



sunday pioneer

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BEAUTIFUL CLEAN SAFE



MAHAKUMBH HARIDWAR



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

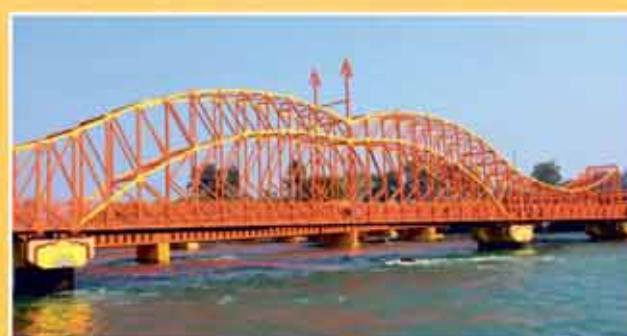


Holy Kumbh mela offers devotees from the country and abroad a special occasion to witness the spiritual, cultural and social diversity of India. The visitors to Prayagraj Kumbh had experienced the purity and sacredness of Ganga ji. Now, during the divine and magnificent Haridwar Kumbh also, pilgrims 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](https://twitter.com/kumbhpolice2021) | [kumbhharidwarpolice](https://facebook.com/kumbhharidwarpolice)

Precautions



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

It's dark yes, definitely thrilling but in its very own unique kind of way. Emanating 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 story in itself is gripping and unfolds

slowly enough to not let you off the hook.

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 pace circuit.

Could have been scarier

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

This 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 house.

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 Saxena



Holds attention from the start

THE FALCON AND THE WINTER SOLDIER
Disney+Hotstar
***ing: Sebastian Stan, Anthony Mackie, Wyatt Russell, Erin Kellyman, Danny Ramirez**
Rated: 6.5/10

Here 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.

— Shalini Saxena

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 heart-warming 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 much-awaited '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, Raghav (Aditya) and daughter-in-law, Navya are heading for a divorce. Renuka was in quite a fix. She not only had to restore the Tiwari sadan to its glory as 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 back to me."

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.

Iain 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 Vevvers (*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 loyalties and their endurance, into a confrontation with forces beyond their imagination.

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 rolls, 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 list is endless.

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
Out 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 Swaraag

Venue: Online, <https://www.facebook.com/HCLConcerts/>
When: March 26, 2021

Time: 7 pm
A virtual 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.


उत्तराखण्ड राज्य


मा० मुख्यमंत्री उत्तराखण्ड


Panchayati Raj

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 मा० 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 मा० 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 नर्सरी विकास की गतिविधियों एवं वृहद वृक्षारोपण कार्यो 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 का कष्ट करें।

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।
संख्या: 3062 /पं०-2/ लेखा /प्रचार-प्रसार /2018-19 दिनांक: 20 मार्च 2021

CM inaugurates works worth ₹120 cr in Haridwar



Reiterates commitment on holding divine & grand Kumbh Mela

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat 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.

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.

representatives and officials were also present on the occasion. 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 time-bound manner to ensure successful conduct of the coming Shahi Snans.

BJP to send six names of probable candidates for Salt bypoll



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

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 evening.

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 on Sunday evening or Monday, he said. Stating that the Chief Minister Tirath

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-polls.

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 Mela.

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.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

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, Keraid, Tunj, Dehradun

The general public is informed that i have changed my name from **Narender Singh** to **Narendra Singh** and in future I should be known as **Narendra Singh** s/o Harbhajan Singh Address:- VPO - Aithal Buzurg, 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 56APO.

मैं नजमा इकबाल W/o जावेद इकबाल अपनी ऑरिजनल रजिस्ट्री पेपर लेकर फोटो कापी करवाने के लिए हरबटपुर में गई थी। घर आते समय मेरी ऑरिजनल रजिस्ट्री पेपर कहीं खो 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। एड्रोकॉट आलोक पुणेरीर मो 9412054582 पता : वैष्णव नं 1 व 2 डिस्ट्रीक्ट कोऑर्परेटिव लेन, कोर्ट कम्यारच, 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 (Formerly India Explosive Ltd, (ICI India Limited) Geetanjali Apartment 8B, Middleton Street, 1st Floor, 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, 28751302-28751308 & 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 Premnagar Dehradun police station on 22.07.2017.

Disclaimer
The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the content for the advertisement (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own.

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

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State health authority (SHA) entrusted with the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat and the Atal

Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana (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 vil-

lagers. Terming the making of cards 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

cards have so far been made in 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 'Jan Sewa Kendra' and the SHA has made the list of left

out beneficiaries to the Village 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 department 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

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

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

NAPSR seeks strict action against schools exploiting parents

Covid-19 from spreading. The schools in 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, VIII, IX and XI were opened on February 8.

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

83 new cases of Covid-19 reported on Saturday

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Amid fears of a second wave of 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 co-morbidity, 42 health care workers and 337 front line workers were vaccinated in 75 vaccine sessions in Haridwar district on the day.

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 Udhm 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 districts 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, Udhm 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 Udhm Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand-262308					
I, 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:					
S. No.	Name of the Shareholder	Folio no	No of Shares	Certificate No	Distinctive No From-To
1	K S Yadav	0057322	100	000009338	015636901 - 015637000
2	K S Yadav	0057322	100	00042076	022631701 - 022631800
3	K S Yadav	0057322	600	00043351	022758101 - 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 company at its registered office within 15 days from this date, else the company, will issue duplicate share certificate in lieu of the lost share certificate.					
Date : 21.03.2021					
					Sd/- Kamla Yadav W/o K S Yadav

Antilia bomb scare

NIA to probe Hiran death

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



February 25. This case relates to recovery of explosives from a Mahindra Scorpio parked at Carmichael Road, Mumbai. Subsequently, the NIA had re-registered 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 Road on 25th February 2021," the NIA had said.

Covid-hit pregnant women need spl care: Journal

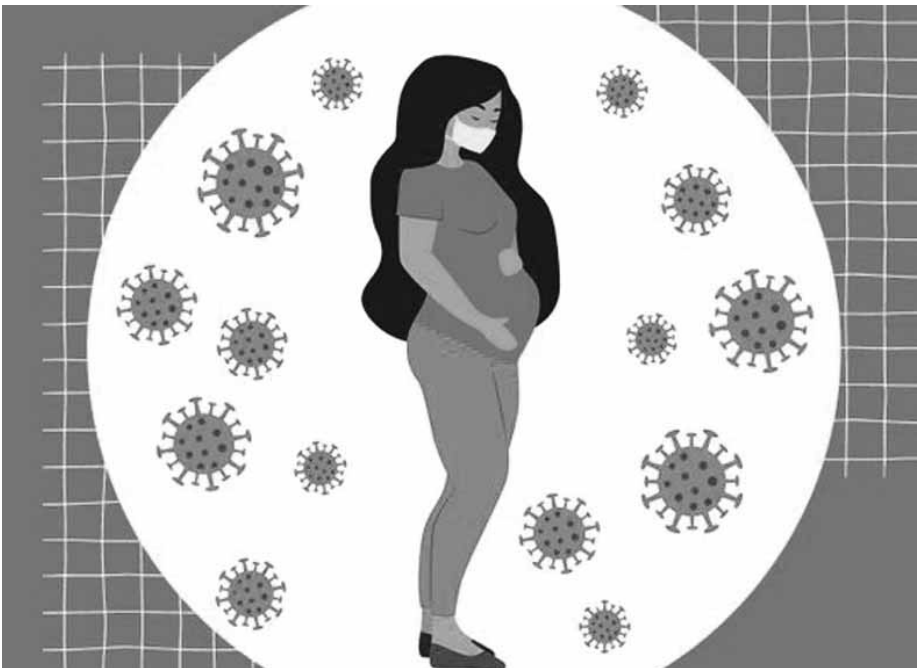
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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 vessels.

The findings of this systematic review differ from prior findings from case reports and case series. "Our meta-analysis of recent good-quality 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 evidence.

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 "suits 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 2012.

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 "suits 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 suits fund shall be disbursed to her.

Rly mulls severe penalty for smoking in trains, arrest if it 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 official 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 crack-down 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 persons," a senior officer said.

The official refused to come on record as the investigation into the incident is still underway.

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 rolled out in the next "two to

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 soon be giving shape to the final model of such voting, after

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 elec-

tions to five assemblies are over, the poll panel would hold a seminar with all stakeholders as suggested by the government. 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.

Sensor developed for identification of new cancer therapeutic drugs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Researchers from inStem, 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

Understanding tubulin modifications has remained a 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 similar 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, India

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

microtubule modification 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 microtubules.

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



importance to the psychology 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 tweeted quoting Naidu.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Khadi's "Mujib Jackets", is 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 jackets' 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 countries.

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

and presented it to dignitaries during his foreign visits," Saxena said.

The specially designed "Mujeeb Jackets" have been made of high-quality handcrafted 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 Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI) in Jaipur.

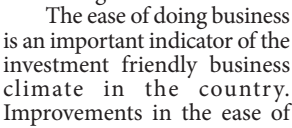
"Mujeeb Jacket" is historically significant in Bangladesh and it is a matter of great pride that these jackets made of Khadi fabric be adorned during the Bangladesh visit of Prime Minister Modi who is the biggest brand ambassador of Khadi, Saxena said.

"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 various countries.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of



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 added.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

According to the latest

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 estimated in December 2020.

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

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

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 higher volumes.

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

Gurugram:Power **Grid**

Himachal Pradesh.
The power transmitted is meant
for distribution and consump-

ERGRID is a Maharatna PSE under Ministry of Power, Government of India.

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Fuel prices in the country 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.

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 litre-mark 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

to see if relief could be provided 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.

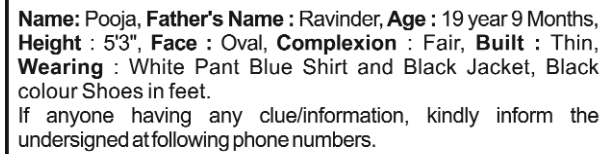
REGD. OFFICE:
FARM NO. 100, SILVER OAK LANE-3
OPP. SAHNI FARM HOUSE,
GHITORNI, NEW DELHI-110030
 Website: www.dcl99.com,
 Email Id: legal@dcl99.com,
 Telephone: 9953463800, 999931069,
 CIN: U45200DL2011PTC212556

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.dcd99.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.

Place New Delhi
Date: March 21, 2021

Director

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 under :

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.

SHO

P.S., Shalimar Bagh, Delhi
Ph. : 011-27495198, 8750870227

IANAS ■ NEW DELHI

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.

<div>  <div> <p>Formerly The Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.</p> <p>(Palam Branch located at RZ 11-D, Yadav Towers, Infront of Palam Metro Station Gate No.3, Purnan Nagar, Palam Colony, South West Delhi, New Delhi-110045)</p> </div> </div>					
GOLD AUCTION NOTICE					
<p>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 in the respective 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 tenders/contract. Bank reserves its right to change/extend the date and venue of auction without assigning any reason.</p>					
Sl 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
<p>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, Purnan Nagar, Palam Colony, South West Delhi, New Delhi-110045 on 30.03.2021. Interested parties may contact the Branch Manager in the above address. Participants should attend the auction along with copy of Pan Card, passport size photo, valid identity proof and address proof on the date of auction.</p>					
<p>Place: Palam Date: 19-03-2021</p>				BRANCH MANAGER	

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.

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.



**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.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Sharad Mahawar (Borrower), Neha Bihawar (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00003103265	Flat No. 8- E, 4th Floor, Pocket- C, Sector- 3, Phase- II, 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 03, 2021, From 12:00 Noon to 02:00 PM	April 13, 2021, From 12:00 Noon Onwards

The online auction will be conducted on website ([URL Link-https://disposalhub.com](https://disposalhub.com)) of our auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited**. The Mortgagees/ noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **April 12, 2021 before 05:00 PM** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank 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 only on 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 documents may be submitted at 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 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933**.

Please note that Marketing agencies, **1. NexXen Solution Private Limited 2. Augoe 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

Date: March 20, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Striking Myanmar rail workers move out

Internet access severely restricted, pvt newspapers barred from publishing

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 Yangon.

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

AP

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 numbers.

The 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 arrested 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 street.

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.

"Many people will have 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 peacekeepers."

"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 sanctions and pouring investment into the country. **AP**



AP ■ BERLIN

The 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 27-nation 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 Leyen

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 EU.

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.

GLOBE TROTTER

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 on 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 injuries.

UN: 8 KIDS DIED, 33 HURT THIS MONTH IN YEMEN
Cairo: A surge of fighting in war-torn Yemen has been particularly brutal for children this month, with at least eight killed and 33 wounded, the UN Children's agency said on Saturday. Philippe Duhamelle, 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.

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

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Somehow, they didn't see it coming. Within weeks of 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 long-term 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.

Now officials are scrambling 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-



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

AP

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 shelter space before they 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

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 families are lower than they 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.

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

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

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 available in Pakistan. **PTI**

Biden stumbles several times while boarding Air Force One

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 House official.

Biden, 78, stumbled as he climbed the plane's steps, initially appearing to trip, get up,



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

salute before entering the cabin. "So, as you know, it's pretty windy outside, it's very windy. I almost felt coming up the steps myself," White House principal deputy press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said while briefings reporters on the presidential 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 parlours. **AP**

Biden, Harris travel to Atlanta to comfort Asian Americans

AP ■ ATLANTA

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris offered solace to Asian Americans and denounced the scourge of racism at times hidden "in plain sight" as they visited Atlanta, just days after a white gunman killed eight people, most of them Asian American women.

Addressing the nation after a roughly 80-minute meeting with Asian American state legislators 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 a "skyrocketing spike" of harassment and violence against them.

Turkey withdraws from European treaty protecting women

AP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkey withdrew early Saturday from a landmark European treaty protecting women from violence that 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 advocates, who say the agreement is crucial to combating domestic violence. Hundreds of women gathered in Istanbul to protests against the move on Saturday.

The Council of Europe's Secretary General, Marija Pejcinovic Buric, called the decision "devastating."

"This move is a huge setback to these efforts and all the more deplorable because it compromises the protection of women in Turkey, across

Europe and beyond," she said. The Istanbul Convention states that men and women have equal rights and obliges state authorities to take steps to prevent gender-based violence against women, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators.

Some officials from Erdogan's Islam-oriented party had advocated for a review of the agreement, arguing it is inconsistent with Turkey's conservative values by encouraging divorce

and undermining the traditional family unit. Critics also claim the treaty promotes homosexuality through the use of categories like gender, sexual orientation and gender identity.

They see that as a threat to Turkish families. Hate speech has been on the rise in Turkey, including the interior minister who described LGBT people as "perverts" in a tweet. Erdogan has rejected their existence altogether.

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-dormant 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 said.

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



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

AP

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 war-torn 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. **AP**

WESTERN RAILWAY			
STORES DEPARTMENT			
e-AUCTION SALE DURING APRIL, 2021 FOR P-WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP			
SPECIAL ATTENTION : ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS			
Public e-auction for disposal of P. way scrap, rail scrap & other various scrap material will be held in April, 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
19.04.2021	BVP	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - BVP	02782443360 09724097750
20.04.2021	MX	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - MX	022-24929571 09004495750
22.04.2021	ADI	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - ADI	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
29.04.2021	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 online payment gateway.			
(No. S III/Auction Programme-1/April - 2021 Dated 18.03.2021)			
743 Deputy Chief Materials Manager (Sales) For PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER			
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Website :- www.jkpolice.gov.in, E-mail :- phqj@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 unchanged.
Sd/- (Ravees Mohammad Bhat) - JKPS,
AIG (Provision/Transport),
No: DIP/J-13524/20
Dated: 19.03.2021
For Director General of Police, J&K Jammu.

CSB Bank					
Formerly The Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd. (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 amount with interest and charges thereon. Since they have failed to repay the balance outstanding in the respective accounts, 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 treatise/contract. Bank reserves its right to change/extend the date and venue of auction without assigning any reason.					
Sl 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 Jha	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 contact the Branch Manager in the above address. Participants should attend the auction along with copy of Pan Card, passport size photo, valid identity proof and address proof on the date of auction.					
Place: Gurgaon Date :- 20-03-2021				BRANCH MANAGER	

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.

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

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 opener K L Rahul to accommodate an extra bowling option in left-arm 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

The cricketers who are part of the ongoing India versus 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 end.

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 franchisees 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 tests.

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 Stokes.

As Kohli paced his innings beautifully at the other end, he had the company of a supremely confident Suryakumar, 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 to 133 for one in 12 overs.

Kohli then partnered with Hardik to get India past 200.



Harleen takes India to 130

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Rookie 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 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 Kaur suffered a hip injury, hit two fours in the first over off

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 over.

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 clear the fielder.

India scored just 26 runs from the last five overs.

Boult too hot to handle



AFF ■ DUNEDIN

New Zealand captain Tom Latham called it "awesome" as star performers Trent Boult and Martin Gupthill 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 Gupthill 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 Gupthill 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 20-odd overs was awesome," captain Tom Latham said.

"And we know how destructive he (Gupthill) 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 Gupthill'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 two for 23.



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 @ICC/Twitter

Sindhu falters at All England semis

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

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 minutes.

"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 medalist, 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

Cristiano Ronaldo was named the 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.

Ronaldo scored 31 goals in 33 league matches last season and helped Juventus to a record-extending ninth successive Serie A title.

"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 said.

"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 medalist Nikhat, who defeated world champions Paltceva Ekaterina and Nazym Kyzaiybay in her last two bouts, suffered a 0-5 loss to 2019 Worlds Silver medalist Busenaz 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 unanimous win.

Commonwealth Games Gold medalist 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 tournament. **PTI**

Sharath, Manika seal mixed doubles Olympic berth

PTI ■ DOHA

India 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 medalists 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 Games.

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 complement 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 Games.

"I think if we can reach the quarters, it would be a fantastic result for us at the Games. Anything else from there is a bonus," said the world number 32.

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.



the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

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

2



4

Clear mind, better focus

Contextual Meditation is intended to redefine the thought process through self-reflection on fresh educative inputs

Normal is not something to aspire to, it's something to get away from
— Jodie Foster



IS CINEMA SAME AS 'NATYA'?

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 *Natyashastra* and how these principles reflect in the modern cinema



Can 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 *Nriti*, *Nritya* and *Natya*. A normal category of dance devoid of any conveyable meaning is classically called *Nriti*. 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

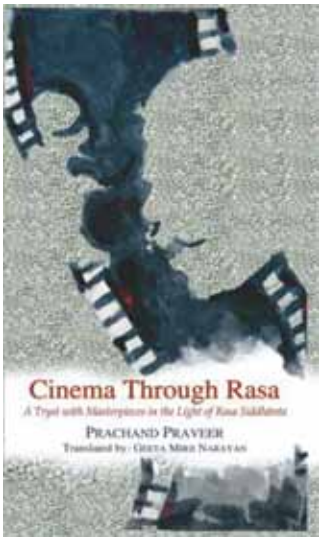
To understand the implication of philosophical discourse in aesthetics, we end up discussing attributes of consciousness and its functions. That is why, an idea of enjoyment of the arts is linked with the metaphysical and epistemological thoughts to be discussed within a coherent framework of ideas. 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 became 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-



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



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 Scorsese 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 Pier 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 times.

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

Odds stacked in favour, still a test for Sonowal

The Assembly elections in Assam, the most populous North-East State, are pregnant with possibilities because of various issues, according to political pundits. However, given the prevailing socio-economic 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 Jatiyatibadi 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 signed between the leadership of AASU and the Rajiv Gandhi-led Congress Government at the Centre in 1985.

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

Council (BTC), and the Rabha Joutha Mancha (RJM). On the other side, it is the Congress-led 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 Rajior 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 Rajior Dol (RD) as third formidable force.

However, considering the 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 Mahanta 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 non-injection 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



View of an eight kilometre-long rangoli made on a street of Silchar to create voters awareness, ahead of the three-phased assembly elections in Assam, in Cachar district on March 15, 2021 PTI

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 remarkable in the last four

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 traditional 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 people.

Assam being an ethnically sensitive State, with an ever-emerging 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 BJP-led 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 confusion.

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

The global media has placed the 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 rope-walk during the Presidency of Biden. President Trump emphatically declared Modi to be the "true friend" of his during his various negotiations and summities 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 Americans.

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 relationship."

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 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 Jinping 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 reticence on curtailing the 25 per 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 a 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 strategy for the entire international system thus bearing positive ramifications for New Delhi.

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