

WORLD 7
PAK UNIVERSITY EXPELS
STUDENTS FOR 'HUGGING'**MONEY 8**
FUEL PRICE RISE IMPACTS
CONSUMPTION IN INDIA**SPORT 10**
WINDIES BEAT SL IN
2ND ODI, SEAL SERIESPublished From
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CAPSULE

SHATABDI CATCHES FIRE DUE TO SHORT CIRCUIT

Dehradun/New Delhi: One bogie of Dehradun-bound Shatabdi Express caught fire on Saturday due to short circuit but no casualty was reported, police said. The train's bogie caught fire near Kasro railway station when it was coming from Delhi. Uttarakhand police chief Ashok Kumar said, adding no one, however, was killed or injured.

CENTRE'S PANEL ON AIR QUALITY SHUTS DOWN

New Delhi: The Central Government's Commission for air quality management in National Capital Region and its adjoining areas has been shut down within five months of its constitution. The commission, which was established by the Centre in October last year, has shut down due to lapsing of the ordinance under which it was set up.

AMARNATH YATRA TO START ON JUNE 28

Jammu: The annual 56-day Amarnath yatra will commence on June 28 with all Covid-19 protocols in place, and culminate, as per the tradition, on the day of Raksha Bandhan festival on August 22, officials said on Saturday.

CLEAR WEATHER IN DELHI; SUNDAY TO BE BRIGHTER

New Delhi: It was a clear Saturday in the national Capital and the maximum temperature settled at 31.2 degrees Celsius, two notches above the season's average, the Met office said. The sky is expected to remain clear on Sunday, the weatherman said.

Covishield's side-effect review next week

No blood clot cases so far in India post AstraZeneca shots, we will act if we find any issue: Task force

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of Denmark, Norway, Iceland, and Thailand temporarily halting vaccination with the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine following isolated reports of recipients developing blood clots, India on Saturday said it will carry out a deeper review of post-vaccination side effects from Covishield, the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid vaccine being manufactured by Serum Institute of India, next week.

"No cases of blood clots have been reported so far in the country, but we are looking at all the adverse events, particularly serious adverse events like deaths and hospitalisation. We will come back if we find anything of concern," NK Arora, a member of national task force on Covid-19, told a news agency.

This new development took place even as the World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday said there was no reason to stop using AstraZeneca's Covid-19 jab.

India has been using the Indian version of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine called Covishield, as developed by SII, the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by volume, and indigenous vaccine giant Bharat Biotech's Covaxin in its vaccination drive.



In this photo released by Georgian Health Ministry, airport workers unload the first shipment of AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine at the International Airport outside Tbilisi, Georgia on Saturday



Serum Institute had joined hands with AstraZeneca to manufacture 1 billion doses of the vaccine shot.

India has given at least 28 million shots in its vast vaccination programme, most of them Covishield. The Government has also gifted

and allowed exports of millions of these jabs to around 70 countries over the last few weeks as a part of its vaccine diplomacy.

Arora said there was "no immediate issue of concern as the number of adverse events (in India) is very, very low. We

are relooking at (adverse events that were reported) to see if there was any issue of blood clotting."

"As of yesterday there were 59 or 60 deaths, and they were all coincidental," the doctor said, adding hospitalisation cases were being re-examined.

"In fact there is a real effort from our side that once complete investigation is done, to put its results in public domain, on the Ministry of Health website," Arora added. On Sunday, the WHO said its vaccines advisory committee was currently going through safety data and emphasised that no causal link had been established between the vaccine and blood clot.

So far, a cumulative total of more than 2.82 crore (2,82,18,457) vaccine doses have been administered in two phases — first, to frontline and healthcare workers, and second, to citizens above the age of 60 and co-morbid above 45 years.

Meanwhile, with India recording the highest number of daily coronavirus cases in 83 days on Saturday, the country could be heading towards a new wave that scientists say can be quelled by vaccinating the maximum number of people and following Covid-appropriate behaviour.

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Flyers not wearing masks to be placed on no-fly list

Those violating Covid norms can be de-boarded: DGCA to airports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Passengers refusing to wear face masks properly during a flight could be placed on a no-fly list for a period of three months to two years or more. Amid reports of Covid-19 violation by air passengers and surge in coronavirus cases again in several States, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Saturday said a passenger violating protocol despite repeated warnings will be treated as "unruly passenger". If a passenger refuses to comply with the instructions before a flight takes off, then he or she should be de-boarded, DGCA said.

In a circular, the DGCA has directed airport officials and security personnel to ensure that no one is allowed to enter the airport without wearing a mask and everyone must maintain social distancing norms at all times during air travel. The Airlines have to



People look on as a passenger airplane approaches to land at a airport in Ahmedabad on Saturday

PTI

ensure that passengers are following the Covid-19 guidelines. Besides, the violators will be de-boarded and classified as "unruly passengers".

The move follows a Delhi High Court order that passengers without a mask be put on a no-fly list after the judge observed the callous attitude of passengers. Justice Hari Shankar took suo motu cognizance of the matter after he witnessed fellow passengers wearing their masks pulled down while on an Air India Kolkata-Delhi flight earlier

this month.

"In case, any passenger on board an aircraft refuses to wear mask or violates the Covid-19 protocol for passengers even after repeated warnings during the course of the flight, such passenger may be treated as "unruly passenger" and the procedure in respect of handling such unruly passenger as provided in Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) shall be followed by the concerned airline," the DGCA circular said.

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Yashwant Sinha joins TMC to help Mamata 'stop BJP'

Time for Opp to sink differences, unite for bigger cause: Yashwant

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid a steady outflow of senior leaders from the Trinamool Congress, former Union Finance Minister and ex-BJP leader Yashwant Sinha joined Mamata Banerjee's party on Saturday saying the tipping point for him to join the TMC was the "attack" on the Bengal Chief Minister at Nandigram.

Sinha said Mamata is one of the few visible faces in the country trying to stop the BJP from "crushing and conquering" the Opposition and the time has come when the democratic-minded parties of the country will have to take a decision to sink differences and unite for a bigger cause.

The 83-year-old veteran IAS officer-turned politician, who left the BJP in 2018, said he is joining the Trinamool at a crucial juncture when "the country is facing an unprece-



West Bengal Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Subrata Mukherjee (L) hands over the party flag to former BJP leader Yashwant Sinha (R) after he joined Trinamool Congress Party ahead of West Bengal Assembly elections in Kolkata on Saturday

PTI

dent situation..." adding the democratic institutions like "the judiciary have become weak now."

Praising the Chief Minister whom he met at her residence before joining her party, Sinha said he always knew her as a fighter who as a Cabinet Minister in the Atal Behari Vajpayee Government and offered herself as a hostage during the Kandahar crisis when Pakistani terrorists had hijacked an Indian Airlines

aircraft.

The former Union Minister who once handled the External Affairs joined his new party at the Trinamool Bhawan in the presence of senior leaders Derek O'Brien, Sudip Bandopadhyay, and Subrata Mukherjee.

Sinha said there is qualitative difference between the NDA Government led by Vajpayee and the one being run today.

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Tikait takes farm stir against BJP to Bengal battlefield

BKU leader organises meet in Nandigram, says Centre breaking farmers' backbone

PTI ■ KOLKATA/NANDIGRAM

Farmers held Mahapanchayats on Saturday in Kolkata and at Nandigram, where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is in the fray, at the call of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha and urged people not to vote for the BJP in the coming Assembly poll in West Bengal.

Farmer leader and Bharatiya Kisan Union chief Rakesh Tikait, one of those spearheading the about four-month-old farmers' stir against the Centre's farm laws, reached the State during the day to be part of the Mahapanchayat.

Tikait, who was received at the airport by TMC MP Dola Sen, later addressed gatherings of farmers in Kolkata and Nandigram in East Midnapore district along with social activist Medha Patkar.

Alleging that the BJP-led Government at the Centre is intent on breaking the back-



BKU spokesperson Rakesh Tikait, along with NBA leader Medha Patkar and others, during Samyukt Kisan Morchas Mahapanchayat under Gandhi statue in Kolkata on Saturday

PTI

bone of the farmers and their movement, Tikait said it is "anti-people".

"Don't vote for BJP. If voted to power they will give away your land to big corporates and industries and make you landless. They will hand over the country to big industrialist groups putting your livelihood at stake and in danger," he said.

Calling the BJP "a party of cheats" which hides its sympathy for the rich, Tikait said, "We will be on the side of those

who oppose BJP; those who will stand by the farmers and the poor."

Clarifying that the Krishak Mahapanchayat in Bengal is not meant to pledge support to any particular non-BJP party in the State, the Bharatiya Kisan Union chief said, "I am not here to seek votes for a particular party. We are here to issue an emphatic appeal to start the battle against BJP on behalf of the farmers in Bengal."

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75% jobs in TN for locals, free tablets to students among 500 promises in DMK manifesto

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The main Opposition DMK in Tamil Nadu on Saturday made a whopping 500 plus promises, including a shower of doles like ₹4,000 relief to Covid-19 hit rice ration card holders, in its manifesto for the April 6 Assembly polls.

On the lines of Andhra Pradesh and Haryana, which passed laws to reserve 75 per cent jobs for locals, DMK president MK Stalin assured legislation to earmark 75 per cent of jobs in industrial houses for locals and promised to press for quota in private sector.

Crop and jewel loans (up to 5 sovereigns) of small and marginal farmers in cooperative banks, pending loans of Women Self Help Groups in co-op institutions and educational loans of college students below the age of 30 would all be waived, he said, releasing the manifesto at the party HQ.

In Government town buses, women shall be allowed to travel free of cost and quota for women in Government jobs shall be increased from 30 to 40 per cent, he announced. Free computer tablets with



DMK president MK Stalin releases party's manifesto in Chennai on Saturday

PTI

data card for students, milk to school students in the morning to provide nutritional support and distribution of napkins free of cost to girl pupils of schools and colleges were some of the other promises.

The rural employment guarantee programme would see an increase from 100 to 150 days and poor farmers and auto drivers would get ₹10,000 subsidy to buy farm pumpset and autos respectively, he said.

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Prachanda withdraws Mins from Oli Govt

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's CPN (Maoist Centre)-led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Saturday recalled its Ministers from the Cabinet led by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and directed all its leaders nominated at the CPN-UML Central Committee to make their positions clear within 24 hours, intensifying the rift between the two factions.

Among the Ministers called back are Minister for Home Affairs Ram Bahadur Thapa, Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Top Bahadur Rayamajhi, Minister for Water Supply Mani Chandra Thapa, Urban Development Minister Prabhu Shah, Minister for Youth and Sports Dawa Lama Tamang

and Minister for Labour Gauri Shankar Chaudhary, the Kathmandu Post reported.

The decision was taken by the standing committee meeting of the CPN-MC held this morning at Paris Danda, the Centre's party office here.

"Our Standing Committee meeting has decided to call back all our Ministers in the Federal Government and told the leaders nominated by UML to make their position clear within 24 hours," Devendra Poudel, a Standing Committee member, was quoted as saying.

As per the legal provision, lawmakers will lose their seats in the upper house and the lower house of Parliament if they choose to leave the party or their party decides to expel them from the party.

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Lanka plans to ban burqa, close 1,000 madrasas citing security

AP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Saturday announced plans to ban the wearing of burqas and said it would close more than 1,000 Islamic schools known as madrasas, citing national security.

Minister of Public Security Sarath Weerasekara said he signed a paper on Friday seeking the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to ban burqas.

"The burqa has a direct impact on national security," Weerasekara told a ceremony at a Buddhist temple on Saturday, without elaborating.

"In our early days, we had a lot of Muslim friends, but Muslim women and girls never wore the burqa," Weerasekara said, according to video footage sent by his Ministry.



"It is a sign of religious extremism that came about recently. We will definitely ban it." The wearing of burqas was temporarily banned in 2019 after the Easter Sunday bomb attacks on churches and hotels in Sri Lanka that killed more than 260 people.

Two local Muslim groups that had pledged allegiance to

the Islamic State (ISIS) group have been blamed for the attacks at six locations — two Roman Catholic churches, one Protestant church and three top hotels.

Weerasekara also said the Government will ban more than 1,000 Madrasas, saying they are not registered with the authorities and do not follow the national education policy.

The decision to ban burqas and madrasas is the latest move affecting the Indian Ocean island nation's minority Muslims.

Muslims make up about 9 per cent of the 22 million people in Sri Lanka, where Buddhists account for more than 70 per cent of the population. Ethnic minority Tamils, mainly Hindus, comprise about 15 per cent of the population.

No bail for Mumbai cop in Antilia case

PTI ■ MUMBAI,

Troubles mounted for Mumbai Police officer Sachin Waze, who has been facing heat in the murder case of businessman Mansukh Hiran, as a sessions court in Maharashtra's Thane district has refused to grant him interim bail and noted that there was prima facie evidence and material against him.

In a related development on Saturday, recording of Waze's statement by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is probing the last month's recovery of gelatin sticks and a threat letter from an SUV, a Scorpio, which was found parked near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence in Mumbai, is going on at its office since noon, an official said.

The assistant police inspector reached the agency's office at Cumballa Hill around 11.30 am, the official said. Mansukh Hiran, who was in possession of the SUV had claimed that it had been stolen a week earlier, but the case took a new turn when he was found dead in a creek in Thane on March 5.

In his application seeking pre-arrest bail on Friday, Waze said the FIR registered by the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) didn't name any person. He termed the FIR as "baseless and without any motive", saying it was a result of a "witch-hunt".

Additional sessions Judge Shailendra Tambe, in the order that was made available on Saturday, refused to grant interim bail to Waze and said his custodial interrogation was required.

IM terrorist in Tihar quizzed in Ambani bomb scare probe

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A team of the Delhi Police's Special Cell on Saturday reached Tihar Jail to question Tehseen Akhtar, who was arrested in 2014 when he was heading proscribed terror group Indian Mujahideen, in connection with the recovery of a mobile phone from his barrack, officials said.

The mobile phone, according to police, is suspected to have been used for creating a Telegram channel that was used by a group named Jaish-ul-Hind for claiming responsibility for parking an SUV with gelatin sticks outside industrialist Mukesh Ambani's south Mumbai home, 'Antilia', on February 25.

SHOWTIME

Only a few laughs



ROOHI
*ing: Rajkumar Rao, Janhvi Kapoor, Varun Sharma, Alexx O'Niell, Manav Vij
Rated: 5/10

This is the first movie with big stars to have had a theatrical release after Hollywood's *Wonder Woman 1984* that released in December 2020. Given the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases once again, the BO was sure to be affected and the film could only make a modest ₹2.50 crore on Day 1.

It has less to do with the fear that is keeping patrons away from the cinema halls and more to do with the fact that *Roohi* doesn't make much sense after the first few minutes of its running time.

The film is a horror-

comedy genre. Sadly, there is neither any horror nor any comedy. Just because the *chudail*, in this case a *mudhiya pairi* (witch with inverted legs) doesn't make the film scary even if they show *ulley* bloody footprints, a face that has more blue veins and slightly reddish eyes, a smirk and hair all over the face.

Director Hardik Mehta shoves down the message that the paranormal entity here is not a ghost but a *chudail*. One wonders what the difference is given that there are no frightful moments or even eerie music playing in the background.

However much we were look for laughter, what we didn't find funny is how Varun Sharma's character falls in love with the witch in Janhvi Kapoor even if there is a DDLJ moment — *Muje toh mohabbat ho ri bhai; agar je*

bhi mujhe love you too karti naa toh palat kar jaroor dekhegi.

Also, this is the 21st century where science and technology rule the roast and yet Bollywood still continues to make movies on *chudails* and shows how people here, in order to ward off evil, marry a tree or even a dog — Rajkumar Rao marries one — to mislead the *mudiya pairi*.

What doesn't make even more sense is why all our *chudails* end up at the edge of either the tallest building or a mountain where there is a *mandir*. Obviously, our *chudail* here is not scared of God.

Overall, this movie has laughs few and far between. Watch only if you are a Rajkumar Rao fan and you don't want to miss any of his films. — Shalini Saksena

Interesting watch

BOMBAY BEGUMS

Netflix

*ing: Pooja Bhatt, Rahul Bose, Shahana Goswami, Amruta Subhash, Plabita Borthakur, Aadhy Anand
Rated: 5/10

Given the controversies surrounding this latest web series, it may be prudent for those who feel that one must shut one's eyes to all the bad that is happening around them to avoid this one. However, if you are the kind of person who knows what teenagers are up to these days, you need to watch it to take a lesson and ensure that your wards don't walk the thin line of what is right and wrong. Of course, one's perspective of the situation and circumstances also make a difference and one takes decisions based on them.

So despite the hue and cry by child right activists about the inappropriate portrayal of teenagers, the series is also about four other adult women who are trying to make a place for themselves in a man's world — a world that is filled with cut-throat competition where dog eats dog and it is all about survival

of the fittest — you snooze you lose.

Directed by Alankrita Shrivastava (*Lipstick Under My Burkha* fame), *Bombay Begums* takes one on a journey where a woman is allowed to pursue her dreams and make it big in life without feeling guilty that they preferred to pursue a career rather stay at home and be a mom.

The only problem here is that even though there is plenty of intrigue and twists and turns in the plot it moves at an extremely slow pace. So much so that one can even go for a bathroom break and come back and pick up the story of these five women without having missed much in terms of how things unfold.

Pooja Bhatt, who was last seen in *Sadak 2* plays the part of a powerful banker (Rani) rather well. Her choice of *sarees* is brilliant and will leave one impressed. Aadhy Anand deserves a round of applause. Shahana Goswami, Amruta Subhash, Plabita Borthakur do their part as well.

The men here don't have much to do except plot the downfall of these women so that they rule.

— Shalini Saksena



Plan Your Day

Offline Book Festival



Venue: Dilli Haat, Pitampura, New Delhi

When: Till March 14, 2021

Time: 8 am onwards

Shelfebooks welcomes to Delhi's First Book Festival after the Lockdown. With more than 3 lakh titles in both preloved and first-hand section, this march is going to be a rollercoaster for all you book lovers.

With events like: Book signing, author meet & greet, make your own book boxes, fill the box, street plays, live poetry & live music, cosplay competitions,

This book festival will have everything which you missed during the lockdown. Did we mention about the real-life replica of The Dagon Alley and The Iron throne? Register yourself for the event for free and never miss another update about the event.

Get ready for a blast.

Sea Wall

Venue: Online, Book My Show

When: March 14, 2021

Last year has changed the way people have consumed entertainment across the globe. In the current environment, streaming content from the comfort of your home has found a new meaning. Evolving to cater to this sentiment and the increasing need for digital content, the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) and BookMyShow have made their co-production *Sea Wall* available for the audience to stream online.

This critically acclaimed play by Simon Stephens is directed by award-winning director & NCPA Head of Theatre, Bruce Guthrie, and performed by versatile actor Jim Sarbh.

Talking about *Sea Wall*, actor Jim Sarbh said: "Theatre is an exciting medium for a variety of reasons, one of the main ones being the intimate feedback loop of live storytelling. Audiences can feel inauthenticity, and they consequently galvanise truthfulness. However, storytelling must adapt to changing scenarios, and in the current one, I am all for adopting a hybrid model: both physical theatre performances and virtual screenings. With *Sea Wall* being made available on BookMyShow, I am glad that the NCPA is adapting and reaching out to tell stories to an audience sitting safely and comfortably at home." Adding further on his experience of playing the protagonist, he said, "Sea Wall is a gorgeous, elegant, devastating monologue. Working on it is as rewarding as it is challenging. I hope that I have done it justice, and I hope it reaches a virtual audience in as personal a way as it has reached me."



TELLY TALE

SHAAN'S TAKE ON TROLLS

After an exhilarating super match in Zee TV's Indian Pro Music League that saw all the six teams battling it out, the



upcoming episode will see the Gujarat Rockers take on the Bengal Tigers in their second league match of the competition.

During the shoot, each and every singer went all out to impress the audience, but it was the new addition to the Gujarat Rockers team, playback sensation Aditi Singh Sharma, who won everyone's hearts. The popular singer gave a fantastic performance on *Raabta* from *Agent Vinod*, for which she was lauded by one and all present at the shoot. However, little did anyone know that Gujarat Rockers' Aditi Singh Sharma and Bengal Tigers' new sensation Nikhita Gandhi had a special *Raabta*. They revealed that while Aditi had sung the original version of *Raabta*, Nikhita had sung the latest version of the hit number. After this revelation, Aditi invited Nikhita on stage and the duo mesmerised everyone with an impromptu performance. As soon as they completed the magnificent *jugalbandi*, Shaan applauded them and mentioned how this was a strong message to all the trolls who have been claiming that new singers entering the industry are becoming famous only thanks to auto tune.

Bengal Tigers' captain Shaan said: "This performance clearly proves all these social media trolls wrong. It is a clear message to them. They feel that singers use auto-tune to sing every song and keep posting comments and trolling artists, but this impromptu act really breaks that misconception and proves that the industry's upcoming singers are genuinely talented. Aditi and Nikhita both sang their versions very well in this wonderful *jugalbandi* act without any prior practice and I really applaud them for their fantastic impromptu act."

While Aditi and Nikhita's performance will take your breath away, wait till you see the musical battle between Gujarat Rockers and Bengal Tigers. Gujarat's Javed Ali, Bhoomi Trivedi, Hemant Brijwasi and Aditi Singh Sharma will go all out as they compete against Bengal's Shaan, Akriti Kakar, Rituraj Mohanty & Nikhita Gandhi.

ADITYA ROCKS THE STAGE

Music plays a very vital role in every person's life as it's the best stress buster. People's choice may differ when it comes to music genres, but their love music remains the same. To keep up with the love of the music Sony Entertainment television's *Indian Idol 12* is leaving no stone unturned. To make the upcoming episode more special the stage was graced by Jaggu *dada* and his aura increased the



enthusiasm of the contestants.

Shanmukha Priya gave a terrific performance on the song *Rangela Re*. Post her performance all the three judges and the special guest Jackie shroff were speechless as she was all over the stage and completed mesmerized everyone. During her performance Aditya Narayan sang the part of the song which was sung by him in the original song as well.

While remembering that time Aditi said: "I was super excited to sing this particular song for two reasons one of them was I was singing with the legendary Asha Bhosle and second I was going to be the part of the same movie which would be starring the coolest guy ever Jackie sir. I was so happy, and this song will be very special to me always."

ATUL GIVES SAFETY KA ISHARA

You think you know your neighbour? Where does he come from? Where is he headed? How do you know his house is not the refuge where he has been hiding for years? Where do criminals vanish and how does one find them? Ishara's *Faraar Kab Tak* is all set to give you an enthralling experience with its gripping crime stories inspired by real life cases. Taking you on this thrilling journey is the phenomenal actor Atul Kulkarni. It is an episodic crime thriller that will feature some of India's shocking crime stories about fugitives.

Faraar Kab Tak goes breaks the barriers of general entertainment and showcases a dual perspective — the cop's and the criminal's. First time ever, you will watch a crime thriller that leaves you thinking long after the episode ends. The show is a real nail-biter with surreal factual information traced from real FIR's.

National award winner and versatile



actor Atul Kulkarni, who has charmed us with his exceptional skills in Hindi, Marathi, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu cinema will be hosting the show. Known for his memorable performances in films such as *Hey Ram*, *Chandni Bar* and *Natarang*, his acting prowess knows no bounds.

Atul Kulkarni said: "I am excited for this new adventure that I am about to go on with Ishara and *Faraar Kab Tak*. The audience will surely like the new approach and storytelling concept that this will bring to them, I hope they enjoy and learn from it as much as I have. It is important to be aware of our surroundings and the people around us, especially in today's world. This show will enlighten and make the viewers abreast of the various unsolved crime cases around them and warn them to be more careful and safe."

VEER ON RESCUE TRAIL

Sony SAB's *Hero-Gayab Mode On*, the fantasy-drama show has kept the audience excited with its thrilling and gripping storyline. The ever-shocking twist and turns and a powerful chemistry between Veer (Abhishek Nigam) and Zaara (Yesha Rughani) has won the hearts of the viewers. With Rocky (Keshav Sadhna) and Aloma (Sonya Gupta) determined to create trouble for Hero, the show is set to keep the viewers on the edge of their seats with a fight between Veer and Rocky while the lives of some kids are at risk.

While Veer is trying to open a 16-fold cypher on his father's request, Rocky is determined in revealing the identity of Hero. With the motive of making Hero come out, Rocky challenges him by kidnapping the innocent kids who have come to visit the movie set where Veer and Rocky shoot. On the other hand, Dansh (Manish Badhwa) visits the set to find out and get hold of someone who is connected to Hero. While Rocky keeps the kids in life threatening situations for Hero to come and save them, Dansh manages to hypnotise and bug Zara to find out the next time she meets Hero.

How will Veer save the kids in danger? Will Zara become a threat to Hero's life?

‘Depressing nobody mentions Mayuri’

SUDHA CHANDRAN, who hosts the re-launch of Crime Alert on Dangal TV, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about how her journey has been, roles that attract her and upcoming projects

■ How did you come on board for Crime Alert?

It was Bhagwan (Kale) sir who called me and wanted me on the project. I agreed because first, it was a rather interesting concept and second, I had been doing negative roles one after the other and was looking to do something different that had realism to it. Crime is a subject that needs to be looked at in-depth since the percentage is on the rise. We have become insensitive to what we read. What we visualise, we find a connection. Here, we are using entertainment as an eye-opener to make people aware of what is happening around them. Anchoring this show has been an eye-opener for me as well.

■ How did you end up a producer and an anchor?

First, I want to say that I never thought that I would become a producer but the channel gave me the opportunity to be one. This is something new that I have explored. To being, with, they asked me to anchor my own production. But then I had become a bit busy. However, now I am on board with them. In fact, they gave me two opportunities; I also never thought I would be an anchor. But here I am, being an anchor thanks to Bhagwan (Kale) and Manish (Singhal) sir, the owners of the channel. I only saw myself as an actor/dancer. To be a host is a wonderful experience.

■ What was your reaction when you were offered to host and be a producer?

These were two genres where I had no prior knowledge about. For me, when it was suggested that I turn a producer, my reaction was where would I get the money from. I could not put all my hard-earned money in the series. When I met the owners, I told them that I would like to produce one. They guided me and gave me the confidence to go ahead.

■ What was the most shocking lesson you learnt as a producer and host?

We all read newspapers and watch news. But sadly, we only see the headlines. We are not personally connected to the crime that takes place. While hosting the show, one can't be emotional to the subject; one has to have a straight face and tell people what has happened in a dispassionate manner. Through this show, we want to tell people that as citizens, they too must take responsibility to understand the crime and talk about it. We can't be dependent on the police all the time. We can't turn a blind eye to the crime taking place in the country because we are personally not affected.

■ You started with films and now TV. How has the journey been?

It has been wonderful. It was never a straight line but I enjoyed every phase of it. This is because I always took things in a

I DON'T WANT TO BE IN A ZONE WHERE I AM COMFORTABLE BECAUSE THEN YOU TAKE YOURSELF FOR GRANTED. IN ORDER TO EXPLORE NEW THINGS, ONE MUST MOVE AWAY FROM THE SPOT WHERE ONE IS MOST COMFORTABLE



positive way. Even when I was at the low point of my career, I had expectations that I would rise again and be given an opportunity to showcase my talent again. God has been kind to me thus far. I am extremely thankful to my audience who accepted me every kind of role that I have done.

■ Why and how did you get into acting?

My life story has been told in *Naache Mayuri* or *Mayuri* (Telugu). I would say that it was the first biopic film. It saddens me that when we talk about autobiography films today, nobody mentions it. It was not only the first biopic to be made, it also starred the person acting her own life. Today's biopics don't have the actual person enacting their life's story; an actor is chosen to play the real-life person. This is depressing.

■ How did you get this film?

It was because of Ramoji Rao (producer of *Mayuri*), he owns Ramoji Film City. He saw me dance with an artificial limb. He always wanted to make different kinds of films. He read about me and thought it would make for an interesting human-interest film. He felt that if I played the role of myself, it would be more genuine. That's how I came on board the movie and ended up acting.

■ What kind of roles attract you?

No actor can vouch that a certain character will be good or not. I personally feel that one can't predict which role will be a turning point in one's career. I have always played good role and then I did negative roles and people loved me as the vamp. I would not have survived in the industry for 25 years if I had turned down the negative roles that came my way.

■ You have been part of Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi, Telugu and, Gujarati, Kannada even Bhojpuri films. How did this happen?

This happened at a time when you don't get work and I started exploring regional cinema. I loved doing these movies for a couple of reasons. First, they have a wonderful storyline. Second, they are extremely professional in their approach.

■ You are a dancer, an actor, a host, a producer, and a judge. The role where you are most comfortable.

I don't want to be in a zone where I am comfortable because then you take yourself for granted. In order to explore new things, one must move away from the spot where one is most comfortable.

■ What next?

I am doing a show for Zee Telugu, this has been on for over a year. With *Crime Alert* added to the kitty, my 30 days are full.

CM gives ₹1 cr to Covid warrior's kin



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday provided financial assistance of ₹1 crore to the family of corona warrior Late Rakesh Jain.

Kejriwal said that Jain was a lab technician at the Hindu Rao Hospital. He continued to serve the people till his last

breath. "There is no compensation for anyone's life but I am hopeful that this financial assistance will provide some ease to his family. We will also provide a job to his elder son," he said. Jain was a lab technician at the Hindu Rao Hospital of Delhi. While working on Covid duty Jain got affected by Covid-19. He was shifted to the Metro

hospital but later he lost his life due to Covid and till his last breath. "The Delhi Government salutes such frontline workers who have served relentlessly the citizens of Delhi. Today on behalf of the Delhi Government I have handed over a cheque of ₹1 crore to the family members of Jain," he said.

80 frontline corona workers of two hospitals felicitated

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Saturday felicitated 80 Covid warriors of Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital and Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital at Delhi Vidhan Sabha.

"Delhi Government's LNJP Hospital, India's largest Covid-19 treatment facility has treated more than 10,000 patients. Jain also said that the ambulance response time was reduced and it was ensured that it reached the patients' home within 15 minutes of the call," he said.

He applauded the corona warriors and said that it's time to get goodwill by the virtue of providing service to the people. Concluding the event, adding, "he is proud that the Delhi Government's healthcare system was no less than the private healthcare system in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic."

Jain said, "The corona warriors have made Delhi proud with their efforts in fighting the



Coronavirus pandemic. Even after so much pressure, the corona warriors worked so well. We took many quick decisions whenever the need arose and increasing the number of beds was one of them. Delhi Government made LNJP Hospital, India's largest Covid-19 treatment facility in which more than 10,000 Covid-19 patients were treated."

Talking about the innovative steps taken by the Delhi Government to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, he said, "Delhi Government introduced the method of Home Isolation, a method that no government in the world knew until Delhi

Government implemented it. We have taken care of all the people who were in home isolation and facilitated them with the best of medical facilities and care. Our doctors used to visit patients regularly and call them twice a day during the home isolation process."

Speaking about the ambulance service, he said, "We had not only reduced the ambulance response time but also ensured that it reached the patients' home within 15 minutes of their call."

"Initially, some reports claimed that patients faced problems during admission into the hospital. We found that the admission process was lengthy. Taking notice of it, we immediately passed the order for holding areas in all the hospitals for the immediate relief of all the patients. This in itself was a big change in the healthcare system. As a result, the patients used to get admitted within 10 minutes of their arrival in the Delhi Government's hospitals."

419 Covid cases, 3 deaths in 24 hours

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a countrywide surge in coronavirus cases, the national Capital on Saturday reported 419 fresh cases while the daily positivity rate stayed at 0.56 per cent. With this, the total number of people infected with Covid-19 in Delhi has reached to 6,43,289.

Three fresh deaths also reported, taking the death toll to 10,939, according to the health bulletin issued by the Delhi Government.

These 431 new cases came out of the 74,326, tests conducted the previous day, including 47,120 RT-PCR tests and 27,206 rapid antigen tests. According to the bulletin, out of the total number of 5,711 beds in Covid hospitals, 5,129 are vacant.

As per the bulletin, the number of people under home isolation climbed to 1,204, it said, adding that over 6,30,143 lakh people have recovered from the infection till date. The highest single-day spikes 8,593



cases till date was reported on November 11.

The number of containment zones in Delhi has shown intermittent rise and fall in the last several days, with the figure standing at 518 on Friday, it said, adding that four beds in Covid care centres are occupied by persons under quarantine, including travellers who have returned by the Vande Bharat Mission and bubble flights.

The city recorded over 400 cases for the third consecutive days on Saturday. The count on Thursday was 431.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain had on Friday said the city recording over 400 new Covid-19 cases per day was "not alarming" and asserted that the positivity rate was still below one per cent.

Man kills another over playing DJ songs during birthday party, arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 28-year-old man for allegedly shooting another man dead after an altercation took place between them over playing DJ songs during a birthday party in Najafgarh area.

Anuj Sharma was shot dead by the accused Naveen Kumar on Thursday during his younger brother's birthday celebration which was held at a farm house in Najafgarh.

According to Santosh Kumar Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Dwarka district, during the party, an altercation took place between Naveen and Anuj over playing DJ songs during his brother's birthday celebration following which, the accused who

was under the influence of alcohol opened fire at Anuj and fled from the spot.

"The injured Naveen was rushed to a nearby hospital where he was declared brought dead. A case was registered and with the help of technical surveillance and using Call Detail Record of the accused, Naveen Kumar was arrested on Friday from Baba Haridas Nagar," said the DCP.

"During interrogation, the accused confessed that he had a small altercation with Anuj on a petty issue of playing DJ songs during birthday celebration and he was also in an inebriated state, hence he fired on him," said the DCP. The accused was found in possession of an illegal firearm along with two live cartridges, police said, adding both have been seized and further investigation of the case is underway.



Farmers construct permanent shelter as the summer approaches, during their ongoing agitation against Centres three agri-laws, at Tikri border in New Delhi on Saturday

Charging points at every 3 km to make city EV capital of India: Min

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said the Government has taken a lead across India in installing sound charging infrastructure in Delhi for a smooth transition to "Electric Vehicles" (EVs).

The Government has adopted a three-pronged strategy to make the campaign more effective. "The Delhi Government is leaving no stone unturned to ensure a smooth transition to EVs for the Delhiites. The vision of the Kejriwal Government to establish a charging point at a distance of every 3kms will increase confidence in people to make the switch to EV and pave the way for making Delhi the EV capital of India," he said.

The fifth week of the Delhi Government's Switch Delhi campaign focused on raising

awareness among people about the sound EV charging infrastructure in the city.

Elaborating on the three pillars of the strategy to expand Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure in Delhi, Gahlot said, "First, Delhi Government has floated the largest tender in India so far to build 100 public charging stations with 500 charging points at prominent locations. These will be operational by December 2021 and will add to the existing 72 stations already operational in Delhi.

"Delhi will soon have more than 10,000 chargers by December. All commercial and institutional buildings such as malls, shopping complexes, cinema halls/multiplexes, office spaces, hotels, restaurants, hospitals, etc that have a parking capacity of more than 100 vehicles will soon have to set

aside at least five per cent of their total parking capacity for EVs along with suitable slow EV chargers. A suitable amendment in Delhi's building bye-laws has already been initiated to enable this. At present, 20 per cent area in parking facilities already have to be kept aside for EV parking in all new constructions under unified building bylaws for Delhi," he said.

Gahlot further said "We are in advance talks with several EV fleet operators to open up their captive charging stations for public use. This is a win-win proposition since it allows EV cab and rickshaw operators to get better utilisation and returns from their investment into EV charging infrastructure. This will add another 750 charging points at least for public use in Delhi by June 2021,"

To recoup losses, trader duped many by posing as MLA, held

New Delhi: A 30-year-old man was arrested from Mumbai for allegedly duping people by posing as an MLA, police said on Saturday. Bhalinder Pal Singh, who hails from Dehradun, had been living in Mumbai's Andheri west for the last two years and also owns a footwear shop there, they said. He belongs to a reputed family and was also involved in other cases, including cheating, registered in Chhattisgarh and Punjab, they said. A probe was initiated against Singh after the police received a complaint from a Delhi-based man.

The man, whose brother was close to his local MLA, alleged that he received a call from a man who claimed to be the local MLA asked him to transfer Rs 6 lakh to the party fund. The man transferred the

amount, but later found out that no such call was made from the local MLA's office, police said.

Based on his complaint, a case was registered under section 419 (punishment for cheating by personation) and 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) of the Indian Penal Code, said Urvija Goel, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West). Using technical surveillance, the location of the accused was traced to Mumbai. A team was sent there and he was arrested, she said. "During interrogation, Singh revealed that his father is a reputed businessman who used to be wholesale dealer of potatoes and onions. He used to carry out business with his father but they incurred losses due to his lack of professionalism." PTI

Wanted criminal held following shootout in west Delhi: Police

New Delhi: A criminal wanted in a murder case was arrested following a shootout with a police team in west Delhi's Bakkarwala area in the early hours of Saturday, police said. The accused, Kamal Gehlot, sustained injuries in the shootout and was shifted to a nearby hospital, they added.

"A shootout took place in the early hours of Saturday between a police team and wanted criminal Kamal Gehlot in the Bakkarwala area, in which he got injured," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said.

Arms and ammunition were seized from the possession of the accused, he said.

Gehlot was wanted in a murder case lodged at the Mohan Garden police station, the officer added. PTI

Centre's panel for air quality mgmt in NCR shuts down within 5 months of formation

New Delhi: The Central Government's Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and its adjoining areas has been shut down within five months of its constitution.

The commission, which was established by the Centre in October last year, has shut down due to lapsing of the ordinance under which it was set up.

Speaking to PTI, Union Environment Secretary R P Gupta said the since ordinance was not introduced in Parliament within six weeks of its convention, it has lapsed and consequently, the commission also stands shut.

"The ordinance never became an Act. Any ordinance has to be introduced within six weeks of convening of Parliament. It did not happen so the ordinance is lapsed, hence the commission is dissolved," Gupta said.

The commission was head-

ed by M.M Kutty, former secretary to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Official sources from the ministry said they will try to introduce the ordinance in the next session of Parliament and in the meantime, the state pollution control board and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will be the supervising authorities.

Faced with rising air pollution in Delhi-NCR, the Centre had introduced the ordinance that put in place the commission and provided for up to five years of jail term and ₹1 crore fine for violators with immediate effect.

Under the ordinance released by the Ministry of Law and Justice on October 28, the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) was dissolved and replaced by the commission.

The 20-member commission was set up under the ordinance, which was signed by the

president on October 28, to ensure strict compliance.

The commission had the power to lay down parameters of air quality, parameters of discharge of environmental pollutants, inspect premises violating the law, ordering closure of non-abiding industries/plants, etc.

"The ordinance may be called the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance 2020. It shall apply to national capital region and also adjoining areas in so far as it relates to matters concerning air pollution in the NCR. It shall come into force at once," the ordinance had said.

As per the ordinance, the areas where it was in force included Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, adjoining areas of the NCR and Delhi where any source of pollution was located. PTI

Terror convict quizzed on mobile phone recovery in Ambani bomb scare case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A team of Special Cell, the anti-terror unit of Delhi Police, visited Tihar Jail to question Indian Mujahideen (IM) terrorists Tehseen Akhtar alias Monu in connection with a mobile phone recovered from his barrack in Central Jail. Tehseen Akhtar, who was arrested by the Special Cell team of Delhi Police in 2014, was the chief of the banned terror outfit Indian Mujahideen after the arrest of Yasin Bhatkal, co-founder of the terror outfit.

According to a senior police official, a permission was sought from a Delhi court here by the team of Special Cell to question Akhtar in connection with a phone recovered from his barrack which is suspected to have been used for operating a Telegram channel used to claim responsibility for the recent terror threat acts/threats.

"On Saturday police team questioned Akhtar. Police have sought permission from the court to question him and based on it, we may question other inmates if needed," he added.

The Delhi Police's Special Cell had approached the Tihar Jail administration on Thursday in connection with the Mukesh Ambani bomb scare case after a new angle emerged.

On Friday, the Delhi Police had said that Based on information provided by the Special Cell, Tihar Jail authorities had seized a mobile phone from a jail where certain terror convicts are lodged and suspected that this phone was used for operating Telegram channels used recently for claiming responsibility for terror acts/threats.

On Thursday, a senior Mumbai Police official had said a Telegram channel through which an organisation named Jaish-ul-Hind had claimed responsibility for placing an

explosives-laden SUV near industrialist Ambani's residence in Mumbai last month was "created in the Tihar" area of Delhi.

According to Mumbai police, it took the help of a private cyber agency to track the location of the phone on which the Telegram channel was created. "During the investigation, the location of the phone was traced near Delhi's Tihar Jail and subsequently Delhi Police was also informed," Mumbai police had said on Thursday.

According to police sources, the Telegram channel was created on February 26 and the message claiming responsibility for placing the vehicle outside Ambani's residence was posted on the Telegram messaging app late in the night on February 27.

The message had also demanded payment in cryptocurrency and mentioned a link to deposit the same. During the probe, the link was found as not available, due to which the investigators suspected it to be mischievous. On February 28, another message from Jaish-ul-Hind surfaced on a social media platform, claiming that the organisation did not have any role in the incident.

The investigation in the case was initially conducted by the Crime Branch of the Mumbai police. The SUV, Mahindra Scorpio car with gelatin sticks was found parked near Antilia, the multi-storey residence of Ambani, in south Mumbai on February 25.

After the mysterious death of Thane-based auto parts dealer Mansukh Hiran, who was in possession of the SUV, the probe was transferred to the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS). On Monday, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) took over the case related to the recovery of the explosives-laden vehicle.

Top cop lays stress on community policing

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Commissioner DSN Shrivastava on Saturday held a crime review meeting to discuss law and order situation in the national Capital.

The CP checked the steps taken on the action plan for police stations and directed for close monitoring of cases and Police Control Room (PCR) calls.

The CP also examined the map and data of the city vis-a-vis marked areas of crimes in different districts. The CP also directed the Deputy Commissioners of Police to keep a close tab on the forthcoming law and order arrangements.

The outcome of checkings carried out at pickets and during patrolling was also discussed. The CP directed to take strict legal action against illegal Spas & Massage Centres. He also laid stress on



community policing and evaluated the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and security audit of residential areas, therein.

"The steps taken to reform juveniles through YUVA/other efforts were also reviewed. As

regards COVID - 19 arrangements the CP assessed the prosecution by the districts and also the status of vaccination of police personnel in different districts and units," said Anil Mittal, the Additional Public Relation Officer

(APRO) of Delhi Police.

"The CP also laid stress on strict action against criminals, and laid emphasis on proper utilisation of e Beat Book and ICMS (Integrated Complainant Management System)," said Mittal.

LoP launches PM Wani WiFi scheme

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, on Saturday launched the PM Wani WiFi Scheme at Harinagar ward in South Delhi, under which residents of the area will get free internet through the various hotspots.

The PM WANI (Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) Scheme was launched by the centre with an aim to fuel broadband internet proliferation across the country. The scheme aims to bring large scale deployment of Wi-Fi hotspots through the country.

Under this scheme around 10 lakh hotspots would be created in the country so that

they could avail of the free internet around the country. Many more such hotspots will be inaugurated in the coming days in Delhi for providing free internet and unlimited data. The launch event was chaired by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation Mayor, Anamika Singh.

On the occasion, Bidhuri said in contrast the Kejriwal Government had indulged in betrayal with the people of Delhi by promising free WiFi but doing nothing in that direction. He said this scheme is going to benefit the students, youth of the area, small traders and other residents and this was a small gift from Prime Minister, Narendra Modi towards fulfilling the dream of strong Digital India.

Shatabdi bogie catches fire due to short circuit, no casualty

PTI ■ DEHRADUN/NEW DELHI

One bogie of Dehradun-bound Shatabdi Express caught fire on Saturday but no casualty was reported, police said.

The train's bogie caught fire near Kasro railway station when it was coming from Delhi, Uttarakhand police chief Ashok Kumar said, adding no one, however, was killed or injured in the incident.

Kumar said all passengers were evacuated from the affected coach which was separated from the train, DGP Kumar said.

Railway officials in New Delhi said the fire broke out in coach C5 of the train due to a short circuit.

"Guard has informed that all passengers are safe and the fire brigade was informed. A



Fire breaks out on a coach of Dehradun-Delhi Shatabdi Express Train near Kasro railway station in Dehradun district on Saturday

PTI

total of 35 passengers in the coach were shifted and adjusted in other coaches. The train has departed for the destination," the Railway officials said.

Uttarakhand DGP Kumar said the train has reached Dehradun. **PTI**

Nation's 1st AC rly terminal to function soon: Union Min

Bengaluru: The country's first centralised Air-conditioned railway terminal in Bengaluru would be operational soon, Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday. "Named after one of the foremost civil engineers, Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya, the nation's first centralised AC railway terminal in Bengaluru is set to become operational soon," Goyal tweeted.

According to railway officials, the new coach terminal was planned at Baiyappanahalli in the city to meet the demand to introduce more express trains connecting Bengaluru.

"Byappanahalli is the third coach terminal sanctioned in 2015-16, which has been named after Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya who was an engineer par excellence and contributed tremendously to nation-building," the Chief Public Relation Officer of South Western Railway E Vijaya said. Built at an estimated cost of Rs 314 crore, it was supposed to be opened by February-end but due to certain reasons, it was put on hold.

Once this terminal is operational, more long distance trains from Bengaluru to other metros like Mumbai and Chennai and also trains connecting Bengaluru to all districts

within Karnataka can be run, the officer said, adding the terminal would help decongest KSR Bengaluru and Yesvantpur stations in the city. According to her, a modern station building with centralised air-conditioning and airport like faade has been constructed. State-of-the-art passenger amenities are being provided to make journey a pleasant experience. The station building is of 4,200 square metre covered area to cater to daily footfalls of 50,000.

The terminal has seven platforms apart from eight stabling lines and three pit lines enabling the terminal to operate 50 trains daily. Vijaya said the terminal has a grand canopy over the station building concourse on the lines of Bengaluru International Airport. It has a fully air-conditioned entrance lobby and a well-marked parking space for four-wheelers and two-wheelers with a capacity of 250 and 900 respectively. The officer said it has an upper-class waiting hall and reserved (VIP) lounge, food court, escalators, lifts connecting all platforms to facilitate passenger movement to all seven platforms, foot-over-bridge connecting all platforms, along with two subways. **PTI**

K'taka temporarily stops bus service to Maharashtra

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation on Saturday temporarily suspended its operations to Kolhapur in Maharashtra which has a substantial Kannada population in view of the ongoing border row between the two States, officials said.

A few Maharashtra leaders have been demanding the merger of the regions dominated by Marathi-speaking people in Karnataka, especially Belagavi, which the pro-Kannada organisations have been opposing.

According to a senior officer in the North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation, a vehicle belonging to Maharashtra was blackened in Belagavi which aggravated the tension between the regions.

"The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation officials had asked us if there was tension in

Kolhapur and asked us not to run any buses. They too did not run any bus," the officer added.

Meanwhile in Mumbai, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut alleged that Marathi people residing in Karnataka's Belgaum were being victimised, and said an all-party delegation from Maharashtra should visit the city in the neighbouring state to resolve the ongoing stand-off. He told reporters that in the last eight days there have been instances of attack on Shiv Sena leaders and the party's office in Belgaum by pro-Kannada outfits.

"Belgaum is part of India and the Maharashtra-Karnataka dispute is a language dispute. It shouldn't be stretched too far and this is the responsibility of the Karnataka government too," he said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had been raising the issue of merger of Belagavi and other Marathi-dominated regions with Maharashtra time and again.

Cong only showed dreams of development in Assam; promises fulfilled by Modi: Irani

Sivasagar (Assam): Union Minister and Senior BJP leader Smriti Zubin Irani said here on Saturday the opposition Congress only showed dreams of development during its regime in Assam, but the promises were fulfilled after the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power at the Centre.

Addressing her second rally during the day ahead of the state assembly elections, the Union textiles minister alleged that the Congress "looted public money" and did not undertake developmental works in Assam during its regime in the state.

"Congress had ruled Assam for years and showed dreams of development. However, devel-

opment works started only when Narendra Modi became prime minister in 2014," she said.

Irani, also the minister of women and child development, said funds will continue to come from the Centre, but it will reach the people through the state exchequer if there is a government of the BJP in the northeastern state.

"One Congress leader had said only 10 paise reach the people for every rupee released by the Centre. That means the leader also accepted that Congress workers and local activists looted public money," she added.

The Union minister asserted that no one has dared to

touch the taxpayers' money after Modi came to power at the Centre.

Taking a dig at the "mismanagement" in the Congress party, Irani said, "Their leaders don't see eye to eye. Two leaders in that party cannot take a decision, and they allied with an outfit which is destroying Assamese culture."

Irani said the Congress could not even construct toilets for poor people but is promising to build colleges and universities.

"There was a mistake last time, it should not happen this time," she said, referring to the Congress' victory at the Sivasagar constituency in the 2016 Assembly polls. **PTI**

Two men die due to 'bhang', liquor overdose in UP

Sambhal (UP): Two men died here due to over-consumption of 'bhang' and liquor, police said on Saturday.

Superintendent of Police of Sambhal Chakresh Mishra on Saturday said, "Some people in Simrai village under Gunnaur police station had consumed 'bhang' in large quantity on Mahashivratri after which they also consumed liquor."

"On Friday night, Manoj (28) and Nanhe (35) who had consumed 'bhang' and liquor died."

The condition of another man is serious, and he is undergoing treatment at a hospital, Mishra said, adding that the matter is being probed. **PTI**

Yashwant Sinha...

From Page 1

"The BJP, during Atal's time, believed in consensus. But today's Government believes in crushing and conquering. The Akalis and the BJD have left the BJP. Today, who is standing with BJP?" he asked. "Atal built a national alliance. He did not want to weaken allies and take their space. This is a serious fight across the country. It's not just a political fight. It's a fight to save democracy," he said, adding "there is no one to stop the government's (Centre's) wrongdoing".

On the roll of the Election Commission's role vis-a-vis the upcoming elections he said "... with a lot of responsibility that the Election Commission is no longer a neutral body."

Sinha's joining the TMC is likely to be seen as a prized catch --- at least symbolically --- for the ruling outfit at a time when a bevy of Trinamool leaders including some of Banerjee's trusted lieutenants like Sourendu Adhikari, Rajib Banerjee et al jumping on to the saffron bandwagon ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections. Meanwhile, the Congress has decided to send its star campaigners to campaign for the Left Front led grand alliance in Bengal. The list of 30-

star campaigners includes Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, former Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, Sachin Pilot among others. The list had been presented to the Secretary of the Election Commission Pradesh Congress sources said. Congress is a partner in the Left Front led grand alliance that includes the Indian Secular Front of Muslim cleric Abbas Siddiqui. The list of other campaigners for the Congress includes Rajasthan, Punjab and Chhattisgarh Chief Ministers Ashok Gehlot, Captain Amarinder Singh and Bhupesh Baghel, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, former cricketers Navjot Singh Sidhu and Mohammad Azharuddin, former Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath, former Union Ministers Salman Khurshid, Jitin Prasad, party spokespersons Randeep Singh Surjewala, Pawan Khara, Abhijit Mukherjee etc.

The Congress party will be contesting the assembly elections in the State of West Bengal with the Left parties and the Indian Secular Front (ISF).

On whether all these leaders would come to Bengal for campaigning the PCC sources said the national leaders' schedules would be decided by the national leadership.

Covishield's side-effect review next...

From Page 1

As red flags went up, the jury was out on whether it constituted a new wave of the pandemic. Scientists grappled with the why and how of the surge in cases but were agreed that adherence to Covid-19 protocols and escalating the vaccination drive to cover more people were necessary to control the rising trajectory of the disease. Anurag Agarwal, director of the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, said scientists at his institute are trying to understand if the rise in cases is due to more-transmissible variants of the virus or due to a lapse in precautionary measures followed by people. Though there is no clarity if a new wave of the pandemic is currently underway, some things are certain.

Flyers not wearing masks to be placed on no-fly list

From Page 1

The Ministry of Civil Aviation requirements on "unruly passengers" provides for an offender to be put on a no-fly list for varying periods - three months for verbal abuse, six months for physical assault and two years or more for life threatening behavior. If a passenger is found violating the protocols before boarding a flight, then the DGCA order requires that airport staff hand them over to security personnel after sufficient warnings.

Directing the CISF/ police personnel deployed at the entrance of the airport to ensure that no one is allowed to enter the airport without wearing a mask, it said that chief airport security officer and other supervising officers must ensure this personally.

DGCA said it has been noticed that some travellers undertaking air journey do not adhere to COVID-19 Protocols, which essentially involves wearing of mask properly and not below the nose during all times of the journey from entering the Airport for departure to exiting the Airport after arrival. Some passengers have been noticed not wearing their masks properly while on-board the aircraft, it said.

Guj: Man booked for selling false Covid negative reports

Rajkot: A FIR has been registered against a laboratory agent for allegedly selling false Covid-19 negative reports to people in Gujarat's Rajkot city, police said on Saturday.

According to the police, the accused Parag Joshi managed to procure COVID-19 negative certificates for people who needed them for Rs 1,500 each.

Based on a complaint lodged by deputy medical officer Dr Parag Chunara, a case has been registered against Joshi and other unidentified accused under relevant provisions of the IPC, Disaster Management Act and Gujarat Medical Practitioners' Act at Gandhigram police station, an official said.

Joshi ran a home sample collection centre and sold COVID-19 negative reports to people without collecting their swab samples, he said. **PTI**

Jammu-Srinagar NH cleared of landslide debris

Banihal/Jammu: The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was on Saturday afternoon cleared of the debris brought in by a massive landslide in Ramban district, paving the way for resumption of one-way traffic after two days, officials said.

The traffic on the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, would be allowed from Jammu to Srinagar on Sunday subject to fair weather and better road condition, officials of the traffic department said.

The road was closed for routine weekly maintenance on Friday but was blocked at Shabanbass near Banihal following a massive landslide triggered by heavy rains besides shooting of stones from the hillocks overlooking the highway at multiple places between Banihal and Ramban. **PTI**

Tikait takes farm stir against BJP to Bengal battlefield

From Page 1

Referring to Nandigram, he said the land of farmers' agitation will give new direction to the movement against the farm bills.

On the ongoing farmers' stir in Delhi, he said the protestors are ready to continue their agitation for a long period as their morale is high.

Tikait is also expected to visit Singur, one of the epicentres of anti-farm land acquisition agitation in 2006-07.

Patkar warned against the "sinister design" of the Narendra Modi government to rob small and marginal farmers of their right over their small plots of land. Also it does not allow farmers to decide the remunerative price of their agri produce.

The people of Nandigram must show the way by giving the lead against the BJP's objective to thrust the farm laws, she said.

The social activist also urged the people to exercise their franchise cautiously.

"This is the land of Rabindranath Tagore, this is the land of so many luminaries. Bengal's soil will not allow the divisive forces to get a toehold here, its farmers will not allow a rerun of forces like the (British) East India Company to usurp power," she said.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of over 40 farmers' unions, had on Friday urged ploughmen and other people of West Bengal not to vote for BJP arguing that electoral defeat will force the BJP-led government at the Centre to repeal the three farm laws.

Patkar had on Friday condemned the Centre for allegedly insulting the farmers' stir and had said even the British occupiers had not resorted to acts which the present government is indulging in.

She had welcomed the passage of a resolution against the farm laws in the West Bengal assembly.

75% jobs in TN for locals, free tablets to students among 500 promises in DMK ...

From Page 1

Special courts would be set up to try cases (indicating that cases would be filed) of "corruption against AIADMK ministers," Stalin said underlining the salient features of his party's manifesto.

While the AIADMK government runs 'Ammu Unavagam' (eateries) would be set up.

After the 'first hero' the candidates list, the manifesto is the 'second hero,' he said and promised elevated roads, desalination projects and 5-lakh plus fresh jobs in government sector.

Aiming at a comeback to the corridors of power after a hiatus of 10 years, the party made 505 assurances, which includes measures towards economic revival, protecting farm lands, free three phase electricity for farmers and a separate budget for agriculture and weekly off for police personnel.

If voted to power, petrol and diesel prices would be slashed by Rs 5 and Rs 4 per litre, he said.

A monthly subsidy of Rs 100 will be provided to buy one LPG cylinder for every ration card holder and the cost of state-run 'Aavin' milk shall be slashed by Rs three a litre. Also, an additional one kg sugar would be distributed in public distribution outlets. Implementing all promises was possible by eradicating corruption, pursuing measures including austerity and increasing tax revenue,

the manifesto released by him asserted.

A separate department will be set up for implementation of poll promises (and to ensure action on petitions received by Stalin from public during his campaign) within 100 days of assumption of office and a report card shall be out on the 100th day.

Stalin promised a proper inquiry into the circumstances leading to the death of late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa and initiation of legal action against anyone, found guilty. The Centre would be requested to include Sri Lanka in its Citizenship

Amendment Act, 2019 and give citizenship to Lankan Tamil refugees living in camps in India and work for release of seven Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convicts.

Input subsidy for organic farmers, an increased Minimum Support Price of Rs 2,500 and Rs 4,000 respectively for paddy and cane per quintal and expeditious implementation of intra-state river linking plans were among the promises. Financial assistance upto a maximum of Rs 25,000 to one lakh persons in a year going on pilgrimage to major Hindu temples, increase in maternity leave period and assistance, cut in fuel prices and steps to ban NEET in Tamil Nadu were promised. At the same time, the party also assured 2.5 per cent reservation to students of state-aided schools

who clear NEET in medical admissions. Tamil Nadu provides 7.5 per cent quota to government school students (who get through NEET) in medical courses. The DMK also promised to implement its pet initiatives the 'Sethu Samudram project', and revival of Legislative Council.

The manifesto also assured steps to retrieve Katchatheevu islet from Sri Lanka to protect fishermen and bring them under 'Scheduled Tribes' (maritime tribes) category and provide them two lakh new houses. Till such time the COVID-19 battered economy revived, property tax shall not be increased. Releasing the manifesto, Stalin said if his party was voted to power, first generation graduates will be given preference in government jobs, reservation in private sector will also be insisted and promised subsidies for small farmers.

Promising an allocation of Rs 1,000 crore towards renovation and consecration of Hindu temples, Stalin assured to provide Rs 200 crore for churches and mosques. "The government will enact a law making learning of Tamil compulsory till eighth standard in all schools including those under the Central Board of Secondary Education." Right to Services Act, a resolution against Centre's farm laws in Assembly and rescinding laws with similar provisions in Tamil Nadu were promised. **PTI**

Prachanda withdraws Mins...

From Page 1

On Friday, the Central Committee meeting of the CPN (UML) led by Prime Minister Oli had nominated 23 leaders of Maoist Centre, including the ministers to the party's central committee which the faction opposing him has said is against the norms of the party.

Since the Supreme Court invalidated the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) merger and revived its constituents CPN-UML and Nepal Communist Party (Maoist Centre) on Sunday last, Oli has been keeping at bay the faction led by Madhav Kumar Nepal that had opposed him and tightening his hold on the party by relieving leaders close to Nepal from party positions, the daily said.

Nepal's Election Commission on Tuesday asked the CPN (UML) led by Oli and the CPN (Maoist Centre) led by Prachanda to come up with a new name and election symbol of the party if they decide to merge their parties again after the Supreme Court quashed the 2018 unification of the two parties.

The CPN (UML) and CPN (Maoist Centre) merged in May 2018 to form a unified Nepal Communist Party fol-

lowing the victory of their alliance in the 2017 general elections.

On last Sunday, the apex court quashed their unification and granted authenticity of the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) to Rishiram Kattel, who had registered the party at the Election Commission in his name prior to the formation of Nepal Communist Party (NCP) led by Oli and Prachanda.

Kattel had challenged the Election Commission's decision to register Nepal Communist Party (NCP) under Oli and Prachanda in May 2018.

The bench said that a new party cannot be registered with the Election Commission when it already has a party registered with a similar name.

The two parties had forged an electoral alliance with an agreement to unify the two parties after the election. Oli, in a surprise move, dissolved Parliament in December last year, amidst a tussle for power with Prachanda.

The ruling NCP split over Oli's move to dissolve the 275-member House of Representatives. In a landmark ruling, the apex court last month reinstated the lower house of Parliament. **PTI**

OFFICE OF THE Addl. CHIEF ENGINEER (THC), MPPGCL, SIRMOUR
Email: cehthc@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
M.P. Power Generating Co. Ltd. invites e-tender from Manufacturer/ Authorized Dealer/ Authorized Distributor/ Supplier under tender no. **2021-MPPGC-130954_1** for Supply of fully automatic DOL starter panels as per scope of supply at 3x105 MW, THPS-I Sirmour with estimated cost of Rs. 11.39 Lakh. Last date & time for online submission/opening of tender is **15.04.2021/17.04.2021** respectively. For details and PQR conditions please visit website www.mptenders.gov.in
(S.K.Shukla)
Addl. Chief Engineer (THC), Sirmour.

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में, SUNWORLD RESIDENCY PVT LTD.
व्यक्तिगत कारणों से उ०प्र० रेरा में पंजीकृत परियोजनाओं **Sunworld Arista** (संख्या **UPRERAPRJ6444**) एवं **Sunworld Arista** (PH-2 T-5,7,8,9), **Club** (संख्या **UPRERAPRJ11625**) को सरेन्डर/ कैन्सिलेशन/निरस्तीकरण करा रहा हूँ। किसी व्यक्ति/संस्था आदि द्वारा इस परियोजना में यदि कोई बुकिंग करायी गई हो तो कृपया अपना क्लेम/दावा प्रस्तुत करें। उक्त क्लेम/दावा को विवरण सहित 15 दिनों के अन्दर यूपी रेरा की ईमेल आईडी contactuprera@up-rera.in पर भी भेजा जाए तथा क्लेम/दावा विवरण को सचिव उ०प्र० रेरा मुख्यालय, नवीन भवन, राज्य नियोजन संस्थान, कालाकांकर हाउस, पुराना हैदराबाद, लखनऊ-226007 को प्रेषित किया जाए।

Office of Superintending Engineer PWD Bulandshahar Circle, Bulandshahar
Very Short term E-Procurement-Inviting Tenders
No. 210296ME-TENDER/BSR CIRCLE/2020-21 Dated : 06.03.2021
On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh Superintending Engineer, Bulandshahar Circle, U.P.P.W.D., Bulandshahar invites following percentage rate bid online through <http://tender.up.nic.in> from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with P.W.D. class as per column no. 10 below Building category as applied from Date 16.03.2021 to 22.03.2021 upto 12:00 Noon as per the prescribed T-2 of Govt. of U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on dated 22.03.2021 at 02:00 P.M. If the office happens to be closed on the day of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day, at the same time any validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.
Sl. No. Name of Work Estimated cost (Rs. in Lakh) Bid Security (Rs. in Lakh) Time of Completion work including rainy season Tender document fee including GST (in Rs.) Address of Executive Engineer executing the (in Rs.) Address of Superintending Engineer Address of Chief Engineer Category
1 Construction work of Sakhi One Stop Center in Joint Hospital Sanjaynagar in Ghaziabad district 44.00 4.20 12 Months Tender cost: Rs. 300/-2000 +18% G.S.T. +Rs. 414.00= 2714.00 CD-2 PWD Bulandshahar Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahar Chief Engineer, Menout Zone, P.W.D., Menout A,B,C
2 Construction of RCC Overhead Tank at Government Polytechnic, Ghaziabad in District Ghaziabad 64.50 5.23 12 Months -do- -do- -do- -do- A,B,C
1. The Bid Security and Tender Document fee must be deposited through Internet Banking only.
2. All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by C.A. of last 2 years and details of maximum cost work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Chanakya Software before submission of tender.
Details of e-tender uploaded on <http://tender.up.nic.in> shall also be uploaded on UP PWD Chanakya software, before last date & time of submission of bids.
3. Terms & other conditions related to bid are available on <http://tender.up.nic.in>
4. During execution of work contractor should ensure the all safety precautions for COVID-19.
5. In PWD technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prashant Software URL for Prashant is <http://www.upwd.gov.in/Prashant/>
Executive Engineer CD-2 PWD, Ghaziabad UP, 162076 Date 10-03-2021
विज्ञापन संख्या: www.upwd.gov.in पर उल्लेख है

General public is hereby informed that Sh. **Fare Singh** S/o Late Sh. Khari Prasad is intending to sell Second Floor, without Terrace Rights, area measuring 48 Sq. yards, Built on Property Bearing No. 745-A2/7, out of Kharsa No. 83, Situated at Gindripur, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, to Sh. **Sameer Rai** S/o Sh. Santosh Rai, to be known as Khari Prasad Housing Finance Ltd. Further it is informed that there are no other legal heirs of Sh. Khari Prasad except Sh. **Rajveer** and Sh. **Fare Singh**. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact us within 10 days from date of this notice on Email: neehavale@gmail.com or contact: Mr. Himjyoti Housing Finance Ltd, office at Unit no. 418, 4th Floor, Tower-2, Pearl Omaze Building, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura 110034, (telling which), it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property. **Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)** Ch. 839, PNC, New Delhi - 110001

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mr. Surender, is owner of Plot of land measuring 4 Biswa ie. 200 sq.yds, Kharsa No. 448, situated in the revenue estate of Village Chhawal within extended Lal Dora, Tehsil Kapashera, New Delhi Sadar property by virtue of sale deed dated 25.01.2021, registration No. 960. All persons are hereby informed that: above mentioned owner want to take home loan from Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. If anybody has any objections upon said property its ownership & Title its Sale and Mortgage, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. **Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)** 200, Second Floor, 23 Shivali Marg, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-15 kumarsassociatesadvocate@gmail.com 80114111282128

Poll body seeks more details on 'attack' on Didi



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has sought more details on West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee's alleged attack incident, saying that the report submitted by State chief secretary on her injuries was sketchy and not comprehensive enough.

The EC has asked State chief secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay to furnish more details to elaborate on the incident further. On the hand, the special observers in their report has ruled the possibility that the injury was the result of an attack. Stating that there is no evidence of an attack on CM's convoy, the their report said she was in the midst of heavy police cover at the time of the incident.

"The report submitted by the West Bengal Government appeared to be quite sketchy and without any details of the incident like how it happened or who could be behind it," an officials of the EC. Meanwhile, the EC special observer Vivek Dube to submit a report by Friday evening.

allowed by the poll body.

Meanwhile, in a report to the EC, West Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay reported to have stated that injury to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's leg in Nandigram was caused due to the car door but the report does not clearly mention what led to the door slamming on Mamata Banerjee's leg.

In addition, the Chief Secretary's report also mentions that a massive crowd had gathered on the road in Nandigram when the incident took place on March 10. On the other hand, the report does say that an iron pole was not far from CM Mamata Banerjee's car but does not clearly say if the door of the vehicles closed on her leg after brushing against the pole. The report also mentioned that there was no clear footage available of the spot where the incident took place from anywhere in the vicinity.

Following the incident, the Election Commission had asked Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay, special observer Ajay Nayak and special police observer Vivek Dube to submit a report by Friday evening.

Naidu's 12 tips for new RS members to set example

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday offered 12 tips to the newly elected members of the House to make a difference in House proceedings and nation building by becoming effective Parliamentarians.

He counselled the members on their conduct both within and outside the House while inaugurating a two-day orientation programme for the newly-elected members of Rajya Sabha.

Naidu stressed that criticism of the Government should be informed and credible, instead of being just for the record.

"The Opposition has the right to criticise the Government. In fact, it is their duty. But the criticism should be informed so that it looks credible. Opposing every move of the Government for the sake of record dents its credibility. The quality of criticism should really sting the Government of the day and catch the eye of the media and the people," Naidu said.

Urging the members to acquire deep knowledge of the state of the nation to make effective contributions to its transformation, Naidu said: "It is also your duty to ensure and further strengthen the unity and inclusivity of our multicultural society by checkmating the attempts to create divisions based on caste, colour, region and religion. Each one of you must emerge as the spokesperson of the aspiring, emergent, capable, resilient and united India."

He also cautioned the members about the attempts to block the progress of the country, the voice of which is finding an echo in the global



Naidu reminded the members of their solemn duty to defend the integrity and sovereignty of India

order in the form of disturbances along the boundaries, misplaced criticism of the country based on some sporadic incidents, discrediting India's democracy, economic restrictions, cross-border terror etc. and urged them to effectively checkmate such attempts in every forum.

Naidu reminded the members of their solemn duty to defend the integrity and sovereignty of India by being alert all the time about the threats facing the country.

Elaborating on the challenges of time management in the House, Naidu asserted that what is important is not the length of the interventions, but the content and the perspectives presented.

He urged the members to be specific and avoid repetitions which even kill media interest. He suggested the members to avoid giving notices as a matter of routine like the notices under Rule

267 for suspension of the business of the day.

The Rajya Sabha Chairman urged the members to develop in depth knowledge of issues being taken up in the House so as not to be general and vague in their interventions when complex issues with wider implications are discussed.

Expressing concern over the rising 'negative perception quotient' among the public about the functioning of the legislatures in the country, Naidu urged the members to abide by the elaborate rules of procedure and conventions of the House evolved over the years to enable its smooth functioning.

"These rules provide for every contingency. During my 20 years in the Rajya Sabha and three-and-a-half years as its Chairman, I have never witnessed a situation when inadequacy of Rules was felt in addressing procedural matters in the House," he said.

Stating that the members have the right to seek their due in the House as per the rules and conventions, and that the presiding officers are their custodians, Naidu said that it is in the interest of the members and of the House to abide by the decision of the Chair in the end.

ED seizes realtor's ₹55.57-cr assets for cheating investors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached properties worth ₹55.57 crore in a case of cheating the investors dishonestly across Jharkhand and other States by real estate firm Sanjeevani Buildcon Pvt. Ltd. (SBPL).

The accused company used to receive payments from the gullible investors in the name of giving them plots of land.

"The attached assets include 98 immovable properties situated at Ranchi, Jharkhand and three commercial shops at Raipur as well as bank balances in the form of fixed deposits in the name of Sanjeevani Buildcon Pvt. Ltd. and its directors and their relatives Jayant Dayal Nand, his wife Anita Dayal Nand, another director Shyam Kishore Gupta and Ranjana Shrivastav, wife of one of the directors Prakash Prasad Lala," the ED said in a statement.

The ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by CBI, Ranchi and chargesheet against Sanjeevani Buildcon Pvt. Ltd. and others.

The ED investigation has revealed that SBPL and its directors cheated a large number of people of Jharkhand by inducing them by way of publication of misleading advertisements through various media channels and public canvassing which resulted into receipt of payments from the investors through cheque/cash towards purported sale of plots of land/constructed house, it said.

The directors of the company had opened a large number of bank accounts in the

The ED had earlier attached assets worth ₹3.10 crore in the name of SBPL and its directors which was subsequently confirmed by PMLA Adjudicating Authority

name of company as well as in their name for the purpose of laundering of such funds. A large part of proceeds of crime was also withdrawn in cash by the accused persons for depositing the same in their personal accounts which was further projected as untainted, it said.

The ED had earlier attached assets worth ₹3.10 crore in the name of SBPL and its directors which was subsequently confirmed by PMLA Adjudicating Authority.

During the course of investigation, one of its directors Shyam Kishore Gupta was arrested on March 12, 2020. Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet) was filed before the PMLA Special Court against eight accused persons/entities.

Look Out Circular has also been issued by ED against the absconding accused Jayant Dayal Nand who was the alleged master mind of this scam.

Further investigation in this case is under progress, it added.

CPM: No need to re-examine Places of Worship Act, 1991 by SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) polit bureau on Saturday termed the Supreme Court's re-examination of Places of Worship Act, 1991 as "unfortunate" and urged the Government not to support the petition. The Left party was responding to the petition filed by BJP leader Ashwani Upadhyay and the apex court seeking Centre's response.

"It is unfortunate that the Supreme Court has opened the way for a re-examination of the Places of Worship (Special Provision) Act, 1991. The Act mandates that the character of all religious places of worship should be maintained as it was on August 15, 1947, and no suit or proceedings shall lie in a court of law with respect to the character of places of worship. This effectively barred courts from entertaining cases which raise disputes over places of worship that existed as of August 15, 1947. The law further provided that such cases already pending in courts would stand abated," said CPI(M) in a statement.

"The Act, however, granted an exception for the Babri Masjid/Ramjanmabhoomi site at Ayodhya, which was then under dispute. While invoking this exemption, the Supreme Court in the 2019 Ayodhya verdict reaffirmed that similar such cases cannot be entertained with respect to other sites in view of this Act.

The Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) reaffirms that the grounds on which this law was enacted need not be re-examined. The Central Government must respond to the Supreme Court seeking its views in a firm affirmation of the Places of Worship Act, 1991," said CPI(M).

India records 24,882 Covid cases in 24 hours, highest so far this yr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Saturday recorded 24,882 fresh Covid-19 infections, the highest so far this year, taking the tally to 1,13,33,728, according to the Union Health Ministry data. This is also the highest daily rise in the last 83 days. As many as 26,624 new infections were recorded on December 20.

Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh reported 87.72% of the new cases in the last 24 hours. Maharashtra accounts for 63.57 per cent of India's total active cases.

This is the fourth time that the country's single-day cases have crossed the 20,000-mark this year. The active cases also soared to 202,022, after a downward trend since



January 20, as 4,785 new cases were added in the last 24 hours, comprising 1.74% of the total cases seen so far. The first two instances of a spike in active cases were seen in the first week of January when the first wave of Covid cases was receding, followed by a third rise on March 11.

At least 140 deaths were

reported in the last 24 hours. The surge in Covid-19 cases reported on Saturday is almost 7 per cent higher than the previous day's number. Data also showed that 19,957 people were cured of the coronavirus disease in the last 24 hours, taking the recoveries to 10,973,260 so far and the national recovery rate

to 96.81%.

After witnessing a reduced number of cases in the last few months, the infections have once again spiked in several parts of the country.

In a bid to combat the infection spread, the State Governments like Maharashtra have implemented restrictions and pushed the Covid-19 vaccination drive in the country with full force.

The Centre said 2,82,18,457 vaccine doses have been administered so far, with 20,53,537 doses given in the last 24 hours.

The Government has been asking the people to not take the virus for granted. "It can come up unexpectedly. If we have to remain free of this virus, Covid-appropriate behaviour, containment strategy as well as vaccination has to be brought in," said an official from the Ministry.

He advised that in districts where Covid-19 cases are seemingly on the rise, vaccination of eligible individuals should be intensified and prioritised.

SC left with only 1 woman judge deeply worrying: Judge



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court having left with only one woman judge is "deeply worrying" and must promptly receive serious introspection, apex court judge, Justice D Y Chandrachud, said on Saturday.

Justice Chandrachud was speaking at a farewell ceremony organised by the Supreme Court Young Lawyers Forum to honour Justice Indu Malhotra, who was the first woman lawyer to be appointed directly as a judge of the Supreme Court, retires from the apex court on Saturday.

"Justice Malhotra's retirement means that the SC now has only one female judge on the Bench. As an institution, I find that this is a deeply wor-



rying fact and must promptly receive serious introspection," Justice Chandrachud said.

He said that "as an institution whose decision shape and impact lives of everyday Indian, we must do better".

"We must ensure the diversity of our country find reflection in making up of our court. Inherently having a more diverse judiciary is an end, a goal in itself and worth pursuing in its own sake.

"Instrumentally, having a

more diverse judiciary, ensured diversity of perspectives is fairly considered, instills high degree of public confidence," he said.

He said that it was required that stories such as Justice Malhotra become more common place.

"As members of legal fraternity we do our bit to ensure that it doesn't remain as hard as it was for Justice Malhotra for women to climb upper echelons of our profession," he said.

Speaking at the occasion, Justice Malhotra said that for a lawyer it was important to conduct yourself with high degree of professionalism.

"You must be properly attired, professionally at all times and be punctual in your engagements. One issue I flagged when I was called by women lawyers to Bar room after becoming a judge, I said please don't wear fashionable clothes, which you must keep for the evening and not while you are at work.

"You must be professionally dressed as that's how you will be perceived by your clients, your colleagues, and the Bench. Second, you must learn to draft in clear and concise manner," she said.

In her farewell speech on Wednesday, she said that the verdict delivered by the apex court decriminalising consensual gay sex was the "most moving moment" as the emotions that swept the courtroom at that time was quite overwhelming.

PM Modi, Lankan Prez discuss topical developments at multilateral forums



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had a telephonic conversation on Saturday during which they reviewed topical developments as well as ongoing cooperation between both the countries in bilateral and multilateral forums.

The two leaders agreed to maintain regular contact between relevant officials, including in the context of the continuing COVID-19 challenges, a Prime Minister's Office statement (PMO) said.

The leaders reviewed topical developments and the ongoing cooperation between both the countries in bilateral and multilateral forums, it said.

During the call, Prime Minister Modi reiterated the importance of Sri Lanka to India's Neighbourhood First policy, the PMO said.

Jal Shakti Min launches framework for water quality testing, monitoring

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Jal Shakti on Saturday launched a framework and guidelines for testing, monitoring and surveillance of drinking water quality as well as a Water Quality Information Management System (WQIMS), an online portal that provides detailed information on laboratories for this purpose.

The guidelines specify work to be done in terms of surveillance and monitoring at the state, district, block/tehsil and village levels.

The basic water quality parameters prescribed under the guidelines are pH value, total dissolved solids, turbidity, chloride, total alkalinity, total hardness, sulphate, iron, total arsenic, fluoride, nitrate, total coliform bacteria, e.Coil or thermo-tolerant coliform bacteria.

The guidelines have been prepared in consultation with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat told reporters that the aim of the Jal Jeevan Mission is to provide functional tap water connec-



Nearly 20 States in India have drinking water source contaminated with arsenic, fluoride, nitrate, iron, salinity or other heavy metals

tions by 2024 to all rural households and water quality is an important aspect of it.

He said the total cost of the Jal Jeevan Mission is ₹3,60,000 crore and 2 per cent of it has been dedicated to the quality of water.

According to a 2018 assessment by the Central Ground Water Board, 52 per cent of all the blocks in the country have inter alia any one of the geogenic contaminants like arsenic, chloride, fluoride, iron, nitrate and salinity.

Nearly 20 States in India have drinking water source contaminated with arsenic,

fluoride, nitrate, iron, salinity or heavy metals.

Apart from these, there are 61 priority districts across five states identified by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which are affected by Japanese Encephalitis - Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (JE-AES).

Bharat Lal, Additional Secretary and Mission Director of National Jeevan Mission, said the purpose of the exercise is to instil a sense of confidence about water quality and people can also test water quality.

He added that a database of 2,200 laboratories across the country has been prepared so that water quality can be tested. All the laboratories have been accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories.

With all struggling, how did Adani's wealth rose by 50%, asks Rahul Gandhi



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday asked how did businessman Gautam Adani manage to increase his wealth by 50 per cent while everyone else was struggling because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

His remarks come after a new report said that Adani added USD 16.2 billion to his wealth taking his net worth to USD 50 billion in 2021, more than anyone else in the world.

Tagging the news report in a tweet, Gandhi asked, "How much did your wealth increase in 2020? Zero. You struggle to survive while he makes Rs 12 lakh crore and increases his wealth by 50 per cent. Can you tell me why?"

With the biggest wealth surge, Adani has beaten Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos and Tesla CEO Elon Musk, according to the report.

String of events to mark Yoga Day on June 21

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the run up to the International Yoga Day to be held on June 21, 2021, a string of programmes are planned across the country including a three-day Yoga Mahotsav in six cities— Ahmedabad, Itanagar, New Delhi, Bhopal, Panjim and Leh from April 9.

The event will have the participation of various yoga stakeholders and yoga masters. The preparation is going on with coordination with respective States, said Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State (IC), Youth Affairs and Sports and additional Charge MoS(IC) AYUSH 1 after launching the 100 days' countdown to 7th IDY at an event here.

Calling Yoga, a soft power which has given India a unique recognition before the international fraternity, the Minister said that it has vast potential for employment opportunities, especially after the declaration of Yogasana as a competitive sport.

All the young students present during the function and those who are watching online to practice Yoga should take part in Yogasans sports, said



the Minister while PK Pathak, Additional Secretary (Ayush) said that Yoga has played an important role in enhancing the immunity of the human body and hence useful in management of Covid-19.

Dr IV Basavaraddi, Director Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) talked in detail about how at the initiative of India, the United Nation General Assembly declared 21st June as International Day of Yoga. "UNESCO recognized Yoga as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity and Yogasana declared as a competitive sport. These initiatives resulted in exponen-

tial growth in Yoga promotion since 2014," he said.

Later, the Minister launched the edition of Yoga Vijnana a Bi-annual research journal of MDNIY, containing useful scientific research articles and traditional knowledge about Yoga Shashtra, being published for the benefit of Yoga professionals.

The Minister also launched Yoga Re-orientation training programme for Yoga Instructors of Leh-Ladakh undertaken by MDNIY.

A Yoga Fusion performance, by a group of students, was also made during the programme.

Amarnath yatra to begin on June 28, registration from April 1

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) Saturday decided to conduct the 56-day long annual Amarnath pilgrimage beginning June 28 till August 22 as per COVID-19 SOPs developed by the Government. No person below the age of 13 years and above the age of 75 years shall be permitted to undertake the pilgrimage.

The yatra will commence on the auspicious day of Ashad Chaturthi falling on June 28 as per Hindu Calendar, and conclude on Shravan Purnima (Raksha Bandhan) on 22nd August, 2021.

This year the Shrine Board has also decided to extend Special invitations to Akhada Parishads, Acharya Parishads and explore the possibility of establishing counters at prominent religious places across the country for facilitation of Sadhu/Sant Samaj.

Advance registration of pilgrims will commence from 1st April 2021 through 446 des-

igned branches of Punjab National Bank, Jammu and Kashmir Bank and YES Bank, located in 37 States and UTs.

For the first time, the Shrine board would be introducing free of cost Battery Car service for 2.75 km long Baltal to Domel stretch and vice versa. The Shrine Board had also decided to make available silver coins of 5 gm and 10 gm denomination through the Metal and Mineral Trading Corporation (MMTC). These coins would be sold to the pilgrims at the Holy Cave and at the offices of the Shrine Board during the Yatra.

To cater to the rush of pilgrim traffic Pahalgam Development Authority has been asked to ready at least four helipads to ensure safe landing of the pilgrims. The Shrine Board authorities are in the process of floating the tenders to finalise the passenger fare on the route. In addition to this the accidental insurance cover for yatis and service providers has been enhanced from the existing Rs 3 lakhs to 5 lakhs and

for Ponies from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 50,000.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Chairman, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), presided over the 40th Board Meeting held here today at Raj Bhavan in Jammu.

Those present at the meeting included BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education Department and Members of the Board including: Swami Avdheshanand Giri ji Maharaj; D.C. Raina; Pt. Bhajan Sopori; Prof. Anita Billawaria; Dr. Sudershan Kumar; Dr. C.M. Sethi; Tripta Dhanwan; Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri and Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty.

Nitishwar Kumar, Chief Executive Officer SASB; Pandurang K. Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Anup Kumar Soni, Additional Chief Executive Officer SASB; and other senior officers of the Shrine Board also attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.



The Board has also decided to enable the live telecast of morning and evening Aarti for devotees across the globe. The live telecast is a tool for virtual Darshan for those who are unable to undertake the arduous Yatra. Further, the pilgrims can download the "Shri Amarnathji Yatra" App available on the Google play store to get real time information about the Yatra and for availing several services online.

During the meeting the Board decided to enhance the daily route-wise Yatri ceiling from 7500/Day/Route to

10,000/Day/Route, excluding Yatis who would travel by helicopters, would be allowed to secure Advance Registration for the pilgrimage.

The Lt Governor also directed for issuance of Special invitations to Akhada Parishads, Acharya Parishads and exploring possibility of establishing counters at prominent religious places across the country for facilitation of Sadhu/Sant Samaj.

Laying special emphasis on providing best-in-class healthcare facilities to all the visiting devotees and service

providers, the Lt Governor directed the concerned officers to upgrade the present healthcare facilities on both yatra routes with latest equipments and augment strength of the medical staff to handle emergency cases.

On strengthening the communication channel, the Lt Governor directed for making the telecom services operational two weeks prior to the commencing of yatra at the Holy Cave and across the yatra routes.

It was further directed to upgrade the sanitation capacity commensurate with the enhanced yatra volume for base camp and along the routes.

During the meeting, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board approved the enhancement of remunerations for Pujaris from existing Rs 1000 per day to Rs 1500 per day for the next three years.

Discussion was also held on introducing RFID Tracking and Prepaid hiring of Services for putting in place for

strengthened online digital system.

The Board further directed for wide publicity to be given through the electronic and print media, informing the intending Yatis to timely secure the prescribed Compulsory Health Certificates issued by the

Doctors/ Hospitals nominated by the State or UTs in which they reside and only thereafter proceed to seek Advance Registration from the nearest located designated Bank which would issue the pilgrim Yatra Permit which shall be valid for the specified date and route.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Daily route-wise Yatri ceiling enhanced from 7500/Day/Route to 10000/Day/Route, excluding Heli passengers
- Special invitations to Akhada, Acharya Parishads across the country; counters to be established at prominent religious places for facilitation of Sadhu/Sant Samaj
- Group accidental insurance cover for Yatis, Service Providers enhanced from Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh; for Ponies from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 50,000
- Remuneration of Pujaris enhanced from Rs. 1000/day to Rs. 1500/day for next 3 years
- LG directs for upgradation of healthcare facilities on both routes; to be equipped with top of the line medical equipments, augmented manpower
- The Board will enable live telecast of morning and evening Aarti for devotees across the globe
- Battery operated cars to ferry the pilgrims from Baltal to Domel
- Telecom services at the Holy Cave and along the routes to be operational by 15th June 2021

Moradabad: Akhilesh, 20 SP workers booked over alleged assault on journalists

Lucknow: A case has been registered against Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and 20 party workers in connection with alleged assault on some journalists in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad, police said on Saturday.

An FIR was registered at Pakhwa police station late on Friday night under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on the basis of a complaint by a journalist, officials said.

According to the complainant, Yadav, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, was irked by a few personal question posed by some journalists during an interaction with him at a hotel on March 11 after a press conference.

Following this, Yadav allegedly instigated his security guards and aides to attack the journalists, the FIR claimed. It also alleged that the security guards and over 20 SP workers beat up the journalists causing grievous injuries.

The journalists are undergoing treatment at a hospital. **PTI**

'VIP' Nemom yet has no contestant

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Nemom, an Assembly constituency in Thiruvananthapuram district, has emerged as the VVIP constituency in the State despite the fact that all the three fronts are yet to name the candidates who will contest from here.

Though the constituency has no strategic importance as on date, Nemom is the hot topic of discussion in political Kerala and it has elevated to the national narrative," said Hari Kartha, senior political commentator in the State.

The BJP had opened its account in the Kerala Legislative Assembly for the first time in 2016 when O Rajagopal, the 92 year old Hindutwa leader was elected from the constituency by a margin of 7,600 votes. His nearest rival was, V Sivankutty, son-in-law of CPI(M) ideologist P Govinda Pillai while the UDF had fielded V Surendran Pillai, a political lightweight.

Saturday morning saw Congress workers staging a demonstration in front of former Chief Minister Oommen Chandi's ancestral residence at Puthupalli in Kottayam district against the move by the Congress High Command to shift him to Nemom. "We have only one leader and it is Oommen Chandi. There is no question of us allowing him to move out to any other constituencies in the State," shouted thousands of his followers who had gathered in front of the house. Chandi came out of the house and assured them that he would fight only from Puthupalli.

Ramesh Chennithala, Leader of the Opposition, had declared two days ago that he too would not leave his traditional constituency of Harippadu and contest from Nemom.

All these developments have contributed to providing a halo around the name Nemom, an unprecedented phenomenon in Kerala. It has also helped to elevate the BJP from that of the "also ran" entity to a serious contender in this election. "What one understands from the controversy surrounding the Nemom constituency is that both the Congress and the CPI(M)-led-fronts accept the fact that the BJP has emerged as a challenger in the 2021 electoral battle," said Kartha.

There are certain factors in Kerala politics which could play a major role in the upcoming election, according to P Rajan, veteran scribe who served jail term during internal emergency in 1975. "The Sabarimala controversy that earned brickbats for the CPI(M) for the party's anti-Hindu policies is likely to play a role in the 2021 election. It did not yield any result in the 2019 Lok Sabha election because the voters were doubtful about the return of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister and they felt that the Congress winning the 2018

assembly elections in the three State of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh was a good omen for the Grand Old Party's victory in the Lok Sabha election. But the Congress failed to make any impact in the Lok Sabha election," Rajan told *The Pioneer*.

He said that a Hindu consolidation is likely in the upcoming polls that could spell disaster for the UDF and the LDF. "The Congress and the CPI(M) leaders are worried about their chances not only at Nemom but in other constituencies too," said Rajan.

Kadakampalli Surendran, minister for devaswams (administration of temples) had expressed sorrow over the LDF Government allowing women devotees in the ten to 55 age group worship at the Sabarimala shrine in violation of the tradition. Besides the Hindus, a major section of the Christians are upset over the LDF Government's policy of appeasement to a particular minority community.

The BJP may field former Governor Kumanam Rajasekharan from Nemom though no official word has come from the party. Political commentators are keenly watching the proceedings to see what would happen in the eventuality of a hung assembly with both the LDF and the UDF failing to touch the magic figure of 71 in the House, which has an effective strength of 140.

Modi, Shah could've saved Delkar, but ignored letters written by him: Maha Cong

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Slamming the BJP-led NDA Government for its failure to "protect" the seven-time Dadra Nagar Haveli MP Mohan Delkar from harassment, the Maharashtra Congress on Saturday charged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah "ignored" the letters written to them by late Delkar seeking help.

Addressing a news conference here, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) general secretary and spokesperson Sachin Sawant said that Delkar -- who was allegedly being harassed and implicated falsely in crimes by BJP leader and current Administrator of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Praful Khoda Patel -- had written to Modi and Shah seeking help. "The suicide by the seven-time MP due to persecution from the BJP leader and Administrator of a Union Territory is a grave tragedy for the democracy of India," Sawant said.

It may be recalled that 58-year-old Delkar was found hanging in a hotel in the Marine Drive in south Mumbai on February 22. Fifty-eight-year-old Delkar is suspected to have committed suicide by hanging himself. The police had recovered a 16-page suicide note from the hotel room where Delkar's body was found.

"Delkar was persecuted and insulted by the BJP leader Praful Khoda Patel and several central administrative officers. He had complained that they were trying to entangle him in crimes which he had no

connection with. Those cases in which charge-sheet also had been filed or were being reopened. Even he was threatened with dire consequences and was told that his family will be put in jail," Sawant said.

Sawant said that late Delkar had written two letters "with expectations of urgent help" to Modi -- one on December 18, 2020 and the other on January 31, 2021 and had even asked him for an urgent appointment for a meeting. He also had also written two letters to the Home minister -- one on December 18, 2020 with the same content and another one on January 12, 2021 and had sent three letters to Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla and one letter to Parliamentary standing committee chairman Bhupendra Patel.

Sawant wondered if the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister deliberately "ignored" the letters written by late Delkar. He also wanted to know from Parliamentary Privilege Committee if he had spoken about his intention to commit suicide before its members.

On February 12, 2021 the Privilege Committee of Lok Sabha heard the complaints of Delkar. Before this committee Mohan had talked about the kind of pressure he was under. It is being heard that Mohanbhai even said at that meeting that he had two options before him 'Either to resign from the parliament or commit suicide'. We demand explanation from the privilege committee whether Delkar said so, as within just 10 days he committed suicide.

"If the Modi govt had taken immedi-

ate steps Delkar could have been saved. The reason for Delkar coming to Mumbai to commit suicide was that he was completely disappointed with the BJP leadership and had no expectation from them. He thought MVA government will give him justice," he said.

Sawant said that the BJP government in Gujarat could not bring to book the culprits behind the murder of Home Minister of that state Haren Pandya. "The BJP government could not punish the Pandya killers, but the MVA government would definitely bring all those responsible for suicide by Mohan Delkar to book and won't let the situation become similar to Haren Pandya," the State Congress spokesperson said. On their part, the Mumbai police on March 10 booked Praful Khoda Patel for his alleged involvement in the circumstances leading to the seven-time MP Mohan Delkar committing suicide.

A day after the Maharashtra announced the setting up of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the circumstances into the death of Mohan Delkar who committed suicide in a Mumbai hotel, the Marine Drive police registered an FIR into the case. Patel has been booked under the provisions of Indian Penal Code and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

The Marine Drive police had initially filed an Accidental Death Report (ADR) in connection with the incident which has been converted into an FIR.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that Shri Krishan Kant Chaurasia S/o Shri Sita Ram Bhagat who is purchasing the Built-up Property Bearing Plot No.37, area measuring 76.5 Sq. Yds., out of Khassra No.193, 194, situated in the revenue estate of Village Nawada, Colony known as C-Block, Bhagwati Garden Extension, New Delhi-110058 from Smt. Chandrakanta W/o Shri Salish Kumar Jain owner vide of Regd. General Power of Attorney dated 05.01.2017 executed by Shri Rajesh Kumar Jain S/o Shri Om Prakash Jain, along with Agreement to sell & Will and same to be finance & mortgage by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any person having any type of claim/right/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.
Lucern Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor,
Masjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South Extn.,
New Delhi-49, Contact #911-40046316

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Mrs. Sannana Bharti is the registered owner of freehold builtup property No. BE 404 measuring 100 sq. yards part of khassra No.1521 situated in area of Vill. Thari Colony known as Hari Nagar in Block BE, New Delhi by virtue of Sale Deed dated 01/06/2011 and had sold/transferred the Entire First Floor of the said property to Gurmmeet Singh Suri and Mrs. Harbajan Kaur and entire original documents have been lost/ misplaced and said Mr. Gurmmeet Singh Suri and Mrs. Harbajan Kaur are mortgaging the above First Floor of the said property to LIC HFL. If anybody including bank, financial Institutions, persons, relatives has any claim, right, interest whatsoever in the said property shall inform within 15 days to the undersigned with documentary evidence. In the event of non response to this notice then my client shall presume that title of the said flat is unencumbered.
R.K. Bhardi - Advocate
DL-97/1996-1/56 Kirti Nagar, N.D.

Office of Superintending Engineer
Civil Circle, P.W.D., Devpura Haridwar
Website: <https://pwd.uk.gov.in> Fax/Phone No.: 01334-221407 E-mail: sepwdharidwar@gmail.com
Letter No.: 899/06C-Civil Circle/20 Date: 13/03/2021
Short Term National Competitive Bidding (E-Tendering)
The Superintending Engineer, Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar on behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" invites item rate tender through E-tendering under Two Bid system. All information regarding Tender will be available from date 15.03.2021 and onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>.

Sr. No	Name of work	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender (Rs.)	Time of Completion of work (in Months)	Validity of Tender (Days)	Category of Contractor
1	Construction of 1.5 lane wide road and box culvert from Km. 6 of NH-74 vill. Kangri via Shyamapur - Sajjanpur peeli to Km. 12 of NH-74 under in Distt. Haridwar under State Sector 2020-21	10.70	5000.00 + 18.00% GST	8 Months	120 Days	Category A/A+ in road work in any State Govt./Central Govt./any govt. undertaking.

Note: - Submission of following documents in original is essential in office of undersigned upto/before the last date and schedule time of uploading tender by the bidders.
1. Cost of tender document as per Col.-4 shall be attached in the form of demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD, Haridwar. Bank Draft for Rs. 5000.00 & GST Rs. 900.00 to be submitted separately.
2. Validity of Tender for 120 Days should be written on Non Judicial Stamp Paper of Rs. 100.00 with duly signed and affixed Rs. 1.00 Revenue Stamp.
3. Earnest Money as per Col.-3 to be pledged in the name of Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD, Haridwar.
4. Attach copy of registration.

Superintending Engineer
Civil Circle, PWD, Haridwar

LOST & FOUND
I Rajinder Singh Makkar s/o late S. Joginder Singh B-7Extn/82 Ground Floor Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi - 110029, have lost my original paper partition Deed certificate No. IN-DL27765407621048R, dated 10 Jan 2019, If any one find it please contact me at: 9818644777.

Public Notice
Mata Roop Rani Maggo Hospital C8/C9, Om Vihar, Phase-1, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059
We are hereby to inform all concerned that we are going to destroy all medical records from March 2008 to December 2013 as Government's Documents Retention Policy. In Case Any Person thereof wants to see the Treatment records or to have a copy of the same, may please contact Medical Record Department of the Hospital by 2nd of April, 2021.
Dr. Aman Maggo (Medical Director)

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, KORBA
DISTT. - KORBA (C.G.)
e-Procurement Tender Notice
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(Second Call)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 06/SAC/2020-21 Dated: 08-03-2021
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 30/03/2021 (17.30 hours IST).

System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
72828	CONSTRUCTION OF DIVERSION WEIR (HEAD WORK) AND EARTHEN CANAL L.B.C. FROM R.D. 0.00 M TO 465.00 M AND R.B.C. FROM R.D. 0.00 M TO 330.00 M AND 630.00 M TO 1410.00 M ALONG WITH LAYING OF PIPE BETWEEN R.D. 330.00 M TO 630.00 M IN R.B.C. WITH CONSTRUCTION OF MAN HOLE AT EVERY 50 M, 4 NOS. V.R.B., 1NO. C.D., 6NOS. FALL CUM V.R.B. AND 7 NOS. OUTLET IN PUTUWA DIVERSION SCHEME.	Rs. 317.66 Lakhs

The details can be viewed & downloaded online directly from the Govt. of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from dated 15-03-2021 at 17:31 hours (IST) onwards.
Note:- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the integrated e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under centralized contractor/supplier registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
KORBA (C.G.)
For, Chief Engineer, Hasdeo Basin Water Resources Deptt. Bilaspur (C.G.)

R.O. NO:- 87821/12
R.O. Date:- 12/03/2021

Maha records 15,602 new cases, toll rises to 88

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As it continued to be in the Advice-like grip of the second wave of Covid-19, Maharashtra on Saturday witnessed a staggering 15,602 new pandemic cases, even as the daily coronavirus toll went up to 88 in the State.

A day after Maharashtra recorded the highest caseload of 15,817 since October 7 last year, the number of infections came down marginally to 15,602, while the state witnessed 88 deaths as against 56 deaths registered on Friday.

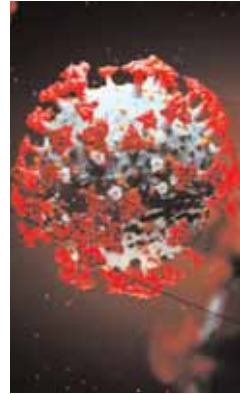
With 15602 fresh cases, the total infections in the state climbed from 2,28,219 to 2,29,7793. Similarly, with 88 new deaths the Covid-19 toll in the state went up from 52,723 to 52,811.

As 7467 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year went up to 21,25,211. The recovery rate in the state dropped marginally from 92.79 per cent to 92.49 per cent.

With five fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai rose from 11,523 to 11,528. While the infected cases went up by 1709 to trigger a jump in the infections from 3,40,290 to 3,41,999.

Meanwhile, the number of "active cases" total cases in the state went up from 1,10,485 to 1,18,525 The fatality rate in the state dropped from 2.31 per cent to 2.3 per cent.

There are a maximum of 24,025 "active" cases in Pune,



followed by Nagpur (16,014), Mumbai (11,747), Thane (11,592), Nashik (6357), Aurangabad (6263), Jalgaon (4972), Amravati (4019) and Akola (3895).

Pune district, which continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra, saw the total number of cases increase from 4,33,237 to 4,36,303 while the total number of deaths in Pune went up from 8121 to 8133.

Thane district remained in the third spot - after Pune and Mumbai - after the total number of infections rose from 2,90,290 2,81,704, while the total deaths climbed from 5861 to 5869.

Of the 1,74,08,504 samples sent to laboratories, 22,97,793 have tested positive (13.20 per cent) for COVID-19 until Saturday.

Currently, 5,70,695 people are in home quarantine while 5,031 people are in institutional quarantine.

AKARABAD RAPE AND MURDER CASE

Juvenile Board decision on Mar 15

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

The age of the accused is to be determined in the famous Akarabad rape and murder case. For this, permission has been sought from the police level by applying to the Juvenile Justice Board.

During this process, the accused also appeared before the board.

The Board of Justice has fixed the 15th date for decision on the application of the police.

The Scheduled Caste

teenager, who went to the farm in Akarabad area to get fodder, was strangled to death during an attempted rape.

In this case, a 17-year-old accused from the neighboring village was arrested. He was sent before the Juvenile Justice Board and sent to the Child Reform Home Agra.

Since the crime is of serious nature, Therefore, it is the effort of the police to determine his age by the Medical Board. So that the trial of this case can be done in the Sessions Court.

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
पर्यावास भवन सेक्टर - 19,
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)
सर्व संबंधित का सूचना

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की ईआईए अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 के अंतर्गत सर्व सामान्य को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरल महादीर कोल दोषादेश प्रॉजैक्ट लिमिटेड, ग्राम - खराहली, तहसील - कोटा, जिला - बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) द्वारा कुल क्षेत्रफल - 14.74 एकर में प्रस्तावित कोल बोरी (वेट टार्ड) क्षमता - 0.99 मिलियन टन प्रतिवर्ष के पर्यावरणीय वीक्यूले हेतु लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 15.04.2021 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे ग्राम - खराहली के ग्राम पंचायत भवन के पास स्थित मैदान में निरत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि :-

1. लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को पत्रिका/सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।
2. लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का उपयोग किया जायेगा तथा समय - समय पर सेनेटाइजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
3. लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की वैकड व्यवस्था में कम से कम 2 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।
4. कोरोना वायरस के निर्वहन एवं रोकावट हेतु गायन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा- निर्देशों का अटला: पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ईआईए अधिसूचना दिनांक 14 सितंबर 2006 (यथा संशोधित) के प्रावधानों के अनुसार ड्राफ्ट ईआईए रिपोर्ट कार्यवाला सार की प्रती (हिंदी एवं अंग्रेजी में) एवं इसकी सी.डी. (सॉफ्ट कॉपी) जन सामान्य के अवरोधक / पडन हेतु कार्यालय ब्लॉकवर बिलासपुर, कार्यालय मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत बिलासपुर, अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (वा), कार्यालय अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.), कोटा, जिला - बिलासपुर, कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र बिलासपुर, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, जिलासद पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल व्यापार विहार सं. बीनवाला उपाखण्ड पार्क के पास, बिलासपुर, सरपंच / सचिव कार्यालय, ग्राम पंचायत खराहली, पथर, खराहला, पोपतराई, लुचुर, छेकाबांध, भतरी, गोखलपुर, कलीदार, तहसील - कोटा, जिला - बिलासपुर (छ.ग.), उपपर्यवेक्षक, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पार्क भवन, वायु विंग, जोराबाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, अतिरिक्त प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय (परियोजना क्षेत्र), पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय पू - तन, पूर्व विंग, नया सचिवालय भवन, सिविल लाईन्स नगर (महारथ) एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, नॉर्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर - 19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.) में रखी गई है।

हस्ता/-
सदस्य सचिव
छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

Protesters killed as Myanmar forces continue crackdown

At least 70 people killed in widespread protests against military coup

AP ■ MANDALAY (MYANMAR)

Security forces in Myanmar on Saturday again met protests against last month's military takeover with lethal force, killing at least four people by shooting live ammunition at demonstrators.

Three deaths were reported in Mandalay, the country's second-biggest city, and one in Pyay, a town in south-central Myanmar. There were multiple reports on social media of the deaths, along with photos of dead and wounded people in both locations.

The independent UN human rights expert for Myanmar, Tom Andrews, said Thursday that "credible reports" indicated security forces in the Southeast Asian nation had so far killed at least 70 people, and cited growing evidence of crimes against humanity since the military ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Reports on social media also said three people were shot dead Friday night in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, where residents for the past week have been defying an 8 pm. Curfew to come out on the streets. Two deaths by gunfire were reported in Yangon's



Protesters attend a candlelight night rally in Yangon, Myanmar on Saturday

AP

Thaketa township, where a protest being held outside a police station was dispersed. A crowd had gathered there to demand the release of three young men who were seized from their home earlier Friday night. Photos said to be of the bodies of two dead protesters were posted online. The other reported fatality Friday night

was of a 19-year-old man shot in Hlaing township.

The nighttime protests may reflect a more aggressive approach to self-defense that has been advocated by some protesters. Police had been aggressively patrolling residential neighborhoods at night, firing into the air and setting off stun grenades in an effort at

intimidation. They have also been carrying out targeted raids, taking people from their homes with minimal resistance. In at least two known cases, the detainees died in custody within hours of being taken away.

Another possible indication of heightened resistance emerged Saturday with photos posted online of a railway

bridge said to have been damaged by an explosive charge.

The bridge was described in multiple accounts as being on the rail line from Mandalay to Myitkyina, the capital of the northern state of Kachin. The photos show damage to part of a concrete support.

No one took responsibility for the action, but it could serve a two-fold purpose.

It could be seen as support for the nationwide strike of state railway workers, who are part of the civil disobedience movement against the coup.

At the same time, it could be aimed at disrupting the ability of the junta to reinforce its troops in Kachin, a state whose residents have long been at odds with the central government. The Kachin ethnic minority fields its own well-trained and equipped guerrilla force, and there has been outrage in Myitkyina at security forces' killing of anti-coup protesters there.

The prospect of sabotage has been openly discussed by some protesters, who warn that they could blow up a pipeline supplying natural gas to China. They see China as being the junta's main supporter, even though Beijing has been mildly critical of the coup in its public comments.

In Washington on Friday, the Biden administration announced it is offering temporary legal residency to people from Myanmar, citing the military's takeover and ongoing deadly force against civilians.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said the designation of temporary protected status for people from Myanmar would last for 18 months. The offer of temporary legal residency applies to people already in the United States. Mayorkas said in a statement that worsening conditions in Myanmar would make it difficult for those people to safely return home.

The Feb. 1 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.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party led a return to civilian rule with a landslide election victory in 2015, and an even greater margin of votes last year. It would have been installed for a second five-year term last month, but instead Suu Kyi and President Win Myint and other members of the Government were placed in military detention.

US offers temporary legal residency to people from Myanmar

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration offered temporary legal residency on Friday to people from Myanmar, where military leaders have overthrown the country's elected government and are using deadly force against protesters.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said the temporary protected status would last for 18 months. The designation applies to people from that country already living in the United States.

Myanmar's military seized power February 1, hours before the seating of a new parliament following election results that were seen as a rebuff to the country's generals. The coup upended internationally backed efforts to restore democracy and end decades of junta rule. Security forces have killed dozens of



People take part in a protest against the military coup and takeover of Myanmar, in Copenhagen on Saturday

AP

protesters since the coup.

Mayorkas said in a statement that the takeover has worsened humanitarian conditions, disrupted aid and medical flights into the country and brought on an economic crisis, making it difficult for Myanmar nationals and longtime residents to return to the country safely.

Leaders of Quad discuss 'challenge' posed by China: US NSA Sullivan

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Leaders of the US, India, Australia and Japan did discuss the "challenge" posed by China during the first meeting of the Quad, and they made clear that none of them have any "illusions" about Beijing, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan has said.

Addressing a White House briefing on Friday soon after the historic virtual Quad summit between US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, the top American official said the four leaders have agreed to hold an in-person summit later this year.

The leaders addressed key

regional issues, including freedom of navigation and freedom from coercion in the South and East China seas, the North Korea nuclear issue and the coup and violent repression in Myanmar, Sullivan said.

"Over the course of the meeting, a sense of optimism for the future, despite the hard times we're in, was on full display."

"The four leaders did discuss the challenge posed by China, and they made clear that none of them have any illusions about China, but today was not fundamentally about China," Sullivan said ahead of a crucial meeting with top Chinese officials.

Sullivan, who along with the Secretary of State Antony Blinken are scheduled to meet their

Chinese counterparts Yang Jiechi, a member of the Politburo of the ruling Communist Party of China and State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Anchorage, Alaska on March 18-19.

"This is our effort to communicate clearly to the Chinese government how the United States intends to proceed at a strategic level, what we believe our fundamental interests and values are, and what our concerns with their activities are — whether it's on Hong Kong, or Xinjiang, or in the Taiwan Strait — or, frankly, the issues that we heard today from our Quad partners: their coercion of Australia, their harassment around the Senkaku Islands, their aggression on the border with India," Sullivan said.

Biden admin to reconsider objections to H-1B visas during Trump regime

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration on Friday said it is willing to reconsider the objections or adverse decisions to foreign workers on visas like H-1B due to the three policy memos by the previous Trump administration which now have been rescinded.

The move is expected to come to the rescue of a large number of Indian IT professionals who were having a tough time during the previous Trump administration due to various policies and memorandums on non-immigrant work visas, in particular H-1B.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on Friday announced "it may



reopen and/or reconsider adverse decisions" on Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker, made based on three rescinded policy memos.

USCIS said it will generally use its discretion to accept a motion to reopen filed more than 30 days after the decision, if filed before the end of the validity period requested on the petition or labour condition application, whichever is earlier, and the decision was based on one or more policies in the three rescinded H-1B memoranda.

UK criticises China for violating Sino-British Declaration

London: Britain's foreign secretary on Saturday criticised China for continuing to violate the Sino-British Joint Declaration as Beijing further tightens control over Hong Kong. Dominic Raab said Beijing's decision to "impose radical changes to restrict participation in Hong Kong's electoral system ... is part of a pattern designed to harass and stifle all voices critical of China's policies."

The moves amount to the third breach of the Joint Declaration in less than nine months, Raab said in a statement.

"The Chinese authorities' continued action means I must now report that the UK considers Beijing to be in a state of ongoing non-compliance with

the Joint Declaration — a demonstration of the growing gulf between Beijing's promises and its actions," the foreign secretary said.

British and Chinese authorities signed the agreement in 1984, paving the way for Hong Kong's handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997. The agreement stipulated that the former British colony would retain a high degree of autonomy and its civil rights and freedoms for at least 50 years.

The UK and US criticised China Thursday when its ceremonial legislature endorsed the Communist Party's move to reduce the role of Hong Kong voters in picking the territory's lawmakers and ensure "patriots" rule the city. AP

GLOBE TROTTER

FOUR KILLED IN PLANE CRASH IN KAZAKHSTAN

Moscow: A military plane crashed in Kazakhstan on Saturday, killing four of its crew and injuring the other, officials said. The ex-Soviet country's Emergency Ministry said the four survivors were hospitalised. The ministry said that Soviet-built An-26 two-engine turboprop crashed while trying to land at the airport of the country's largest city, Almaty.

4 HELD FOR POSSESSING URANIUM IN NEPAL

Kathmandu: Four Nepalese were arrested here on Saturday for possession of 2.5 kg of unprocessed uranium, police said, indicating that this was the first time such a case was reported. A house in Boudha area was raided, based on a tip-off, and four persons were found hiding 2.5 kg of Uranium 238, officials said at a press briefing.

ISRAELI SETTLERS ATTACK PALESTINIAN FAMILY

Jerusalem: A group of Israeli settlers attacked a Palestinian family on Saturday near a settlement outpost in the occupied West Bank.

UN URGES SOMALIA TO ORGANISE ELECTIONS

United Nations: The UN Security Council urged Somalia's Government on Friday to organize elections "without delay" in a resolution that stressed the pressing threat to the country's security from al-Shabab and armed opposition groups. The resolution, authorised the African Union to maintain its nearly 20,000-strong force in Somalia.

Rajapaksa siblings firmly united; will take Sri Lanka forward: Gotabaya Rajapaksa

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has praised his brothers, saying that all three of them are firmly united and anyone trying to drive a wedge between them will not succeed. In a comment made by the president at a political gathering on Friday, Gotabaya Rajapaksa praised the maturity of his elder brother Mahinda, the prime minister, and the younger brother Basil, the key presidential adviser.

"Mahinda Rajapaksa is currently one of the greatest leaders not only here but also in Asia. His political experience, maturity and knowledge cannot be matched by anyone," he said during the programme.

"His mature leadership is a great relief to me in taking the

country forward," he was quoted as saying by an official statement released on Saturday.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa, 71, praised Basil as the man who created the Rajapaksa political party, the Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) and the force behind the political environment for them to return to power after the defeat of Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2015.

In the recent months some of the ruling coalition seniors were mooting the idea that Gotabaya Rajapaksa be allowed to take over the reins of the ruling SLPP from Mahinda Rajapaksa. This move has met with stiff resistance from the senior Rajapaksa loyalists who have demanded disciplinary action against those who sought Mahinda's replacement as the party leader.

Former Jamaat-e-Islami leader held in Lanka for promoting extremism

Colombo: A 60-year-old former leader of Islamic organisation Jamaat-e-Islami has been arrested in Sri Lanka for allegedly promoting extremism in the country, police announced on Saturday.

Rasheed Hajjuel Akbar, who headed the Jamaat-e-Islami organisation for 24 years until last September 2019, was arrested by the Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) from Dematagoda area on Friday, Police spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said.

He was publishing articles in a magazine published by the Jamaat-e-Islami organisation to promote Wahhabism and Jihadist ideology in Sri Lanka, the police spokesman said.

The arrest came as an investigation panel on the 2019

Easter Sunday bombings had called for banning Wahabism in the island nation as it inspires Muslim religious extremism. On April 21, 2019, nine suicide bombers belonging to the local Islamist extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) carried out a series of blasts that tore through three churches and as many luxury hotels in Sri Lanka, killing 270 people, including 11 Indians, and injuring over 500 on the Easter Sunday.

The blasts targeted St Anthony's Church in Colombo, St Sebastian's Church in the western coastal town of Negombo, and a church in the eastern town of Batticaloa when the Easter Sunday mass was in progress. PTI

Modi, Solih, Rajapaksa among world leaders to attend 50th anniv of B'desh independence

Dhaka: Several world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and heads of state and government from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives, are set to visit Bangladesh later this month to participate in the grand celebrations to mark the golden jubilee of the country's independence from Pakistan.

The golden jubilee celebrations to be held from March 17-27 to mark the country's independence from Pakistan after the 1971 Liberation War also coincides with the birth centenary of Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Prime Minister Modi and four heads of state and government from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives will be among the distinguished foreign guests

to join the celebrations under separate schedules, Bangladesh government's principal information officer Surath Kumar Sarkar told PTI. Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih will be the first top foreign dignitary to arrive on a three-day tour on March 17, followed by Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on March 19 on a two-day tour. Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari will be in Dhaka on a two-day tour from March 22 while Bhutanese premier Lotay Tshering will visit the country from March 24 to March 25.

Prime Minister Modi will arrive on March 26 on a two-day visit and will join the main Independence Day celebrations that also marks 50 years of Bangladesh-India diplomatic relations. PTI

Bolivia arrests former leader in crackdown on Opp

La Paz: The conservative interim President who led Bolivia for a year was arrested on Saturday as officials of the restored leftist Government pursue those involved in the 2019 ouster of socialist leader Evo Morales, which they regard as a coup, and the administration that followed.

Jeanine Añez was detained in the early morning in her hometown of Trinidad and was flown to the capital, Las Paz. AP

Pak university expels students for 'hugging'

PTI ■ LAHORE

Atop Pakistani university has expelled two students for hugging and proposing on campus, after a video of the incident went viral on social media. A special disciplinary committee of the University of Lahore held a meeting on Friday and summoned the two students but they failed to appear.

The committee then decided to expel the boy and the girl and banned them from entering any of the university's campuses. According to the University of Lahore, the two students were involved in gross misconduct and violation of university rules.

"The students in question were summoned before the committee but failed to appear. Thus, in pursuance of Section 9 of the General Discipline and Code of Conduct on the



Screen grab

Campus, the committee has decided to expel the two students for violating the varsity's rules and regulations and serious infraction of the code of conduct. Furthermore, as per Section 16, they are debarred from entering the premises of University of Lahore and all its sub-campus," read a statement from the University of Lahore. The video of the proposal took Twitter by storm, it

was one of the top trends on social media last Thursday when the incident took place.

The viral footage shows the girl with her right knee bent on the ground, holding a bouquet of roses, proposing to the boy, who then takes the flowers and pulls the girl for a hug. Nearby students are seen cheering them along. As the footage went viral, the university took notice of it. Expulsion of the

couple drew mixed reactions on the internet. A social media user posted the picture of Indian film legend Amitabh Bachchan from the movie "Mohabbatein" where he played a college principal who was against romance in college.

"Presenting to you, the Principal of the University of Lahore," read the caption with a photograph of Bachchan.

Slain prime minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto's daughter Bakhtawar Bhutto-Zardari termed the university action "ridiculous".

CAUTION NOTICE (E-AUCTION OF PROPERTY OF SUSHIL KUMAR BY PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK, LUDHIANA ON 15-03-2021)

General Public at large is hereby cautioned that a Suit titled "Kuldeep Kumar Bansal & Sons (HUF) Vs Sushil Kumar Goyal & Others" under section 10 of the Specific Relief Act (As Amended upto date), 1963 for possession by way of specific performance of the agreement to sell dated 04-01-2012 with respect to land measuring 12 Kanal 17 Marla i.e. land measuring 4 kanal 0 marla comprised in Salam Khalsa No. 26/4/2, Khata No. 28/28, land measuring 1 Kanal 13 Marla out of Khalsa No. 14/2/24/2 and land measuring 7 kanal 4 marla out of Khalsa No. 26/5 khata No. 28/28 as per jamabandi for the year 2008-2009 situated at Village Jhaamat, Hadbast No. 154, Tehsil and District, Ludhiana and suit for decree for permanent injunction restraining the defendants themselves through their agents, employees, servants, associates etc from alienating, transferring creating interest in with respect to the above said property in dispute of any manner whatsoever to any other person, has been filed by my client against Sushil Kumar Goyal and Punjab National Bank, Ludhiana and this suit is pending in the court of Sh. Gagandeep Singh, CJJD, Ludhiana. Hon'ble court has already granted ad-interim injunction against all the defendants (i.e. including Punjab National Bank) vide its order dated 05-03-2020. Now Punjab National Bank, Zonal Sastra Centre, 5, Ferozepur Road, Ludhiana by concealing the encumbrances on the said property and also by concealing the fact of the agreement of sale dated 04-01-2012 and the pendency of the above said litigation/suit/ad-interim injunction, is trying to sell the said property (including through e-auction sale dated 15-03-2021). So the General public at large is hereby cautioned that in case anybody deals with this property with Punjab National Bank/others, it will be entirely on his risk and responsibility and he shall be liable for the consequences thereof.

Gurjinder Singh, Advocate
4th Floor, Lawyer's Chamber Complex,
District Courts, Ludhiana, Punjab
Date: 13-03-2021

Indian Institute of Technology Madras
 Chennai - 600036
Admission to M.Tech Programme 2021-22
 Applications are invited for admission to M.Tech programme for the Academic Year 2021-22 commencing from July 2021, as per the following schedule:

Programme	Mode of Application	M.Tech Admission portal opens	Portal closes on the given last date	Website
M.Tech (Regular)	Online	19.03.2021	30.04.2021 (at 23.59 hrs.)	http://mtechadm.iitm.ac.in
M.Tech (Sponsored)				https://mtechspons.iitm.ac.in

Seats are reserved for SC/ST/OBC(Non-creamy layer)/ PwD /EWS (Economically Weaker Section) as per Government of India rules. For online application, information brochure and other details, please visit the above websites. Date : 14.03.2021 Deputy Registrar (Courses)

Before Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Delhi
 4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
 O.A. No. 500/19 Dt. 06-01-2021
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK Applicant
M/s Arinits Sales Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. Respondent
 To, Defendant
 1. M/s Arinits Sales Pvt. Ltd., 322, DLF Tower-B Jasola Distt, Centre New Delhi - 25 - Also At: No. 1002, 10th Floor Nirmal Tower-26, Barakhamba Road New Delhi
 5. Ram Avtar Nagpal S/o Late Shri Gyan Chand Nagpal, Ro C-5/12 Vasant Kunj New Delhi - 70
 6. Ranjana Nagpal W/o Ram Avtar Nagpal, R/o C-5/12 Vasant Kunj New Delhi - 110070
 Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 41,58,02,923/- (Rs. Forty One Crore Fifty Eight Lakh Two Thousand Nine Hundred And Twenty Three Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 03-05-2021 at 10.30 A.M.
 Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.
 By order of the Tribunal for Registrar DRT-II, Delhi

India's FinTech industry valuation estimated at USD 150-160 bn by 2025: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's financial technology companies are poised to become three times as valuable in the next five years, reaching a valuation of USD 150-160 billion by 2025, according to a report.

The report unveiled on Saturday details the findings from the study that Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and FICCI undertook to size the value-creation potential and identify imperatives for India's FinTech growth.

"India is strongly poised to realise a FinTech sector valuation of USD 150-160 billion by 2025, translating to an incremental value-creation potential of approximately USD 100 billion. It is estimated that to meet

this ambition, India's FinTech sector will need investments of USD 20-25 billion over the next five years," says the report.

India's dynamic FinTech industry has over 2,100 FinTechs of which 67 per cent have been set up over the last 5 years alone. The total valuation of the industry is estimated at USD 50-60 billion.

The industry's growth has been undeterred by the pandemic, as it has seen the emergence of three new Unicorns and five new Soonicorns (USD 500 mn+ valuation) since January 2020.



Prateek Roongta, Managing Director and Partner, Boston Consulting Group India said, "We believe India's FinTechs are at the precipice of significant value-creation of USD 100 billion over the next five years. To actualise this potential, the industry would require investments to the tune of USD 20-25 billion till 2025. Consequently, the number of Indian FinTech Unicorns will more than double over the next few years."

Sustained economic growth key to India's future, critical for sereasons: NITI Aayog CEO

PTI ■ JAIPUR

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Saturday said India's power is truly represented by its sustained economic growth, which is a key to its future and critical for security reasons.

Delivering the keynote address at the inauguration of 'Milatara@Jaipur-2021', he said as a fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic radical reforms were ushered in across a range of sectors and asserted that India has had the sharpest recovery among the major economies.

Economic Growth is

expected to rebound about 5.5 per cent after (-)3.5 per cent in 2020 which has been the worst since post-World War, Kant said, adding that pushing India towards a high growth trajectory was a key challenge. The private sector needs to be brought in at the heart of India's economic growth, he said.

"The economies of east and southeast Asia have transformed themselves within a generation. India's economy has witnessed a substantial transformation over 30 years since 1991 with an average annual growth of 6.5 per cent," the NITI Aayog CEO said.

Economy seen consolidating in March with hopes of double digit growth in FY 2021-22: PHD Chamber

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Economic activity is expected to consolidate in March 2021 as the Covid-19 impacted difficult financial year 2020-21 is winding down with new hopes for the next financial year with a great growth trajectory of Indian economy, said Sanjay Aggarwal, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday.

Out of the 10 indicators of QET (Quick Economic Trends) of economic and business activity tracked by the industry body PHDCCI, 7 have performed positive in

February 2021 of which passenger vehicle sales has shown the highest growth of 18% over the corresponding month in the previous year.

Though COVID-19 cases are re-emerging in some states including Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, the movement of the Indian economy remains steady in February 2021.

We are happy to note that the vaccination drive in the country is moving at a faster rate, with more than 2.6 crore vaccines being administered so far, said Aggarwal.

Indian economy looking at 'V-shaped' recovery, says Anurag Thakur

PTI ■ MUMBAI

There are green shoots visible in various sectors of the economy and the country is already looking at a 'V-shaped' recovery, Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur said on Saturday.

"India is already looking at 'V-shaped' recovery. Along with the green shoots in various sectors, in the month of February, FPI inflows were Rs 25,787 crore," Thakur said at a virtual conclave organised by the Institute of Actuaries of India.



UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD. (A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)

Corporate Identity No. U40109UR2001SGC025867 Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001, E-mail ID: uc-commercial@upcl.co.in Website: www.upcl.org, Tel: 0135-2762444 FAX No.: 0135-2763339

Tender Specification No. 10/CE (COMM)/UPCL-10/2020-2021 (BANKING OF ENERGY)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR BANKING OF ENERGY FROM VALID CATEGORY-II AND ABOVE TRADING LICENSEE TRADERS/UTILITIES

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited invites e-tenders (www.uptenders.gov.in) for Advance Energy Banking and Return Energy Banking from traders/Utilities having valid Inter State **Category-II** and above Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, State Electricity Utilities, States, Generators. Detailed provisions of energy banking arrangements are as hereunder which have also been provided in tender document.

1.0 (A) Banking on 'Firm Basis'

a. (Month-wise Banking on RTC Basis) :

Forward Energy Banking on Firm Basis			
Month	Duration	Quantum of RTC Power (MW)	Energy (MU)
Jun-2021	01-06-2021 to 30-06-2021	100	72.00
Jul-2021	01-07-2021 to 15-07-2021	225	81.00
	16-07-2021 to 31-07-2021	250	96.00
Aug-2021	01-08-2021 to 15-08-2021	375	135.00
	16-08-2021 to 31-08-2021	400	154.00
Sep-2021	01-09-2021 to 15-09-2021	325	117.00
	16-09-2021 to 30-09-2021	275	99.00
Total A			755.00

Return of Banking on Firm Basis

Return banking of Power			
Month	Duration	Quantum RTC (Firm basis)	
		MW	MU
Nov-2021	16-11-2021 to 30-11-2021	200	72
Dec-2021	01-12-2021 to 15-12-2021	300	108
	16-12-2021 to 31-12-2021	400	154
Jan-2022	01-01-2022 to 31-01-2022	350	261
	01-02-2022 to 15-02-2022	350	126
Feb-2022	16-02-2022 to 28-02-2022	225	70
Total (Considering 5% of premium on banked power)			791

Note: Quantum of "Return Power" (MW) mentioned above is tentative and shall be finalized based on return percentage to be quoted by the successful bidder. Request for modifying/altering the forward/return banking source will not be considered under normal conditions against 'Firm basis' of banking by UPCL during the currency of banking contract.

1.0 (B) Banking on 'As & When Available Basis'

b. Month-wise Banking on RTC/Non RTC Basis:

Forward Energy Banking on "As and When Basis" on RTC/Non RTC Basis			
Month	Duration	Quantum of Power (MW)	Energy in (MU)
Jun-2021	01-06-2021 to 30-06-2021	Upto 75	54.00
Jul-2021	01-07-2021 to 31-07-2021	Upto 100	74.40
Aug-2021	01-08-2021 to 31-08-2021	Upto 100	74.40
Sep-2021	01-09-2021 to 30-09-2021	Upto 75	54.00
Total A			256.80

Note: The return of 'As & When Available Basis' Energy Banking will be taken on RTC Basis during the period from Nov-2021 to Feb 2022 as per mutual consents of both the parties i.e. UPCL and Successful Bidder(s) based on the return percentage quoted in bidding process by successful bidder(s).

Details of venue/documents fee/EMD are as under:-

Particulars	Date and time
Venue: Superintending Engineer (Commercial), UPCL, Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun	30-03-2021 upto 11:00 hrs. document
Last Date of request for purchase of tender	30-03-2021 upto 11:00 hrs. document
Date of Bid Submission (START)	From 10:00 Hrs. of 20-03-2021 onwards
Date of Bid Submission (END)	17:00 Hrs. on 30-03-2021
Date of Bid Opening Technical (Part I)	11:00 Hrs. on 31-03-2021
Date of Bid Opening Financial (Part II)	Shall be intimated through email after conducting technical evaluation of the tender.
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of Bank Guarantee should be in favour of Executive Engineer (HQ), UPCL, VCV Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun amounting to Rs. 1,00,00,000/- (Rs. One Crore only) in the form of Bank Guarantee valid for 180 days. The validity of BG can be further renewed for period as requested by UPCL and the same shall be converted into Contract Performance Guarantee (CPG) for successful bidder/trader/utility which shall be valid till the finalization of agreement.	
In case bidder is a trader then it shall submit an authorization letter from utility for the month wise quantum of power to be banked and month wise quantum of power to be returned.	
Bidder should have experience of successful banking or trading of at least 500 MU in FY 2019-2020 or current financial year (Up to 31st Jan-2021) with Utilities/Generators/DISCOM's and for this the bidder shall submit the certificate of banking or trading of power issued by respective Utilities/Generators/DISCOM's.	
The bid document would be signed on each page by an authorized signatory on behalf of the Bidder, duly authorized with the rubber stamp of the bidding company, and a copy of the authorization granted to the person signing bid documents would be attached.	
The bidder has to submit a self declaration in Rs. 100/- non judicial stamp paper declaring that the bidder has no outstanding net financial liability/net dues towards UPCL unless cleared till the last date of submission of bid.	
UPCL reserve the right to unilaterally reject the bid at any stage of the processing of the tender if the declaration submitted by the bidder is found invalid.	
The consultancy/JV firm deputed by UPCL as a consultant shall not be permissible for participating in aforesaid tender.	

No. 1191/EE (CM)/UPCL/A-2020/12-03-2021 SE (Commercial), UPCL, VCV Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun

Tender Specifications and Bidding Documents are available on the website www.uptenders.gov.in (For information on Electricity Theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185 Fax No. 0135-2769911)

Renewal of registration for 15-yr old Govt vehicles to stop from Apr 1, 2022: Draft notification

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government departments will not be able to renew registration of their vehicles older than 15 years from April 1, 2022, if a proposal in this regard issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is finalised.

It has sought stakeholders comments to amend related rules in this regard issued a notification.

Once approved, this will be applicable to all government vehicles - central or state governments, union territories, PSUs, municipal and autonomous bodies, as per the notification.

"From April 1, 2022, government departments will not be able to renew the certificate of registration of their vehicles, after 15 years. This will apply to all government - central, state, UT, PSUs, municipal bodies & autonomous bodies," the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways said in a tweet.

The development comes close on heels of the voluntary vehicle scrapping policy

Notification of the draft rules has been issued to this effect on March 12 by the ministry seeking comments, objections and suggestions from the stakeholders within thirty days

announced in the Union Budget on February 1 for 2021-22 which provides for fitness test after 20 years for personal vehicles while commercial vehicles would require it after the completion of 15 years.

Notification of the draft rules has been issued to this effect on March 12 by the ministry seeking comments, objections and suggestions from the stakeholders within thirty days.

The certificate of registration shall not be renewed after the laps of 15 years for government vehicles, it said.

Presenting the Budget for 2021-22 in Parliament, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1 had announced

vehicle scrapping policy.

Road, Transport, Highways and MSMEs Minister Nitin Gadkari had said that initially one crore vehicles will go for scrapping and the policy will lead to new investments of around Rs 10,000 crore and create as many as 50,000 jobs.

These old vehicles are estimated to cause 10-12 times more pollution than the latest vehicles.

The government had earlier said it plans to impose green tax on old polluting vehicles soon in a bid to protect the environment and curb pollution while vehicles like strong hybrids, electric vehicles and those running on alternate fuels like CNG, ethanol and LPG will be exempted. The revenue collected through the green tax will be utilised for tackling pollution.

Under the scheme, transport vehicles older than eight years could be charged green tax at the time of renewal of fitness certificate at the rate of 10-25 per cent of road tax, as per green tax proposal sent to states for consultations after cleared by the ministry.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given that Share Certificate No.186 and Allotment letter in respect of Flat No. 84 issued in the name of Shri Shankar Aggarwal by the Jai Diba Maa Co-op Group Housing Society Ltd situated at Plot No. 11, Sector - 5, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075, have been reported lost/ misplaced and an application has been made by him to the society for issue of duplicate Share Certificate and Allotment Letter.
 The society hereby invites claims or objections (in writing) for issuance of duplicate Share Certificate and Allotment letter within the period of 15 (fifteen) days from the publication of this notice. If no claims/objections are received during this period the society shall be free to issue duplicate Share Certificate and Allotment Letter.
 For & on behalf of
 Jai Diba Maa CGHS Ltd.
 Sd/-
 Date: 11.03.2021 (H. Secretary)
 Place: New Delhi

WESTERN RAILWAY
ON BOARD HOUSE KEEPING SERVICES
 Tender Notice No & Date : BCT/Coach Mitra (04 trains). Work and location : On Board House Keeping Services (OBHS) for Train No 22945 (OKHA), 22945 (VRL), 12227 & 19023 Of Coaching Depot Mumbai Central, on "Coach Mitra Pattern" for 02 years.
 Approx. cost of work (Rs) : 3,18,01,370.45/- including ERF, ESIC & GST. EMD (Rs) : ZERO. Date & Time of Submission (Closing) : 07.04.2021 at 15:00 Hrs. Date & Time of Opening : 07.04.2021 at 15:30 Hrs.
 NOTE: Please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. 0728
 Like us on : Facebook.com/WesternRly

NOTICE
 (Case Reference No. ARB. CLAIM No. 01/2020) Smt. Chanchal Lamba Vs. Ms. Poonam Before Sh. Sanjay Kumar Visen, Sole Arbitrator, New Delhi
 It is hereby notified to the respondent i.e. Ms. Poonam D/o. Sh. Lal Chand, R/o. Flat No. 984, 3 Floor, Four Storey Quarters, Tagore Garden Extension, New Delhi-110027 that an arbitration proceeding is pending before the Sole Arbitrator Sh. Sanjay Kumar Visen, Advocate-On-Record, Supreme Court and the next date of hearing is on 15.4.2021 at 3.00 p.m. in Room No. 17, Conference/Arbitration Room, M.C. Setalvad Lawyers Chambers, Supreme Court, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi-110001. If no appearance is made on your behalf, by yourself, your pleader, or one authorized by law to act for you in the said petition on the aforesaid date, no further notice of the subsequent date of hearing of the said petition will be given to you and the said petition will be heard and determined ex-parte in your absence.
 (Sanjay Kumar Visen)
 Office of the Sole Arbitrator
 229, Asola Housing Complex
 Fatehpur Beri, New Delhi
 PIN-110074
 Mob. 9899990152
 Email: visen22@gmail.com
 Date: 12.03.2021

IndianOil helps strengthen India's vaccination drive

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IndianOil) has leveraged its expertise and reach to bolster India's Covid-19 vaccination programme by supplementing the available cold chain equipment (CCE) infrastructure in four states -- Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Manipur -- for the storage and transportation of vaccines.

IndianOil is procuring CCE equipment like ice-line refrigerator (ILR), deep freezer (DF), walk-in-cooler (WIC), walk-in-freezer (WIF) and refrigerated truck (RT) for handing them over to the respective state governments.

The IndianOil management has also asked the company's stakeholders to get vaccinated at the earliest to contribute to the success of the world's largest vaccination

drive.

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman, IndianOil, and Ranjan Kumar Mohapatra, Director (HR), IndianOil, were among the first few to get the indigenous vaccine shot to allay the apprehensions among the stakeholders.

Speaking about IndianOil's focus on employee welfare, Vaidya said, "An inspired, agile and resilient team of employees enabled Indian Oil to fuel the economy and keep the kitchen fires burning, even during the most difficult phases of the pandemic.

We are committed to ensuring the employees' welfare at all times."

During the countrywide lockdown, IndianOil ensured the supply of petroleum products, including delivering on an average of 25 lakh cylinders every day to its customers' doorsteps.

Need to step up skilling, focus on new age skills: Pandey

Mumbai: To create employability and employment opportunities, there is a need to focus on new age skills and step up the momentum of skilling, Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey said on Saturday.

The minister said that to achieve these objectives, trainers need to be updated on new technologies. Pandey was speaking at the inauguration of L&T's Skill Trainers Academy (STA) in Mumbai. He said L&T's STA supports short-term skill training through a wide network of training providers and district nodal skill centres called Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra. PTI

India's in-house legal professionals come together for GCAI's launch

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Some of India Inc's senior General Counsels have together to launch the General Counsels' Association of India (GCAI).

The objective of the association is to create a robust platform, managed, and operated by General Counsels across India in order to create a distinct professional identity and voice for General Counsels.

Amongst the senior General Counsels who have associated themselves with the initiative are Sanjeev Gemawat, Dalmia Bharat; Akhil Prasad, Boeing India; Manjaree Chowdhary, Maruti Suzuki; Tejal Patil, OYO; Sameer Gambhir, DCM; Sameer Chugh, Bharti Group; Manish

New mobile app on poll stats, economic data launched

PTI ■ KOLKATA

There is an election knowledge game that users can play, and most of the features of the app are free - official said

forms related to the field are social networking applications. These do not help voters take fact-based decisions, among their franchise, company officials said.

The startup - Demokratika - launched the application, BolSubol, which has economic and political information about all the constituencies in India for over 60 years on average, they claimed.

"Except the election commission's efforts, not much seems to be done by political parties to empower voters. Hence, the app is rolled out. It will offer a powerful microblogging tool," Ritesh Verma, one of the directors of the company, said on Friday.

Most of the digital plat-

CEA bats for growth over inflation

Kolkata: Chief Economic Advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian on Saturday said that the country requires growth at this juncture, even with economic tradeoffs, as it aspires to increase its dominance and self-reliance in the global economy.

Subramanian's comment comes ahead of the revision of policy framework and inflation targets by the Monetary Policy Committee headed by the RBI governor by March 31.

It will be the first review for RBI since it was tasked with a mandated inflation target of 4 per cent with a 2 per cent deviation either way in June 2016, when it adopted a flexible inflation targeting model.

At this juncture we must focus on growth and when it comes to pressures for trade-offs, we must be leaning on growth, Subramanian said at a virtual annual regional meeting of the CII, Eastern Region.

PTI

Fuel price rise impacts consumption in India

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The rising fuel prices is impacting demand conditions in India that is looking for an accelerated recovery of the economy post Covid-induced lockdowns and disruptions.

According to official data, country's fuel consumption fell sharply in February, the second consecutive month when demand is slowing signs of a slackening amidst rising fuel prices.

The consumption slowdown in February is lowest since September when it had begun becoming clear that worst is over and demand is picking up.

According to oil ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), con-

sumption of fuel (largely petrol and diesel) fell 4.9 per cent in yoy February to 17.2 million tonnes. The demand also slipped 4.6 per cent on monthly basis indicating that various hiccups still remain on the path of full recovery for the Indian economy.

A clearer indication that recovery is still some way off can be gauged by seeing the diesel consumption data as the fuel is prime source of transport for all kinds of goods in the country and accounts for about 40 per cent of overall refined fuel sales in India.

The consumption of Diesel fell 3.8 per cent to 6.55 million tonnes in February on a month on month basis and declined 8.5 per cent year-on-year.

SLICK CLICKS

While many say we don't need a specific day to celebrate women, very few believe in it. Today, we are celebrating women who broke the shackles of the society and brave all the stares in order to make a place for themselves in an industry which was mostly ruled by men. MUSBA HASHMI chats up AISHWARYA SRIDHAR and ANEGA BAWA about their journeys to capturing the world



Amur falcon clicked by Aishwarya Sridhar



Photo by Anega Bawa

She faced stares dangerous than forest

AISHWARYA SRIDHAR
(CANON EOS INFLUENCER)

Most of us might have wondered how those tourist guides on the jungle safaris identify a tiger or tigress and remember their names so precisely. It is definitely nothing short of a mystery for many.

However, the answer is quite simple. One can easily differentiate between two tigers by examining their stripes. No two tigers can have the same pattern. It is just as unique as the fingerprints of human beings. Interesting enough? Get ready for some more. Did you know that flamingos feed with their head and beak upside down? The reason is this way they filter the water and then eat the planktons.

All these facts and much more is what excites Mumbai-based Aishwarya Sridhar, the first Indian woman to win Wildlife Photographer of the Year.

However, it was not as if it happened out of the blue, Sridhar since she was merely 10 years old, loved watching the birds and animals in her backyard. Her love for the Nature couldn't be left hidden from her father who decided to give her a camera as soon as she turned 11. This, further fed her love towards animals and in return for wildlife photography.

"Initially, it wasn't wildlife photography for me. It was more about observing animals and birds. My father is a member of Bombay Natural History Society and I went on a lot of wildlife treks with him. That kindled my interest. After a few years, I realised that I have to document this experience on a permanent basis and photography was the natural option to go with. This, coupled with getting a camera as a birthday gift ignited my love for the field even more. It became a part of me and also my favourite toy," Sridhar tells you.

Unlike many people, Sridhar doesn't have to convince her parents about her career choice. In fact, they knew it even before she did.

"My parents have always been supportive of my choice of profession. Initially, they thought of me doing a 9 to 5 job, but soon after I realised that I am an outdoor person and might not be able to do justice to the job. So, I thought might as well turn my passion into profession and they were happy of my decision," she says.

It's been 10 years since Sridhar has been into this profession, but luckily she can't recall a single event of being charged by an animal even when she was on foot near an elephant. However, the even dangerous situation, she says, is to receive stares from people questioning the existence of a woman into a profession that they think is a man's job.

Not that, these stares were ever able to demotivate her. Instead, it boosted her confidence and made her feel special. "I



took these stares as a compliment. I feel proud being one of the few women in this field. I feel happy that I am doing something different," she says.

One might wonder how is to experience a forest and meet its residents, Sridhar sums it up in one word — beautiful.

The sheer beauty of the forest, she says, takes you there again and again. But, when you are a wildlife photographer, your job demands you to do much more than just experience the serenity. You have to be patient and responsible, no matter how excited you are.

"The moment I see an animal, I take out my camera. This has become a reflex now. But in between all this, I don't forget my responsibility. We have to respect the animal's space and it will reciprocate the same," she says.

While it has been said over a thousand times, Sridhar just echoes all this advice and tells you the most important trait of a wildlife photographer is patience. "I have spent over seven years in following and filming Maya, the tigress in Jim Corbett. She has grown up in front of my eyes. One can imagine the amount of patience it would have required. There were times when frustration hit me right in my face, but I knew it happens and how to tide over it. And, all this patience has paid off and my documentary on her is ready to release," she says.

The fact that attracted Sridhar to filming Maya, she says, is that she has-

n't been filmed yet. Besides, it is interesting to observe the behaviour of a tiger, how she behaves with her cubs and with other males of the group.

The breathtaking photos hasn't just earned her the first Indian woman to win Wildlife Photographer of the Year, but also become Canon EOS Influencer of the Year. The title came when her work went viral on social media and people started following her work.

And now, if you are wondering how many pictures has she clicked till date, she doesn't have a count of them. May be in thousands or even more.

This is not all. There is much more in her kitty. Her first documentary *Panje The Last Wetland* was telecasted on DD National and the second *Queen of Taru* was awarded at the 9th Wildlife Conservation Film Festival, New York. Above all, she has also received the Woman Icon Award 2019 in the Media category for using photography in conservation and the Diana Award 2019 which is given to young change makers aged nine-25 by the Royal House, London. If this was not enough, she has also been a TEDx speaker and is a Global Goodwill Ambassador.

However, if you ever got a chance to speak to her, her charming voice will not give you even a slightest of hint of the fierceness that she beholds and the change that she has been trying to bring in the society by encouraging women to step in to the "so-called" man-dominated fields.



We are incredibly proud to have path breaking women photographers across genres on board with us as part of our EOS Ambassador Programme. These women have paved a unique path for themselves in the industry with their hard work and passion for the art of photography. While our Canon Maestro, Anega Bawa has given a new meaning to maternity photography with her poise and creative style, our Canon EOS Influencer Aishwarya Sridhar has made the whole country proud by being the first Indian woman to be awarded the coveted Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award in 2020.

Canon mentors are the voice representing us on ground and we hope that through them, we can reach out to more women who aspire to become professional photographers. We help our mentors by providing them with the best technological innovations in the camera segment such as the EOS R System suited to their genre of photography. Built on over three decades of continuous EOS innovation, the system is based around a pioneering lens mount which offers greater creative possibilities and better dynamics of capturing every moment. Through EOS R System, we aim to enable professionals to redefine the boundaries of photography and videography.

— C SUKUMARAN,
Director, Consumer System
Products and Imaging
Communication Products,
Canon India

Innocence captured

ANEGA BAWA
(CANON EOS MAESTRO)

You love clicking pictures and one day decide to enroll yourself in a reputed professional institute. You show them their portfolio and the voice from the other side, who is a senior photographer, tells you: These pictures are useless, you don't have any idea of the art and that you can never be a photographer.

It goes without saying these words will be more than enough to make you put aside your camera only to never pick it up again. However, 36-year-old Gurugram-based Anega Bawa's strong will didn't allow her to stay away from her love — camera — for more than eight months.

One of the most treasured maternity, newborn and baby photographer, Bawa loved photography since a young age, however the professional bent came only in 2012 when she was pregnant.

"I love handling newborns and that is why I took up this genre. I started it when my daughter Akira was born. It all began with clicking even the small moments of joy in her life. Take for example, when she had her first bite or when she first began crawling. It was a tedious task, but the excitement that it brought was worth it all," Bawa, a mother of two, tells you.

For Bawa, clicking newborns is not a task any more because she doesn't have the New Parent Syndrome. "It is like a piece of cake for me now. But, back then when I just started, I wasn't confident enough. More so, because I was handling someone else's baby that too a newborn. To earn the confidence of the parents was the real task. But now, I am comfortable with newborns and I love them. Even the babies love coming in my lap. Moreover, the parents put in so much of trust in me that they tell me that I can handle the baby on my own," she says.

With that being said, Bawa still takes time to build a connection with the baby and then proceed with the photo shoot. She never rushes into the process. "When parents walk in my studio with their babies, the first thing I do is to put off the baby's clothes to make him feel comfortable and at home. Then, I ask the mother to feed the child and hand them over to me. I make the baby fall asleep and then begin the work," she tells you.

Though unlike wildlife pho-



tography, the genre doesn't demands you to rush after or chase your subjects, but it definitely requires the same amount of patience, if not more.

"There are times when the babies just don't sleep. They cry and cry. In such a case, we can't force them into the photo shoot. We have to wait until the baby is calm and gets settled down. I remember my longest shoot with a baby. The parents walked in my studio with twins in the morning and we have to click them both together. The challenge was to make them both calm. When one was calm, the other cried and vice versa. This went on for about six hours. Even the parents started panicking about the photo shoot. I told them to remain patient and that we will be able to pull it off. It was not before six in the evening that the twins settled in and we went ahead with the shoot. It went on till 8 pm," Bawa recalls.

However, there are some people who question Bawa's art of clicking newborns by making them pose. Bawa reply to them in the most humble way. "A baby's bones are soft enough to fold. When the baby is inside the tummy, isn't he bended? We are not doing anything under the sun. We just reciprocate the poses that the baby is in while in the mother's belly," she explains.

The best time, she says, to get a newborn photo shoot done is when the baby is between six

and 14 days old. "After this period, the babies bone start losing flexibility and it becomes hard to make them pose. Besides, it can also pose some risks," she says.

However, the fact of the matter is that Bawa gets to do very few newborn photo shoots. There are several reasons for that. "First, here in North India, people follow the tradition of not letting the mother and baby out of the house for 40 days. The second thing is they believe *bachche ko nazar lag jaye* (baby will get exposed to evil eyes)," she says and tells you

Not only photographing, Bawa is involved in all aspects of work — from retouching to creating backdrops, weaving props, designing clothes, styling and everything in-between. So if you are someone who believes in making memories, you can definitely ask Bawa to capture those beautiful moments of your life.

Apart from the multiple beautiful pictures, Bawa also has the title of Canon EOS Maestro in her kitty.

"I got the title in 2019. In October that year, I got a call from the Canon Head Quarters saying that they like my work and called me for an interview. I went there, met the team and showed them my work and achievements. I, till date, don't know how they found me back then, but this is how it happened and I got the title," Bawa says.

Indian quest for answers continues

Men in Blue demand better effort from 'X factors' Pandya and Pant in 2nd T20I to level series

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Left shaken by a bunch of world-class operators, the Indian team's white-ball stars will be aiming to put up an improved batting effort in the second T20I against England here on Sunday.

It was India's first white-ball game in three months and the rustiness of some of the premier shorter format players like KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya, and Yuzvendra Chahal's showed in the first game in which the hosts were clinically outplayed.

One defeat is never the end of the story and no critic can rule this Indian team out of the series on the basis of a singular performance especially because of its zeal to fight.

However, as skipper Virat Kohli talks about players with X-factors doing the job, he would expect Rishabh Pant and Pandya to do a bit more with their explosive hitting, which should not be confined to one audacious reverse scoop (Pant off Jofra Archer) or a falling ramp shot (Pandya off Ben Stokes).

They are more than capable and will be expected to give a far better account of themselves, trying to play more shots square of the wicket like Shreyas Iyer did during his innings of 67 off 48 balls.

Both Pandya (19 off 21 balls) and Pant (21 off 23 balls) weren't able to gauge the pace of the track as Archer and Mark Wood bowled fast and straight denying them any width for the cut shot. The extra bounce also didn't allow them to drive on the up.

"The wicket didn't allow you to hit the kind of shots you wanted to. Shreyas' innings was an example of how you could use the depth of the crease, ride the bounce because there was variable bounce at times, and hit the areas square of the wicket which others failed to do."

"It was just a below-par batting performance and England made us pay for it," Kohli had summed it up aptly at the end of the match.



Indian captain Virat Kohli, fourth from left, and teammates wait for a review decision for the wicket of England's Jos Buttler during 1st T20I on Friday

AP

India vs Eng (2nd T20I)
Live from 7:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 & 1 HINDI

order and even though no one is really talking about it, it's been long since the Indian skipper has had an impactful T20 performance. He is too good a player to miss out.

The bowling department didn't have enough runs on board to put up a fight but whether one of the three spinners can make way for a tear-away quick like Navdeep Saini remains to be seen.

Perhaps Yuzvendra Chahal could make way for Rahul Tewatia, who may not be as crafty a leg break bowler but certainly a decent one with good batting prowess.

Eoin Morgan, one among the more likeable International captains, has been provided a team that has its bases covered with 12 players playing their trade in the IPL.

Unless something really goes wrong, this England team is a contender to win the T20 World Cup trophy in October this year with way too many powerhouse performers.



Mithali & Co battle to keep hopes alive

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

India vs SA (4th ODI)
Live from 9:00am IST
STAR SPORTS 2 & 1 HINDI

The absence of power-hitters has been Indian women's bane for the longest time and they would expect all-rounder Deepti Sharma and wicketkeeper-batter Sushma Verma to up the ante at the back-end during the fourth ODI against South Africa here on Sunday.

Blown away in the series-opener, India had bounced back in style in the second ODI but Mithali Raj's side couldn't go the distance in the third game, going down narrowly by six runs via D/L method.

The hosts were outclassed by an unbeaten 131-ball 132 by opener Lizelle Lee, who anchored South Africa's run-chase with consummate ease after India had posted a competitive 248 for 5.

Despite going strong at one stage, India couldn't step up the rate with the team managing just 27 runs in the last 30 balls following the dismissal of vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur and this is an area the team will look to improve, especially with the World Cup less than a year away.

Deepti Sharma is one of the pillars of this Indian team but sadly, she hasn't been able to make any significant improvement when it comes to the power aspect of her game that has been lacking for a number

of years. With Neetu David's selection committee literally creating a *harakiri* by keeping young Shafali Verma out of WODI set-up, the only power-hitter in the team is Harmanpreet with likes of Jemimah Rodrigues, Punam Raut and skipper Mithali Raj all possessing same style of accumulating runs and not the greatest of strike-rates.

While the lower-order has failed to pack a punch with the bat, opener Rodrigues' lack of form for a long time (even before Covid-19 halted proceedings) will also be a concern for India.

The paucity of talent at the domestic level means that Rodrigues' doesn't face any worthy competition from her peers and even if she is complacent, one isn't left with too many options.

She is a vital cog in the batting unit along with Raut and Smriti Mandhana, who have looked in good touch in the series so far.

Veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami has regularly provided the breakthroughs and sits at the top of wicket-taker list with eight scalps and her form will be crucial to India's chances.

Need to take care of my elbow first: Archer

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

England pacer Jofra Archer said he needs to look after his troublesome elbow first before setting sights on his twin targets of playing in the T20 World Cup in India and the Ashes Down Under.

After missing two Tests in England's 1-3 series defeat recently, the 25-year-old fiery pacer bounced back strongly taking three for 23 to restrict India to a modest 124 for 7 in the first T20I on Friday.

"I need to take care of my elbow first before I think about what is going to happen," Archer said in post-match conference.

"For me, in the immediate, I want to get through this series and then I will do everything in my power to make sure I'm going to the World Cup and the Ashes."

Archer cleaned up KL Rahul in the powerplay, and nearly took a hat-trick in the death overs after dismissing Hardik



Pandya and Shardul Thakur to help England win the first match.

"I'm just glad to have helped in the win. I'm just being honest, if I get one wicket or three, the way I bowl doesn't change.

I think wickets just depend on how lucky you are at the time," he said.

Archer further said they all are on the same page as far as the workload management is concerned.

"Obviously, I came to them (the medical team) during the Test series and said it's (my elbow) was not feeling right at the moment and I didn't have to say it twice, they automatically jumped on it and already started making plans. We are all on the same page."

England, who lost the Test series after winning the first Test in Chennai, are well aware of India's resilience and Archer urged caution after their convincing victory.

"It's just the first game of the series, there are still four other games to go. They (India) are number two in the world for a reason so I don't think we can get ahead of ourselves as yet. It was a good win and we'll enjoy it," he said.

New batting philosophy won't change: Iyer

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

India's "play freely" batting philosophy that skipper Virat Kohli has advocated won't change despite the opening T20 debacle, the rapidly-rising Shreyas Iyer said but acknowledged that it needs better execution in the coming games.

Asked if India will need to step away from the new batting philosophy of going for the shots no matter what the situation, Iyer said, "...It won't change because if you see the batting line up we have and the power-hitters down the line, we don't have to change anything to be honest."

"We have come with a plan and we have to execute as much



as possible because going into the world Cup we need to see to it that we tick all the boxes. This is a five-match series, so it is a

perfect time to try different stuff and see what suits us," he explained.

The selectors picked IPL performers like Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan and Rahul Tewatia for the series while the in-form Rishabh Pant also made a return on the back of his strong International performances in the past couple of months.

Asked if he is under any pressure to perform, Iyer said: "I am in no sort of pressure to perform, I am playing freely, happily and enjoying my innings."

Iyer came out to bat at number five after Pant was promoted in the batting order. He said, batting position is not his concern.

"Coming into Indian team,

you have to be flexible with which batting position you will be batting. I haven't made any changes, it is just the mindset, what the team requires and (I) batted according to the situation," he said.

"It was a challenging situation, we had to keep playing the natural game and keep the scoreboard ticking irrespective of losing early wickets."

Asked the reason behind playing three spinners, he said: "We practised on this surface before the match and when spinners were bowling, it was stopping and turning, very similar to the two-paced wicket which we played on. The plan was to play three spinners, as that's our strength."

Can UP down Prithvi juggernaut

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The focus will firmly be on Prithvi Shaw and the national selectors will keep a hawk eye on Mumbai captain's performance as his team takes on Uttar Pradesh in the Vijay Hazare Trophy final on Sunday.

Shaw's stupendous 754 runs in the tournament, which includes 105 not out, 227 not out, 185 not out and 165, has made him a contender for a comeback during the three ODIs, in case Rohit Sharma avails the option of taking rest.

It's still not clear whether that will happen or not but the 21-year-old Shaw, has certainly learnt his on and off-field lessons well which has showed in his consistency during the National One Day Championships.

He is a cut above others at the domestic level and it is difficult for the national selectors to keep him out of the mix.

For Uttar Pradesh, a very steady outfit under coach Gyanendra Pandey, they have played solid cricket without being spectacular with a young captain Karan Sharma leading the team well.

Their left arm pacer Yash Dayal might fancy bringing the



owed by Shaw's blitzkrieg, would also need to play their roles.

Be it Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sarfaraz Khan, experienced wicket-keeper batsman Aditya Tare, all-rounders Shams Mulani or Shivam Dube.

In case, Shaw, who now holds the record for highest individual score in the tournament and highest score by an Indian in a List A chase, fails to come good, one of them will have to take the responsibility.

The Mumbai bowlers led by experienced pacer Dhawal Kulkarni (14 wickets), and comprising Tushar Deshpande and the spin trio of Prashant Solanki, Tanush Kotian and Shams Mulani, have delivered more than once and will need to bowl in the right areas at the Arun Jaitley stadium.

Uttar Pradesh, on the other hand, defeated Gujarat by five

wickets, to make it their third summit clash.

And for them, the role of in-form skipper Karan (225 runs) and wicket-keeper Upendra Yadav (276 runs), along with experienced campaigner Akshdeep Nath, will be crucial.

Their openers Abhishek Goswami (187 runs) and Madhav Kaushik will also need to give a strong start, thwarting the challenge posed by a formidable Mumbai attack.

Mumbai, who have won the tournament thrice, the last one in 2018-19, will be looking to clinch their fourth title and end the season on a high note.

UP, on the other hand, will be playing their third final, would also be eyeing a second title after having shared the Trophy with Tamil Nadu in 2004-05 after that game ended in a tie.

Though Mumbai are favourites, the UP team is capable of springing a surprise come Sunday at the Kotla.

Openers carry WI to series win

AFP ■ NORTH POINT

West Indies turned a leisurely canter into a desperate scramble to achieve a series-clinching five-wicket victory over Sri Lanka with two balls to spare in the second One-Day International of their three-match series at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Friday.

A fourth ODI hundred by Evin Lewis and an elegant supporting 84 by opening partner Shai Hope seemed to have set the home side up for an effortless stroll to the target of 273 as the pair put on 192 for the first wicket.

However, Lewis' dismissal for 103 in the 38th over triggered a surprising level of indecisiveness with the Sri Lankans coming to life in the final stage of the match as seamers Nuwan Pradeep and Thisara Perera claimed two



wickets each.

But when he most needed to be on target, Pradeep's final two overs were plastered for 28 runs with Nicholas Pooran's unbeaten 35, which included two boundaries in the last over of the match, taking

the West Indies to an unbeatable 2-0 lead ahead of the final match at the same venue on Sunday.

Lewis' hundred, which came off 121 balls and was embellished by eight fours and four sixes, earned him the player of the match award.

"It was a total team performance. Our best chance was chasing so it was good to see the boys sticking to the their plans," said West Indies captain Kieron Pollard.

Earlier, Danushka Gunathilaka just missed out on a century as Sri Lanka posted a competitive 273 for eight after being put in to bat.

Two days after his controversial dismissal — he was ruled to have obstructed the field in a run out attempt by Pollard — the left-hander played fluently for 96 in helping his team recover from an indifferent start.

Holder returns for Lanka Tests

IAN S ■ NORTH SOUND

Jason Holder and Darren Bravo have been named in the 13-man squad for the first of the two Tests matches at home against Sri Lanka. Kraigg Brathwaite will be the full-time Test captain, as announced by the Cricket West Indies earlier, and Jermaine Blackwood will continue to act as his deputy.

Both Holder and Bravo were among 10 players who didn't tour Bangladesh recently citing COVID-19 concerns. They are the only two players who have been called back;

While Gunathilaka paced his innings at a run-a-ball, Chandimal was more circumspect, although his contribution of 71 was important to ensure the tourists were able

Shamarh Brooks and Roston Chase haven't made it back. Shane Dowrich, who didn't tour Bangladesh due to personal reasons, continues to be unavailable.

The first Test starts on March 21 at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Squad: Kraigg Brathwaite (c), Jermaine Blackwood, Nkrumah Bonner, Darren Bravo, John Campbell, Rahkeem Cornwall, Joshua Da Silva (wk), Shannon Gabriel, Jason Holder, Alzarri Joseph, Kyle Mayers, Kemar Roach, Jomel Warrican.

to post a challenging target.

They also benefited from exciting late pyrotechnics from Wanindu Hasaranga, who thrashed 47 off 31 balls with four sixes and two fours.

Williams, Tiripano defy Afghanistan

IAN S ■ ABU DHABI

Skipper Sean Williams' unbeaten 106 and his unbeaten eighth wicket partnership of 124 with Donald Tiripano (63 batting) helped Zimbabwe avert an innings defeat against Afghanistan and take the second Test into the fifth day here at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Saturday.

Zimbabwe were eight runs ahead of hosts Afghanistan with 266/7 wickets at stumps.

Zimbabwe, who were forced to follow on, looked down and out at 142 for seven wickets.

However, Williams and Tiripano defied the Afghans for 42.4 overs.

Leg-spinner Rashid Khan picked five wickets for 105, but failed to find support from the other bowlers.

Resuming the fourth day at 24 without loss in their second innings, Zimbabwe lost a



couple of quick wickets at 44 and 46 before Williams and Tarisai Musakanda (15) added 55 runs for the third wicket with the left-handed batsman being the dominant partners.

The 34-year-old Williams witnessed regular fall of wickets as his team's batsmen failed to put up any resistance.

Sikandar Raza, the top-scorer from first innings, too failed to get going and was dismissed by Rashid for 22.

Williams hit nine fours and a six in his 190-ball stay. During his 164-ball stay Tiripano hit 11 boundaries.

Zimbabwe had made 287 in the first innings, with Rashid picking four for 138. The leg-spinner who is playing his fifth Test match has a chance to achieve his second 10-wicket haul of his career. He just needs one more wicket for that feat.

Zimbabwe had won the first Test by 10 wickets.

‘History can’t be deleted, it’s written every single day’



cristiano More important than the number of falls you take in life, is how fast and how strong you get back on your feet... True champions never break! Our focus is already in Cagliari, in the Serie A struggle, in the Italian Cup final and in everything that we can still achieve this season.

It's true that the past belongs in museums (I should say!), but fortunately, football has memory... and so do I! History can't be deleted, it's written every single day with resilience, team spirit, persistence and lots of hard work. And those who don't understand this, will never achieve glory and success.

#finoallafine

Turin: Cristiano Ronaldo warned that “true champions never break” as he turned his focus to Juventus’ Serie A match at Cagliari on Sunday after their Champions League elimination.

“True champions never break! Our focus is already in Cagliari, in the Serie A struggle, in the Italian Cup final and in everything that we can still achieve this season,” Ronaldo said on *Instagram*, the first time he has spoken since Juventus crashed out of the last 16 to Porto.

“More important than the number of falls you take in life, is how fast and how strong you get back on your feet.”

Ronaldo’s future at Juventus is in the spotlight after a third Champions League failure since he was signed for 100 million euros in the summer of 2018 from Real Madrid.

“It’s true that the past belongs in museums (I should say!), but fortunately, football has memory... and so do I,” the 36-year-old continued. Ronaldo is the record scorer in the competition with 134 goals, and has lifted the trophy five times with Manchester United and Real Madrid. But the Portuguese forward failed to score in either leg of a knockout round for the first time in 16 years.

He added: “History can’t be deleted, it’s written every single day with resilience, team spirit, persistence and lots of hard work. And those who don’t understand this, will never achieve glory and success.”

Juventus are third in Serie A — 10 points behind leaders Inter Milan — but with a game in hand as they target a 10th consecutive league title. They are also through to the Italian Cup final.

MUMBAI’S WAIT OVER

Bipin’s strike in dying seconds of regulation time wins maiden ISL title for Mumbai City

PTI ■ MARGAO

Dominant Mumbai City FC flexed their muscles in the final of the 7th Indian Super League (ISL) to overcome formidable ATK Mohun Bagan 2-1 for their maiden title triumph here on Saturday.

Sergio Lobera’s men made it two trophies in two weeks becoming just the second team to top the group phase and win the title. They had earlier won the League Shield, too.

Bipin Singh scored a 90th-minute winner after a Tiri own goal (29’) had dragged Mumbai level.

Bagan had earlier taken the lead through David Williams (18’).

Mumbai continued with their usual possession-based football but for Bagan who were out of the blocks early, it was all about surging ahead. While the islanders had over 60 per cent possession in the first quarter, Bagan had more shots on target.

There was an early penalty call when Bipin Singh was challenged in the box by Pritam Kotal, but the referee displayed no interest.

Thereafter, it was all about the Mariners. The Kolkata side pinned their opponents with a high pressing game which forced the Islanders into errors.

The first real threat for Mumbai came from a Javier Hernandez free-kick which brushed the crossbar. Roy Krishna then forced a save from Amrinder Singh from a tight angle.



Mumbai City FC players celebrate with Indian Super League trophy after Mumbai beat ATK Mohun Bagan 2-1 in the final at Fatorda stadium on Saturday

©ISL

With pressure mounting on Mumbai’s defence, the Kolkata side broke the deadlock first. Krishna dispossessed Ahmed Jahouh just outside the box and slipped a pass to Williams. The Australian got on to his stronger right foot and fired a firm shot past Amrinder.

But with Jahouh and his trademark long deliveries, it was always going to get difficult for ATKMB. And with one such move, Mumbai found themselves back in the game.

On seeing Bipin make a run upfront, Jahouh played a long ball from his own half into the Kolkata box. Tiri attempted a clearance but his header landed in his own goal.

Mumbai continued with attack after restart and Raynier Fernandes forced yet another save from Arindam after breaking into the area skipping past challenges from Kolkata defence. The Bagan keeper then produced a fine save to deny Hernan Santana from a free-kick.

At the hour mark, Mumbai probably had the best chance of the game. Arindam managed to block Le Fondre’s shot but the rebound traveled to Boumous, whose shot was off-target.

Bagan had the ball in the back of the net when Hernandez’s freekick was deflected off Mohamad Rakip into his own net, but the linesman caught Krishna offside.

After producing some fine saves, Arindam made a huge mistake which cost his team

the title. After he failed to deal with a long ball properly, Bartholomew Ogbeche chased it down. The ball found its way to Bipin who made no mistake from close range.

Krishna was adjudged the Hero of the League while Igor Angulo won the Golden Boot. Amrinder won the Golden Glove award. Alberto Noguera won the DHL Winning Pass of the Season while Lalengmawia of the NorthEast United was adjudged the Emerging Player of the League.

PSG opt for caution with Neymar return

AFP ■ PARIS

Neymar will miss Paris Saint-Germain’s game against Nantes on Sunday in Ligue 1 due to a lingering thigh injury, but coach Mauricio Pochettino says there has been no setback in his recovery.

The Brazilian was ruled out of both legs of PSG’s Champions League last-16 tie against his former club Barcelona, and hasn’t played since sustaining the injury on February 10 in the French Cup.

“It’s difficult to predict a return date because the recovery is different depending on the player,” Pochettino said on Saturday.

“There’s been no relapse. We’re happy with his progress and we hope he’ll be back with the team soon.”

Neymar will be sidelined for an eighth consecutive match against struggling Nantes, with striker Moise Kean still unavailable after testing positive last week for Covid-19.

PSG face a key stretch of games before and after the International break, starting with the visit of Lille next week in the last 16 of the French Cup. They travel to Lyon in Ligue 1 on March 21 and then host leaders Lille at the start of April before resuming their Champions League campaign, having qualified for the quarter-finals.



Leeds, Chelsea play entertaining draw

AFP ■ LEEDS

Chelsea missed a chance to cement their place in the Premier League’s top four as Leeds held them to a frustrating 0-0 draw on Saturday.

Thomas Tuchel’s side had plenty of chances but couldn’t deliver the knockout blow in a hard-fought clash at Elland Road.

The Blues remain in fourth place and fifth-placed West Ham are just three points behind them with two games in hand as the race to qualify for the Champions League looks set to go down to the wire.

Tuchel is now unbeaten in 12 matches in all competitions since replacing the sacked Frank Lampard in January.

With clean sheets in their last five games, Chelsea have conceded only two goals in that period.

However, their goal-scoring issues under Tuchel resurfaced as opportunities came and went in the Yorkshire rain.

They have yet to score more than two goals in any match in the Tuchel era.

Wednesday’s Champions League last 16 second leg against Atletico Madrid at Stamford Bridge — with Chelsea holding a 1-0 lead — will be another stern test of their renaissance under the former Paris Saint-Germain boss.

Leeds and Chelsea have been fierce rivals since their brutal FA Cup final clash in 1970, but the absence of fans due to the coronavirus lockdown diluted the Blues’ first league visit to Elland Road since 2003.

The poor quality of the Elland Road pitch was almost reminiscent of the battles on fields of mud that defined Chelsea’s encounters with Leeds in the 1970s.



Lascelles rescues priceless point

AFP ■ NEWCASTLE

Jamaal Lascelles rescued Newcastle with a last-gasp equaliser as the Premier League strugglers earned a 1-1 draw in a dramatic finale against Aston Villa on Friday.

Steve Bruce’s side fell behind with only four minutes left at St James’ Park when Newcastle defender Ciaran Clark deflected Ollie Watkins’ header into his own net.

But Newcastle captain Lascelles bailed out his troubled team just seconds from the final whistle at St James’ Park.

Despite the nerve-jangling escape, Newcastle are without a win in their last five league matches and the threat of sinking into the Championship grows more serious by the week.

They are just two points above the relegation zone and both third

bottom Fulham and fourth bottom Brighton would go above them if they win this weekend.

“There are still 10 games to go. We’ve got to show the same attitude. I’m still convinced we’ll be OK,” Bruce said.

The Magpies were 10 points clear of Fulham last month, but now Bruce is fighting to avoid the sack as a turbulent season reaches boiling point.

Bayern go 5 points clear

AFP ■ BREMEN

Robert Lewandowski scored again on Saturday as Bayern Munich extended its Bundesliga lead with a 3-1 win at Werder Bremen.

Lewandowski took his season tally to 32 league goals and matched the record of scoring against 16 different teams within a season. He managed the same feat last season. Former Bayern great Gerd Müller and Bremen striker Ailton are the only others to manage it.

Lewandowski has so far only failed to score against Leipzig this season. The teams meet in Leipzig on April 3.

Thomas Müller starred with two assists for Leon Goretzka and Serge Gnabry as Bayern moved five points clear of Leipzig, which hosts Eintracht Frankfurt on Sunday.

Lewandowski is closing in on Gerd Müller’s league record of 40 goals from the 1971-72 season.

Goretzka opened the scoring in the 23rd when Müller headed on Joshua Kimmich’s corner, and Müller was involved again in the 35th. He did brilliantly to control Kimmich’s cross on his chest and then calmly slot the ball across for Gnabry.

Lewandowski drew good saves from Jiri Pavlenka and hit the crossbar before he finally got his goal in the 67th. A



rebound from Bremen defender Ludwig Augustinsson landed at his feet for one of Lewandowski’s easiest goals this season.

Niclas Füllkrug scored Bremen’s consolation on a rebound in the 86th.

Former Arsenal and Germany defender Shkodran Mustafi scored an own-goal as last-place Schalke moved another step closer to relegation with a 5-0 trouncing at Wolfsburg.

Union Berlin captain Christopher Trimmel scored for a 2-1 come-from-behind win over Cologne, and Mainz beat Freiburg 1-0.

On Friday night, Borussia Mönchengladbach captain Lars Stindl missed a penalty and the team’s losing streak stretched to six games across all competitions at Augsburg in a 3-1 defeat.

Gladbach has lost every game since the club announced that coach Marco Rose will be joining league rival Borussia Dortmund next season.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
SOURA SRINAGAR KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (Imports Section)
Email: ammoimports@skims.ac.in, Fax: 0194-2403404

EXTENSION / CORRIGENDUM

Sub :- First Extension to the eNIT No SIMS-324-eNIT 02 (Imports) of 2021 dated 02-02-2021 (Tender ID-2021_SKIMS_114881_1_2020_SKIMS-114881-6) regarding supply/installation. & commissioning of various Bio Medical Equipment for the department of Gastroenterology SKIMS.

The NIT is hereby extended as per following schedule :-

Last date of submission of online bids	23-03-2021 up to 2:00 PM
Date of Opening of technical bids	25-03-2021 at 12:30 PM

Further the corrigendum is issued in respect of Group-C i.e. Full-fledged Endoscopic Unit as per following :-

- 1). Channel Inner diameter for standard video Gastroscope should be read as 2.8 mm instead of 3.8mm.
- 2). The USG based in the HD Endoscope software with capture card preferably USG based should be read as USB based.
- 3). 200 mm in Endoscopic video processor should be deleted.

Rest of the NIT / terms and conditions shall remained unchanged.

No: SIMS 324-eNIT 02 (Imports) 2021-769-75.-6130-31.
Dated: 11.03.2021

Sd/- Asstt. Materials Management Officer
SKIMS

Benzema takes Real to 2nd

AP ■ BARCELONA

Karim Benzema scored two late goals to secure a 2-1 comeback win over Elche which moved Real Madrid to second place in the Spanish league on Saturday.

Elche defender Dani Calvo headed the visitors in front in the 61st minute at Alfredo Di Stefano Stadium.

Benzema headed in a 73rd-minute equalizer and added an exquisite volley in injury time for the winner as Madrid bids to defend its league title.

Madrid is five points behind leader Atlético Madrid, which crosses Spain’s capital to play Getafe later. Barcelona was left one point behind Madrid in third place before it hosts Huesca on Monday.

Benzema also scored a late goal to secure a 1-1 draw with Atlético in the last round.

Madrid will host Atalanta on Tuesday in the round of 16 of the Champions League after winning the away leg 1-0.



Ministry of Culture
Government of India

Lalit Kala Akademi
National Academy of Art
Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi - 110 001

62nd National Exhibition of Art

The 62nd National Exhibition of Art will be held in May, 2021 at Lucknow. The minimum age of participation is 25 years. The Entry Forms can be obtained from Lalit Kala Akademi Head Quarters at New Delhi and Regional Centres at Bhubaneswar (Phone: 0674-2391884), Kolkata (Phone: 033-24641719), Chennai (Phone: 044-28291692), Lucknow (Phone: 0522-2324067), Garhi, New Delhi (Phone: 011-26431849). Forms can also be collected from Akademi’s Sub Centres at Shimla (Phone: 09459279179), Patna, Ahmedabad, Agartala and from State Lalit Kala Academies, Zonal Cultural Centres and Art Organisations. Entry Forms can be downloaded from Akademi’s website: <http://lalitkala.gov.in>

The last date for submission of the Entry Form is 7th April, 2021. The duly filled form may be addressed to Secretary I/c, Lalit Kala Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, 35 Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi-110001. For any further information please contact on phone numbers: 011-23009281/23009200. Email: art.lalitkala@gmail.com

Kala Mela 2021

Kala Mela 2021 (Visual Art Fair) will also be organised at Lucknow during the 62nd National Exhibition of Art. Interested Artists may download the form from Akademi’s website: <http://lalitkala.gov.in>. The last date for submission of application is 10th April, 2021.

Ramakrishna Vedala Secretary I/c
Uttam Pacharne Chairman



Talktime

KRUSHNA ABHISHEK

He is known for his comic timing, one liners and his dance moves.

Musba Hashmi chats up Abhishek about the latest season of OMG! Yeh Mera India, which will go on air on March 29 on History TV-18, experience of hosting all the seasons of the show and how he wasn't offered work after the failure of his first film

■ **What does OMG! Yeh Mera India Season 7 has in store for the audience?**

The first time when I signed the show as a host, my job was to give anchor links and voice overs and we used to shoot in the studio itself and

it was my suggestion to History TV that we should travel places to bring in that reality. The stories are such that being an anchor, I too get shocked after getting to know the stories. One of the interesting story that we have this time is of houses made of paper. While giving the anchor link for the story, I asked my director how is it possible and told him that it made me go OMG! where did you get the story from?

So, the name of the show is apt considering the type of stories that we tell. All these stories excite me and my audience, of course. The audience will definitely get to see more such stories and the interest quotient will remain. Having said that, I would like to say no one season can be compared to another. All the seasons are unique in their own way. This will be one of the most exciting season and will go on air from March 29, 2021 at 8 pm on History

TV-18.
■ **You have been associated with the show for all the seasons. How does it feel?**

I will continue to do this show till its last season. I love the show. If you see, we have the one and only successful comedy show — *The Kapil Sharma Show*. We enjoy doing it so much that we keep on laughing during the sets as well. That show has a different reach and *OMG* has a completely different reach. I meet some people, from the corporate sector, who doesn't watch comedy shows, but they come and tell me that they watch the show and love it. Therefore, it is my most favourite show and I do it with all my heart.

■ **Do you improvise while shooting?**

On this channel, I have to go by what the script says. But yes, at some points I can improvise, but where we talk about facts and history, I have to be perfect. There's no scope for even a slight error. So I have to do these anchor links with a lot of concentration and responsibility. I can't give out wrong information. Therefore, here we

I started with Yeh Kaisi Mohabbat Hai. It was a big flop and people didn't give me work after that. Then I started doing small regional films. In 2007, I entered TV with Nach Bachliye. Then in 2008, I was offered Comedy Circus. I thought that it was a reality show and I can earn about ₹20 lakh in five-10 episodes so why not. I did it for money and never thought that it would become so popular

have to do some extra hard work and mug up all the information before the shoot begins.

■ **What does comedy mean to you?**

First of all, one has to be *mas-tikhor* (fun) to do comedy. Like Kapil says, 'Krushna *bohut mas-tikhor hai, iski aankhon mein masti hai*' (Krushna is a fun person). So this is an inborn quality. You can't learn to do comedy, it comes naturally. Comedy is a stress buster for me. It has become a habit now that we don't take stress at all. Instead of banging our heads on the wall out of stress, we just take to dark humour and let it all out. One thing that I would like to mention is that people don't come and tell us that they are our fan, instead they say that they watch TV because of us. This feeling is indescribable. So comedy has rewarded us with this respect. Hence, it means everything to me.

■ **Have you become more careful while doing comedy, given that people get offended easily?**

Definitely, we are extremely careful and we always have been. We don't do any double meaning

talks on *The Kapil Sharma Show*. We take care of so many things, we avoid doing comedy that involves God or that uses a politician's reference. *Nahin to aaj kal to log dhar-na hi lekar aa jayein, mere ko to ghabrahat hi ho jayegi* (otherwise people will call for a protest and I will be scared).

■ **From Yeh Kaisi Mohabbat Hai (2002) to now, how has the journey been for you?**

I started with that film. It was a big flop and people didn't give me work after that. Then I started doing small regional films. In 2007, I entered TV with *Nach Bachliye*. I did it with Kashmiri. Then in 2008, I was offered Comedy Circus. I thought that it was a reality show and I can earn about ₹20 lakh in five-10 episodes so why not. I did it for money and I never thought that it would become so popular. Comedy was never on my cards, though it was inside me, it just happened. I was a dancer and that's what I try to do now also. Kapil and Sudesh ji were my mentors, they introduced me to stand up comedy. And gradually things started to fall in place and now I am here.

Digging deep into Khajuraho

If one has the eye for it, one would know that the Khajuraho Dance Festival this year had much more on offer than just breathtaking classical dance forms, says MUSBA HASHMI



It is only after you travel places that you realise what all talents are being nurtured in our country. A case in point is a small pretty shop in the Khajuraho Dance Festival, that wasn't attractive enough to catch your attention in the first go. But if you would have been lucky to stop by it, is only then that you would have realised what beauty it beheld.

A girl in her late 20s was busy sorting stuff on her shop

— ear rings, name plates and some wall hangings. In between this clutter, at the corner of the shop, one would be able to see a few paintings hanging. There was something about them that will make one stop to have a close look. That is when, a voice said these are made from instant coffee. Yes, you read that right.

Meet Akrita Dubey, a management student, a self-taught artist and a handcrafts by pro-

fession based out of Bhopal, who during the lockdown decided to explore a different way of painting.

It was not curiosity, but need that led to this, what one may call, discovery.

"I love painting while exploring new mediums of art. It was during the lockdown that I received a lot of requests from my students and followers asking how to paint and be creative without having any art supplies.

This got me thinking. I came up with the idea of coffee painting that would come to their rescue. Although coffee painting is an ancient popular art form in China and the Middle East, but it is rarely known in our country," Dubey tells you.

However, as fascinating it may sound, it is definitely all the more challenging too. The biggest challenge, of course, is to make a colour pallet with one single shade. This, she says, can



be done by managing its consistency. "One just have to decide the coffee and water ratio to come up with different shades. I use three shades for my work," she explains.

The second challenge is using right amount of water and managing its flow. If its too watery, it will float on paper and ruin your hard work. The third challenge is to select the right thickness of paper. And last but the most important one is how to preserve the finished artwork.

"It goes without saying that ants would be attracted towards coffee and as a result can destroy your painting. Hence, the first thing is to make sure you have left your painting to dry at a safe place which is not easily accessible by insects. To further preserve coffee art either laminate them or spray it with a fixative after they have completely dried. This will increase their shelf life," Dubey, who has till date made about 30 coffee paintings, explains.

While every painting took between one and four days to get completed, there were times when Dubey's hard work had gone in vain because of a slight error.

"I have learnt through my own mistakes. There is an incident when I was painting Rapunzel. It was raining that day. It was only half way into the process that I realised my mistake of choosing a paper with wrong thickness. My strokes started bleeding and due to the humid weather it was challenging for me to correct it. The reason being the coffee will take more time to dry out and hence, will continue to bleed for some-

time. At that very moment, I realised that I had ruined this piece. I decided to leave it then and there and wait for the weather to clear. The next day I started all over again, but this time with success. So, sometimes it does become a challenge to work with coffee. Hence, one has to be very careful," she tells you.

Her inspiration behind these paintings, she says, is her heart.

"I paint whatever I feel like connected to. The sunset, the moon, the galaxies, anything and everything that I am able to relate to. I am a bit filmy as well sooo anything related to eternal love appeals to me as well. And out of all the paintings that I made, the one which comes close to my heart is of Rapunzel. It is because I imagine myself as the character. We share some similarities too, like I too have long hair like her and I want to do all those adventures that she did and make my dreams come true," she says.

Like other painting techniques, Dubey wants that coffee painting should also get enough exposure so that more and more people take to it.

"One of the main reason to motivate people to do coffee painting is that the fragrance of coffee in itself is a mood lifter. The process while doing coffee painting helps us relieving stress and anxiety. For that particular moment when one is busy painting, one feels like he is living in a happy place," Dubey, who also has an instagram page where one can place orders to buy these paintings, tells you.



'Theatre allows one to play roles not possible in films'

RAJEEV SIDDHARTHA, who began his career with *Dil Dosti Etc*, will now be seen in *Adhe Adhure* on Zee Theatre. The actor speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about his role in this theatrical, how he got into acting and upcoming projects

■ **What is *Adhe Adhure* about?**

It is a family drama of a somewhat dysfunctional family, one can say — there is the husband, the wife and their three children. There is a lot of conflict and nobody is happy with each other — the husband is angry with the wife, the wife with the husband and the kids don't get along with each other and the mother. Of course, each has his reasons for this. There are many complex dynamics at play here. Mohan Rakesh who has written the play, he was a genius. When I was getting the reading of the play, the atmosphere was so charged and I thought that if this was a case just for the reading, I wondered what would happen when we would get into the skin of the character we are to play. In the end, it has a bitter-sweet ending and the play will retain its humanity for decades to come.

■ **What is your role?**

I play Ashok, the 21-year-old son — a rebellious and angst-ridden young person who can't understand why his mother wouldn't understand him. His mother is looking for a job for him but he wants to in his heart pursue art. He feels betrayed by his elder sister when she leaves the house with a man and Ashok feels that he has had to handle the fall-out of it. His younger sister, he feels acts in a manner that is childish and it irritates him. He thinks that he is stuck in the middle and the person whom he could turn to abandoned him. This character was brilliant to play and is a huge opportunity for me. I left my cushiony job as an investment banker to pursue acting. I could draw a parallel with Ashok since people around me wanted to know what I was thinking.

■ **How was the experience of working with Lillete Dubey?**

It was great to work with her. To get the play off the ground of such a great writer in a few months, it was beautiful. There was so much I got to learn from her and Mohan Agashe ji, he plays the father. The great thing is that one develops a process for oneself while doing theatre. We traveled all over with the play; it was amazing. Because of this play, my collaboration with Mrs Dubey has continued and I have done a lot more work with her. Theatre allows you to play roles that you may not get in films. It has helped me in my journey as an actor.

■ **You have worked in films, theatre, for TV and web series. Is there a platform where you are most comfortable?**

I actually love working at all platforms. For classics like *Adhe Adhure*, the writing is so strong that it feels great that even those people who have never been to a theatre can now see this teleplay; it has now been immortalised. From switching from theatre to teleplay, one has to raise one's voice so people at the end can also hear. But on the screen, the emotions and expressions are the same but the advantage in a teleplay is that one has chances of more takes. However, one has to be honest and truthful to the character you are playing so the audience can feel what the character is feeling.

■ **How did you get into acting?**

I used to act in school and college in the plays. But I never took it seriously. It was when I was working as an investment banker, a lovely place to work at, I just had this gut feeling and that would not go away. I knew that if I wanted to work for the rest of my life, I must enjoy it. I knew the path would not be easy but I had to take it.

■ **How did you get your first break in *Dil Dosti Etc*?**

This film came to me when I was in college. The production team came to our college and asked who all wanted to work with us and we all did this for fun. I did it with no intentions of pursuing acting. I just completed doing *Aashram* (web series) with Prakash Jha and he said that 'you were in *Dil Dosti Etc* as well'. It was great; he had produced that movie and now I was working on a web series directed by him.

■ **You did *Hundred* and now *Aashram*. Can you talk about your role in these two?**

In *Hundred* (web series), I play a racketeer, not a goon though. He looks like an office-goer. He is a simple person with morals in the right place but going about it in the wrong way. In *Aashram*, I play a reporter, a morally-centred character.

Just a few steps away from Dubey's shop, another gem of the Khajuraho Dance Festival that would have surely caught your attention is Prabhat Sisodia's souvenir shop.

Stone carvings, figurines, fridge magnets and pen stands — all made manually from soft stones or stone dust — definitely ask you to take them home.

"Stone carvings take about three days to be made. I carve Sanchi Stupa, Khajuraho Temples or figures of women on the stones. Soft stone, available in Rajasthan, is used for this work, the reason being it is comparatively easy to carve on these stones. However, some figurines, including those of Buddha, are made using stone dust. The dust is put in a mould and with the help of chem-



icals is turned into a hard stone-like form," Sisodia, who has been into this profession for about 15 years now, explains.

The craft, he says, has definitely gone through some major changes in all these years, but what kept his art alive is the ability of reinvent. "The mantra to survive into this field is to be able to reinvent and recreate. You have to come up with newer designs, if not, then at least reinvent the previous designs. A case in point is the calf's foot that I used to make. I have now given it a new design and have started using *kun-*

dan work on it. This enhances its appearance and also gives it a fresh look," he says.

He tells you that he is thankful to MP Tourism Board and Department of Culture, MP for giving artisans like him a platform to showcase their work. "This is my sixth year in Khajuraho Dance Festival. We are grateful to the Tourism Board and Culture Department who organise and promote such fests. These programmes give us a platform to promote our craft and also earn a living," Sisodia opines.

CARVING OUT A LIVING

the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE



Building responsible business

CSR initiatives will survive only if they are intertwined with business models. CEOs can build a responsible business

2



Detoxify the mind

Invoke the thought-seeds that are parked in the deeper layers of the mind to resolve issues

4

If you're having bad day, show you're having a bad day. Don't try to put up something that's fake
— Elle Fanning



For the last two decades, the US' India-Pakistan balancing was majorly driven by an equilibrium between two lenses through which Washington looked at South Asia — 'the Afghanistan lens' and 'the China/Indo-Pacific lens'. With a gradual withering away of the Afghanistan lens, the US' South Asia approach would enter a phase of realignment leaving Pakistan in a quest for 'strategic relevance' to the US, writes CHIRAYU THAKKAR



US & THE GREAT SOUTH ASIAN REALIGNMENT

President Biden's first diplomatic outreach — America is Back — is laden with harsh domestic realities such as irreconcilable partisanship, stark ethnic differences, pandemic riven economy, and an unprecedented assault on the democratic process, all needing urgent attention that limits US' international focus. The White House's limited foreign policy bandwidth, at least in the first couple of years, means retracting the US from unwarranted and intractable commitments and focusing on significant challenges — addressing China's rise, preventing drift of European allies, limiting nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, and fostering healthy globalisation and free trade that benefits the US.

A productive American foreign policy geared up to wind down its presence in Afghanistan and poised to increase its focus on China disrupts its longstanding balance between India and Pakistan, where both rivals have enjoyed equal strategic relevance to the US if not equal benefits. For the last two decades, the US' India-Pakistan balancing was majorly driven by an equilibrium between two lenses through which Washington observed South Asia — 'the Afghanistan lens' that necessitated relying on Pakistan for its support in getting out of the Afghan quagmire and 'the China/Indo-Pacific lens' that compelled investing in India as a strategic partner who can stand against Beijing. The equilibrium meant internecine parity to Pakistan while ensuring a steady flow of financial and military aid. With a gradual withering away of the Afghanistan lens, the US' South Asia approach would enter a phase of realignment, leaving Pakistan in a quest for 'strategic relevance' to the US.

Such a realignment would prove a mixed bag for New Delhi. On the one hand, it would limit impunity enjoyed by Pakistan with the US for its state-sponsored terrorism against India by encasing its Afghanistan card. On the other, Pakistan's desperate attempt to remain strategically relevant can include nefarious designs that can harm Indian interest and threaten regional security. As the American appetite to get out of Afghanistan grows, it is not only imperative for New Delhi to remain vigilant about its interest in Afghanistan but also keep a tab on the strategic desires of its next-door neighbour.

QUEST FOR STRATEGIC RELEVANCE

Strategic relevance is used in the context of small states. Small states try to play a minor yet critical role in the strategy of big powers in exchange for their own security assurances and financial largesse.

Pakistan, by no means a small state, made strategic relevance to the US a cornerstone of its foreign policy since independence for nearly similar reasons. First, having the US by its side, Pakistan hoped to offset military disparity with a mighty neighbour and arch-rival India during the Cold War years. Second, it would ensure a continuous flow of civilian and military aid from

the US. Third, it allowed the unelected Military Inc. of Pakistan to get away with its real power and authority, unlike military juntas of the Third World who face American censure.

Having understood the benefits, Pakistan became a member of SEATO in 1954. While the membership did not obtain security guarantees against Indian incursion similar to NATO Art. 5, it ensured US goodwill and considerable financial assistance. Pakistan continued to seize opportunities coming its way. For example, the late 1960s gave it a chance for yeoman service during the Sino-American *détente*. Pakistan was summoned to facilitate negotiations with Mao Zedong, which it happily delivered in the hope of American favours.

Nothing turned out to be more fortunate for Pakistan than the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. That fortuitous event entrenched Pakistan in the US' strategic calculus like never before. Pakistan had constant attention of the US as the escalation with the Taliban kept piling on the body count of American troops. However, it seems that the denouement of that dream is approaching, making Pakistan's rulers in both Islamabad and Rawalpindi jittery.

GEOECONOMIC RESET

Most recently, Pakistan's National Security Advisor Moeed Yusuf has expressed a desire for a US-Pakistan 'reset' based on geoeconomics and not geopolitics. With an ostentatious candor, he says a 'new Pakistan' does not want the relationship to be viewed through lens A, B, or C. If Pakistan is really sincere about an economic security paradigm, it is a most-welcomed scenario for India. The market size disparity will settle the unabating chase for parity with India, which is at the root of many regional problems.

This can be a mere charm offensive by Moeed, an old DC warhorse who has spent over a decade shaping pro-Pakistan opinion and lobbying for his country through lucrative think-tank positions he perched. Or, it indicates buying time until Rawalpindi formulates a new strategy. The recent India-Pakistan ceasefire agreement feeds into this arithmetic of taking a step back. For two reasons, the geoeconomics desire smacks of insincerity.

First, it does not square with Pakistan's domestic realities. With soaring inflation, billions in circular debt, decreasing per capita purchasing power, incessant political wrangles, federal government's policy command contested by the provincial, military, and baronial powers, lack of urban infrastructure and connectivity, and domestic security challenges, much leaves to be desired for Pakistan to enamor private US capital.

Second, a geoeconomics-oriented Pakistan has to give up on using terrorism as a state policy; there is no way tradesmen and terrorists can thrive together. However, any such changes would mean the military losing control over the Pakistani state, which it would never let happen. It also raises a paradox: Pakistan's civil-military



PAKISTAN IS FACING A CRISIS MOMENT OF BULK EXPIRIES IN THE COMING DAYS — AFGHANISTAN, CHINA, AND NUCLEAR CARDS — WHILE ITS DESIRE TO MILK ITS STRATEGIC RELEVANCE CONTINUES. NEW DELHI NEEDS TO CLOSELY MONITOR THE INTERNAL STRATEGIC CHURNING IN ITS NEIGHBORHOOD AND WAR-GAME ITS OWN RESPONSES TO STAY AHEAD IN THE GAME



elite who have disproportionately benefited from one extraneous lens or another — most recently, Afghanistan — why wants to give that lens suddenly for a standalone relationship? Hence the reset pitch is indicative of both consternation and parallel churning that wants to recapture any potential loss of that status.

POST-AFGHAN ANXIETY

With its decision to test Shaheen-III missile that can carry nuclear weapons to Israel on Biden's inauguration day, Rawalpindi has betrayed its desperation for relevance and attention. But what makes Pakistan so insecure about losing relevance? Apart from internecine parity and millions of dollars in aid, it is Pakistan's elite that stands to lose the most. It is unimaginable for Pakistan's civil-military rulers, some of whom are dual citizens having properties, businesses, and families in the US, to lose the heft. It is a personal loss too.

Further, being in the US' good books grants complete impunity to the military leadership in domestic and international affairs. Just look at the countries that invited US incursions or wrath and their corresponding sins-Iraq for allegedly supporting Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, Iran for aspiring to possess nukes that can threaten Israel, Syria and Libya for dictatorships and abetting jihadists, Myanmar for military despotism, and North Korea for proliferation. But a country where all sins converge — the presence of Osama bin Laden, nuclear weapons that can reach Tel Aviv, sworn animus towards Israel, sheltering jihadists, military dictatorship, indirect control of the civilian government, human rights abuses, and proven proliferation to North Korea, Iran, and Libya — is immune from any American punitive actions because the US needs it to navigate and exit the largest quagmire it entered after Vietnam. Even the idea of losing this privilege can fret Pakistan's generals more than anything else.

But will Afghanistan be pushed to oblivion? Is a post-Afghan world dawning in? Given the American involvement in Afghanistan today and the Taliban's truculence, it seems that the US troops would never leave Kabul's soil. Once, it did not appear to be true in the case of Vietnam too. Many had assumed that a small American presence in Vietnam was a *fait accompli*, and total disengagement was next to impossible. In a couple of years, they were proven wrong.

Moreover, mere troop presence does not mean high salience in American foreign policy. Some American 5,000 troops are still stationed in Iraq compared to around 2,500 in Afghanistan, but Afghanistan is a high-priority issue today. Even if a battalion remains hunkered down in Kabul, Afghanistan will not attract the same foreign policy focus forever. And Pakistan is aware that the expiry date is approaching.

A NEW ACCESS POINT

Pakistan is now preparing to plug itself into any issue that can continue its present

perks as a 'strategically relevant' country. Asad Majeed Khan, the Pakistani ambassador to the US, talking to a DC-based think-tank, said that "we also represent the Iranian interest here... and we have been doing that for the last 40 years." As Iran supplants Afghanistan as the prime focal point in the days to come, Pakistan would want to encash that issue to its advantage.

Pakistan's pursuit of strategically relevant access point would be oriented towards west and central Asia instead of eastwards. To its east lies two behemoths — India and China, both would ensure American attention towards Pakistan without the endearing 'strategic relevance'. India-US partnership has acquired a new strategic hue shedding the subcontinental shibboleth of a nuclear flashpoint. Pakistan has too often rehearsed nuclear brinkmanship with the US to blunt its utility. After the abrogation of Art. 370, Imran Khan's entreaties of 'nuclear shadow hovering over South Asia' in the pages of *New York Times* fell on deaf ears.

Similarly, its inordinate proximity with 'iron brother' China that proved an asset during the Cold War is now a sure liability. It is folly even to imagine another Sino-American rapprochement, and hence, Pakistan's China bet is a sunk cost for its American calculus. In fact, anything it needs to do is to salvage its image from sin by association.

IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA

This situation leaves Pakistan with three possible options. First, delay the Afghan peace process and buy as much time with the current situation as possible. Although US presence limits Pakistan's ability to assert itself in Afghanistan, it can endure the short-term pain. Such instability hurts Indian interests as it hurts others. Second, it has already increased its overtures toward Tehran, even if it means upsetting Saudi Arabia and the UAE to an extent. Pakistan is emboldened by China's leverage brought by Beijing's promise to pour billions in an economy stifled by sanctions. Beyond beguiling its American counterparts through the Tehran card, cutting India to size in Persia would be its another goal. India's camaraderie with Gulf monarchs comes at the partial cost of old warmth with Iran, but New Delhi should ensure its vital energy and security interests are not hurt. Finally, Pakistan has a notorious past of fomenting troubles through non-state actors when it is desperate. India would need to stay ahead with better intelligence and border surveillance to meet potential challenges.

Pakistan is facing a crisis moment of bulk expiries in the coming days — Afghanistan, China, and nuclear cards — while its desire to milk its strategic relevance continues. New Delhi needs to closely monitor the internal strategic churning in its neighbourhood and war-game its own responses to stay ahead in the game.

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HOW CEOs CAN BUILD A RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

Philanthropy done through sporadic CSR initiatives in developing countries, such as India, is often not sustainable. Only if the corporations' social initiatives are intertwined with their business models, will the initiatives survive employee turnover and financial losses of the company

STILETTOS



**MINIYA
CHATTERJI**

Upon entering the small, dimly lit but cheerful orphanage in Nizamabad, a small town located in the south of India, eight years ago, I noticed the pale faces of the children inside. Four pairs of eyes were fixed on me while the lower half of their bodies — which at first glance seemed to me to be incredibly scrawny — hid behind a corroded metal door separating the reception area from a large empty hall that would probably be repurposed for their dining or play through the day. The children in this orphanage were born out of illicit relationships in the community, thus abandoned by their biological mothers, and all suffered from AIDS.

"They have not received their medicines since the past 3 months," informed Rajoo the founder of the orphanage, noticing my sadness at the state of the children.

"Why not?" I asked, shocked. "The CSR manager of the company that provided the medicines has been replaced. The new manager has a different plan and so he directed the funds to a set of other CSR initiatives."

Standing in the vacuous, wind-drowsed hall that was being hurriedly now readied by Rajoo's industrious staff for serving lunch to the forty two ailing but happy and clamorous orphans who were all gathered around me, I was convinced of the colossal dangers to the little end-beneficiaries of whimsical 'CSR initiatives'.

Philanthropy done through sporadic corporate social responsibility initiatives is common in developing countries such as India, but is not sustainable. In FY 2019-20, an astonishing 20.33 per cent of listed Indian companies reported losses. In fact, 19.65 per cent of Indian companies who were profitable in Q4 2019-20 reported losses in Q1 2020-21 as a likely direct consequence of the pandemic on the country's economy which will only worsen in FY 2022. This pushes down the legal liability



of these companies to financially contribute to any CSR at all this year.

However, only if these corporations' social initiatives are intertwined with their business models, will the initiatives survive employee turnover and financial losses of the company. The company's procurement policies, supply chain management, production units, and distribution networks can be tweaked to be more socially responsible. Similarly, services and products that are harmful to society can be phased out, ushering in those that help people while also being profitable.

For example, companies like the Euro 24 billion Veolia earn revenues from water and waste management as well as energy services. The Euro 9.26 billion Dutch State Mines has moved out of the polluting business of coal mining and reinvented itself into a science-based company

active in nutrition, health and sustainable living. Similarly, in India, USD 4.2 billion Tata Power has pledged to transition from producing thermal power to entirely renewable sources of power by 2050.

This way, the company's social initiatives can not be stopped lest it impacts revenue generation. How can CEOs transform their companies to do this?

CONCEIVE

To embed social responsibility in a company's operations, services and products, first employees at large need to be convinced that this is the right thing to do. Only then will they willingly implement the changes needed across the company. Make employees feel that it was their idea to change.

For this, it is crucial that the company's leadership deploys a con-

**THERE ARE MANY
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AS REVENUES**

sultative process across teams for proposing the idea and then requesting employees for their opinion about it as well as suggestions for the roll out plan.

Not only is the process informative, but also instils a sense of ownership amongst employees of the changes in the company that will follow. This will result in stronger implementation by these employees of the changes that will later be proposed by the leadership.

CAST

Next, the transformative process needs to be placed within a specific team such as the strategy team, sustainability department, R&D or a research centre located within the company. All the changes needed within the company will emanate from this team.

However, often a common mis-

take corporations make is to inappropriately locate this team within the organisation by either banishing it to a lower down reporting line or to sit within the company's corporate communications team, or stripping it of power in other ways. This gives out a signal to employees that any social good done by the company is not important or is simply for image building.

Instead, the leadership needs to ensure that the team responsible for the transformation is empowered, reports directly to the CEO, and is involved in all business and financial decisions. This would require changes such as having a key employee lead this team, inclusion of the team within corporate governance structures or even close physical proximity of offices of this team to the CEO.

COLLABORATE

Embedding social good within operations, services and products of a company requires teams to closely collaborate towards identifying key stakeholders, conducting a materiality analysis, and implementing initiatives that are driven by the results of the materiality analysis. Conducting a materiality analysis ensures that social initiatives are important both to the business and stakeholders.

Teams across the company need to then collaborate with internal as well as external entities to ensure the continued implementation and monitoring of the initiatives that result in social good as well as revenues.

This often results in an alignment of initiatives for business and social welfare. An example of a company that successfully aligns business interests, CSR, and philanthropy is Piramal Enterprises Limited, an Indian business conglomerate earning revenues of ₹5,419 crore in the last financial year. The company's CSR has a sharp focus on education and healthcare which also mirrors the company's main business focus on technology and healthcare. Beyond business and CSR, the pro-

motors of the company Ajay Piramal and his wife Dr. Swati Piramal are actively engaged in philanthropic activities also in the fields of education and healthcare. This alignment of business, CSR, and philanthropy on just 2 clear social goals is an effective approach to ensure deep social benefits. Further, this has ensured that the social initiatives continue even during the current economic downturn as the company's CSR spend for FY 20 remained undeterred, amounting to 4.51% of its average net profits of the 3 preceding financial years which more than doubles up on the legally mandated annual CSR spend.

In other cases, the transformative process results in social responsibility being a generator of revenue. Micro-finance, employment services, affordable housing and various businesses that cater to customers at the bottom of the pyramid are some examples. However, businesses that might cater to higher income groups but source directly from producers, or those who extend their services and add value to the smaller companies in their supply chain, or work to eradicate the environmental pollution caused by their operations and products, or work on cross subsidised models to provide their products and services at differentiated pricing to customers with different paying power, are also positively contributing to society. There are many business models that can usher in benefits to society as well as revenues.

Recently, on a trip to Hyderabad I made my way by road to visit Nizamabad again. Upon enquiring, the locals told me that Rajoo's orphanage had long closed down due to lack of regularity in funds. I wondered what happened to the children.

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Affordable housing & carbon footprint

Reduce carbon footprint of affordable housing sector by integrating thermal performance and energy efficiency measures in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, write RUCHIE KOTHARI & SHWETANG MONANI

Residential buildings accounted for 24% of the total electricity consumption in India in 2016. This total electricity consumption will increase as more housing units are built to meet the estimated demand of 38 million housing units in 2030. The electricity consumption per household is also increasing as people have access to better electricity and invest in more appliances due to increasing spending power. As a result, national electricity consumed by the residential sector is expected to increase by more than eight times by 2050.

The construction industry already accounts for 25-40% of the world's total carbon emissions. Increase in energy consumption by the residential sector will result in an exponential increase in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions without appropriate mitigation interventions.

Affordable housing, including the Low Income Group (LIG) and Economically Weaker Section (EWS), accounted for almost 96% of the residential housing demand in 2012. Even though the energy consumption of the affordable housing sector is relatively small right now, it will increase as the number of buildings and appliance usage increases. Hence, any strategy to reduce energy consumption in the residential sector must include the affordable housing sector.

The affordable housing sector is largely managed by the government owing to its role as regulator and major builder. The gov-

ernment launched several initiatives to meet the affordable housing shortage through its vision on 'Housing for All by 2022'. It launched the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) — Urban (PMAY-U) and Rural (PMAY-R) in 2015. Most recently, it launched the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) scheme under PMAY-U to provide affordable housing to migrant workers and the urban poor. The PMAY sub-schemes provide financial support to State/Union Territories (UTs) through different interventions.

Integrating thermal comfort and energy efficiency strategies into the PMAY schemes provides a unique opportunity for widespread and quick adoption by the affordable housing sector. These strategies can be made mandatory through the PMAY schemes thus linking them to fiscal benefits.

As a first step, the scope of the building design regulations under PMAY needs to be increased. This can be done by integrating Energy Conservation Building Code-Residential (ECBC-R) developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency's (BEE) into PMAY schemes.

The first part of ECBC-R includes design and material selection to improve thermal comfort in residential buildings, improve natural ventilation and increase daylighting. This will help reduce energy demand for lighting, cooling or heating. This is especially beneficial to the LIG and EWS population which may



be unable to purchase appropriate appliances, especially to improve thermal comfort, due to financial constraints.

The second part of the ECBC-R will include strategies for sustainable mechanical systems such as heating, cooling and renewable energy systems. Including sustainable cooling technologies is key to reducing the GHG footprint of buildings. Rising global temperature due to

climate change is forcing more and more people to use air conditioners to achieve thermal comfort in their homes. Almost 30% of electricity consumption in homes is from air-conditioning making it one of the biggest contributors towards spikes in energy consumption. Most refrigerators and air-conditioners contain chemical refrigerants that have 1,000 to 9,000 times greater capacity to warm the atmosphere

compared to carbon dioxide. It is necessary to phase out these refrigerants and support climate responsive sustainable cooling systems. While use of air-conditioners in LIG and EWS housing units is low currently, the number is expected to increase in both rural and urban areas by 2030.

ECBC-R (Part I) can be made mandatory for all affordable housing projects, while ECBC-R (Part II) can be made

voluntary. Sustainable mechanical technologies can have high cost and maintenance requirements and should be provided based on project-to-project suitability. PMAY can provide greater financial benefits to projects adopting ECBC-R (Part- II).

While design interventions can be integrated into projects at zero cost, material and technology interventions may result in increased construction costs. It

will be necessary to reduce the financial burden on developers as well as buyers. The government must invest in research and testing for new materials and technologies. Housing built through the ARHC schemes provide a great opportunity to construct pilot projects as occupants do not invest in the property directly.

It will also be necessary for the government to simultaneously roll out financial support programs. Direct/indirect mechanisms need to be introduced to absorb the extra costs of building sustainably. Increasing home loan subsidies with relaxations in GST and taxes will incentivise construction of low carbon buildings. Housing schemes under PMAY with green building certifications can be awarded extra subsidies coupled with stamp duty waiver. Strategic relaxation in Floor Space Index (FSI) norms can help reduce common infrastructure development costs. Developers can use the excess budget to provide energy efficiency measures in their buildings.

Robust enforcement and high compliance rate will be essential to ensure the intended energy savings and GHG reductions through this strategy. Regular evaluation and improvements to the policy will help build trust amongst all stakeholders and inspire confidence in adopting energy efficiency strategies. This will help us stay on track to achieve our carbon goals.

The writers are Anant Fellows for Climate Action

Will ICC war crimes probe be a silver bullet?

The Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC) has ordered an investigation into the alleged war crimes in the Palestinian territories which were captured by Israel in the historic Six Day War of 1967, wherein the country has already started settlement construction.

The ICC investigation will look into "crimes that are alleged to have been committed" since June 13, 2014 — the Palestinians chose June 2014 as the start of the investigation to coincide with the run-up to Israel's devastating Gaza war that summer.

Way back in 2015, the ICC began a preliminary investigation into the 2014 Gaza conflict. In the month of June that year, the Palestinian Authority (PA) submitted evidence of massive war crimes by the Israeli military. However, a report released by the UN highlighted that there was evidence of war crimes by both the Israeli military and the Hamas, the Palestinian militant outfit. According to UN estimates, over 2,200 Palestinians, including nearly 1,500 civilians, were killed by Israeli fire while at least 67 soldiers and six civilians were killed on the Israeli side.

However, Israel has argued that it waged a war of self-defense against nonstop rocket fire against its cities. Calling the ICC decision to begin war crimes probe "anti-Semitism and hypocrisy", Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said, "The state of Israel is under attack... I promise you we will fight for the truth until we annul this scandalous decision."

Netanyahu has accused the ICC of "turning a blind eye to Iran, Syria and the other dictatorships that are committing real war crimes."

The decision to launch the ICC probe was taken by its outgoing Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, a former Gambian Judge. In February this year, Bensouda claimed that the ICC had jurisdiction over the case. Her preliminary probe in 2019 has brought forth the fact that there is enough evidence to open a war crimes case in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip. In one of her statements, she said that the investigation will look into crimes within the jurisdiction of the court. She has ensured the international community that the investigation



Muslim men gather to pray ahead of a protest against the lack of enforcement by Israel's police and the recent rise in violence in Arab communities in the northern Arab Israeli town of Umm el-Fahm, Israel, Friday, March 12, 2021

There are many stakeholders in the Palestine statehood stalemate. Despite decades of struggle, the Palestinian movement for self-determination is heading nowhere. A two-State solution is the most ideal way to end the crisis once for all



MAKHAN SAIKIA

will be conducted "independently, impartially and objectively, without fear or favour".

The massive task of this investigation will be carried out by the ICC's new Chief Prosecutor, leading British lawyer Karim Khan, who will replace Bensouda in June this year. He currently heads a UN investigation into war crimes committed by the Islamic State in Iraq.

The ICC probe aims to focus on two key areas around which Israeli Government's policies are involved: its continued military offensives against the Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip rocked by a devastating war in 2014 and its expansion of settlements in East Jerusalem and West Bank.

These actions of Tel Aviv have been broadly highlighted by the PA in its report filed in the ICC since its joining the Court.

Though Palestine is not an independent nation, it was granted non-member status in the coveted UN General Assembly in 2012. And this helped Palestine to claim its membership in other crucial global institutions such as the

ICC. Ever since, Palestine has been trying to convince the international community about its allegation of war crimes by Israel.

Now interesting part of the probe announced by the ICC is that Israel is not a member of the court. Also, Israeli Government outlines the fact that since Palestine is not an independent state, the ICC does not have any jurisdiction over it.

However, the PA is extremely enthused with the launch of the ICC probe.

Nevertheless many Palestine sympathisers are getting worked up as the ICC has been painfully slow despite the evidence of war crimes was mentioned in the preliminary report by Bensouda.

The international court proceedings involving such cases might take a longer course of action in comparison to domestic trials.

Known popularly as 'KingBibi', Netanyahu is adept in handling the ICC probe issue. His followers call him, "The Magician", "The Winner", and "Melekh Yisrael" (i.e. King of Israel). Known for his anti-

solutionism, he tries to popularise the theory that Israel is surrounded by wolves in sheep's clothing and wolves in wolves' clothing. It seems Netanyahu favours status quo on the Palestine issue.

An equally reluctant Fatah and the Palestinian Authority need to come up with a realistic solution. The status quo has supported the Fatah leadership as it helped it to remain in power. Even without creating a Palestinian state, the security cooperation with Israel may safeguard the PA from being overthrown by the Hamas.

In the past, when concerns were raised over war crimes in Israeli occupied areas, attempts were made to detract from the seriousness of the court's findings. Questions were raised by Israel on the issue of statehood of Palestine, the legitimacy of the court jurisdiction and their very political appropriateness.

The then Trump Administration solidly backed the Israeli Government on this issue. Washington's unwavering support to Tel Aviv reflected in its direct attack on the ICC and its personnel as it rejected the

ICC's authority over its citizens and territory, suspended visas to ICC personnel and their families, and condemned the Palestine investigation and any other action that seeks to target Israel unfairly.

Then Secretary of State Mike Pompeo constantly referred to the ICC as an embarrassing, political, renegade, unlawful, and a vehicle for political vendettas, masquerading as a legal body. Then President Trump issued an executive order that imposed sanctions over ICC prosecutor and investigators.

Many, particularly the left liberals across the world thought that with Joe Biden coming to power, Washington will reverse the previous course of action. And eventually a new America will be back.

However, the Biden Administration that has stressed on human rights and a multilateral approach to foreign policy has stood behind Israel, as American Presidents do.

Antony Blinken, his Secretary of State, sharply reacted to the ICC probe and said that the US firmly oppos-

es and is deeply disappointed at the court's decision to open a war crimes investigation in the occupied Palestinian territories. He further stated that the ICC had no jurisdiction over this matter. Israel is not a party to the ICC and has not consented to the court's jurisdiction and we have serious concerns about the ICC's attempts to exercise its jurisdiction over Israeli personnel.

US State Department spokesman Ned Price said, "We firmly oppose and are disappointed by the ICC prosecutor's announcement of an investigation into the Palestinian situation."

"We will continue to uphold our strong commitment to Israel and its security including by opposing actions that seek to target Israel unfairly," Price told reporters in Washington.

This will surely encourage Netanyahu to ramp up campaign against the ICC decision.

To put an end to all the controversies, the duty of incoming prosecutor Khan is to consider the probe as purely a legal one.

After decades of struggle, the Palestinian people and their movement for self-determination are heading nowhere. The right to self-determination of the Palestinians and their dream of an independent State have so far remained a lofty goal.

Frustrated, annoyed and deprived of a credible international attention, the Palestinians are forced to set the stage for basic building blocks for their survival. All what they need is the very basic rights guaranteed by the UN Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, some 72 years ago. And it's time for Israel to recognise and help establishing an independent Palestinian State.

Biden hiding under semi-Trumpism or any other US President, with a preset framework, will not be able to solve the long conflict between Palestine and Israel. A two-State solution is the most ideal way to end the hostilities between the two parties.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

PERSPECTIVE

Jewish communities in Gulf states adopting more public profile

Half a year after the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain established diplomatic relations with Israel, discreet Jewish communities in the Gulf Arab states that once lived in the shadow of the Arab-Israeli conflict are adopting a more public profile.

Kosher food is now available. Jewish holidays are celebrated openly. There is even a fledgling religious court to sort out issues such as marriages and divorces.

"Slowly, slowly, it's improving," said Ebrahim Nonoo, leader of Bahrain's Jewish community, which recently hosted an online celebration of the Purim holiday for Jews in the Gulf Arab region.

Nonoo is among the founders of the Association of Gulf Jewish Communities, a new umbrella group for the tiny Jewish populations in the six Arab monarchies of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Their goal is to win greater acceptance of Jewish life in the region.

"It's just going to take a bit of time to seep through before we see a Jewish restaurant or a kosher restaurant spring up from somewhere," said Nonoo, a former member of Bahrain's parliament.

Even a modest online gathering like the Purim celebration would have been unthinkable a few years ago, when relations with Israel were taboo and Jews kept their identities out of public view for fear of offending their Muslim hosts.

That changed with last year's accords between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain that brought

thousands of Israeli tourists and business people to the region and led to a fledgling industry of Jewish weddings and other celebrations aimed at Israeli visitors. Emirati and Bahraini authorities have launched a public relations blitz to cultivate their image as Muslim havens of inclusion and tolerance for Jews, in stark contrast to regional rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran.

"A door has been opened," said Elie Abadie, the new senior rabbi of the Jewish Council of the Emirates. "I think there is more openness and more welcome and enthusiasm for the presence of a Jewish community or Jewish individuals or Jewish tradition and culture."

The Lebanon-born Abadie, a member of the Association of Gulf Jewish Communities, said he is certain the shift is taking place across the Gulf, not only in the UAE.

The association aims to provide support and services for the small Jewish populations in Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE. These might include kosher certifications for hotels, restaurants and food products, a rabbinic court and pastoral guidance for religious events like bar mitzvahs, circumcisions and burials.

Their tiny Jewish populations are almost all comprised of foreign nationals who have come to the region for business. Only Bahrain has a rooted Jewish community. Its 80 or so members are descendants of Iraqi Jews who arrived in the late 19th century, seeking opportunity in trade.



In this August 16, 2020 file photo, Alex Peterfreund, a co-founder of Dubai's Jewish community and its cantor, prepares to read from the Torah in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The Jewish community in the UAE is the largest, with an estimated 1,000 members. It is also one of the newest, and Abadie said he has to "start things from scratch."

Only about 200 are active members of the community. The rest, like most Jews in Gulf Arab states, keep a low profile. Given the growing enthusiasm about Jewish life in the UAE, Abadie said he expects that "more of them will kind of come out

to the light."

Jewish communities had flourished for centuries across the Islamic world. For long periods, they enjoyed a protected status, and occasionally, as in medieval Muslim Andalusia, thrived in a golden age of coexistence. Most of those communities vanished following Israel's establishment in 1948, when hundreds of thousands of Jews were driven out or fled.

Given the large numbers of Palestinians, Lebanese, Egyptians and Pakistanis who live in the Gulf Arab countries, some Jews have been uncomfortable in recent years in sharing their religious identity in public. Residency permits in the UAE, for instance, require applicants to state their religion, and "Jewish" is not an option.

Most Arab states have conditioned a normalization of diplomatic

ties with Israel on ending the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including the Israeli occupation of lands the Palestinians seek for an independent state.

But recently, those attitudes have eroded among some Arab leaders, even as hostility toward Israel — in part because of its policies toward Palestinians — has persisted among their populations.

The Gulf Arab monarchies have a few scattered remnants of bygone Jewish communities, said Jason Guberman, executive director of the American Sephardi Federation.

Saudi Arabia is home to sites that predate the advent of Islam in the 7th century, and Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman have old Jewish cemeteries. The UAE emirate of Ras al-Khaimah is home to a solitary Jewish headstone, possibly from a traveling merchant — like most of the Jews arriving in Dubai today.

"Jews have been in the Gulf for a very long time, and now it's kind of a return to this historical pattern of people coming in for trade," Guberman said, adding it was "very exciting to see some of this return of the pluralist past of the Middle East."

Jean Candiotte, a TV director from New York who has been in Dubai for seven years, said the new atmosphere is liberating.

"We used to be this small, little family of Jewish people. We would find each other in hidden ways and everyone thought they were the only one," she said. "We were sensitive to the fact that we were in a Muslim

country and didn't know if everyone was ready for us."

"Now it feels quite the opposite," she said. "I truly feel like I can be myself here, more openly attending ceremonies and Jewish celebrations. Jewish life here is becoming more like Jewish life anywhere else."

Still, this new reality remains fragile. Some countries have been slower to change. Saudi Arabia and Qatar have long been criticized for promoting anti-Semitic attitudes in textbooks.

Security remains a concern, as illustrated by the recent attack on an Israel-owned ship in the Persian Gulf. Israel has blamed arch-enemy Iran, and officials fear other Jewish and Israeli targets could be vulnerable. Many Jews in the region keep their religious identities a secret.

A Jewish businessman who has lived and worked in Oman for the past several decades said he is one of perhaps 20 Jews living in the sultanate.

He said the country has a more tolerant approach to religious diversity than its neighbors, but still insisted on anonymity because he was concerned about repercussions from local officials.

During the coronavirus pandemic, he said that Zoom Sabbath services organized by the Jewish Community of the Emirates on Friday evenings have been a lifeline for him. He said he hopes the new Gulf communal organisation "will generate a feeling of a bit of security to come out of the closet, so to speak."

AP



FOCUS ON THE JOURNEY, NOT
THE DESTINATION. JOY IS
FOUND NOT IN FINISHING AN
ACTIVITY BUT IN DOING IT
—GREG ANDERSON



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

Those facing health problems must remember that things are not always the same. Pay attention to diet, exercise, and make time to rest. Stay constant and grounded in the present moment. Rest and entertain yourself to stay rejuvenated and in good health. On the career front, now is the time to take a break from work, if you can. You need this break to gain perspective. Things are not going as you would like them to. Don't take what happens at work personally or try to push harder. Perhaps, the time has come to start looking for another position. On the personal front, you will find stability in existing relationships. You may find yourself falling for someone older than you.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

You will work towards putting an end to your bad habits and begin something good for you. Expect some frayed nerves as you are making this transition. Take good care of yourself, only then will you truly be able to care adequately for others. Exercise is particularly important now, but don't overdo it. You will find some spiritual truths that hold more promise, and are beneficial for you. On the career front, you will need to guard against anxiety. Worrying about your job is not going to help matters. Focus on what you can control and try to leave your anxiety behind. On the personal front, feel blessed and happy as you get the support of your loved ones. Stand up for your own beliefs.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Your determination and will power are very strong. That gives you the strength to face the health challenges and encourage you to live a disciplined life. Routine exercises, morning walk and planned diet work wonders for you. Work wise, you could establish your strength. This is a rewarding week at work. You are the leader and other followers. People will listen to you and respect your views. Those in a job may have the reason to feel proud after the accomplishment of an important project. This will mark a stepping stone in your career. On the personal front, you feel blessed, looked after and share cherishable moments with the loved ones. The time flies with happy note leaving you rejuvenated and rejoiced.

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

The week ahead brings joy. You will be in a cheerful and positive mood. You are aware and very conscious on the health front and devote good time looking after your wellbeing. From good nutrition to exercise and relaxation to keep away from worries, you know how to work on your health. At work, there exists the spirit of camaraderie. You share cordial relations with colleagues, friends and even seniors. Those in business could bring desirable changes, if they want at this time. Be a good listener, trust your instincts and connect with your innermost desires. Things will speed up in the relationship. Those in a committed relationship will play an active role in getting the ball rolling instead of holding it back.

Lucky number 30
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you need some speedy changes in your schedule as the situation has changed and you have to fulfill the needs of the present state that you are in. You are at the crossroads, it is time to lift yourself and transform your lives. You must be honest with yourselves, judge what best action should be taken and rise to the challenges to embrace the best life. A new connection at the workplace could be in your favour. You are helpful and have a concern for others. Money matters should be looked after well. You find freshness in relationships. You are passionate and energetic and have a charming persona. Love is in the air. Your exploratory nature keeps you moving and settling down may be difficult for you.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

When you have a positive self-image, you value and respect your body. You are likely to feel good about living a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Pamper yourself with beauty treatments, and grooming tips. On the career front, you feel stagnated whether in business or job. This period could be a wake-up call for you. There is a change in your job, in your working environment; there is a need to bring changes in your attitude and behaviour. You may hate your job and despite the steady income, you are being forced to quit. The plus point is you may benefit most from a complete change of field. On the relationship front, there is a need to conclude a bond than living a life in uncertainty. Accusation and fault finding in each other is likely.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week you will live life on your conditions and refuse to compromise on health. You will prioritise your needs, thoughts and map out what needs to be done to improve your health. Try to be a little flexible, sensitive and soft in your approach. You are caring, nurturing and yet dominating at times. On the professional front, you are sparking with new ideas. You will try to improve your social life and spend time socialising and making friends, which would be refreshing, rejuvenating and give you new hopes and dreams. Joy and celebrations are on the cards. Your productive level will be very high and being efficient will pay off. Your love life and romance are back on track. Make the move now. Anxiety and worry over relations will come to an end.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Caramel Brown
Lucky day Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week your health needs immediate attention and you need to shake off your bizarre imagination. It could damage your health. Living in the moment and listening to your body is important to be in a state of good health. You are overwhelmed and this energy carries the warning that you may be spending too much time with your head in the clouds and need to refocus. On the work front, you have the knowledge, strength, and inspiration needed to meet your challenges. In general, this is a very positive time for you. There will be an improvement in your career. This is an excellent time to find new work or promotion. Relationship wise, you are enthusiastic and very romantic; this is a good thing to refresh your relationships.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Friday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will enjoy good health. The balance of these five elements in life — Air, water, fire, earth, and ether — will make life worth living. You are a motivator and inspiration for many. After so much hard work, you're definitely in need of some well-deserved relaxation. On the career front, a hike in salary or reputation is foreseen. Your innovation, sustenance and simplicity in working are the apt ways of driving it. On the personal front, some arguments, conflicts may cause bitterness in your existing relationship. Your aggression or your partner is in an off mood, is creating a bad vibe. You need to relax and think with a cool mind as this is a temporary phase. Soon, you find a loving message from your partner.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You are on the path of self-improvement. You may follow a new belief system in search of the meaning of life. You may even volunteer to attend religious services regularly after years of not doing so. The loss of some individuality in your life may be offset by the greater feeling of being a part of something much bigger than yourself. Career-wise, you may be moving to a new position or a new set of responsibilities. You are likely to feel optimistic, upbeat, and hopeful about your future. Fortune shall favour you. Don't hold back when you have so much to gain. However, plan for a rainy day. On the personal front, a change of heart will serve as an apparent push for what you want. You can reach a good understanding of others.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week you will be struck by work pressure and the challenges could take a toll on your health. Compromising on health issues is not advisable. Bring balance in your professional and personal life. Digestive and intestinal problems may need your attention. Anxiety, fear and tension could bring your efficiency down. There is a fear of office politics and survival of the fittest. You need to decide — could be your educational future, the purchase or selling of real estate or taking a particular job. You are working with heart and not the mind. In this situation, your decisions may not be rewarding, rather would leave you lonely. In the matters of the heart, you need to analyse your existing relations, take some time out, and spend some quality time with your loved ones.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This is a good week for emotional and physical wellbeing. Your positive approach to things will be of great help. You are likely to be feeling charged up, ready for action. You are getting ready to enter new realms in your spiritual exploration. Professionally, this is the time when many projects are realised, especially big ones, that will be profitable to you. Business dealings may be most fruitful now and if you are in a self-made business or job, people will evaluate your work and accept your views and products. On the personal front, it appears that you may be involved in a serious conflict of some kind. Feeling of helplessness, defeat and despair, lack of understanding and inability to find material and emotional security is indicated.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Monday

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ASTROTURF

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Detoxify the mind

It is not easy to remain unaffected by the thoughts flowing through mind. To get over this, train to keep your attention away from the thoughts chasing you by giving auto suggestions if necessary. Over a period of time, all inconsequential thoughts and feelings bothering you may leave. This is not to suggest that all thoughts and feelings would go out of reckoning during this process. Still, there may be many more left, parked at deeper layers of mind, yet to surface up. They will be attended to during the later issues. Yet, you may be relatively calmer as thoughts and feelings bothering you in immediate terms may no longer chase you from within.

To explain the concept underlying the above process, it becomes imperative to share a story related to Gautam Buddha. Once Buddha asked one of his disciples to fetch water from a nearby water stream. When the disciple approached the stream, he found that an animal was crossing. So, water had become muddy. Thinking that he cannot carry dirty water to his Guru, the disciple came back. After a while when Buddha asked him for water, the disciple informed that water was muddy and so

he came back empty handed. Buddha pointed that the mud would have settled and sent him back. When the disciple approached the stream, he found that though a significant amount of mud had settled, but water was still not potable. Later, when he visited the water stream for the third time, water had become clean, and so he fetched it for his Guru.

The mind's flow is almost similar to that of a running water stream. As you cross the water stream, the muck on the bed is stirred, following which, water becomes muddy. If you leave the water flow undisturbed for a while, all the muck will settle down and water will become clear once again. In mind, instead of water, thoughts keep continuously flowing. When unwanted and negative thoughts and feelings somehow intrude your thought plane, mind gets unnerved. If, however, you let the thoughts naturally flow in and out without paying attention to them, over a period of time they go out of reckoning.

The best part of the process is that mind gets trained to have its attention effortlessly turned inwards for a considerable period of time, and to a large extent also remain disengaged from thoughts



knocking you from within.

Mind-Detoxification: Having thus created a favourable inner-climate, stage is set to move on to the Mind-Detoxification process. It is purposely so designed as to consciously invoke the thought-seeds parked in the deeper layers of the mind and resolve them. The method needs to be directly learnt from an expert. The broader principles, however, are being laid down for the sake of awareness. Here arises the role of Guru, who will give you a two syllable/words simple *mantra*. The *mantra* as such has to be individual specific, identified by the Guru, based on the callings of your inherent frame of mind.

A similar posture as adopted during the mind calming down process, is preferred during Mind-Detoxification also. One can do it in sitting position also, but the spinal-cord needs to be kept erect. Now close your eyes and turn your attention inwards. The focus has to be on the breath cycle — inhaling and exhaling. Slowly inhale deep (stomach should expand/come out with large air intake) and then slowly exhale (the stomach should go in as excessive air move out). Now begin reciting the *mantra* in your

mind/silently, one syllable/word while inhaling and the other while exhaling, as directed by the Guru.

Mantra as such has no religious implication; it actually has its energy connotation. When you inhale deep, simultaneously reciting opening syllable of the *mantra*, one draws extra life-forces from nature. That triggers the inlaid memory imprints registered in energy-format — meaningful ones as positive energy and unseemly ones as negative energy. The churning that follows tries to expel negative imprints, bringing into focus host of distracting thoughts. The vibration of the second syllable helps drive away the negative energy. Continue this practice for at least 20 minutes.

One will be flooded with thoughts during this process. They, however are the ones parked at deeper layer of mind. These thoughts will reflect definite patterns, which may throw light on your inherent habit tendencies. Becoming aware thus, you could make amends through fresh educative inputs.

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