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PHILIPPINE PREZ DUTERTE
ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

MONEY 8

DOT AMENDS TELECOM
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DELHI CAPITALS BEAT MUMBAI
INDIANS BY 4 WICKETS

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY OCTOBER 3, 2021; PAGES 12+4 ₹4



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China deploying more troops along LAC: Army

India reciprocates; General Naravane hopeful dialogue will end tension

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/LADAKH

Army chief General MM Naravane on Saturday disclosed there was an increase in the deployment of the Chinese troops all along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east.

Hoping that ongoing tension at the LAC will be resolved through sustained dialogue, the Army Chief expressed concern over increased deployment by the Chinese along the border.

India has also responded by increasing its troop levels, he said, adding, the situation has remained "normal" at all the friction points at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh.

Naravane also informed that the 13th round of Corps Commander-level parleys between India and China will take place next week. The 12th round was held on July 31.

Naravane made these observations during his two-day visit to forward areas,



including the LAC in Ladakh, ending Saturday. He reviewed the operational readiness of the army in the likelihood of forward deployment even during the coming winter months.

India and China deployed their troops throughout the winter months last year braving harsh climate unlike the previous years when both the sides used to retreat to their bases. At present, more than 50,000 troops each from both the countries are positioned at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh since the LAC row erupted in May last year.

Admitting that increase in the deployment by the Chinese side was a matter of concern, the Army Chief said India also

took matching measures in terms of rapidly improving infrastructure. These measures were taken as China is building infrastructure to deploy additional troops, he added.

Maintaining that situation is "normal" for the past six months on the LAC in Eastern Ladakh, Naravane said India is closely monitoring all developments. He also assured that the Indian armed forces are well poised to face any challenge.

An Army spokesperson said Naravane visited several forward areas and was briefed on the current security situation. The Army said he also interacted with the troops and complimented them on their

resoluteness and high morale.

The Army has deployed the first K9-Vajra self-propelled howitzer regiment in the Ladakh sector, along the LAC. The gun can strike enemy targets at a distance of around 50 km.

On the situation at the Line of Control (LOC) facing Pakistan in Jammu & Kashmir, Naravane said for the last several months the border is peaceful. However, now terrorists are again trying to sneak into the border State from across, he said, adding these infiltrations bids are not possible without the Pakistan Army's knowledge.

The two countries agreed to observe a ceasefire at the LOC on February 24 this year. The Army chief said the troops at the LOC are vigilant and have prevented several infiltration bids in the past few weeks. He also said these attempts increased in the last two months.

The Army chief said in the last ten days there were two ceasefire violations and cautioned that the LOC may become tense again like it was prior to the February pact. Naravane said India conveyed these concerns to the Pakistan army through the hotline recently.

Rise in non-Covid deaths as healthcare fixated on Covid

20% increase in death from TB alone, predicts FICCI study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The exponential rise in Covid cases during the pandemic shifted the health system's priority to treating affected patients, severely impacting the care for patients with non-Covid diseases, which may result in nearly 20 per cent increased deaths from tuberculosis alone, according to a White Paper by FICCI-Elsevier released on Saturday.

The paper revealed that while the delay in detection, diagnosis, and treatment may lead to nearly 20 per cent more deaths in adults due to tuberculosis during Covid-19, another 10 per cent increased mortality could take place due to HIV over the next five years.

Also an estimated 20-22 lakh infants (approximately 260 lakh children per year) requiring vaccination against other diseases were not being vaccinated now due to shifting priority. This could lead to an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease.

The White Paper by FICCI's working group on infectious diseases and a team



of experts from AIIMS Jodhpur thus called for developing a concrete strategy to deal with other infections and their aftermath.

"New, existing, and re-emerging infectious diseases are estimated to be the cause of one-fourth of all deaths across the globe. The exponential rise in Covid cases during the pandemic shifted the health system's priority to treating affected patients, severely impacting the care for patients with non-Covid diseases," said (Hony) Brig Dr Arvind Lal, Chair, FICCI Swasth Bharat Task Force, in a statement.

"Disruptions in screening, case identification, rehabilitation, and referral systems have further resulted in a substantial decrease in the diagnosis of other infectious diseases as well as Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)," he added.

Similarly, at least 51,100 live-saving cancer surgeries were canceled in India from the end of March to the end of May, CovidSurg Collaborative,

a research network of surgeons and anesthesiologists in 77 countries, including India, had estimated in its report published in the British Journal of Surgery in May.

The FICCI paper recommends an urgent need for the Indian healthcare ecosystem to focus on point-of-care solutions. This will bridge the gaps and strengthen healthcare professionals to tackle such pandemics in future.

The immediate and direct potential impact of Covid-19 has already resulted in thousands of lives lost and significant incremental costs to the healthcare and livelihood system. In addition to the human toll, treating patients with Covid-19 has a financial impact.

While the exact number of individuals that have contracted Covid-19 is difficult to quantify given certain limitations in testing, the number of people seeking treatment for Covid-19 has been very high, the report suggested.

Varun slams glorification of Godse

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP member of Parliament from Pilibhit Varun Gandhi, who has been consistently backing agitating farmers, away from his party's positioning on the issue, on Saturday asserted that "those tweeting 'Godse zindabad' are shamefully shaming the nation".

"India has always been a spiritual superpower, but it is the Mahatma, who articulated our nation's spiritual underpinnings through his being & gave us a moral authority that remains our greatest strength even today. Those tweeting 'Godse zindabad' are irresponsibly shaming the nation", tweeted the MP, who has been away from election campaigns of the party and been mainly focussing on his parliamentary constituency.

His mother Maneka Gandhi, an eighth-time Lok Sabha member and former Union Minister, was elected to the lower house from Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, in 2019 elections.

5 crore houses provided water under Jal Jeevan Mission: PM

Now, every household in 80 of 718 districts has tap water

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stating that those "responsible" for "policy-making for a long time" should explain questions on the water scarcity in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that five crore households have been provided with water connection since the launch of the "Jal Jeevan Mission" in 2019 and water is now reaching every household in about 80 of 718 districts in the country.

The Prime Minister launched "Jal Jeevan Mission App" for creating greater awareness among the stakeholders on the water mission and "Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh" where any individual, institu-



PM Narendra Modi pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his birth Anniversary, at Rajghat in New Delhi on Saturday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

tion, corporation, or philanthropist can contribute to help provide tap water connection

in any rural household. The PM asserted that "in just two years, more work has been

done for taking tap water to people than was done in the last seven decades".

Speaking after interacting with gram panchayats and village water and sanitation committees (VWSC) on the "Jal Jeevan Mission", he said, "Today, water is reaching every household in about 1.25 lakh villages in about 80 districts of the country".

"Jal Jeevan Mission is also a big movement of decentralisation. This is a village-driven-women-driven movement. Its main base is a mass movement and public participation", he said.

Without referring to the Congress regimes, the PM said policy-makers for a long-time should explain the nature of drinking-water scarcity in the country. Referring to popular conceptions of the problem of water, the PM talked of movies, stories, poems that tell in detail how the women and children of the village walked miles to fetch water.

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EC bars Chirag, Paras from using LJP symbol

Both asked to pick temporary symbols for by-elections till matter is resolved

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing tussle between factions led by Chirag Paswan and Union Minister Pashupati Nath Paras for control over the party, the Election Commission (EC) on Saturday decided to freeze the symbol of the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP).

Both factions have been barred from using the name of the party or its symbol "bungalow" till the dispute between the rival groups is settled by the poll panel. The EC has also asked both the factions to choose three free symbols in order of preference by Monday 1 pm. The Commission will then allocate the symbols. The factions can then field their respective candidates for



upcoming bypolls in Kusheshwar and Tarapur in Bihar.

"Accordingly, both the groups are hereby directed to furnish, latest by 1 PM on Monday the names of their groups by which they may be recognised by Commission, and the symbols which may be allotted to the candidates set up, if any, by the respective groups. They may indicate the names of three free symbols, in the order of their preference, anyone of which may be allotted to their candidates by the Commission," the EC said in its

interim order signed by Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and fellow Election Commissioners Rajiv Kumar and Anup Chandra Pandey.

Bypolls for the Kusheshwar Asthan and the Tarapur Assembly seats in Bihar will be held on October 30.

The EC further stated that neither of the two groups would be permitted to use the name of the party "LJP". "Neither of the two groups shall also be permitted to use the symbol 'Bungalow', reserved for 'LJP', the EC said.

Continued on Page 4

Cong reposes faith in Baghel, picks him as observer for UP polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid demand for leadership change in Chhattisgarh, the Congress reposed faith in State's Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel by appointing him as the party's senior observer for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election to be held early next year.

Baghel was also the observer for the Assam Assembly election held in March.

According to an AICC Press statement, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday appointed Baghel as AICC Senior Observer for the upcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh with immediate effect.



There are 403 seats at stake in the Uttar Pradesh election. In the previous Assembly election in 2017, the BJP came to power with an overwhelming majority of 325 seats.

Baghel's close associate Rajesh Tiwari was appointed as the AICC secretary in the State assisting general secretary in-charge Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

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Post or no post, would stand by Rahul, Priyanka, pledges Sidhu

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Navjot Singh Sidhu, who had abruptly resigned as Punjab Congress president, on Saturday said he would stand with Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra whether he holds any post or not.

"Will uphold principles of Gandhi & Shastri. Post or No Post, will stand by @RahulGandhi & @priyankagandhi! Let all negative forces try to defeat me, but with every ounce of positive energy will make Punjab win, Punjabiyat (Universal Brotherhood) win & every Punjabi win!!", Sidhu wrote on his Twitter handle on the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

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World largest tricolour unfurled in Ladakh

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Pride and patriotism, the collective spirit of Indianness and the heritage artisan of Khadi, brought the nation together in saluting the world's largest tricolour, made of Khadi cotton fabric on Saturday at Leh.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh RK Mathur unveiled the flag on the hill overlooking Leh valley to mark the 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

KVIC chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena, Ladakh MP JT Namgyal and Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane were present on the occasion.

The flag weighed around 1,000 kg, measuring 225-ft long and 150-ft wide. Around 150 jawans of the Indian Army's 57 Engineer regiment carried the flag to a hilltop,



World's largest Khadi national flag installed in Leh on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 152nd birth anniversary
Pioneer photo

2,000 ft above the ground level, in more than two hours.

"Proud to share the unveiling of the world's largest monumental National flag made of

Khadi today at Leh by LG Ladakh RK Mathur. The flag is made by KVIC and displayed by the Indian Army.

Continued on Page 4

Centre to start buying paddy in Punjab, Haryana from today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Acceding to farmers' demand, the Centre on Saturday decided to begin paddy procurement in Punjab and Haryana on Sunday, two days after it said the process will be delayed this year.

The announcement came after a meeting between the Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ashwini Kumar Choubey and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

The Centre's earlier decision to put off procurement till October 11 due to recent heavy rain sparked protests by farmers in the two States. The situation became tense in a few places in Haryana and Punjab after their clashes with police.

Continued on Page 4

4 bodies found day after avalanche hit Navy Trishul team; search continues

PNS ■ JOSHIMATH

Bodies of four of the missing Navy personnel were retrieved on Saturday, a day after an Indian Navy mountaineering expedition was hit by an avalanche on Mount Trishul. According to naval sources, the mortal remains of Lt Cdr Rajnikant Yadav, Lt Cdr Yogesh Tiwari, Lt Cdr Anant Kukreti and Hari Om MCPO II were retrieved from Chamoli on Saturday.

Efforts are on to locate the fifth naval climber and one Sherpa missing since the incident.

Earlier in the day, a search and rescue team of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) spotted the four bodies on the mountain slope.

Continued on Page 4

‘I will go through anything to play my character flawlessly’

NEELU VAGHELA, who plays thakurain in Azaad TV’s Pavitraa Bharose Ka Safar, speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about her unforeseen induction in acting and the journey



■ **What is Pavitra-Bharose Ka Safar about?**

Firstly as the name iterates, its a journey of trust and secondly it's a story of a woman. This show is based on women and their lives in the rural area where everybody is jealous of their old heritage and culture. Even today they are not able to snap out of it even the the world has crossed multiple barricades into the future. Even today small girls are forced into it by telling them to wear properly covering clothes, telling them that they can't study because they can't do anything and then take a glass of hot beverage to the guests in order to find a suitor.

■ **What is your role??**

I play the character of Uma Devi thakurain who is bound by the culture of the society. When she goes out she tries to show that she has a degree of self respect which every woman is entitled to. Uma Devi plays three different roles i.e wife, mother and mother in law with varying degrees of attitude adjusted towards relatives.

■ **How did you come on board for this project?**

I believe the offer came because of my connection with *Diya Bati*. One fine day a call came from the production house, offering me a place in their channel. I was baffled and asked what it's about and what do they stand for. When I understood their agenda of transforming people's mentality, I was very happy and further enquired about the roles and characters.

■ **What kind of preparation did you do?**

I think you have heard this

THE STORY IS THE SAME AND SO IS THE FILM BUT THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THE OUTREACH AND THE RESPONSE FROM THE PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND. NO FILM, NO CHARACTER, NO DIALOGUE IS SMALL AND HISTORY IS A WITNESS TO THIS FACT

fact about me that I try to remain natural. I try method acting and try my level best to portray the character in a just way. I feel tensed at times so as to do justice to this character, I ask some help from my supporting cast. All in all I will go through anything to play my character flawlessly. Us Rajasthanis try to balance out all aspects of our life together. So i don't try very hard, I think it's a part of me that understands things naturally.

■ **How different was it shooting in a pandemic?**

There are some sizable differences, we are

not able to interact with one another as before and it takes time to bond. Everyone is afraid and is extra cautious about sanitization. The sets are less and so are the artists, there is a pressure on everyone so as to get the job done properly. But I have to admit that we have become a family now because we help each other out so as to get things rolling. Production takes time and we do our bit to fast track this process. We don't have many people so we help each other out rather than calling someone and increasing the risk. There is one hairdresser and make up artist for five ladies so we have bridged the gap. It's a lesson for everyone that being cautious is key to getting through this pandemic.

■ **How did acting happen?**

Actually I didn't get into acting. When I was five years old, I was looking at a shoot where Jeetendra ji and Leena ji were doing a wedding scene. I overheard that there was a vacancy for the role of a child and I ran and stood in front of the director. I barely knew what a director and a camera were. We all wanted to become a hero or heroine. The director asked me what do you want and I stayed there and kept looking at Jeetendra ji having a pomegranate. The director L V Prasad asked me if I would like to work in a movie and I shouted yes. They took measurements for my costumes and told my mom to bring me in tomorrow for shooting. My mom told them I knew nothing about shoots but they insisted that they will do the necessary.

■ **How different is this work environment from Rajasthani cinema?**

I would like to say that no matter what the size of the industry the only difference is location and budget. The films that we did worked because it was down to earth and reality based. The story is the same and so is the film but the only difference is the outreach and the response from the people who understand. That's what makes or breaks a movie. I believe that belittling a product from another is very wrong because everything is equally important. If you do a wonderful job, people will praise you. No film, no character, no dialogue is small and history is a witness to this fact.

Plan Your Sunday

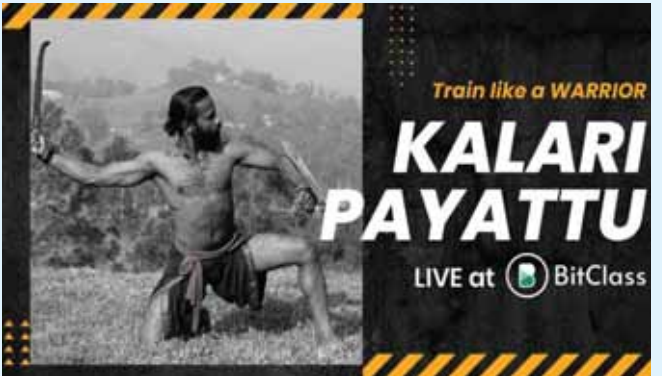


DANCE OF THE ANDHRA STATE!

Are you a dance enthusiast? Are you looking to learn different forms of classical dance in India? Kuchipudi is the perfect dance form, to start with! Kuchipudi is one of the classical styles of Indian dance. As a classical form of dance, drama, and music Kuchipudi enjoys a unique place among the Indian classical idioms. It is characterized by fast rhythms and fluid movements, creating a unique blend of control and abandon strength and

delicacy. Kuchipudi's uniqueness emanates from the performers breaking into spoken dialogues during display, adding to its dramatic appeal. This course will help you in learning the fundamentals of Kuchipudi dance, different types of footwork, basic steps, etc. **What:** Dance **Where:** Online **When:** October 05 and 27, 2021 **Time:** 3 pm and 4 pm

KALARIPAYATTU - INDIAN MARTIAL ART



Kalaripayattu, also known simply as Kalar, is an Indian martial art that originated in modern-day Kerala, a state on the southwestern coast of India. Kalaripayattu is known for its long-standing history within Indian martial arts. It is believed to be the oldest surviving martial art in India. It is also considered to be among the oldest martial arts still in existence, with its origin in the martial arts

timeline dating back to at least the 3rd century BCE. Kalaripayattu is a martial art designed for the ancient battlefield (the word "Kalar" meaning "battlefield"), with weapons and combative techniques that are unique to India. **What:** Health and Wellness **Where:** Online **When:** October 04 and 29, 2021 **Time:** 7 am and 8 pm

TELLY TALE

‘83 WILL MAKE PEOPLE REALISE THAT I CAN ACT TOO’

Having worked as a radio jockey, YouTuber, host and actor, Sahil Khattar has explored different mediums. And he has enjoyed working on all of them.

"The more you work in different mediums, the more experience you gain. But over the years I have realised that the digital appeals to me the most, which is why I'll never leave that space and will continue making content for my channels, Khatarnaak and BeingIndian. I also like doing the WWE series on TV, enjoyed hosting Dance India Dance and anchoring for cricket. I also learnt a lot during my stint as a radio jockey with Red FM. While shooting for 83, I have also relished the fun and learning that happens during filmmaking," he says.

Sahil considers every new project in his career as a new landmark. But if he has to choose then he feels that forming BeingIndian and then being part of 83 are the two big landmarks in his professional life so far. "BeingIndian changed me both as a



person and a content creator. It changed people's outlook towards me. They started noticing my talent as an anchor, performer and also found me to be a funny guy. 83, on the other hand, will make people realise that I can act too. Now 200 is generating good response," he adds.

Talking about who inspires him in his

career, Sahil takes the name of actor Shah Rukh Khan, "Anybody who wants to do something on his own wants to look up to him because he's made it himself. And the one guy who will surprise everybody is Farhan Akhtar. In Bollywood I look up to Farhan Akhtar a lot because he's multi-talented. He's not just an actor or a director he's also a writer and singer. He's the be-all and end-all of everything. Actually, I am a fan of his humour. I always tell a lot of my friends that if someday I look hopeless, I have told my friends to put up a tent outside Farhan Akhtar's house for me. In Hollywood, I love Seth Rogan, Sasha Baron Cohen and Ricky Gervais. All these people are my inspiration," he ends.

So how does he unwind after a hard day's work? "I love playing FIFA and snooker on my play station. Chit chatting with friends and spending time with family also makes me happy. I also watch a lot of content and sports too," he ends.

ANUPAMAA' S FIRST TAKE OFF



Anuj's car breaks down and he is running towards the airport when he hears Anupamaa call his name.

She gives him a lift to the airport. In the Shah house, Samar tells everyone that Anupamaa slipped at the airport, and Vanraj was quick to say that the first thing she would have done then is to check her sandals. Later, Babuji tells the kids that Vanraj is stuck between his ego and his heart and he wishes that someday the heart wins.

Also, Anupamaa and Anuj are on-board the flight and Anupamaa asks Anuj why he bought a business class ticket for her. In the upcoming episode, we will see that Kavya asks Vanraj why he is so bothered about Anuj and Anupamaa when he is married to her. Vanraj tells her that there is an unsaid bond that they share. On the other hand, Anuj finds Anupamaa asleep and covers her with her jacket.

To know what happens next, keep watching "Anupamaa". Produced by Rajan Shahi and his mother Deepa Shahi under their banner Shahi Productions Pvt Ltd, "Anupamaa", airs on Star Plus.

NIRISHA'S ZEAL FOR ACTING

Nirisha Basnett's character Chitra in Sudhir Sharma and Seema Sharma's Ziddi Dil Maane Na (ZDMN) is one of the roles that has been showered with love by the viewers. The actor agrees that the support the show and her character are getting, especially on social media, are both motivating and overwhelming.

"A lot of things about Chitra resemble my persona. She is bubbly, cheerful, loud, expressive and colourful. That's exactly me. Therefore, I don't have to work a lot to get into the skin of my character. I end up having such easy and fun time on the set and the shoot goes really smooth minus any stress," she says. Recalling a situation or a time in life when her 'dil' became 'ziddi', Nirisha shares, "I ran away from my home in Kathmandu, Nepal, to come to Mumbai to fulfil my acting dream... I started off with zero contact and whatever little saving I had. This huge leap of faith and courage that I had in me is the proof of my 100 percent Ziddi Dil and I am still pursuing my dream job."

Talking about the producer duo, she starts by saying that she is haven't had a chance to



spend a lot of time with them on the set.

"From what I hear from my co-actors is that both Sudhir sir and Seema ma'am are extremely kind and respectful. I have met them only a couple of times and liked the fact how they are really driven to make ZDMN a success. They were really sweet to me and had kind words to say. We are connected via Instagram and it's sweet that both of them react to my posts and stories... I remember getting a call from Reema ma'am for this show. I don't know how she got my number. I auditioned and got selected soon after. The journey so far on the show has been wonderful," adds the actor.

HITANSHU JINSI AND LAVINA TANDON'S OFF-SCREEN BOND IS STRONGER

It is often said that great friendships strike unexpectedly. Something similar has happened with the cast of Sony Entertainment Television's mythological show Vighnaharta Ganesh. Lavina Tandon and Hitanshu Jinsi struck the right chords while shooting on sets and have gone on to become best buds. Not only do they share a great bond on-screen but off-screen, too. Currently airing at prime time 6.30, the show has gone on to win viewers hearts. Hitanshu Jinsi who essays Lord Krishna and Lavina Tandon who played the loyal devotee - Mira Bai have developed a great bond while working together.

Lavina Tandon says, "When I first saw Hitanshu in the avatar of lord krishna, I was really mesmerised. He keeps making people laugh on set. He cracks jokes and distracts me because half the time I am crying in the show. Everyone told me that Hitanshu has a very serious demeanor but I feel that he is a gentleman and a sweetheart. Our friendship has only grown everyday. When he came to Mumbai, he bought chocolates and candies for me because I am fond of it which was really sweet of him. Hitanshu is very calm



when working and I am the most curious and mischievous person on set. One thing that I can learn from him is his calm endurance on set as he has to wear lot of jewellery and heavy attire. He is completely focused and hardworking. After the show I look forward to be in touch with him. Whenever I used to rehearse my dialogues, he would also practise with me and proactively we would help each other. We have become very good friends in such a 'small span of time'."

Jinsi adds, "Working with Lavina has been a great experience for me. She is full of love and has a great sense of humour. A kind soul who puts in more than her 100% to achieve something. From having lunches together to pulling one another's leg on sets, our friendship has only evolved. We share a fun camaraderie and a bond that'll only keep growing. I know one thing for sure which is Lavina is a very caring person. We've learnt our lines together on set and had a great time shooting together. We've only learnt more from one another". In the upcoming episode, Mira Bai will be seen celebrating Holi with everybody and will leave Chittoargarh in search of her Prah.

PET PARENTS ON &TV TALK ABOUT ANIMAL CARE AND WELLBEING

It is said that the best therapist has fur and four legs! Animals are a significant part of our ecosystem and have been a very important part of human life. On this World Animal Welfare Day, &TV artists and pet parents express their love towards their four-legged babies and elaborate on their wellbeing. These include Ambrish Bobby (Ramesh Prasad Mishra from Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai?), Archana Mittal (Anuradha Agarwal from Ghar Ek Mandir-Kripa Agrasen Maharaja Ki), Vishal Nayak (Manish Agarwal from Ghar Ek Mandir-Kripa Agrasen Maharaja Ki), Himani Shivpuri (Katori Amma from Hattu Ki Ultan Palatan) and Nehha Pendse (Anita Bhabhi from Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai).

Ambrish Bobby says, "I love my baby Lily like my own child, and I can go to any extent for her good health and happiness. She is an indie breed, and I adopted her when she was a cute little puppy. Even though Lily has grown up, she still acts like a small puppy, and I love pampering her. But what hurts me is that

many dogs on the street, like Lily, are treated badly. They too deserve love and affection, so as humans, we need to become more sensitive towards these voiceless creatures and help them as much as possible."

Archana Mittal says, "I am a proud parent of five dogs comprising two labradors-Yogi and Maya and three Indies- Guapa, Mowgli and Milli. These five babies fill my life with happiness and unconditional love. People might not be aware of the fact that animals, too, have mental health issues. Loud noises, inhumane behaviour, or even small fights in the household causes trauma in them. Therefore, I try my best to keep a very happy and positive environment for them and pamper them with lots of love."

Himani Shivpuri adds, "Arya and I have been inseparable since I got her home. She is my fur baby, and I can love her like my own daughter. I strongly feel that animals are made of pure selfless love, and they deserve the world. Animals need utmost care, love and

affection just like us, so we must take care of them and fulfil their basic requirements and give them a lot of love."

Vishal Nayak says, "According to me being a pet parent is a huge responsibility because they are no less than any human baby. Their health and wellness are extremely crucial. I ensure regular check-ups, physical fitness and a healthy diet for my pet baby. I feel bad when I see people buying or adopting pets, not taking good care of them, and ill-treat them. The laws need to be stricter for such inhuman activities."

Nehha Pendse, who has five adorable dogs named 'Teddy', 'Champagne', 'Whiskey', 'Cupcake', 'Cookie' and also two cats 'Aisha' and 'Ash', says "Animal love is selfless and unconditional. They bring happiness to your life like no one else. My pet babies are my stressbusters. When I return home after a long hectic day, they come running to me with so much love and warmth that I forget all the tiredness."

‘Winter Action Plan’ soon for clean air

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will announce the ‘Winter Action Plan’ to fight pollution in the national capital on October 4, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Saturday.

He was speaking at the event to announce the commencement of a week-long Wildlife Conservation Awareness Campaign at Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary here. Rai also announced that a cycling track has been laid at the sanctuary for cyclists.

An online booking system is also being started for those who wish to visit the wildlife sanctuary and breathe fresh air, he said. “Electric cart and guide facility will also be there for those who want to



experience the place. There is also a lake and we have taken up the process of its beautification on priority basis,” he said. Training camps and competitions will also be organised in the coming days, he said, adding that the chief minister will announce the ‘Winter Action Plan’ on October 4.

“We have been working to curb pollution through natural means. It is probably for the first time that a government in the country has brought the tree transplantation policy. “We will take the fight against pollution ahead. Delhi is for all of us and it is our responsibility to work together to make the air quality better,” he said.

Puri honours 30 sanitation workers, administers them ‘No Use Plastic’ pledge

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The journey of Urban swachhata would have not been possible without the dedicated and tireless services of our sanitation champions and Safaimitras, who have continued to keep our cities clean even during pandemic times,” Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri said on Saturday.

To mark the rollout of the Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0, Puri has made an appeal to all State governments and urban local bodies to join together on Gandhi Jayanti being observed as Swachhata Divas to felicitate every sanitation worker across all cities of the nation.

On the occasion, Puri felicitated 30 Safai Sevaks of NDMC and administered the



“No Use Plastic” pledge to the gathering in the presence of Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs- Kaushal Kishor and Union Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra.

Lekhi said that in the time of Covid19 pandemic, the role of safaimitra was very crucial as they tirelessly performed their duties brilliantly not only

in Delhi but also across the States. She said NDMC is continuously organising skill training and mechanization of their work to ensure more hygiene and safety of the sanitation workers.

Kishore said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the broom to bridge the gap between a Prime Minister and a Safai Sevak as a role in Swachhata Mission which is now a nationwide people movement.

Kejriwal Govt floats tenders for inducting 640 low floor AC buses

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has floated tenders for inducting 640 low floor air-conditioned buses, including 190 electric buses, to strengthen the public transport fleet in the national capital.

In a notice published on Saturday, the Transport department issued the request for qualification and proposal (RFQP) for operation of 190 low floor air-conditioned private stage carriage electric buses under the Cluster scheme. Under the Cluster scheme of Delhi Integrated Multi Modal System (DIMTS), the government has so far inducted 3,033 buses.

A day before, the Transport department published RFQP for induction of

450 low floor AC buses under the Cluster scheme. The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) runs around 3,600 low floor buses. Together, the DTC and Cluster buses comprise the public transport fleet. Another important segment of public transport is Delhi Metro trains.

The new buses equipped with latest features like GPS, panic buttons, and CCTV cameras are expected to roll out on the city roads by mid-2022, if the bids are successfully carried out, officials of the department said.

The new low floor buses will replace old ones in two Clusters that will complete road life of 7.50 lakh kilometres by next year. This will ensure that people do not have to face shortage of buses, said a department officer.

17-yr-old stabbed to death by his school junior

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 17-year-old boy was stabbed to death by his school junior in southeast Delhi’s Okhla area on Friday outside a government school in Tehkhand. Police said that they have apprehended the juvenile.

According to a senior police official, the victim had reportedly abused the mother of the accused and when he refused to apologise to her, he was stabbed.

“Both the boys were in school uniform.

The victim, a Class 11 student, had three stab injuries and was shifted to a hospital where he succumbed to injuries during treatment,” said the senior police official.

Nishant Narayan appointed NDLS director

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Officer of 2011 batch of Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) Nishant Narayan has taken over as the new New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS) Director from RP Pandey, who took over as station director of Delhi Junction.

Narayan took over ahead of the rush of festive season at New Delhi Station which currently sees a footfall of about five lakhs per day when the full train operations exist.

Narayan is the third Direct Recruitment officer of IRTS to become Director of NDLS. The Ministry of Railways in 2016 had decided to post DR officers at Category A stations to work on image makeover of such stations which is the first public perception of a city.

EDMC extends deadline for licence renewal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) has extended the date of licence renewal without penalty till 31 October 2021. Standing Committee Chairman of EDMC, Bir Singh Panwar said that the last date of renewal of the general trade, factory license, veterinary license and health trade license without penalty is up to 31 October 2021. “All the stakeholders are advised to renew their licenses from the online portal of EDMC i.e. www.mcdonline.nic.in,” he said. Panwar said that unfortunately, several such establishments functioning in the EDMC area are still running without renewing their licenses.

Two arrested for robbing group of friends

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested two men for allegedly robbing a group of friends at gun-point in northwest Delhi’s Rani Bagh area. The accused have been identified as Gaurav (31), a resident of Baghat district in Uttar Pradesh, and Luvkush, a resident of Swaroop Nagar.

According to Parvinder Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer district, police received a police control room (PCR) call on September 27 regarding robbery at gun-point.

“Police team reached the spot at Rani Bagh, where complainant Abhishek Jain said that he, along with his group of friends, had come for dinner at one of his friends’ house,” said the DCP.

PIC TALK



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his birth anniversary, at Rajghat in New Delhi on Saturday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer Photo

FIR against Nambardar for illegal construction

Gurugram: Following a recommendation of the Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG) officials, the Gurugram police have registered an FIR against Nambardar of Sihi village in Gurugram for illegal construction and running commercial activities in a residential plot located on Railway Road near Mata Chintpurni Mandir.

It is alleged that Rakesh Dua who is also a Nambardar of Sihi village of Gurugram had illegally developed basements, shops and flats on the residential plot without the Change of Land Use (CLU) from a concerned department.

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Sustainable development of rural areas vital: Min

Srinagar: Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh Saturday said the holistic and sustainable development of the nation is possible only if rural areas are developed at the grass root level.

He said the present government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "very keen" to develop rural areas by empowering regional and local institutions.

The Minister made these remarks at a function organised by Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission - UMEED at Singhpora Pattan of Baramulla district.

The Minister visited the area as part of the Central Government's special public outreach programme, which is aimed to get the first hand appraisal of public feedback at

the ground level.

Paying rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversaries, Singh recalled their contribution for rural development by means of Gram Swaraj and Gram development.

He said women have a leading role in socio-economic development and there is a need to provide them with appropriate platforms where they can showcase their talent.

Terming the PRIs as the real agents of rural development, the minister emphasised on them to play a positive and productive role so as to ensure holistic and inclusive development at grass root levels.

He assured that full support and cooperation would be provided to them by the Centre. He further said that

J&K is the first region where 73rd constitutional amendment has been effectively implemented.

Singh also enlisted various initiatives taken to create viable and sustainable livelihood opportunities in rural areas and said that efforts were being taken to ensure financial inclusion at gram panchayat level.

The Minister also interacted with several Self Help Groups (SHG's) and assured that SHG products will be linked with India Expo for wider marketing and sales.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated several community assets worth ₹664.72 lakh.

These community assets have been developed by the Rural Development Department under MGNREGA and other sponsored programmes.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State for Steel and Rural Development Faggan Singh Kulaste Saturday completed his visit to Kupwara district as part of the outreach programme.

He said Kupwara being the frontier district has special attention of the Union Government to build its infrastructure and economy under aspirational District status.

The Minister inaugurated a 4 km Magam-Ucher road, constructed at a cost of ₹3.96 crore under the PMGSY project and also carried out inspection of under construction 500 bedded Associated Hospital for Government Medical College Handwara.

He said the sole aim of the public outreach programme is to assess the developmental scenario of Jammu and

Kashmir and reiterated that the government is committed to the overall development of the union territory.

Later, the minister convened a detailed meeting with DDCs, BDCs, PRIs and public delegations at Environment Hall, Handwara.

The public representatives deliberated on projected issues including development of tourist resort Bangus, speedy construction of Baramulla-Kupwara four lanes Highway and extension of railways to the Kupwara district.

Responding to the demands of the public representatives and other delegations, Kulaste said he would take up the matter with the concerned departments at the Centre as well as with UT administration and assured that these demands would be

fulfilled on priority basis.

Commenting on the demand of augmentation of water supply in the district, the minister said that every household will get tap water connection by the end of 2022 as per the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission of Central Government.

The Union Minister also took a pledge and participated in a cleanliness drive at Dak Banglow Kupwara as a part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations. Remembering the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, the minister said that the best tribute to him is to uphold the slogan and symbol of 'Swatchh Bharat Abiyan'.

Kulaste said the Swachhta programme was initiated by the Prime Minister that has opened its vistas across the length and breadth of the country. **PTI**

RS employees collect ₹21 lakh for colleagues who fell prey to Covid

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu has distributed cheques of ₹3.50 lakh to the kin of each of the six officials and staff of the Secretariat who died of Covid during April-May this year. This total assistance of ₹21 lakh to the Covid victims of the Secretariat was provided from out of the contributions of the officials and staff of the Secretariat for providing relief to the victims of the pandemic.

The six employees who fell victim to the pandemic had put in 21 to 34 years of service in the Secretariat. Naidu interacted with the family members of the deceased and enquired about their sources of income and if all the retirement benefits due to the deceased were settled or not. Speaking briefly on the occasion, Naidu recalled the services of the deceased and

empathized with the families for losing the earning member of their families.

The Chairman commended the gesture of the Secretariat's officials and staff for providing financial assistance to the families of deceased and said "this gesture is in line with the Indian ethos of caring and sharing in the hour of distress".

The victims of the pandemic were Sukhvinder Singh and K. Vijaya Kumar both Private Secretaries, Neel Kanth and Bhupendra Singh, both Senior Chamber Attendants, Vijaya Laxmi Sharma, Deputy Director (Security) and Ashok Kumar Sahoo, Director. Secretary General of Rajya Sabha Dr PPK Ramacharyulu, senior officials of the Secretariat and family members of deceased were present on the occasion. **PNS**



People wade through a flooded area after heavy rainfall in Aurangabad district on Saturday

Rajnath: None can doubt patriotism of Muslim populace in Lakshadweep

Kavaratti: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said no one in the world can dare to question or doubt the patriotism of the Muslim populace in Lakshadweep or even the other inhabitants of the islands as they have thwarted attempts of anti-India forces to brew trouble or instigate the people there against the country.

"No one on Earth can dare to doubt the patriotism of the Muslim people in Lakshadweep. No one can put a question mark on the patriotism of the people of Lakshadweep," Singh said during his speech on the occasion of the 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

He was addressing the people after unveiling a statue of

Gandhi.

Singh, during the event, also spoke on the issue of climate change and how global warming and resulting rise in ocean levels pose a threat to the existence of Lakshadweep.

He said that as part of the government's "positive attitude" towards reduction of carbon emissions, the Prime Minister has decided to ban manufacture, sale and usage of single use plastics and related products from July 1 next year. He also said that cleanliness on land should also include cleaning of the oceans and this has been emphasised upon by the PM.

"The marine ecosystem has to be kept clean," he added. On the issue of anti-India forces attempting to foment trouble in

the island, Singh said that due to the strategic location and importance of the island archipelago, such attempts have been made in the past and even now, but efforts of such entities were unsuccessful because of the islanders.

He further said that there were attempts to promote extremism, radicalism and terrorism in Lakshadweep, but all these efforts failed and for that he congratulated the people of the island union territory.

He also said that the BJP government at the Centre has taken a strict stance against terrorism, which was evident from its "cross-border" actions against terrorists.

However, where radicalisation was concerned, the gov-

ernment has not taken such a hard stance and has instead opted for "counselling" to bring those radicalised back into the mainstream. The Defence Minister said the people of the island were true followers of Mahatma's principles as there was no hatred amongst them on the basis of caste, creed or religion. He said that even the present BJP government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was totally against any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed and religion.

However, "some vested interests" have been projecting the present central government as "anti-minority", which was "incorrect" and a "false allegation", the Union minister said.

Counting of votes for Pipili bypoll today amid tight security

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Counting of votes for the bypoll to the Pipili Assembly constituency in Odisha's Puri district will start from 8 am on Sunday amid tight security and strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols, State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) S K Lohani said.

Three-tier security will be provided at the counting centre, Lohani said.

"All officials and agents will have to wear face masks and follow Covid-19 protocols. Thermal scanning has been made mandatory", Lohani said.

To avoid crowding at the counting tables and to check the spread of the infection, a video feed of the counting will be dis-

played on large screens outside the centre," he said.

The by-election was held on September 30. Postal ballots will be counted in the first 30 minutes while the counting session for the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) will begin from 8.30 am, Lohani said.

The results of five Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs) and EVMs will be randomly matched after the counting is over, he said.

While briefing reporters, the CEO said a total of 72 Government officials, all fully vaccinated, will participate in the exercise.

The vote count will be held at 14 tables in three halls at Penthakota Warehouse.

Gorakhpur records highest October rainfall in 100 years

Gorakhpur: With incessant heavy rain that lashed the district in the last 24 hours, Gorakhpur received its highest rainfall of October in 100 years, officials said on Saturday.

The city on Saturday recorded 193 mm rainfall.

According to records maintained by the MeT, the district measured 218.7 mm rainfall in 1894.

There were continuous rains from 8.30 am on Friday to 8.30 am on Saturday, leading to a dip in temperature and waterlogging in several parts of

the district and affecting traffic movement.

According to MeT official Kailash Pandey, "there is a well-marked low pressure area over southwest Bihar and adjoining UP (east) which has caused this heavy rain of 193 mm in the last 24 hours."

In the next 48 hours, moderate to low rain is expected in the region.

During this period, day temperature may be around 30 degrees Celsius while night temperature may fall down to 22 degrees, he said. **PTI**

All campuses in Kerala to have addiction-free clubs before next Gandhi Jayanti: Minister

Thiruvananthapuram: All educational institutions in Kerala will have "Vimukthi Clubs" before Gandhi Jayanti next year to create proper awareness among the younger generation about the menace of addiction to intoxicants.

The addiction-free campaign of the state Excise Department and Vimukthi Mission will be ramped up by forming "Vimukthi Clubs" in all the educational institutions before Gandhi Jayanti day next year, state Excise and Local Self Governments Minister M V

Govindan Master said here on Saturday.

Inaugurating a month-long, state-wide addiction-free awareness campaign on the occasion of the 152nd Gandhi Jayanti Day Celebrations here, the Minister said addiction-free programmes will be organised in over 20,000 wards in local self-governments across the state with public participation.

He said a sustained campaign need to be carried out to create proper awareness against addiction. **PTI**

Drunkard killed child after he failed to sodomise him, arrested: Police

Mathura: A class 9 student of the Mathura Refinery Kendriya Vidyalay, who had gone missing early this week and whose body was found behind bushes outside a nearby village, was killed by a drunkard who had tried to sodomise him, police said on Saturday after arresting the accused.

"The mobile phone of the deceased student was also recovered from the accused Manoj, a resident of Mathura," the Refinery police station's SHO, Inspector Lokesh Bhati, said.

He said the accused has confessed his guilt and disclosed that he killed the child as he failed to sodomise him.

A habitual drinker, the accused said he used to lure children for sodomy because his wife had left him soon after their marriage.

The father of the deceased student had on Thursday complained that his son had gone missing.

The child's body was found on Friday behind bushes outside the neighbouring Baad village under the Mathura Refinery police station area. **PTI**

UP principal's campaign to educate Divyang students draws praise from PM

Bareilly (UP): An Uttar Pradesh teacher's initiative to ensure physically-challenged children do not miss out on school education has taken the shape of a campaign, which now has hundreds as beneficiaries, and has also drawn praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Deepmala Pandey, who is the principal of a primary school in Dabhora Gangapur village in Bareilly district, began the initiative in 2018 to identify out of school physically-challenged children and get them enrolled, and now it is known as the "one teacher, one call" campaign.

What was once the cause of an individual, has at present 350 teachers of different schools contributing to it.

The "one teacher, one call" campaign drew praise from Prime Minister Modi, who in his Sunday "Maan ki Baat" lauded her efforts, and that of other teachers' who joined her in the drive.

Pandey said she was moved by the helplessness of a nine-year-old boy named Anmol, who lived in her school's neighbourhood and would silently watch children coming to the school.

She found that the boy was mute from

birth and his family never thought of sending him to school.

The principal told PTI that she was deeply touched by this and resolved to get the child admitted to a school anyhow.

Pandey said she started calling the boy to her school and saw a dramatic change in him after a year.

"Today Anmol is studying in class IV in the same school," she said with satisfaction.

Buoyed by her success, she roped in more teachers and launched a drive to look for physically-challenged children in the village and other parts of the district.

"A total of 350 teachers are today part of the 'one teacher, one call' campaign launched in 2019," she said.

With the COVID-19 pandemic hampering mobility, she took recourse to social media and organised webinars to link more and more teachers in the movement.

"Around 600 physically challenged children have been moved to different schools as part of the drive in the district so far," she said, adding efforts are on to spread the campaign to the national level. **PTI**

World largest tricolour unfurled...

From Page 1

The flag symbolizes India's vastness and creativity of Khadi artisans", chairman of KVIC V K Saxena tweeted.

To boost the morale of the soldiers in the area, Lieutenant General YK Joshi, GOC-in-C Northern Command, Lieutenant General PGK Menon, GOC, Fire and Fury Corps and senior military and civil officials were also present to celebrate the 152nd birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation along with 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', commemorating 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

The flag is the largest hand-woven and hand-spun Cotton Khadi flag ever manufactured in India. The flag is made by 'Khadi Dyers and Printer' based in Mumbai which is affiliated to Khadi Village and Industries Commission.

"Gandhi Ji had said that our flag is a symbol of unity, humanity, and a sign accepted by everyone in the country. It's a symbol of greatness for the country... In coming years, this flag (in Leh) will be a sign of enthusiasm for our soldiers," the Ladakh Lieutenant Governor said after unveiling the huge national flag.

Soon after the monumental flag was unveiled the Indian Air Force helicopters were seen flying over the site of the event in Leh to salute and honour the National flag.

5 crore houses provided...

From Page 1

In the minds of some people, this picture emerges as soon as the name of the village is taken, he said.

"I think those who had the responsibility of policy-making for a long time, should have asked themselves this question," the Prime Minister commented.

The Prime Minister said that perhaps the earlier policy-makers did not realize the importance of water as they came from water-abundant areas.

Modi said coming from a State like Gujarat he has seen drought conditions and knows the importance of every drop of water. That is why being the Chief Minister of Gujarat, providing water to the people and water conservation were his priorities. The Prime Minister said from independence till 2019, only 3 crore households in our country had access to tap water. Since the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019, 5 crore households have been connected with water connections.

Apparently referring to the

political leaders during Congress regimes, he said these people had never seen poverty which remained an attraction for them, a means of showing off literature and intellectual knowledge.

"These people should have strived for an ideal village but they kept liking the shortcomings in the village," Modi said.

Modi interacted with Gram Panchayats and Pani Samitis / Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC) on Jal Jeevan Mission through video conference.

Along with members of Gram Panchayats and Pani Samitis, Union Ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Prahlad Singh Patel, Bishweswar Tudu, Chief Ministers and Ministers from States were present.

The Prime Minister said since the Independence till 2019, only 3 crore households in our country had access to tap water. Since the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019, 5 crore households have been connected with water connections.

Cong reposes faith in Baghel, picks...

From Page 1

Baghel's political adviser Vinod Verma has also been stationed in UP for more than one month now. "The Congress needs an OBC face, specifically a Kurmi leader. Baghel fits in that role. His appointment sends a clear message that the party values him," a senior party leader said.

"The fact that the appointment comes before Rahul Gandhi's visit clearly shows the trust he and the leadership bestows on the Chief Minister," the leader said.

Baghel was also the observer for the Assam Assembly election held in March. Party general secretary Priyanka and others had appreciated the efforts of Baghel even though the party could not form the

Government.

Winning a total of 50 seats in Assam, the Congress lost the election and BJP won a majority 75 seats and became the first non-Congress alliance to win two consecutive terms in the State. The Congress, however, gained 26 seats since the last 2016 Assembly election and also saw former Congress man Himanta Biswa Sarma taking over as the CM.

Tension within Chhattisgarh Congress has been rife over the past few days with MLAs arriving in Delhi in a supposed show of strength. The Congress seems to be divided into two camps in the State - one belonging to Baghel and the other to State Health Minister TS Singh Deo.

The feud in the State poli-

tics comes at a time when the Congress is already facing an ongoing crisis within its ranks in Punjab and Rajasthan. Charanjit Singh Channi took over as the new Chief Minister following Captain Amarinder Singh's resignation over a political tussle between him and Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu who too quit as state union chief within two months of his appointment.

The demand for change of guard in Chhattisgarh surfaced after Baghel completed two-and-a-half years as Chief Minister in June 2021, and Singh Deo's supporters demanded change in leadership despite the Congress not saying anything about rotation in the state's top position when it came to power in 2018.

Post or no post...

From Page 1

Upset with some appointments after Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi took charge, Sidhu had put in his papers and, though efforts were made to placate him, it remains unclear if his resignation has been accepted.

The cricketer-turned-politician in his tweet also posted photos of Mahatma Gandhi and Shastri.

After a bitter fight between the then Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and Sidhu, the Congress took a call to replace Amarinder with Channi. However, Amarinder vowed to defeat Sidhu if he contests the assembly elections, dubbed Gandhi siblings as "inexperienced" and later announced that he will leave the party.

After Sidhu's resignation plunged the party in a turmoil, Channi met him and it was agreed to set up a coordination panel of the party to take key decisions. Sidhu has been made part of the panel.

Centre to start buying...

From Page 1

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi had taken up the issue during his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday.

In its order on Saturday, the Ministry said "in the interest of the farmers, it has been decided to start procurement of paddy from October 3 in the State of Haryana and Punjab".

Expressing gratitude to Modi for agreeing to his "personal request" Punjab Chief Minister Channi said the decision will help in ensuring smooth and hassle free procurement of paddy to the satisfaction of the farmers.

"On Channi's request, the Centre allows Punjab to start paddy procurement from October 3. The Chief Minister thanks Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his personal indulgence to resolve this issue expeditiously," the Punjab CMO tweeted.

The procurement of Kharif crops - paddy and millet- was earlier to start from October 1, but due to heavy rains, the Central Government had postponed the procurement till October 11 as the moisture content in fresh arrivals was beyond permissible limits.

The decision has irked farmers and many of them protested on Saturday in several parts of the two states, laying siege to the houses of many Ministers, MPs and MLAs.

4 bodies found ...

From Page 1

The NIM principal, Colonel Amit Bisht said four bodies had been spotted on the mountain slope from a helicopter. He said the operation is likely to end on Sunday.

It will be recalled that a 20-

EC bars Chirag, Paras from using...

From Page 1

Chirag in his letter to EC dated September 10, reiterated the claim for the post of national president of the party. Further, vide the letter of September 23, the group led by Chirag sought rejection of any claim by Paras regarding allotment of symbol in the forthcoming bye-elections in Bihar. Again on September 29, the group has requested for allotment of symbol "Bungalow" in the forthcoming bye-elections. Chirag again on October 1, in his oral submission to the Commission reiterated the position indicated in his previous references and sought a decision from the Commission before the last date of nomination October 8. On the other hand, Paras sought allotment of symbol and extension of four weeks time to furnish documents on September 23. The poll body has allowed Paras to furnish documents by October 8.

Modi terms Opp stand on farm laws ‘opportunistic’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a strongly-worded criticism of those opposing farm reforms, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hit-out at the Opposition for being “opportunistic” and called their stand as ‘Rajneetik dhokhad-hadi’ and “intellectually dishonesty”.

In a direct attack on the Opposition parties for siding with agitationists, Modi said that these were the same people who wrote letters to chief ministers asking them to do the exact same thing that his Government has done.

Accusing the Opposition of “intellectual dishonesty” and “political deceit” over its criticism of his government’s three farm laws, Modi said tough and big decisions need to be taken to bring benefits to citizens who should have received them decades ago.”

“If you look at those who are opposing the pro-farmer reforms today, you will see the real meaning of intellectual dishonesty and rajneetik dhokhadhadi,” Prime Minister said in an interview to the ‘Open Magazine’.

Without referring to Congress, the Prime Minister said these were the same people who wrote in their election manifesto that they would enact the same reforms that the



BJP government has brought.

“Yet, just because some other political party, blessed by the will of the people, is enacting the same reforms, they have made a complete U-turn and in a brazen display of intellectual dishonesty, completely disregard what will benefit the farmers and only seek what they think will benefit them politically,” he said.

The Prime Minister stated that the Centre is committed to empowering the small farmers in every way and that his government is ready to sit together and discuss those issues.

“Many meetings have also been held in this regard but no one till now has come up with a specific point of disagreement that we want this to be changed,” he said.

Modi said that he takes decisions based on Mahatma Gandhi’s talisman that sees how his decisions will benefit or harm the poorest or weak-

est person.

“While taking decisions, I stop even if the slightest of vested interests is visible to me. The decision should be pure and authentic and if the decision passes through all these tests, then I firmly move forward to implement such a decision,” he asserted.

The Prime Minister also said, “In such a large country as India, is it possible to make a decision which is acceptable to 100 per cent people? Although if a decision is not acceptable to even a small number of people, they are not wrong. They may have their own genuine concerns but if the decision is in the larger interest, then it is the responsibility of the government to implement such a decision.”

The months-long agitation of farmers, mainly from Punjab and Haryana in the outskirts of Delhi, has been insisting on the repeal of the three farm laws.

₹190-cr Mumbai building seized in bank fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached a residential building worth ₹190.62 crore, located at Ceejay House Worli, Mumbai, under Prevention of Money Laundering Act in an ongoing investigation against Sanjay Singal, former CMD of Bhushan Power & Steel Limited and others in a case involving bank fraud.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of FIR dated April 5, 2019 filed by CBI under the Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act against BPSL and others for a criminal conspiracy amongst themselves and with unknown public servants of banks and others to cheat banks/ financial institutions/ Government exchequer, the ED said in a statement.

“In furtherance of the said criminal conspiracy, they dishonestly and fraudulently diverted huge amounts of bank funds through companies/ shell companies/ entities, and deliberately defaulted in repayment of bank loans and also claimed inadmissible Cenvat credit,” it said.

Money Laundering investigations has revealed that the funds that were utilised for purchase of this property by



Assurity Real Estate LLP were siphoned from BPSL and routed through shell companies projecting the same as unsecured loans. It has been established that the so called unsecured loans were without any documentation and repayment obligations, the agency said.

Earlier, a prosecution complaint had also been filed by the ED in the impugned case against 25 accused and assets totaling to ₹4,229.54 crore have already been attached, thus bringing the total attached proceeds of crime to ₹4,420.16 crore.

They did not use the bank funds for the purpose for which the same were sanctioned, committed forgery for the purpose of cheating, used forged documents and falsified the accounts

causing wrongful loss to the lending banks/ financial institutions/ government exchequer and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves.

It was also alleged in the CBI FIR that BPSL had availed various credit facilities from 33 different banks/ financial institutions and the outstanding defaulted amount as on January 30, 2018 was ₹47,204 crore.

BPSL and its directors deliberately defaulted in repayment of loan amounts to lender banks/financial institutions as per the time schedule and their accounts remained continuously irregular; that subsequently, the lead bank PNB declared the account of BPSL as NPA on December 31, 2015, followed by the other banks/financial institutions.

ED attaches 15 properties in illegal liquor trade case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has taken possession of 15 immovable properties worth ₹1.31 crore belonging to Sanjay Pratap Singh, his wife, Kiran Devi and his associate, Srikumar Singh in a case of illegal trade of liquor.

The immovable properties are in the form of an under-construction building, a brick kiln and 13 plots of land.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of FIR dated December 7.12.2012 and charge-sheet dated February 4, 2013 filed by Nawada Police (Bihar Police) against Sanjay Pratap Singh and others under the provisions of Indian Penal Code.

The FIR was registered consequent to the hooch tragedy, in which 21 people died in Ara, Nawada of Bhojpur district, Bihar by consuming poisonous alcohol.

Police investigation revealed that the deceased persons had consumed spurious liquor which was manufactured and sold by Sanjay Pratap Singh and his associates illegally.

First ASI, Bhojpur, Ara vide judgement dated July 24,

2018, held 14 accused persons including Sanjay Pratap Singh, guilty of the offences under IPC, Excise Act and SC/ST Act and awarded sentence of life imprisonment with fine of Rs.25,000 to each accused person.

Investigation under PMLA revealed that Sanjay Pratap Singh has invested the Proceeds of Crime generated through illegal trade of ‘desi’ wine for acquiring immovable properties in his name and in the name of his wife, Kiran Devi, who had no independent source of income.

In the year 2011, with intention to legalise his tainted income from ‘desi’ wine, Sanjay Pratap Singh formed an unregistered firm namely Bhojpur Wine Traders to launder Proceeds of Crime, the agency said.

“He (Sanjay Pratap Singh) was the key person in the firm, who solely managed the business affairs. Further investigation reveals that he used the Proceeds of Crime into the construction business namely Maa Construction where ill-gotten money has been used for acquisition of immovable property,” it added.

5 pharma firms join hands for trial of oral anti-viral Covid pill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Five pharma firms—Cipla, Dr Reddy’s, Emcure, Sun Pharma and Torrent—have collaborated to conduct clinical trials of an oral anti-viral Covid-19 pill Molnupiravir to treat mild Covid-19 in outpatients in India.

Developed by Merck Sharpe Dohme (or MSD in quickspeak) and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, Molnupiravir is an experimental drug consumed in the form of a pill that is likely to be available in the market soon.

Between March and April, these five pharma companies had individually entered into a non-exclusive voluntary licensing agreement with Merck Sharpe Dohme (MSD) to manufacture and supply Molnupiravir to India and over 100 low and middle-income countries (LMICs).

However, the race is not confined to the five companies that have been licenced by MSD. There are several other Indian companies and one of the early ones in this was Hyderabad-based Natco Pharma, which apparently has completed the clinical trials and is awaiting marketing and manufacturing approval from the Indian drug regulator.

The five pharma compa-

nies that had entered into a collaboration agreement, will jointly sponsor, supervise and monitor the clinical trial in India. One of the company officials revealed that the trials were still on but it was just a matter of weeks before they would all be seeking the regulatory approval and said, there will be “lot of Molnupiravir available then.”

In a joint note shared by the companies in June, as per the directive of the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization, Dr. Reddy’s will conduct the clinical trial using its product, and the other four pharma companies will be required to demonstrate equivalence of their product to the product used by Dr. Reddy’s in its clinical trial.

Following the clinical trial protocol approval given by the Drugs Controller General of India, the clinical trial will be conducted for the treatment of mild Covid-19 in an outpatient setting.

The process was planned to conclude by September and involved a recruitment of 1,200 patients. Such collaboration for a clinical trial is being described as “a first-of-its-kind within the Indian pharma industry.” On successful completion of the clinical trial,

India crosses 90-crore Covid vaccination mark



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has crossed the landmark of 90 crore Covid-19 vaccinations, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Saturday.

As per the CoWIN dashboard, 90,10,04,270 Covid vaccine doses have been administered across the country so far. Of these, 65,69,56,299 are first doses, while 24,40,47,971 are second doses.

“Shastri ji gave the slogan ‘Jai Jawan - Jai Kisan’. Revered Atal ji added ‘Jai Vigyan’ and PM @Narendra Modi Ji gave the slogan ‘Jai Anusandhan’. Today the result of anusandhan is this corona vaccine. #JaiAnusandhan,” Mandaviya tweeted.

The nationwide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers (HCWs) getting inoc-

ulated in the first phase. The vaccination of frontline workers (FLWs) started on February 2. Uttar Pradesh has seen the most vaccinations at 10,90,16,352 doses, followed by Maharashtra (8,31,71,551), Madhya Pradesh (6,38,54,081), Gujarat (6,13,33,339), and West Bengal (5,85,50,307).

Meanwhile, the country reported as many as 24,354 new infections and 234 deaths in the last 24 hours. The active caseload in India stands at 2,73,889 which is the lowest in 197 days. The recovery rate currently stands at 97.86 per cent which is the highest since March last year.

More than 25,400 recoveries were recorded in the last 24 hours, pushing the overall recoveries to 3,30,68,599. A total of 57.19 crore tests have been conducted across the country so far.

Molnupiravir, the note had said, is an oral anti-viral that inhibits the replication of multiple RNA viruses including SARS-CoV-2, as per the sources.

each company will independently approach the regulatory authorities for approval to manufacture and supply Molnupiravir for the treatment of Covid-19 in India.

Wetlands of India Portal launched by MoEF Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav on Saturday launched a web portal – ‘Wetlands of India Portal’ – giving all info related to wetlands of the country. It also heralded the iconic week of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav of the Ministry being celebrated from October 4 to 10.

“The portal is a single point access to all information relating to wetlands. One can login on (http://indianwetlands.in/), said an official adding that the portal is a dynamic system for processing information and making it available to the stakeholders in an efficient and accessible manner.

The portal also hosts capacity building material, data repository, videos and information for students. Importantly, a dashboard for

The portal also enables citizen engagement. Currently citizens can register themselves and upload wetland related pictures across different themes

each State and UT has been developed to access the portal and populate it with information of wetlands in their administration. The portal would be populated by the different States and UTs and additional features may be added in the coming months, he added.

The portal also enables citizen engagement. Currently citizens can register themselves

and upload wetland related pictures across different themes. Importantly, registered citizens can opt to take the pledge to become wetland mitra and indicate their State/UT and areas of interest. This information would allow States and UTs to contact interested persons for various programs and initiatives, the official added.

The portal has been developed under a Technical Cooperation project “Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection” (Wetlands Project) of the Ministry in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The project is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) under the International Climate Initiative (IKI), the official informed.

106 names for judgeships cleared

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has cleared seven out of 106 names for judgeships in higher judiciary and one for the appointment as the Chief Justice of a High Court out of nine names recommended by the Supreme Court collegium recently, Chief Justice N V Ramana said on Saturday.

While speaking at a function here, the CJI, who sought “cooperation and support” from the Centre, said that he has been assured of early clearance of the names by Law Minister Kiren Rijju.

“The government has cleared some of them (names for judgeship) and the Hon’ble Law Minister has assured that the rest of the things will come in one or two days. I thank the government for clearing these vacancies and giving quick access to justice to the people,” the CJI said at an event here.

Besides recommending an unprecedented nine names for judgeships in the apex court in one go on August 17, which was swiftly cleared by the

Centre, Justice Ramana has been acting proactively to fill up huge vacancies in high courts by recommending the names for 106 judges and nine new chief justices in different high courts.

“My companion judges and I have attempted to enable litigants to get faster justice. I want to state that, since May onwards, my team so far has recommended the appointment of 106 judges and nine new Chief Justices to various High Courts.

“The government has cleared seven names out of the 106 judges and one out of the nine for chief justices, so far. I expect that the government will clear the rest of the names very soon. These appointments will take care of pendency to some extent. I seek the cooperation and support of the Government to enable access to justice and to strengthen democracy,” he said.

Justice Ramana said that the clearance of names by the Centre would take care of the pendency of cases to “some extent” in high courts.

The CJI, who is also the Patron-in-chief of the National



Legal Services Authority, was speaking at the launch of the six-week-long “The Pan India Legal Awareness and Outreach Campaign” by NALSA at Vigyan Bhavan that was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary.

Recently on September 16, the three-member collegium, of which Justices U U Lalit and A M Khanwilkar, had recommended to the Centre eight names of judges for ele-

service deploys tools and resources to prevent harmful behaviour.

Previously, the Facebook-owned company had stated that more than 95 per cent of bans are due to the unauthorised use of automated or bulk messaging (spam). The global average number of accounts that WhatsApp bans to prevent abuse on its platform is around eight million per month.

According to the messaging platform, taking action means it has either banned an account or restored a previously banned account as a result of the complaint. More than three million Indian accounts were banned by WhatsApp, which also received 594 grievance reports, between June 16 and July 31. The global average number of accounts that

Shah flags off car rally of NSG

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday flagged-off an All India Car Rally of National Security Guard (NSG), ‘Sudarshan Bharat Parikrama’ from the historic Red Fort here as part of the ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ being organised to mark the 75th anniversary of Independence

In his speech, Shah said, “If the youth, scientists and technocrats of the country join hands, then everything is possible and India can become self-reliant with pride and its head held high. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the slogan of Make in India along with Self-Reliant India, the youth of the country should associate themselves with this goal so that India becomes a global manufacturing hub with Indian products going all over the world under the Made in India label.”

“It is our collective responsibility that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, we make the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav a source of inspiration and a medium for awakening consciousness and make it a path for the development of India,” he said.

The cycle rallies covering a distance of 41,000 kilometres and the Sudarshan Bharat Parikrama Car Rally starting from Saturday is an effort to awaken consciousness in the country and it will take us towards the fulfilment of the goals of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, he further said.

The two main objectives of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav are to try to revive the immortal saga of the unsung martyrs who made supreme sacrifice for the country’s freedom and to connect with the development of the country by awakening the spirit of patriotism in the new generation, the Home Minister said.

“Freedom fighters laid down their lives and brought us where we are today by attaining freedom for the country, but can we live our whole life for the country, for this we should ensure our participation in the development of the country,” he said.

Central Armed Police Forces personnel are guarding the borders of the country in difficult conditions ranging from minus 43 to 43 degrees Celsius temperature, and, due to their sacrifice, today the country is safe and moving on the path of development, the minister said.

The year of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is the year of 130 crore Indians to take and fulfill their resolutions and only all these 130 crore resolutions can make India self-reliant, he added.

13,217 more test Covid +ve in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Even as the State administration is going ahead with series of measures to bring Kerala back to normal life by lifting the last vestiges of the lockdown slapped during the Covid-19 pandemic, the pandemic is not showing any signs of coming down while the death toll keeps on increasing day by day.

To make matters worse, the over worked and tired Government doctors in Kerala are on a warpath with the administration. All Government doctors across the State observed a day's fast on Saturday which happened to be the Gandhi Jayanti Day to press home their long standing demands.

A release issued by Veena George, the Health Minister, said that 13,217 new persons



Dr Vijaya Krishnan addressing Government doctors who staged a day-long fast in front of Secretariat at Trivandrum demanding better working conditions

were diagnosed with Covid-19 out of the 96,835 samples tested on Saturday.

The State logged 121 deaths during the last 24 hours and this took the death toll till date to 25,303. A Government doctor confided to The Pioneer that the fear among health professionals is that the State

may overtake Tamil Nadu in the death toll in another couple of months.

Tamil Nadu has lost 35,603 lives till Friday. The Health Minister's office was silent on the Test Positivity Rate on Saturday.

Meanwhile, doctors in Government hospitals across

the State, the real frontline warriors are a worried lot as their requests for appointing temporary doctors to tide over the shortage of staff was yet to find favour with the powers that be.

"Though we are over worked and exhausted, we have been denied the much needed rest and recuperation period. The risk allowance, an essential element in the service condition of doctors, which was cancelled is yet to be restored. The Government doctors were overlooked by the administration during the pay revision exercise. Moreover, physical assaults on doctors by patients as well as their relatives are mounting by the day," said Dr G S Vijayakrishnan, president, Kerala Government Medical Doctors Association while inaugurating the day long fast by Government doc-

tors in front of secretariat at Thiruvananthapuram.

Senior office bearers of Indian Medical Association too joined the agitating doctors to express their solidarity with their demands. Dr Suresh, general secretary, KGMDA, said that the coming days would see the medical fraternity in the State intensifying their agitation for just causes.

The review meeting held on Saturday to take stock of the Covid-19 situation and which was presided over by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan decided to re-open the cinema theatres in the State from October 25.

More than 50 films, many of them produced by spending hundreds of crore rupees have been in the cold storage because of the lock down declared by the Government as a sequel to the pandemic.

Active cases slump to 10,000 mark in AP

Amaravati: For the first time in many months, active Covid-19 cases in Andhra Pradesh came down to the 10,000 mark as the state reported 865 fresh positives and 1,424 recoveries in 24 hours ending 9 am on Saturday.

Also, nine more people succumbed to the infection in 24 hours, a health department bulletin said.

The State's Covid-19 chart showed a total of 20,51,998 positives, 20,27,229 recoveries and 14,195 deaths so far.

The active caseload is now 10,574, the bulletin said. Only three districts reported between 100 and 175 new cases in 24 hours, while four added between 50 and 100 each.

Three districts logged less than 50 cases each and three more registered less than 10 each. **PTI**

Families committing suicide post Covid matter of concern: K'taka CM

Bengaluru: Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said on Saturday families committing suicide post Covid was a matter of concern and said suicide was not a solution to any temporary problem.

His reaction came as a woman with her two children in the city outskirts ended her life on Friday a year after the death of her husband, who was a State-owned Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation employee, due to coronavirus.

A few other instances have also taken place where some family members ended their lives due to financial stress post Covid-19 lockdown.

"It (suicide) is a matter of concern for everyone. We need to stop people from committing

suicide due to stress and various other reasons.. Society and the Government should think over it...People have to come together to help each other in difficult times," the Chief Minister said.

He added that problems are temporary, for which suicide is not a solution. There will always be a solution to the problem, he opined.

"Joy and sorrow are part of our life. We should calm ourselves and we must perceive victory and defeat and joy and sorrow as temporary," Bommai said.

According to him, there are many reasons behind suicide including social, economic and personal. He said people take extreme steps in depression and it should be prevented. **PTI**

J&K LG inaugurates retreat ceremony on Indo-Pak border

Jammu: To promote border tourism, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the retreat ceremony at the Octroi post in Suchetgarh area along the International border with Pakistan on Saturday.

The Octroi post was decked up to witness the historic event. The 36 th Battalion of the BSF conducted an impressive parade to attract the tourists. The proposal to start an impressive parade on the lines of Wagah border in Amritsar was pending for clearance for a long time.

Recently when the Ministry of Home Affairs gave its nod the BSF authorities along with the Department of Tourism in Jammu decided to start the Retreat ceremony to attract a large number of tourists.

On its part the BSF author-

ities have been organising several events at the heritage Octroi post to attract visitors. A 131 ft high Tricolor was installed at the zero line on the occasion of Republic Day this year.

Speaking on the occasion LG Manoj Sinha said the Retreat ceremony is expected to boost the border tourism in the area.

He claimed several other important tourist locations across Jammu region will be developed in the next two years to attract more tourists. He said due to peaceful atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir the tourist arrivals are gradually increasing. He said 10.50 lakh tourists visited J&k in the month of July, 11.50 lakh in August and 12.82 in September 2021. **PNS**

Civilian killed in Srinagar by terrorists

Jammu: One civilian was killed by unidentified terrorists in Karan Nagar area of Srinagar while another was shot at near SD colony in Batmaloo on Saturday. Meanwhile, in the late evening terrorists targeted a CRPF party in Anantnag by lobbing a grenade towards them. No loss of life was reported in the incident.

According to a police spokesman, "at about 5.30 p.m Srinagar Police received information about a terror crime incident near Madina Complex Karan Nagar area of Srinagar where terrorists had fired on a civilian identified as Majid Ahmad Gofri son of Abdul Rehman resident of Chattabal Srinagar.

According to reports, the civilian had received four gunshot injuries and later succumbed in the SMHS hospital.

In the second attack on a civilian, a 45-year-old was shot at SD Colony in Batmaloo area of Srinagar. He was rushed to the hospital and was undergoing treatment till the time of filing the report. **PNS**

Ban on packaged mineral water in Sikkim from Jan 1

Gangtok: Sikkim Chief Minister PS Tamang on Saturday announced that packaged mineral water will be banned from January 1, 2022 in the Himalayan State, which is "blessed with natural resources that provide fresh and good quality drinking water".

Tamang, during his address here on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, also said that people, after the ban is implemented, will opt for water from natural resources, which is far healthier than that available in plastic bottles. "Everyone in Sikkim would now have to do away with mineral water bottles and opt for natural water resources," he stated.

The CM further noted that a three-month buffer time is being given to deplete the existing stock of mineral water bottles available with business establishments.

Tamang, who was accompanied by Governor Ganga Prasad during a cleanliness drive on the occasion, said that the state government is taking steps to stop supply of packaged drinking water from outside.

Notably, tourist hotspots like Lachen in North Sikkim have already banned packaged water bottles.

"Sikkim is rich in natural water resources and all requirements for water can be met within the state through environment-friendly initiatives," the CM added. **PTI**



Folk artists perform Mahishasura Mardini on a field ahead of Durga Puja festival, in Nadia district, on Saturday

PTI

25 gelatin sticks, detonators hidden by Maoists in forest unearthed in Telangana

Hyderabad: Twenty five gelatin sticks, an equal number of detonators and other material hidden by Maoists in a forest area in Mulugu district of Telangana was unearthed on Saturday, police said.

Police acted on information they received on Friday that explosive material was hidden in the forest area on the outskirts of a village in the district as per the orders of CPI (Maoist) leaders.

A search was conducted at the area on Saturday morning and a plastic drum dug out from a spot. It was found to contain 25 gelatin sticks, 25 detonators, a cloth used for making red flags, a medical kit, a pen drive, a flash camera, a small Bluetooth speaker, a power bank, chargers, papers containing resolutions of certain meetings and revolutionary literature, besides other material, a police release said.

All the items were seized, a 'panchnama' was conducted and they were shifted from there. The Maoists had hidden all the items in the forest area to target public representatives and police and also public and private properties, the release said.

Mulugu district Superintendent of Police Sangram Singh G Patil appealed to the Maoists to shun violence and to join the mainstream of society, it added. **PTI**

Mumbai rape case: Temple guest house operator held from Gujarat

Mumbai: A 27-year-old guest house operator of a temple in Gujarat was arrested in connection with a rape case registered by Kandivali police in Mumbai, an official said on Saturday.

Two others have already been arrested in this case, registered under Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and

Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act, 2013 provisions, the official said.

"The accused had raped the woman after promising to introduce her to the head priest of a temple. The temple's guest house operator's involvement was revealed recently after which he was held from Gujarat on September 30," he said.

The man has been remanded in police custody till October 8, the official added. **PTI**

Nagpur: 3 women held for trying to push 11-year-old girl into flesh trade

Nagpur: Three women were arrested for allegedly operating a sex racket and offering a 11-year-old girl to customers for a sum of ₹40,000, police in Nagpur in Maharashtra said on Saturday.

An official said the women were taking advantage of the minor girl's need for money to get her mother treated for cancer.

Acting on a tip off, which was confirmed by a decoy customer, the police's Social Security Branch (SSB) raided a home in Om Nagar on Friday, rescued the girl and arrested the three women operating the racket, he said.

They have been charged under IPC. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act as well as and Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act provisions, the official said. **PTI**

Will complete term, come back again after next elections: Gehlot

Jaipur: Amid internal rumblings in the Punjab and Chhattisgarh Congress, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday said his government will complete its full five-year tenure.

Gehlot also exuded confidence that he would again come back to power after the next Assembly elections and reflecting his aspiration to become the Rajasthan CM for a fourth term too, he added that he would allocate the Urban Development and Housing Department again to Shanti Dhariwal for the fourth time.

Speaking at a programme at his residence here to launch the 'Prashasan - Shaharon Ke Sang' and 'Prashasan - Gaon Ke Sang' campaign, Gehlot said there was speculation doing the rounds about Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh after Punjab.

"The Congress Government in Rajasthan will not only complete its five-year tenure but will again come back to power in the next assembly elections in the state," he said.

He added that he would again allocate the Urban Development and Housing Ministry to Shanti Dhariwal

for a fourth time as he has worked hard to make the campaign, launched today, successful.

In Rajasthan, former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and Gehlot have been locked in a leadership tussle.

In Chhattisgarh, after Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel completed his two-and-a-half-year tenure in June, the T S Singhdeo camp claimed that the Congress leadership in 2018 had agreed to give the post to him after the government completed half its term.

The Cabinet reshuffle and political appointments are also pending for long in Rajasthan and the Pilot camp MLAs have been demanding from the party high command to fulfil the promises made to him last year.

Pilot and 18 other Congress MLAs had revolted against the leadership of chief minister Gehlot in July last year with the political uncertainties in the State existing for over one month. During Saturday's programme, Gehlot, who underwent angioplasty in August, also said he is not going anywhere for the next 15-20 years.

He said after the blockage in his heart artery, treatment was done. "The prayers of the people of the entire state helped me. Nothing is going to happen to me...nothing will happen for 15-20 years, if someone wants to be unhappy, it's their problem," he said.

The Chief Minister claimed the ground level feedback reveals that there is no anti-incumbency in Rajasthan.

"This is what people are saying. We have not left any stone unturned in doing the work but (we) don't know what will happen next, but the mood of the public is of making us come back," said the CM.

In a light vein, he took a jibe at the bureaucracy saying bureaucrats are the first to worry if the government will stay in power or not and the first discussions on the issue start in the secretariat.

He reiterated that the government will not only run for five years but come back to power also after the next elections.

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Gehlot said after 60 years, the BJP adopted Mahatma Gandhi for political interests. **PTI**

Will bring back lost beauty of Ashtamudi lake: Kerala Minister

Kollam (Ker): A massive drive has been launched by the Kerala Government to clean and conserve the state's once scenic Ashtamudi Lake which is highly polluted due to dumping of sewage and encroachments.

After inaugurating a joint initiative of the Kollam corporation and Kollam district panchayat to clean the lake on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, state Finance Minister K N Balagopal said on Saturday that Ashtamudi lake, described as the gateway to Kerala's backwaters, will regain its lost beauty and adequate funds have been allocated for it.

Talking to PTI, he said the state government, in its previous budget, allocated Rs 500 crore in the first phase for rejuvenating water bodies across the state and a portion of this fund will be used for cleaning and rejuvenating the Ashtamudi lake facing the risk of permanent damage due to dumping of waste **PTI**



Tourists visit the historic Taj Mahal, on the occasion of 'Gandhi Jayanti,' in Agra on Saturday

PTI

Govt taking all steps to reduce man-animal conflict in State, says Kerala CM

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala Government is taking all possible steps to reduce the man-animal conflict in the State after considering the suggestions put forth by environmentalists, farmers and the general public, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Saturday.

At the online statewide inauguration of the national wildlife week celebrations, Vijayan said the Government has formed 204 public committees in districts that share border with forests to deal with the issues related to man-animal conflict. The Chief Minister said the Government was trying to implement a solution to end the conflict by seeking suggestions from farmers organisations, environmentalists, people's representatives and the general public.

"We are taking steps to keep the wild animals inside the forest and to keep them away from entering human habitat. We have formed 204 public committees including forest officials, people's representatives and locals in districts which share their borders with forests," he said. Vijayan said in areas where wild animals are likely to enter the human habitat, the government has used innovative biological defenses like palmyra tree walls, in addition to barbed wire fences powered by solar energy, rail fences, elephant walls, trenches, crash guards and rope fencing. He said mobile application 'Sarpa' is a first of its kind in the country. "The app is used for the protection of snakes and the safety of the people. Forest department accredited snake rescuers are registered in the app," Vijayan said.

The process of removing eucalyptus and acacia trees from the social forestry regions in the state is going on, Vijayan said, adding that natural and endemic trees will be planted to create natural forest. **PTI**

Inspector suspended for custodial torture of Aligarh-based trader

Bulandshahr (UP): An additional inspector posted in Kotwali Nagar here has been suspended from service after an investigation found he had allegedly tortured a businessman in custody over a check bounce case, officials said on Saturday.

A case has been registered against Additional Inspector Ajay Kumar, who was posted in Kotwali Nagar, in Aligarh's Harduaganj police station under kidnapping and other sections of the IPC and placed under suspension.

Aligarh-based businessman Abhishek Tiwari had accused Ajay Kumar and others of assault and threatening to kill him.

According to the FIR, Tiwari alleged that on the night of September 30, he was sitting in his factory in Aligarh's Talanagri. An SUV came and 8-10 people in the car called Tiwari to come outside and then started beating him.

Tiwari was pushed into a car and taken outside the district. When they neared Talanagri outpost in Aligarh, the car was stopped there.

Inspector Ajay Kumar, who was waiting there in a car, allegedly "kidnapped" the businessman and took him in his vehicle.

Bulandshahr Senior Superintendent of Police Santosh Kumar Singh said Rajeev Kumar Sharma, a resident of Kotwali Nagar area, had lodged a check bounce case on September 16 against Tiwari of ₹6.60 lakh.

The additional inspector was the investigator in that case. As it is not a serious offence under the IPC, there is no provision for arrest in the case.

Kumar, though, left the district without bringing it to the notice of the top officials and went to Aligarh without any reason. **PTI**

UN committee to review Taliban credential issue to meet in Nov

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN Credentials Committee that will review the Taliban's communication in which it nominated Suhail Shaheen as Afghanistan's envoy to the UN is expected to meet next month, with the General Assembly president saying the entire 193-nation strong membership will decide on the matter once the committee submits its findings on who should sit at Kabul's seat in the world body.

Myanmar and Afghanistan were the only two countries out of the 193-nation strong General Assembly membership that did not speak at the just-concluded high-level UNGA week.

"Yes, I am in touch with the (Credentials) Committee. Sweden is the chair of the committee. I have communicated the correspondences to the committee chair. Usually,



the committee meets in November, brings the report to the General Assembly in December for adoption and I am sure that Sweden will keep to the credentials schedule," President of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly Abdulla Shahid said in his first press conference here on Friday.

Shahid was responding to a question on whether he is in contact with the members of the Credentials Committee on the issue of representation of Myanmar and Afghanistan at the UN.

Gunmen kill 2 Taliban, 2 civilians in Jalalabad

AP ■ JALALABAD

Gunmen shot and killed two Taliban fighters and two civilians on Saturday in the eastern city of Jalalabad, a Taliban official said.

Two other civilians were wounded in the attack, said Mohammad Hanif, a cultural official for the city's surrounding province, Nangarhar.

No one claimed responsibility for the shooting, but the Islamic State group, which has a strong presence in Nangarhar and considers the Taliban an enemy, has previously claimed several attacks against them, including several killings in Jalalabad. The two civilians killed were Sayed Maroof Sadat,

a former spokesman for the Nangarhar department of agriculture, and his cousin, Sharif Sadat told the AP. Sadat's son was among the two wounded, he added.

Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in mid-August, attacks by IS militants against them have increased. The rise has raised the specter of a wider conflict between the two extremist groups.

On Friday, Taliban fighters raided a hideout of the Islamic State group north of Kabul, killing and arresting an unspecified number of militants, a Taliban spokesman said. IS activity in Nangarhar province has also led to Taliban crack-downs there.

Philippine Prez Rodrigo Duterte announces retirement from politics

AP ■ MANILA

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Saturday announced he was retiring from politics and dropping plans to run for vice president in next year's elections when his term ends, paving the way for his politician daughter to make a possible bid for the top post.

Speaking before reporters, Duterte said many Filipinos have expressed their opposition to his vice-presidential bid in surveys and public forums.

"The overwhelming sentiment of the Filipino is that I'm not qualified, and it would be a violation of the constitution," Duterte said. "In obedience to the will of the people."

"I will follow what you wish and today I announce my retirement from politics," he added.

The 76-year-old leader, known for his deadly anti-drugs crackdown, brash rhetoric and unorthodox polit-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, left, raises the hand of Sen. Christopher "Bong" Go who has filed his certificate of candidacy for vice-president during next year's elections before the Commission on Elections at the Sofitel Harbor Garden Tent in Metropolitan Manila, Philippines on Saturday

AP

ical style, earlier accepted the ruling party's nomination for him to seek the vice presidency in the May 9 elections. The decision outraged many of his opponents, who have described him as a human rights calamity in an Asian bastion of democracy.

Duterte announced his surprise withdrawal from the election after accompanying his former longtime aide, Sen.

Bong Go, to register his own vice presidential candidacy with the ruling party at a Commission on Elections center.

Philippine presidents are limited by the constitution to a single six-year term and opponents had said they would question the legality of Duterte's announced vice presidential run before the Supreme Court if he pursues his bid.

Pakistan Govt in talks with TTP terrorists for 'reconciliation': Imran

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has said his government is in talks with some groups of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) for "reconciliation" with the help of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The TTP, commonly known as Pakistani Taliban, is a banned militant group based along the Afghan-Pakistan border. It has carried out a number of major terror attacks across Pakistan and reportedly been using Afghan soil to plot terrorist attacks in Afghanistan.

There were reports that the Afghan Taliban had set free some dreaded TTP militants, including its leading commander Maulvi Faqir Mohammad, after taking over the war-torn country in August.

In an interview to Turkish government-owned TRT World news channel, Khan said there are different groups which form the TTP and some

of them want to talk to the Pakistan government for peace, the Dawn News reported on Friday.

"So, we are in talks with them. It's a reconciliation process," the Prime Minister said.

When asked if the government was asking the militants to lay down arms, Khan said, "Yes, we forgive them and they become normal citizens."

To a question on why the TTP was conducting attacks on Pakistan's security forces when they were in talks with the government, he said it was just a "spate of attacks".

"We might not reach some sort of conclusion or settlement in the end but we are talking," Khan added.

Responding to another query on whether the Afghan Taliban were acting as mediators between the TTP and Pakistan, the premier said: "Since the talks were taking place in Afghanistan, so in that sense, yes."

Pak's Interior Ministry seeks report in Sikh hakeem's killing

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Pakistan's Ministry of Interior has sought a report from the provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa into the killing of a well-known Sikh 'hakeem' in the country's restive northwestern city of Peshawar, an official said on Saturday.

'Hakeem' Sardar Satnam Singh (Khalsa), 45, who practised Unani medicine, was at his clinic on Thursday when some unidentified gunmen barged into his cabin and opened fire, killing him on the spot, the police said.

The assailants, who managed to flee the crime scene, fired four times, according to the police.

The federal interior Ministry sought a report from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government into the killing, according to an official.

An initial report has been sent to the interior ministry even as the police expanded the scope of their investigation, the official said.

In modest step, Qatar holds its 1st legislative elections

AP ■ DOHA

Qatari citizens voted for the first time in elections for an advisory council on Saturday — a long-delayed step that aims to give people in the autocratic sheikhdom slightly more say over how they're ruled.

The "experiment," as Qatari officials have described the vote, comes as the 2022 World Cup casts a global spotlight on the hereditarily ruled nation and generates pressure for reform. Qatar first introduced plans for the legislative elections in its 2003 constitution, but authorities repeatedly postponed the vote.

Qataris on Saturday headed to the polls to choose two-thirds of the 45-member Shura Council, which drafts laws, approves state budgets, debates major issues and provides advice to ruling emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. The body does not have sway, however, over matters of defense, security and the econ-

omy. The vast majority of the nearly 300 candidates are men, with nearly all hailing from the same family or tribe in several districts.

The country's electoral law, which distinguishes between born and naturalized Qatari citizens, and bars the latter from electoral participation, has drawn criticism from rights groups. In a report last month, Human Rights Watch described the system as "discriminatory," excluding thousands of Qataris from running or voting. The disqualifications have sparked minor tribal protests that led to several arrests.

Sheikh Tamim, who previously elected all the council members, will handpick the remaining 15 members of the body and retain ultimate authority over decision-making in the energy-rich country. Like other Gulf Arab states, Qatar bans political parties. Foreign workers outnumber Qatari citizens in the tiny country of 2.8 million nearly nine to one.

'Everybody is frustrated,' Biden says as his agenda stalls

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden on Saturday acknowledged frustrations as Democrats strain to rescue a scaled-back version of his \$3.5 trillion Government-overhaul plan and salvage a related public works Bill after frantic negotiations failed to produce a deal.

"Everybody's frustrated, it's part of being in government, being frustrated," Biden told reporters before leaving the White House for a weekend stay at his home in Wilmington, Delaware. He pledged to "work like hell" to get the two pillars of his domestic agenda passed into law, but refrained from laying out a new deadline.

The president had gone to Capitol Hill on Friday for a private meeting with House Democrats that was partly a morale booster for the disjointed caucus of lawmakers. According to lawmakers in the room, he discussed a \$1.9 trillion to \$2 trillion-plus price tag for the larger package that would expand the country's social safety net.

The White House and its allies in Congress are prepared



for protracted negotiations. Biden said he would soon travel around the country to promote the legislation and he acknowledged concerns that the talk in Washington had become too focused on the trillions in new spending and taxes in the Bill.

He pledged to do more to educate the public about the plan's new and expanded programs, which he contended have the support of the vast majority of the electorate.

"I'm going to try to sell what I think the American people will buy," Biden said Saturday, adding, "I believe that when the American people are aware of what's in it we'll get it done."

Libya's migrant roundup reaches 4,000 amid major crackdown

AP ■ CAIRO

A major crackdown in western Libya resulted in the detention of 4,000 migrants, including hundreds of women and children, officials said Saturday. The UN said initial reports were that at least one person was killed and 15 others injured in the crackdown.

The raids took place Friday in the western town of Gargaresh as part of what authorities described as a security campaign against illegal migration and drug trafficking. The Interior Ministry, which led the crackdown, made no mention of any traffickers or smugglers being arrested.

Officials said Friday that 500 illegal migrants had been detained but on Saturday reported that number had reached 4,000.

Gargaresh, a known hub for migrants and refugees, is about 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) west of Tripoli, the Libyan



Migrants pray on the deck of the Geo Barents, a rescue vessel operated by MSF (Doctors Without Borders) off Libya, in the central Mediterranean route

AP

capital. The town has seen several waves of raids on migrants over the years, but the latest one was described by activists as the fiercest so far.

Since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that ousted and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi, Libya has emerged as the dominant transit point for migrants fleeing war and poverty in Africa and

the Middle East, hoping for a better life in Europe. Human traffickers have benefited from the chaos in the oil-rich nation and smuggled migrants through the country's lengthy border with six nations. They then pack desperate migrants into ill-equipped rubber boats in risky voyages through the perilous Central Mediterranean Sea route.

UK to deploy Army officers to address fuel supply shortage

London: Almost 200 military tanker personnel will be deployed from Monday to provide temporary support to address the long queues at petrol stations across the UK due to supply shortages, the

government announced on Saturday.

The shortage has been caused by a severe insufficiency of truck drivers, especially heavy goods vehicle (HGV) drivers required to supply fuel.

The Government said that military personnel are currently undertaking their training at haulier sites across the country and will be on the road delivering fuel supplies from Monday.

PTI

Dubai Expo 2020 offers conflicting figures on deaths

Dubai: Dubai's Expo 2020 on Saturday offered conflicting figures for how many workers had been killed on site during construction of the massive world's fair, first saying five and then later three.

In a later statement, Expo apologized and described the initial figure as a "mistake." Authorities had refused for months to publicly provide any figures for construction-related casualties in the run-up to the \$7 billion fair rising from the desert outside Dubai, designed the burish the city's reputation abroad and draw millions of visitors. AP

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that Share Certificate No. 24632 for 100 shares bearing distinctive nos. 03789541 to 3789540 (both inclusive) comprised in Folio No. 020563 of Bharat Rasanyan Limited having its Registered Office at 1501 Vikram Tower, Rajendra Place, New Delhi registered in the name of Mr. Ved Parkash Gupta has been lost. I have now applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate in lieu of the above. Any person having any objection to the issue of duplicate Share certificate in lieu of said original share certificate, is requested to lodge his/her objection thereto with the Company at the above address or with their Registrars, M/s. Link Intime India Private Limited, Noble Heights, 1st Floor, Plot NH 2, C-1 Block LSC, Near Savitri Market, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058, in writing, within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice.
Name & Address of the Shareholder
Sh. Ved Parkash Gupta S/O Sh. Lachhi Ram, Flat No. FC 3/1101, CSEIHO, New Sunny Enclave, Sector 125 Kharar, SAS Nagar, Mohali 140301 Punjab
Place: Chandigarh Date: 03-10-2021

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that Share Certificate No. 24631 for 100 shares bearing distinctive nos. 03789441 to 3789540 (both inclusive) comprised in folio No. 20562 of Bharat Rasanyan Limited having its Registered Office at 1501 Vikram Tower, Rajendra Place, New Delhi registered in the name of Mrs. Usha Gupta has been lost. I have now applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate in lieu of the above. Any person having any objection to the issue of duplicate Share certificate in lieu of said original share certificate, is requested to lodge his/her objection thereto with the Company at the above address or with their Registrars, M/s. Link Intime India Private Limited, Noble Heights, 1st Floor, Plot NH 2, C-1 Block LSC, Near Savitri Market, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058, in writing, within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice.
Name & Address of the Shareholder
Mrs. Usha Gupta W/O Sh. Ved Parkash Gupta Flat No. 1101 C-3, Kendriya Vihar Near Sunny Enclave, Sector 125, Kharar, SAS Nagar, Mohali 140301 Punjab
Place: Chandigarh Date: 03-10-2021

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE, ASSAM
UZANBAZAR, GUWAHATI-1
No.DSW(ICDS)G/114/2021/45
CORRIGENDUM
Reference to e-Tender No.DSW(ICDS)G/114/2021/13, dated 07/09/2021 in regard to supply of Plastic Table and Chair to the Pre School Children of Anganwadi Centers and Mini-Anganwadi Centres of Assam, the following modifications are hereby notified through this corrigendum.
In SECTION 1B - QUALIFICATION CRITERIA FOR THE MANUFACTURERS - Point No. 4 at Page No. 5 of Tender Booklet may be read as:
"Bidder must submit past experience of supply of Plastic moulded items for Rs. 100.00 Lakhs in any Government/ Private/ Any Sector during any one of the last five financial years. The bidder should furnish the information on all past supplied and also Proforma under Annexure-"C" with proof of Work Order."
Instead of
"Bidder must submit past experience of supply of similar items for Rs. 100.00 Lakhs in any Government Department/Institution during any one of the last three years, i.e. 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020- 2021. The bidder should furnish the information on all past supplied and also Performa under Annexure-"C" with proof of Work Order."
Director
Social Welfare Assam
Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1
Janasanyog/C/6223/21

WESTERN RAILWAY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.S/35/2021 Date 30.09.2021

S.N.	Short Description of Items	Quantity	T.O.D.
897	Four V Deep Groove Axle Pulley	257 Nos	14.10.2021
898	Cab Heater	160 Nos	18.10.2021
899	Set of Air Brake Pipes	600 Set	18.10.2021
900	Jumper Plug Assy.	62 Nos	19.10.2021
901	Slack Adjuster Complete Type IRSA-750	300 Nos	22.10.2021
902	Mixture of Insulin Analogue 25 to 30 Percent and Insulin Analogue Protamine 70 to 75 Percent 100U/ml-3ml Cartridge.	9874 Nos	22.10.2021
903	16 Teeth Pinion	480 Nos.	30.10.2021

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in.
0481 For Principal Chief Materials Manager
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) - Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, JAIPUR
E-BID NOTICE
निगम की नकारा-स्क्रेप का ई-ऑक्शन वेब-साईट Transport.Rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc एवं rsrtc.procure247.com के माध्यम से जहां है, जैसी है कि स्थिति में किया जाना है जिसका विवरण निम्न प्रकार है :-

S. Event's Name no.	EMD Deposit Start Date	EMD Deposit End Date	BID Start Date	BID End Date
1 SCRAP Tyre/Tube Group A	24-09-21	06-10-21	07-10-21	08-10-21
2 SCRAP Tyre/Tube Group B	24-09-21	06-10-21	07-10-21	08-10-21
3 Tyre Related Scrap	24-09-21	06-10-21	07-10-21	08-10-21
4 SCRAP PVC Poly	24-09-21	06-10-21	07-10-21	08-10-21
5 BURNT OIL	24-09-21	06-10-21	07-10-21	08-10-21
6 Scrap Batteries Items	24-09-21	06-10-21	07-10-21	08-10-21

नोट:-
1. ई-ऑक्शन में शामिल होने से पूर्व बोलीदाता द्वारा EMD राशि जमा कराना अनिवार्य है।
2. ई-ऑक्शन का सम्पूर्ण विवरण, नियम एवं शर्तें वेब-साईट पर उपलब्ध है।
राज.संवाद / सी / 21 / 6839 **डिडनो 114/2021-22** **Financial Advisor**

CENTRAL RAILWAY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
E-PROCUREMENT AT NOTICE NO. E-37/2021, DT. 30/09/2021

Tender No.	Item Descriptions	Quantity	T.O.D.
75211075A	Copper Coated Mild Steel Wire 4mm dia	53425 Kgs.	19/10/2021
75212120A	Neoprene Rubber Sheets.	12295 Kgs.	22/10/2021
27212911A	Set of Roller Bearing	218 Set	25/10/2021
27215015	Main Transformer	100 Nos.	25/10/2021
27215020	RSI Block	02 Nos.	25/10/2021
42211077A	Longitudinal Channel	3040 Nos.	25/10/2021
27211020	Set of Bearing Brackets	37 Set	26/10/2021
36215003	Hard Drawn Grooved Contact Wire	04 kms.	26/10/2021
27211008A	Impeller for MRVH	100 Nos.	27/10/2021
27211187B	Capacitor for Harmonic Filter	87 Nos.	27/10/2021
43211560	Brushless Alternator 4.5KW	51 Nos.	27/10/2021
60215052	Computer Navigation System (CNS).	01 No.	27/10/2021
18213494	Overhauling Kit	37 Nos.	28/10/2021
27211762A	Fully Finished Shaft	80 Nos.	28/10/2021
75211095	Vinyl Coated Fabric (Artificial Leather)	15020 Mtr.	28/10/2021
81211066	Deep Groove Ball Bearing	535 Nos.	28/10/2021
38212587A	POH Kit for Shock Absorber	1130 Set	17/12/2021

Regarding detailed Notice & Tender Conditions please visit www.ireps.gov.in
Principal Chief Material Manager
RailMadad Helpline 139

DoT amends telecom licence norms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The DoT has amended licence norms to rationalise the interest rate for delayed payment of licence fee, a move that is expected to ease financial burden on the telecom sector and promote ease of doing business.

The department will now charge 2 per cent interest above the one-year marginal cost of lending rate (MCLR) of State Bank of India for delay in payment of licence fees or any other statutory dues and the interest will be compounded annually.

Earlier, telecom firms were required to pay 4 per cent interest above the one-year MCLR of SBI and the interest

was compounded monthly.

“Any delay in payment of licence fee or any other dues payable under the licence beyond the stipulated period will attract interest at a rate which will be 2 per cent above the one- year MCLR of SBI existing as on the beginning of the financial year (namely 1st April) in respect of the licence fees or any other dues pertaining to the said financial year,” the amendment said.

The Department of Telecom (DoT) has also removed the licence clause under which telcos were charged a penalty equivalent to 50 per cent of the short payment they made for licence fee. The penalty was imposed if short payment was more than



10 per cent of the payable licence fees.

The amendment has come into effect from October 1. The move is part of telecom reforms announced by the government in September 2021.

The old rules were one of

the main reasons for pushing incumbent players into stress after the Supreme Court's verdict on adjusted gross revenue that upheld the government stand and asked telecom operators to pay Rs 1.47 lakh crore statutory dues.

The basic dues were around 26 per cent while 74 per cent component of the total demand got accumulated on account of interest on this amount, penalty and interest on penalty.

Telecom industry body COAI said the move will ease financial stress on the sector and promote ease of doing business. “We appreciate the step of rationalization of interest rates on delayed payment of License Fee (LF) and any other dues under the licence, removal of penalty and interest on penalty. We welcome this step towards easing the financial stress and promoting ease of doing business in the telecom sector,” COAI Director General SP Kochhar said.

Rising demand to keep electricity prices elevated

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Rising demand is expected to keep electricity prices elevated in short-term. According to India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra), the all-India energy demand continued to recover in August 2021 by 17.8 per cent YoY to 129.4 billion units (BU).

“There was a recovery of demand in all the major manufacturing states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu,” Ind-Ra said in a report.

“Additionally, the all-India energy demand increased marginally in the first 20 days of September 2021 to 77BU, indi-



cating a continued recovery. The all-India demand during 5MFY22 surpassed the pre-Covid levels at 597BU.”

As per the report, led by continued improvement in demand, the average short-term price at Indian Energy Exchange increased significantly to ₹ 5.06 per kWh during August 2021, as the difference in the buy and sell bids turned positive.

“The average short-term

price for a day peaked at ₹9 per kWh during August, and the average short-term price for the first 20 days of September remained high at ₹4.08 per kWh.”

Besides, Ind-Ra cited that with the recovery in demand, electricity generation (excluding renewables) increased 16.8 per cent YoY to 120.8BU in August 2021.

“Given the higher dependency on coal-based power with almost all other sources of power already on must run status, the plant load factor of coal-based power plants improved to 59.27 per cent in August 2021.”

Centre opts for price ceiling to prevent raw jute hoarding

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The Centre has fixed a ceiling price of two varieties of raw jute at ₹6,500 per quintal in West Bengal to prevent hoarding as the commodity is being sold at ₹7,200 or more in the market, an official said on Saturday.

This price ceiling will be effective till June 2022, he said. “The Jute Commissioner, the regulator of the sector, has put a price ceiling of raw jute (TDN3 and WN3 varieties) at Rs 6,500 per quintal in the state to discourage hoarding as the price has touched ₹7,200 a quintal,” an official said.

The ceiling price of the raw jute has been fixed at ₹6,800 per quintal in other states.

The price control measure will be in place for the current jute season (July-June), he said.

“This means the government will consider raw jute price at ₹6,500 per quintal while calculating the jute bag



price,” an industry source said.

Mills will incur losses if the market price of the raw material is higher than the ceiling one, he said.

“In the current year, production is huge and several farmers and traders are holding the crop till now. The order

may dampen their plan to hoard the commodity,” the source said.

With the rising prices, local traders in all the jute producing districts had started storing raw jute at their houses to sell the commodity at a premium price in future.

Petrol, diesel rise to new record highs as rates hiked again

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices soared to new record highs across the country on Saturday after rates were hiked again by 25 paise and 30 paise a litre, respectively.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest ever level of ₹102.14 a litre and to ₹108.19 in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Diesel rates too touched a record high of ₹90.47 in Delhi and ₹98.16 a litre in Mumbai.

Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes.

The price hike follows international oil prices soaring to near three-year high as global output disruptions forced energy companies to draw more crude oil out of their stockpiles.

The basket of crude oil India imports has averaged USD 78 per barrel in last few days.

The fourth increase in its rates this week has sent petrol



prices above ₹100 in most major cities of the country.

Similarly, the seventh increase in prices in nine days has shot up diesel rates above ₹100 mark in several cities in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) resumed daily price revisions on September 24 after international oil prices neared a three-year high.

Global benchmark Brent crude is trading above USD 78 per barrel.

In seven price increases since September 24, diesel rates have gone up by 1.85 paise per litre. Petrol price has increased by ₹1 per litre in four instalments this week. When international oil rates fell in July and August, retail prices of petrol and diesel in the Delhi market were reduced by ₹0.65 and ₹1.25 per litre.

Prior to that, the petrol price was increased by ₹11.44 a litre between May 4 and July 17. Diesel rate had gone up by ₹9.14 during this period.

Union Min Mansukh Mandaviya meets CM Ashok Gehlot



Jaipur: Union Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Petro-Chemical Minister Mansukh Mandaviya met Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday at the Chief Minister's residence. During this, the Chief Minister urged for early approval of medical colleges in three districts of the state, Jalore, Pratapgarh and Rajsamand.

Gehlot has worked in 33 districts of Rajasthan. In this, approval of medical colleges has been received in 30 dis-

tricts. Only three districts are left in them, on getting the approval of the medical college from the Central Government, the people of these backward districts will be able to get the benefit of quality health facilities.

The Chief Minister also urged for early approval for the proposed Petroleum Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) in the Medical Devices Park in Jodhpur, Bulk Drug Park in Kota and in the vicinity of Barmer Refinery.

₹220 cr disbursed to ‘Atal Incubation Centres’ in 21 states: RTI reply



PTI ■ NAGPUR

Government think tank NITI Aayog, under Atal Innovation Mission, has disbursed ₹220.55 crore to Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) in 21 states of the country, which nurture innovative startup businesses in their pursuit to become scalable and sustainable enterprises, reply to an RTI query has revealed.

The query was filed by Bhopal resident Ashish Kolarkar, who sought informa-

tion from the NITI Aayog on the number of AICs approved by it and the amount given to these incubation centres state-wise as on August 31, 2021.

The reply said there are 59 AICs that have been funded by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and NITI Aayog, and there are 2,324 startups incubated as on August 31, 2021.

NITI Aayog has disbursed about ₹220.55 crore to incubation centres in 21 states till that date, it said.

The state-wise fund include ₹38.07 crore to Karnataka, ₹25.58 crore to Tamil Nadu, ₹23.49 crore to Maharashtra, ₹21.51 crore to Telangana, ₹21.68 crore to Delhi, ₹14.15 crore to Gujarat, ₹12.16 crore to Madhya Pradesh, ₹12.2 crore to Uttar Pradesh.



Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal interacts with media during Dubai Expo on the occasion of 'Gandhi Jayanti', in Dubai

Zee Entertainment moves HC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd on Saturday said it has moved the Bombay High Court against the requisition of minority shareholders, Invesco and OFI Global China Fund, to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to discuss various issues, including removal of Managing Director Punit Goenka.

The company has filed a civil suit before the high court requesting to declare the requisition notice sent to it as “illegal and invalid”. The development comes a day after the board of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) rejected the request of shareholders.

“The company has filed a suit before the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Bombay High Court under the ordinary original civil jurisdiction (CivilSuit), inter alia requesting the Bombay High Court to declare that the requisition notice sent to the Company by Invesco Developing Markets Fund and OFI Global China Fund LLC (shareholders of the Company) is illegal and invalid,” said Zee Entertainment in a regulatory update.

Invesco Developing Markets Fund (formerly Invesco Oppenheimer Developing Markets Fund) along with OFI Global China Fund LLC hold 17.88 per cent stake in ZEEL.

On Friday, the board of the company had rejected the minority shareholders' demand and termed the requisition as “invalid and illegal”.

In its meeting held on 1st October 2021, the board has arrived at a conclusion that the requisition is invalid and illegal; and has accordingly conveyed its inability to convene the Extraordinary General Meeting to Invesco Developing Markets Funds and OFI Global China Fund, LLC,” ZEEL had said. On Thursday, the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) had directed ZEEL to hold a board meeting to consider Invesco and OFI Global China Fund's request for convening an EGM for discussing various issues.

Government of Assam
DIRECTORATE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE :: ASSAM
Kahilipara :: Guwahati - 781 019

No.DFS.2084/2021-22/6

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders affixing Court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five) are hereby invited from GST Registered and authorised Dealers/Distributors/Suppliers of 1) Water Bath 2) Digital Balance (HD) 3) Reagent Refrigerator 4) Fume Hood Chamber 5) Centrifuge 6) Microscope with Workstation 7) HPLC System 8) Shaking water bath incubator 9) Water Treatment unit 10) Oven 11) Microtome 12) UV Spectrometer 13) Online UPS 10 KVA 14) Photo Copier Machine 15) Desktop PC 16) Color Laser Printer 17) HP LaserJet 1020 PLUS Printer 18) Offline UPS 19) Sample Refrigerator 20) UV Chamber 21) TLC Plate Maker 22) Heating Mantle for the Regional Forensic Science Laboratory, Silchar, Assam -788001 as per enclosed specification. The details of the tender specifications and necessary tender documents may be down loaded from the Web site <https://forensic.assam.gov.in>. The tender sent by post should be properly sealed and addressed to the undersigned and should be sent through registered post/speed post/ courier service/ by hand. **The last date for receiving tender is 21st October. 2021 up to 2-00 P. M. The delivery of materials will be at Regional Forensic Science Laboratory, Silchar.**

The tenders must accompany up date Tax Clearance Certificate, without which the tender(s) will be summarily rejected. Intending tenders or their authorised representatives may be present during the opening of the tenders. The tender is to be submitted **“single stage-3 envelopes system”** i.e. the first sealed envelope will contain the required specifications of the Equipments offered including catalogues. The second envelope will contain only price quoted by the bidders and third sealed envelope contain the required EMD. All the above envelopes must be separately sealed and bearing the address of the Director, Directorate of Forensic Science, Assam and the senders address should be mentioned in all envelopes.

The undersigned reserves the right or rejecting any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Director,
Directorate of Forensic Science, Assam,
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/C/6195/21

40TH INDIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR 2021

ITPO organises with Atmanirbhar Bharat theme

This year, the annual magnum opus of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), the 40th edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) will manifest its theme “Atmanirbhar Bharat” with a focus on economy, export potential, infrastructure supply chain, demand and vibrant demography.

Inspired by a great vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, the event is organised as integral part of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava”- commemorating the 75th year celebration of India's Independence in newly built halls of International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) as well as in the existing halls at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from November 14 to 27,2021.

The fair will be organised as per the preventive measures to contain spread of the pandemic.

The fair also manifests undying spirit of business fraternity who faced tremendous challenges due to the pandemic.

Significantly, the theme reflecting their determination to showcase excellence of brands and create a new opportunity for growth and attain self-reliance in sectors like agriculture, micro, small & medium enterprises (MSME), power, tourism, etc.

IITF with B2B and B2C components is one of the largest integrated trade fairs in South- Asian region.

The format of IITF has business; social, cultural and educational dimensions that are weaved together where visitors and exhibitors, media persons, marketing professional, social activists, NGOs etc. all converge to explore their objectives. Domestic as well as overseas buyers source their needs.

IT dept detects ₹500-crore unaccounted transactions after raids on Gujarat realty group

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department has detected unaccounted transactions of over ₹500 crore after it raided an Ahmedabad-based real estate developer and linked brokers as part of a tax evasion probe, the CBDT claimed on Saturday.

“Documents reveal unaccounted income of more than ₹200 crore in the hands of the real estate group and also unaccounted income of more than ₹200 crore in the hands of the parties recorded in the documents found from the possession of the brokers.

“Over all, the search & seizure operation has resulted in the detection of unaccounted transactions of more than Rs 500 crore,” it said in a statement. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) frames policy for the tax department.

The raids that were launched at 22 premises of the group and the brokers on September 28 are underway, the statement said.

The Board said about ₹1

crore cash and jewellery worth ₹98 lakh was seized during the operation. Twenty-four lockers have been put under restraint, it said. Incriminating documents, loose papers, digital evidences have been seized from the premises of the real estate developer and these “evidences” contain detailed records of the group's unaccounted transactions spread across multiple financial years, the statement said. Documents showing unaccounted investment in land of more than ₹200 crore and unaccounted cash receipts from sale of land amounting to more than ₹100 crore have been seized so far.

“A large number of original documents of properties purchased over the years, which are apparently held in the name of benami individuals have also been found,” it claimed. In the case of the broker, documents showing details of payments in cash and in cheques relating to transactions of purchase and sale of land carried out through the broker have been found, the CBDT said.



The World Health Organization recently revised its AQGs and reduced PM2.5 to 5 and PM10 to 15. What do these numbers mean in the Indian context and how can these be achieved? SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with industry experts who say that air pollution needs to be addressed on a war footing to promote better health

The World Health Organization (WHO) updated the Air Quality Guidelines. Though it is not surprising that the WHO decided to revise the guidelines, what is alarming is the reason for them. Over 90 per cent of the world's population lives in areas that exceed the thresholds and limits for key air pollutants set by the WHO. Unfortunately, for South Asia, this is approximately 100 per cent.

Despite this, interestingly, the new guidelines are in no way binding on the countries. However, the new readings can prove to be a turning point on how the world will tackle air pollution.

The last time these guidelines were updated was back in 2005, 16 years back. Since the times the guidelines were last updated, multiple scientific studies have evidenced the true harm caused by poor air quality. Even though India revised its air pollution standards in 2009, these have been far more relaxed in comparison to WHO's prescribed guidelines.

Even according to the 2005 guidelines, we were unable to meet the standards set by WHO — PM2.5 was 10 (annual mean) whereas India figures stood at 40. The revised WHO standards for PM2.5 is 5 and PM 10 is 15.

Climatologist Professor Murari Lal explains that air pollutants have a complex relationship with climate change.

"Some pollutants like black carbon and ozone, increase warming by trapping heat in the atmosphere, while others like sulphur dioxide forming light-reflecting particles, have a cooling effect on the climate. Rising levels of some air-polluting gases (coming from cars, factories, homes, and power plants that burn fossil fuels such as oil, coal, natural gas, and gasoline) increase the greenhouse effect, which in turn raises temperatures and affects global weather patterns. Some of the disastrous effects of air pollution are: Respiratory and heart problems in

humans and could be detrimental to children, acid rain, eutrophication, effect on wildlife, depletion of the ozone layer and global warming," Prof Lal explains.

He tells you that air pollution causes reduced lung growth and function in children along with respiratory infections and aggravated asthma.

"In adults, ischaemic heart disease and stroke are the most common causes of premature death attributable to outdoor air pollution. The health risks associated with particulate matter (PM) equal to or smaller than 10 and 2.5 microns in diameter are of particular public health relevance. These are capable of penetrating deep into the lungs and smaller ones can even enter the bloodstream, primarily resulting in cardiovascular and respiratory impacts, and also affecting other organs. The PM is primarily generated by fuel combustion in different sectors, including transport, energy, households, industry, and agriculture.

Therefore, Professor Lal says that the revised WHO guidelines are rather timely. Clean air for breathing is a fundamental human right and a necessary condition for healthy and productive societies, one is told.

Disparities in air pollution exposure are increasing worldwide and countries are experiencing growing levels of air pollution caused by large-scale urbanisation and economic development that has largely relied on the burning of fossil fuels. The WHO's Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs) provide an indication of the harm that air pollution can inflict on human health and highlight good practices for the management of air pollution levels to be maintained at safe levels.

The AQ guidelines periodically recommend optimal air quality levels which are safe to the health of populations and the levels of key air pollutants must be maintained to this threshold (some of these pollutants also contribute to climate change).

There are many benefits. "The WHO has adjusted almost all the AQGs levels downward in September

2021, with a warning that exceeding the new air quality guideline levels is associated with significant risks to human health and adhering to these levels by policymakers would save millions of lives," Professor Lal says and opines that the new guidelines should be effective if implemented in practice.

According to Dr Sanjay Kulshrestha, who has filed several PILs with the National Green Tribunal, our guidelines are pretty lenient. "We aren't able to meet those parameters. Now, these revisions are very strict. They are targeting our AQI index. Many cities in the North, especially Delhi-NCR, are soon going to see the rise in AQI. If this is the case with the Capital, how will we tackle cities like Kolkata, Kanpur and Patna? In order to meet the WHO's new guidelines, we need to achieve the target but for that, we need to investigate the sources of pollution and then curb it all," Kulshrestha says.

He tells you that at present, all that is happening is that the stakeholders are just trying to divert the attention from the burning issue — how to tackle air pollution and make it breathable for the citizens.

"The problem is that we know the causes. A recent study from the US states that vehicular pollution has a major impact on AQI indexes and the governing bodies need to address it. Even the Indian of Science and Technology has accepted the fact that vehicular pollution accounts for around 40 per cent of all the air pollution. The blame is always put on the dust; there is nothing much that one can do about dust. In 2010, PM2.5 was around 25 per cent. In 2018, the Ministry has revealed that dust accounts for 40 per cent air pollution and the rest is miscellaneous," Kulshrestha says.

In other words, there are two main reasons for pollution in Delhi-NCR — that is dust and vehicular pollution. "What we can tackle is vehicular pollution. When we talk about WHO's census on PM2.5, its impact is around seven-11 million with a death toll of 1.7 million. The

■ Air pollution is one of the greatest environmental risks to health. By reducing air pollution levels, countries can reduce the burden of disease from stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, and both chronic and acute respiratory diseases, including asthma

■ The lower the levels of air pollution, the better the cardiovascular and respiratory health of the population will be, both long- and short-term

■ In 2019, 99% of the world population was living in places where the WHO air quality guidelines levels were not met

■ Ambient (outdoor air pollution) in both cities and rural areas was estimated to cause 4.2 million premature deaths worldwide in 2016

■ Some 91% of those premature deaths occurred in low- and middle-income countries and the greatest number in the WHO South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions

■ In addition to outdoor air pollution, indoor smoke is a serious health risk for some 3 billion people who cook and heat their homes with biomass, kerosene fuels and coal



study says 11 lakh Indian people are dying directly due to PM2.5 and it's very clear that PM2 itself is responsible," Kulshrestha explains.

Those living in Delhi are familiar with the after-effects of the stubble burning that is all set to take place. This combined with the firecrackers proves to be lethal for Delhiites; the city records 50,000-60,000 deaths every year due to air pollution.

One is told that pollutants in the air can be divided into many types based on their nature such as gaseous, solid, liquid, organic or inorganic based on the chemical composition. The source can be industrial, dust, vehicular or petrol/diesel burning.

"Back in 2015, we had filed for a ban on vehicles that were more than 10 years old (diesel) and 15 years old (petrol). There was a petition against that ban by the Ministry of Road Transportation. We have raised our concerns. We explained that with regards to Delhi, there is a need to categorise pollutants according to the season. This is because there is some inherent or basic pollution that remains in Delhi all the time. Besides these, there are additions to seasonal pollutants like bursting crackers during Diwali and stubble burning. These two seasonal factors worsen the situation in Delhi. Just like a Diabetic addresses his spiked sugar levels, we need to address the season-

al pollution in Delhi," Kulshrestha opines.

According to him, it is time that we stop blaming other factors that contribute to the pollution and go to the source to address the issue. "When things get out of hand, we immediately order a ban on burning of crackers. We rely on the winds that blow in November to disperse the thick blanket of smog over Delhi. If the wind Gods are happy everything is good, otherwise, it is the common man who has to pay a heavy price. We blame stubble burning as a major cause of air pollution in Delhi. What about the worsening air quality in Patna? There is no stubble burning there. Let's take dust. Where would one dust? Rajasthan. So deserts should be the most polluted. But that's not the case. People aren't dying in these places like flies. The answer is clear as the day — it is not the dust nor the stubble that is the cause. Why are we insisting on blaming seasonal pollutants? Why not go to the root of the problem — vehicular pollution and roadside dust which mixes with the pollutants like the fumes from the exhaust. It comes as a carrier for toxic materials. Simple dust is not a factor of concern as it is a major source for PM10. The main source for PM2.5 is vehicular pollution," Kulshrestha tells you.

Agrees BS Vohra, an environmental activist and a citizen journal-

ist based out of Delhi.

"We know what is the main cause of air pollution in the country and yet we try to circle around the issue and look towards ways to address the situation. Each year, stubble burning takes place and firecrackers are burst during Diwali. We insist on addressing this and not the main cause of air pollution — vehicles," Vohra says. He tells you that this is only one aspect of the issue.

The Government has introduced BSVI cars but the petrol standard continues to be for BS IV. He asks a pertinent question: why is this happening? "If the Government had introduced BS VI in 2017 why not make petrol compatible as well? Vohra asks.

He opines that the new standards set by the WHO are tough to attain. "We have not yet managed to reach the guidelines that WHO had kept back in 2005. In a coming couple of months, the AQI is going to shoot up, more than 100 times. How do we focus on achieving PM 2.5 of 5? And the worst thing is that nobody is talking about PM1 which is even worse for health. Unfortunately, it is the common man who is suffering and will continue to die," Vohra says.

Kulshrestha has some solutions to tackle what ails us when it comes to air pollution.

First, we have to reduce the number of vehicles in the city. "One can be an absolute reduction, to reduce the sale and by off-road old vehicles after a set time. Second, we must at least try to ensure that the least number of private cars are on the road. People should be encouraged to use public transport. Third, we must have checks on vehicular efficiency and fuel consumption. Four, we must have a proper road infrastructure and traffic congestion management to tackle pollution. If a vehicle passes a stretch of road in say two minutes, it causes less pollution due to emissions than being in the stretch for 20 minutes. Finally, the Government has to accept that air pollution is a real issue and it is killing people. Remember, pollution is increasing with time," Kulshrestha says.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

There is a body of scientific evidence to prove that air pollution is leading to severe health impacts and 90 per cent of the entire global population is breathing polluted air. It is a severe health crisis and WHO's revised air quality guidelines bring back the focus to the issue. There is a need for revising India's air quality standards to make them more stringent. Even at the current relaxed standard of 40 ug/m3 for annual PM2.5 averages in India vs WHO's 2005 annual limit of 10 ug/m3, most Indian cities failed to meet even those levels. We have to strengthen health data and revise the National Clean Air Programme. Raw health data is required to conduct a large range of health studies vis-a-vis air pollution impacts.

— Prof SN Tripathi, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur & Steering Committee Member, National Clean Air Programme, India

The WHO, by reducing the PM2.5 and 10 exposure levels under the new AQG has reemphasised the need for putting in more efforts to control particulate matter concentration in the air. But for countries like India, it is a huge challenge to meet these guidelines. I hope that efforts by all stakeholders will be intensified so as to make honest efforts to aim towards the revised levels.

— Dr Arun Sharma, Director, National Institute for Implementation Research of Non-Communicable Diseases, ICMR

Air pollution has become a major risk factor for premature mortality and morbidity. Meeting the new WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines seems a challenge, but under National Clean Air Program (NCAP), India is committed to minimizing 20-30 per cent of cities' air pollution. Collective efforts are needed to mitigate the air pollution & gain in terms of better human health & climate.

— Dr Ravindra Khaiwal, Professor, Environment Health, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh

As doctors, we have seen the ill-effects of air pollution on our patients. This is a public health emergency, affecting the lives of people all over the world, with the worst impacts in South Asia. Fossil fuels are the root cause of both air pollution and the climate crisis. Governments across South Asian countries need to urgently align their national air quality standards with the latest WHO guidelines and take a regional approach, keeping health at the heart of actions to tackle and resolve the air pollution crisis. The time to act was yesterday, but we missed it. For the sake of future generations, we need to commit to doing anything and everything that it takes to solve this crisis as early as possible. The price of our inaction today will be paid heavily by our future generations.

— Dr Arvind Kumar, Founder, Lung Care Foundation & Chairman, Institute of Chest Surgery, Chest Onco Surgery and Lung Transplantation

Air pollution stunts children's health and future — it causes premature birth, life-threatening asthma, cognitive problems, childhood cancer and so many other problems. There is no safe level of air pollution to breathe, but at least following the WHO's new air quality guidelines will improve children's health and set us on the path to achieving clean air for all. The UK Government has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect children's health now, by including air quality targets in the Environment Bill that follow the WHO's guidelines. This Bill will determine the quality of the air we breathe for the next 15-20 years — meaning that babies born today will grow up with it. We can't let them down.

— Rosamund Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, WHO advocate for health and clean air and founder of the Ella Roberta Family Foundation

The update to the guidelines is much needed, with the latest science showing severe health harm from PM2.5 and NO2 pollution far below the current 2005 guideline levels. For example, meeting the current guideline everywhere in the world would do little to protect the estimated 4 million children per year that develop asthma due to NO2 exposure. It's now essential for governments to align their national air quality standards with the new guidelines and put in place plans to meet them. Most importantly, meeting the new guidelines will require a revolution in the energy sector. Emission standards for power plants, industries and vehicles will need to be tightened and much of fossil fuel- and biomass-burning will have to be eliminated. The prize will be millions of people living longer, healthier lives.

— Lauri Myllyvirta, Lead Analyst, Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air

Delhi Capitals beat Mumbai Indians by 4 wickets

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Shreyas Iyer showed steely temperament while Ravichandran Ashwin compensated his poor bowling effort with a final six as Delhi Capitals inched towards a top-two finish, beating Mumbai Indians by four wickets in an IPL match here on Saturday.

Chasing a modest 130 on a challenging Sharjah Stadium track, DC made a rough weather of the chase but Iyer with a run-a-ball 33 anchored the innings and added crucial unbroken 39-run stand with Ashwin (20 not out).

Needing just four runs from the last over, Ashwin sealed the chase with five balls to spare as he hit a six off Krunal Pandya as the duo shared a match-defining partnership, consuming 36 balls. The win took DC to 18 points from 12 games and one more win is sure to clinch a top-two finish with one more win as only twin defeats in last two games and three big wins for RCB and at least one victory from CSK will push them to third spot. That looks improbable at the moment with the scenario of net run-rate.

This is the seventh loss in 12 matches this season for the five-time champions MI and their chances of qualifying for play-offs are fast fading away. Defending the modest total, Mumbai had a cracking start sending Delhi's top three -- Shikhar Dhawan (8), Prithvi Shaw (6) and Steve Smith (9) --



- back in the hut inside the powerplay.

Kieron Pollard's direct hit from mid-on caught Shikhar Dhawan short of his crease in the second over, while a superb review call ensured that Shaw was dismissed in a space of four balls in his comeback match.

Smith looked in his zone and pulled Bumrah for a six but only to perish to his Australian teammate Nathan Coulter-Nile.

Coulter-Nile cleaned up Smith around his legs with a ball that stayed low as he shuffled too much across.

With no significant partnerships going, it was their former captain Iyer showed fine patience and rotate the strike with clever singles.

Not under any run-rate pressure, Iyer held on cleverly

rotating the strikes as he slammed just two boundaries in his run-a-ball knock.

Earlier on a day when star bowler Ravichandran Ashwin was completely off-colour, Axar (3/21) dismissed Quinton De Kock (19), Suryakumar Yadav (33) and Saurabh Tiwary (15), ensuring that runs were hard

to come by in the middle overs.

But it was their uncapped Indian pacer Avesh Khan (3/15) who continued his dream run in the IPL and set it up for Capitals, hurrying Rohit Sharma with sheer pace.

Avesh then returned at the death and dismissed the dangerous Hardik Pandya (17) and Nathan Coulter Nile (1) in three balls to further tighten the noose. World's fastest bowler

Anrich Nortje, who shared the new ball with Avesh, was also tidy with 1/19 from his four overs as DC bowlers got their length right on a slow deck.

Such was their discipline that none of the MI batters save Surya could cross 20-run mark.

Before that the Madhya Pradesh lad Avesh conceded just seven runs with eight dot balls in his first two overs and took the prized-scalp of MI skipper Rohit Sharma in his fifth ball of the day.

Avesh's run-up might not look smooth but the effort ball to bounce Rohit out was special as the India's T20 captain in waiting couldn't connect his pull-shot. The 24-year-old, who is second (21) in the list of leading wicketakers in this IPL, now has taken three Indian

IPL pointstable			
	M	P	NRR
CSK	11	18	+1.002
DC	12	18	+0.551
RCB	11	14	-0.200
KKR	12	10	+0.302
MI	12	10	-0.453
PBKS	12	10	-0.236
RR	11	8	-0.468
SRH	11	4	-0.490

IPL 2021			
Match: 48	Oct 3	3:30 pm	
Royal Challengers Bangalore	vs	Kolkata Knight Riders	
Punjab Kings	vs	Sunrisers Hyderabad	
Sharjah Cricket Stadium, Sharjah		Dubai International Stadium, Dubai	
Total IPL matches played: 207			
Won: 40	Lost: 162	No result: 4	
Highest total: 280/6			
Head-to-Head in IPL			
RCB	PBKS	MI	SRH
Won: 12	Won: 15	Won: 13	Won: 7
Highest total: 226/3	Highest total: 232/2	Highest total: 197/6	Highest total: 269/9

IPL 2021			
Match: 49	Oct 3	7:30 pm	
Kolkata Knight Riders	vs	Sunrisers Hyderabad	
Royal Challengers Bangalore	vs	Punjab Kings	
Sharjah Cricket Stadium, Sharjah		Dubai International Stadium, Dubai	
Total IPL matches played: 204			
Won: 104	Lost: 100	No result: 0	
Highest total: 245/6			
Head-to-Head in IPL			
RCB	PBKS	MI	SRH
Won: 12	Won: 15	Won: 13	Won: 7
Highest total: 226/3	Highest total: 232/2	Highest total: 197/6	Highest total: 269/9

superstars — MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli and now Rohit — in this IPL. Ashwin at the other end looked unsettled with Surya sweeping the star Indian off-spinner for a six, while De Kock also looked ominous, taking on his compatriot Kagiso Rabada with a lap-shot over fine-leg.

Having not been in best of forms, Surya looked to be back in his element top-scoring for them with a 26-ball 33 but Patel outsmarted the Mumbai no 3 with a full toss.



as the duo of Alyssa Healy (29) and skipper Lanning not only steadied the ship but also played some exquisite shots.

After softening Healy with a few short stuffs, Goswami bowled a length ball, got it to move just enough for the batter to nick it to the waiting hands of wicketkeeper Taniya Bhatia.

This was after the 38-year-old fast bowler cleaned up Monney's stumps with one that came back at the left-handed opener.

For India Deepti Sharma made a fine 66, finishing as the team's second best scorer, a day after opener Smriti Mandhana's magnificent maiden hundred in the format.

Resuming at their overnight score of 276 for five after rain and lightning had

brought a premature end to the second day's play at the Carrara Oval, the Indians scored 83 runs for the loss of Taniya Bhatia and Pooja Vastrakar's wickets in the long first session.

Taniya made 22 off 75 balls, while Vastrakar made 13. At the dinner break, Deepti Sharma was batting on 58.

The duo of Taniya and Sharma consumed more than 28 overs to get those 45 runs.

It was Stella Campbell, who dismissed Taniya, caught behind by Alyssa Healy off a back-of-a-length delivery on off stump that moved away, for her first Test wicket.

Sharma, who started the day on 12, got to her second Test fifty with a sweep behind square, reaching the landmark in 148 balls with the help of five boundaries.



Indian-American Ganne cards 70 on LPGA

PTI ■ GALLOWAY

India's Aditi Ashok did not have the best of starts as she carded two-over 73 in the first round to lie tied 104th at the ShopRite LPGA Classic.

The Indian will need a low second round to make the cut.

However, Megha Ganne, a local New Jersey amateur, who shot into fame by leading the US Women's Open and then finishing T-14, had a better day at one-under 70 and was T-51st.

Ganne, playing on a sponsor exemption, played in the same group as Aditi and the local Indian fans loved it.

Aditi, starting on tenth, ran into early trouble with three bogeys between 12th and 15th but steadied with a string of pars. She had just one birdie on fourth for a two-over 73.

Ganne had two birdies and two bogeys on her first nine, the back stretch of the course, and one birdie and no bogeys

on the front nine.

On a day when low scores were aplenty, as many as 19 players shot 67 or better in the first round at the Bay Course in Galloway, N.J.

Jodi Ewart Shadoff, coming into the event after five straight missed cuts, shot six-under 65 and led the field alongside Korea's So Yeon Ryu.

The Englishwoman carded four birdies and an eagle to leap to the top of the leaderboard.

Ewart Shadoff matched Ryu in score and her score included an eagle on the par-5 third. Ryu also had an eagle and five birdies and one dropped shot.

Eight players are one behind the leaders at Tied-third at 5-under. That includes No. 2 Jin Young Ko, LPGA Hall of Famer Inbee Park, 10-time LPGA Tour winner Brooke Henderson and Matilda Castren. Park is playing her first LPGA event since the AIG Women's Open in August.

30 members for hockey's senior national camp

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Saturday named a 30-member core probable group for the senior men's national coaching camp, to begin in SAI, Bengaluru from October 4.

After a successful campaign at the Tokyo Olympic Games where India clinched a historic bronze medal and ended a 41-year wait, the Indian men's core Group will begin the new Olympic cycle with an intent to improve upon this performance at Paris 2024.

The core group called up for the national coaching camp includes a mix of young and experienced players including P R Sreejesh, Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Suraj Karkera, Harmanpreet Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Gurinder Singh, Amit Rohidas and Manpreet Singh.

Speaking about the upcoming national coaching camp, chief coach Graham Reid said, "The players are coming off a long and well-deserved break. I believe they will be excited to be back in the National Camp and refocus on our goals for next year.

"We will be going through our performance in the Olympics both from the perspective of individual performances and as a team." "Experiencing success in the



Olympics is great but now I want the players to be mentally and physically ready for a hectic season in 2022 with some very important tournaments starting from the FIH Hockey Pro League in February.

"This camp will be more about strength and conditioning and we will look at making a slow start."

The group also features Hardik Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Vivek Sagar Prasad,

Simranjeet Singh, Akashdeep Singh, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Gursahibjit Singh, Shamsher Singh, Varun Kumar, Jarnanpreet Singh, Dipsan Tirkey, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Jaskaran Singh, Rajkumar Pal, Gurjant Singh, Sumit, Shilinand Lakra, Suman Beck, Mandeep Mor, Ashis Kumar Topno. Hockey India names 30 members for senior men's national camp.

Gold & bronze at junior worlds

PTI ■ LIMA

Indian shooters claimed the gold medal in the women's skeet team event and the bronze in the men's team finals of the ISSF Junior World Championship here.

The trio of Areeba Khan, Raiza Dhillon and Ganemat Sekhon finished at the top of the podium in the women's event after shooting an aggregate score of 6. In the gold medal round on Friday, the Indian women were pitted against the Italian team of Damiana Paolacci, Sara Bongini and Giada Longhi.

In the men's section, the



Indian team of Rajveer Gill, Ayush Rudraraju and Abhay Singh Sekhon won the bronze medal after prevailing over Turkey's Ali Can Arabaci, Ahmet Baran and Muhammet Seyhun Kaya 6-0, the same's scoreline as the women's gold medal contest. A day earlier, rising Indian woman skeet shoot-

er Sekhon had won the silver medal in the tournament's individual women's skeet competition.

The Chandigarh shooter, who picked up her first senior ISSF World Cup stage medals in New Delhi earlier this year, went down in a shoot-off to American Alisha Fayth Layne, after both were tied on 46 hits in the 60-shot final.

In the men's individual skeet none of the three Indians in the fray -- Rajveer Gill, Abhay Singh Sekhon and Ayush Rudraraju -- could make it to the six-man finals but they shone in the team event.

India are currently place second in the pecking order with two gold, three silver and two bronze for a total of seven medals in the tournament.

The USA tops the chart with seven medals including three gold.

This is the first multi-discipline shooting event since the Tokyo Olympics, with as many as 32 nations and nearly 370 athletes participating in the championship. Indian women win team gold in skeet, bronze for men at junior worlds.

Chris Gayle was not being 'treated right', says Pietersen

IAANS ■ DUBAI

Former England cricketer Kevin Pietersen feels one of the main reasons for West Indies icon Chris Gayle leaving the Punjab Kings bio-bubble in the UAE and heading back to "recharge" his batteries for the ICC T20 World Cup was because he was "not being treated right in his environment".

A statement by the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise on September 30 had said that, "Seasoned Caribbean batsman Chris Gayle has left the Punjab Kings team hotel and bio-bubble, owing to bubble fatigue accumulated over the months playing franchise and international cricket. The 42-year-old won't be available now for selection for the remainder of Punjab Kings' games."

However, Pietersen told Star Sports on Friday that, "He (Gayle) is not being

treated right in his environment. He feels like they are using him and getting rid of him, using him and getting rid of him. Didn't play him on his birthday, cast him aside. If he is not happy, he is 42, let him do what he wants."

This season, Gayle has played 10 matches for PBKS, scoring 193 runs at an unflattering average of 21.44, with his highest being 46.

Former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar also said that the Punjab Kings, who are currently fifth on the table with 10 points from 12 games, will miss Gayle in the remainder of the matches.

"A game-changer like Chris Gayle, if he is not in the team, 100 per cent it's a big loss. I think he is in and out of the team. I don't know what the calculations are. Clearly only four overseas players can play but sometimes when you see the player who has picked in his place, knowing what he has delivered in the past. And sure, he is over 40 and he might not be able to do it at a consistent level that he used to do. But he is a game-changer. Three overs of Gayle and the game is gone from the opposition," added Gavaskar.

PBKS had said in their statement that Gayle being a part of the bio-secure environments since cricket resumed post

the pandemic was the reason for the cricketer leaving the bio-bubble.

"He has been part of bio-bubbles since cricket resumed post the pandemic, starting from the 2020 Indian Premier League. He also was part of the West Indies squads for their home games against Sri Lanka and Australia.

Istanbul to host women's boxing world championships



PTI ■ LAUSANNE

The women's boxing world championships will be held in Istanbul in early December and will offer a total prize money of USD 2.6 million, same amount as marked for the men's event, as the sport's global governing body seeks to achieve gender equality.

The announcement came after an agreement was signed between the

sport's apex body and the Turkish Boxing Federation during AIBA president Umar Kremlev's official visit to Istanbul.

"It is officially confirmed that AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships will take place in the city of Istanbul, Turkey," the International Boxing Association (AIBA) stated in a release.

"I am glad to announce that the AIBA Women's World Boxing

Championships will be held here in Istanbul. Turkey is a big boxing country and has rich history," Kremlev said.

Kremlev stressed on achieving gender equality in the sport, the reason behind "Gender equality is one of our main goals in the sport of boxing. I am happy to confirm that prize money for the medallists will be exactly the same as for Men's World Championships.

"For the first time in AIBA's 75-year history, medal winners will be rewarded with significant prize money from AIBA.

"The prize money fund has been set at USD 2.6 million. The prize for first place is USD 100 000. Silver medallists will receive USD 50 000, and both bronzes in each weight category will receive USD 25 000," Kremlev said.

The Indian team for the marquee event will be picked after the national championship, which will be held in Hissar, Haryana from October 21 to 27.

China marches into Sudirman Cup final

AP ■ VANTAA (FINLAND)

Defending champions China marched into the finals of the Sudirman Cup 2021 with a 3-0 clean sweep win over South Korea in Vantaa in Finland on Saturday.

The win also mark China's 14th consecutive final appearance in the badminton mixed team competition. Heo Kwanghee, South Korea's hero in the quarter final, started well against world number 10 Shi Yu Qi by winning the opening game 21-17, but couldn't sustain the momentum.

Yu Qi, who was yet to win a match in the tournament, picked the right moment to change his fortune and won the two remaining games 21-9, 21-11 to give China 2-0 lead in the tie.

Earlier, China took the lead in the tie by winning the mixed doubles in straight sets. Their world number two mixed doubles team of Wang Yi Lyu and Huang Dong Ping beat Seo Seungjae and Shin Seungchan 21-14, 21-15.

China wrapped up the contest when the Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold medalist Chen Yu Fei came back strongly after dropping the opening game to beat An Seyoung 17-21, 21-15, 21-15.

Gaurika Bishnoi in Top-5 after first round

PTI ■ BARCELONA

Gaurika Bishnoi carded a solid two-under 70 to be placed inside Top-5 after the first round of the Estrella Damm Ladies Open here.

The Indian was just two shots behind the leader Nobuhle Dlamini of Swaziland (68) and one behind Belgium's Manon De Roey and Magdalena Simmermacher from Argentina, who are tied for third on three-under 69.

Going out in the first group, Gaurika, who spent much of 2020 away from golf because of the pandemic, had a steady day, with four birdies and two bogeys.

Among other Indians, Tvesa Malik and Diksha Dagar shot even par 72 each to be Tied-28th.

Gaurika, who is playing this week on an invite, birdied third and ninth to turn in two-under, but dropped shots on 10th and 11th meant she was back to even.

The Gurgaon golfer, however, fought back and birdied par-4 13th and Par-5 16th to total 70.

Diksha opened with two bogeys and also closed with a bogey. In between she had five birdies and two more bogeys for 72.



Dlamini, 29, set the early pace with three birdies in a row on the newly redesigned second, third and fourth holes.

She sank a three-foot putt on the uphill eighth hole for another birdie and made the turn in four-under-par 33. As the wind picked up, she made another two birdies, along with two bogeys on the back nine, coming home in level par 35.

Eight players sit on two-under-par, including Gaurika Bishnoi.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS GET A 'ROYAL' THRASHING

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Yashasvi Jaiswal timed it beautifully while Shivam Dube deflated Chennai Super Kings with brute power as Rajasthan Royals kept their play-off hopes alive with a morale-boosting seven-wicket victory in the IPL here on Saturday.

Jaiswal smashed 50 off 21 balls which included some delectable sixes off star Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood while Dube sent the likes of Moeen Ali and Ravindra Jadeja into orbit en route his unbeaten 64 off 42 balls as Royals made a short work of a victory target of 190 in just 17.3 overs.

Royals now have 10 points with two matches to go. The fourth place is set to be clinched at 14 points and net run-rate is going to be crucial. The defeat won't hurt CSK much as they sit pretty on 18 points, having already made it to last four stage. When CSK ended their innings at 189 for 4 with Ruturaj Gaikwad's superb 60-ball-101 not out, little did anyone think that Royals' Indian players would reply in kind and go even one better.

Jaiswal, with six fours and three sixes, was given fine support by Evin Lewis (27 off 12 balls) in their opening stand of 77 in 5.2 overs which set up the game. Hazlewood (0/54) wouldn't have imagined that he would be hit for three sixes in his first spell as the match slipped out of CSK's grasp in the Powerplay itself.

Jaiswal, whose game has



improved from last season by a few notches, was seen flicking Hazlewood over deep mid-wicket and also hit a straight six during that knock.

Dube, who doesn't have much of a footwork, hit some monstrous sixes off Jadeja, Moeen Ali and Sam Curran whenever the ball was pitched in his arc.

In all, he hit four fours and four sixes. Such was Dube's domination that even the stylish Sanju Samson (28 off 24 balls) paled in comparison during their 89 run stand for the third wicket in 9.3 overs.

But when the match started, it seemed as if Gaikwad owned the stage as he hit a six off Mustafizur Rahman's last ball to complete a coveted maiden IPL ton.

Gaikwad struck as many as nine fours and five sixes in his 60-ball 101 not out to make a mockery of Royals' bowling attack in their 12th round encounter. Some of his shots in the off-side region would be remembered for times to come.

Ravindra Jadeja (32 not out off 15 balls) scythed through the Royals attack at the back-end as CSK added 55 runs in only 3.4 overs.

In fact, in the final over, Jadeja faced four deliveries, leaving Gaikwad with two deliveries and he pulled Mustafizur Rahman off the final delivery to complete the coveted landmark.

For the Royals, leg-spinner Rahul Tewatia (3/39 in 4 overs) was the most successful bowler but his joy of getting

three scalps was spoilt by Gaikwad with two back-to-back sixes -- one over long-off and other into the sightscreen.

The sixes over mid-wicket off left-arm seamers Akash Singh and Mustafizur were delightful as it landed at least 20 yards behind the ropes into the grass banks.

The Puneekar is not someone who is muscular but a "strong core" (according to him) and stable base allows him to maintain shape while going for the big shots as Royals found out on the day.

The manner in which he came down the track and lofted seamer Chetan Sakariya for an inside-out one-bounce boundary made it look as if he was tackling a spinner with enough time at his disposal.

Gaikwad's sequence of scores since resumption of IPL is 88, 38, 30, 45 and now 101 not out.

There hasn't been a single failure so far and his partnerships with Faf du Plessis (25) has been the cornerstone of CSK's good batting performance.

That none of their retired stars like Suresh Raina, skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Ambati Rayudu, all IPL heavyweights in their own rights, haven't had much contribution with the bat, isn't affecting them primarily because of du Plessis and Gaikwad's power-packed starts.

On Saturday, they added 47 for the first wicket while they had conjured up 71 against RCB, 74 against KKR and 75 against SunRisers Hyderabad.



Gaikwad gets century on final ball

FIANS ■ ABU DHABI

Ruturaj Gaikwad put up an exhibition of timing and classical hitting to reach his first century in the IPL as Chennai Super Kings finished at 189/4 in 20 overs in Match 47 of IPL 2021 at Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium here on Saturday.

Gaikwad was well-supported by Ravindra Jadeja's blitzkrieg in the end apart from useful contributions by Faf du Plessis and Moeen Ali.

It was a fine batting effort by Chennai, feasting on Rajasthan's listless bowling. Only Rahul Tewatia and Chetan Sakariya were among the wickets as rest of the bowlers were taken for runs, resulting in 73 runs coming off the last five overs.

Put in to batting first, Gaikwad and Faf du Plessis continued their rich vein of form, adding 44 runs for no loss in power-play. While Gaikwad creamed debutant Akash Singh for two fours in the opening over, du Plessis took back-to-back boundaries against Chetan Sakariya in the

fifth over.

Tewatia broke the 47-run partnership in the seventh over, getting du Plessis easily stumped by keeper Sanju Samson. Tewatia had his second wicket of the match as Suresh Raina's promotion to three in his 200th match for Chennai ended with a slog-sweep going straight to deep mid-wicket.

Despite the two dismissals, Gaikwad and Moeen Ali struck boundaries and rotated strike to keep the scoreboard ticking. Ali hit a four and a six off Mayank Markande in the 13th over to get going. Gaikwad brought up his half-century in 43 balls, his second of the UAE leg of the tournament.

From there, Gaikwad accelerated, hitting Tewatia for two sixes on the trot in the 15th over. Though Tewatia had Ali stumped, it didn't slow down Gaikwad. In the next over, he took two fours and a six off Akash Singh to enter into the 80s. Though Ambati Rayudu fell cheaply, Gaikwad continued to collect boundaries with pristine timing.

It will be difficult to win games if batsmen don't perform: Rohit Sharma

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Dejection writ large on his face, Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma on Saturday said they are not playing to their potential as the defeat against Delhi capitals made their road to IPL Play-offs tougher.

The defending champions lost by four wickets against DC to stay in sixth place and they now need not only win their remaining two games but also hope for favourable results from other matches.

Rohit counted himself among the batting failures this season as MI yet again settled for a below-par score of 129 for 7 and could not defend it.

"If your batters aren't going to post runs on the board, it will be difficult to win games. I personally accept that. We're not able to execute in the middle, which is particularly disappointing," Rohit said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"We are not playing to our potential. Hopefully in the next two games, we play the way we are known for."

Rohit said they knew that Sharjah "will be a difficult venue" and prepared in the best possible manner.

"We watched a lot of matches, and it's not the easiest venues to play and make a lot of runs. We were well pre-



pared and we knew what we had to do," he said.

"I thought we didn't bat well enough. We knew it wasn't a 170-180 wicket, but we knew it was a 140 wicket. We just didn't get the partnerships going."

Capitals captain Rishabh Pant conceded that it was a hard-fought victory.

"In Sharjah, the wicket always plays differently. We were planning to bowl mostly the fast bowlers in the power-play. Easier for the spinner in these tracks. I held back one over of Ashwin to keep him away from Pollard and Hardik."

"Avesh is the find of the season for us, but at Delhi Capitals, we learn from our mistakes and pick up. We have to solidify our batting." He said (Marcus) Stoinis should be fine in a few days and that will be good for the team.

"You can't always go for it, but someone has to be aggressive in the powerplay." Iyer said that his team has worked hard on transforming itself.

"The transition in the last two years has happened. Since 2019, we have shifted that towards our team. We try to implement that within the dressing room. We try to be humble, and we try to ensure whoever's day it is, he makes sure the team wins the game."

Koeman will keep job as Barcelona coach: Laporta



AP ■ BARCELONA

In an unexpected move, Barcelona's club president quashed reports of the imminent firing of Ronald Koeman on Saturday when he said that the Dutch coach will keep his job.

"Koeman will continue being the coach of Barcelona," Joan Laporta said hours before Barcelona's match at Atlético Madrid that many reports in the Spanish media speculated could be Koeman's last.

"Today, regardless of the result, Koeman will still be Barcelona's coach," Laporta told reporters in Madrid.

"He has a contract, (and) we hope that he can get us back on the winning path, playing the way we want. I know he will give it his all."

It was the first public statement Laporta has made since a bitter 3-0 loss at Benfica on Wednesday sparked venomous reports that Koeman's days were numbered.

Barcelona has lost both its Champions League matches without generating a single shot on target and is under threat of failing to qualify for the knockout rounds for the first time in 20 years.

Koeman himself said on Friday that he imagined that the rumors of his exit were "probably true."

The Spanish league match at Atlético comes before a break from club competitions for national teams to play, which would have given Barcelona's leadership a window to make a move. Spanish media had reported that Laporta was considering Xavi Hernández, Andrea Pirlo and Roberto Martínez as possible replacements.

But, at least for now, Laporta is standing by the former Barcelona defender who etched his name into the Catalan club's history thanks to his final-winning goal that earned Barcelona its first of five European Cups in 1992.

MCA to handover hospitality box to Gavaskar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) will hand over the hospitality box at the iconic Wankhede Stadium to legendary batsman Sunil Gavaskar on October 29.

The decision was taken at the MCA's apex council meeting held here on Saturday.

It was also decided that the cricket body will also inaugurate the 'Dilip Vengsarkar North Stand' on the same day.

"MCA to keep function of Late Shri Madhav Mantri centenary year on October 29. On the same day, MCA will handover (the) hospitality box to Sunil Gavaskar," a member of the MCA Apex Council told PTI.



"And 'Dilip Vengsarkar North Stand' will be inaugurated in presence of Chief Guest Shri Sharad Pawar and Guest of Honour G R Viswanath."

The member also said that both Gavaskar and Vengsarkar will be honoured by "MCA colours."

A former India captain, Gavaskar played a staggering 125 Tests, from which he amassed 10,122 runs. The 'little-master', regarded as one of the greats of the game, also played 108 ODIs, from which he scored 2,092 runs.

Vengsarkar, also a former India captain and ex chairman of selectors, played 116 Tests, from which he scored 6,868 runs. He was known as the 'Lord of the Lords'. He was also an office-bearer of the MCA.

INDIA WINS FIRST EVER WCC MEDAL

PTI ■ SITGES (SPAIN)

India clinched a silver medal after going down 0-2 to Russia in the final of the FIDE World Women's Team Chess Championship here on Saturday.

After losing the first match 1.5-2.5 despite a brilliant win for D Harika on the board, the Indians were outclassed 3-1 in the second as a strong Russian team stormed to a title triumph.

It was India's first ever medal in the world team chess championship. In the second match, Harika held

Goryachkina to a draw as did R Vaishali (Elo 2149) against the higher rated Alexandra Kosteniuk (Elo 2517). However, Tania Sachdev and Mary Ann Gomes went down to higher rated Katernya Lagno and Polina Shuvalova to give Russia a comprehensive victory and the gold.

Sacheva fought well before losing to Lagno in 53 moves and Gomes, who has been in good form throughout the tournament, succumbed to defeat in 48 moves against Shuvalova in a Sicilian Kann Variation game.

Earlier, India lost the first match despite Harika (Elo 2450) pulling off



a superb win over Goryachkina (Elo 2520) on the first board despite the gulf in Elo ratings. Gomes drew against Alina Kashlinskaya on the fourth board.

For Russia, former world champion Kosteniuk beat young Vaishali on the second board while Bhakti Kulkarni's poor form hurt India as she lost to Lagno.

India, who had done well to finish second in the preliminary Pool A by winning three matches and drawing one while losing to Russia, came into the final after a win over a strong Georgian team.



and earned another point when referee cautioned the Georgian for taking too much time to get on to his feet. However, the super quick American proved too good for Ravinder, who lost his quarter-final by technical superiority. A flurry of gut-wrench moves followed from Fix, who finished the bout inside two minutes. The 74kg contender Yash was outplayed 0-7 by Russia's Timur Bizhoev. Yash hardly made any move as he stayed in his shell without attacking his opponent.

In the 86kg, national champion Sandeep Mann fought hard before losing 4-5 to Korea's Kim Gwanuk.

In the 125kg, Anirudh bowed out with a 3-9 defeat against Egypt's Hemida Youssif.

Indian wrestler Ravinder stunned defending champion Beka Lomtadze before being outclassed by American Daton Duane Fix in the 61kg quarterfinals even as three of his compatriots were eliminated in the qualification rounds of the World Championships, here on Saturday.

Ravinder, who won a silver medal in the junior world championship in August, gave a good account of himself in his three bouts and will now be in contention for a bronze medal via repechage route.

Young wrestler Yash Tunir (74kg), national champion Sandeep Mann (86kg) and Anirudh (125kg) could not get past the qualification rounds in their respective categories and made an early exit from the competition.

Ravinder began with a technical superiority win over Korea's Kim Sunggwon and then returned to the mat to shock 2019 world champion Lomtadze, who ran out of steam as the bout progressed.

In the first period, only two push-out points were scored with Ravinder leading on last-point scored criteria. He lost another point for stepping out but grabbed the lead with a take-down move against the Georgian.

He effected a throw to consolidate his lead

PTI ■ OSLO (NORWAY)

Ravinder stuns defending champion before losing

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talktime

NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI

The actor was recently seen in Mustafa Farooki's No Land's Man that was nominated for Busan International Film Festival. He speaks with Shalini Sakkena about the movie among other things

'IT'S THE DIRECTOR WHO BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN ME'

■ What is No Land's Man about?

It's a movie about the identity of a man, Naveen. I play this character as lead. It is his journey. How he is trying to find out himself and what he actually is. This is What the film is about.

■ The film is your first English feature film. Was it different to do this project?

The difference is, Three-four years back, the director, Mustafa Farooki and I had a chat and we decided that we should make a film about it. This would be our medium to talk about it. Six-seven months later he came with a film and drafting was done. We got in touch and we decided the base of the movie and finally we are so happy that it is in this prestigious film festival called Busan International Film Festival.

■ How was the experience of working with him?

It was wonderful working with him. He is the kind of director who supports the actor a lot with his presence. I sometimes felt that Mustafa is somewhere in me and he is pushing me to do something new and something that I'm feeling. I haven't done any characterisation, I'm almost myself in the film but the situations are made keeping in consideration with how I would react.

■ What made you agree to the film?

Of course I agreed because Mustafa Farooki is a wonderful director. Second, we had discussed this topic and I wanted to do a film on it. Saying no wasn't an option. Along with Mustafa we made this movie with Rahman *sahab* who is the producer with me. Finally, it feels good that the topic of discussion a few years ago became a movie today in a proper form. It was a wonderful experience.

■ The star cast includes international actors too. How was it to work with them?

Actors aren't different, they are all the same

ACTORS AREN'T DIFFERENT, THEY ARE ALL THE SAME WHEREVER YOU GO, BOLLYWOOD, HOLLYWOOD OR AUSTRALIA. THE WORK ATTITUDE MAY BE DIFFERENT, THE APPROACH TOWARDS A CHARACTER IS DIFFERENT BUT ACTORS ARE PRETTY MUCH THE SAME

wherever you go, Bollywood, Hollywood, Australia. Megan, an Australian actress, is alongside me in this film with some actors from New York as well. The work attitude may be different from one another, the approach towards a character is different but I think actors are pretty much the same.

■ The film has won a few awards already but why don't such movies do well when and if ever released commercially?

Screening and promotion are problematic. If you are willing to screen this movie on 4,500 screens so people will watch. Even if you release a movie about cats and dogs on 5,000 screens, the first day collection would be around ₹20-₹25 crore. So that's the monopoly of the stars. Now, if you are showcased a film in 5s000 screens, then how would you get time for other movies good or bad. If you don't get the proper screentime and showtime then who will come and watch it?

■ What's the secret of your effortless acting?

If I divulge my secrets to you, then what about me? Just kidding but it's all about my director who makes this all possible.

■ How is it to work in a pandemic?

I was here (London) in January last year shooting my film, *Sangeen*. It was very scary, now it's pretty normal and you can walkaround without a mask as there is no compulsion. But before that I had to quarantine when I came here. After that you are free wherever you want to go.

■ What is your character in Heropanti 2?

I don't wish to say much about *Heropanti*. I'm enjoying London now. So I'm having fun playing the character.

■ Have you ever regretted doing a character?

It hasn't happened ever. I always choose my character after a lot of thought. The characters that I feel that I won't be able to enjoy, I don't do them. Yes, there are a lot of challenges with characters that make you a little annoyed but it's a good thing for an actor. That after the problematic phase and the hard work there is an ease that you enjoy a lot.

■ What are your upcoming projects?

There is a movie called *Tiku Weds Sheru* by Kanganana's production house. I can't say much.

BollyWorld


WAR SCRIPT DIDN'T EXCITE HRITHIK

Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan says he was not "excited" when he first read the script of War as he thought it was too "frivolous and superficial".

The high-octane actioner, directed by Siddharth Anand and produced by Aditya Chopra, has completed two years of its release in Hindi cinema on Saturday.

Hrithik reveals his first reaction to the War script. He said, "Well, it's complicated. When I read the script I didn't see anything in it that excited me. It was too frivolous and superficial. And I was into real cinema like Super 30 at the time.

War tells the story of Kabir, a secret agent, who goes rogue after a mission to catch a terrorist. The film also stars Tiger Shroff and Vaani Kapoor.



IAN S

25 YEARS TO SHILPA AND TABU'S FRIENDSHIP

During the Sunday episode of 'Super Dancer: Chapter 4', celebrity guest and Bollywood actress Tabu will be seen complimenting the acts and also entertaining everyone with her dance moves. In conversation with judges Shilpa Shetty Kundra and Geeta Kapur, it is revealed that Shilpa and Tabu have been friends for about 25 years.

Showing the duo some images from their time shooting, both Shilpa and Tabu walked down memory lane and spoke about how their friendship progressed and flourished over the years.

Shilpa revealed on the show that she and Tabu became friends when Shilpa asked for a bottle of shampoo from Tabu on the sets of Shilpa Shetty's film 'Gambler' and Tabu's set 'Vijaypath' at Kudremukh waterfalls.



IAN S

Masterstroke

Glowing skin, bold red lips and bright eyes are sure to bedazzle a crowd everywhere you go. Start by applying the Maybelline FitMe Foundation - blend well for a flawless base. Define your eyes using the Maybelline New York Tattoo High Impact Liner, and Hypercurl Mascara for a striking fanned-out lash effect. Now comes my favourite part - pushing the envelope to up the ante: Highlight your cheeks and browbones with our Masterchrome Highlighter. Finally, perfect your pout with a bold red lip using the Maybelline Superstay Matte Ink in the shade 'Pioneer'. This one's a 16hour long-lasting matte lipstick. Now all you need do is fling on your chic denim jacket and try this sassy makeup look to truly make a statement.

— Elton J Fernandez, Maybelline New York's Makeup Expert




NatureTalk

The dracaena plant is a popular ornamental houseplant. One can keep it indoors and outdoors. This plant has a dramatic foliage with beautiful colour patterns. This means it makes for a great ornamental plant for indoors.

It's greatest benefit — it helps to keep the air pure.

It requires medium to bright indirect sunlight. However, it was asotolerate low light. Overwatering causes its root rot. This is the main reason why thedracaena plant dies. Water the plant well but allow the top 75 per cent of the soil to dry before watering again. Thoroughly and discard any extra water.



It is precious for heart

It is health that is real wealth and to keep oneself fit, it is important to take care of the heart, the most vital organ. Here are a few gemstones that can keep cardiac diseases at bay

■ RUBY

The red coloured stone, also known as Manikya, is said to have the ability to cure a variety of ailments. Ruby is reputed to be effective in the treatment of heart illness, poor blood circulation, fluctuating blood pressure, and impaired vision. In addition to that, ruby is known to aid with concerns such as self-confidence and mental concentration.

Ruby is beneficial for people with stressful jobs, as it can provide good health, prestige and honour to its wearer.



er. The wearer will be disease-free upon wearing the ruby, and solve problems like chronic headache and indigestion and more.

■ EMERALD

The amazing green stone also known as Panna is specifically known for its cut called the 'Emerald Cut'. Royalty and Emperors have coveted emeralds for a long time, and it is believed to be one of their most valued belongings, according to legend.

Emerald is well-known for its ability to cure the heart chakra and to boost the overall well-being of those who possess it. This allows the wearer to have complete control over disorders involving the neurological system, intestines, lungs, liver, and heart.



■ ROSE QUARTZ

The healing properties of this light pink tinted gemstone are well known for their impact on the heart chakra. As a result, it has been shown to promote general health and is also effective in treating severe heart problems such as poor blood circulation and irregular blood pressure. It is placed on the heart and is responsible for directing essential oxygen to the heart. Rose quartz has been shown to reduce the risk of thrombosis and heart attacks.


An emphasis on the importance of raising awareness of cardiovascular disease and ways to address it is crucial. Share this information with your loved ones and encourage them to embrace a healthy lifestyle.

The writer is Pankaj Khanna, Chairman, Gem Selections & Khanna Gems Group



■ HESSONITE

Hessonite, commonly known as gomed, is a gemstone that plays a vital role in protecting one's horoscope from the negative effects of Rahu. Hessonite is beneficial in the treatment of anxiety and mental illnesses. It can also be used to treat allergies, infections, high blood pressure, asthma, and sinusitis, among other conditions.



■ PEARL

Pearls, also known as Moti, are found in the bottom of the oceans inside shellfish. It is said to relax the body, mind, and skin. Pure natural pearls are beneficial for people with self-confidence and mental focusing issues. It also helps in building a good cordial environment for its wearer. Pearl is believed to fight heart diseases and keep the heart healthy and strong.



ATUL JINDAL who has choreographed people like Big B and Badshah to name a few, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about how he got interesting in dancing

❖ How did you end up choreographing?

My journey started when I was in college. When I realised that it was something I wanted to explore more, I trained at Broadway Dance Centre, New York. Back home, I started my dream venture — Big Dance — to create a platform for aspiring dancers to get the best training and dance education right here in India. Since then, the journey has been a rollercoaster. My first industry project was with Yo Yo Honey Singh. I've been lucky to have worked with names like Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Sushant Singh, Badshah to name a few.

❖ Bad Boy Bad Girl song is doing well. Did you anticipate the success during the making?

When I'm preparing for a project, I never think about the eventual numbers or the reach, I try to give my best and choreograph to my best possible capabilities. Of course, I loved the



vibe of the song and knew audience will love it too. Also, when you're working with artists like Badshah, success is guaranteed!

‘Amitabh sir is such a pleasure to work with’

It was my first time choreographing for his music video. I have choreographed for his live concert as well on reality shows. He came with a very clear idea that he wanted to really focus on the choreography. The flavour of the song is very laid back and groovy. He wanted the dance to shine.

❖ As a choreographer, how different you think the track is from other Badshah tracks?

Bad Boy Bad Girl is not a high energy party track like most of his songs like *Abhi to Party* and *Kar Gayi Chull*. This song is groovy like *Wakhra Swag* and *Mercy*.

❖ You have also choreographed for Kanta Laga for Honey Singh, Tony Kakkar and Neha Kakkar. Tell us about your experience.

It was amazing! Working with not one but three such powerhouses of talent was incredible. I had to create a choreography that would suit each of

their unique styles and personalities and at the same time be commercially viable and catchy for the audiences.

❖ Does trolling effects you? What's your take on that?

I don't take trolling too seriously. In fact, I find it amusing. It's entertaining to read the memes and comments! At the end of the day, we make our art for the audiences and everyone is entitled to their opinion.

❖ You have worked with several Bollywood celebrities. How was it to work with them?

My favourite experience was with Amitabh sir. There's a reason why he is a legend. His drive, dedication and passion is unparalleled. I choreographed the song — *Party for Bhoothnath* for him. He was always the first one to reach the sets and constantly kept revising the steps to perfect them. The dancers got tired, but Amitabh sir kept going! Hats off to him. It was a pleasure to work with him.

Sound of music



Music is the best medicine. Here are the top 10 songs of the week that will lift up your weekend mood

Bollywood vibes

Pehla Nasha (Udit Narayan)

Kuch Na Kahlo (Kumar Sanu)

Kehna Hi Kya (K S Chithra)

Jadu Teri Nazar (Udit Narayan)

Band Hothon Se (Sasha Ghoshal)

English Vinglish

Stairway to Heaven (Led Zeppelin)

Imagine (Yoko Ono)

Revolution (The Beatles)

Wind of Change (Boppin' B)

Back in Black (AC/DC)



Troubled neighbours

Ranjit Rae's book, *Kathmandu Dilemma: Resetting India-Nepal Ties*, provides the most recent account of India-Nepal relations

2



4

Address your mental limitations

If you work upon yourself to address the limitations of your mind, you would qualify to make it to the desired destination

I don't really look like people in films; I look like people in paintings
—Tilda Swinton



INTERACTIVE LEARNING: CAN GAMES SERVE AS GOOD LEARNING TOOLS?

Gaming has a great potential to become an integrated and engaging learning tool that not only stimulates the students' soft skills but also promotes academic concepts, writes NAINA JAMAKHANDIMATH

Keeping students engaged in the classroom is an ever-present challenge. Yet, through innovation and creativity, it is possible to offer excellent learning experiences that make learning exciting for students of all ages. How? Through games and gaming!

Games and gaming can serve as excellent learning tools in the classroom and at home, while also boosting student interest and engagement in learning. How do games serve as learning tools? Let's look at some considerations that will explore just how games can achieve excellence in learning:

TRADITIONAL GAMES AND LEARNING: THE ORIGINAL WAY TO LEARN

Traditionally the games we play, whether physical games like kabaddi or soccer, board games like Monopoly or Chutes and Ladders, or card games like Uno, have always been enjoyed as family activities or to build our friendships. Games have always subconsciously taught us to play as an individual, promoted healthy competition, and shown us to be a part of a team. Can games do more than this?

As humans, we are naturally drawn to games regardless of our age and disposition. Games have an innate way of keeping players interested and focused as they play. They also offer a perfect medium for learning.

At their essence, games offer the blended benefit of having fun while also learning various skills. Just a few examples of learning that can happen during gameplay include developing motor skills, basic mathematical skills, teamwork, interpersonal skills, sportsmanship, strategy skills, problem-solving skills, and more! When games are developed for specific educational purposes, they can help players attain even more learning and academic skills. Furthermore, including gaming and game-play elements in learning environments can boost interest and motivation which are essential for student comprehension and academic achievement.

TECHNOLOGY & ADAPTATION OF GAMES IN AN ONLINE/VIRTUAL FORMAT

Today, ever-advancing technology and the pandemic have changed our perception of online gaming. While once an optional add-on or a futuristic dream, today, we know that using technology and online learning is essential. Technology and online games can help us continue learning hard skills and soft skills in a safe environment.

As the world has started to embrace technology and various tools like mobile phones, computers, and even tablets, software companies have adapted and created more solutions and platforms. These platforms help facilitate remote communication while also bringing rich content and entertainment to an individual's fingertips. Like all industries, the education industry also saw a huge change in terms of online resources including online courses, textbooks, and even learning games. Through these innovative adaptations, students have been able to continue their education even in the middle of a global pandemic.

THE GAMING AND EDUCATION INDUSTRIES: ROLES AND POTENTIAL

Gaming is a 120 billion dollar industry (in entertainment) and the education market is also huge. EdTech is generally accepted to be the industry where education and gaming come together to offer fun learning apps, learning platforms, and digital learning experiences. This industry was valued at nearly \$75 billion in 2019 and is expected to grow at nearly 20% until 2027. Growth may accelerate even faster due to the current Covid-19 pandemic. Just one data point shows that educational app downloads surged 90% compared to pre-pandemic times.

Experts anticipate a huge growth in this industry that will certainly have an intense impact on education around the world. As a result, a few key questions emerge:

● **Role of gaming in the education market:** Today's education system is the witness to



many new and innovative learning and teaching tools. Gamified content is one of the best and most effective ways to teach difficult practical subjects. Educators of the future recognize the power of gaming and embrace it as a tool. To answer the question, gaming plays a key role in the education market.

Gaming in the education market is growing day by day. More and more edtech companies are developing game-based content using Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and other tools to make learning interesting without diluting core curriculum content.

● **Gamified learning to fill the gaps that exist in the current education system:** One of the problems with the current education system is the number of students teachers are expected to teach. Individualised attention for each student is limited because of the number of students in each classroom. However, AI and educational games can respond to each student as they work, offering an artificial teacher presence. Then, using technology, human teachers can easily monitor student progress and address challenges as necessary. Essentially, gaming has the potential to help make teachers more effective and improve student performance. How else might gaming help?

STUDENT ATTENTION SPAN

According to one study, adult attention spans are typically about 20 minutes long. One of the challenges for teachers today is to keep students, whose attention spans may be even shorter, engaged in a 40-minute class. For younger children, the difficulty of keeping students focused and attentive is even greater. Elementary-aged students may have attention spans as short as 10 minutes or less.

Games have helped us concentrate and focus on playing or winning the game. As a natural progression, from physical classrooms to online, educators and edtech companies are considering how playing games might be incorporated in the curriculum to attain the

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young learners' attention and keep them engaged to increase their learning. So far, research shows it works!

Games provide a non-threatening atmosphere for students, wherein students are engaged and responsive to the learning process. Students' attitudes are mentored towards the basic concepts and ideology behind the games. Hence, it is crucial to have strong pedagogy and real life examples and environments to teach students better themselves in all aspects. Student behavior shows the signs of a great positive pedagogy and students tend to adapt and apply the learning to problems, issues, or difficult situations. However, when the principles of a game are not aligned to the curriculum or global understanding of concepts, the game itself becomes redundant. Or worse, the game takes a student on a different learning curve that includes aggression, violence, farce, or superficial learning.

THE ROLE OF CREATIVITY & IMAGINATION IN GAMES

In the conservative Indian education system, students are often asked to keep quiet and not ask questions. We have had several debates, thought policies, and opinions by experts in education, expressing the need for a child to question, be creative, and not to curb their imaginations. Games become one of the important tools to offer children a welcoming environment in which to express themselves. Furthermore, through games, children can be more creative, innovative, and analytical when tackling situations. Today, we are looking at individuals to have a scientific bent of mind and innovate to handle global crises like climate change or disposal of plastic and harmful chemicals. Encouraging science-based games or simple puzzles with multiple solutions will help create young scientists, mathematicians, innovators, and coders.

GAMING IN 'STEAM' SUBJECTS

Teachers have long approached subjects like maths and science with various teaching

methods. Activities, projects, labs, experiments, etc. have all played a role. In the harshness of the pandemic and the advent of technology; online, digital, and virtual educational tools are moving from being a "nice to have" product to a "must have" product.

Today, institutions have moved to an online model of education with the teacher/facilitator teaching the students through video conferencing. Mathematics and science, being practical subjects, require students to do and learn using all their senses including visual, audio, tactile, and spatial. Merely explaining science and maths topics via video conferencing isn't enough. Students can't grasp concepts or apply the learning in real life when video conferencing is the only tool available.

Gaming on the other hand, physical or virtual, helps students strengthen their learning through audio, visual, and kinesthetic abilities to play, feel, understand and learn the concepts which bring them to think, feel and act.

For example, when learning math, learning platforms and apps can incorporate manipulatives and real-life situations into the learning. Plus, children can practice reading and solving word problems with multiple solutions. Because the app can provide immediate feedback in the form of clues, hints, or affirmation of a correct answer, children are encouraged and motivated. These are just a few elements you'll find incorporated into Matific!

GAMES AS A HOLISTIC TEACHING TOOL

Holistic learning in today's uncertain world becomes not only important but imperative for one's growth and happiness. All the aspects of holistic learning such as soft skills, academic skills, survival skills, job skills, physical health habits, mental health, and spiritual health have always been found in games.

Games have the ability to teach us most of the aspects of holistic learning including patience, leadership, teamwork, strategy, survival instincts, knowledge about the game or opponent, focus, vision, fitness, and much more.

Most of the online educational games today are created using just basic requirements, but a good educational tool is one that has a strong base of good pedagogy and rigorous content. In addition, quality online games use games and activities to communicate and disseminate the learnings to students in a holistic manner.

Teachers can go the extra mile and help ensure that learning through technology is truly holistic. For example, students can develop social skills by talking about the learning they're doing using apps and digital platforms. Older students can mentor younger students and teach them how to use programs, helping the older students develop leadership skills. The opportunities for holistic growth facilitated by online learning are endless.

THE BOTTOM LINE ON GAMES AND LEARNING

As the number of educational games only grows, educators need to carefully evaluate them to ensure that they will offer their students a stimulating and effective learning experience. High-quality educational games, apps, and platforms offer a wonderful glimpse into a future in which students receive the individualised attention they deserve. Furthermore, these innovative products can boost student motivation, attention, understanding, and creativity.

Gaming has a great potential to become an integrated and engaging learning tool that not only stimulates the students' soft skills but also promotes academic concepts. Foundational numeracy, spatial intelligence, analytical reasoning, problem solving, literacy, are just a few examples of academic skills that can be gained through educational games. So, would you be joining this revolution in learning?

The writer is Director, Growth & Partnerships, India, Matific

If “*Regrets, None*” is not honored with a Sahitya Academy award, the loser is going to be the latter itself. “*Regrets, None*” is sure to go places from the Page Three columns in traditional newspapers. Dolly is not a manufacturer of literature but a repository of life’s trials and tribulations. Hope this book does not end up as her swan song. Seventy eight year young Dolly Thakore has miles to go and hundreds of stories to tell the world. More is expected of this elegant lady who deserves at least a Padma Shri award.

Myanmar Army: No sign of relinquishing power

On February 1 this year, the Myanmar military (also known as the Tatmadaw in Burmese language) took over the control of the country. It was simply done to quietly oust a legitimate and democratically elected Government headed by veteran Aung San Suu Kyi and her party, National League for Democracy (NLD). After completing a full five year-term of governance from 2015-2020, Suu Kyi's party once again scored massive victory over all her rival parties, including the Army-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) in the Parliamentary elections of November 8, 2020.

The country's top general (also called as Senior General) and Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Min Aung Hlaing, was in fact sending enough signals to the NLD Government that the Army was not happy with the way the latest Parliamentary election was conducted. And, according to the Army, the election was a complete fraud wherein massive malpractices took place. But the Government of Suu Kyi and the Myanmar's Election Commission denied all these charges of the Army.

The crux of the issue is that the USDP suffered a humiliating defeat in the hand of the NLD in the last election. As per the official results declared by the election department, the NLD won 393 seats out of the 476 seats. Unfortunately, the USDP won bare 33 seats. So, the anger against the NLD and Suu Kyi's growing popularity was brewing inside the rank and file of the Burmese Army. It was not easy for the brutal Tatmadaw to accept the dominance of the civilian Government, especially under the leadership of Suu Kyi, once its arch rival. Therefore, the junta has been quite firm on its complaints on the election fraud since the beginning. Finally, the General did what he had to do.

Today, it is crystal clear that Myanmar's February coup was indeed a foretold chronicle. The pre-dawn coup d'état on that fateful day witnessed the detention of State Counsellor Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, along with a number of newly elected NLD party leaders, and definitely, the critics of the military in the country.

This is the first putsch since 1988. However, the military is armed with the backing of the country's Constitution



In this July 7, 2021, file photo, students protest against the February military takeover by the State Administration Council as they march at Kyauktada township in Yangon, Myanmar

AP

declared in 2008. It clearly says the Army can take over power in order to prevent any situation that may "disintegrate the Union or disintegrate national solidarity or that may cause the loss of sovereignty".

Therefore, the Army wanted to investigate the malpractices in the November 8 election which the Suu Kyi Government denied. And to the Army, such a situation may destabilise the country. So, the General had all the excuses to dethrone the NLD Government from the power.

Recently the Army General announced in a speech that the current emergency may be extended up to August 2023.

Most importantly, he has designated himself as the Chair of the State Administration Council (SAC) and Prime Minister of the caretaker Government now ruling the country for the last eight months. In his hour-long speech, he defended the coup and promised to hold free and

fair election. Equally, he condemned the protesters both for spreading the Covid-19 and destabilising the whole nation. As per the orders released on February 1 this year, Hlaing has been already endowed with executive, legislative and judicial powers to run the country. On August 23, when the top General spoke in the 14th meeting of the SAC, he outlined a detailed plan for matters related to election and legislation. It seems the man in uniform has given his final sermon from the country's Capital Naypyidaw.

He has clearly meant business (for which the Myanmar Army stands tall both in times of war and peace all these years). And eventually, since then his orders, truly clear orders, have been made effective by the olive branch across the nation.

It was interesting to note here that till early July this year, the junta was solely focussing on containing the growing

protests, the activities of the National Unity Government (NUG) and its People's Defence Force (PDF). But on September 7, when the NUG declared an all-out defensive war against the current military Government of Hlaing, the Tatmadaw must have rolled out all the possible strategies and mostly repressive ones to counter the protesters of the NLD.

Frankly speaking, the paramount aim of the military is to finish the popularity of Suu Kyi and discredit the legitimacy of the results of the national election declared on November 26 last year. And it is working hard to repress the protesters so as to contain the huge upsurge against the military after long time since the heydays of Suu Kyi in the past.

Another aspect that has never ever worked with most of the military dictators and authoritarian rulers across the globe is the impact of international sanctions, whether military or economic. Truly, these

kinds of sanction affect the civilians. And the military rulers hardly bother about the commoners as they know they possess the firepower, and they can handle the ordinary people. Certainly, this universal thesis has proved right for the Tatmadaw in Burma as well. Hlaing, being an experienced commander, knows how to handle such pressures, commonly known as international sanctions and sometimes coming as harsh and diplomatic words from global governance agencies like the UN.

However, ever-willing China is already there to support such regimes across the world. And this has come directly these days from Beijing, including the support offered to the Taliban Government in Afghanistan today. With Xi Jinping, the "life-time" President of China, Beijing has become more vociferous in offering support, mainly financial backing to such reclusive governments

like the one in Naypyidaw. Because, like the Tatmadaw in Myanmar, it wants security, stability and territorial integrity even at the cost of the violation of internationally recognised human rights and basic freedoms. So, the Army in Myanmar has no problem and it will certainly survive and sustain in the country.

Further, despite the Army being so unpopular, why it is extending its rule? Probably just to extend its stay in power for a longer period of time. It's definitely delaying tactics which the Army used in the past just to see that a favourable Constitution could be declared for it wherein it would have secured hold in power. And it did the same and thus today, the Army has considerable say in any democratically elected government in the country (except winning elections).

There is no possibility that Hlaing and his men will return the helm a democratically elected Government even in

2023. But anyway, he has been promising a free and fair election since the February coup. Interestingly, he also talked about a more proportionally represented electoral system for the multi-ethnic Burma. It could be so that the minority and ethnically composed far-flung parties in the periphery may buy this idea from the General very well.

Only because of the prevalence of a majoritarian electoral system, many, including the USDP and the smaller parties, believe that Suu Kyi's NLD has been able to script landslide victory in the last two national elections held in 2015 and 2020.

And the Army must be trying to align with such smaller parties to form Government at the centre in future. Probably, this kind of a refurbished electoral system could very well attract many minor parties and possibly turn them against the NLD bases.

The crude reality is that the Tatmadaw is all about brutality. It does not respect any globally recognised human rights. Hlaing is behaving like his predecessors only. He is no different. But quite often, he talks about the Army standing for the people. Clearly, the ordinary Burmese people know the intentions of the Army and how they treated them in the past.

Now, Suu Kyi, popularly known as "Ma Suu" and "the Lady" by the commoners in this impoverished Southeast Asian country is both ageing and losing fast her political acumen.

But then, what next? Will there be anyone, firm and resolute to counter the intransigence of the so-called "nationalist" Army of Myanmar? Else, in the name of protecting and safeguarding the territorial integrity of the country, the Army will play the same old game-taking over from the civilian leadership, whenever it thinks appropriate to exert its control over the country.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the Journal of Global Studies, an international research journal)

Suu Kyi, popularly known as "Ma Suu" and called "the Lady" by the commoners in this impoverished Southeast Asian country, is both ageing and losing fast her political acumen. But then, what next? Will there be anyone, firm and resolute to counter the intransigence of the so-called "nationalist" Army of Myanmar?

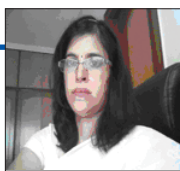


MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Cryptocurrency market awaits Digital Currency Bill

Instead of restricting its use, the Indian Government could take use of this chance to break down the boundaries associated with fiat currency and establish itself as a global cryptocurrency investment centre, attracting a large amount of business and investment. The decision of the Indian Government to launch the Central Bank Digital Currency, unlike cryptocurrency, within the regulated framework in several phases is the most desirable option



PRATIBHA RAI

The cryptocurrency market is predicted to increase at a CAGR of 7.1 per cent from \$1.6 billion in 2021 to \$2.2 billion in 2026. Bitcoin tokens account for close to 80 per cent of that value. The cryptocurrency ecosystem has increased phenomenally over the years. From a technical standpoint, cryptocurrencies have a well distributed, decentralised network that operates on a peer-to-peer mode. The first Bitcoin blockchain block was mined on January 3, 2009, and on January 12, 2009, Satoshi Nakamoto transmitted 10 Bitcoins to Hal Finney, marking the beginning of the Bitcoin currency. Despite the fact that bitcoin is polarising, the blockchain technology that underpins it has functioned admirably, and in both the financial and non-financial sectors, it has a wide range of uses.

The issue of legal regulation of cryptocurrency exists all across the world. There are no specific regulators that evaluate and control transactions and value transfer within the network. Cryptocurrencies are supported by a peer-to-peer network based on blockchain technology that is safe and



unhackable. Financial transactions and value transfers between any two parties can be carried out directly, regardless of their form and without the third party engagement using digital technology. The ability of blockchain technology to solve the problem of double-spending is what makes it valuable in banking applications.

A digital token consists of a digital file that can be repro-

duced or falsified, therefore, it is possible that the same digital token may be spent not only once but more. For speed, scalability and efficiency, cryptocurrencies rely on the open internet. The lack of confidence between exchange partners is taken care of by public-key cryptography procedures utilised to enable money transaction settlements.

Trading in cryptocurrency, including bitcoin, was forbid-

den, according to an RBI circular dated April 06, 2018, addressed to banks and other financial organisations. As a result, there was no dealing between the buyer and seller when it came to bitcoin or crypto assets. Furthermore, the authorities had called attention to the dangers of virtual currencies. The Supreme Court in its March 2020 ruling encouraged crypto acceptance in India.

Despite the fact that the legal position of Bitcoin varies greatly from country to country, there are some legislative limits on the use of virtual currencies in India. Although Bitcoin is not regulated by the RBI, there are 11 exchange platforms in India where it can be traded. Bitcoin is becoming increasingly important, but only to those who see it as a wise- or entertainingly risky- investment. The vast majority of people use Bitcoins as a means of profit rather than as a form of payment. Instead of restricting its use, the Indian Government could take use of this chance to break down the boundaries associated with fiat currency and establish itself as a global cryptocurrency investment centre, attracting a large amount of business and investment. We have reached the point where the cryptocurrency world is beginning to influence economic calculations in a demand and supply narrative.

The topic of cryptocurrency offers numerous research options, and numerous investigations must be completed in order to provide scientific information. The relationship between real financial regula-

tions and the legal status of implementing cryptocurrency platforms should be investigated further from multiple angles. Bitcoin appears to have encountered numerous roadblocks, and its numerous applications in everyday life have presented distinct obstacles to the end user community, yet Bitcoin appears to suggest promise for a better future. However, its growth is difficult to forecast.

The Central bank digital money supposed to be released soon as a mass-market digital asset is a well-contemplated move and will benefit the Indian economy. The framework for the final launch, if well implemented, will give a major boost to fintech industry in India. As envisaged, the decision of the Indian Government to launch the Central Bank Digital Currency, unlike cryptocurrency, within the regulated framework in several phases is the most desirable option.

(The writer is associated with Maharaja Agrasen College, Delhi University. She has taught economics and management, with focus on environmental economics)



MUSIC IS VERY SPIRITUAL,
IT HAS THE POWER TO
BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER
— EDGAR WINTER



**YOUR
WEEK
AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week you need a break. Those waiting for test results may expect favourable news. You may take spirituality as a stress buster and lead a healthy life. This is the right time to practice Yoga, Pranayam and meditation. Good news awaits this week on the career front as well. At work, someone's advice will come in handy in tackling a complicated issue. You may be tempted to take on more duties and responsibilities. Regularise your work. On the personal front, you might be having some doubts about the issues regarding the ancestral property. Discuss them with someone you trust in the family. Getting worried about children's future, their studies, marriage and expenses are on the cards.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you feel enthusiastic and adventurous to take on life challenges with full spirit. You are on the right path on the health front. Your health concern is paying you rich dividends now. You will feel vibrant, energetic and full of life. Your positive mindset and cheerfulness will add charm to your personality. Work-wise, you take life easy with a positive mindset and stay focused on your work. Your mind and thoughts are in harmony. There are chances that others might take advantage of your efforts. Use your judgment, instead of blindly following orders to remain on the right track. On the personal front, great fun is in store. Your goodwill and reputation will pay you rich dividends.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Wednesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you will manage to balance challenges and blessings with ease. This will improve your health and lend hope for the future. You will be full of life this week. The negativity in the past is dissolved. You are hopeful and playful now. Spending money on medical tests, for better living is on the cards. On the career front, you have some plans in your mind. It could be a change of job, or starting a new venture or any other thing that enhance your liability. Even if things have been lousy in your job for the last few months, there is cause for hope and positive anticipation. In terms of love, you are ready to start something new. If you are in a committed relationship, there's something positive on the cards.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you will be filled with energy. Your body, mind and soul are in perfect harmony. You are focused and know what you want from life. You are smart enough to bring balance between your professional and personal commitments. On the work front, leaving nothing pending at work will be in your favour. If you have started a new business or job recently, this may cause some worry in your mind. Things may not seem clear. Ask questions and practice active listening to make sure that you and your co-workers understand each other. Relationship-wise, you will harmonise your bonding with someone who had offended you in the past. Love blooms. Happiness, contentment in relations is indicated.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Saturday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week balance is needed in all areas of life. Know how to strike a balance between your professional commitments and health. Take care of your diet, exercise, and relaxation time. Consider taking a nap whenever you can to restore energy. On the career front, the financial part is looked after well this week. Those in media, finance, and artwork are likely to do well. Use your inner power, communication skills and wisdom. Time is favourable, crack your full potentials. New contacts in this period will prove fruitful for you. On the relationship front, stop being too formal with your partner, it may keep you away from expressing your true feelings. Your loved ones need your attention too.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you will feel lost due to work overload. Neglecting your health at this point is not advisable. You should be alert physically and mentally. Listen to your body. Nurture it, care for it and feed it with natural food. Avoid junk and oily food. You have to give up all the bad habits. Prevention is better than cure. On the work front, you may be moving to a new position or a new set of responsibilities. Promotion, hike in salary or business profit is on the cards. You feel at ease on the financial level. Expansion plans in business could materialise this week. This is a good week for students. On the personal front, something undesirable occurs on an emotional level. You may lose your cool of mind in a strenuous relationship.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

In terms of health, you need to be practical. Listen to the body, and not the heart. You have to change your food habits or craving for sweet food. You will have to make some efforts to improve your health situation. You need more exercise, nutritional education to improve your health. At work, something planned meticulously is likely to take off smoothly if you go with the flow. Be cautious in your verbal communication. Face the challenges with a cool mind. Your ability to logic and reasoning are giving you full benefits in this week. On the personal front, feel free to express your feelings. If you have some loving words to say, say them now before it is too late. Attending a family function is likely.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Those seeking fitness must follow a workout regimen. Negativity around you is melting away. This will make you comfortable and confident. Your ability to take quick decisions, presence of mind and wisdom are unmatched. You will feel strong both physically and mentally. Professionally, you will be working hard but results are awaited. You find it difficult to earn applause for a job well done. Be careful on the financial front. Reschedule your investment tasks. Restrict your expenditure as this will help you to maintain balance. On the relationship front, a fresh start is indicated. You were not ready for a commitment yet, even though others might be pressing you for one. But now you feel this is the time to make it. This is a positive period for your love life.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you need to be strict and draw a line in certain matters. No compromise should be made on the health front. Direct or indirect spiritual influence is needed to bring balance in life. Your casual attitude in health matters may result in some seasonal diseases. Be cautious of cold, cough, constipation, bowel syndrome and overweight related problems. On the professional front, the situation is getting better and stronger for you. You are ready to take any type of challenge. You are creative and very enterprising. If you have applied for a job, you may get an interview call this week. Shifting or change of office or home is likely. In love relations, a better understanding between you and your partner is indicated. Allow your partner to have his or her space.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Good news in terms of health is on the cards. Those waiting for test results need to know that nothing serious is indicated. You need a small course of medication to fix your health problem. Increase intake of liquids, juices and fibrous food in your diet. On the work front, new opportunities will be on the horizon making you hopeful about the future. Money inflow looks good this week. A prestigious assignment is yours if you play your cards right. On the relationship front, something may be troubling. Serious differences with spouse may take place. You can be stubborn when the circumstances demand but make an exception when your near and dear ones are involved. Don't be in too much of a hurry.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You need to think about improving your health conditions. Your health and feeling of well-being should be a priority. This is a great time for you to take some time off and just go for an improved lifestyle, nutrition and balancing your work. A need for balance in body, mind and soul is required. You need to have patience in the workplace. Make strategies to get more outputs and productive results but try to keep it to yourself. You may need some assistance to find a better approach to work and don't hesitate to ask. If you're looking for work, you may need to look in a different way or a different field than the one you've been pursuing. On the relationship front, warmth, care and concern for each other at home and in a loving relationship is indicated.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Value your health and give it a priority. Count your blessings. Your health may not be all that good as you would like it to be, but it is better than that of many other people. Be grateful for what you have. Career-wise, you must not impose restrictions on yourself. Be careful in your communication. If you bent upon thrusting your suggestions down somebody's throat, don't get surprised if she or he rebels. Arguments and conflicts are on the cards which will go against you. On the personal front, make peace with someone, who seems to be against you. There is a need for liberating the mind and reconnecting with the heart. You need to reintroduce trust and find a way of freeing yourself from suspicion, mistrust and jealousy.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Sunday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Address your mental limitations

“I have decided to become a doctor. I have been putting in hard efforts to clear the entrance test meant to join the medical course. Pleased suggest a *pooja* so luck comes my way,” asked a young guy. “It appears that your inner-self doesn't agree with your seemingly over confident look. Otherwise, you would not have come looking for luck factor. If you are really putting in quality efforts, that will definitely bear fruits. You need to better assess yourself, whether you are well geared up for the task in hand?” I suggested.

“What do you mean? I have no doubt from within. I am accepted as an intelligent guy in my peer group. Also, I have been working hard. What more needs to be seen? But at the end of the day, luck also counts.” The guy countered.

Well, intelligence alone does not ensure success. Failure rating of intelligent people is often more than the mediocre, who cover up for their inadequacy through persistent sincere efforts. Remember, success calls for coming out with one's best. That, in the first place, needs to be backed by a firm resolve, not just pursuing fanciful dream perception. Second, a disciplined approach. Third,

persistent quality effort, not just the number of study hours put in. Fourth, one should be focused to study, ignoring all distracting influences. And finally, a pleasing mannerism, which may help digest unsavoury external provocations, whence you may enjoy what you are doing. You seem to be lacking in all these areas. No amount of belief driven *pooja* can bring luck. The real *pooja* would be to overcome your inherent weaknesses, that otherwise stand in way of indwelling potential from playing out unhindered.

“Sir, instead of suggesting necessary remedial measure, you are pointing out my mistakes. That could lower my confidence level. How then do I make my desire to come through?” The guy countered. “Well my intention is not to lower your morale. Please bear in mind, each one of us comes to this world with a baggage full of both potential and inherent weaknesses. The inherent infirmities stand in way of indwelling potential bloom out in full. And unless, you wilfully identify and acknowledge your fault lines, you will not be able address them. But for which you will fail to make it to your desired destination.” I answered.

To make him appreciate my advisory,



a detailing of astrological pointers to his shortcomings became imperative. Mercury in close proximity of the Sun does make him intelligent. But Sun is debilitated, which makes a question mark on his confidence level. He is not able to appreciate this fact, because exalted Mars is there in the *lagna*. That makes him think that he can do anything and everything. The irony, however, is that Mars is conjunct mischievous Neptune and erratic Uranus, all ill-disposed off to Venus, Mercury and the Sun. Also, Mars is placed adverse to mind-signifying Moon. All put together speaks of a complexed mind. Consequently, he would be dissipating his energies being engaged in lofty dreams and towards other unproductive ends, and evidently to his detriment.

The Sun placed adverse to Uranus makes him erratic, temperamental and unstable. He may not be open to listening or counsel of elders as ‘my way or high way’ seems to be his approach. Moon placed adverse to Mars, Neptune and Rahu makes him irritable, aggressive, impatient and self-delusional. That makes him stuck to his fanciful dream perception, often distant from ground realities. This accounts for his distracted attention

also. He won't acknowledge truth on its first appearance, and rather continue passionately pursuing his self-beliefs till pushed to the wall. He also seems to be suffering from ‘I am the only right person syndrome’ and thinks that others are not able to appreciate his worth. When things don't happen his way, he will become overcritical of others and despise them.

Mercury placed adverse to Mars makes him restive, having a scattered brain, difficult to remain focused to priority preferences. Mercury again ill-disposed off to Neptune accounts for his insensible reasoning and judgment. Venus placed adverse to Mars and Neptune makes him over react even on trivial issues, and keep mulling over them for long. His priority preferences, thus, gets further compromised.

If he works upon himself to address limitations of his mind, he will qualify to make it to his desired destination, as would benevolent Jupiter extending beneficial aspect to Venus, Mercury and the Sun mean.

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