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PM: Har Ghar Tiranga success shows spirit of national unity

'Power of tricolour was seen in Ukraine during evacuation of foreigners as well'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hailed the "power of the tricolour" and said it was seen in Ukraine some time ago when the Tiranga became a protective shield not only for Indians, but also for people of other countries in escaping to safer regions.

The Prime Minister was addressing the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2022 medal winners at his residence on a day the countrywide Har Ghar Tiranga campaign kicked off.

Modi also launched the campaign's anthem on Twitter saying the kind of enthusiasm seen among people towards the Har Ghar Tiranga drive is a symbol of the unwavering spirit of unity and integrity of the nation.

The PM urged citizens of the country to share a photo with the Tiranga on the official website of Har Ghar Tiranga to mark the upcoming Independence Day celebrations. "Overjoyed and proud of the amazing response to the #HarGharTiranga movement. We are seeing record participation from people across different walks of life. This is a great way to mark Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Do also share

your photo with the Tiranga on https://harghartiranga.com," he tweeted.

Individuals to large groups of men, women or children organised their ways to celebrate and cheer the Tiranga which found itself fluttering on tall commercial buildings, busy markets, traffic-jammed road signals, innocuous huts, boats, snowy mountains, islands, forest areas, and millions of homes. Even the homeless were seen holding or pitching the tricolour around their humble make-shift beds.

The Prime Minister said it is needless to say that entire nation has come together to make the campaign a success.

Congratulating the CWG award winners and expressing happiness over champions emerging from the "Khelo India" stage, Modi said, "Due to the splendid hard work of the sports persons, the country is entering into the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal' with an inspiring achievement."

The Prime Minister said the athletes inspire the youth of the country to do better not only in sports but also in other sectors. "You weave the country in unity of thought and goal that was also one of the great strengths of our freedom struggle."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with wrestlers Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat during the felicitation ceremony of the Indian contingent for the Commonwealth Games 2022, in New Delhi on Saturday

BJP leaders, including Union Ministers, participated in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign on Saturday across the country as the three-day exercise began to mark India's 75th year of independence.

Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president J P Nadda along with their wives hoisted the tricolour at their Delhi resi-

dences and urged the people to "make the campaign a success".

"The country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Under PM Modi, the whole country has taken an oath to hoist tricolour under Har Ghar Tiranga programme. I request everyone to make Har Ghar Tiranga successful," Nadda said.

Guj ex-Dy CM Nitin Patel suffers fracture after cow rams into Tiranga Yatra

Former Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel suffered a minor fracture in his left leg after a galloping cow rammed into the "Tiranga Yatra" being led by him in the Kadi town of Mehsana district of the State.

HM chief's son among 4 loses J&K Govt job

All 4 staffers were involved in anti-India activities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Cracking its whip, the Union Territory administration on Saturday sacked four employees for their involvement in anti-national activities. Son of Syed Salahuddin, the self-styled chief of banned terror group Hizbul Mujahideen, and the wife of Bitta Karata, involved in fatal attack on minority community members also figured in the list of four employees.

All the four have been dismissed under Article 311 of the Constitution which enables the Government to sack its employees without any inquiry. Syed Abdul Mueed, posted as Manager (Information and Technology) at the Commerce and Industries Department, is the third son of the Hizbul Mujahideen chief to have been sacked from the Government job. Syed Ahmed Shakeel and Shahid Yusuf were dismissed from service last year.

According to the officials, Mueed has allegedly been found having a role in three terror attacks on the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) complex at Sempora in

Pampore and his presence in the institution has led to increased sympathy with the secessionist forces.

Assabah-ul-Arjamand Khan, the wife of Farooq Ahmed Dar, alias 'Bitta Karate', and a 2011-batch Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service officer (JKAS), is alleged to have been found involved in providing false information for seeking a passport.

She is alleged to "have links with foreign people who have been indexed by the Indian security and intelligence to be on the payrolls of the ISI". Also her involvement in ferrying consignment of money for funding anti-India activities in Jammu & Kashmir has been reported, the officials said.

Also sacked from the Government service is Dr Muheet Ahmad Bhat, posted as a scientist in the Postgraduate Department of Computer Science in Kashmir university. He is alleged to have been found involved in propagating secessionist-terrorist agenda in the university by radicalising students for advancing the programme and agenda of Pakistan and its proxies.

Majid Hussain Qadri, a senior Assistant Professor in Kashmir University, is alleged to have a long association with terror organisations, including the banned Lashker-e-Tayyeba. He had earlier been booked under the stringent Public Safety Act and figures in a number of FIRs related to various terror cases.

IAS topper Faesal back in service after abortive bid in J&K politics

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The first Indian Administrative Service exam topper from Jammu & Kashmir Shah Faesal is back into active service after a brief stint in politics. Officials on Saturday said IAS officer Faesal has been posted as a Deputy Secretary in the Union Tourism Ministry over three months after being reinstated.

He was reinstated in the last week of April after the Government accepted his application for withdrawing his resignation.

The order on the posting of 2010-batch IAS officer from erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir cadre was cleared earlier this week. Faesal could not be reached for a comment through calls or messages. He had earlier this year dropped hints about his return to the Government service when he sent out a series of tweets speaking about his idealism letting him down in 2019 when he had resigned.

He had said, "8 months of my life (Jan 2019-Aug 2019) created so much baggage that I was almost finished. While chasing a chimera, I lost almost everything that I had built over the years."

RSS drops saffron flag, posts tricolour as profile picture on social media

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The RSS has changed the profile pictures of its social media accounts to the national flag from its traditional saffron flag.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier urged people to put the Tiranga as the profile picture of their social media accounts in view of the ongoing celebrations of 75 years of the country's Independence.

Social media display pictures of the RSS were changed to tricolour on Friday.

The RSS, the ideological mother of the ruling BJP, has been criticised by the Congress and other Opposition parties over its stand on the national flag and continuing with the "Bhagwa dhvaj".

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh asked

earlier this month if the organisation that did not hoist the national flag for 52 years would comply with the Prime Minister's message to make the Tiranga the profile picture of its social media accounts.

The RSS has already extended its support to Har Ghar Tiranga and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav programmes. The sangh had in July appealed for full support and participation of the people and swayamseviks in the programmes to be organised by the Government, private bodies and Sangh-related organisations, said RSS "Prachar Pramukh" Sunil Ambekar.

World largest 'human' national flag



Students form a human chain to resemble a hoisted Indian national flag as they celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to commemorate 75 years of Indian Independence, in Chandigarh on Saturday. They created a Guinness World Record for their formation of 'World's Largest Human Image of a Waving National Flag'

Rushdie on ventilator, liver damaged, likely to lose an eye: Report

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Author Salman Rushdie is on ventilator and is likely to lose one eye as his liver was "stabbed and damaged" following an attack on him on Friday, his agent said, noting that the "news is not good".

The New York Times (NYT) reported that according to Rushdie's agent, Andrew Wylie, the Mumbai-born controversial author was on a ventilator and could not speak.

"The news is not good. Salman will likely lose one eye, the nerves in his arm were severed and his liver was stabbed and damaged," Wylie said in a statement to NYT.

Rushdie, who faced Islamist death threats for years after writing "The Satanic Verses", was stabbed by a 24-year-old New Jersey resident at an event in western New York State.



Hadi Matar (24) from Fairview, New Jersey has been identified as the suspect who stabbed Rushdie, Major Eugene Staniszewski of the New York State Police told a press conference on Friday evening.

Rushdie (75) was stabbed in the neck as he was on the stage at the Chautauqua Institution, a not-for-profit community on Chautauqua Lake in southwestern New York State, where approximately 7,500 people are in residence on any day during a nine-week season.

CAPSULE

PUNJAB PASSES ONE MLA-ONE PENSION BILL
Chandigarh: The Punjab Government has issued a notification giving pension to former MLAs only for one term following an assent by the Punjab Governor to a Bill in this regard.

SONIA TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 AGAIN
New Delhi: Congress president Sonia Gandhi has tested positive for Covid-19 again. Party MP and in-charge Communications Jairam Ramesh tweeted this and said she was stable and would remain in isolation following all protocols.

LUCK TO 'GAGANYAAN': ITALIAN ASTRONAUT
New Delhi: Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti sent a video message from space wishing success to "Gaganyaan" — India's maiden human space mission which is scheduled to launch in 2023.

Lanka lets Chinese 'spy ship' dock near India days after deferring arrival

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after asking China to defer the schedule of its "spy ship" to dock at its port, Sri Lanka on Saturday gave the go-ahead for it to drop anchor at the Hambantota port. Equipped with latest reconnaissance and surveillance equipment, the ship is a threat to India as it can monitor India's military and other sensitive installations.

The Chinese research vessel Yuan Wang 5 will dock at the Hambantota port, about 250 km away from Colombo, on August 16 and will move out on August 22 after refueling and replenishment, officials in Lanka said. The ship was earlier scheduled to arrive at the port on August 11. However, the arrival date was changed after the Lankan



Government asked China to defer the visit. Beijing blamed New Delhi for pressurising Sri Lanka to defer the visit of its ship. India, however, on Friday denied the charge.

The ship is now about 600 nautical miles (1,000km) away in the east from port. The southern deep-sea port of Hambantota was developed with Chinese loans and the Sri Lankan Government

handed over the port to China on a 99-year lease in 2017.

India has said it carefully monitors any development having a bearing on its security and economic interests. New Delhi is suspicious of Beijing's increasing presence in the Indian Ocean and influence in Sri Lanka, seeing both as being firmly within its sphere of influence.

5th monkeypox case in Delhi, 22-yr-old has no travel history

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The number of monkeypox cases in Delhi has jumped to five with one more person testing positive for the rare virus on Friday. A patient was admitted to Delhi's Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital two days ago and her sample tested positive for monkeypox on Friday.

According to Dr Suresh Kumar, Medical Director of LNJP hospital, the 22-year-old woman has no recent travel history, but she had travelled one month ago. "Her sample tested positive on August 12 and she is currently under observation in hospital," he said.

She is the second woman in the national Capital to contract the infection. "At present, four patients are admitted to hospital, and one has been discharged. Total five cases have so far been reported here.



A team of doctors is treating her," Dr Kumar said. With this, a total of 10 patients of monkeypox have been recorded in India. In a Press statement, the Delhi Government said monkeypox situation is being continuously monitored in the national Capital and there is no need to panic.

With the rising cases of monkeypox in the country, the Union Health Ministry released a list of dos and don'ts to avoid contracting the disease. It also underlined that anyone can catch the virus if they have had prolonged or repeated contact with an infected individual.

NCB officer Sameer gets clean chit in caste certificate forgery case

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a relief to former Zonal Director of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Sameer Wankhede, the Mumbai district caste certificate verification committee — which went into the allegation that he used fake caste certificate to join the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) — has given a clean chit to Wankhede and his father Dnyandeve Wankhede.

In an order passed on Friday, the caste certificate verification committee ruled that Sameer was not a Muslim by birth. "It has not been proved that Sameer and his father Dnyandeve Wankhede had renounced Hinduism to convert to Islam. It is proven that Wankhede and his father in law belong to the Scheduled Caste that is Mahar-37," it ruled.

Heavy rainfall warning issued for five districts today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur in five districts of the State today. The State meteorological centre has issued a warning (watch) regarding the possibility of heavy to very heavy

and intense showers are also likely to occur at isolated places in the mountainous regions of the State today. Apart from this, light to moderate rain/thundershowers are likely to occur at most places

ness partly to generally cloudy skies. Light to moderate rain/thundershowers are likely to occur, which may be intense in some areas. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be about 35 degrees Celsius and 24 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded at various places of the State on Saturday were 34.6 degrees Celsius and 24 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 35 degrees Celsius and 27 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 24.2 degrees Celsius and 16 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar, 26 degrees Celsius and 18.2 degrees Celsius respectively in New Tehri.

with intense showers likely at isolated places in the districts of the State on Sunday.

The provisional State capital Dehradun is forecast to wit-



rainfall occurring at isolated places in Chamoli, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh, Nainital and Champawat districts on Sunday. Further, thunderstorms accompanied with lightning

Cases amounting to Rs 105 crore settled by DRT in national Lok Adalat

PNS ■ DEHRADUN



The Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT), Dehradun settled cases involving an amount of more than Rs 100 crore of public money in the national Lok Adalat held on Saturday. The national Lok Adalat was held under the chairmanship of the DRT presiding officer Umesh Kumar Sharma along with secretary/registrars Yogesh Kumar and recovery officer RP Singh.

The tribunal had started the ground

work for the national Lok Adalat just after the last Lok Adalat held on May 14. According to Kumar, in the Lok Adalat held on Saturday, a total of 78 cases were settled and disposed of involving public money of about Rs 105.42 crore. The presiding officer asked the bankers and borrowers to come forward for such amicable settlements in the future also. Kumar further informed that

one very old case filed in the year 2005, by Punjab National Bank was also amicably settled through reconciliation during this national Lok Adalat.

Two-day laparoscopic surgery workshop starts in GDMC

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The two-day national conference on laparoscopic surgery started in the new building of the Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) on Saturday. The director general (DG) medical education department Ashish Kumar Shrivastava inaugurated the workshop.

lifestyle clinic and other medical facilities would be made available in the medical college hospital. The director general (DG) State health services, Dr Shailja Bhatt said that the coordination between the health and medical education departments help in providing bet-



Speaking at the occasion, he said that the department is achieving new dimensions and accomplishments due to the better medical facilities being available in the State. The Principal GDMC, Dr Ashutosh Sayana said that soon a trauma centre,

ter and prompt health services. In the workshops surgeons from the different parts of the country participated. Experts also performed live surgery to demonstrate various aspects of the laparoscopic surgery in the workshop.



National flags on sale on the roadside in Dehradun
Pioneer photo

Asian School junior wing celebrates Independence Day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Students of the junior wing at The Asian School celebrated Independence Day with zest Saturday with various competitions. Students of classes I to III came dressed as iconic freedom

leaders was held in the school auditorium to instill patriotic fervour among the students. Arjun House depicted the freedom of India before and after Independence, Ashoka House show-



fighters and spoke about the personalities.

An inter-house Rangoli competition for classes IV and V was also held to promote traditional art forms. A one act play on various

cases the life of Udhm Singh, Ranjit House depicted the life of Mangal Pandey and Shivaji house staged a play on MK Gandhi.



The Vidhan Sabha building in Dehradun illuminated as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on Saturday
Pioneer photo

No place like earth, state scientists

PNS ■ NAINITAL

Despite the efforts to search for extra-terrestrial life for many decades, so far life as it exists on earth has not been found on any other known planet, said Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) senior scientist Shashibhushan Pandey. He said that considering what is known so far it can be said that the earth is a unique planet in the known universe.

The Pioneer IV was the first attempt by humankind to search in space in 1959. About 25 years after that in 1984, the Search for Extra



Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) was set up jointly under noted astronomers Carl Sagan and Jill Tarter. Though this centre and other scientists have learnt a lot more about space, they have not yet found concrete evidence of aliens, at least not as shown in movies. The other worlds explored remotely so far appear barren compared to earth. They do not appear to be capable of supporting the type of life forms which inhabit the earth. Scientists point out that a combination of unique factors made earth the best and probably the only planet capable of supporting life as known to us.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE						
Tender Notice No. 17/2022						Dated : 13.08.2022
S. N.	Name of work with its location	App. Cost of the work (In Rs.)	Address of the office from where the tender form has been issued	Bid Security to be deposited (In Rs.)	Completion period of the work	Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender
1	14/SrDEE/G/MB/2022 :- Provision of officers rest house at Bijnor and Najibabad with two suits each under DEN/IV/MB.	28,78,500.71 (Including GST)	Electrical Branch, Divisional Railway Manager's office, Northern Railway, Moradabad	57,600.00	3 (Three) Months	Tender will be received upto 15:00 hrs and opened at 15:00 hrs on 07.09.2022
2	15/SrDEE/G/MB/2022 :- Development of infrastructure facilities in Haridwar yard at line no. 10 & 11 for GHAT fit examination of freight loads.	26,82,158.32 (Including GST)		53,700.00	3 (Three) Months	

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Har Ghar Tiranga
13th-15th August 2022

Har Ghar Tiranga

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I, Madhuri Pravin Deshmukh, legally wedded spouse of Army No JC-386135F Rank-Sub Name- Deshmukh Pravin Raghunath, presently R/o Vill-Jaygaon, P.O.- Jaygaon, Teh- Khatav, Dist-Satara, State-MH, PIN-415510 have changed my name from Madhuri to Madhuri Pravin Deshmukh and my DOB is 13 November 1979. It should be recorded. Vide affidavit IN-UK96792539343280U date 26.07.2022 before court compound Dehradun(UK).

I, Army No. JC 386135F Rank SUB Name- Deshmukh Pravin Raghunath R/o Jaygaon, Teh- Khatav, Dist-Satara, State- Maharashtra Pin-415510, UNIT- 14 IDSR PIN-917841 C/O 56 APO. My son's name Atharv wrongly recorded in my Army Document while his correct name is Deshmukh Atharv Pravin. Therefore the correct name should be recorded. Vide affidavit IN-UK96792272755328U date 26-Jul-2022 before court compound Dehradun(UK).

In my father's army records my incorrect name Lovely has been mentioned whereas Sandhya Rana is correct. Sandhya Rana D/o Late Hav. Satyendra Singh Army no. 1462608F499/1, Rajendra Nagar, Roorkee

In high school certificate of my son Paras Mangain mother's name mistakenly recorded as Smt Shailabala Mangain whereas her correct name is Shailbala Mangain. Shailbala Mangain, Kothi Athurwala, Bhanjyawala, Dehradun

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Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is the time to remember sacrifices of freedom fighters - CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN



Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami took part in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign at the border village Munch in Champawat district on Saturday. He attended a programme in the government inter college of the village. Speaking on the occasion he said that the area which is locally called 'Talla Desh' is the holy land of Baba Gorakhnath. He said that the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign-the call for which was given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become a public movement. Exhorting everyone to place the national flag on their homes,

the CM said that the tricolour is the symbol of our pride. He said that an innumerable people had sacrificed for the freedom of the country and the Amrit Mahotsav is the time to remember their sacrifices. Dhami said that the coming 25 years would be the golden period (Amrit kal) for our country. He said that many schemes for welfare of the poor are being undertaken by the State and Union governments. Dhami added that he has requested the union home minister to increase the budget for the border areas. Dhami said the union gov-

ernment has given its acceptance to the proposal of the State government to set up 1200 mobile towers in the remote areas of the state for improving connectivity. Amid loud cheers, Dhami said that he had promised to open the sub tehsil office in the village and today the promise is being fulfilled. The CM said that his government is determined to develop the border areas of the state. He said that doctors have been posted in the hospitals in the area. The CM said that he is committed to provide education, health and other infrastructure and facilities in the area.

In the programme, the local women tied Rakhi on the wrist of the CM.

He announced that a permanent helipad would be constructed in the Inter College and approval of science subjects in the college. The CM also made many other announcements and development projects for the area.

The chairman of the Uttarakhand forest development corporation Kailash Chandra Gehloti and others were present in the programme.

BJP takes out Tiranga Yatra in Chinyalisaud

Tricolour hoisted at the home of Pulwama martyr by kin and party leaders

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

As part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign on Saturday, the Bharatiya Janata Party State president Mahendra Bhatt, cabinet minister Prem Chand Agrawal and office bearers of the party motivated the youth at Chinyalisaud in Uttarkashi. The party leaders and members took out a Tiranga Yatra in the evening which passed through different localities of

Bhatt said that the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is being observed with enthusiasm across the nation. The BJP workers are also fulfilling their resolve to see the tricolour unfurled at every home. All sections of society are participating unanimously in this campaign, he said.

Meanwhile in Dharasu, at the home of Pulwama martyr



the town. The tricolour was also unfurled at the home of a Pulwama martyr in the Dharasu area by his family members and BJP leaders.

Mohan Lal, his widow Chandra Devi and son major Praveen Agrawal hoisted the tricolour along with the BJP State president and cabinet minister.

Speaking on the occasion,

Dhami marks Har Ghar Tiranga at home

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Reaching his personal residence in Khatima on Saturday, chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami hoisted the national flag at his home as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga cam-

paign. His wife Geeta Dhami was also present along with him. It represents our prestige, honour and self respect along with being the flag of our unity, integrity and identity," said the chief minister. He exhorted all residents of the State to participate in the campaign and hoist the national flag at their homes.



The chief minister said that on the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is being celebrated with enthusiasm across the nation. He said

dom. It represents our prestige, honour and self respect along with being the flag of our unity, integrity and identity," said the chief minister. He exhorted all residents of the State to participate in the campaign and hoist the national flag at their homes.



Uniformed personnel participate in full dress rehearsal of the Independence Day parade on the Parade Ground in Dehradun on Saturday
Pioneer photo

Govt removes UKSSSC secretary Santosh Badoni

Surendra Singh Rawat made new secretary, Shalini Negi made examination controller of UKSSSC

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Amid allegations of irregularities in the recruitment examinations and the ongoing investigation of Police in the examination paper leak case of Uttarakhand Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UKSSSC), the state government removed the secretary of the Commission Santosh Badoni on Saturday. The Joint secretary, Uttarakhand administration, Surendra Singh Rawat has been appointed in his place. Badoni is a joint secretary rank officer of Secretariat cadre and he has been officiating as Secretary of UKSSSC for many years. In another decision, the state government appointed PCS Officer Shalini Negi as examination controller of the UKSSSC. She was deputed as

deputy collector Uttarkashi.

Questions were being asked from various quarters on the role of secretary UKSSSC Santosh Badoni after many recruitment examinations conducted by the UKSSSC came under cloud. After the recent resignation of the Chairman of the commission S Raju, it was almost certain that Badoni would be removed from his position.

In the examination paper leak case of the UKSSSC, the State Task Force



(STF) headed by the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ajay Singh has arrested

so far 16 persons which include two government employees posted in the state secretariat.

The STF had arrested six persons in the sensational case on July 24. The police have already arrested Abhishek Verma who was a data entry operator in an outsource company and it believes that he is the main conspirator in the case. He has accepted his involvement in the paper leak of UKSSSC. On Wednesday, the STF had arrested Additional personal secretary Gaurav Chauhan.

Covid-19 cases continue to increase in U'khand

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The state health department reported 255 new cases of Covid-19 and death of one patient from the disease in Uttarakhand on Saturday. Death of one patient was reported from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh on the day. The authorities also announced the recovery of 234 patients from the disease on Saturday.



308 patients have lost their lives to the disease this year in the state.

The health department reported 107 new patients from Dehradun, 50 from Nainital, 27 from Rudrapur, 15 each from Pauri and Udham Singh Nagar, 11 from Haridwar, six each from Almora and Bageshwar, five each from Chamoli and Uttarkashi, four from Pithoragarh and two each from Champawat and Tehri on Saturday.

There are 1227 active patients of Covid-19 in the state now. Dehradun with 579 cases is at the top of the table of active cases in the state.

“255 new cases, one death reported on Saturday”

The department has so far detected 1,01,090 new cases of the disease from January 1 this year till date. A total of 95,954 patients have recovered from the disease so far in this year. The recovery percentage of the disease was at 94.92 per cent on Saturday. A total of

Ayushman scheme reflects vision of PM

Modi- Dhan Singh Rawat

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Health and education minister Dhan Singh Rawat has said that the data of the patients benefited from the Ayushman scheme reflects the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that every poor family of the coun-

47.82 lakh health cards have been made. He informed that 5.38 lakh beneficiaries have availed the benefit of the scheme in the State and on them the State government has spent a sum of 917 crore. Giving more details Rawat



try is getting health cover of Rs 5 lakh in a year.

Rawat said that Uttarakhand is the first state in the country where the Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana has been started. The minister said that the AAUY has acted as a panacea for the people of the State and so far

said that 32000 people have received free treatment of Cancer, 5000 in neurology related issues and 12,000 in cardiac diseases under the scheme. The minister said that the department has initiated a special drive to make AAUY health cards during the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

IHM students prepare 75 dishes in three colours

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Various competitions were held at the Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) here on Saturday. The students of the institute also prepared 75 types of dishes in the colours of the national flag to mark the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of independence. The State's Tourism and Culture minister Satpal Maharaj was the chief guest on the occasion.



The cabinet minister viewed the dishes made by the students of the IHM as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav here on Saturday. He also awarded the winners of the

chef competition, mocktail competition and housekeeping competition held in the in-

stitute on the occasion. Greeting the students, principal and faculty members of the insti-

tute on the occasion, Maharaj said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had started the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign on Saturday for the nation to celebrate its culture and glorious history. He appreciated the initiatives undertaken by the IHM to mark the occasion. The minister expressed happiness observing that IHM had organised various competitions and events from August 13 to 15 to celebrate 75 years of independence. The IHM principal Jagdeep Khanna, faculty members and students were also present on the occasion.

Tiranga Yatra taken out in Doon University

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A Tiranga Yatra was taken out in Doon University on Saturday. Organised as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav campaign, the students and faculty members participated enthusiastically in the event. An awareness campaign against the menace of drugs was also organised on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the vice chancellor of the university Surekha Dangwal said that the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrating 75 years of the independence of the country would help the younger generation to understand the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters. She said that the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav has unleashed a new energy and has inspired the younger generations of our country. The registrar of the university MS Mandarwal, dean of student welfare HC Purohit, faculty members, employees and students took part in the Tiranga Yatra.



तराई पश्चिमी वन प्रभाग, रामनगर, मैनीताल

अपील

मानव बाघ/गुलदार संघर्ष की रोकथाम हेतु आपका सहयोग चाहिए

- जंगलों में आग न लगाये, इससे खाद्य श्रृंखला नष्ट होती है जिस कारण वन्य जीव आबादी वाले क्षेत्रों की ओर उन्मुख होते हैं।
- वन्य जीवों का शिकार न करें और न ही किसी को करने दें। जंगल में शिकार की कमी होने पर गुलदार भोजन की तालश में इंसानों के आवासीय क्षेत्रों की ओर उन्मुख होते हैं।
- अवशेष मांसाहार एवं मृत पशुओं को घर के आस-पास न फेंकें।
- अपने घरों के आस-पास झाड़ियां न उगने दें एवं इनकी सफाई करें। झाड़ियों में अक्सर गुलदार छिप जाते हैं, और अक्सर मिलने पर आक्रमण कर सकते हैं।
- बच्चों को अकेला न छोड़े, अपनी देख रेख में रखें।
- गुलदार के रात्रि में आक्रमण किए जाने की पूरी सम्भावना रहती है। अतः इस अवधि में विशेष सावधानी रखें एवं अपने घरों के आस-पास प्रकाश की व्यवस्था करें।
- रात्रि में घलते समय शोरगुल व किसी उपकरण के माध्यम से आवाज करते हुए घलें।
- आवागमन हेतु रास्तों का प्रयोग करें जहाँ पर झाड़ियों अपेक्षाकृत कम हों।
- शौच के लिए बाहर न जायें, घर में ही शौचालय बनावाएँ तथा सदैव शौचालय का ही प्रयोग करें।
- जंगलों में महिलायें एवं बच्चे सदैव समूह में जायें और प्रयत्न करें कि वे सूर्यास्त से पूर्व वापस आ जायें।
- घर में पालतु कुत्ते तथा मवेशियों की रात्रि में सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था अवश्य करें मवेशियों को जंगल में न छोड़ें।
- जंगली जानवर दिखाई देने पर हमला न करें, इसकी सूचना वन विभाग को दें।
- मृत शिकार के पास न जायें तथा वन्य जीव आबादी के किनारे दिखायी देने पर तत्काल इसकी सूचना वन विभाग को दें।

राजि अधिकारी, आगपोखरा 7088659518, राजि अधिकारी बन्नाखेडा- 9412306519 राजि अधिकारी, बैलपडाव- 9759255098, राजि अधिकारी, रामनगर- 7830905731, राजि अधिकारी काशीपुर- 8077530440 राजि अधिकारी दक्षिणी जसपुर- 9759006088 राजि अधिकारी उत्तरी जसपुर- 9759006088 प्रभारी कन्ट्रोल रूम का नम्बर- 8791281788

पत्रांक 696/4-8/रामनगर दिनांक 13/08/2022

HAR GHAR TIRANGA CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, along with his wife Sonal Shah, hoists the national flag at his residence as part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, in New Delhi on Saturday



Film actor Mohanlal hoists the national flag at his residence on the occasion of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, in Kochi on Saturday



ITBP hoists national flag at high altitude borders as part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman participates in a 'Tiranga Yatra' as part of 'Azadi ke Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations for 75 years of Independence, in Bengaluru, on Saturday

Congress likely to hold meet with Nitish, Tejashwi over Cabinet berth

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA

One of the partners in the Mahagathabandhan Government in Bihar, the Congress is likely to hold meetings with JDU leader and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and RJD leader and Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday over the party's share in the alliance new Council of Ministers.



Das' arm-flexing statement comes a day after a party MLA wrote to Sonia and Rahul that the grand old party should fight for a good number of Ministerial berths based on caste equations.

him personally to share him the high command's thinking on the subject. The AICC Bihar in-charge also announced that the Cabinet expansion and oath ceremony will be on Tuesday. He, however, refused to divulge the number of ministerial berths the Congress would be getting and said it would be "respectable" and according to the party's strength in the House.

Das had met Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad on Friday in the national Capital for the first time after the formation of the new government in Bihar and held discussions with him. He had said Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav also met Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Friday and had a discussion with her on the cabinet expansion.

Sonia again tests positive for Covid, to remain in isolation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Over two months after contracting the coronavirus infection, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday tested positive for Covid-19 again and will remain in isolation. Earlier this week, her daughter and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had also tested positive.

tested positive, the 75-year-old leader was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here on June 12. She was discharged on June 20. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and host of several leaders had wished for good health of the Congress chief when she caught Covid in June days before she was summoned by the ED to join a probe in National Herald matter.



Bhupesh Baghel, wished Sonia Gandhi a speedy recovery. Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Concerned to hear that Smt Sonia Gandhi ji has tested positive for Covid. Wishing her a speedy recovery and good health."

DGCA issues directives to curb aircraft's collision with birds

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday issued a fresh set of directives for airport operators to check incidents of collision of planes with birds and other animals, in the wake of such incidents recently.



of hazard to safe operation of aircraft... possibility of collision between an aircraft and birds/animals. Wildlife strikes pose a significant threat to flight safety and have caused a number of accidents and incidents in India.

objective is to bring about a change in wildlife behaviour so that they do not enter the critical safety zones where the aircraft operates... habitat management is probably the most important method of preventing or reducing wildlife strikes on and around an aerodrome.

IMD, Japan, UNDP to roll out initiative to accelerate climate action in 10 States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

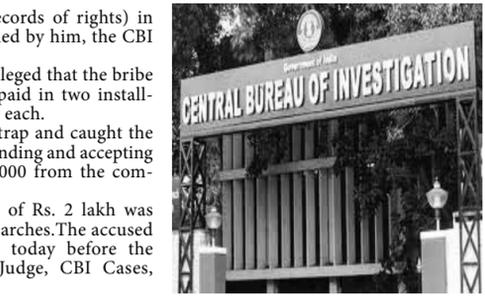
India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Government of Japan, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced a new initiative to accelerate climate action in 10 States and Union Territories across the country.

CBI arrests Girdawar of Miran Sahib in Jammu for taking bribe, recovers ₹2L cash

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday said it has arrested a Girdawar (Revenue Department Official equivalent to Kanungo) of Miran Sahib in Jammu for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 25,000 from the complainant.

for issuing fard (records of rights) in respect of land owned by him, the CBI said. It was further alleged that the bribe amount was to be paid in two installments of Rs. 25,000 each.



4th phase of CUET-UG deferred to Aug 30

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Universities Entrance Test-UG for over 11,000 candidates who were scheduled to appear in the fourth phase of the exam has been deferred to August 30 to accommodate their choice of city for centre.

were scheduled to conclude on August 20. The National Testing Agency (NTA), which is responsible for conducting the exam, had later announced that all phases of the exam will conclude on August 28.

added more exam centres besides making efforts to ensure the quality of the centres is enhanced," UGC Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar said.

Kumar had last week said the exam was cancelled at various centres following indications and reports of "sabotage".

11 new Indian wetland sites take Ramsar list to 75

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Eleven Indian sites have been added to the Ramsar list, taking the number of wetlands of international importance in the country to 75 on the 75th year of Independence with Tamil Nadu topping the total list having (14 sites), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10).

Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary and Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu; Tampara Lake, Hirakud Reservoir and Ansupa Lake in Odisha; Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve and Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve in Jammu and Kashmir; Thane Creek in Maharashtra and Yashwant Sagar in Madhya Pradesh, according to a statement from the Union Environment Ministry.

their ecosystem components, processes and benefits". On August 8, India had added 10 more wetlands designated as Ramsar sites to make a total 64 sites covering an area of 12,50,361 ha in the country. The 10 new sites included six (6) sites in Tamil Nadu and one (1) each in Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

Nanda Lake in Goa; Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Karnataka and Sirpur Wetland in Madhya Pradesh. A total of 26 sites were added to the Ramsar list from 1982 to 2013. Since 2014, 49 sites have bagged the coveted tag. Twenty-eight Indian sites have been declared wetlands of international importance this year itself.

area of 13,26,677 hectares. India is one of the contracting parties to the Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. New Delhi signed it on February 1, 1982.



"Every environment lover will feel happy that 10 more wetlands in India have been designated as Ramsar sites. Last month, 5 sites achieved the same recognition. This will deepen our commitment to protect our natural surroundings," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted soon after the coveted tags were announced to the wetlands.

India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. India signed it on 1st Feb 1982.

'US to take resolute steps to support Taiwan amid China's intimidation'



PTI ■ WASHINGTON

China's actions to "intimidate and coerce" Taiwan following US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei are fundamentally at odds with the goal of peace and stability, the White House has said, asserting that the US would take "calm and resolute" steps to support the self-ruled island.

China's ruling Communist party has long claimed sovereignty over Taiwan. Beijing insists its "one-China principle" would bar most incumbent foreign government officials from setting foot on the island.

The People's Liberation Army announced war games in



PTI ■ WASHINGTON

the busy Taiwan Strait from August 4 to 7, the day after Pelosi, who is the highest-ranking US leader to have visited Taiwan in 25 years, left Taipei after high-level meetings.

Later, the Chinese military extended the war games, surrounding Taiwan, which Beijing views as a rebel province that must be reunified with the mainland, even by force.

China on Wednesday warned that Beijing will organise regular combat patrols as a new normal to enforce its one-China policy.

"China's actions are fundamentally at odds with the goal of peace and stability.

They are part of an intensified pressure campaign against Taiwan, which has not ended, and we expect it to continue to unfold in the coming weeks and months," Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant to the President and Coordinator for the Indo Pacific, told reporters during a conference call.

"The goal of this campaign is clear — to intimidate and coerce Taiwan and undermine its resilience," he said.

The US, he said, will "continue to take calm and resolute steps to uphold peace and stability in the face of Beijing's ongoing efforts to undermine it," and to support Taiwan, in line with its longstanding policy.

China sending fighter jets to Thailand for joint exercises

AP ■ BANGKOK

The Chinese air force is sending fighter jets and bombers to Thailand for a joint exercise with the Thai military on Sunday.



The training will include air support, strikes on ground targets and small and large-scale troop deployment, the Chinese Defense Ministry said in a statement posted on its website.

China's expanding military activities in the Asia-Pacific region have alarmed the United States and its allies and form part of a growing competition between the world's two largest economies.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin visited Thailand in June as part of an effort to strengthen what he called America's "unparalleled network of alliances and partnerships" in the region.

The Falcon Strike exercise

will be held at the Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base in northern Thailand near the border with Laos. Thai fighter jets and airborne early warning aircraft from both countries will also take part.

The training comes as the U.S. holds combat drills in Indonesia with Indonesia, Australia, Japan and Singapore in the largest iteration of the Super Garuda Shield exercises since they began in 2009.

It also follows China's sending warships, missiles and aircraft into the waters and air around Taiwan in a threatening response to a visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the self-ruled island, which China claims as its territory.

GOP backs Trump, escalates dark rhetoric after FBI search



AP ■ WASHINGTON

Republicans in Congress who are relying on Donald Trump to excite voters in the fall elections are not only defending the former president against the FBI search of his Mar-a-Lago home but politically capitalising on it with grave and potentially dangerous rhetoric against the nation's justice system.

The party that once stood staunchly for law-and-order has dramatically reversed

course, stirring up opposition to the FBI and tapping into political grievances and far-right conspiracies that fed the deadly January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol.

It's all part of the GOP's election year strategy to harness voter outrage over the unprecedented search, quickly and unequivocally set in motion as Trump hosted a dozen Republicans for dinner of steak and scallops at his private Bedminster club the day after the FBI action.

One Republican at the table, Rep. Troy Nehls of Texas, a former sheriff, said he told the former president "loud and clear" that it's time to protect himself politically by declaring his 2024 campaign for the presidency.

"Mr. President, I said, the American people, your supporters, are concerned with this corrupt DOJ and the FBI."

"If I were you, sir, announce you're running for president," Nehls recalled telling Trump. "Take that doubt, take that anxiety away from the people that want you to be our 47th president."

The escalating rhetoric comes amid stark warnings of violence against law enforcement, including the Ohio police shooting on Thursday of an armed man clad in body armour who tried to breach the FBI's Cincinnati office and engaged in an hours-long standoff.

The day before, FBI Director Christopher Wray had called the threats to agents and DOJ "deplorable".

Praise, worry in Iran after Rushdie attack; Govt quiet

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iranians reacted with praise and worry on Saturday over the attack on novelist Salman Rushdie, the target of a decades-old fatwa by the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini calling for his death.

It remains unclear why Rushdie's attacker, identified by police as Hadi Matar of Fairview, New Jersey, stabbed the author as he prepared to speak at an event on Friday in western New York.



trying to isolate Iran," said Mahshid Barati, a 39-year-old geography teacher. "This will negatively affect relations with many — even Russia and China."

Khomeini, in poor health in the last year of his life after the grinding, stalemate 1980s Iran-Iraq war decimated the country's economy, issued the fatwa on Rushdie in 1989.

The Islamic edict came amid a violent uproar in the Muslim world over the novel, which some viewed as blasphemously making suggestions about the Prophet Muham-

mad's life.

"I would like to inform all the intrepid Muslims in the world that the author of the book entitled Satanic Verses ... As well as those publishers who were aware of its contents, are hereby sentenced to death," Khomeini said in February 1989, according to Tehran Radio.

He added: "Whoever is killed doing this will be regarded as a martyr and will go directly to heaven."

Early on Saturday, Iranian state media made a point to note one man identified as being killed while trying to carry out the fatwa.

Stabber showed sympathy to causes of Iran's Revolutionary Guards: Report

PTI ■ NEW YORK

The 24-year-old man detained in connection with the stabbing of Mumbai-born controversial author Salman Rushdie was sympathetic to "Shia extremism" and the causes of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, according to a media report.

Rushdie, who faced Islamist death threats for years after writing "The Satanic Verses", was stabbed on stage on Friday while he was being introduced at the event of the Chautauqua Institution in Western New York.

'Salman once complained about too much security around him'

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Salman Rushdie, who was stabbed and stabbed on stage at a literary event here, has previously complained about having too much security around him, according to a media report on Saturday.

The Mumbai-born writer, who faced Islamist death threats for years after writing "The Satanic Verses", was stabbed by a 24-year-old New Jersey resident identified as Hadi Matar on stage on Friday while he was being introduced at the event of the Chautauqua Institution in Western New York.

A bloodied Rushdie was airlifted from a field adjacent to the venue to a hospital in north-western Pennsylvania.

Russia blocking access to medicines, says Ukrainian Min

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine's health minister has accused Russian authorities of committing a crime against humanity by blocking access to affordable medicines in areas its forces have occupied since invading the country 5 1/2 months ago.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Ukrainian



Health Minister Viktor Lashko said Russian authorities repeatedly have blocked efforts to

provide state-subsidised drugs to people in occupied cities, towns and villages.

"Throughout the entire six months of war, Russia has not (allowed) proper humanitarian corridors so we could provide our own medicines to the patients that need them," Lashko said, speaking at the Health Ministry in Kyiv late on Friday.

LOST & FOUND

I, Krishan Sharma S/o. Man Chand R/o. 11 Wood Villa 2nd Avenue, Bandh Road. Our Director was Carrying Property Documents with Him While Carrying the Documents He Met with an Accident and Property Documents Got Mislaid. The Property Document Was Acknowledged with Address Property Name M3m Office No. 412, 414 Address:- 4th Floor, Cosmopolitan Complex, Golf Course Road, Sec-66, Gurugram, Second Property Name Pioneer Urban Estate Address:- D-104 Sec-62, First Floor, Gurugram, Founder Myr Cont:- 95559 08834.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of Fullerton India Home Finance Company. That Mrs. Saroj Jain is claiming ownership of property bearing Plot No. P-29, measuring 40 sq. yds. out of Khata No. 194, Khewat No. 11, Situated in the layout Plan of Shankar Nagar, Extn. Krishna Nagar area of Village Ghondli, Shahdara Delhi. (The said property), by virtue of reg. CPA Agreement and will all dated 10.03.2008, executed by Mrs. Krishna Devi. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned claimant/owner/attorney holder want to sell the said property to Mrs. Westu Jain and Mrs. Anju Jain who is taking loan from Fullerton India Home Finance Company for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/upon the ownership of above owner/attorney holder of the said property, its sale/Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

RATHI BARS LIMITED

CIN No: L74899DL1993PLC054781
Regd. Office : A-24/7, Mohan Co-operative Indl. Estate, New Delhi-110017
Ph. : +91-11-42760373 | Web: www.rathisteels.com
E-mail : rathibars@hotmail.com

Statement of Standalone Unaudited Results for the Quarter ended 30th June, 2022

Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
	6/30/2022	3/31/2022	6/30/2021	3/31/2022
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1 Total Revenue From operations	12,906.73	13,787.42	10,383.46	49,392.66
2 Net Profit/Loss for the Period (Before Tax)	96.97	94.92	44.19	317.48
3 Net Profit/Loss for the Period (After Tax)	-	-	-	285.37
4 Total Comprehensive Income	96.97	94.92	44.19	285.37
5 Equity Share Capital	1,633.04	1,633.04	1,633.04	1,633.04
6 Reserves/Excluding Revaluation Reserves	-	-	-	7,144.18
7 Earning Per Share (of Rs. 10 Each)	-	-	-	-
Basic:	0.59	0.58	0.27	1.75
Diluted:	0.59	0.58	0.27	1.75

* Not Annualised

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange's websites i.e. www.bseindia.com and also at the website of the Company at www.rathisteels.com.
- The Company is in business of Manufacturing of M.S. Bars and other products like M.S. Billets, hence only one reportable operating segment as per Ind-AS 108.
- The Company does not expect any long term adverse impact of Covid-19 on its ability to recover the carrying value of assets and meeting its financial obligations.
- The Company does not have any Exceptional and Extraordinary item to report during the above periods.
- The Company has not discontinued any of its operations during the above periods.
- Tax expenses / Provision for Taxation has been made on annual basis only.
- The figures of previous year / Quarters have been re-arranged/re-grouped wherever felt necessary.

By order of the Board for Rathi Bars Limited
Sd/-
Uddhav Rathi
(Whole Time Director and CFO)
DIN No: 06604905

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concerned that Sh. Incintil S/o Sh. S.L. Sharma R/o D-345, Anand Vihar Delhi-92, whose the original allottee of Plot No. A-94, (Area measuring 165.60 Sq.Mtr) Sector-36, Noida Distt. G.B.Nagar (U.P) had sold the said Plot on General power of attorney basis to the following person (s). CPA was executed on 01/07/2017, Bahr No 4, Document No.4513 at Page No. 144-145. The agreement to sell was not registered or not executed. So it is informed to all concerned that the said plot is going to be transferred in favour of Ravi Chaudhary S/o Pradeep Kumar Chaudhary & Ronan Chaudhary S/o Pankaj Chaudhary, both R/o Dineha Dhanai, Maharajgarh (U.P), if anyone has/have any objection/objection file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Residential Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Smt. Ujjawal Chaudhary

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mr. Kamlesh Gupta S/o Mr. Kishor Lal Gupta is the owner of Residential Plot No. 135, area measuring 100 Sq. Yds. out of Khata No. 640, situated at Anjali Vihar, Village Loni, Pargana & Tehsil Loni, Distt. Ghazipur, U.P., by virtue of Sale Deed dated 02.05.2022. The said property, by virtue of reg. CPA Agreement and will all dated 10.03.2008, executed by Mrs. Krishna Devi. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned claimant/owner/attorney holder want to sell the said property to Mrs. Westu Jain and Mrs. Anju Jain who is taking loan from Fullerton India Home Finance Company for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/upon the ownership of above owner/attorney holder of the said property, its sale/Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

IST LIMITED

Regd. Office: Dharuhera Industrial Complex, Delhi- Jaipur Highway No.8, Kapriwas, Dharuhera, Rewari (Haryana) - 123106
Head Office: A-23, New Office Complex, 2nd Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024
CIN : L33301HR1976PLC008316; Phone No.: 011-41044511-14; Fax: 011-24625694; Email : istgroup.ho@gmail.com; Website : www.istindia.com

EXTRACT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30th JUNE, 2022

Sl No	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		30.06.2022	31.03.2022	30.06.2021	31.03.2022	30.06.2022	30.06.2021
		Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income	965.04	963.54	936.09	4388.52	3776.93	4289.39
2	Net Profit before exceptional items and tax	(135.54)	24.39	379.18	1202.04	1827.55	2253.54
3	Net Profit after exceptional items before tax	(135.54)	24.39	379.18	1202.04	1827.55	2253.54
4	Net Profit after tax	(90.31)	(32.05)	320.49	932.79	1627.24	2790.09
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Net of Tax)	(89.28)	(33.77)	322.44	936.92	355.24	2226.47
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value Rs. 5/- per share)	584.68	584.68	584.68	584.68	584.68	584.68
7	Other Equity	-	-	-	20121.37	-	-
8	Earnings Per Share (Face Value Rs. 5/- per share)	(0.77)	(0.27)	2.75	8.00	14.02	24.01
	- Basic (Rs.)	(0.77)	(0.27)	2.75	8.00	14.02	24.01
	- Diluted (Rs.)	(0.77)	(0.27)	2.75	8.00	14.02	24.01

NOTES: The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30th June, 2022 filed with the Stock Exchange (BSE Ltd.) under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and company's website www.istindia.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Lokhit Adhikar Party. The office of the party is located at 94 HIG Duplex Brij Vihar Ghaziabad -201011. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951 - Names/address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows:
President / Chairman: Mr Roshan Lal Gupta, Add: 94 HIG Duplex ,Brij Vihar, Ghaziabad , UP -201011
General Secretary/Secretary: Shekhar Sahu, Add: H.no- 546777, Sarfaraganj - 1, Lucknow, UP - 226003
Treasurer: Gaurav Gupta , Add : 94, HIG Duplex, Brij Vihar, Ghaziabad, UP -201011
If any one has any objection to the registration of Lokhit Adhikar Party, they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mr. Kamlesh Gupta S/o Mr. Kishor Lal Gupta is the owner of Residential Plot No. 135, area measuring 100 Sq. Yds. out of Khata No. 640, situated at Anjali Vihar, Village Loni, Pargana & Tehsil Loni, Distt. Ghazipur, U.P., by virtue of Sale Deed dated 02.05.2022. The said property, by virtue of reg. CPA Agreement and will all dated 10.03.2008, executed by Mrs. Krishna Devi. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned claimant/owner/attorney holder want to sell the said property to Mrs. Westu Jain and Mrs. Anju Jain who is taking loan from Fullerton India Home Finance Company for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/upon the ownership of above owner/attorney holder of the said property, its sale/Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

COSCO (INDIA) LIMITED

CIN : L25199DL1980PLC010173
Regd. Office : 2/8, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110 007
Website : www.cosco.in Email : mail@cosco.in
Tel. : 91-11-23843000 Fax : 91-11-23846000

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2022

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		30.06.2022	30.06.2021	31.03.2022	31.03.2022
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from operations	3,364.35	2,710.64	4,211.61	13,701.06
2	Net Profit for the period before Tax	16.45	9.62	99.26	250.90
3	Net Profit for the period after tax	6.78	(0.65)	96.32	192.01
4	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	6.78	(0.55)	116.93	212.30
5	Equity Share Capital	416.10	416.10	416.10	416.10
6	Other Equity	-	-	-	4,168.39
7	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10 each)	-	-	-	-
(a)	Basic (₹)	0.16	(0.02)	2.31	4.61
(b)	Diluted (₹)	0.16	(0.02)	2.31	4.61

Notes :-
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange Websites (www.bseindia.com/corporates) and on the Company's website www.cosco.in.
2 The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the respective meeting held on August 13, 2022.

By Order of the Board for Cosco (India) Limited
Devinder Kumar Jain
Managing Director and CEO
Place : Delhi
Date : 13.08.2022
DIN : 00191539

11% GROWTH IN NEXT DECADE POSSIBLE IF INDIA CAPITALISES ON DEMOGRAPHY, MANUFACTURING, EXPORTS: RBI DPTY GUV

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India can "bend time" and catapult to an 11 per cent growth rate in the next decade if it capitalises on the demographic dividend, and boosts manufacturing, as well as exports, RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra said on Saturday.

India has a window of opportunity in terms of its demographic advantage, capability to boost manufacturing, increase in exports value as well as internalisation, Patra said while delivering a speech to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav' organised by the Reserve Bank of India, Bhubaneswar.

If India capitalises on its opportunities and overcomes challenges, it is widely believed that India will "bend time", Patra said. It is possible to imagine "India striking out into the next decade with a growth rate of 11 per cent".

He said, if this is achieved, India will become the second largest economy in the world not by 2048, but by 2031.

With a population of 1.38 billion, India is the world's youngest at 28.4 years. By 2023, India will be the most populous country in the world at 1.43 billion, he said.

Drawing a comparison in terms of working-age population (WAP) ratio, he said India stands at an advantageous position vis-a-vis countries like China, Brazil, the US and Japan as the working-age populations of these countries have started declining already.



While India's WAP ratio will increase till 2045, even exceeding that of China by 2030.

"Making the most of this demographic dividend is India's opportunity as well as a challenge," Patra said.

Talking about the manufacturing potential of India, he said it is another engine for the take-off of India's economic growth.

Asserting that robust growth of manufacturing is essential to boost exports, he said, it is imperative to overturn conventional wisdom and catch up with other leading manufacturers of the world.

To achieve this, he said three things are essential. Firstly the manufacturing sector must adapt to the fourth industrial

revolution through automation; data exchange; cyber-physical systems; the internet of things; cloud computing; cognitive computing; the smart factory; and advanced robotics.

Secondly, India must develop a skilled labour force by stepping up investment in human capital and thirdly efforts must be directed to boost international competitiveness.

"India must raise the share of manufacturing to at least 25 per cent of GDP to become a global manufacturing hub."

In terms of exports, Patra said it is an avenue to widening of markets and production capabilities beyond national borders.

From USD 800 billion worth of export of goods and services currently,

which is about 2.7 per cent of the world total, he said if India can achieve the target of USD 1 trillion set by the government by 2030, it can boost India's share to 5 per cent in world exports.

With this, India would become an export powerhouse, he said. Several initiatives are in place to actualise this and raising India's share in world exports to at least 5 per cent is within reach.

On "internationalisation", he said Indians are among the most internationalised people in the world.

Indian diaspora is the biggest in the world and India is the top recipient of remittances. The Indian rupee trades three times more offshore than onshore. Yet we still talk of internationalisation as if it is the last frontier."

"If the INR (Indian Rupee) turnover rises to equal the share of non-US non-Euro currencies in global forex turnover (4 per cent), the INR will have arrived as an international currency, reflecting India's position in the global economy," Patra said.

However, he said there are challenges in terms of making up for the output and livelihood loss due to the pandemic and it will take several years to recover from this loss.

Among others, there are challenges such as infrastructure gap in terms of lower per capita investment in building infrastructure in the country as well as lack of high-quality labour force.

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended June 30, 2022 (Unaudited) (refer note 2)	Preceding quarter ended March 31, 2022 (Audited)	Corresponding quarter ended June 30, 2021 (Unaudited)	Year ended March 31, 2022 (Audited)
1	Income from operations				
	(a) Revenue from real estate operations	2,882.28	3,263.78	-	11,609.28
	(b) Other Operating revenue	123.47	34.45	-	207.43
	Total Income from operations	3,005.75	3,298.23	-	11,816.71
2	Expenditure				
	(a) Cost of land / development rights	-	-	-	404.93
	(b) (Increase) / decrease in project work in progress	207.79	(2,538.96)	-	679.26
	(c) Project approval charges	701.39	3,715.49	-	4,198.70
	(d) Employees cost	339.52	298.92	-	1,208.51
	(e) Depreciation and amortization expense	44.16	55.24	-	197.60
	(f) Subcontractor, material and labour charges	554.54	234.34	-	895.30
	(g) Other expenses	240.90	1,245.23	-	1,820.59
	Total expenditure	2,088.30	3,010.26	-	9,404.89
3	Profit/ (loss) from operations before other income, finance costs (1-2)	917.45	287.97	-	2,411.82
4	Other Income	211.80	207.64	-	757.68
5	Profit/ (loss) from operations before finance costs and exceptional items (3+4)	1,129.25	495.60	-	3,169.50
6	Finance costs	784.15	723.03	-	2,949.52
7	Exceptional items	-	-	-	-
8	Profit/ (loss) from operations before tax (after exceptional items) (5-6-7)	345.10	(227.42)	-	219.98
9	Tax expense	-	-	-	-
	Current tax expense	-	-	-	-
	Deferred tax expense/ (credit)	81.38	(88.17)	-	322.03
	Income tax for earlier years	-	(218.40)	-	(218.40)
10	Net Profit / (loss) for the period (8-9)	263.72	79.15	-	116.35
11	Other Comprehensive Income/ (loss) (net of tax)	(0.11)	6.30	-	13.67
12	Total Comprehensive Income/ (loss) for the period (10-11)	263.61	85.45	-	130.02
13	Paid-up equity share capital (face value of Rs. 10 per share)	11.90	11.90	-	11.90
14	Paid-up debt capital / outstanding debt (refer note 5)	4,600.00	4,600.00	-	4,600.00
15	Net worth (refer note 11)	26,872.33	26,608.74	-	26,608.74
16	Debt redemption reserve (refer note 14)	216.40	135.20	-	135.20
17	Capital redemption reserve	321.70	321.70	-	321.70
18	Earning Per Share (EPS)*				
	Basic (in Rs.)	221.59	66.51	-	9775
	Diluted (in Rs.)	221.59	66.51	-	9775
19	Debt Equity Ratio (refer note 11)	0.86	0.92	-	0.92
20	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (refer note 11)	0.54	0.23	-	0.48
21	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (refer note 11)	1.57	0.76	-	1.14

*Not annualised, except year-end Basic and Diluted EPS. #Not applicable as per SEBI Circular no 637 dated October 05, 2021. Notes: (1) The above unaudited standalone financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2022 have been reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on August 13, 2022. The statutory auditors of the Company have carried out a limited review of the financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2022. The Company's debentures are listed and therefore, Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) 2015, as amended is applicable to the Company. (2) The financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles of Indian Accounting Standards ("IND AS") as prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 (read with relevant rules there under). (3) In line with the provisions of Ind AS -108 "Operating Segments" and basis review of operations being undertaken by the senior management, the operations of the Company primarily fall under "real estate development", which is considered by the management to be the only reportable operating segment. (4) India Ratings had assigned IND BBB-/Stable rating for Non-Convertible Debentures vide letter dated July 11, 2022. (5) Paid up Debt Capital represents: (a) 4,600 Series A Fully Paid, Rated, Listed, Secured, Redeemable, Non-Convertible Debentures of Rs. 100,000 each amounting to Rs. 4,600 lakhs. The proceeds have been utilized for the purpose as mentioned in the offer documents and there is no material deviation in the utilization of the proceeds. (6) The Series-A Non-Convertible Debentures are secured by way of first ranking exclusive charge over Amritsar MIP project land, receivables from sale of Amritsar MIP project and Fatehabad project, insurance receivables- Penguin and Ambrose, the escrow accounts and monies lying to credit thereof. (7) As per the relevant terms and conditions of Information Memorandum (IM), the annual interest payable to the Series-A NCD holders had got revised to 0.001% effective January 31, 2019 once FSI approval ("Milestone") was achieved by the Company's erstwhile wholly owned subsidiary company- Ruchi Malls Private Limited. As confirmed by the debenture trustee vide letter dated April 26, 2022, pursuant to discussions between the Debenture Holders and the Company, the Debenture Holders have agreed to waive the interest on the Series-A NCDs for the period November 16, 2021 to November 15, 2023 along with the redemption premium payable as per the terms of IM upto the period ending November 15, 2023 and the impact thereof for the period upto June 30, 2022, has been duly accounted for in these standalone financial results. (8) Next due dates for repayment of interest and principal of non-convertible debentures (NCDs):

S.No.	Name of Series	Type	Previous Due date of payment	Next Due date of payment	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Series - A	Interest	November 12, 2021	November 12, 2022#	-
		Principal along with premium on redemption	Not Applicable	November 13, 2025*	6,753.90

As confirmed by the debenture trustee vide letter dated April 26, 2022, pursuant to discussions between the Debenture Holders and the Company, the Debenture Holders have agreed to waive the interest on the Series-A NCDs for the period November 16, 2021 to November 15, 2023 along with the redemption premium payable as per the terms of IM upto the period ending November 15, 2023 and the impact thereof has been duly accounted for in these standalone financial results. *As per the terms of issue of 4,600 Series-A NCDs as per the IM, the NCD are redeemable after 10 years from the deemed date of allotment i.e. November 13, 2015. However, the Company has the option to redeem these debentures at any time after the expiry of 3 years from the deemed date of allotment. (9) There is no investor grievance pending or received during the period under review. (10) On account of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Company has assessed the possible effects on the carrying amounts of receivables including unbilled receivables, contract assets, investments and other assets / liabilities based on various internal and external factors upto the date of approval of these financial results. Further, the management has made assessment of impact on business and financial risks on account of COVID-19. Basis above, the management has estimated its future cash flows for the Company which indicates no major change in medium to long term financial performance as estimated prior to COVID-19 impact and hence, the Company believes that no adjustment is considered necessary in these standalone financial results in this regard and there is no impact on the Company's ability to meet its liabilities as and when they fall due. However, due to the unpredictable nature of the ongoing pandemic, the impact of COVID-19 on the Company's financial results may differ from that estimated as at the date of approval of these financial results. (11) Disclosures as per Regulation 52(4) of SEBI (LODR) Regulations 2015 are as under:

Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended	
	June 30, 2022 (Unaudited)	March 31, 2022 (Audited)	June 30, 2021# (Unaudited)	March 31, 2022 (Audited)
Interest service coverage ratio	1.57	0.76	-	1.14
Operating margin (%)	35.74%	16.25%	-	28.11%
Net profit margin (%)	8.20%	2.26%	-	0.93%
Debt service coverage ratio	0.54	0.23	-	0.48
Debt equity ratio	0.86	0.92	-	0.92
Capital redemption reserve	321.70	321.70	-	321.70
Debt redemption reserve	216.40	135.20	-	135.20
Net worth	26,872.33	26,608.74	-	26,608.74
Current ratio	2.69	2.71	-	2.71
Long term debt to working capital	0.58	0.60	-	0.60
Bad debts to accounts receivable ratio (%)	0.00%	0.00%	-	0.00%
Current liability ratio	0.57	0.55	-	0.55
Total debts to total assets	0.34	0.35	-	0.35
Debtor's turnover	1.30	1.10	-	3.16
Inventory turnover	0.03	0.03	-	0.12

#Not applicable as per SEBI Circular no 637 dated October 05, 2021.

Ratios have been computed as follows:
a) Interest service coverage ratio= Earnings before finance costs, tax and depreciation/finance costs
b) Operating margin: (profit before tax+ Finance cost)/Revenue from operations
c) Net profit margin: Net profit for the period/year/Revenue from operations
d) Debt service coverage ratio=Earnings before finance costs, tax and depreciation/ (finance costs + principal repayment of paid up debt capital during the period).
e) Debt equity ratio = paid up debt capital/ equity, where
* Equity represents issued, subscribed and paid up share capital, equity component of compulsory convertible preference shares and reserves and surplus
* Reserves and Surplus includes capital reserve, securities premium and retained earnings
* Paid up debt capital represents long term and short term borrowings excluding deferred payment liabilities

f) Net worth represents Equity
g) Current ratio: Current assets/ Current liabilities
h) Long term debt to working capital: Long term borrowings/(Current assets- Current liabilities)
i) Bad debt to accounts receivable ratio: Bad debts/ Average trade receivables
j) Current liability ratio: Current liability/Total liabilities
k) Total debts to total assets: Debt/ Total assets
l) Debtor's turnover: Revenue from operations/ Average trade receivables
(12) During the year 2009, the Company had received a demand for Rs. 1,440 lakhs from Municipal Corporation, Amritsar ("MC") towards the levy for Change in Land Use Fee (CLU fees) in relation to Company's erstwhile retail mall at Amritsar that had got transferred to the Resulting Company, pursuant to Composite scheme of arrangement as approved by the Honourable High Court of Punjab and Haryana vide order dated March 31, 2017. The Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana ("Hon'ble High Court") vide its order dated March 3, 2010 had adjudicated that the basis of levying CLU fees is untenable and the amount deposited by the Company i.e. Rs. 1,280 lakhs (net of Rs. 180 lakhs recovered from another party as their share of the said demand) is liable to be refunded with simple interest @ 9% per annum from the date of collection by the authorities till the date of payment. Subsequently, the MC had preferred a Letters Patent Appeal (LPA) against the order of the Hon'ble High Court before the Hon'ble High Court on May 12, 2010 and the same was disposed off in favour of the MC. Pursuant to another order by the Hon'ble High Court in year 2010, the money deposited by the Company was refunded in lieu of furnishing of a Bank Guarantee by the Company in favour of the Registrar of the Hon'ble High Court, with the condition that if the MC succeeds in the LPA filed in the aforesaid Hon'ble High Court, the Company shall be liable to pay the amount to MC with the same rate of interest which had been awarded by the single bench in its order dated March 03, 2010. The Company had preferred a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the LPA that was disposed off by the Hon'ble High Court in MC's favour, which got admitted and against which the Hon'ble Supreme Court had issued notices to both the parties and restrained the MC from enforcing the bank guarantee. Subsequently, the Company in compliance of the order passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on April 18, 2017 had deposited a sum of Rs. 200 lakhs consequent to which the amount of bank guarantee furnished by the Company in favour of the Registrar of the Hon'ble High Court had got revised to Rs. 1,240 lakhs. Based on expert legal inputs, the management is confident of obtaining favorable orders from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the said matter. Further, in accordance with the "Facilitation and Collaboration Agreement" and "Termination-cum-Settlement Deed" entered into with the landowners, the liability in relation to the 'Change of Land Use' is to be borne by the landowners. Accordingly, while finalizing these standalone financial results, no provision has been considered necessary at this stage. (13) The Code on Social Security, 2020 ("Code") relating to employee benefits during employment and post-employment, received Presidential assent in September 2020. The Code has been published in the Gazette of India, however, the date on which the Code will come into effect is yet to be notified and the final rules/interpretation are yet to be issued. The Company will assess the impact of the Code when it comes into effect and will record any related impact in the period the Code and rules thereon becomes effective. (14) The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide its order dated February 17, 2020, had approved the scheme of compromise and arrangement proposed by proposers of A N Buildwell Private Limited ("ANB"), wherein Alpha Corp Development Private Limited had agreed to revive ANB's Spire Woods real estate project situated in Gurugram by taking over the construction and development of such project. Subsequently, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide its order dated March 17, 2021 approved the execution of the Joint Development Agreement (JDA), between the proposers, ANB and the Company that sets out the terms and conditions for the proposed collaboration. The effective date of the transaction is subject to certain substantive actions including regulatory approvals, whereupon the transaction would qualify for accounting as per Ind AS, notified under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013. (15) Pursuant to the order dated June 8, 2021 of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Alpha Corp Development Private Limited alongwith its 3 wholly owned subsidiary companies is implementing the approved Resolution Plan for acquisition of Copia, Sapphire and Techoone real estate projects of Earth Infrastructure Limited ("Earth"), that was under Corporate Insolvency Resolution process as per the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 (including all amendments for the time being in force). As per the approved Resolution Plan, the Company through its 3 wholly owned subsidiary companies has to undertake the development of the 3 real estate projects and deliver the units to the project allottees, as per the terms of such plan. The transaction requires certain substantive actions to be taken whereupon the same would qualify for accounting as per Ind AS, notified under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013. (16) Previous period figures have been re-audited / re-classified wherever necessary, to conform to current period's classification in order to comply with the requirements of the amended Schedule III to the Companies Act, 2013.

For Alpha Corp Development Private Limited
Ajay Dhawan, Director (DIN: 00267886)

Corporate tax collection up 34 pc in April-July

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tax collected on income of companies surged by 34 per cent in the first four months of the current fiscal that began in April, indicating that a simplified tax regime with low rates is yielding results, the Income Tax Department said.

The tax department tweeted on corporate tax collection growth in April-July in an apparent attempt to counter criticism of the 2019 reduction in tax rates for companies which was alleged to have dented the Centre's revenue collections, impacting its spending on social welfare schemes.

The tax department said corporate tax collections at Rs 7.23 lakh crore in fiscal 2021-22 (April 2021 to March 2022) were 58 per cent higher than the mop-up in the previous financial year.

"The corporate tax collections during FY 2022-23 (till 31st July, 2022) register a robust growth of 34 per cent over the corporate tax collections in the corresponding period of FY



2021-22," it said without giving an absolute number for the collection.

Tax collections are one of the indicators of economic activity as higher income of companies suggest demand growth and wealth creation.

The department said the corporate tax collection in 2021-22 were higher by over 9 per cent when compared to collections of pre-COVID 2018-19 fiscal.

"The positive trend of growth continues in current fiscal, but for the overall impact of the COVID-19 pandemic during FY 2020-21, when the corporate tax collections took a temporary hit," it said. "This indicates that the simplified tax regime with low rates and no exemptions has lived up to its promise."

NMDC targets 46 mn tonnes of iron ore production in FY23

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

State-owned miner NMDC Ltd targets to achieve 46 million tonnes of Iron ore production in the current fiscal, 10 per cent higher than that of last year, Chairman and Managing Director, Sumit Deb said.

The company achieved production of 42.19 MT and sales of 40.56 MT in FY22 with a turnover of Rs 25,882 crore.

"On the back of the developments mentioned above at the Bachel mine, Kumarswamy mine and other mines, we target production of 46 lakh tonnes of iron ore in FY23. This volume is about 10 per cent higher than in FY22 and would provide a cushion against possible pressure on pricing and we hope to maintain and surpass the top line again in FY23," Deb said in the latest annual report.

He also said the company expects the merger of its three-MT Steel Plant in Chhattisgarh to complete in the current year as its application for demerger has been accepted by the Ministry of Corporate



Affairs and as directed by them, NMDC also held the meetings of Unsecured creditors and Shareholders of our Company in June 2022.

We have obtained the No Objection Certificate from the stock exchanges... We expect to complete the demerger with-in FY23," he said.

He further said NMDC has appointed new consultant for the fifth line of screening and the downhill conveyor augmentation project at Bachel mine, which is expected to be ready in the current year and add about 2.5 MT of production.

Though the outlook for the iron ore market is not encouraging in short term, long-term demand for iron is expected to be positive, he said on the global demand for iron ore.

Textile Min plans to start hybrid courses in NIFT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Textiles Ministry is planning to start hybrid courses in the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) to accommodate more students, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday.

Set up in 1986, NIFT provides professional human resources to the textile and apparel industry.

The textiles minister said that during the summer holidays, NIFT campuses can be used for teaching physically and then later through online medium.

Through this, more students would be able to pursue courses from NIFT, he told reporters here.

The campuses are in different cities including Chennai, Gandhinagar, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Mumbai.

Earlier in the day, the Minister hoisted the national flag at Gandhi Darshan Museum here and distributed flags on the occasion of Har Ghar Tiranga Mahotsav.

Reliance Infra net loss narrows to ₹66.11 cr in June quarter

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Infrastructure (RInfra) on Saturday reported narrowing of its consolidated net loss to Rs 66.11 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2022.

The company had clocked a consolidated net loss of Rs 95.15 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, it said in a regulatory filing to the BSE.

Its total consolidated income during the quarter under review rose to Rs 6,349.34 crore as against Rs 4,623.17 crore in the year-ago period.

Total expenditure also increased to Rs 6,714.42 crore compared to Rs 5,208.75 crore earlier.

'Bengal has potential to earn ₹20,000 crore from seafood export in next 5 years'

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal has the potential to earn Rs 18000 crore to Rs 20000 crore from seafood exports in the next five years and the state government's recent ban on use of 20 antibiotics in shrimp aquaculture will go a long way in boosting revenue from the sector, an official of seafood exporters body said.

Traces of antibiotic residue are a major headwind for exports and a step toward preventing marine exports from the state, Seafood Exporters Association (SEA) president (West Bengal) Rajarshi Banerji said.

"The state government has banned 20 antibiotics in the state for use in aquaculture farming.

Avg office rent up 8pc in Delhi-NCR in Jan-Jun

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Office rentals in Delhi-NCR rose by an average of 8 per cent in the first six months of this year, according to property consultant Savills India.

In its latest report 'India Market Watch Office - H1 2022', Savills mentioned that the Delhi-NCR witnessed gross absorption of 5.6 million square feet in H1 (January-June) 2022, up by 194 per cent from H1 2021.

"Unlike H1 2021, which saw almost equal share in the leasing activity from Gurugram and Noida, the first half of 2022 witnessed varied leasing activities from these two regions," the report said.

Gurugram contributed to around 64 per cent of the overall absorption in Delhi-NCR, while Noida had only 34 per cent share.

Overall, absorption in Delhi went down from 4 per cent in H1 2021 to 2 per cent in H1 2022.

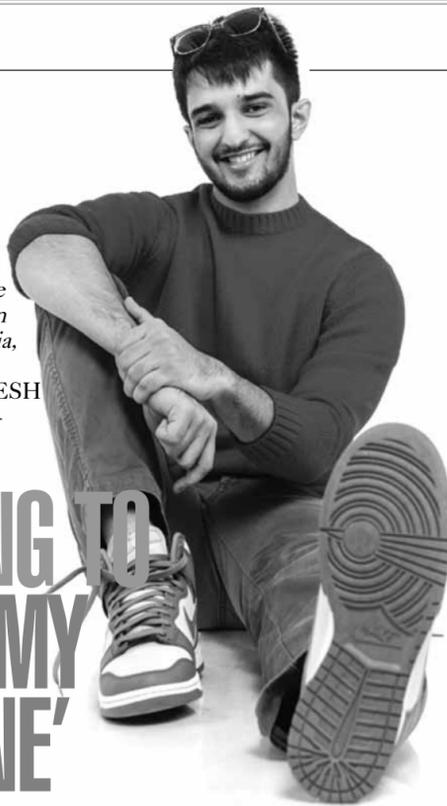
"Average rentals in the city have increased by 8 per cent year-on-year (Y

talktime

MARKAND SONI

The actor, who has been acting since the age of 3, has done more than 400 ads pan India for brands like Surf, Tide, Britannia, Coca Cola, Burger King, Jinaam, among others. He speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about his role in *Brahmastra: Part One—Shiva*, how he landed the role and more

'I AM WORKING TO STEP OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE'



How did it feel to work alongside a few of the biggest names of the Indian Cinema?

It's an amazing experience! There's so much to learn. They're all really sweet. Working on the project taught me things that will make me good at what I do but most importantly, it taught me how to stay grounded. Amitabh sir, Ranbir, Ayan and Alia are the people with so many achievements in life, yet so grounded. Working on *Brahmastra: Part One—Shiva* was truly a magical experience.

How did you land the project? Were you skeptical to take up this role?

I got a call for an audition and I auditioned twice. Later, I got a call informing me that I have landed a role.

I was told that Ayan Mukerji is going to direct it and I'll be acting alongside Ranbir Kapoor, Amitabh Ji and Alia and that it's going to be a fantasy, action and fiction sort of a superhero film. It was an instant 'I have to take up this role' moment for me and I could not be skeptical about it.

You have a lot of scenes with

Ranbir and Amitabh ji. How was the bonding on the set?

Ranbir is one of the sweetest people I've met. He's someone anyone can instantly vibe with. Even Amitabh sir is very sweet and amazing to work with and the zone was always a really fine balance of seriousness when it was needed and then super fun and chill and light during the breaks.

Tell us something about your role.

My character is the smart guy. He has no powers, but he's the smartest in his group. I'm basically the nerd in the group who knows things.

What is your fondest memory of the set of *Brahmastra*?

I have a lot of memories from the set. I made some really good friends. There are three other really amazing actors and people along with me in the film and I'm so happy to now have them as friends and have worked with them. All the places we shot at were some of the most beautiful places I've ever been to in my life.

Having been working since the age of 3, which was the

an industry that we've never. And I am also working to step out of my comfort zone and do something I've never done.

You have done 400+ ads. Any anecdote that you remember and would like to share?

I as a child, have done a few ads with Shah Rukh sir. And I think most memories that stand out are with him. I remember the time I walked up to him and asked him to quit smoking and he very politely put the cigarette out and stopped and wouldn't smoke in front of me the entire time we shot. And the other time when he got a gift for me, it was a board game, a really nice fun board game. It's just a board game but it's a sweet gesture and for a 8-9 year old kid, I mean he didn't have to but he did at the end of the shoot.

What's next?

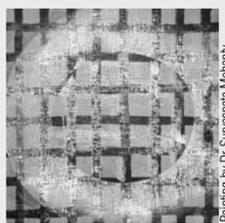
I am releasing my music in September. I am so fortunate that I got to work with Hriday Gattani, who works with A R Rahman sir. I also have a few singles that I've co-written with him and he has produced and I've sung. That's the next major, big project in life.

I HAVE SORT OF SEEN THE INDUSTRY CHANGE—TRENDS AND CULTURE. I THINK THIS PHASE, THE CURRENT ONE, IS THE MOST INTERESTING BECAUSE WE'RE DOING THINGS AS AN INDUSTRY THAT WE'VE NEVER

most interesting phase for you?

I have sort of seen the industry change—trends and culture. I think this phase, the current one, is the most interesting because we're doing things as

Master Strokes '22



After a two-year COVID-induced hiatus, the fourth edition of a group-art exhibition *Master Strokes* curated by Kishore Labar was inaugurated on August 12, 2022, by Retd Justice M L Verma in the presence of several notable artists and art lovers.

It is a six-day group exhibition of paintings, sculptures and other artworks by 35 emerging and senior artists from all over India.

With over 150 paintings and 80 sculptures, the exhibition takes one through the artists' own journeys from different

phases of aesthetic formulations: from being chronicles, appropriating the roles of narrator, illustrator, image makers and activists to being myth-shapers.

Different techniques, mediums and configurations have been used by the artists to constitute the presentation.

Dr Suryasata Mohanty's abstract titled *Juggernaut* painted in multiple layers and free flows of colours showing a huge structural frame with a sublime giant wheel in motion, is a post-modern depiction of the unstoppable force of the cosmos.

Anita Dinesh's painting is on the light, warm and protective nature of Shiva. Ashima Mehrotra brings out the turbulence of the city with a golden heritage, while child artist Anmol Labar paints abstracts with a mature sense of colour and texture.

When: Till Aug 16, 2022
Where: Visual Arts Gallery, IHC, Lodhi Road, ND

MAKING A MARK

With the advent of the internet, many Indian artists have been able to reach the global audience while also sticking to their roots through art. SONALI CHAUDHARI delves deeper

The twentieth century has ushered in a lot of change, one of the most important being the internet or the world wide web and globalisation. It is also the century in which India finally got its freedom after centuries of British rule. As the name suggests, the world wide web connects people on every level, from every section of society. It gives everyone a bird's eye view of the world through a screen in front of them. This has had a huge impact on every field including arts. Before the advent of the internet, only artists who were truly lucky, who had the means or had supportive patrons could make it beyond the borders of India. The treasure trove that is the Indian art fraternity was to some extent hidden from the world

India is a country whose strength lies in its diversity. I do not think there is any other country in this world with such diversity throughout its history. This has a huge impact on the artworks by Indian artists. Some are ultra modern like in the west, some merge tradition and modernism, some are purely traditional following old forms of Indian art, like the Bengal school or Tanjore paintings. This results in a truly exotic and eclectic mix for the mind and senses.

The impact of Indian art on the global art scenario is substantial. From auctions at renowned auction houses to exhibitions in the best galleries in the world, Indian artists are making their mark. The way world cricket can no longer be imagined without the Indian cricket team, the global art scenario can no longer be imagined without Indian artists. That is not to say that Indian artists have to emulate others. As mentioned earlier, India has its own rich culture



and heritage, which is reflected in the work of Indian artists. That is our major strength I feel. No other nation in this world has the diversity that India has. It is an advantage and our strength as artists. The best example is the work of HS Raza, who incorporated the *Bindu* or circular dot into his work. It was a purely Indian concept remarkably translated upon the canvas. Of course, there are many well known western artists who have travelled to India and you can see it reflected in their artworks too.

The world wide web has played a huge role in giving Indian artists direct access to good galleries and auction houses abroad, which in turn opens up a world of opportunity. Good online art platforms also help. Indian artists are now exhibiting their works in every place imaginable, across the globe. Even before the advent of the internet, works of senior artists like the late MF Husain, unarguably one of India's best known artists, commanded huge prices in



the international market. However, as I stated earlier, the internet has truly opened up the world not just for artists but for buyers of art as well. One click on a good art website and voila, you have a masterpiece!



Indian art contains the same appeal that brought people from the west to India centuries ago. Where we come from is bound to be reflected on our canvas or whatever form we express ourselves in. Needless to say, this applies to all artists too, including the ones from India. I

remember viewing the works of some renowned Indian artists recently; a deluge of colour reminiscent of a plate containing exotic spices and flowers found only in India. Regardless of whether a shape or form is depicted, it touches our innermost being, it touches our soul. It has the same impact on the world. One cannot imagine India without thinking about colour. It is almost synonymous with our country and as an artist, I am proud of it.

No matter where Indian artists go in this world, regardless of whether they live in India or abroad, as long as they stay connected to India through that invisible thread of the soul, India will continue to be reflected in their work. It is a boon not only for Indian artists but for the global art fraternity as well, in which India plays an important role. I look forward to Indian artists achieving even greater heights on a global scale in the years to come.

The writer is a visual artist

Read a lot, knowledge never goes waste: Faraaz Kazi

The recipient of the YCOF National Excellence Award and the winner of the National Debut Youth Fiction Award 2013, Faraaz Kazi is also called as the Nicholas Sparks of India. A certified soft-skills trainer and a triple post grad, Kazi previously an entrepreneur, now helps brands scale their digital presence.



Kazi has authored seven books—Truly Madly Deeply, The Other Side, LOVE, More Than Just Friends, 14 Shades of Love, Meant To Be Together and The Sun, The Moon & The Love In Between.

Kazi is a fellow member of the esteemed Film Writers Association of India and a former member of The International Horror Writers Association. Truly Madly Deeply, his debut mainstream romance novel is the only Indian book to have been nominated in seven categories of the Good Reads Choice awards, apart from being the first Indian novel to win the Best Debut in Romance in the same awards. It is also the only Indian book in the Top 100 YA Global Fiction list.

His second book, The Other Side that was co-authored with Dr Vivek Banerjee remains the most successful commercial horror title in India. Felicitated by numerous institutions and bodies, Kazi has also been featured in the SBJ Legends of Tomorrow calendar and is the recipient of the Karmaveer Chakra (Bronze) medal for his contributions in the field.

What inspired you to take up writing?

I started reading at the age of five and have since been fascinated by books. By the age of seven, I was writing. At eight, I wrote my first book. It was a mix of fantasy and reality. As I grew up, I travelled a lot and I had the privilege of observing & being a part of many interesting events. My reading appetite grew more and I consumed thousands of literary works, which shaped my consciousness.

How has your journey been so far?

In one word—exhilarating! I have been in the industry for almost 12 years and though I have been selective in releasing my works, I have been a keen observer of the publishing industry and have seen its growth and saturation. I have rubbed shoulders with the best of people, made some amazing friends and learnt a lot with each launch.

Will we see a sequel of Truly Madly Deeply or The Other Side? Also, what's next?

I believe one should not force the muse. If the story has been told and the journey is over, the ways must part, however hard it may be. I would love to write a sequel to TMD but it would be a gross injustice to the story. With TOS though, a sequel is definitely on the cards. It's just a matter of when, not if.

Right now, I am excited for my next, which is a co-authored romantic thriller that deals with a sensitive subject.

QUIRKYTALE

Chick flick *New York Se Miami* is a fun watch

From *Dil Chahta Hai* to *Zindagi Na Milega Dobaara*, we have seen many Hindi films set against the backdrop of adventurous road trips. And all these films had one thing in common—male protagonists. But the recently released *New York se Miami* has come as a breath of fresh air. It explores the relationship and bonding between four female friends. The girls decide to take a road trip from one American city to another before one of them ties the knot soon.



Presented by Prishsa Films and produced by Raakesh U Saakat, the road trip turns out to be a life changing experience for the girls. Director Joy Augustine has wonderfully woven his magic throughout the film. Some of the visuals in the film are breathtaking and the lyrics of the songs in the film and Viju Shah's music is quite meaningful and hummable. *Stars: 4 out of 5*

Another milestone for Vuram

Vuram grabs the 61st position among more than 1,500 applicants worldwide in the list of 100 Best Workplaces for innovators by Fast Company. The fourth annual list honours organisations and businesses demonstrating a steadfast commitment to encouraging innovation at all levels. Also, Vuram is the only applicant representing India.

"This is yet another milestone for Vuram and vuramites. The recognition reflects company's strong people-centric culture that encourages every individual to question the status quo, think from the customer's shoes, upskill based on the individual's needs, and explore multiple ways to solve problems, thereby fostering a culture of innovation. Teamwork has helped us achieve this today," says Balasanjeevi Balasubramaniam, Director of Marketing, Vuram.

"These leaders and teams continue to spur innovation," says Brendan Vaughan, Editor-in-chief, Fast Company.

Be the best version of yourself: Dr Amit Talukdar

To be able to step foot into one's desired industry is no cakewalk. People take years to realise their dreams and aspirations in life and work around the same to achieve success, while others may recognise their true purpose much early in life and start building a robust career. In any case, people need to first understand what they seek in life and then give it their all and surrender themselves to their goals; points out a self-made success story, who first aced the medical game by becoming a doctor and now has stunned people by winning two medals at Mr Universe 2022.



Dr Amit Talukdar hails from Guwahati, Assam, and as a cosmetic surgeon, he has already proved his tenacity and skills as a doctor. However, he says that he could make it huge at Mr Universe, held in Bangkok, Thailand, under the auspices of the World Fitness Federation, winning two medals—silver in the Classic Physique category and Bronze in the Open Bodybuilding category—because he never lost focus of his sight and his goals in life.

He explains how people often tend to lose hope, easily underestimating their innate skills, knowledge, and talents; however, they should only focus on what they can do best and keep walking their path, no matter what, just like he did. Dr Talukdar also speaks about the importance of health and fitness in life, saying that being physically fit isn't the only goal people need to have, but they should think beyond and focus on improving mental health as well, as he considers both to be of great importance in an individual's life.

Harry Harding chooses to go against the trend

A 'global propaganda push', as the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), a think tank based in Canberra, puts it, began to gain traction in or around 2019 to push forward what it calls 'pro-CCP narratives' on the likes of Twitter and YouTube.



Alongside Chinese state media, these social media posts, which were found on many of the most visited Western platforms, were tailored to portray a wholesome view of China to the rest of the world.

But one Australian journalist who has worked in the country for over a decade has posted content to YouTube and Twitter for years, despite ramped-up criticism, while avoiding much scrutiny.

"I don't pretend that China is perfect and I don't think the most effective way to address certain problems is to talk about them on social media platforms inaccessible in China," says Harry Harding aka Hazza.

The 32-year-old Australian has been working in China as a news anchor and television host for twelve years. He is the foreign face of little-known Guangdong Radio and Television's international channel, GDTV World, effectively South China's answer to CGTN, the state-funded English arm of CCTV.

"Social media, especially overseas social media, was just a way for me to have something of my own, something that I have control over. People often accuse me of being paid to run [these] social media accounts, but I just laugh it off. If I were being paid, those accounts wouldn't be my own, and I would stay very far away," Hazza says.

He stands out from the other primarily caucasian foreigners involved with state-run media for his ability to remain somewhat neutral, a stance that even some of the world's largest multinationals struggle to maintain.



PM Modi hosts India's CWG 2022 contingent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The golden period of Indian sports is knocking on the door, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday as he hailed the gutsy show of the Indian contingent which returned with 61 medals from the Commonwealth Games.

Modi on Saturday hosted the Indian contingent at his residence to felicitate the players here. The Indian athletes produced a sensational show in Birmingham, claiming 61 medals, including 22 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze. "The real assessment of this performance can't be made with just number of medals, our athletes

competed neck-to-neck. There may have been a difference of 1s or 1cm but we will make that up I am confident of that," Modi said during his speech. "It is just a start and we are not going to just sit quietly, golden period of Indian sports is knocking on the door." "We have the responsibility of making a sporting system which is the best in the world, inclusive, diverse and dynamic. No talent should be left out as they are all assets." While India produced a dominating show in badminton, wrestling and weightlifting, the athletes also did well in athletics, judo and lawn bowl, where they won

India's first-ever medal in the Games. "Not only are we strengthening the sports that we have been strong in but have also left a mark in new sports. In hockey we are trying to get our legacy back," Modi said. "Since the last time, we have won medals in four new sports, from lawn bowls to athletics, our performance has been spectacular. This performance will help increase youth's interest in new sports. We have to improve our performance in new sports." The Indian team also won a silver in women's T20 cricket which was introduced for the first time at the CWG. "Under Harmanpreet's (Kaur)

IOA felicitates CWG medal winners with cash awards

NEW DELHI: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Saturday felicitated the Birmingham Commonwealth Games medallists and presented them with cash awards at a function here. While the gold medallists were awarded a cash reward of ₹20 lakh each, the silver and bronze winners got richer by Rs 10 lakh and Rs 7.5 lakh, respectively. The event was attended by IOA acting president Anil Khanna, secretary general Rajeev Mehta, treasurer Anandeshwar Pandey, and India's chef de mission of the Birmingham Games Rajesh Bhandhari among others. During the function, Khanna lauded the performance of the Indian athletes, who bagged a rich haul of 61 medals to finish fourth in the standings, despite shooting's absence from the multi-sport event. **PTI**

'There're better fast bowlers in Indian T20 cricket than Shami'

PTI ■ DUBAI

Australian legend Ricky Ponting feels Mohammed Shami's strength lies in the longest format and there are better quick bowlers in India's T20 set up, weighing in on his absence from the Asia Cup squad. India have picked Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Avesh Khan and Arshdeep Singh as the three specialist fast bowlers with all-rounder Hardik Pandya being the fourth pacer in the 15-member squad. "He's (Shami) been a very, very good bowler for India for a long time now. If you look at his strengths, his Test cricket is probably where he thrives the most,"

Ponting, a two-time World Cup-winning captain, said in the latest episode of The ICC Review. "I think there are better fast bowlers in Indian T20 cricket than Shami and they've only named three (for the Asia Cup). So if there's potentially four named in the squad he might be the fourth man in." With Jasprit Bumrah and Harshal Patel nursing injuries, many felt Shami might be included to share the new-ball duties during the Asia Cup. "I would think they'll probably only have the four quicks coming to Australia. They'll still want to bring a lot of spin here even though the wickets are probably not that conducive," Ponting said.



The Asia Cup will be held in Dubai and Sharjah from August 27 to September 11 and Ponting picked India as the favourites to win the tournament. "It's always hard to go past India in any tournament, not just an Asia Cup, but I think every time we talk about the T20 World Cup which is coming up, I think that India will be right in the thick of it there," the 47-year-old said. "Their depth is definitely better than the other teams and I think India will win the Asia Cup."



New Zealand cruise past WI in 2nd T20I

AP ■ KINGSTON
New Zealand pulverised a demoralised West Indies by 90 runs in the second T20I at Sabina Park on Friday to take an unbeatable 2-0 in the three-match series.

In a one-sided encounter which magnified the rapid decline of the two-time World T20 winners over the past 12 months, the Black Caps piled up 215 for five. Mitchell Santner and Michael Bracewell returned identical figures of three for 15. Ish Sodhi made it seven wickets to spin when he removed Rowman Powell for 21.

Needling victory to keep the series alive going into the final match at the same venue on Sunday, West Indies crumbled to spin for the second time in six days. Pretoria Capitals signed SA pacer Anrich Nortje. New Delhi: Pretoria Capitals on Saturday announced that they have signed South African pace duo of Anrich Nortje and Migaël Pretorius for the inaugural edition of Cricket South Africa's T20 League. Parth Jindal, owner of Pretoria Capitals said, "Anrich Nortje has been an integral part of the growth and success of Delhi Capitals. So when we decided to expand our cricketing footprint to his country, he was always going to be an automatic choice for us.

Shakib appointed B'desh T20 captain for Asia Cup, T20 WC

PTI ■ DHAKA

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Saturday appointed premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan as the skipper of the T20 team for the upcoming Asia Cup, the New Zealand tri-series and the T20 World Cup. While the Asia Cup will be held in the UAE, Australia will host the T20 showpiece in October-November. He was appointed Test captain in June after Mominul Haque stepped down. The BCB also announced a 17-member squad for the Asia Cup, which will be played from August 27. Bangladesh made several changes in their T20I squad for the Asia Cup, with



Liton Das ruled out of the tournament due to injuries. Middle-order batter Sabbir Rahman, who last played a T20I in 2019, returns to the squad, while Mushfiqur Rahim, who was rested for the T20I series against Zimbabwe, is also back.

Sindhu pulls out of World C'ships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's star shuttler P V Sindhu on Saturday pulled out of the upcoming BWF World Championships owing to a stress fracture on her left foot. In a statement which she shared on Twitter, the double Olympic medallist confirmed that she will be missing the 2022 World Championships. Sindhu has won the World Championships gold in 2019, along with two Silver medals and two Bronze. "While I am on the high of winning a gold medal at the CWG for India. Unfortunately, I have to pull out of the world championships. I felt pain and there was an injury scare at the quarter-finals of the CWG, but with the help of my coach, physio and trainer, I decided to push as far as I could," Sindhu said in the statement. "The pain was unbearable during and post the finals. Hence I rushed for an MRI as soon as I got back to Hyderabad. The doctors confirmed a stress fracture on my



left foot and recommended rest for a few weeks. I should be back to training in a few weeks. Thank you all for your support and love," she added.

The World Championships will be held in Tokyo from August 21 till August 28. Sindhu has won the Gold medal in the women's singles event at the recently-concluded Commonwealth Games and revealed that she had been playing through pain at the multi-sport extravaganza. Sindhu added a CWG singles Gold to her wide array of medals with a convincing straight-game win over Canada's Michelle Li. The world number seven from India outplayed her 13th ranked opponent 21-15, 21-13 in front of a packed crowd at the NEC arena in Birmingham. This was Sindhu's second Gold medal at the Commonwealth Games, having earlier won the yellow metal in 2018 in the mixed team event. She also has one Silver and one Bronze in women's singles from 2018 and 2014 editions respectively. The 27-year-old Sindhu also has two Olympic medals. She won Silver in women's singles in 2016 and followed that up with a Bronze medal in Tokyo last year.

Messi misses out on Ballon d'Or nomination

AP ■ PARIS

Seven-time Ballon d'Or Swinner Lionel Messi paid a high price for an underwhelming first season with Paris Saint-Germain when he was left off the 30-strong list for this year's coveted football award. Lucy Bronze, who was runner-up in 2019, is one of three members of England's Euro-winning squad to be short-listed for the women's award. Messi, who won the title last year, had been an ever-present amongst the nominations since 2006 and a regular feature in the top three since 2007 with the exception of 2018.

But Messi, 35, has missed out on the 2022 award following his switch from Barcelona to the French capital. A change in the format has also worked against the Argentine superstar with the Ballon d'Or no longer acknowledging the best player over a calendar year. Instead, it is based on a season's record highlighting "the individual performances" and the "decisive and impressive character" of the nominees, according to the criteria. After leaving Barcelona in the summer of 2021, Messi was unable to stamp his genius on a PSG team desperate for a Champions League title. In total, Messi scored only



11 goals for PSG with his relatively indifferent club form failing to impress France Football magazine, the organisers of the Ballon d'Or

matches. French international striker Karim Benzema is the overwhelming favourite after being the architect of Real Madrid's 14th Champions League title. Benzema is likely to become the fifth French winner after Raymond Kopa (1958), Michel Platini (1983, 1984, 1985), Jean-Pierre Papin (1991) and Zinedine Zidane (1998). In the 2021/2022 season, Benzema scored 44 goals in 46 appearances for a Madrid side who also won the Liga title. His goal in Wednesday's 2-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt in the European Super Cup took the 34-year-old to 324 goals for the Spanish

giants. Manchester United's Ronaldo, a five-time Ballon d'Or winner, is nominated again this year. Benzema is joined on the 30-man list by teammates Thibaut Courtois, Casemiro, 2018 winner Luka Modric, Vinicius and former Chelsea player Antonio Rudiger. Beaten Champions League finalists Liverpool have seven players nominated, the most of any club. There is a 20-strong list for the women's Ballon d'Or including English stars Bronze, Millie Bright and Arsenal forward Beth Mead who won the Golden Boot at the women's Euro.

Hurkacz ends Kyrgios streak in Montreal

AP ■ MONTREAL

Hubert Hurkacz overcame 53 winners from Nick Kyrgios to halt the Australian's nine-match win streak with a three-set quarter-final victory on Friday at the ATP Montreal Masters. The Polish eighth seed managed 43 winners of his own in a rapid-fire 7-6(7/4), 6-7(5/7), 6-1 triumph that put him into his fourth semi-final at the Masters level. Hurkacz will next face Norway's fourth-seeded Casper Ruud, who crushed home-hope Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-1, 6-2, in 74 minutes. Ruud will play his third Masters semi-final this season on Saturday, having defeated Hurkacz in their previous meeting in May at Roland Garros.



At the bottom of the draw, Dan Evans completed a comeback to defeat American Tommy Paul 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, needing two match points to overcome Paul in two and a

quarter hours. But the chance of an all-British semi-final at this elite level fell away as Jack Draper lost 7-6 (7/4), 6-1 to Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta after saving a pair of match points. The 39th-ranked Evans, who managed only 15 winners, was decisively out-hit by Paul with 40. Not surprisingly he said reaching his second career semi-final in Masters tournament was a hard slog. **HALEP DOWNS COCO** Toronto: Simona Halep served Toronto for her match against Coco Gauff without success on Friday before finally securing a 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) quarter-final victory at the WTA Toronto Masters. The former number one, a two-time winner in Canada,

made hard work of her triumph over the rising American teenager who just missed a chance at cracking the world ranking top-10 for the first time. Halep needed a second-set tiebreaker to advance into the semi-finals in just under two hours. Double Grand Slam champion Halep earned her leading 183rd match win at the Masters 1000 level. She now owns 36 victories in 2022. **NO DJOKER** Novak Djokovic pulled out of next week's hard-court tournament in Cincinnati because he has not gotten any COVID-19 vaccine shots and so is not allowed to travel to the United States. That is also why Djokovic is not expected to be able to enter the US Open, the year's last

Serena to face Raducanu in Cincinnati opener

AP ■ CINCINNATI

Serena Williams will face a challenging first-round clash with reigning US Open champion Emma Raducanu when the US tennis great's farewell tour continues at Cincinnati next week. Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam champion, revealed this week that the "countdown has begun" to her retirement, with the 40-year-old expected to bid farewell after a final major campaign at the US Open starting later this month. Williams won her first singles match in more than a year when she defeated Spain's Nuria Parrizas Diaz in the first round at Toronto last week. That was before she revealed in an article in Vogue and on Instagram that she was "evolving away" from tennis. In her first match after the announcement, Grand Slam tournament, which begins in New York on Aug 29. Djokovic is a 35-year-old from Serbia who owns 21 major



championships, one behind Rafael Nadal for the men's record. Djokovic has said he won't get vaccinated against the illness caused by the coronavirus, even if that prevents him from playing in certain tournaments.

the pioneer agenda

Even before you've earned it, treat yourself and your career with the level of respect that you hope to one day deserve.
— Catherine O'Hara



Before Nitish divorced the RJD and shifted to the BJP camp in 2017, similar talks did the round about him squaring up with Modi in the electoral ring. But during the last five years the political scenario of the country has changed completely, and chances of Nitish's acceptance as the Opposition face has increased proportionality, writes NAVIN UPADHYAY

WHY NITISH BEST BET AGAINST 'MIGHTY' MODI

After Nitish Kumar dumped the BJP and embraced the RJD-led Grand alliance comprising Congress and the Left, speculations have once again gained ground that he could be the joint Opposition face to take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 2024 general elections.

Sources in the know of the agreement arrived between RJD and JD(U) claim that Nitish will contest the Lok Sabha election and move to national politics vacating his chair for Tejashwi Yadav.

Nitish may have denied that he harbors any ambition of occupying the PM's office, but his warning shot to the BJP that the party may not be in power after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, is a clear indication that, as far as he is concerned, the development in Bihar should not be seen in isolation and he could play a vital role in galvanizing the opposition across the nation.

Before Nitish divorced the RJD and shifted to the BJP camp in 2017, similar talks did the round about him squaring up with Modi in the electoral ring in 2019. But during the last five years, the political scenario of the country has changed completely, and the chances of Nitish's acceptance as the joint Opposition's face have increased proportionality.

For once, Congress has done little to claim the leadership of any such Opposition formation. Rahul Gandhi may be at the forefront of fighting a verbal duel with the BJP, but on the ground, the party has gained little result. In public perception, Rahul Gandhi lacks the ability to turn the tide of public opinion against Modi. Several opposition leaders such as West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, TRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao, and Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav are unlikely to endorse any move to anoint Rahul Gandhi as the face of the Opposition.

The recent raids by the CBI and Enforcement Directorate against TMC leaders and Ministers and the discovery of huge sums of money from them have considerably dented Mamata Banerjee's image. Mamata's refusal to back the candidature of Margaret Alva in the Vice-Presidential contest has also raised eyebrows. Her pow wow with Narendra Modi during her last visit to Delhi and her decision to attend the Niti Ayog meeting, which she always boycotted, has left tongues wagging in the political circles.

In such a scenario, Nitish could be one of the best bets to take on Modi for a variety of reasons.

First, he is someone with a clean track record who need not worry about the ED or CBI. Even his political rivals agree that Nitish Kumar is a stickler to rules and attempts to question his probity and integrity could very well bounce back on the BJP. At a time when the majority of the Opposition leaders are hounded by the central

IN SUCH A SCENARIO, NITISH'S POSSIBLE PROJECTION AS THE JOINT OPPOSITION CANDIDATE AGAINST MODI WILL HAVE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES ON BRINGING TOGETHER YADAVS AND NON-YADAVS OBCS UNDER ONE UMBRELLA. INDIA MAY HAVE MOVED, BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY, WAY AHEAD FROM THE DAYS OF MANDAL EUPHORIA, BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT IN THE HINDI HEARTLAND CASTE REMAINS A REALITY IN THE ELECTORAL FIGHT. NITISH HAS ALWAYS FROWNED AT BEING IDENTIFIED AS A KURMI LEADER, BUT THAT IDENTITY, MAY BECOME HIS STRONGEST WEAPON AGAINST THE BJP AND TURN THE 2024 LS BOUT INTO A TITANIC CLASH BETWEEN VOTARIES OF MANDAL AND KAMANDAL POLITICS AND IDEOLOGIES

probe agencies, Nitish's image is the strongest shield for them against the onslaught of the probe agencies. JD (U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh put this in perspective, saying, "The party was "not scared of ED and CBI."

Secondly, the charges of dynastic politics often hurled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi against the Gandhis will not stick to Nitish Kumar. His son has never been seen in the public space; no other member of his family has anything to do with politics.

Third, Nitish is one of the most experienced leaders in the Opposition rank. He has been Chief Minister for 17 years. He will also be remembered as a successful railway minister at the center. His stint as agriculture minister was also noteworthy.

Fourthly, and most importantly, Nitish Kumar can take on Modi on the caste turf as well, because like Modi he too belonged to an OBC caste. Modi's persona as an OBC leader is one of the most important factors in the emergence of the BJP as an unbeatable force on the pan-India level and the saffron outfit's deep penetration among non-Yadav voters. That's where Nitish could be counted on to stop the BJP juggernaut. His Kurmi caste has a sizeable presence across India. If Nitish could end the traditional rivalry between the Yadavs and non-Yadav OBCs, then his Kurmi card could be a game changer in national politics.

It will be interesting to note that in the recently concluded Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, as many as 41 Kurmi candidates were elected to the assembly. Of them, SP won 13 seats, up from two they won in 2107 assembly polls. Kurmis population is pegged at nearly 8 percent in UP, and if Nitish chose to contest from one of the Kurmi-dominated seats in Eastern Uttar Pradesh bordering Bihar, it could galvanize the entire OBC rank in UP just as Modi's decision to shift to Varanasi did for the BJP. A Kurmi-Yadav-Muslim axis backed by whatever upper caste votes Congress drew in, could become a potent formulation in UP where the Ram Mandir issue will be certainly the BJP's trump cards in 2024.

Nitish's projection as PM's candidate could have strong repercussions in states such as Chhattisgarh (20 pc Kurmi population), Jharkhand (10-12 pc), Maharashtra (7 pc), Gujarat where Patidars are seen as Kurmis (14 pc), Odisha (7 pc). Kurmis also have a sizeable presence in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan besides West Bengal.

In West Bengal's Maoist-dominated Jangalmahal which comprises Jhargram, Purulia, West Midnapore, and Bankura, Kurmis make up nearly 40 percent vote share.

In such a scenario, Nitish's possible projection as the joint opposition candidate against Modi will have far-reaching consequences in bringing together Yadavs and non-Yadavs OBCs under one umbrella. India may have come a long way, both economically and politically, from the days of Mandal euphoria, but the fact remains that in the Hindi heartland caste remains a reality in the electoral fights. Nitish has always frowned at being identified as a Kurmi leader, but that identity may become his strongest weapon against the BJP and turn the 2024 LS bout into a titanic clash between votaries of Mandal and Kamandal politics and ideologies.

Except for Mamata whose party sees her as a rightful claimant for taking on Modi as the joint opposition candidate after the TMC thrashed the BJP in the state assembly polls, the majority in the non-Congress Opposition rank may not have any reservation in accepting Nitish Kumar's leadership. The silence of the Congress' top leaders, especially the Gandhis, on the Bihar development is significant. While Nitish rang up Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi after quitting the NDA, so far the Gandhis have not publicly welcomed his decision or congratulated him.

For the opposition, there could be two possible scenarios in the run-up to 2024. First, Congress gives its nod to accept a non-Gandhi as the face of the Opposition to take on Modi. Secondly, if Congress refuses to do so, hoping against hope that Rahul Gandhi could mobilize the congress to defeat the BJP, then the opposition could revive the Third Front. In both cases, Nitish is in with a chance to emerge as a consensus candidate.

Before he shifted to the BJP camp in 2017, in private conversation Nitish would argue that to defeat the BJP the opposition must stop reacting to the discourse set by BJP and set its own narrative and present a comprehensive economic plan before the nation. Someone who has worked with the BJP for more than two decades, Nitish Kumar is more familiar with the BJP's way of contesting polls and its stratagem. Whether or not he is the face of the Opposition in 2024, Nitish has certainly injected some interest in the battle of 2024, which looked hopelessly one-sided before he dumped the BJP and shifted to the opposition rank.



Nitish Kumar could be one of the few people, including Sharad Pawar and Mamata Banerjee, who could be seen as prime ministerial challengers in 2024.

NCP leader MAJEED MEMON



Nitish Kumar will be more of an acceptable face for a joint opposition candidate compared to Mamata Banerjee in 2024. To defeat BJP, you have to either change the rules of engagement or beat them at their own game.

Suspended Congress leader SANJAY JHA



If you assess the personalities in the country, Nitish Kumar is eligible to become prime minister. We are not making any claim today, but he has all the qualities of a prime minister

UPENDRA KUSHWAHA, president of the Janata Dal (United) National Parliamentary Board



Nitish Kumar is one of the most experienced Chief Ministers of our time. If Narendra Modi can become PM, why not Nitish Kumar?

Bihar's deputy CM TEJASHWI YADAV



Nitish could be a prime ministerial candidate for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Veteran RJD leader SHARAD YADAV



The JD(U) leader has given the BJP a taste of its own medicine after it dislodged the governments of opposition parties in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Due to his bold decision, Kumar today stands in the front row in the opposition camp along with Mamata Banerjee and others to lead the downfall of 'Modi raj' in the next Parliamentary election.

Bihar's Babu SHATRUGHAN SINHA



Nitish will not be PM even in seven lives.

Former JD(U) leader RCP SINGH



Tough anti-tobacco law for Healthy Nation

At a time when a string of countries such as Ireland, Sweden, Finland, the UK, the US, Australia and Canada and a few others have set “tobacco endgame” targets to get rid of the lethal product by a certain year, India is still sitting over the COTPA (Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act) Amendment Bill having stringent tobacco control provisions. It was expected to see the light of the day this Monsoon session of Parliament. But it couldn't, as the session was adjourned sine die last week, four days ahead schedule. Tobacco endgame goal is generally defined as a smoking prevalence of 5 per cent or less.

A battery of anti-tobacco advocates and health experts tells The Health Pioneer that the passage of the progressive legislation could be a way forward towards achieving endgame goals whenever announced by India.

They also pinned hopes on the Government's assurance to many Parliamentarians on at least seven different occasions in Parliament for the introduction of the Bill.

Drafted by the Union Health Ministry, the long-awaited Bill has provisions such as:

- Disallowing retail sale of loose sticks of cigarettes.
- Prohibiting sale of tobacco products to persons below 21 years.
- Restricts advertising and promotion of tobacco products at Point of Sale (PoS).
- Ban on smoking designated zones at places like hotels, airports and restaurants.

SHEWTA SHALINI
BJP Leader from Maharashtra



There is an urgent and immediate need for action to eradicate tobacco menace, given that in India, over 13.5 lakh individuals per year face death due to the deadly product.

This is not a small number. If we want to make India, a world leader we must have healthy youth. But I feel that there's strong lobby working against the Government's dream of becoming world leader. If our youth and kids have ill health, India can never become a world Guru.

It's good that smoking is completely banned in many public places and workplaces. The law, however, permits the establishment of smoking areas or spaces in airports, hotels having 30 or more rooms, and restaurants having seating capacity for 30 or more. This gap needs to be plugged.

A total ban on smoking in indoor public places will protect men and women from the harms of second-hand smoke, help smokers quit and reduce smoking among youth. Let's have healthy parents and children for better India.

Over five and a half thousand teenagers in the country are getting addicted to tobacco products daily. It is time to strengthen the COTPA Act to end the conspiracies targeting these youth.

DR SHALINI SINGH
Director, ICMR-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research, Union Health Ministry



There is a need to spread awareness about not only tobacco related cancers but also a plethora of diseases caused by the harmful carcinogens in the nicotine laden product. The tobacco lobby is every next day coming up with new product to lure the youth and kids. For instance, now synthetic nicotine is being launched, which is as equally addictive as the nicotine, but does not fall under the purview of the COTPA Act.

Also, there is a need to design gender-sensitive cessation centres so that men or women are encouraged to quit the deadly habit while doctors should take the cudgel on behalf of their patients to save them from life-threatening products.

DR JAGDISH KAUR
Regional Adviser, Tobacco Free Initiative, WHO Regional Office for South-east Asia



India's tobacco control journey has been long and arduous. From enforcement of CORPA 2003 to implementing WHO FCTC strategies, there have been success on several fronts. India is likely to achieve NCD



Action Plan target on 30 percent relative reduction in tobacco use prevalence by 2025. Country is preparing for the third round of Global Adult Tobacco Survey. Having said that, Endgame is still a distant goal. Gaps in COTPA 2003 requires to be addressed to improve WHO MPOWER score. Best buys for tobacco control including raising tax on tobacco and enforcing bans on tobacco advertising especially indirect and surrogate ads need urgent attention.

PRIYANK KANOONGO
Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)



There is a need to increase taxes on tobacco products as well as on films, OTT platforms and other media that display use of such items in any form. This will not only make these products earned can be used for the treatment and rehabilitation of those suffering from tobacco-related diseases.

Imposition of greater taxation on media that displays use of tobacco will require people to pay more and help discourage glorification of tobacco products. There is a psychological warfare by the tobacco companies. They are targeting young children by positioning tobacco-related ads at their eye-level at points of sale and promoting sale of tobacco products such as gutkha and beedi, alongside sweets, candies, and toys.

PROF (DR) UMA KUMAR
Head of Rheumatology Department, AIIMS, Delhi



The number of tobacco users is rising and it is scary to note that children between 13 and 15 years of age constitute 8.5 per cent of them. People generally think that smoking affects lungs only, but the case is different, it affects every parts and is one of the important risk factors for growing numbers cases related to autoimmune diseases. The first-hand smoke and second-hand smoke both are equally harmful for health. There is a rising smoking habits among women who think that it is in the fashion. But they must know that it may result into infertility, cases of which is also rising these days. Also, smoking may lead

SCARY FIGURES

After China, India has the second largest consumers (over 26 crore adults (15 years and above)) of tobacco, according to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey India, 2016-17. It leads not only to loss of lives but also has heavy social and economic costs. The total economic costs attributed to tobacco use from all diseases in India in the year 2017-18 for persons aged 35 years and above amounted to

₹177,341 crore (USD 27.5 billion), as per the WHO. According to the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)-2019, nearly one-fifth of students aged 13-15 years are using tobacco products in India. The nationwide survey of students revealed that 38% of cigarettes, 47% of bidi and 52% of smokeless tobacco users picked up the habit before their 10th birthday [GYTS-4].

TOBACCO HAS NO BENEFITS

The most prevalent form of tobacco use in India is smokeless tobacco and commonly used products are khaini, gutkha, betel quid with tobacco and zarda. Smoking forms of tobacco used are bidi, cigarette and hookah. Smoking can lead to cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung disease, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease including emphysema and chronic bronchitis. SLT also increases risk of tuberculosis, certain eye conditions, problems of the immune system including rheumatoid arthritis.



to premature birth. Tobacco companies that make products like cigarettes and gutkha are specifically targeting teenagers and kids. They prominently display their advertisements near school and colleges so that they are visible to the impressionable minds. These should be completely banned. Doing away with Designated Smoking Areas (DSA) can be a game changer in the direction of health of the vulnerable population and making India's public places 100 per cent smoke-free.

DR. RIJO M JOHN
Researcher, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences and Economist and Health Policy Analyst



With more than 100 million smokers in India, non-smokers are exposed to second-hand smoke at home, at work, and in public places. There is no known safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke, a deadly mix of

more than 7,000 chemicals that are known to cause premature death and disease in children and adults who do not smoke.

Our recent study has shown that the annual direct economic costs attributable to Second-Hand Smoking in India amounted to Rs 567 billion. This accounts for 8 per cent of total annual health care expenditures on top of the staggering Rs 1773.4 billion (\$27.5 billion) in annual economic burden from tobacco use.

Against such scary scenario, India needs to take strong measures to reduce its large number of smokers and the economic burden of treating tobacco-related diseases. Increasing tobacco taxes is one of the most effective ways to reduce smoking, yet India has not had any significant tax increase on any tobacco products for the past four years. The current tobacco tax collected in India from all tobacco products combined is less than the Rs 567 billion in health care costs caused by exposure to second-hand smoke.

Second-hand exposure continues to be high in India because of the gaps in India's

smoke-free law that still allow Designated Smoking Areas in public places like restaurants, bars, hotels, and airports.

DR ARCHANA DHAWAN BAJAJ
Gynaecologist and Fertility Expert



Tobacco-induced infertility among couples is increasing at a disturbing pace in the country. Smoking and smoke-less tobacco use can have a serious impact on the fertility of both men and women, and consequently the quality of life in pregnancy as well as negative health on the unborn child, miscarriage, and death. If a woman is a regular smoker, then it has a double adverse impact on a woman's fertility. Smoking can harm both the eggs and the uterus. It not only affects her egg quality, but can also have endometrial effect. Many studies too have shown that smoking can also affect sperm (which reduces fertility) and increase the risk of miscarriage and birth defects.

Smoking during pregnancy can put a would-be-mom at a higher risk of pregnancy complications, such as preterm labor and delivery. Smoking or passive smoke during pregnancy can also result in negative health outcomes for the unborn baby. From the male's perspective, the carcinogen quality of cigarettes in general affects the motility of the sperm and excessive smoking can lead to the poor sperm count and other fertility problems.

Hence, if the couple is planning to conceive, it's better for them to shun the tobacco butt as early as possible.

DR VISHAL RAO
Oncologist and Member of Karnataka Government's High-powered Committee on Tobacco Control



Majority of the long-term tobacco users commence tobacco use while they are adolescents. Every individual has the right to health and the right to smoke-free public places. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees this. So when a smoker 'smokes' in public places, he or she is not only spoiling his/her health but also threatening the lives of all those who are in that public place. This infringes the right of non-smokers to have a healthy lifestyle. We have to amend COTPA to make our public places 100 percent smoke-free.

DR G K RATH
Oncologist and Former head, National Cancer Institute, AIIMS



Tobacco products are the major contributors for various cancers and other diseases. In India, tobacco-related cancers contribute nearly half of the total cancers in males and one-fifth in females. Cancers caused by tobacco can affect lungs, mouth, pharynx (upper throat), nose and sinuses, larynx (voice box), oesophagus (food pipe), liver, pancreas, stomach, kidney, ovary, bladder, cervix, and some types of leukaemia. It is very disappointing that while tobacco firms are targeting through various marketing strategies to children as young as ten years old, some Bollywood celebrities are “engaged in surrogate advertisements of health hazardous items like gutka.

DR ALOK THAKAR
Professor of Otolaryngology & Head Neck Surgery, AIIMS, New Delhi



There has been rising oral cancer cases due to unabated sale and consumption of tobacco products like cigarette, beedi, khaini, tambaku, gutka and zarda. Since these are yet to be regulated in true sense and not many people are aware about its ill-effects, it will increase the country's health burden dramatically.

DR RAHUL BHARGAVA
Head of Hematology Department, Fortis Hospital, Gurugram, Haryana



As long as tobacco products are easily available and affordable for poor and children, achieving 'Tobacco Free India' mission will remain a dream. A lot of recent cancer cases are from rural India. Cigarettes form just one component. The bulk of tobacco addiction in rural India is due to chewable tobacco also.

DR RAMBHA PANDEY
Additional Professor, Radiation Oncologist, AIIMS, Delhi



Women are increasingly taking up tobacco consumption, viewing it as a 'fashion symbol'. This is a very disturbing trend. The habit of smoking and chewing start at the age of 10-12 years among kids, and once they get into the habit, it is difficult to shun. We hope that the stringent COTPA amendments having provisions such as ban on designated smoking zones will help in cutting down tobacco consumption among the public and thus suffering from cancer. People must be told that tobacco has no single benefit.

DR RAKESH GARG
Additional Professor of Anaesthesiology, Critical Care, Pain and Palliative Medicine, AIIMS, Delhi



The link between tobacco consumption and cancer is very clear. There is a need to look into the financial toxicity caused by tobacco consumption resulting in cancer. A multi-pronged strategy focusing on awareness, higher taxes and stringent laws is needed to make these killer products unaffordable and inaccessible to make India healthy.

Rising Cases of Anemia in Kids a Concern

Anemia rate among our children and adults has gotten worse in the country, putting a question mark on the efficacy of the Government's Anemia Mukta Abhiyaan or Anemia-Free Campaign. Latest data shows that prevalence of anemia among children aged six months to five years has increased by more than nine per cent in about five years from 58.6 per cent in national family health survey (NFHS) 4 to 67.1 per cent in NFHS-5, conducted during 2019-21. The HEALTH PIONEER reports.

Anemia is a condition in which the number of red blood cells or the haemoglobin concentration within them is lower than normal. The World Health Organization (WHO)

defines anaemic individuals as children under five with haemoglobin levels less than 11.0 grammes per deciliter (g/dL) and women in the reproductive age range with haemoglobin levels less than 12 g/dL.

The Government recently revealed this disturbing fact in Parliament saying that Ladakh topped the list with 90 per cent anaemic children followed by Gujarat (80 per cent), Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (76 per cent). Situation was similar in Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir (73 per cent), and Punjab and Rajasthan (71 per cent) too.

This decline, despite a string of measures taken by the government in last several years, is a cause of concern.

Responding to a question, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in a written reply in Parliament had said that the Anaemia Mukta Bharat (AMB) strategy is being launched under POSHAN Abhiyaan (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) with the target of reducing anaemia in the six population groups - children (6-59 months), children (5-9 years), adolescent girls and boys (10-19 years), pregnant women, lactating women

HEALTH EXPERTS HAVE RAISED CONCERN AT THE RISE IN THE CASES GIVEN THAT ANEMIA HAS MANY HARMFUL EFFECTS ON CHILDREN'S LIVES AS IT REDUCES LEARNING CAPACITY, ATTENTIVENESS AND INTELLIGENCE

and women of reproductive age group (15-49 years) in lifecycle approach.

In fact, Anemia rate among youth and women is also not impressive.

Health experts have raised concern at the rise in the cases given that anemia has many harmful effects on children's lives as it reduces learning capacity, attentiveness and intelligence.

Studies show that education and ethnicity of the community has played a key role in cutting down anemia rate. For instance, a research 'Prevalence and risk factors of anemia among children 6-59 months in

India: A multilevel analysis' published in journal Clinical Epidemiology and Clinical Health, said that “some aspects of the community influence the anemia risks of children. For instance, a 1 percent increase in the proportion of mother education in the community decreased the likelihood of anemia by 9 per cent among children.

“Northeast region was the only region at lesser risk of anemia. Higher community level ethnic and religious homogeneity is associated with decreased odds of anemia among children. Children aged 12-35 months, girl child, children having diarrhoea, mothers of age group 15-24, high parity and low exposure to mass-media were the high risk individual factors

of anemia among children,” it said.

Dr Rahul Bhargava, Director, Haematology, Haemato - Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram called for increasing awareness about this deficiency which can be at times life threatening.

The doctor pointed out that no doubt most common causes of anemia include nutritional deficiencies, particularly iron deficiency. But deficiencies in folate, vitamins B12 and A are also important causes. Also, diseases like thalassemia or sickle cell disease and aplastic anemia may result in severe anemia or cancer. “Such patients need regular blood transfusions,” he said.

“We need a dedicated day to raise awareness about normal range of hemoglobin in females,” Dr Bhargava added.

Some of the major interventions by the Government under AMB, include prophylactic iron and folic acid supplementation, deworming, intensified year-round behaviour change communication campaign, testing of anemia using digital methods and point of care treatment, addressing non-nutritional causes of anaemia in endemic pockets with special focus on malaria, hemoglobinopathies and fluorosis. But given that anemia continue to remain a major public health problem, its time for the authorities to re-evaluate its strategy for better outcome.

Afghans in a terrible predicament

The Taliban snatched power from the West-backed Ashraf Ghani in Afghanistan in August last year after two decades of their ouster by the US troops. The Islamist group ruled Afghanistan from 1996-2001 under the leadership of Mullah Omar, but were thrown out from Kabul in 2001 when the US launched an onslaught to avenge 9/11 terror attacks and to smoke out al-Qaeda terrorists, including Osama Bin Laden, holed up in the country.

Decimated by the mighty US Army, the rag-tag Taliban took shelter in the mountains and countryside to regroup over years during the US occupation, adopting guerrilla warfare. And, finally, the radicals tactfully occupied power by mobilising both physical and diplomatic support with years of back-room negotiations with the Americans in Qatar.

And then on August 15, 2021, the mullahs succeeded in usurping power from the US-backed legitimate government of President Ghani, who ruled the country from September 2014 till August 2021.

Fearing for life and meeting the same fate as that of Mohammad Najibullah Ahmadzai (former president of Afghanistan who the Taliban executed after seizing power in 1996 for the first time), Ghani left the war-torn country, leaving behind embattled soldiers and residents at the mercy of the Taliban.

Though no massive protest rally came out in Kabul, the fear among residents, mostly those who had sided with the Americans, was such that there was a mad rush to leave the country for safety. There was chaos at the Kabul airport on August 16 and some seven people, including some who fell from a departing American military transport jet, died.

Thousands succeeded in leaving the country thinking that they might have to face the Taliban's extreme brutality. However, many Afghans chose to stay on as they never wanted to leave their motherland and also, they were used to such heinous treatments at the hands of the Taliban in the past.

As the chaos was unfolding in Afghanistan, the US under Joe Biden simply dumped the democratically elected Ghani Government without showing any commitment for the future of Afghanistan. Shockingly, Washington has never realised that it has handed over the baton to those monsters against whom it fought the so-called "War on Global Terrorism" (GWOT). In fact, America's withdrawal from Afghanistan was planned during the administration of President Barack Obama.

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan is a grim signal for a country that may not return to democracy very easily in the near future. The Taliban is predominantly a Pashtun Islamic fundamentalist group, operating mainly in



Afghanistan. It was formed in 1994 as a resistance force against the invading Soviet forces in the 1980s.

In their heyday of the movement, the Taliban promised to impose stability and rule of law after four years of conflict (1992-96) among rival Mujahideen groups. It was in November 1994 when the Taliban entered Kandahar to pacify the crime-ridden southern city, and by September 1996 they seized the capital, Kabul, from President Burhanuddin Rabbani, an ethnic Tajik whom they viewed as anti-Pashtun and corrupt.

The Taliban wanted to impose their interpretation of repressive Islamic rule. They banned television, imposing ultra-strict rules governing the conduct of women. These measures soon made them an international pariah. Their act of destroying the 1,500 years of Buddha statues in Bamiyan province further isolated them. And sheltering the masterminds of 9/11 terror attacks proved to be the last nail in their coffin as the US destroyed the Taliban.

However, the Taliban regrouped and collected enough strength to make a comeback. And hence the group's swift move came as the US planned for the final withdrawal of troops as per the peace deal signed in 2020. Although the Afghan Government forces were well-funded and well-equipped, they could not put up enough resistance when the Taliban seized power. Also, the US

officials openly admitted that they miscalculated the speed at which the Islamists grabbed power.

A year after the Taliban takeover, what the international community can witness is nothing but chaos. Some of the areas that draw global attention are worth mentioning here.

First of all, the Taliban have broken multiple global conventions to respect women's rights and human rights. They are hell bent on destroying the fundamentals of universal human rights accepted by civil society. The mullahs in power have imposed the most severe restrictions over women rights and media freedom. Protest against Taliban rule results in certain death.

Second, unlawful killing has increased manifold. There is absolutely no control over such brutalities and anarchy. In fact, the Taliban are simply concentrating on holding Kabul and managing to survive. So they can hardly afford any time and resources for controlling mafias across the country.

Third, the country is in the grip of the worst economic downturn with stories like people forced to sell their children to earn the means to stay alive.

However, this economic breakdown has not started right now. For a long time, the country has been suffering an economic crisis as it could not properly utilise its massive natural resources.

Fourth, large scale deaths are

taking place because of a severe food crisis in the country. Barely two per cent of the Afghan people have enough food to survive their daily lives.

Fifth, the Taliban have barred girls from attending educational institutions. It displays their extremely patriarchal mindset that denies girls basic right to livelihood.

Sixth, the Taliban have refused to get engaged with international human rights and financial institutions. The foreign governments should ease restrictions on the country's financial organisations specialising in the banks so as to facilitate development initiatives and daily needs of the people. But at the same time, the international actors also must press the mullahs to allow basic rights and punish those responsible for abuses.

Seventh, finally, the Taliban will not be able to move away from their terror tag though they are working hard to do so. Recently, al-Qaeda chief Aiman-al-Zawahiri was killed by the US drone attack in Kabul itself. It clearly shows how the Taliban are covertly sheltering the terror heads so as to keep their hardcore cadre intact and also to spread the terror networks as far as possible.

Biden's quick exit from Afghanistan had an international impact as well. This withdrawal is a total collapse of the GWOT once launched against the Islamic radicals. However, today's global power equations are entirely different from that

of the 1970s. The allies of Washington in this GWOT in Afghanistan went clueless as the US took its decision to withdraw from the war theatre.

Many of the British ministers came out openly against Biden's move in Afghanistan. It was very clear how the UK and other European allies of the US were dependent on Washington. In fact, their opinions hardly mattered for Biden when the latter wanted to take a crucial decision.

Definitely, Beijing and Moscow are quite content to see the US leaving a two-decade old war field by creating a power void. But how long the smiles in Beijing, Moscow and lately in Islamabad will continue is a matter of concern.

Simply, the Taliban pose an immediate threat not only to the Afghan people but also for the entire central Asian region. Their coming to power has fuelled the ambitions and offensives of other Islamic jihadists like al-Qaeda, Islamic State and especially, the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), mainly operating in the Afghan-Pakistan border areas.

There is a vast difference between the Taliban 1.0 and 2.0. Earlier, it was out and out a jihadist outfit. Today it has transformed itself into an organisation that can equally run diplomacy and terror together. They have learnt their lessons in the last two decades of their fighting with the US-led forces.

For sure, Kabul will soon turn into a war zone. If the Taliban deny the fundamental rights to its people and go on abusing the same, the international actors could snap ties with them, accompanied by suspension of financial aid.

This could be catastrophic for a country that barely has anything to survive. Again, it is a big challenge for the Taliban to maintain cohesion among its own military ranks. Conventional wisdom is that it's really difficult for such terror groups to sustain for long in public governance. Therefore, the future of Afghanistan, known as the graveyard of empires, hinges more on whether the Taliban rule the country as a unified force and less on the reactions of external powers like the US.

It's an uphill task for the Taliban to keep the pace and peace in a country full of problems and with ISIS splinter groups fanned out in villages trying to come into power using the same guerrilla tactics which the Taliban used to topple the US-led Ghani Government.

(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)

The future of Afghanistan, known as the graveyard of empires, hinges more on whether the Taliban rule the country as a unified force and less on the reactions of external powers like the US... Conventional wisdom is that it's really difficult for such terror groups to sustain for long in public governance



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Urgency of revisiting unregulated populism

Are freebies any different from the tax concessions given to corporate entities? States are well within their rights to use public funds for public purposes. But that doesn't mean they can't be made accountable for their fiscal profligacy

Even after witnessing respectable economic growth during the post-reform period, India has somehow struggled with the equitable distribution of her wealth. The top 10 per cent of India's population hold 74 per cent of the total national wealth, while the bottom 90 per cent have to manage itself with the rest of the crumbs.

As a mature democracy, we cannot afford to ignore the existing disparity of this magnitude. Yet, all political parties despite their differences in ideologies have historically tried to ostensibly tackle this grave issue by doling freebies and sops to this vulnerable and marginalised section, especially during election periods.

For instance, free electricity, free water supply, waiver of agricultural loans, unemployment doles, and giving away gadgets like television, smartphones, laptops, and tabs have gained widespread acceptance among political stakeholders for making competitive bids for votes. And the sad part is: This indulgence in competitive bidding is rarely done keeping in mind the financial health of the States.

Is it a corrupt practice?

There is a section of diehard ideologists that sees these freebies as furtherance of Directive Principles. They think as long as public funds splurged on freebies are spent after getting proper clearance from the legislature, these populist measures can't be termed corrupt practices.

However, in our enthusiasm to sound rational, are we neglecting an important issue of moral hazard, where the beneficiaries of these freebies are as guilty as political parties dispensing these inducements? Isn't this the job of the social intelligentsia to help beneficiaries make an informed decision, where the long-term cost is rationally weighed against the immediate gains from freebies?

Is it a welfare measure?

There is another section of ideologues that fails to see any problem with freebies. For them, it is another form of welfare measure targeted at the bottom of the pyramid. There is some grain of truth in their contention as quite a handful of national welfare schemes like Mid-day Meal, National Food Security, and



PM Kisan Samman Nidhi started as freebies in different States.

However, that doesn't mean every freebie has an equal chance of becoming a welfare scheme. The distribution of free power is a case in point. In fact, the unabated culture of free power has created

an unprecedented threat to India's energy security; where State discoms are incurring an annual loss of more than ₹75,000 crore.

Is it a failure of governance?

Both eras of the post-independence economic regime (the planned as well as the mar-

ket) have failed us majorly on the social sector front. Most indicators of health, education, and employment are not yet strong enough to establish themselves as the keystone of development.

Political dispensations (both at the Centre and States) are, in fact, aware of their

inability to resolve the long-lasting challenges on these fronts. Hence, the political class rarely shies away from playing Robinhood politics. As a result, the root cause of the issue often remains unresolved. For instance, MNREGA as a job guarantee scheme is mostly a sign of failure on the part of the Government to create a conducive and long-lasting ecosystem for widespread job creation.

Is it equivalent to revenue forgone?

Are these freebies any different from the tax concessions given to corporate entities? How the revenue forgone on the pretext of concessions given to corporates often fails to qualify itself for a mainstream discussion?

States are well within their rights to use public funds for public purposes. But that doesn't mean they can't be made accountable for their fiscal profligacy. While mechanisms to keep populist schemes under restraint can be implemented as per recommendation by the finance commission, it needs to ensure that essential public services don't get affected by these restraints.

Is it possible to regulate them?

The role of electoral democracy in India's economic growth is something that should never be underestimated at any cost. It has always played a critical role in shaping and reshaping the undefined contours of the nation's polity, economy, and society. And being an integral part of this ongoing churning, the political stakeholders can afford to make numerous mistakes as long as they are allowed by their voters.

The Supreme Court's decision to examine this complicated issue by taking recommendations from the body of different key stakeholders raises an important question of whether it is right to bypass the legislature while trying to resolve such a politically sensitive issue. Because, all said and done, the issue of pre-poll freebies in the name of unregulated populism is essentially a political question that can't be outsourced to any other institution of democracy.

(The writer is a former IRS officer & author of the book 'Current Perspectives on the Indian Economy')



PIYUSH KAMAL

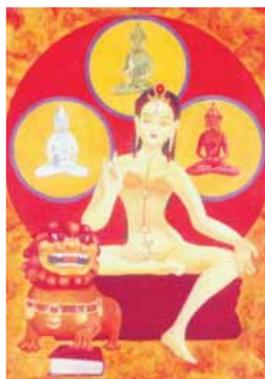
YOU HAVE TO GROW FROM THE INSIDE OUT. NONE CAN TEACH YOU, NONE CAN MAKE YOU SPIRITUAL. THERE IS NO OTHER TEACHER BUT YOUR OWN SOUL. — SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
You may need to create time and space to focus on yourself first, for your health to truly improve. If you are constantly putting everyone before you and before your needs, then your health may suffer as a result. Balance in all things is important. You are just as important as anyone else. This week is good for imagination and creative ideas and it will further be fuelled by friends who you are likely to meet soon. Some old associate or college mate brings concurrent opportunity, to invest time, talent or treasure in something you always wanted to do. You are feeling blessed. Your soft romantic emotions and desires are fulfilled. If you have been in a long-term committed relationship, you are likely to find it rising to deepen and intensify.
Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
This week should be a fabulous time, health-wise. If you are waiting on test results of some kind they are likely to be very good results. You'll be calm, relieved and inspired. Take good care of yourself. The others need your light of wisdom and your happiness. Give it a chance to shine. You may find things going much better at work, almost out of the blue. A powerful person is likely to support you. This is a good time to ask for a raise. On the whole, your work/career front is looking up. This is a good week for career advancement. You can expect major career progress followed by financial gains now. This week is also good for your personal life as well. You will enjoy good health, charm and personality. Joy and celebrations are on the cards.
Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



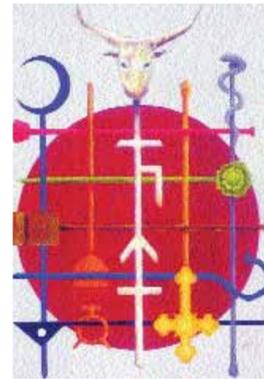
SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
Since you are fun-loving and filled with child-like energy, just don't let your desire for fun make you overlook the real thing should it come your way now. You may be slightly accident-prone, be present at the moment and don't take silly chances. Though your overall health is very likely to be on the upswing but prevention is advised. At work, you are kind, considerate and willing to take responsibility for your actions but in a sensitive, generous manner. This is time to enjoy the quiet power associated with providing loving energy to others. There may be rift at home, or family members have their assumptions and accusations which probably you are not able to solve. Those who are jealous of you won't be able to malign you despite their best efforts.
Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
This week pay attention to your health. Take more opinions if you are suffering from a serious ailment. If you're having symptoms that are not specific, educate yourself as much as possible before you walk in the door. You can deepen your spiritual awareness and practice by actively seeking out new sources of information and insight. On the work front, your expectations are higher and have more weightage than your worth. Dreams and high ambitions are good to grow in life but expecting the Moon is not. So stay grounded and practical. Balancing in relations is a must at this time. You may have several romantic choices at hand. Be clear and specific about what you want in a relationship, and evaluate your choices thoughtfully. You have to bring sometimes desirable changes in you for long-term relations.
Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
The theme of balance particularly holds for in terms of health. Energy work aimed at balancing your chakras or your body/mind/spirit is particularly effective and helpful health-wise now. Paying adequate attention to all three is the key to good health. Your health is most likely in better shape than you fear. On the work front, the week is mixed with positive and negative energies. You have both mental and physical agility. Your versatile & sharpened skills would motivate you to perform outstandingly. This could be a time of sudden personal growth if you use your energies for something meaningful and do not involve yourself in petty discussions. It may be a hard time in a relationship. It can be that your beloved is undergoing a rough time that has nothing to do with your relationship but needs your support.
Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
Health remains good and you feel energetic like a child. Your mental energies are amplified too, and you involve with ethical behaviour, encouragement or matter of the mind. Your entire situation is one covered with the spirit of learning, discovery and mental activities of all kinds. At such times, use your mind and enjoy the delights of the intellect. At work, you may have more options than you typically think possible. If you're looking for work, know that you have the resources and the skill set to find it. You may be struggling with an issue in a relationship & finding the way to do the right thing. As you are unsure about what is right for you to do. Know that the answers are within you. This is not the time to be unconventional anymore.
Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
You find things are going alright up to the satisfaction level. You enjoy good health, food and entertainment. Prosperity, progress and happiness could be enjoyed. You are likely to have several clear flashes of important spiritual insights during this time. It is your determination and a disciplined approach to life that keep you a stronger and healthier person. You establish yourself wherever you are, whether in business or job. This is the time when your teamwork is being appreciated and acknowledged. Your leadership qualities are being watched and so are your potentials. You are likely to make something commendable in the relationship area this week. After the investment of time, energy and money, things go well for the person that you have your heart set on.
Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
This week anxiety and stress could upset you and cause slight problems in your health. Sleeplessness and over-analysing the situation might be experienced. It is advised to adopt a healthy lifestyle, which could give you enough time to look after the needs of your body, mind, and soul. Professionally you are doing well. You will generally enjoy positive energy throughout the week. In business, certain financial gains are indicated. This is the time when you least expect and achieve more. You are likely to get in touch with someone you love or admire. Relationships will be redefined with your efforts. You could likely be caught up in the excitement, committing more than you can deliver.
Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
This week people around you appreciate you and your efforts and notice the quality of what you do. Keep doing what you're doing as you are on the right track. You don't need to scrap something and start again. Your health is likely to show a positive increase, but this is not a result of a miracle, it is your dedication, commitment and disciplined approach to life. On the work front, you set good examples for others to follow. It is a good time to resolve business problems in which you can show pride. It is an excellent time in love. Your partner feels very protective of you. No wonder he/she would go all out to take on those who would try to mistreat you or create differences between you. You command respect and honour in a relationship.
Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22
Bring a balance between work & family, body & mind. You are very imaginative and spend a lot of time thinking, dreaming and weaving stories. The desires and passions could increase this week, making you a weak person. Your efficiency may go down. On the work front, things will keep on moving as per your desires giving you much scope and hopes for the future. Be prepared for a surprise. An important project may be assigned to you; a great responsibility makes you popular with your friends. You may work for the cause and attain immense satisfaction. This week does not predict well in terms of matters of the heart. You may feel emotionally hurt and broken. Love relationships could be disheartening to the extent that you decide to stay alone.
Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
You spread vibrant energy this week amidst a little chaos. Your health and feelings of well-being should be at a high point. This is a great time to take some time off if you can and just enjoy life. If you look back you are likely to find that your attitude has been more positive of late too. This can directly affect how well your body works for you. You may face set back or financial losses in business. Things may not be as productive as you thought so. You may experience problems at work that may cause concerns regarding your financial security. You may want to switch jobs due to stagnation in growth. Personal relations may not be enriching. You need to check your attitude and know you've reached the point where things will begin to look up.
Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
This week follow the rule of 'Live in the moment and seize the day'. You will be radiating very good energy and good attitudes. You must share these good attitudes with the people around you who are down or who need this positive energy. A genetic illness that runs in your family is under your control any way and stressing about it won't change a thing. Your finances are very likely to be on the upswing, largely due to your efforts and wise investments. This is not a time to speculate wildly. You can take calculated risks, perhaps, but don't get carried away. You need to spice up your personal life. Check your appearance, your attitude and your lifestyle. Bring some excitement or changes in your lifestyle.
Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Spirituality leads towards a better tomorrow



Mind is like a fertile land. When you plant a seed, the earth mass will help it sprout and then grow into a full-fledged plant. Land, left to itself, may breed weeds. Similarly, mind acts on thought feeds, it acquires from various sources. It usually takes off on thought seeds carried over from the past, coming as they may as Karmic carryover. That sets the trends of one's desire and mind trends, thus conditioning the mind one way or the other, which varies from person-to-person. For everyone would have gone through different courses of learning and unlearning as well as varied experiences in the past. They, however, play out at their optimal level when the person grows up to a level when his sense of independence takes the drive.

In between, during early childhood, how one is groomed, does also have a long-term impact on their mind and psyche. At that age, the child is not capable of comprehending the happenings in the right perspective. But, what they encounter, their impressions get imprinted in the deep realms of one's mind. If per chance, the family atmosphere would be vitiated, it makes a dent particularly in their emotional framework, and with obvious consequences. That keeps influencing a person's thought process even till late in life, unless otherwise consciously resolved.

It will not be out of place to mention here that birds have two wings to fly. With one wing, they can't fly. Similarly, human beings have been provided with two working tools to carry forward their journey of life – Intelligence and Emotion. Intelligence devoid of emotion, make you stale. You work like a machine having no human concern. But if ever emotional upsurge side lines intelligence, it may drive you crazy. So, we need to keep the two tools in balance. Ordinarily, we remain conscious about improving our knowledge and intelligence. But we seldom care to work upon our emotional framework. For this very reason, we become subject to stress and suffering, is how my spiritual guru explained in one of his discourses.

Here is a case study in sight, which speaks of how a fully grown person could not come out of his hang, even till late in life. First, look at thought seeds carried from the past. Like any

ordinary mortal, he too carried a baggage full of good and bad. Lagna lord Sun is conjunct benevolent Jupiter, the 5th lord identified with poorva punya (merits accrued in the past). That makes him a very well-meaning person with a positive orientation, who may follow a value system and never

stoop low in life for personal gains. His conduct will be dignified and may enjoy an honourable status. Mind signifying Moon, incidentally the 9th sub-lord, which again occupies the nakshatra owned by Jupiter, read together with the above combination is indicative of seeds of spirituality imprinted deep within. Intelligence signifying Mercury beautifully aligned to psychic planet Neptune brings in humane sense having compassion and sympathy for others. He would be known for his refined conduct.

Towards the negative side, Moon is conjunct Neptune, both placed adverse to emotion signifying Venus and Karmic Saturn. Mars in debilitation is opposite Venus. This, in the first place implies that he would be subject to limitation and hardships. He would be habitually suspicious and critical of others. Also, he would carry a sense of fear and insecurity. Second, he may not acknowledge truth on its first appearance and would try to look for an escape route, till pushed to the wall. Third, he would be emotionally touchy and sensitive. When encountered with unsavoury situations, he gets emotional-

ly hurt even on trivial issues, and keeps dwelling on them for long. Fourth, he remains vulnerable to domestic discomfort. All these negatively oriented thought seeds got triggered when he encountered unpleasant situation at the hands of none other than his parents, as would afflicted Moon, the 9th sub-lord identified with father may mean. Consequently, he though kept growing career-wise, his personal life went for a toss.

When he was going through his worst emotional crisis, he came across a spiritual group, which helped him stand the ground for long despite all odds. Having pursued that for long, and not yet satisfied, he is now looking for fresh leads, as would his high spiritual quotient call for. He has now been put to a course of wisdom bound devotion. That will help him clean his mind of all negative impressions from the past, transcend them, and pick up leads towards a better tomorrow.

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