform initiative that is set to be ▲ a big positive change in the use of fossil fuel to run countrys transportation sector.

The central government has proposed to advance the deadline for blending 20 per cent ethanol in petrol from the earlier announced

The use of 20 per cent doped petrol or E20 decreases the carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons emissions significantly, compared to normal gasoline in two-wheelers and four-wheelers. The increased blending will also reduce use of polluting fossil fuel in the country.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has already notified the use of E20 and

issued mass emission standards for the same. Now it is up to the oil companies and automobile companies to build capacities for both production and use of E20. The next two years would also give sugar mills time to convert excess sugarcane or sugar for producing higher quantity of ethanol required for blending with petrol. The government had earlier fixed a target of 10 per cent ethanol blending by 2022 and 20 per cent by 2030. But the plan now is to directly migrate to 20 per cent as the level of blending is successively being used in a few countries such as Brazil. This is akin to taking the emission standards vehicles directly from BS-IV stage to BS-VI skipping one stage to ensure that vehicles turn less polluting sources.

ବ୍ର CSB Bank (Palam Branch located at RZ 11-D, Yadav Towers, Infront of Palam Metro Station Gate No.3,

Puran Nagar, Palam Colony, South West Delhi, New Delhi-110045) **GOLD AUCTION NOTICE**

CSB Bank Limited, Palam branch had granted gold loan against pledge of gold ornaments to the below mentioned borrower/s. Notice has been issued to him/them demanding repayment of the amount with interest and charges thereon. Since they have failed to repay the balance outstanding i the respective account/s, we are constrained to recover the amount by sale of gold ornaments public auction and if the auction does not fetch required amount, bank will proceed with the sale by private treaties/contract. Bank reserves its right to change/extend the date and venue of auction

SI No	Name of borrower	Gross Weight of Pledge items (in grams)	Overdue Gold Loan Account no.	Amount	Balance Outstanding (as on 18.03.2021)			
1	Subha Prasad Mishra	244.52	0459-07296474-000001	940000	962542.50			
2	Sumit Kumar	368.59	0459-07300811-000001	1240000	1284988.72			
3	Rohit Yadav	83.2	0459-07294412-000001	310000	305823.50			
4	Rohit Yadav	45.12	0459-07294412-000002	144000	149809.00			
5	Harish Sharma	146.8	0459-07269383-000001	500000	512852.00			
The auction will be conducted at the premises of CSB Bank Limited, Palam branch premises situated								

at RZ 11-D. Yadav Towers, Infront of Palam Metro Station Gate No.3, Puran Nagar, Palam Colon South West Delhi, New Delhi-110045 on 30.03.2021. Interested parties may contact the Branc Manager in the above address. Participants should attend the auction along with copy of Pan Card

SRM launches new online degree programmes

Kattankulathur:SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur has launched new online degree response to high demand for online education to boost GER and Employability. This is done through the Directorate of Online Education.

The launch of online degree programs approved by UGC are MBA specialization in Finance/ HR/ Marketing/ Business Analytics, MCA, BBA specialization in Digital Marketing, BCA specialization in Data Science. SRMIST has developed an online delivery robust cloud based technology stack, called SRM Online Learning Platform. It provides the flexibility to learn from anywhere, anytime supported by live interactive sessions and powerful online assessment system.



Master of business administration (MBA) is a two year internationally accepted experiential master degree program designed specifically for professionals who want to develop leadership skills, strategic capabilities and competencies that enables them to contribute higher order value in Industry. The core courses in an MBA program cover various areas of business such as accounting, finance, marketing, human resources, operations, and statistics and many.

Book on **Biodiversity** unveiled by DDA

The success story of DDA Biodiversity Parks is now Biodiversity Parks: Nature Reserves of Delhi" which was unveiled today on 19th March 2021 by Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Shri Anil Baijal. The book depicts the journey of country's first initiative in bringing back the lost ecosystems of the city and pictorial guide for kinds of plants and animals and diverse ecosystems found in the Biodiversity Parks and also illustrates how scientists, engineers and landscape architects' transformed barren landscapes of Delhi into lush green forest, grassland and wetland ecosystems. This book is useful for all policy makers and planners, particularly urban planners and architects, nature lovers.

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 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.	Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Price Price Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Property Inspection	Time of Auction
(A)	A) (B) (C)		(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Sharad Mahawar (Borrower), Neha Mahawar (Co- Borrower) LBDEL00003103265	Flat No. 8- E, 4th Floor, Pocket- C, Sector- 3, Phase- I, Dwarka, New Delhi- 110075. Area- 307 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 16,64,208.99/- as on March 11, 2021	Rs. 11,50,000/- Rs. 1,15,000/-		April 13, 2021, From 12:00 Noon Onwards

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/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till April 12, 2021before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi- 110005 and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website onlyon or before **April 12, 2021** before **05:00 PM** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, incase prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documentsmay be submittedat ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi- 110005 on or before April 12, 2021 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi. For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8657476284 or M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. NexXen Solution Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 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 Authorized Officer

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ınday pioneer DEHRADUN | SUNDAY | MARCH 21, 2021

Striking Myanmar rail workers move out

Internet access severely restricted, pvt newspapers barred from publishing AstraZeneca

AP ■ MAMDALAY (MYANMAR)

Residents of Myanmar's second-biggest city helped striking railway workers move out of their state-supplied housing on Saturday after the authorities said they would have to leave if they kept supporting the protest movement against last month's military

coup.

Mandalay residents carried the workers' furniture and other household items to trucks, van and pickup trucks.

The state railway workers last month went on strike as key and early supporters of the civil disobedience movement against the Feb. 1 coup that toppled the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

The military regime has sought to force them back to work through intimidation, which included a nighttime, gun-firing patrol last month through their housing area in Mandalay and a raid in the railway workers' housing area in

Yangon.
Protests against the coup continued Saturday in cities and town across the country, including in Mandalay and

The coup reversed years of slow progress toward democracy in Myanmar after five decades of military rule. In the



State railway employee load belongings after being evicted from their homes on Saturday in Mandalay, Myanmar

face of persistent strikes and protests against the takeover, the junta has responded with an increasingly violent crackdown and efforts to severely limit the information reaching the outside world.

Internet access has been severely restricted, private newspapers have been barred from publishing, and protesters, journalists and politicians have been arrested in large

independent Assistance Association for Political Prisoners has verified 235 deaths and has said the actual total — including ones where verification has been difficult —"is likely much higher." It said it has confirmed that 2,330 people have been arrest-

ed or charged since the coup,

with 1,980 still detained or remaining charged. In addition to using lethal force to try to break up demon-

strations, the security forces have been carrying out a campaign of harassment, stealing from homes they raid, said the group, which also charged that security forces have used people they arrested as human shields as they sought to break up demonstrations.

Numerous reports on social media, including videos, have shown security forces vandalizing cars parked on the

United Nations official: Myanmar people want UN sanctions, peacekeepers

United Nations: The people of Myanmar have huge expectations from the United Nations and the international community following the February 1 coup, with many calling for sanctions and some urging the UN to send peacekeepers to stop the killings of peaceful protesters seeking a return to democracy, the top UN official in the country said Friday.

Acting resident and humanitarian coordinator Andrew Kirkwood said in a video briefing to UN reporters from Myanmar's largest city Yangon that Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and other UN officials have been very consistent about what's really needed: "collective member state actions in the Security Council."

Guterres echoed that message again on Friday, saying "a firm, unified international response is urgently needed" to stop the violence by security forces and return Myanmar to the path of democracy, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

seen people carrying placards saying, how many more bodies?" Kirkwood said. "People are really looking for concerted international action in terms of sanctions. Frankly, some people here want to see peace-

There's a huge expectation on the United Nations, with the entire international community," he said. "We are doing everything we can in the current situation, and there is still frustration among the people that the international community hasn't done more to date.'

The coup reversed years of slow progress toward democracy in Myanmar, which for five decades had languished under strict military rule that led to international isolation and sanctions. As the generals loosened their grip, culminating in Aung San Suu Kyi's rise to power after 2015 elections, the international community responded by lifting most sanc tions and pouring investment

EU threatens with export ban

 $T^{\text{he European Union's executive arm is increasing its}}$ pressure on pharmaceutical companies to speed up their vaccine delivery to the continent as virus numbers are rising again in many member countries. The European Commission said Saturday that AstraZeneca in particular could face export bans to countries outside the EU if it didn't quickly deliver the promised amount of vaccines to the 27nation bloc.

"We have the possibility to ban planned exports," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Saturday.

"This is a message to AstraZeneca: You fulfill your part of the deal toward Europe before you start to deliver to other countries," von der Leyen said in an interview with German media group Funke.

Von der Leyen said the contract between the EU and AstraZeneca clearly regulates how much vaccines the EU gets from AstraZeneca's plants inside the EU and in Britain.

However, von der Leven

Karachi: A 31-year-old Hindu

journalist in Pakistan has been

shot dead by some unidentified

assailants while getting a hair-

cut at a barber shop in the

country's Sindh province, the

Ajay Lalvani, a reporter with a private Royal News TV

channel and an Urdu language

newspaper Daily Puchano, died

on Thursday after he sustained

bullet injuries in stomach, arm and knee. He was sitting in the

barber shop in Sukkur city

when assailants on two bikes and

police said on Saturday.



added, "we didn't get anything from the Brits while we are delivering vaccines to them."

She said the commission had sent a "formal reminder' to AstraZeneca regarding this issue. AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine is one of three vaccines that's approved in the

However, its usage has been overshadowed by several problems, including a slow start, recurring delivery problems and a temporary ban for several days earlier this week in many of the bloc's member countries after reports of blood clots in some recipients of the vaccine.

Most countries in the EU resumed giving shots of AstraZeneca again Friday as infection numbers were spiking again across the continent and AstraZeneca's vaccine, too, is seen as critical to ending the coronavirus pandemic.

Joe Biden is on his heels amid migrant surge at Mexico border

 $S_{\text{coming.}}^{\text{omehow, they didn't see}}$ it Inauguration Day on January 20, the Biden administration had reversed many of the most maligned Trump-era immigration policies, including deporting children seeking asylum who arrived alone at the US-Mexico border and forcing migrants to wait in Mexico as they made their case to stay in the US.

While the administration was working on immigration legislation to address longterm problems, it didn't have an on-the-ground plan to manage a surge of migrants. Career immigration officials had warned there could be a surge after the presidential election and the news that the Trump policies, widely viewed as cruel were being reversed.

bling to build up capacity to care for some 14,000 migrants now in federal custody - and more likely on the way - and the administration finds itself on its heels in the face of criticism that it should have been better prepared to deal with a predictable predicament.

"They should have fore-

 $P^{\text{resident Joe Biden and Vice}}_{\text{President Kamala Harris}}$

offered solace to Asian

Americans and denounced the

scourge of racism at times hid-

den "in plain sight" as they vis-

ited Atlanta, just days after a

white gunman killed eight peo-

ple, most of them Asian

American women

AP ■ ATLANTA

Biden, Harris travel to Atlanta

to comfort Asian Americans



Migrants are seen in custody at a US Customs and Border Protection processing area under the Anzalduas International Bridge in Mission, Texas

casted for space (for young migrants) more quickly," said Ronald Vitiello, a former acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and chief of Border Patrol who has served in Republican and Democratic administrations.

"And I think in hindsight, maybe they should have waited until they had additional changed the policies." The situation at the southern border is complex.

Since Biden's inauguration, the US has seen a dramatic spike in the number of people encountered by border officials. There were 18,945 family members and 9,297 unaccompanied children encountered in

Addressing the nation after

a roughly 80-minute meeting

with Asian American state leg-

islators and other leaders

Friday, Biden said it was "heart-

wrenching" to listen to their

stories of the fear among Asian Americans and Pacific

Islanders amid what he called

harassment and violence

against them.

"skyrocketing spike" of

February — an increase of 168% and 63%, respectively, from the month before, according to the Pew Research Centre.

That creates an enormous logistical challenge because children, in particular, require higher standards of care and coordination across agencies.

Still, the encounters of both unaccompanied minors and were at various points during the Trump administration, including in spring 2019. That May, authorities encountered more than 55,000 migrant children, including 11,500 unaccompanied minors, and about 84,500 migrants traveling in family units.

Turkey withdrew early Saturday from a landmark

European treaty protecting

women from violence that it

was the first country to sign 10

years ago and that bears the

name of its largest city.

President Recep Tayyip

Erdogan's overnight decree

annulling Turkey's ratification

of the Istanbul Convention is a

blow to women's rights advo-

Pakistan PM Imran, First Lady Bushra Bibi test Covid positive

Islamabad: Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were tested positive on Saturday for the Covid-19, his top aides announced, two days after the Pakistani premier got the first shot of a vaccine.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Faisal Sultan took to Twitter to confirm that Khan, 68, has contracted the coronavirus on a day when the country registered the

White House says

he is '100% fine'

Washington: US President Joe

Biden is doing "100% fine" after

he tripped multiple times while

jogging up the stairs to board

Air Force One on Friday,

according to a senior White

climbed the plane's steps, ini-

tially appearing to trip, get up,

cates, who say the agreement is

crucial to combating domestic

violence. Hundreds of women

gathered in Istanbul to protests

against the move on Saturday.

Secretary General, Marija

Pejcinovic Buric, called the

back to these efforts and all the

more deplorable because it

compromises the protection

of women in Turkey, across

decision "devastating."

The Council of Europe's

'This move is a huge set-

Biden, 78, stumbled as he

Turkey withdraws from European treaty protecting women

House official.

highest number of Covid-19 cases since July last year.

Later, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis, Syed Zulfi Bukhari in a tweet confirmed that the First Lady was also corona positive. "Wishing our First Lady & PM @ImranKhanPTI a speedy recovery," he tweeted.

Senator Faisal Javed, who is considered very close to Khan, also expressed similar sentiments in a tweet.

"First Lady Bushra Bibi available in Pakistan.

Biden stumbles several times

while boarding Air Force One

then trip a second time. He

struggled to get up the second

time for a brief moment, before

making it up, turning to give a

Europe and beyond," she said.

states that men and women

have equal rights and obliges

state authorities to take steps to

prevent gender-based violence

against women, protect victims

Erdogan's Islam-oriented party

had advocated for a review of the

agreement, arguing it is incon-

sistent with Turkey's conservative

values by encouraging divorce

Some officials from

and prosecute perpetrators.

The Istanbul Convention

has also been tested positive for Covid-19. Lots of prayers for all who have been tested positive including PM Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi!!!" he said.

Khan was vaccinated on Thursday as part of the nationwide anti-coronavirus vaccination campaign which is underway in its first phase.

Khan is reported to have received the first shot of the Chinese-produced Sinopharm vaccine, the only anti-Covid jab

salute before entering the cabin.

"So, as you know, it's pret-ty windy outside, it's very

windy. I almost fell coming up

principal deputy press secretary

Karine Jean-Pierre said while

briefings reporters on the pres-

idential plane on the way to

Atlanta, Georgia where Biden

was to meet members of the

Asian-American community

which has been shocked by a

series of shootings in massage

and undermining the tradition-

al family unit. Critics also claim

the treaty promotes homosexu-

ality through the use of categories

like gender, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Turkish families. Hate speech

has been on the rise in Turkey,

including the interior minister

who described LGBT people as

has rejected their existence

perverts" in a tweet. Erdogan

They see that as a threat to

a car drove by and opened fire. Lalvani was rushed to a nearby hospital where he died.

His father Dileep Kumar said that the family did not have any enmity, dismissing the police's claim of the murder being the result of a personal enmity, according to The News International. Condemning the killing, Hindu member of Pakistan's National Assembly that it is a "matter of great con-

"Strongly condemn D killing of yet another journalist Ajay Kumar at Saleh Pat, Sindh. It is a matter of great concern that media persons are increasingly feeling unsafe in Sindh," he said on Twitter.

Hindu scribe killed in Pak's Sindh province

5 WHITE HOUSE STAFFERS LOSE JOBS OVER DRUGS Washington: Five White House staffers have been fired because of their past use of drugs, including marijuana, press secretary Jen Psaki said onm Friday. Marijuana has become a delicate issue for President Joe Biden's administration because 15 states and Washington DC allow for recreational usage

despite a federal prohibition.

STRONG QUAKE SHAKES JAPAN; MINOR INJURIES Tokyo: A earthquake struck off northern Japan, shaking buildings even in Tokyo and triggering a tsunami advisory for a part of the northern coast. No major damage was reported, but several people had minor

UN: 8 KIDS DIED, 33 HURT THIS MONTH IN YEMEN Cairo: A surge of fighting in wartorn Yemen has been particularly brutal for children this month with at least eight killed and 33 agency said on Saturday. Philippe Duamelle, UNICEF's representative to Yemen, said the casualties happened in several areas including the provinces of Taiz and Hodeida, where fighting between forces of the recognised Government and Houthi rebels

has intensified.

JAMMU & KASHMIR POLICE HEADQUARTERS Phone/Fax No.:- 0194-2443031/2443032 (Sgr), 0191-2459029/2459255 (Jmu) Website :- www.jkpolice.gov.in, E-mail :- phqjk@jkpolice.gov.in

TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE Due to administrative reasons, date for tender submission and

online opening of technical bids in respect of PHQ J&K NIT No. 03 of 2021 dated 13.02.2021 floated for purchasing of Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) is rescheduled as per following details :-

I). Last date for tender submission - 27.03.2021 II). Date of Online opening of technical bids - 30.03.2021 Other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain un-

No: DIP/J-13524/20 Dated: 19.03.2021

Sd/- (Rayees Mohammad Bhat) - JKPS, AIG (Provision/Transport) For Director General of Police, J&K Jammu

As vaccinations lag, Italy's elderly again pay a price

Bergamo (Italy): One year ago, Bergamo's state-of-the-art Pope John XXIII Hospital verged on collapse as doctors struggled to treat 600 patients, with 100 of them in intensive care. The picture is much improved now: The hospital is treating fewer than 200 virus patients, just one quarter of whom require intensive care. But still unchanged as

Italy's death rate pushes upward once again is that the victims remain predominantly elderly, with inoculation drives stumbling in the country and elsewhere in Europe

"No, this thing, alas, I was not able to protect the elderly, to make clear how important it would be to protect the elderly," said Dr Luca Lorini, head of intensive care at the hospital named for the mid-20th century pope born in Bergamo. AP

Eruption of Iceland volcano easing, not affecting flights

AP ■ REYKJAVIK (ICELAND)

The eruption of a long-dor-The eruption of a long among mant volcano that sent streams of lava flowing across a small valley in southwestern Iceland is easing and shouldn't interfere with air travel, the Icelandic Meteorological Office said Saturday. The fissure eruption began

at around 8:45 p.M. Friday in the Geldinga Valley, about 32 kilometers (20 miles) southwest of the capital, Reykjavik, the Met Office said. The eruption is "minor" and there were no signs of ash or dust that could disrupt aviation, the agency

'The more we see, the smaller this eruption gets," geophysicist Pall Einarsson told Associated Press on Saturday after monitoring the volcano throughout the night.



Reykjanes Peninsula flared to life Friday night, spilling lava down two sides in that area's first volcanic eruption in nearly 800 years

This southwestern corner of Iceland is the most heavily populated part of the country. The Department of Emergency Management said it doesn't anticipate evacuations, unless levels of volcanic gases rise sig-

Afghan President appoints two Mins, angers ruling partner

Kabul: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has made two key Cabinet changes, a move condemned on Saturday as "unacceptable" by his powerful governing partner, Abdullah Abdullah, at a time when the US is ratcheting up the pressure to reach a peace agreement with the Taliban.

In May 2020, Ghani and political rival Abdullah signed a power-sharing agreement, two months after both declared themselves the winner of the September 2019 presidential election.

Under the deal, Ghani remained president of the wartorn nation while Abdullah was named head of the country's National Reconciliation Council, which has the authority to handle and approve all affairs related to Afghanistan's peace process.

WESTERN RAILWAY STORES DEPARTMENT -AUCTION SALE DURING APRIL, 2021 FOR P-WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAF

SPECIAL ATTENTION : ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS Public e-auction for disposal of P. way scrap, rail scrap & other various scrap r

altogether.

/iii be neid in Aprii,2021 as per program given below:-						
IST Round	Depot	Depot Officer in Charge	Contact No.			
16.04.2021	SBI	Deputy Chief Materials Manager-SBI	07927500080 09724093774			
9.04.2021	BVP	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - BVP	02782444360 09724097750			
20.04.2021	MX	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - MX	022-24929571 09004495750			
22.04.2021	ADI	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - ADI	07922205888 09724093750			
23.04.2021	RTM	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager-RTM	07412230080 09752492750			
17.04.2021	PRTN	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - DHD	02673241295 09724090455			
26.04.2021	BRC	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - BRC	02652641592 9724091750			
28.04.2021	RJT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - RJT	02812476943 09724094770			
9.04.2021	MMCT	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - MMCT	022-23094142 09004499006			
_	DHD	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - DHD	02673241295 09724090455			

For detailed information please contact the concerned Depot Officers Note:-1. Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-Auction. 2. e-Auction will start at as per scheduled time. 3. e-Auction Catalogues will be available on site www.ireps.gov.in e-Auction portal.4. In case of any assistance required regarding e Auction, digital signatures. Registration procedure and participation, please contact above mentioned depot Officer. 5. All payment transactions shall be done through the opinion payment grateria. online payment gateway.
(No.S III/Auction Programme-1/April - 2021 Dated 18.03.2021)

Deputy Chief Materials Manager (Sales For PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER

Follow us: www.twitter.com/WesternRly

ତ CSB Bank

(SCO-4, Sector-14, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001 GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

CSB Bank Limited, Gurgaon branch had granted gold loan against pledge of gold ornaments to the below mentioned borrower/s. Notice has been issued to them demanding repayment of the amoun with interest and charges thereon. Since they have failed to repay the balance outstanding in the espective account/s, we are constrained to recover the amount by sale of gold ornaments in public auction and if the auction does not fetch required amount, bank will proceed with the sale by private eaties/contract. Bank reserves its right to change/extend the date and venue of auction

SI No	Name of borrower	Gross Weight of Pledge items (in grams)	Overdue Gold Loan Account no.	Amount	Balance as on 19.03.2021							
1	Sakshi Yadav	71.9	0316-03748753-000005	177000	194831							
2	Satbir Singh	285.8	0316-03988138-000004	975000	1034896.41							
3	Kuldeep Kumar Sial	18.7	0316-04069376-000003	65152	69230.36							
4	Gaurav Singh Pundir	57.6	0316-04087323-000003	175940	184586.87							
5	Jatin Arora	130.6	0316-04089695-000007	492000	512977.71							
6	Jatin Arora	49.8	0316-04089695-000008	173600	179768.96							
7	Sunil Yadav	192.9	0316-04091085-000005	749600	794405.02							
8	Bipul Kumar Jha	162.3	0316-04202563-000001	560000	594025.44							
9	Bipul Kumar Jha	38.63	0316-04202563-000002	72000	75530.5							
10	Bipul Kumar Jha	59.22	0316-04202563-000003	196000	205564.64							
11	Swati Sharma	126.9	0316-04126971-000002	452000	470660.2							
12	Akshay Panwar	67.4	0316-04138660-000002	216000	225699.21							
13	Amit Kumar Singhal	146.3	0316-04139625-000002	508000	528282.75							
14	Arun Kumar	17.63	0316-04205572-000001	52000	54587.93							
15	Manvendra Singh	37.62	0316-03841770-000009	121000	125360.61							
The auction will be conducted at the premises of CSB Bank Limited, Gurgaon branch premises												

situated at SCO-4, Sector-14, Gurgaon-122001 on 30.03.2021 at 3.00 pm. Interested parties may ontact the Branch Manager in the above address. Participants should attend the auction along with

Rohit-Virat set up record total

Indian captain & his deputy make fifties in series decider to help Men in Blue post 224-2

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Rohit Sharma's sensational 64 and skipper Virat Kohli's well-crafted 80 powered India to a massive 224 for two, their best ever total against England, in the winner-takes-all fifth T20, here on Saturday Saturday.

After losing the toss for the fourth time in the series, India were predictably put in to bat by Eoin Morgan.

Preparing themselves for success in all conditions ahead of the T20 World Cup, India thrived under the pressure of a series-decider to produce their best total of the series.

Jofra Archer and Mark Wood had troubled the Indians with their extra pace in earlier games but Rohit and Kohli sent them to the cleaners on way to their 94-run stand. The other major contribu-

tions came from Suryakumar Yadav (32 off 17 balls) and Hardik Pandya (39 not out off

The hosts hammered 67 runs in the last five overs to give the innings a perfect finish.

Barring Ben Stokes and Adil Rashid, all England bowlers leaked more than 10 runs per over with Chris Jordan (0/57) being the most expensive. India decided to drop open-

er K L Rahul to accommodate an extra bowling option in leftarm pacer T Natarajan for the all important game.

With no Rahul at the top, Virat Kohli moved himself up the order to open with Rohit. The move worked wonders with Kohli and Rohit sharing a 94-run stand off 54 balls. Rohit did the bulk of the

scoring in their partnership as Kohli was more than happy to enjoy a sensational display of



Bubble transfer for Indian, English players

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he cricketers who are part}}_{\text{ of the ongoing India ver-}}$ sus England series as well as the IPL will not have to undergo mandatory seven-day hard quarantine as they will be transported from one bubble to another as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

released on Saturday.

Also, the BCCI has made it clear that no individual associated with the IPL will be vaccinated as of now as the Government of India has put a system in place which is currently being adhered to.

The SOP states: "Players who are coming from bubble created for India vs England series may directly join the franchise squad without serving mandatory quarantine period provided.

stroke-making from the other

Rohit, who was rested for the first two games and did not get much in the next two, enhanced his reputation of a big match player on Saturday. Most of his five sixes were

his trademark shot, the seemingly effortless pull over deep square leg. Also a treat to the eye were his rasping straight drives off a seriously quick Mark Wood in his first over.

Kohli too pulled Wood into the stands, a shot that got him fully pumped up.

It was not entirely a surprise that Rohit got to his fifty with a maximum before play-

"After the conclusion of series, they directly move to team hotel either by bus or chartered flight...If travel arrangements are to the satisfaction of CMO, such players can directly enter team bubble without need to serve quarantine or undergo RT PCR tests," the SOP stated.

Similarly, for all franchises who are having prior camps in bio-secure bubbles, if their travel arrangements are satisfactory they will be entitled bubble-to-bubble transfers. However, if the CMO is

not satisfied, then all those players need to undergo seven days of hard quarantine and return with three negative

The SOP stated that at this point, the Government has not specified anything on vaccination of elite athletes.

ing one on to his stumps off

As Kohli paced his innings beautifully at the other end, he had the company of a supremelv confident Survakumar, who carried on from where he left in his debut game.

The Mumbai batsman further increased the intensity of the innings with two consecutive sixes off leggie Adil Rashid. Then he toyed with pacer Jordan with three fours in a row with his scoop shot reminding of his exploits in the IPL. That over went for 19, taking India o 133 for one in 12 overs.

Kohli then partnered with Hardik to get India past 200.



Harleen takes India to 130

R ookie batter Harleen Deol top-scored with a confident 52 but India women settled for a modest 130 for six in their opening T20I against South Africa Women here on Saturday.

The 22-year-old Deol hit six fours in her 47-ball innings to score the bulk of India's runs

after being invited to bat.
She shared 60 runs for the third wicket with Jemimah Rodrigues (30) to help India recover from 11 for one after the fall of stand in captain the fall of stand-in-captain Smriti Mandhana (11) in the second over.

Young talent Shafali Verma, who was not in the squad for the preceding ODI series which India lost 1-4, made 23 from 22 balls with the help of two fours ad a six.

Mandhana, who was leading the side after Harmanpreet clear the fielder. Kaur suffered a hip injury, hit

N Mlaba but perished in the second over, offering a catch to Anne Bosch at mid off.

India were 41 for one after powerplay and reached to 59 for 2 at the halfway mark. Shafali, who was off the

mark with a six in the second ball she faced, could not resist coming down the track but missed the ball completely to get stumped-out in the 10th

India took 13 runs from Sune Luus in 11th over with Deol hitting two fours.

Deol reached her maiden fifty off 44 balls.

But just as India looked to

accelerate the innings, set batters Shafali and Rodrigues fell in the space of three balls in the 18th over and that put paid to India's hopes of posting a bigger total.

Both went for big hits but did not have enough power to

India scored just 26 runs from the last five overs.

Boult too hot to handle



AFP ■ DUNEDIN

New Zealand captain Tom Latham called it "awesome" as star performers Trent Boult and Martin Guptill powered the Black Caps to an emphatic eight wicket win over Bangladesh in the opening ODI in Dunedin on Saturday.

With swing king Boult moving the ball both ways, New Zealand dismissed Bangladesh for a mediocre 131 and a blistering cameo with the bat by Guptill saw them cut down the target with more than 28 overs to spare.

In New Zealand's first ODI in 12 months, Boult took four for 27 while Guptill blazed away for 38 off 19 deliveries. "We haven't played for a

while and it was about setting the tone, winning the toss and bowling and I thought Trent and Matt Henry did that great, and for us to chase 130 in 20odd overs was awesome," captain Tom Latham said.

"And we know how destructive he (Guptill) can be when he plays like that, and to break the back of the chase was awesome and for the guys to finish it off then was a pretty clinical performance all round." All but two of Guptill's 38

runs came from boundaries with four sixes and three fours before Taskin Ahmed found a faint edge and wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim completed the dismissal. Devon Conway in his maiden ODI was the other

wicket to fall for 27 while opener Henry Nicholls was left 49 not out. Nicholls was denied his 12th half century when another debutant Will Young (11 not out) brought up the winning runs with a boundary.

Earlier in addition to Boult's four-wicket haul, Jimmy Neesham took two for 27 and Mitchell Santner finished with



Afghanistan players pose with winner's trophy after they beat Zimbabwe by 47 runs in third T20I in Abu Dhabi on Saturday to win the three-match T20 series

Sindhu falters at All England semis

An erratic P V Sindhu suffered yet another semifinal defeat at the prestigious All England Championships as she went down tamely in straight games to sixth seed Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand in the women's singles here on Saturday

Sindhu, the reigning world champion, couldn't match the pace, power and precision of her younger world number 11 rival Chochuwong and lost 17-21, 9-21 in a match that lasted 43 min-

"I think it was her day, everything she was hitting was on the line, I just couldn't do anything about it. Overall, I should've controlled my unforced errors, maybe things could've been different," Sindhu said. "I knew it was going to be



a good match, she's not an easy player. Her strokes are really good and she's going to be a really good player.

The world No 7 Indian had also lost at the semifinal at the 2018 edition of the tournament.

"Everybody aims to be in the final, it's over for now so I have to learn from my mistakes and take the positives. I don't have a tournament for another month so I have time to prepare and come back stronger," Sindhu, the Olympic Silver medallist, said.

Sindhu, seeded fifth, came into the semifinal contest with a 4-1 head-to-head lead over the 23-year-old Chochuwong, whom she had beaten at the World Tour Finals in January.

But all that statistics didn't

matter as Chochuwong showed immaculate defence and agility to outclass the Indian.

Ronaldo wins Serie A player of the year

AP MILAN

ristiano Ronaldo was named Cthe Italian league player of the year on Friday for the second successive time. Ronaldo won the prize in

2019 after his debut season at Juventus. The awards did not take place last year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

33 league matches last season and helped Juventus to a recordextending ninth successive Serie "At the beginning it was hard to play in empty stadiums,

but the aim was to win, and we did it," the 36-year-old Ronaldo "I am happy and lucky. Persistence, confidence, work

ethic, passion — those are all the secrets that allow me to keep playing. I feel motivated and you have to be every year, otherwise you won't manage to win at 34, 35, 36 or 40 years old."

Juventus forward Cristiana Girelli received the best female player award. Atalanta's Gian



Piero Gasperini took home the coach prize and his side was team of the year. Atalanta finished third in Serie A for the second straight season and also reached the quarterfinals of the Champions League. The Gran Galà del Calcio

awards, which are voted for by a mix of footballers, coaches, referees and journalists, are normally presented at a glittering ceremony. Amid the ongoing pandemic, they were presented in a televised show.

Nikhat, Solanki settle for Bronze New Delhi: Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen (51kg) and

Gaurav Solanki (57kg) settled for Bronze medals after going down in their respective semifinals at the Bosphorus boxing tournament in Istanbul.

Asian Championship Bronze medallist Nikhat, who defeated world champions Paltceva Ekaterina and Nazym Kyzaibay in her last two bouts, suffered a 0-5 loss to 2019 Cakiroglu in the semi-final on Friday. The opening round had both the boxers playing the waiting game but the subsequent rounds saw them attack a lot in an intense bout. However, the home favourite landed more punches and secured an unan-

Commonwealth Games Gold medallist Solanki, who notched up impressive wins in the previous rounds, lost 0-5 to Nirco Cuello.

The Indian fought hard and displayed his attacking prowess from the start but conceded clear punches in the dying minutes to lose and bow out of the tourna-

becomes difficult to quit, it's in

blood," Geeta said.
"I started training about six

months back. I was working out at home, lost 20-25 kgs post

delivery but I needed to train on

mat, needed training partners so

I joined national camp. I needed to assess myself, so I approached WFI and they

allowed me, thanks to the fed-

eration, I am preparing for a

rounds of three-minute each is

good for Indian wrestlers

because we are better in stami-

na. We have to be in action con-

tinuously now but it's not some-

when she competes in the 62kg

category on Monday during tri-

All eyes will be on her

thing that worries me."

"Rules have changed. Two

Geeta Phogat readies for comeback

PTI NEW DELHI

The rules have changed and wrestling has become faster from the time when Geeta Phogat was active on the mat but the path-breaking *Dangal* girl is gearing up for a comeback, confident that the sport that runs in her blood will help her adapt and get battle-ready for stiff challenges ahead.

Geeta, who made the Phogat clan famous with her remarkable journey from local dangals to International fame, has not competed much since she attempted to qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games unsuccessfully.

She competed in only two tournaments in two years after that, got married to fellow wrestler Pawan Saroha in 2016 and gave birth to their first child

When she was active, the bout consisted of three rounds of two-minutes each, wrestlers could hold their opponents for a longer time and keeping long hairs was not allowed. A lot has changed now.

The 32-year-old, who became the first Indian woman wrestler to win a Gold at the



is now eyeing a berth in the Indian team for the Asian Olympic Qualifiers.

With a special permission from the national federation, Geeta joined the national camp a month back and is putting in hard yards, dreaming of more success at the international level

when I would have to actually

leave it. That thought scares me.

It's not just me, but it is same

with most athletes that it

als for the Asian Olympic Qualifiers. It's a category which fast-rising Sonam Malik is making her own while Rio Olympics Bronze medallist Sakshi Malik is struggling. 2012 World The "I never thought of quitting wrestling. I still dread the day

Championship Bronze medallist is realistic that she will not get instant success since wrestling as a sport has grown a lot in India with talented youngsters putting seniors under pressure.

Sharath, Manika seal mixed doubles Olympic berth

PTI DOHA

 \mathbf{I} ndia got its best shot at a maiden table tennis medal at the Olympics on Saturday when Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra became the first Indian pairing to qualify for the mega event in Tokyo, beating world No 8 duo of Sang-Su Lee and Jihee Jeon 4-2 in the final of the Asian Qualification Tournament here.

The 2018 Asian Games Bronze medallists staged a remarkable comeback after being two sets down to outwit the top seeded Korean pair 8-11, 6-11, 11-5, 11-6, 13-11, 11-8 in a thrilling final to seal their Tokyo qualification in mixed doubles. Only the winner of the event qualified for the

The Indian pairing had beaten the Koreans en route to a historic medal

in Asian Games before losing to them on the pro tour the following year. "Manika was unstoppable today. It



is very important for her to play with flow so that I am able to play my power game. That is the only way we compliment each other. She was outstanding.

"I never thought we could win the tournament. Now we are three games from winning an Olympic medal. It will be tough but it is our best shot," Sharath said referring to the 16-pairing draw at the Tokyo Games. Sharath, who has also qualified for

the singles event alongside G Sathiyan, has now set sights at reaching at least the mixed doubles quarterfinals at the "I think if we can reach the quar-

ters, it would be a fantastic result for us at the Games. Anything else from there is a bonus," said the world num-The unprecedented result in mixed doubles means India will now have five

entries in Tokyo (two each in men and women singles besides mixed). "I was really happy with myself to

be able to withstand the attack and services of a player like lee Sang Su and Jion Jihee. Sharath bhaiya capitalised well with his attack to keep the pressure on them. "I am very happy that along with

singles we could even make by beating

the Korean and Singapore pairing in the mix," said Manika. Following the incredible results, Sharath said the two now need to play more often to hit a good rhythm ahead

of the Games.

'We will have to sit down and chalk out our plans. We cannot tour Europe or elsewhere because of the Covid situation. Probably, the WTT China hub could be the best option for the moment," said Sharath. While Sathiyan and Sutirtha

emerged winners in their respective categories of the South Asian Group to qualify, Sharath and Manika sealed Tokyo berths by virtue of being the highest-ranked second-placed players.

IS CINEMA SAME AS 'WATYA'?

Understanding Cinema as *Natya*, there is a hope that we would rediscover the intellectual heritage and be benefitted with cross cultural debates, writes PRACHAND PRAVEER as delves into the underlying principles of *Natyashatra* and how these principles reflect in the modern cinema



an Cinema be called as 'Natya'? Let us take a step back and understand what 'Natya' signifies? Natya is not the same as drama or play, rather it is the subject-matter or the essence of a play (Nataka). The ancient Indian dramaturgy, as illustrated in the Natyashastra (composed between 200 BC to 200 AD, by generations of scholars and the authorship is attributed to sage Bharata Muni), explains many concepts which claims to cover all kinds of arts subservient to Natya.

Natyashastra meant to serve as a practical guide for poets and artists for the successful creation and performance of 'Natya'. It begins with the mythological anecdote about how Natya was created. In one of the key dialogues, Indra, the king of Gods, requests Lord Brahma to create a playful medium which is both aural and visual. He asked that the new playful medium should be the summum bonum of all knowledge i.e. liberation or freedom, available for everyone.

THEATRE, *NATYA*, AND *RASA*

Let us have a relook on some key words such as *Nritt*, *Nritya* and *Natya*. A normal category of dance devoid of any conveyable meaning is classically called *Nritt*. When the meaning is conveyed through dance movements it is called *Nritya*. In *Natya*, there is the element of *Rasa*, which is the object of relishment as well as the relishment itself. The idea of *Rasa* is remarkably interesting for thinkers, art-theorist as well as common people as per our cultural heritage.

We commonly associate and equate 'Natya' with the theatrical performance. When we think of theatre, we tend to attribute certain histrionics or some exaggeration in speech or movements. Based on this limited outlook, we tend to overlook certain basic principles. The commonly understood exaggeration is covered in one of the ten parts of Natya — dharmi, which does not prescribe exaggeration always.

NATYASHASTRA AND ABHINAVAGUPTA

Our understanding of Natyashastra would have been very superficial had we not discovered the lost commentary on it by the great Kashmiri Shaivite philosopher of the tenth century, Abhinavagupta. The *Abhinavabharati*, was found in the 1910s in Kerala. With this discovery, Indian philosophical discourse found a fresh grandeur in Kashmir Shaivism, which claims to be the fruit of great classical Indian philosophical debates on Metaphysics, Epistemology, Ontology, Grammar and Bhakti traditions after the debates of Buddhism vs Sanatana, Dualistic vs Non-Dualistic traditions, assimilating the impacts of Grammarian on various schools of thoughts. Abhinavagupta's impact can be seen in the Sangita-Ratnakara of Sharangdeva in the 13th century.

PHILOSOPHICAL SYSTEMS AND RASA THEORY

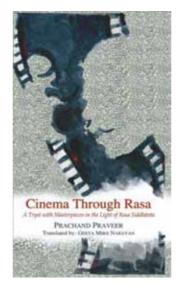
To understand the implication of philosophical discourse in aesthetics, we end up discussing attributes of consciousness and its functions. That is why, an idea of enjoyment of the arts is linked with the metaphysical and epistemological thoughts to be discussed within a coherent framework of ideas. For example, we can say our consciousness has three major functions: to know, to act and to feel. These functions are not mutually exclusive but are dominant facets to comprehend consciousness. Now the rule of knowing (involving knowledge, knower and known) and the rule of acting (involving action, agent, and object) are different from the rule of feeling (involving relishment, aesthete and an aesthetic performance).

The famous *rasa* formula illustrates that while watching a dramatic performance, the fusion of determinant, consequent and transitory emotion express *rasa* (commonly translated as 'sentiment'). The *rasa* expressed is of eight types: Love (*Shringara*), Comic (*Hasya*), Heroic (*Veera*), Marvelous (*Adbhuta*), Fury (*Raudra*), Tragic (*Karuna*), Odious (*Vibhatsa*), and Terrible (*Bhayanaka*). The key characteristic of the *Rasa* theory is the identification of a chief *rasa* in the entire performance while the other rasas expressed in the same drama becomes subservient to it.

CINEMA THROUGH RASA

Over a period of time, many scholars have tried to add a few more rasas to the above list. Great debates have filled up literary discourses over centuries, while Cinema, the new art form having a history of only 125 years, unfolds to modern audiences and has reinvented itself through various stages. The early era of silent and black & white movies was more universal. As technology progressed, sound was added to moving images and the talkies of the 30s replaced the idea of silent movies. When colour movies become affordable to all directors, the 60s witnessed the B&W movies moving out. The current change is adoption of the 3D and the business aspect is also undergoing a transformation through OTT media services.

It is interesting to note that almost all the masterpieces of world cinema can be explained within the Indian classical framework of the Rasa Theory. Bharata Muni notes three kinds of fear while discussing the Terrible sentiment and we find that Alfred Hitchcock obsessed with making films related to pseudo-fear or fear of wrong doing. It is our ignorance if we equate and limit the 'Terrible Sentiment' to monsters and the horror-genre, which is another kind of Bhayanaka Rasa. Similarly, our vocabulary limits our notion of heroism to fighting the bad. In a way the westerns of John Ford or the great samurai movies of Akira Kurosawa are indeed heroic and subscribe to the Veera Rasa, but there are other aspects of heroism such as the sacrific-



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ing and the righteous hero. Thus, the onus is on us to perceive Charlie Chaplin as a hero in his celebrated film, *City Lights* (1931) than to think of him as a mere comedian. Substantial works of Quentin Tarantino and Martin Scoresese are limited to the Fury Sentiment (*Raudra Rasa*). It can be noticed that the protagonist in the movies such as *Taxi Driver* (1976), *Raging Bull* (1980), *Good Fellas* (1990) and *The Irishman* (2019) are not noble individuals but criminals or what can be classically called as having a demonic nature.

CINEMA CREATING NEW VISTAS

The modern art medium such as Cinema has pushed the boundaries of what was not possible earlier or even what was prohibited to be demonstrated. Much credit goes to the camera which transforms the determinants and consequents effectively, which along with editing enhance the effects. Determinants in a drama are defined as the inherent reasons for the manifestation of *rasa*, they could be objects, situations, or even beautifully dressed characters. Consequents are word play, bodily actions, physio-psychological gestures that help in developing the transitory feelings and support the persistent feelings (that help in identifying the *rasa*).

Major directors have experimented and made even the 'Odious' (Vibhatsa Rasa) as the chief rasa, many works of David Lynch and the last work of Italian director Piero Paolo Pasolini bear testimony to this. Traditionally the comic (Hasya Rasa) was limited to the performance of jesters in a play. And thus, it was not given much importance and was thought to be entertaining only to women, children, and persons with lesser maturity. Cinema, in its artform, exhibited that Hasya Rasa can be achieved without the help of a jester and also that a jester can turn it into a chief rasa. It is indeed a wonder that the 1920s had great stalwarts such as Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, and Max Linder busy in making people laugh and how we lack such individual talent in our

The tragic sentiment is expressed in three modes — loss of wealth, failure to act righteously and gloom born out of death. Usually, tragedy is understood as irreparable loss, whereas *Natyashastra* informs, educates, and warns us that tragedy can strike by financial loss and failure to act morally as well. The celebrated movie of Vittorio De Sica — *Bicycle Thieves* (1948) is a fine example of sorrow where despite no death being shown, the viewers witness a sense of great loss. The usual question asked about the tragic sentiment is — how can a sad performance be enjoyed?

We know that there is nothing called aesthetic sorrow. In order to explain and understand the phenomena, Abhinavagupta discusses the idea of obstacles encountered in the rasa apperception.

OBSTACLES TO *RASA* RELISHMENT

The idea of obstacles in *Rasa* guides us as to how the delight in our consciousness is expressed when we are devoid of obstacles such as personal sorrow, or over-identification with the depicted sorrow. When a clear consciousness, devoid of any impurities, watches such a performance, which is an enactment and is of the nature of transcendental reality, the self-repose after the sorrow is joyous. Therefore, we are able to enjoy and celebrate the works of Andrei Tarkovsky, Ingmar Bergman, Robert Bresson, Satyajit Ray and Ritwik Ghatak.

POPULAR CINEMA: *VEERA, ADBHUTA* AND *SHRINGARA RASA*

In many big-budgeted Hollywood movies and Indian movies with lavish sets, the audience are exposed to the idea of wonderment and thus the Marvelous Sentiment. Works of Steven Spielberg, James Cameron, and Christopher Nolan examine the concepts unheard of or having the qualities of magnificence. Just like the ancient Indian dramas, world over, cinemas having *Veera Rasa*, *Adbhuta Rasa* and *Shringara Rasa* as the chief rasa are very popular.

Shringara Rasa or the Love sentiment is considered the king of all sentiments. The Shringaraprakash of Bhojadeva, 11th century text, is among many other texts which upholds Shringara as the supreme rasa. Interestingly the word Shringara is derived from the exotic dressing of mankind and the desire for rendezvous. Usually, it is associated with the idea of eroticism. This Rasa creates the space for multi-faced discussion as well as philosophical enquiries. It is very strange to note that in Natyashastra, Kama Shringara (Eros Sentiment) illustrates the eroticism with a consort.

To conclude, *Natyashastra* has often been criticised for imposing strict rules for creation and performance, whereas the rules of *Natyashastra* are illustrative, meticulous, accommodative, and exhaustive. It is our inability to comprehend the principles in the correct light as well as a lack of courage to add up on the new vistas. There are ten variants of drama listed (technically called as *Rupak* in Sanskrit) viz. *Nataka, Prakarana, Ank, Dim, Prahasana, Veethi* etc. If the great tradition of Indian scholarship would have continued, genres of Cinema and web-series might have added to this list of *Rupak*.

Understanding Cinema as *Natya*, there is a hope that we would rediscover the intellectual heritage and be benefitted with cross cultural debates. Unknowingly we all are students of philosophy and connoisseurs of beauty.

The writer is the author of Cinema through Rasa: A Tryst with Masterpieces in the Light of Rasa Siddhanta. The book has been translated from Hindi by by Geeta Mirji Narayan



NEED OF MIND SANITISERS

We need to start using mindfulness and emotional release techniques in order to keep our mental sanity and be in peace, writes VIVEK BANSAL

n recent times, we all have become extremely conscious about cleansing. Nowadays there is much emphasis to keep our hands and surroundings clean so that we can save ourselves from different viruses. There are so many detox methods, which are becoming popular to keep us healthy. Fasting, highfibre and raw-food diets, enemas and high colonics, saltwater baths, panchakarma, mud bath are some of the popular ones. There is so much emphasis on keeping our physical immunity strong by exercise, yoga and different ayurvedic herbs.

To keep our body clean externally, every day we brush our teeth, shower and wear fresh clean clothes. During the day we wash our hands many times. We are using antibacterial products to cleanse kitchen surfaces, disinfectants in laundry detergents, airfiltering in a car, purified water instead of tap water. And a lots of people carry "hand sanitisers" to cleanse their hands of germs after coming our of store or restaurant and also time to time after touching any surface out-

This awareness of external cleanliness is very important. We also need to feel the real need to cleanse our minds from suppressed emotions like worthless anxieties, stale outlooks, anger, guilt, frustration, dull resentments, jealousy, betrayals and an endless array of shabby self-images. Our mind keeps on storing this unwanted dirty matter which causes many blocks in our personality and we are unable to move further in our life.

Most of us keep on ignoring the bad smell coming out of this and continue to push ourselves with normal daily life. Our minds become like stuffed refrigerators that emit peculiar odours. Pick any shelf and you will see items in the back so old we don't even remember storing them there. Many things are hiding in some corners. Some of these things are now so thick with mould and mildew that they have taken on lives of their own. Indeed, the back recesses of our refrigerator mind are in revolt and have set up sour and stinky kingdoms of their own. It's so scary a sight that our impulse is to shove all the front-line items quickly back in place so that now sunny orange juice, freshly picked mangoes, and organic celery once again appear to be all that's in there.

It's not a small task to clean out our overstuffed minds. It takes a little time, courage, patience and we have to brace ourselves for some unpleasant discovmany many years and when we open it and start cleaning it, we will have to face lots and lots of dirt during the



process of cleaning. But we if continue the process of cleaning without becoming fearful and discouraged by the amount of dirt, we can feel the fresh aromas coming out of it. And then we will realise, we have made a very small sacrifice for such a reward.

If you want to know what it feels like to stock your refrigerator with the items you choose rather than those chosen for you by culture and family dynamics, just look at little children playing - which they do most of the time. The average preschool child laughs over 350 times a day. The average adult laughs about ten. Why? Because children come into the world with clean refrigerators.

Most people are very busy accumulating more and more things in life, professional status, physical attractive ness, social acceptance etc. They hardly have time to clean their mental environment because they are too busy just decorating the outer layer of their personality. These people hardly realise that having inner ease and peace is not a luxury rather the most important can be achieved along with our other duties and aspirations of life. We just need to start becoming aware of it and

RELEASING **DESTRUCTIVE EMOTIONS AND** DARKER IMPULSES DON'T REQUIRE TIGHT CONTROL OF **OUR THOUGHTS AND** FEELINGS. WE DON'T

HAVE TO BE AT WAR WITH CIRCUMSTANCES, BEHAVIOUR, FEELINGS OR THOUGHTS — OUR OWN AND THAT OF THE OTHER PEOPLE begin the process of learning various mindfulness techniques to keep our mental hygiene.

We need to start with observing our state of mind and start taking responsibility for our thoughts and emotions instead of finding other people or situation to blame. We need to make a resolve. Do I sincerely want to look at my life in peace? Do I sincerely want a mind that knows stillness, wholeness, and a deep bond with my partner, children, parents, siblings, and friends? Or do I just want to continue in a miserable position of judgement, control and be right?

Releasing destructive emotions and darker impulses don't require tight control of our thoughts and feelings. We don't have to be at war with circumstances, our behaviour, other people's behaviour, our feelings, other people's feelings, our thoughts, or other people's thoughts. We simply are not at war. It is just reverse. The emotional release process is freedom. And when we will start realising that we have been fighting a useless battle with emotions, we merely walk off the bat-

We will start investing in learning

and practising more and more emotional release processes. With the help of many breathing exercises, we can release stuffed up emotions from within. Sharing our emotions with some trustworthy and mature person is another very powerful way to keep our mental hygiene. Writing down on paper and then just burn it is another technique. Chanting different mantras can help to burn the negativity in the mind and also create positive energy and vibes around us. It's like immersing our mind in the best of the perfumes along with detoxify-

ing it.

If we want to keep our mental sanity and work from the whole mind of peace and happiness and not from our conflicted mind, we need to start using some of these mindfulness and emotional release techniques. By investing in mind sanitisers, not only we will be healthy mentally but also physically because most of the diseases in the body are just manifestation of different kinds of suppressed emotions, stress and tension. So start the process not a luxury rather the most impor-

tant basic necessity to be happy.

The writer is a spiritual life coach



HIDDENSOULS PRAMOD PATHAK



Infodemic & Pharmageddon

ing to night curfews and lock downs, a big issue is do we still have any concrete idea of the pandemic, its origin and nature and the solutions. Apparently not, as we continue to grope in the dark. What about the measures we took, the medicines that were prescribed and the claims of exactly 99.99 percent prevention from the virus through the use of certain products. People were blindly believing those television commercials and advertisements that were making a lot of noise. It is against this backdrop that we need to examine scientifically whether we actually have an answer to the pandemic. While businesses that claim to provide protection from Corona flourished, authentic answers were not found. In fact, it was an information driven fear psychosis that created havoc more than the virus itself. To capitalise on this there was a very powerful Pharma marketing campaign that made people go for all kinds of medical options. So in a nutshell then, the pandemic catastrophe can be summed up rather neatly in just two words: infodemic and pharmageddon. Sundries like masks and hand sanitisers also added to the effect and cornered have benefits. However, the added to the effect and cornered huge benefits. However, the point to ponder is where do we stand after centuries of encounters with pandemics. Human beings have been facing the onslaught of these viral attacks ever since their existence. Looking back at some 2,000 years of experience suggest that our efforts did not have much to contribute and the pandemics subsided on their own in around one and half to two years. How to explain this phenomenon, when our advances in science, technology, medicines and biology seem so helpless. It is a natural and cyclic event that keeps on visiting the earth at periodic intervals. Or is it an auto correction initiated by the big machine that nature is. Or is it a warning to humanity from mother nature to mend ways. Nothing can be said. This is not to negate the contribution of science, technology and medicine. But it certainly suggests that nature's superiority is undoubtedly established and human beings must acknowledge this with folded hands. It is this that nature has been trying to prove time and again. The inevitability of the devastating impact of natural phenomena hold lessons for humanity. To show where human beings stand in the larger scheme of things, not as the pivotal factor but as a small part of the comprehensive whole. But in this process what was evident was confusion, concentration of state power and chaos leading to rise of mental disequilibrium resulting in a psychodemic. As the corona juggernaut fails to halt, let us workout ways and means of coping with its ill effects. Not on the economic front but on the psychological front. Many people may try to convince that the two are intricately linked. But the fact is that they are not. It was the psychological intimidation that led to the economic downturn. It may be prudent to understand that the number of billionaires rose as the poor were committing suicide. The correlation may not be obvious but relationship between the rising Sensex and destroyed. It only changes hands.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at ppathak.ism@gmail.com

5 habits to be stress-free Nature, fate and faith

Changing our lives and steering it towards prolonged peace and health can be as simple as adopting five daily habits to conquer stress, says MANOJ JAIN

edical science explains stress to be our natural physical and mental reaction to life's experiences. Our body reacts to stress by flooding our systems with hormones, resulting in rapid breathing, sweating, elevated pulse rate, and a myriad of other immediate symptoms. Prolonged exposure to stress, much like the situation we are facing today, can push us towards headaches, heartburn, depression, insomnia, heart trouble, fertility problems, a weakened immune symptom and a whole host of other welldocumented adverse effects.

Fear not. Changing our lives and steering it towards prolonged peace and health can be as simple as adopting five daily habits to conquer stress:

DEDICATE SOME 'ME' TIME

Whether it's the first thing in the morning, last thing at night, or even a few stolen moments between errands, it is important to remove a little time solely for ourselves. Put aside your daily chores and find a quiet place to escape demanding family members. Use this time to indulge in any activity that gives you joy and peace. It can be anything from reading the newspaper while savouring a flavourful cup of coffee; flipping though the pages of an exciting book; taking an online class; or even soaking in a warm bath with scented candles and salts.



PUT A SMILE ON SOMEONE'S

Nothing that can bring us more joy than the knowledge that we made another person happy. Make it a personal goal to do at least one good deed per day, no matter how small. Give a helping hand to family. Call your friend and check in with what's happening in their lives. Compliment your colleague. Send your spouse flowers. Donate some clothes or supplies to those in need. A small act of charity on our end can truly brighten up someone

KEEP YOUR BODY MOVING

Physical activity in any form is a tried and tested stress buster. Health professionals recommend getting in at least 20 minutes of exercise three to four times a week. Walk to the stores instead of driving short distances. Take the stairs. Run around the local park. Breathe in as much fresh air as you can. Sign up for online yoga/fitness classes. Just keep your body moving. Regular movement triggers the release of powerful endorphins in our bodies, heightening happiness and reducing stress.

TUNE IN TO MELODY

Music has always been a well-known mood changer. So hit play on your favourite playlist and hum along when performing mundane tasks.

Keep your radio on while driving or cooking. Sing in the shower, however off-key you may be! Research proves that music reduces anxiety, blood pressure and pain; and improves focus, sleep quality and memory.

SLEEP, BREATHE, MEDITATE

Get adequate sleep every night and keep your bedtimes fixed. Upon awakening, breathe deeply, practise *Pranayama*, and meditate for a short while before hitting breakfast and tackling your daily to-do lists. Starting your morning right sets the tone for a peaceful day

The writer is the author of book, Meeting Yama

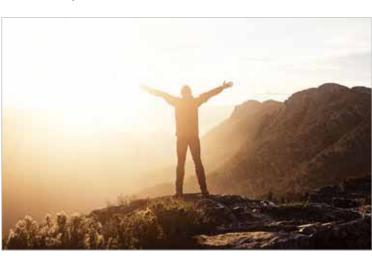
According to Lord Krishna, each one's faith is according to their nature. This makes us different, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

As I have begun reaping many rewards due to my faith in God getting stronger gradually, I have wondered why more people do not pursue the spiritual path. I got the appropriate the spiritual path. sue the spiritual path. I got the answer from the Bhagavad Gita. In the verse #17.3, Lord Krishna states that faith of all is according to their natures only. He states that in the human species, whatever faith one has he is that only. (17.3)

We know that the human species has faith and that is what makes them different from other species. A lady, though highly educated, chooses to engage herself in household activities; she is known as a housewife. Similarly, a person pursuing an acting career is known as a filmstar; a person playing cricket as a profession is known as a cricketer, etc. They do so because they have faith that these activities are the best for them, and are known as such.

Fate has two parts. One, which is commonly known, is connected with events such as someone landing a highly lucrative job. The other, which is not so well known, is the personal nature. People are born with certain natures due to their past acts. And we know that personal natures are products of the three modes. Lord Krishna has stated that faith of human beings are of three kinds, i.e. in goodness, in passion and in darkness. (17.2) An IAS officer retired from serve chose to live in a tribal area to sever them. His faith is in goodness. A boy born in a family of businessman is in passion, because he pursues a business career later in his life. Some unfortunate souls are born in the mode of darkness and turn out to be criminals, etc. Their faith is in such

Fortunately, our natures are not fixed, they can be changed, but it will



take enormous efforts to be able to successfully do so. I was not entirely happy with my life. I looked for reasons and found that my nature was defective in many respects. Therefore, I set about to change it. This is how I began. We constanly desire something. Most of them are not serious, and we know it. For change of nature, we require deep desire, i.e. from deep inside of us; we must really want it. Then and then only we will be able to do the required 'tapasya' for achieving it. Those, who get started in the childhood, are the fortunate ones; their parents set examples for them to emulate. My father was a "bhakta' of Hanumanji and my mother was a devotee of Ramji. They tried to live very exemplary lives, which left deep impression on me. I knew from their examples what was really desirable but couldn't apply myself till much later in my life. I took help from God through the Gita. This book of eternal wisdom became my guide. God became my

teacher and I got started. Subtle changes began to take place in my nature, but the price was not small, because we are what our natures are, as stated earlier. And to reject the self is not very pleasant. But I persevered. What really helped was change in the proportion of the mode of goodness in my nature. The other two modes began to get subdued somewhat. Don't we know that the three modes are forever trying to become dominant by overpowering the other two. (14.10) My spiritual acts, which I had started doing seriously by now helped. Purification of the body, the mind and the intelligence was taking place. All these began contributing towards reinforcement of faith in God.

I can honestly state that it has been tough going and it is not easy even now, but I have progressed. My nature is better or let me say somewhat more tolerable and my faith in growing stronger. Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached

at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com



Odds stacked in favour, still a test for Sonowal

North-East State, are pregnant with possibilities because of various issues, according to political pundits. However, given the prevailing socio-eco-nomic situation in the State and lack of a strong anti-incumbency factor coupled with clean and strong Central leadership by Prime Minister Narendra Modi even during the Covid-19 pandemic, it will not be a daunting task for the Sarbananda Sonowal-led BJP Government to retain power.

In the run-up to the Assembly elections, what matters most for the people of Assam is the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, concerns over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the National Register of Citizens (NRC), but most importantly the job scenario in the State.

Despite vociferous protests against the implementation of the CAA in Assam, the voters' attention is not fixated on the CAA sentiments. The ruling BJP and its alliance partner, the most prominent regional party, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), are in favour of implementing the CAA in Assam. However, some prominent student bodies of the State, such as the All Assam Students Union (AASU), Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP), and parties like the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) and the Congress have clung to the emotional issue. For them, the CAA is unconstitutional. Many view the CAA as an immediate threat to the survival of the indigenous people of Assam and the violation of the historic Assam Accord between the signed leadership of AASU and the Rajiv Gandhi-led Congress Government at the Centre

The polls in Assam are a two-way contest. On one side, it is the BJP and its allies, including the AGP, the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) of the current Bodo Territorial

in 1985.

The Assembly elections in Assam, the most populous Council (BTC), and the Rabha Joutha Mancha (RJM). On the Joutha Mancha (RJM). On the other side, it is the Congressled Mahajot with AIDUF and the Bodo People's Front (BPF) of Hagrama Mahilary, the former BTAD chief. However, there are two newly formed regional parties in the fray, the Asom Jatiya Parishad (AJP), born out of the AASU and the AJYCP, and Raijor Dol, from the Krisak Mukti Sangram Samiti of jailed activist Akhil Gogoi. And a few poll pundits consider the Assam elections as a triangular fight, with the coalition of the AJP and the Raijor Dol (RD) as third formidable force.

> AJP and the RD alliance as a political force to be reckoned with stretches the ground reality. It would be a Herculean task for the new entity to make a mark on the anti-CAA sentiments, prime its past. It is true that the AASU, the parent organisation of the AJP, has a mass following in the State as it has retained the status as one of the strongest students' bodies in the State. It must be noted here that this is the same students' body that in 1985 gave birth to the AGP, one of the most successful regional political party in Assam. And the AGP under the leadership of its veteran AASU president Prafulla Kumar Maĥanta ruled the State for 10 years, once from 1985 to 1990 and then again from 1996 to 2001. However, during the Tarun Gogoi-led Congress Government's three consecutive terms from 2001 till 2016, the AGP, once termed as the voice of the "sons of the soil", was relegated to a mere regional force. And over the years, bitter rivalry, defection and noninjection of young blood into the party hierarchy has led to its massive loss of political

space in the State. This time, when the BJP-AGP alliance has released the list of 70 candidates for the first phase of the poll, the party has dropped Mahanta's name from Barhampur, the constituency remarkable in the last four



he represented for seven consecutive terms since 1991. Though there are rumours that he may join the Congress, reliable sources say that the two-time former Chief Minister may not contest this poll because of his poor health. Despite all these hiccups, the AGP may be able to retain some seats. But there is high probability that the AJP may make inroads into the AGP's traditional base. Also, the voters may get confused and the AGO loyalties may shift to the two regional parties, born out of the AASU. The RD may spoil the vote banks of both the AGP and the BJP to an extent.

However, what has been

Assembly elections in Assam is the gradual and quite big rise of the BJP. Considering this trend, the prevailing situation, and the tendency of the Assam electorate to vote the same parties or alliances to power, the writing on the wall is clear: incumbent Sonowal regime has high chance to retain power. There has been a record of repeating the existing Governments in the past in Assam. Late Congress veteran Gogoi, though entangled in myriad problems and corruption scandals, won three consecutive terms. Of course, during his one and a half decade of rule, both the BJP and the AGP had not much stake in the

State politics. And other small-

er parties such as the AIUDF of perfume baron Ajmal and BPF could hardly play the role of a kingmaker, except exploiting their respective tradition-

al vote banks. What could catapult Sonowal back to power is his cogent reassurance to the voters that his Government will successfully address the concerns of high unemployment, flood problem and all about the positive impact of both the NRC and the CAA. Modi's persona and performance at the Centre will certainly influence voters' choice. However, in a Assembly election, only the State leadership's performance on the ground can help them win back the trust of the peo-

ly sensitive State, with an everemerging problem of Bangladeshi migrants since the starting of the historic Assam Movement, political parties must take into account the confidence of the large indigenous Muslim population. Instead of treating the immigration issue on the lines of religion, it must be addressed on the basis of its legality. It is the duty of the BJPled Government to allay the fears from the minds of the local Muslims. And if it is not addressed properly, and in time, parties such as the AIDUF, the Congress, and

other left-leaning platforms

could misguide voters of the

State to cash in on the confu-

ple. Assam being an ethnical-

Therefore, despite possibilities stacked in favour of the Sonowal Government, this Assembly election will still be a test for the BJP. If it romps home, the much-needed long march of the saffron party in this remote part of the country will continue. Certainly, this will reassert Prime Minister Modi's leadership and popularity across the region. Further, the party and its allies would be able to continue its developmental projects and win the trust of the electorate of Assam.

(The writer belongs to Assam and has a deep understanding of the social-political *situations there)*

What could catapult Sonowal back to power in Assam is his cogent reassurance to the voters that the BJP Government will successfully address the concerns of high unemployment, flood problem and impact of both the NRC and the CAA. The **Government should** take Muslims in confidence that instead of treating the immigration issue on the lines of religion, it will be addressed on the basis of its legality



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

New chapter in India-US relations under Biden

Can we earnestly hope and anticipate that President Biden will adhere to the moralism of US foreign policy which can be deftly utilised to strengthen and deepen the bonds of the India-US partnership? Such an optimistic talk intended to drum up a furtherance of India-US convergence needs to be the order of the day as straightjacket stipulations of liberalism, idealism and realism are no longer what the global international relations doctor prescribes



MANAN DWIVEDI

 $T^{
m he\ global\ media\ has\ placed\ the}_{
m agenda\ upright\ and\ has\ aptly}$ covered the slew of executive orders signed by US President Joe Biden on the first day of his Presidency.

The "Make America Great" again agenda of former President Donald Trump could not prop him up as a successful candidate as his mishandling of the Covid-19 crisis seemingly did him in if one adheres to the casus belli of a section of American observers.

Still, what seemed akin to being a diplomatic tour de force for Prime Minister Narendra Modi vis-a-vis his American counterpart might turn into a stringent and stern tight ropewalk during the Presidency of Biden. President Trump emphatically declared Modi to be the "true friend" of his during his various negotiations and summitries ranging from the razzmatazz of Howdy Modi in Houston, Texas, to the summitry at the Motera stadium in Ahmedabad.

The blitz of the Trump-Modi tango might have been cut short by the mathematics of plain-Jane electoralism in the American homeland but the show must go on, as they contend!

New Delhi is also much relieved with the immigration related executive orders promulgated by President Biden which improve the numerical health of the Indian nationals to reach the shores of the United States as legal immigrants.

Seemingly, it might seem like an early bird call but, still, the India America camaraderie along with the insistence on Malabar naval exercises might be good and pious indicators of the larger feel of the India-America relations which have often been referred to as "a special relationship," since the recent past.

President Biden and the quintessential pet peeve of the traditional Democrats have always been centered on to the narrative of human rights. The American and the



Democrat standpoint on Kashmir, the abrogation of Article 370 and the farmers' agitation in India, have raised disgruntled voices and referee calls from the US.

This American standpoint will appear as a grave challenge for the New Delhi denomination where-in India will have to up the ante against its adversarial nation states and several other international actors by attaining the supporting voice of the

Still, the talk of the "demos", which has been promptly put down

and relegated to the backburner by a few IR observers, has made a comeback with the "value commonality" between New Delhi and Washington. A White House release significantly briefs us about the Biden tango with India in next four years, to unfold before our eyes. The release contends, "The President underscored his desire to defend democratic institutions and norms around the world and noted that a shared commitment to democratic values is the bedrock of the US-India rela-

What needs to be ebulliently underscored, is, the fact that the shared value argument is welcome in the India-US narrative with the traditionalists in the Democrats seated in the Capitol Hill making a grand comeback and delivering a blow to the neutrally aligned nay sayers in the establishment in the United States.

President Biden, formerly as the Vice President of the United States and being the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has, always stood by the Indian diaspora. President Biden's releases

inform us that diversity and communities' empowerment will be the reticence on curtailing the 25 per new motto of the new White House dispensation.

The Biden release contends, "Biden will work in partnership with these communities; celebrate their extraordinary contributions to America's success, prosperity, and safety; listen to Indian Americans' needs; and put in place policies that address their priorities. Indian Americans, like all Americans, are deeply invested in the core elements of our future — education, access to high-quality, affordable health care, addressing the climate crisis, and reforming and modernising our immigration system in a way that aligns with our values."

One "elemental" is there for the reckoning that former President Trump's role play with China ranged from getting his daughter sing for Xi Xingpin to announcing a full-fledged and lethal trade contest with China. Such an approach often enraged and confused both the liberal and rightwing observers of US foreign

policy in the context of Beijing. Still, New Delhi depended on the American succour on the border standoff and stealthy aggressions of China at conflict hot spots ranging from Doklam to Pangong lake. The American beneficence in the light of the hegemonic and interventionist tirade of the People's Liberation Army has been a crucial win-win component of India's foreign policy which makes us anticipate dearly about President Biden's policy on India and China.

The American intransigence for Beijing is the need of the hour in a post-Trump era of ruminations and foreign policy making. It is this stand of the future pertaining to the US foreign policy, which, needs to be understood and deciphered by an immediate response by New Delhi and other affected nation state actors in the Asia Pacific.

Still, the immediate American cent tariffs on all Chinese imports, along with the stress on rebuilding alliances and coalitions with a new, "Let's Re-engage" policy, needs to be welcomed by India.

What is being feared is that this policy statement arising from the White House pulpit need not turn into unwelcome interventionism by former Presidents in the nineties.

Quite significantly, Joseph Nye Junior in his recent work, "Do Morals Matter: Presidents and Foreign Policy from FDR to Trump," has noted the change in strumming between the various Democrat and Republican Presidencies in the political firmament in the United States of America.

Joseph Nye Jr stresses, "Wilson was a liberal idealist but he did not practice universal human rights. As southerner, he shared the racial prejudices and as well as the prevailing Anglo-Saxon chauvinism of his times as American liberalism had long accommodated first slavery and segregation."

Can we earnestly hope and anticipate that President Biden will adhere to the moralism of US foreign policy which can be deftly utilised to strengthen and deepen the bonds of the India-US partnership? Such an optimistic talk intended to drum up a furtherance of India-US convergence needs to be the order of the day as straightjacket stipulations of liberalism, idealism and realism are no longer what the global IR doctor prescribes. We are bound to experience an era, where in the United States led by President Biden has surfaced with the global engagement stratagem for the entire international system thus bearing positive ramifications for New Delhi.

(The writer teaches at International Relations and International Organisations, IIPA)

























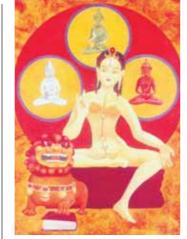




ARIES March 21-April 19

This is a period of self-evaluation and to think about your mistakes. This will help you release the feeling of quilt and sorrow about the past. This is a good time to take fresh decisions. Share your experiences with others and help in healing within a group. Professionally, you have logical and analytical strength and the courage and intellect to accomplish all that you desire. You need to detach yourself in a specific situation, to discover the truth. You need to use your intellect to prove your point and succeed. You can also solve problems through diplomacy. On the personal front, you are filled with unbounded energy. This energy needs to be balanced with a realisation of responsibility and compassion.

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you will feel contented, both emotionally and mentally. Your physical health will be good. Little carelessness like overeating or over comfort could be harmful. Be careful of your diet and avoid junk and fried food. You are open to the risk of getting overweight, BP and acidity problems. Professionally the money will come from various sources and you would want to spend lavishly. Save your income this week and feel happy. This is the time to decide things on financial terms, it would be productive and fruitful in the future. This week your relationship area may suffer. You feel disappointed and want to walk away from everything you have built up so far. Your attitude is the reason for your situation today.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Golden Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you feel inspired to start a creative project. You are not afraid to express yourself to the others. Allowing your creative pursuits will bring new potential. Stimulating your imagination will allow your new talent to unfold. You will enjoy good health. Career-wise this is the time to dream and enjoy the pleasures of life. You are likely to spend more time on your happiness. Executing your ideas to achieve a target will put you in your senior's good book. You are rich financially and by heart too. Your generosity and kindness will nurture your relationships. This week you are at ease with yourself and others. You are likely to create a positive environment at home. Trust will give you the strength and confidence to overcome the obstacles in life.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour White Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week negative energies will be at play around you. Food poisoning, dehydration or other seasonal ailments could make you feel low. Thyroid or hormonal imbalance could make you consult a health professional. Get the medical examination done and take all care possible. On the career front, your logical and analytical approach to things would make you busy. You follow truth and discipline. You are likely to experience challenges but understand that this is just a phase of your journey to something much more positive. Stay focused on your long-term goals. On the relationship front, a new romance is on the cards. You want to start afresh in your relations. Fun and entertainment with your family are indicated

Lucky number 9 Lucky colour Orange **Lucky day** Saturday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Be careful about your health this week. More work and no relaxation could be harmful. Your body needs rest. This is a time to create a detailed plan and to follow a schedule. Good time management will pay off and you will enjoy both work and health. Be persistent and focused. On the career front, you are now headed towards a much better position. Use the opportunities for changing your beliefs about yourself. At some point, you may feel offensive. Stay away from such a situation, this may give you an upper edge in the times to come. On the personal front, romance is on the cards. Trusting your partner will give you the strength and confidence to overcome the obstacles in life.

Lucky number 22 Lucky colour Red Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You are about to bring a fresh perspective on life and some significant positive changes are likely to be made. You will feel rejuvenated. You are likely to go on a deeper spiritual journey that will bring greater meaning and purpose into your life and renew your inner energy. There is a call of destiny that motivates you to go on. Professionally, you may have to bring changes in your lifestyle and working schedule. If you are not able to meet the demands of your professional responsibilities, think over it. Try to bring about balance and moderation in your life. On the personal front, there will be issues while communicating with your family. It is time to know the importance of family bonding and this will help you to focus your energies on good life.

Lucky number 6 Lucky colour Pink **Lucky day** Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week there is a sense of fulfilment health-wise. You are in the right place, doing the right thing to be in good health. You are following the strict regime of diet, exercise, and relaxation. The motto of healthy living is also reflected in your personality. Overall, you will enjoy the week. On the career front, you are filled with renewed energy and enthusiasm. A breakthrough moment is on the card. This week you are likely to embark on a new journey of the self-made person. An idea or passion will inspire and motivate you. On the personal front, you have a crush on a person who is beyond your approach. The danger is hidden in illusions and chances are there that you may face difficulties in the future. To move forward avoid daydreaming

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you are full of energy. You are a visionary. You dream beyond your current limitations and move confidently into new areas. Take this leap of faith to develop the real you. Think big in terms of where you want to be and what you want to discover along the way. On the career front, you feel immense satisfaction once you find your work is on the right path after a long time. All this while despite putting your heart and soul into your work, some hurdles appeared making you frustrated. Now you can bid adieu to the failures and accomplish your tasks. You can start a business that sells items for children this week. This week happy close-knit family and enjoyment in love relations are on the cards. You enjoy a happy family life even if you are single.

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Friday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will be filled with a great amount of energy. Use this energy in creative pursuits and to hone your skills. Risk-taking and creative energies will open new areas in your life. If you are facing a moment of doubt, then believe in yourself and follow your heart. On the career front, you feel kind towards others and may decide to use abundance in your life for the benefit of others. You are likely to work for welfare schemes or maybe volunteer for a religious organisation for your happiness. It will give you immense satisfaction. You may lend money to someone in need. On the personal front, you will experience a spiritual spark and divine feeling will fill you with faith. This is a time when you seek solitude and isolation from others.

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Brown **Lucky day** Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week you need to have control over your taste, touch, passions, lust, and illusions. Be smart and know how to make the best use of everything. You will be healthy, charismatic, and inspiring. Be positive and in control. Overconfidence could be harmful. On the career front, you will be more stable and mature in terms of finance as well as emotions. You take situations that come and turn them in your favour. You are more traditional in your ways of working and believe in rules and regulations. Enjoy the confidence because of your self-control. You need to take time to meditate and spend some time alone even if you are in a committed relationship. Maintaining your inner balance is equally important.

Lucky number 18 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week you may need a medical examination. Do not ignore your health. Take timely action which would be to your advantage. Learn to live in the moment and seize the time. You will be radiating good energy. Share these good energies with the people around you who are feeling low. On the professional front, you are likely to make decisions with your mind than heart and very disciplined. You are independent in thought and action. For a better understanding of the situation and a person, you like to know the how, what, why, where, when and who of everything. Your relationship is taking a turn this week. Everything was going fine but some sudden changes could change your life. Your spouse or partner starts doubting you or becomes over-demanding

Clear mind, better focus

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Indigo Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you may be tempted to fight every conflict to prove yourself right or to defend yourself. You feel aggressive, annoyed by other people's attitude towards you. Beware as there is a conspiracy against you. Analyse and introspect, perhaps you too may be at fault. Stay calm. On the career front, you are firm and determined towards your goals. You are clear in your communication and straight forward with your colleagues. Avoid being rude and stay away from conflicts. Utilise your strength and reasoning powers for good cause. If you are in an authoritative position, then think about the benefits of your subordinates. On the personal front, your mental stability is your greatest strength. Your family needs your support and attention.

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Blue Lucky day Thursday

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¬he driving spirit of mind-detoxifi-

cation process is to root out all such thought-seeds that disorient

our thought process. Remember, as the

breed out into a plant. If, however, the

seed is fried, it loses its productive abili-

ty. Similarly, the thought seeds parked at

deeper layers of mind are invoked and

then resolved through fresh educative

anymore. It is, however, difficult to

your mind space again and again. To

neti means 'not this'. It's a way to push

away thoughts that are no longer rele-

vant. It is important to note that mind-

detoxification process does not call for

developing concentration. In fact, dis-

process. More you distract, faster the

A case in point is that of two med-

ical graduates, who earned their medical

degree from a foreign university. They

had earlier failed to clear off qualifying

college in India. But they were bent

examination to find entry into a medical

traction is a necessary part of the

mind becomes unburdened.

inputs, where after they won't chase you

remain oblivious to the thoughts visiting

remain disengaged, give a self suggestion to the mind — say 'neti-neti'. The word

seed gets a congenial ground, it will

ASTROTURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

upon becoming a doctor. So, they paid capitation fee to join a medical school abroad. Having earned their medical degree, they had to clear a qualifying examination to earn license to serve as a doctor here in India. They made three attempts, but in vain. Now, the only choice left before them was to either to move to the country where from they had graduated or shift to other vocation

for their living. In a state of desperation, they came seeking guidance. Going through their history, I realised that having failed to join a medical school in India, they carried an anticipated sense of failure and insecurity. Consequently, they could not absorb what they read, or recall what had had learnt during examination. To get over their sense of insecurity, as a remedial measure, they were advised to pursue Mind-Detoxification process before they sat for studies every day. The intent was to drive away all distracting thoughts from their consciousness. Consequently, they could focus on their studies for much longer than before.

In the process, their sense of fear, insecurity, and frustration, too, was cleared out of their consciousness. So,



they could absorb the study material better. No wonder, a month and half thereafter, they did not only qualify but scored high marks. The stage is now set to move on to the next course -Contextual Meditation.

Contextual Meditation: Contextual Meditation is primarily intended to redefine the thought process through self-reflection on fresh educative inputs and give it a meaningful turn. In fact, it is time tested tool to empower oneself better. The process is named as such because the seeker is supposed to focus attention either on some concept or iconic figure carrying valued educative import. The iconic figure has to be individual-specific depending on what particular virtue would be wanting, calling for its augmentation. It is pursued in self-reflective mode. Purposely so as to absorb and imbibe the specific virtue identified with the iconic figure through continued self-reflection. Over a period of time, as the concept gets absorbed in the inner realms of mind, it eventually begins to spontaneously reflect in one's usual conduct.

Some of the iconic figures suggested may apparently look like religious symbols. The intent, however, is not to promote any religious belief. It rather serves a twofold purpose. First, it serves as a focal point for mind to dwell upon. Second, it helps induce particular value system through repeated self-reflection on the educative import that the symbol carries. Those averse to the idea could improvise a symbol suited to their belief or perception.

The fact that the imageries in use carry valuable educative import, in the Indian tradition, each one of them has been accorded the status of a deity to make it worth reverence. The purpose is to draw people's attention to the inlaid import, bring it into one's cognitive domain, reflect upon repeatedly, and absorb it in the inner realms of mind. Following which, it may spontaneously find reflection in one's usual conduct. Remember, in prayer mode, you may progress faster as you get emotionally involved with the iconic figure, following which you pursue the process with a sense of love and belongingness.

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