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# NEW DELHI, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹4 sunday pioneer

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### **CAPSULE**

## TN PARTIES RESOLVE TO RESEND NEET BILL

Chennai: A meeting of political parties, that have representation in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, on Saturday unanimously resolved to send again a Bill seeking exemption for the State from the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test's purview to Governor R N Ravi to get Presidential assent.

## K'TAKA BANS CLOTHES DISTURBING HARMONY

Bengaluru: Seeking to end the hijab (head scarf) controversy in education institutions in Karnataka that has begun taking political colour, the State Government on Saturday ordered banning wearing of all types of clothes which disturb equality, integrity and public order on schools and colleges premises

## TRAIN RUNS OVER TWO GIRL STUDENTS

Ghaziabad: Two girl students were mowed down by the New Delhi-Dehradun Janshatabdi Express in Modinagar when they were crossing the tracks, officials said on Saturday.

### **DELHI PRISONS TO**

**RESUME 'MULAQAT** New Delhi: In view of improved Covid-19 situation and easing of restrictions, the Delhi prisons department has decided to resume prisoners' physical meetings with relatives and friends from February 10, officials said on Saturday Director General (Prisons) Sandeep Goel said, "One 'mulagat' will be allowed per inmate in 15 days.

# Rift widens as KCR skips PM's events in Hyderabad

CM fails to show up at airport to receive Modi; BJP raps KCR

PNS NEW DELHI

The relationship between Prime Minister Modi and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao hit an alltime time low on Saturday. KCR didn't vi

didn't visit Hyderabad airport for extending a customary welcome to the Prime Minister when he landed there. He also skipped prescheduled events with Modi, including the inauguration of the 216-feet tall "Statue of Equality" by Modi commemorating the 11th-century Bhakti Saint Ramanujacharya.

The absence of the CM at the airport provoked the saf-fron party which said Rao failed to follow the protocol and "insulted the Prime Minister".

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy and Telangana Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav received Modi at the airport. Sources at Pragati Bhavan, Rao's official residence said the CM was not well as he "is suffering from fever".

Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar took



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the unveiling of the Statue of Equality, a 216-foot tall statue of 11th-century saint Ramanujacharya, in Hyderabad on Saturday

strong exception to Rao's absence at the airport, saying it was "shameful" on the part of the CM for playing truant to Modi's trip by citing lame

"KCR, is this your culture? You claim to have read 80,000 books. Is it what you have learned from them?" he

The CM had earlier remarked that Modi "dresses for elections" and "his Budget exemplifies style but no sub-

Inaugurating the statue of

the 11th century Saint Ramanujacharya, Modi said the revered saint worked for the equality of all and worked for dalits and those exploited in

Ramanujacharya (1017-1137 AD) was an philosopher, Hindu theologian, social reformer, and one of the most important exponents of the Vaishnavism tradition within Hinduism.

The PM said "ours is a country where dualism can coexist with non-dualism" and referred to Ramanujacharya's

"ativishistwad" which he said is "all inspiring to all of us".

Modi said, "The Statue of Equality will inspire many future generations and would remind us of his values." He said Ramanujacharya taught that " all kinds of lives are that equal" and "lived through Vedanta Sutra"

Modi said though born in the South, Ramanujacharya was respected by all great saints across the country. If he wrote in Sanskrit, he wrote in Tamil too, he said.

Continued on Page 2

# 23,000 fake transactions under Ayushman Bharat

average bed strength of hospitals empanelled under the

scheme is 45.
As of January 28, 2022, about 8.5 lakh hospital admis-

sions were authorised for the

treatment of Covid-19 under

the scheme. A senior official

from the Ministry said that

during 2021, at least 3,27,104

patients were treated at various

**Chhattisgarh tops list** with 6,785 fraudulent cases, Punjab 5,487, Jharkhand 2,783

ARCHANA JYOTI NEW DELHI

Around 23,000 fraudulent transactions were recorded at empanelled hospitals under the Modi Government's ambitious flagship Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) across the country during the fiscal year 2021-22.

Chhattisgarh topped the list of fraudulent transactions reporting 6,785 confirmed cases followed by Punjab with 5,487 and Jharkhand with 2,783. Comparatively, Tripura and Union Territory Puducherry recorded the lowest cases with one each. The Northeast States like Mizoram and Assam reported two cases each.

According to the data available from the Union Health Ministry, a total 22, 874 fraudulent transactions were recorded at empanelled healthcare providers as of January 31,

The other States which recorded cases of fraudulent transactions were Bihar (50 cases), Gujarat (16), Haryana (1,403), Himachal Pradesh (22), Jammu & Kashmir (1,011), Kerala (904), Madhya Pradesh (2,627), Meghalaya empanelled hospitals in 2020-(96), Mizoram (2), Nagaland (38), Uttarakhand (128) and 21. The number of patients increased to 5,20,368 in 2021-22 during the Covid-19 times. Uttar Pradesh (1,518).

Through the AB-PMJAY, The private hospitals under cashless health services are AB-PMJAY are empanelled by being provided to a large sec-States/UTs based on welldefined criteria laid down by tion of the population in select-National Health Authority ed Government and private (NHA), including minimum hospitals, said the official. in-patient bed strength and The scheme was kicked off specialty-wise infrastructure facilities like equipment and the

by the Central Government in 2018 with an aim to provide free health services to economically weaker sections of the country. It provides health insurance cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year to all the residents at empanelled hospitals. The scheme covers up to three days of pre-hospitalisation and fifteen days post-hospitalization expenses, including diagnostics and medicines.

# J&K delimitation panel suggests major overhaul of LS, Assembly boundaries

## **Farooq-led NC** rejects draft

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Isubmitted to five associate members, the Jammu & Kashmir Delimitation Commission has sought to redraw boundaries of five Lok Sabha constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir to make it two and half seats in both divisions.

The commission has put aside objections filed by Farooq Abdullah-led J&K National Conference (JKNC) against the move to give six new Assembly seats to Jammu region as against just one to the Kashmir division. The commission has asked the associate members to submit their objections/suggestions by February 14, after which the report would be put in the public

Meanwhile, taking to



Twitter, the JKNC announced that it has rejected the draft paper. "JKNC summarily REJECTS draft working paper made available by Delimitation Commission to associate members. A detailed response will follow after the party has had time to discuss the implications of what has been proposed," the party said at its Twitter handle.

Top sources said that the draft paper was sent to the five associate members — Farooq Abdullah, Hasnain Masoodi, Akbar Lone (Lok Sabha MPs from the National Conference), Jitendra Singh and Jugal

Kishore (BJP MPs) - on Friday evening for their viewpoints /comments by February 14. The report has rejected the objections filed by the National Conference on December 31 last year opposing the proposal to increase six Assembly seats in the Jammu region as against just one in the Kashmir division. Once the delimitation exercise is completed, the number of Assembly seats in J&K will go up from 83 to 90. While 24 seats of the Assembly continue to remain vacant as they fall under Pakistan-occu-

pied Kashmir (PoK).

According to sources, the commission has divided 20 districts of J&K into three categories - 'A' with predominantly hill and difficult areas; 'B' with hill and flat areas; and 'C' with predominantly flat minus or plus 10 per cent of average population per Assembly constituency Assembly constituency (1,36,304), while proposing an allocation of constituencies.

Taking into account this average, census population, area, and population density the panel has proposed 11 seats for Jammu; eight seats for Srinagar; seven seats each for Baramulla and Anantnag; six seats each for Kupwara and Kathua; five seats each for Budgam and Rajouri; four seats each for Pulwama and Udhampur; three seats each for Bandipora, Kulgam, Kishtwar Doda, Reasi, Samba and Poonch; and two seats each for Ganderbal, Shopian and

Continued on Page 2



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# Glacier ice near summit of Mount Everest shrunk dramatically in 3 decades

New Delhi: Ice on a glacier near the summit of Mount Everest that took millennia to form has shrunk dramatically in the last three decades due to climate change, a new study has

The South Col formation may already have lost around 55 metres (180 feet) of thickness in the last 25 years, according to research led by the University of Maine and published this week by Nature. Carbon dating showed the

top layer of ice was around 2,000 years old, suggesting that the glacier was thinning more than 80 times faster than the time it took to form, the study

At that rate, South Col was "probably going to disappear within very few decades", lead scientist Paul Mayewski told National Geographic. "It's quite a remarkable transition,



The South Col glacier is around 7,900 metres (26,000 feet) above sea level and a kilometre below the peak of the world's highest mountain.

Other researchers have shown that Himalayan glaciers are melting at an accelerating rate. As the glaciers shrink, hundreds of lakes have formed in the foothills of Himalayan mountains that could burst and unleash floods.

Nepali climber Kami Rita Sherpa, who has climbed Everest a record 25 times since 1994, told AFP Saturday he had witnessed changes on the mountain first-hand."We now see rock exposed in areas where there used to be snow before.

# **Legendary singer Lata on ventilator**

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

n a major cause for concern I for Bollywood and her countless fans and well-wishers across the country, legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar's health deteriorated at the Breach Candy Hospital in South Mumbai, where she was put on ventilator on Saturday.

Ninety-two-year-old Lata who had been taken off ventilator on January 27 after she recovered from pneumonia and Covid-19 - was put on ventilator support once again, after her condition deteriorat-

The condition of singer Lata has deteriorated again and she is on a ventilator and critical...She is under aggressive therapy. We are continuously monitoring her. She continues to be under observation at the ICU," Dr Pratit Samdhani who has been attending to the **Continued on Page 2** iconic singer ever since she was



Hospital nearly a month ago It may be recalled that a

statement put out on January 27 on her official Twitter handle had read, "Lata didi continues to be in ICU at Breach Candy hospital, Mumbai under treatment. She has been given a TRIAL of extubation (off the invasive Ventilator) this morning. Presently, she is showing signs of improvement but will remain under observation of the team of doctors headed by Dr Pratit Samdani. We thank each one for your prayers and

good wishes'

Continued on Page 2

# **Covid cases drop to 11K in** Maha, 643 +ve in Mumbai T N RAGHUNATHA Mumbai: infections have been dropping The active cases in Mu

 $I_{19}^{
m ndicating \, the \, sliding \, Covid-19}$  graph in Maharashtra, the daily infections dropped to 11,394 in the state on Saturday, even as the daily cases in Mumbai came down from 846 to

On a day when no fresh omicron case was reported in Maharashtra, the daily infections in the state dropped by 2,448 -from 13,840 cases on Friday to 11,394 cases on Saturday. With the fresh infections, the total number of Covid-19 cases in the state rose from 77.82,640 to 77,94,034.

With 68 fresh deaths, the total number of deaths registered in the state since the outbreak of Covid-19 in the state in March 2020 went up from 1,42,940 to

Mumbai, where the daily

However, the news of her

deteriorating health went viral

on social media on Saturday,

causing serious concern among

her lakhs of fans and admirers in

the metropolis and elsewhere in

Mangeshkar is popularly known

across the country, was admitted

to the hospital on January 9 fol-

lowing health issues, including

pneumonia and Covid-19. All

the Mangeshkar family mem-

bers, including Asha Bhosale,

Ramanujacharya, the PM

While launching the stat-

said is "an inspiration for

ue of Equality, Modi recalled

"statue of unity of Sardar

Ballabhbhai Patel in Gujarat

and his historical role in

"Bhavyanagar

क्र. 243/यां.वि./2022

Tender ID

Lata didi, as Lata

the country.

steadily for more than two weeks now, witnessed a drop in the number of cases from 846 to 643. With the latest cases, the total number of cases in Mumbai mounted from 10,50,194 to 10,50,837.

As 21,677 Covid-19 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March 2020 increased from 74,91,759 to 75,13,436. The recovery rate in the state rose from 96.26 per cent to 96.4 per cent. The number of "active cases" in the state dropped from 1,44,011 to 1,33,655. The fatality rate in the state stood static at

The active cases in Pune dropped from 42,755 on Friday to 39,739 on Saturday.

Legendary singer Lata on ventilator

are camping at the hospital.

Usha Mangeskar and their only

brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar

Chief Minister Uddhav

Thackeray's wife Rashmi

Thackeray, MNS chief President

Raj Thackeray, Union Minister Piyush Goyal and filmmaker

Madhur Bhandarkar, visited the

hospital to enquire about her

gone specially to the hospital to

discuss with the medical teams

Rift widens as KCR skips...

is giving us the message of

equality in the form of a huge

Statue of Equality," said the PM.

chaloha", a combination of five

metals: gold, silver, copper,

brass, and zinc and is among

one of the tallest metallic stat-

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-ऑल इण्डिया कोटा ( प्रथम चरण )

शासन से प्रवेशानुमति प्राप्त निजी आयुष महाविद्यालयों के स्नातक पाठयक्रम की ऑल इण्डिया कोटे की 15 प्रतिशत सीटों

1- अभ्यर्थी प्रकाशित ऑनलाईन काउंसिलिंग कार्यक्रम अनुसार ऑनलाईन प्रवेश का अवसर प्राप्त कर सकते है।

दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी

2- ऑल इण्डिया कोटे की काउंसिलिंग संबंधी दिशा-निर्देश विभागीय वेबसाईट www.ayush.mp.gov.in एवं एम.पी.

उपरोक्त काउंसिलिंग से आवंटित अभ्यर्थी के रिपोर्टिंग हेतु पं. खुशीलाल शर्मा शासकीय स्वशासी आयुर्वेद महाविद्यालय

भोपाल को रिपोर्टिंग केन्द्र बनाया गया है। अभ्यर्थी रिपोर्टिंग केन्द्र में मुल दस्तावेज एवं आवंटित महाविद्यालय की

निर्धारित फीस के साथ उपस्थित होगा। रिपोर्टिंग केन्द्र पर आवंटित अभ्यर्थी के अभिलेखों का सत्यापन किया जायेगा।

तदुपरान्त रिपोर्टिंग केन्द्र पर उपस्थित नीजी आयुष महाविद्यालय का प्रतिनिधि आवंटित अभ्यर्थी को, निर्धारित प्रक्रिय

आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली द्वारा जारी निर्देशों के अनुक्रम में आयुष मंत्रालय भारत सरकार व प्रदेश

ऑल इण्डिया कोटे की प्रवेश काउंसिलिंग अंतर्गत प्रथम चरण का काउंसिलिंग कार्यक्रम निम्नानसार है :-

'Today Ramanujacharya ji

The statue is made of "pan-

Raj Thackeray said he had

treating her at the hospital and ed Raveena Tandon.

A host of VVIPs, including

dropped from 7135 to 6367, while the active cases in the neighbouring Thane rose from 9760 on Friday to 9,066 cases on

Nagpur accounted for 17516 cases, followed by Nashik (6844), Ahmednagar (7672) Aurangabad (4412) and Satara

Of the 7,54,10,043 samples sent to various laboratories across the state so far, 77,94,034 have tested positive (10.34 per cent) for COVID-19 until Saturday. Currently, 7,95,422 people are in home quarantine while 2447 people are in institutional quarantine.

Meanwhile, no fresh Omicron case was recorded in Maharashtra on Saturday, resulting in the total number of the new Covid-19 variant cases remaining static at 3,334.

dispel rumour mongering that

has been intense since this after-

noon. Several of the Bollywood

personalities took to twitter to

express concern over Lata's dete-

riorating health condition and

wish her speedy recovery

"Sending good wishes and pray-

ing for Lata didi's speedy recov-

ery @mangeshkarlata #LataMangeshkar (sic)," yester-

year actress Madhuri Dixit Nene tweeted. "#prayers, speedy

recovery to our nightingale

@mangeshkarlata ji (sic)," tweet-

ues in sitting position, in the

high base building, named

"Bhadra Vedi", has floors devot-

ed for a Vedic digital library

and research centre, ancient

Indian texts, a theatre, an edu-

cational gallery detailing many

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works of Ramanujacharya.

It is mounted on a 54-feet

poor students of the State. Saturday's meeting was attended by the DMK and its allies including the Congress, CPI(M), CPI, VCK, and PMK, a potential ally. The AIADMK, the BJP and other constituents of the NDA in Tamil Nadu stayed away from the meeting though the principal opposition party has expressed its support to the DMK in its endeavour to get the NEET scrapped.

Chief Minister Stalin had made the scrapping of the NEET a prestige issue for the government of Tamil Nadu citing the suicides by students who failed to get into the qualifying grades in the Test.

Tamil Nadu is likely to see a political battle involving the Governor and the Government over the DMK's demand to exempt the State from the purview of the NEET. According to Article 200 of the Constitution of India, when a Bill passed by the Legislature is sent to the assent of the Governor and if the latter

**The Governor had** sent back the Bill to the Government early this week asking the House to reconsider the

TN to convene special

Bill back to Governor

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN** ■

An all-party meeting convened by Chief Minister M K Stalin on Saturday unani-

mously decided to hold a spe-

cial session of the Legislative

Assembly next week and

resend to Governor RN Ravi

the legislation seeking exemp-

tion for the State from National

Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test

for admission to undergradu-

back the Bill to the

Government early this week

asking the House to reconsid-

er the Bill stating that the leg-

islation was against the inter-

ests of the students specially

the rural and economically

The Governor had sent

ate Medical Courses.

session to send anti-NEET

returns the Bill back to the Government for reconsideration, the House (Legislature) has to reconsider it accordingly and if the Bill is passed again by the House with or without amendment and presented to the Governor for assent, the Governor shall not withhold

If the Bill is not a Money Bill, the President may direct the Governor to return the Bill to the House together with such a message as it mentioned in the first proviso to article 200 and when the Bill is so returned, the House shall reconsider it accordingly within a period of six months from the date of receipt of such message and if it is again passed by the House with or without amendment, it shall again be presented to the President for his consideration.

"There is no provision which says that the Governor should give his assent to the Bill if the House sends the same back to him without any amendment. There is a Constitution proviso which stipulates that the President is bound to give his assent to a Bill sent back by the Parliament which has been returned to the Union Government by the President. But there is no compulsion on the part of the Governor to give his assent to the Bill which has been sent back by the Legislative Assembly," said S Jayashankar,

constitutional lawyer.

# J&K delimitation panel suggests major overhaul...

From Page 1 As per the proposal, the Anantnag Parliamentary seat will include Rajouri and

trict, all other seats have been redrawn and merged with proposed new Assembly seats like . Channapora and Srinagar THE PIONEER O

I, Shreyashi Bhattacharya, D/o Jayanta Bhattacharya and resident of C-224, Sarita Vihar, have changed my name to Shreyasi Bhattacharya for all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before January 25th 2022.

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NOTICE This is to inform that a Board meeting is scheduled to be held on 11 February 2022 at the corporate office of the company to consider and approve the financial results for the quarter and nine month ended 31 December 2021. Please take note that the trading window will

Vebsite : www.technofabengineering.com

upto 13 February 2022. For Technofab Engineering Limited Arun Singh Company Secretary

remain closed for the concerned persons

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Opposite Tata Consultancy N.H-8, Village
Narsinghpur, Gurugram- 122004 Haryana, India

NOTICE Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that meeting of Board or Directors of Meyer Apparel Limited to be held or Saturday,12° February 2022 at 5:00 PM at Regd. Office (Virtual Office), arrangement will also be made for participation of Board Members electronically through video conferencing facility inter-alia to consider and approve, the Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter/Nine months ended December 31, 2021 and amongst other

This notice is also available on the website of the company https://www.meyerapparel.com and or the website of BSE Ltd https://www.bseindia.com For Meyer Apparel Limited

Date: February 05, 2022 Company Secretary

Poonch from the Jammu region. Barring Khanyar, Sonwar, and Hazratbal Assembly seats of Srinagar dis-

Many of the Assembly seats in erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir State have vanished.

These include Habba Kadal, a seat that was seen as Kashmiri pandits.

Similarly, Budgam district, which had five Assembly seats, was redrawn and merged with Baramulla Parliamentary constituency and new Assembly seats like Kunzer in North Kashmir have been carved out. Sangrama seat in North Kashmir has been merged with other Assembly seats. Baramulla has got two new constituencies -- Kunzer and Tangmarg -- while the existing Sangrama constituency has

been merged with Tangmarg. The commission has proposed a new constituency Trehgam in the Kupwara district and added Kralpora tehsil to the Karnah constituency. Similarly, the Shangus constituency has been divided between Anantnag East and Lernoo constituencies in south Kashmir. Chanpora is the new constituency comprising the whole Chanpora tehsil in the

Srinagar district Pulwama, Tral and some areas of Shopian, which formed part of the Anantnag Lok Sabha seat, will now be part of the Srinagar Parliamentary

The Commission headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Desai with Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and State Election Commission K K Sharma was set up on March 6, 2020, and was granted an extension of a year on March 6, 2021, which will come to an end next month.

Assembly seats in J&K were earlier delimited in 1963, 1973 and 1995.

The last delimitation exercise was conducted in J&K under President's rule in 1995 by the retired Justice KK Gupta Commission.

# Large number of youths jobless, posts lying vacant, says Priyanka after conducting a roadshow Priyanka Vadra greeted the

Priyanka Gandhi met people in Aligarh and during this time talked to them on all issues including employment. During the interaction with the public, the Congress leader said, someone is saying that he will remove the fat, someone is saying that he will remove the heat. But we are saying get the recruitment done. A large number of youth are unemployed and the posts are also lying vacant. Therefore, if the recruitment is taken out, then the youth will get employment. She said, reject such people who talk about removing fat and heat, but this time give votes to those who talk about removing recruitment.

National Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra reached Aligarh

in support of Congress candidate in Iglas. From here she held a road show in support of city Congress candidate Mohammad Salman Imtiaz.

Seeing Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the workers got excited. Seeing the huge public support, Priyanka Vadra also accepted the greeting by shaking hands and also shook hands with the people who came near. During this, she threw the manifesto towards the public. When Priyanka Vadra's convoy moved towards Upper Kot via the railway road, there was a situation of jam on the railway

Earlier, the National General Secretary of Congress reached Iglas at and did a road show. During this there was a traffic jam in the town.

people by shaking hands and folded hands. In Iglas, she did a road show in support of Congress candidate Preeti Dhangar.

During the roadshow in Aligarh, Priyanka Vadra also met the businessmen at Shri Ram Market. Seeing Priyanka, BJP supporters started shouting slogans of Modi Modi near the old tanga stand as well as BJP flags were being shown. Priyanka Gandhi gave her manifesto to all of them During this, supporters of BJP and Congress were also raising slogans against each other. Priyanka Gandhi responded to the sloganeering of BJP supporters with a smile and tossed bands and manifestos. After this Priyanka Gandhi's convoy reached Ramghat Road.

### Dalits face boycott in Maha village, police intervene

Latur: Tension prevailed in a village in Maharashtra's Latur district when villagers allegedly decided to boycott the local Dalit community over a dispute related to temple entry.

Police on Saturday said the dispute was resolved following the meeting of a peace committee and the situation was now normal. Some social media posts claimed that the dispute arose when two Dalit youngsters entered a Hanuman temple and broke a coconut at Tadmugali village in Nilanga tehsil three days ago.

Some youths took objection to their entry into the temple, and later people from other castes decided to boycott the village's Dalit community, reports said.

A video of a flour mill owner who refused to grind grains for a Dalit family also went viral. The mill owner was heard saying in the video that if he went against the village and accepted Rs 10 from the family for the grinding, he will have to pay a fine of Rs 40,000 later. When contacted, Deputy Superintendent of Police Dineshkumar Kolhe said police held meetings with both the sides and the dispute was resolved.

#### 15.5 L bathe in Ganga, at Sangam on Basant Panchami in UP

PTI PRAYAGRA.

 $B_{\text{coronavirus pandemic,}}^{\text{raving the cold and the}}$ around 15.5 lakh devotees bathed in the icy waters of the Ganga river and at Sangam here till 8 pm on Saturday on the occasion of Basant Panchami, the fourth major bathing festival of the ongoing Magh Mela.

Officials said devotees started thronging the river banks in the early hours of the day and they continued to arrive in huge numbers for a holy dip. An official said that in view of the large number of devotees turning up for a holy dip on Basant Panchami, eight new lost and found centres have been set up in the fair

Often at such large gatherings, coronavirus norms, including wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing, go for a toss.

As of Šaturday, Uttar Pradesh has recorded 20,41,734 coronavirus cases and 23,303 deaths due to the infection, according to official data.

Double engine Govt doing injustice to farmers: Akhilesh

SP National President Akhilesh Yadav, while addressing a press conference in Aligarh, targeted the BJP. He said, the double engine government is doing injustice to the farmers. People are being harassed. The farmers sat for three laws at once. As the election approached, the BJP withdrew all the three laws. When the laws were being implemented, you were saying good things about the law, but now why took it back? Farmers are not getting fertilizer. Manure is being stolen from the sack, Diesel-Petrol is getting expen-

He said inflation is twofold. There were no beds in the hospital during covid period. There was no oxygen. There were no injections.

sive and earning has reduced to

The public has been cheated by the double engine government. Asking the question, what will be made in the Defense Corridor? No one knows this. It was also built in Ihansi but where is the Defense Corridor? This election is about the future of UP. There is a choice to save the constitution. The choice is to save democlittle time left now. The people of UP have made up their mind for change.
He said that BJP does politics of hate. SP does politics of

brotherhood. Small teams have come together. 300 units of electricity will be free if the SP government is formed. Why didn't the electricity bills halve in four and a half years? The CM of UP is unable to even take the name of the power He said that the SP-RLD

alliance is bringing prosperity. 80 percent people of the state are with the alliance. BJP is ahead in bluffing. Their biggest leaders tell the most lies. The government is filing false cases. Even if every leader of BJP holds sit-ups in front of the farmers, the farmers will not forgive them. Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas is the biggest fake slogan.

Targeting the BJP, Akhilesh Yadav said that even if it is a government of double engine but the atrocities committed by this government on the people

of the state is unimaginable. Akhilesh has made three Aligarh when his government

major announcements for comes to power.

## Glacier ice near summit of Mount Everest.

told AFP Saturday he had witnessed changes on the mountain first-hand."We now see rock exposed in areas where there used to be snow

Not just on Everest, other mountains are also losing their snow and ice.

It is worrying," Sherpa told AFP. Himalayan glaciers are a critical water source for nearly two billion people living around the mountains and river valleys below.

They feed 10 of the world's most important river systems and also help supply billions of people with food and energy.

## Cong leader slams Telangana CM's call to rewrite Constitution

Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma on Saturday accused Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao of violating his oath of office with his call to rewrite the Constitution. Sharma, who is the deputy leader of the Congress in Rajya Sabha, said he strongly disagreed with Rao and said his statement is totally unacceptable.

"Strongly disagreeing with K Chandrashekhar Rao, Chief Minister Telangana on his call for rewriting of Constitution, which is unacceptable.

This is a trap of those who are plotting to dismantle India's constitutional democracy which guaranteed justiciable rights for all," Sharma said on Twitter.

"PM, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and MPs have taken oath to uphold Constitution. @TelanganaCMO has violated his oath of office, which is a matter of concern," the former union minister said. Rao had proposed that the Constitution be rewritten since it has not fulfilled the aspirations of Indians.

## Anna Hazare writes 'reminder' letter to Maha CM, warns to sit on fast against wine policy the sale of wine in supermar-

Social activist Anna Hazare on Saturday wrote a letter to "reminder" letter to Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray saying he hunger strike against the state government's decision to allow

kets and walk-in shops. Hazare stated that he had sent the first letter to the CM opposing the wine policy on February 3 but received no response. "I am sendwill launch an indefinite ing a reminder letter as no response was received from the

state government. The state

government recently decided to allow the sale of wine in supermarkets and grocery shops. The decision is unfortunate for the state and it will be dangerous for the coming generations.

oppose this decision, I decided to go on indefinite hunger

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# '82% adolescents inoculated' NDMC gives fresh push to e-scooter plan, invites tenders

ing up to reopen for Classes 9 to 12 from Monday, authorities have inoculated 82 per cent adolescents in Delhi with the first dose since the exercise to vaccinate them against coronavirus commenced from January 3

According to official data, 8.33 lakh adolescents have received the first dose and 0.39 lakh have been jabbed with the second dose.

Delhi has around 10.14 lakh beneficiaries in the 15-18

According to officials, 95 per cent of government school students have been vaccinated, while 73 per cent students of aided school students have received at least one dose. Sixty-two per cent private school students have been inoculated with at least one

The maximum number of adolescents have been inoculated with the first dose in southwest district at 1,12,521 followed by northwest at 10,87,99 and west at 84,958.

The least number of ado-



lescents have been inoculated with first dose in New Delhi at

The maximum number of adolescents have received the second dose in northeast Delhi followed by southwest district

The government has

achieved 109 per cent inoculation with first dose, while 84 per cent inoculation has been achieved for second dose. Covaxin is the only vaccine option for the 15 to 18 year age group, according to the Union

Health Ministry guidelines on

December 27. In January,

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had said 85 per cent of Delhi government school students have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

He, however, remarked that the inoculation drive in private schools was going on at a snail's pace.

With the aim to curb air pollution by launching electric scooters for the users, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC ) re-invited bids for its ambitious project "App-based Rental Electric Scooter".

NDMC Vice Chairman, Satish Upadhyay while giving the project details said 1,000 escooters under public-private partnership (PPP) model will be set-up in two phases at 100 locations in the NDMC area.

"In the first phase, only 500 e-scooters will be set-up at 50 charging stations and the same will be repeated in the second phase. These stations were established near metro stations, bus stops, hospitals, railway stations etc," said Upadhyay.

He also informed that these e-scooters will have a range of 80 km on full charge and it can run with speed up to 45km per hour which can operate through a net based Application. He said users will have to hire them for a minimum of 15 minutes and the



charges will be imposed each minute wise.

He further said that NDMC will register these vehicles at the transport department as these vehicles require license to operate and use of

"There is provision for sitting two persons. The GPS chip-

helmets is compulsory on it.

based vehicles will monitor and movement tracked by NDMC Command and

Control Centre situated at Palika Kendra," he added. Upadhyay hoped that these e-scooters would not only make a good effort towards

reducing pollution in the city

but also need to use private

vehicles to travel for short distances. He said the project was delayed mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic and once launched it aims to curb air pollution in the heart of the capital city by providing lastmile connectivity on renting out electric scooters to

# AAP stir over BJP councillor giving MCD land to hubby

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will take out padyatra in all wards of Delhi protesting the move of a BJP Councillor for allegedly giving municipal land to her own husband.

AAP senior leader and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak said that the BJP is giving land to its own leaders for free using NGOs as a front. "All three Leader of Opposition and AAP councillors will raise awareness about BJP's corruption throughout Delhi. Party councillors had raised the matter during a North MCD house

meeting. AAP will keep protesting against the BJP until action is taken against the accused," he said. Pathak issued a statement on Saturday, saying that MCD councillor Manju Khandelwal gave the land of Ashok Nagar, which is worth 50 crores, for free to her husband Rajendra Khandelwal. "We protested numerous times and demanded that MCD return the land. However, instead of taking any action against such corrupt behaviour, the councillor stated flatly that there is no harm in doing so since the land was given in the name of an NGO,"

## Stop selling clinic land free to BJP-run NGOs: AAP to LG

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has written to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and urged him to stop North MCD from selling the land belonging to Jhandewalan Chest Clinic and Qutubgarh Dispensary Complex for free to NGOs run by the BJP leaders.

Sarol Bagh MLA Vishesh Ravi said that sale of lands belonging to North MCD is a gross violation of Delhi Municipal Corporation Act and should be stopped at all costs. "After a failed first EOI, the North MCD run has again raised 'Expression Of Interest' (EOI) dated February 2nd, 2022 for selling Municipal land to the NGOs of individuals from the BIP" he said. to the NGOs of individuals from the BJP," he said.

The MLA added that North DMC has cleverly mentioned only

400-500 sq.m on the document whereas the total area at Jhandewalan Clinic is 3700 sq.m.



Nizamuddin's followers participate in celebration of Basant Panchami at Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah in New Delhi on Saturday. A centuries-old tradition that is said to have been started by Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya's disciple, Amir Khusrau

# Three arrested for robbing tempo driver in Shalimar Bagh

arrested for allegedly robbing a tempo driver in northwest Delĥi's Shalimar Bagh area, police said on Saturday.

The accused has been identified as Karan (18) Raghav (20) and Gulshan (25), all residents of Sahipur, they said, adding the three are childhood friends.

Thursday, police received information about a person admitted to a hospital due to a stab injury, police said. During enquiry, the injured person said he was going towards Madhuban Chowk from Badli in his tempo. He stopped his vehicle near a petrol pump in Haiderpur as it started raining, a senior police officer said. Three persons came on a scooter, threatened him with a knife and tried to rob him. When he resisted, one of them stabbed him in the stomach and others took away his mobile phone and wallet, Deputy Commissioner of Police (northwest) Usha Rangnani

The three then fled the



spot, she added.

The injured person was admitted to the hospital, police said, adding he is stable now. During investigation, police examined the CCTV footage of the spot. Later, three accused persons were nabbed, the DCP The accused arrested are childhood friends and due to their addiction to drugs and alcohol, they started committing crimes, police said. The robbed mobile phone, a knife and a stolen scooter,

used in the commission of the

crime, were recovered from their possession,

# EDMC to hire agency for strict enforcement of parking policy

In order to decongest main roads and market areas, East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) has decided to hire an agency for strict enforcement of parking policy.

A senior EDMC official said that the Corporation has prepared a detailed policy in this connection. "A tender has been floated to hire an agency for design, development, implementation, operation and maintenance basis on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode," he said. The EDMC planned to hire an agency on a

revenue sharing model under the PPP mode, he said, adding that after the bidding process the selected agency will share the revenue to EDMC on a monthly basis.

"For proper monitoring of parking enforcement policy, software will be developed by the contractor. To implement this project, no funds are required from EDMC," he added.

EDMC has many congested areas in its juris-



diction and it is challenging to decongest main roads and markets for ease of public movement.

# Delhi Police organises deshbhakti songs writing competition

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

To celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and 75 glorious years of Independence, Police Family Welfare Society (PFWS) and the Delhi Police in collaboration with Ministry of Culture organised a "Rangoli Making, Lullaby and Deshbhakti Songs Writing' competition for police personnel and their families.

More than 15,000 entries were received for all events. To confer awards the winners, a prize distribution ceremony of was organised on Saturday at Central Park, Connaught Place,

an official statement said.

Minister for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi was the chief guest for the function. Govind Mohan, secretary, Ministry of Culture, was the special guest. Delhi



Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana President/PFWS Anu Asthana, senior police officers and members of PFWS were also present, it said.

According to the statement, Lekhi appreciated the talent and performance of the Delhi Police staff and their

families. She further stated that such talent exhibited by the police staff will certainly help in discharging their hard duties dealing criminals.

Asthana praised continuous efforts of PFWS in providing relentless support to the Delhi Police families in all

walks of life, it said. In the end, the chief guests awarded the winners with certificate and cash for all categories of the three events. In addition, they also awarded winners of postage stamp, the statement added.

### Fill vacant seats in LLB course, HC tells DU



New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has directed the Delhi University (DU) to fill up within two weeks the vacant seats across all categories in its LLB course, saying it is unfair if seats in such a prestigious institute go waste in spite of meritorious candidates

Justice Rekha Palli, while allowing the petitions by three aspirants who failed to get admission despite vacant seats in the course, stated that DU will fill up the seats after consider-ing all eligible candidates, including the petitioners, as per their merit and ensure additional classes for the newly admitted students if required.

The judge observed that it is a dream for many students to get their education from a reputed university like DU and the three petitioners, who have cleared the entrance examination, should not be denied the opportunity to pursue the degree. "There is no gainsaying that the aim of counselling in any institution is to fill up the maximum available seats by granting an opportunity to deserving and eligible candidates to gain education and knowledge. "Unarguably, Delhi University is one of the premier institutes in imparting education across the country, and it is a dream for many students to get their education from a univer-

sity of this repute.
"It would be unfair to the candidates if seats in such a prestigious institute are allowed to go to waste, despite there being can-didates with merit to fill the same," the court said in its order passed on February 3.

# City's maximum temperature settles at 19.5 deg C, air quality poor

New Delhi: The maximum temperature in the national capital was recorded at 19.5 degrees Ĉelsius on Saturday, four notches below the season's average, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. According to the IMD, several

parts of the city witnessed dense fog in the morning and the minimum temperature settled at 6.9 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal. The visibility at the Safdarjung

observatory, which provides representative data for the city, was 100 metres at 8.30 am. Visibility at the Palam observatory was 50 metres. The relative humidity was 45 per cent

Delhi's air quality was recorded in the 'poor' category as the 24-hour Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 224 at

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. The and 401 and 500 'severe'. weather office has predicted dense fog



for Sunday as well. The maximum and On Thursday, Delhi saw its maxthe minimum temperatures are expected to settle around 21 and 8 imum temperature go down by eight degrees Celsius respectively, the IMD notches to 14.4 degrees Celsius, the

coldest for the month of February in 19 years. On February 1, 2003, the national capital had recorded a high of 14.3 degrees Celsius

# Paramedic teacher arrested for stealing women's bags from X-ray machines at Delhi Metro stations

New Delhi: A 26-year-old teacher of paramedics was arrested for allegedly stealing the women's bags from the X-ray machines at Delhi Metro stations, police said on Saturday. A resident of

Uttam Nagar, the accused, Garima Pandey, is a post-graduate in Microbiology and has recently joined a private institute for paramedics as a teacher, they said. Police said that for the last 15

to 20 days complaints of theft were being received at various police stations of the Delhi Police's Metro Unit.

On January 11, a woman complained that she had kept her bag in the X-Ray machine of Uttam Nagar Metro station and when she went to pick it up after frisking, it was nowhere to be found. Upon scanning CCTV

woman had picked it up, a senior police officer said. A similar incident happened

footage it was revealed that a

on January 29 at Uttam Nagar East metro station on January 30 at Uttam Nagar West metro station and on January 24 at Rithala metro station, police said. On Friday, police saw a woman outside Uttam Nagar West metro

station who was similar to the one seen in CCTV footage, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Metro) Jitendra Mani said. During interrogation, the was

refused any of the allegations but relented after being shown the CCTV footage, the DCP said. Two gold nose pins, five metro cards, one mobile phone, five debit cards, Rs 9,000 were recovered from her, police added. PTI

# to star campaigners: EC

Following an attack on AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi's car at Hapur in Uttar Pradesh while returning to Delhi after attending electionrelated events in western Uttar Pradesh, where polling is due in a few days, the Election Commission has directed to provide adequate security to star campaigners of political parties in the upcoming Assembly polls in five States.

In a letter to chief secretaries and chief electoral officers of five States, the EC said that It has been brought to the Commission's notice that the star campaigners in the ongoing general elections to the Legislative Assemblies of the five States have faced security issues. "The Commission has taken congnizance of the matter and has decided that star campaigners appointed by the political parties should be provided adequate security cover within the state during the of conduct of elections," it said.



"The security arrangement star campaigners shall be monitored by a nodal officer at the state level and a nodal officer at the district level to be appointed by the concerned State and UT government. Therefore, the political parties concerned shall provide visit plan, route chart and any other necessary information for providing necessary security cover to their star campaigners to the chief electoral officers and the deputy election officers," reads

that the star campaigners con-

election process and their security is of utmost importance for ensuring free and fair elections. Officials said that the secu-

rity of star campaigners further becomes far more sensitive during the election period because of additional criticality due to possible proximity with large crowds and sensational impact of any such incidence on law and order across state, established SoPs [standard operating procedure] should be followed scrupulously. The SOPs including advance detailed programme, necessary permissions to hold rallies or road shows, deployment, use of bullet proof vehicle and observance of provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act, among others.

Owaisi on Thursday had requested the poll body to ensure an independent probe into the incident.. After the incident, the Ministry of Home Affairs provided 'Z' security The poll body further said cover to Owaisi which he

# Provide adequate security | SCBA urges CJI to resume full physical hearing in SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Saturday requested Chief Justice of India N V Ramana that physical hearings in the apex court be reassumed to the pre-pandemic level as the COVID-19 situation is in control and stressed that "open court hearing" is both the "convention and Constitutional requirement".

In a letter addressed to the CJI, SCBA president Vikas Singh said the positivity rate in the national capital has come down to below four percent and the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has decided to reopen schools, colleges and gyms here with effect from February 7.

The apex court is presently hearing matters virtually after the number of COVID-19 cases started rising in December last year due to the Omicron variant of the virus.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

wave activity.

The coastal communities that are vulnerable to sea-

level rise due to climate change

also have to worry about

pattern directly correlates with the location of intense wind

activity, a recent study by

Indian scientists has indicated.

of Bengal, the South China Sea

and the South Indian Ocean

can experience higher wave

activity in the future, posing a

severe threat to coastal com-

already most vulnerable to the

impact of climate change and

other environmental drivers

due to their exposure to severe

inundation and its frequency

associated with extreme water

levels in the nearshore regions

apart from facing increasing

coastal inundation can signif-

icantly affect the shoreline con-

figuration, damage infrastruc-

ture, saltwater intrusion into

groundwater, destroy crops,

and affect the human popula-

tion with various socio-eco-

nomic consequences. Scientists

worldwide are trying to esti-

mate the magnitude of this

impact, a release from the

Union Ministry of Science &

formed a detailed investigation

on future extreme wind-wave

Technology said.

The impact resulting from

instances of cyclones.

These communities are

munities in the region.

These regions over the Bay

The extreme wind-wave

The apex court is presently hearing matters virtually after the number of Covid-19 cases started rising in **December last** vear due to the

**Omicron variant** 

of the virus

The letter said due to the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, the apex court had started hearing matters virtually and from November 9 last year, it had commenced physical hearing on three days -Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – in a week.

'The hearing in open court is both the convention and a constitutional requirement in the Supreme Court. It is, there-

Coastal region communities face

extreme wind-wave threats too

fore, requested that physical hearing in Supreme Court be resumed forthwith as it was pre-pandemic," said the letter, a copy of which has also been sent to the five senior-most judges of the top court. It said pandemic in the

country has been "very much in control" in the last two weeks and in Delhi and the positivity rate has come down to 3.85 percent as on date. The letter said that offices

are now allowed to function

with 100 percent capacity in Delhi and school for nursery to class 8th will reopen from February 14. "In these circumstances, there is no justification to not open the Supreme Court for

full physical hearing on all five days forthwith," it said. The SCBA president has said in the letter that as has been demonstrated in the earlier phase of physical hearing in the apex court in November lawyers will continue wearing masks and abide by the COVID protocol as long as the same is in place.

Singh has also referred to his January 6 letter addressed to the CJÍ in which he had raised concerns over the nonconsideration of several urgent pending issues of the bar. The letter said on January

18, a meeting was convened between the five senior-most judges of the apex court and the SCBA's executive committee (EC) to discuss the issue of muting or unmuting lawyers during a virtual hearing. It said other issues of the

bar, as mentioned in the previous letter, were kept in abeyance with an assurance that those issues would be taken up immediately when the situation would become better.

Singh said that based on the assurance, the unanimous decision of the SCBA EC to

grievances of the bar was kept in abeyance.

"Till date, we have not heard anything from your good offices with regard to those long pending issues. If any of our demands is unjustified, then we may be told so and we would not insist upon the same but please do not force us to take the agitational path by keeping our legitimate demands pending," the letter

It requested the CJI that all the issues of the bar be considered immediately and full physical hearing be resumed as early as possible.

The SCBA had on January said it will hold a candle march at the Rajpath here to raise several grievances, including non-consideration of its members' names for elevation as judges in various high

## Lalu's son Tej Pratap now launches rice business

Patna: After incense sticks business, RJD leader Tej Pratap Yadav jumped into the rice business on Saturday.

Tej Pratap launched a Basmati Rice product called LR (Largest Reach) in Patna on Saturday. He has smartly named the product after his father Lalu Prasad and mother Rabri Devi. Though, he said that the actual meaning of LR is the largest reach. "The youth of Bihar will get

jobs and at the same time we

The youth of Bihar will get jobs and at the same time we will also provide a good rate to the farmers

will also provide a good rate to the farmers," Tej Pratap claimed.

"We all know that unemployment is at the highest level in Bihar. A large number of youths are migrating from the state. On the other hand, farmers of the state also have huge issues of fertilizers, seeds, and every year. You have seen how the Narendra Modi government forced the farmers of the country to go on agitation for 14 months and over 700 of them sacrificed their lives, Tej Pratap said.

"Our initiative is to address the issues of unemployed youths and farmers. Any youth comes to us for a job, we would provide the same according to our capacity. We have been looking to involve youths in the distribution of LR Basmati rice. It will provide jobs to them," he said.

During the launch of the product, Tej Pratap Yadav also called a leader of Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and asked him to purchase the LR Basmati rice for former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi. He also said that LR Basmati rice will be sent to "Chacha Ji" Nitish Kumar through Jitan Ram Manjhi.

Tej Pratap also said that he will send packets of rice to Mukesh Sahani, the president of VIP. Tej Pratap lastr year launched LR Agarbatti and says he provides jobs to youths of Bihar.

### **NDPS AND MCOCA CASE**

# SC grants bail to differently-abled man



Court has granted bail to a differently-abled man accused in a case lodged under the antinarcotics law and the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), saying he has been in custody for four years and this would logically give him a trom the alleged syndi

The top court passed the order earlier this week on an appeal filed by the accused against a July 2021 Bombay High Court verdict rejecting his bail application. A bench of Justices S K

Kaul and M M Sundresh said the prosecution will be at liberty to move for cancellation of bail before the trial court if the appellant is found indulging in trade of drugs or if any other offence is detected against him, The apex court noted the submissions of the counsel appearing for the accused that the appellant is a differently-abled person with a Jaipur foot, a rubber based prosthetic leg, and has lost about 12 kg while in custody. Even his Jaipur foot does not fit him properly, the counsel argued.

The appellant was arrested in January 2018 in connection with the case lodged in Pune under provisions of The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and MCOCA.

"In view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances and looking to the fact that the trial

New Delhi: The Supreme is even yet to commence, the appellant is in custody for four years, the period of custody itself would logically give a break from the syndicate the head of which is in custody, looking at the physical condition of the appellant, we are inclined to grant bail to the appellant on terms and conditrial court," the apex court bench said in its order.

The bench noted that the state's counsel had opposed the bail application on the ground that MCOCA provisions have been invoked as the appellant was allegedly found connected with a syndicate of another accused, who is in

"We are granting the bail to the appellant in the given facts of the case, not to be treated as a precedent for the other coaccused," it said.

The apex court said that apart from any other condition, the appellant will report to the local police station on alternate Mondays in the forenoon.

His counsel had claimed before the high court that the prosecution's story was false. He argued that the accused had an amputated leg and it was impossible even to imagine that he could be driving a four-wheeler as alleged by the

The counsel had also argued before the high court that no contraband was recovered from the applicant.

projections and their relation-ship with wind speed, sea level pressure, and sea surface temperature for the mid-and endcentury under two different greenhouse gas emission scenarios projected by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) called RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 (possible climatic conditions depend climatic conditions depending on varying levels of global

temperatures rise then. An analysis of the projections has indicated maximum extreme wind and wave activity over the South Indian Ocean region during June-July-August and September-October-November. Areas over the central Bay of Bengal show intense wind activity from the end-century projections, signifying the likelihood of more extreme events. Extreme wave heights intensify by about 1 m over the South Indian Ocean during the June-July-August

An increase of 0.4 m in maximum significant wave heights are projected over regions in the North Indian Ocean, the northwest Arabian Sea, northeast Bay of Bengal, and the South China Sea. A team of scientists, Athira

Krishnan and Prasad K Bhaskaran from the Department of Ocean Engineering & Naval Architecture, IIT Kharagpur, jointly with Prashant Kumar, Sciences, National Institute of connection with climate indices Technology, Delhi, with sup-

port from the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India under the Climate Change Programme (CCP), carried out this study, which was published in the journal 'Climate Dynamics', Springer recently. Findings from the study

show that the projected change in wave heights are maximum for the South China Sea in RCP4.5, whereas the total rise is about 23 per cent in RCP8.5 by the end of the end-century. Also, the projected change in winds and waves over the western tropical Indian Ocean is consistent with changes in sealevel pressure variations and warm ocean temperatures. A significant increment in sea surface temperature is projected over the Arabian Sea during December-January-February and June-July-August months ranging between 1.5 and 2.0 degrees Celsius that, is 0.5 degrees Celsius greater than the Bay of Bengal. Projections show that regions over the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf can experience higher warming rates exceeding 2 degrees Celsius under RCP8.5

by the end of the century.

The new findings from this study are expected to augment more advanced research on extreme wind-wave activity for the North Indian Ocean region and provide the scope for a detailed investigation on

# **ED** attaches FDs of drug firm for illicit manufacture of scheduled drug

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached bank fixed deposits worth Rs 1.93 crore belonging to Telangana-based Hygro Chemicals Pharmtek Pvt Ltd under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLÁ) for illegally manufacturing and dealing in a sched-DextroPropoxyphene Hydrochloride (DPP HCL).

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation against the firm based at Bollaram in Medak district Telangana on the basis of case registered by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Hyderabad for illicit sale/purchase, manufacture, and inter-State sale of a scheduled drug under the provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the ED said in a statement.

The accused firm Hygro Chemicals Pharmtek Pvt Ltd which had license from Central Bureau of Narcotics, Gwalior, to manufacture DPP HCL, had clandestinely misused the license and illegally despatched 6,450 Kg of ĎPP HĈL to a Pharma Agencies, New Delhi, deposits, it said, adding, further during the period between investigation is in progress.

bills and by mis-declaring the same as some other chemical,

"When in the wrong hands, DPP HCL can be used as a raw material to make narcotic substances. The said drug was illegally sold at Rs 3,000 per kilogram and thus the accused company had generated pro-ceeds of crime worth Rs 1,93,50,000," it said.

Accordingly, the agency traced equivalent assets in the form of Fixed Deposits of the accused company and in order to prevent their alienation before the conclusion of the trial, the ED has issued a Provisional Attachment Order

# Omicron now dominant variant of SARS-CoV-2 in country: Govt



PNS NEW DELHI

Omicron variant is the dominant variant in the country presently. Whole genome sequencing for Omicron variant is done for all RTPCR positive samples from international travellers arriving since November 28, 2021. Further,

for in-country sequencing RT-PCR positive samples having CT-value of less than 25 are referred from sentinel sites in various states regularly, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Friday.

Vaccine effectiveness of 99.3 per cent has been seen in individuals fully inoculated against coronavirus according to the data uploaded on India Covid-19 Tracker till January 2, the Minister told the Lok

Responding to a question, Mandaviya said the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has developed the India Covid-19 Vaccine

Tracker, by merging mainly three national databases --CoWIN, National Covid-19 Testing database and Covid-19 India portal.

The tracker depicts vaccine effectiveness against death -the ability of vaccines to reduce death -- using person time analysis from April 12, 2021 to January 2, 2022.

"The tracker is updated periodically and displays the effectiveness of partial and full vaccination against Covid-19.

"The latest data analysed and uploaded till January 2, 2022 depicts vaccine effectiveness of 99.3 per cent in fully vaccinated individuals against Covid-19," Mandaviya said in a written reply.

The data is analysed and presented as per the reports submitted by respective state governments.

The Government has been

supporting states in their endeavour to manage Covid-19 since the beginning of pandemic. Given the emergence of mutated variants with variable impact on transmissibility, virulence and effectiveness of vaccines, likelihood of resurgence of Covid-19 trajectory in the country is monitored by various expert committees under ICMR, Directorate General of Health Services and other relevant

Ministries/Departments, he said. The Ministry continues to keep a close watch over Covid-19 situation across the country and globally, the minister said adding that the all the States and Union Territories guiding principles for imposition of restrictions or allowing relaxation in context of coronavirus is based on Covid-19 testing confirmation rates and hospital bed occupancy rates.

# IMD predicts dense fog conditions in NW, east India for next 2 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

¬he India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday predicted dense to very dense fog with cold day conditions over northwest and east India during the next three to four days.

The minimum temperatures are expected to be below normal over most parts of northwest, central & east India. According to IMD, cold to severe cold day conditions are likely to prevail in some parts over Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and West Uttar Pradesh during the next 24 hours.

"Dense to very dense fog conditions likely in isolated/some parts in night/morning hours over

Himachal Pradesh, north Rajasthan, Bihar, Assam & Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura during next 2 days; over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal during next 3 days; over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, West Uttar Pradesh and Odisha during next 4 days and over East Uttar Pradesh during next 5 days," IMD said in its forecast on Saturday.

IMD further stated that there would be gradual rise in minimum temperatures by 3-5°C very likely over most parts of Northwest India during next 4 days and fall there-

There would not be any significant change in minimum temperatures over most parts of Central India during next 24 hours and

gradual rise by 3-5°C during subsequent 4 days," the IMD said. Widespread light to moderate

rainfall with thunderstorms is likely over northeast India, with isolated heavy rainfall over Arunachal Pradesh during the next 24 hours. Isolated to scattered light rainfall is very likely over Western Himalayan Region on February 6-7 under the influence of a feeble Western Disturbance.

Under the influence of another Western Disturbance, scattered to fairly widespread light/moderate rainfall is very likely over the Western Himalayan region on February 8-9. Isolated light rainfall is expected over northern parts of Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh on February 8-9.



THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURES ARE EXPECTED TO BE BELOW NORMAL OVER MOST PARTS OF NORTHWEST, CENTRAL & EAST INDIA. ACCORDING TO IMD, COLD TO SEVERE COLD DAY CONDITIONS ARE LIKELY TO PREVAIL IN SOME PARTS OVER UTTARAKHAND, PUNJAB, HARYANA, CHANDIGARH, DELHI

AND WEST UTTAR PRADESH

DURING THE NEXT 24 HOURS

# **US death toll from Covid-19 hits 9L**

lion deaths by April.

lungs and kidneys.

Among the dead is Susan

Glister-Berg, 53, of Sterling

Heights, Michigan, whose chil-

dren had to take her off a ven-

tilator just before Thanksgiving

after COVID-19 ravaged her

about people than she did her-

self. She always took care of

everyone," said a daughter, Hali

Fortuna. "That's how we all

describe her: She cared for

in poor health, and was appar-

ently unvaccinated, according

to her daughter. Fortuna just

I personally don't see it going away anytime soon," she said.

'I guess it's about learning to

live with it and hoping we all learn to take care of each other

Glister-Berg, a smoker, was

"We all want it to go away.

everyone. Very selfless."

got the booster herself.

"She's always cared more

 $P^{\text{ropelled in part by the wild-}}_{\text{ly contagious omicron vari-}}$ ant, the US death toll from Covid-19 hit 900,000 on Friday, less than two months after eclipsing 800,000.

The two-year total, as compiled by Johns Hopkins University, is greater than the population of Indianapolis, San Francisco, or Charlotte, North Carolina.

The milestone comes more than 13 months into a vaccination drive that has been beset by misinformation and political and legal strife, though the shots have proved safe and highly effective at preventing serious illness and death.

"It is an astronomically high number. If you had told most Americans two years ago as this pandemic was getting going that 900,000 Americans would die over the next few years, I think most people would not have believed it," said Dr. Ashish K. Jha, dean of the Brown University School of Public Health.

He lamented that most of the deaths happened after the vaccine gained authorisation. "We got the medical sci-

ence right. We failed on the social science. We failed on how to help people get vaccinated, to combat disinformation, to not politicize this," Jha



where we have failed as America?

President Joe Biden lamented the milestone in a statement Friday night, saying, "After nearly two years, I know that the emotional, physical, and psychological weight of this pandemic has been incredibly difficult to bear."

He again urged Americans to get vaccinations and boostshots. "Two hundred and fifty million Americans have stepped up to protect themselves, their families, and their communities by getting at least one shot — and we have saved more than one million American lives as a result," Biden said.

Just 64 per cent of the population is fully vaccinated, or about 212 million Americans, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Nor is COVID-19 finished

came as omicron is loosening its grip on the country.

New cases per day have plunged by almost a half-million since mid-January, when they hit a record-shattering peak of more than 800,000. Cases have been declining in 49 states in the last two weeks, by Johns Hopkins' count, and the 50th, Maine, reported that confirmed infections are falling there, too, dropping sharply over the past week.

Also, the number of Americans in the hospital with COVID-19 has declined 15 per cent since mid-January to about 124,000.

Deaths are still running high at more than 2,400 per day on average, the most since last winter. And they are on the rise in at least 35 states, reflecting the lag between when victims become infected and when they succumb.

Still, public health officials have expressed hope that the worst of omicron is coming to an end. While they caution that things could still go bad again and dangerous new variants could emerge, some places are already talking about easing precautions.

Los Angeles County may end outdoor mask requirements in a few weeks, Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer said Thursday

"Post-surge does not imply that the pandemic is over or that transmission is low, or that there will not be unpredictable waves of surges in the future," she warned.

Despite its wealth and its world-class medical institutions, the U.S. Has the highest reported toll of any country, and even then, the real number of lives lost directly or indirectly to the coronavirus is thought to be significantly higher.

Experts believe some COVID-19 deaths have been misattributed to other conditions. And some Americans are thought to have died of chronic illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes because they were unable or unwilling to obtain treatment during the crisis.

The Rev. Gina Anderson-Cloud, senior pastor of Fredericksburg United Methodist Church in Virginia, lost her dementia-stricken father after he was hospitalised for cancer surgery and then isolated in a COVID-19 ward. He went into cardiac arrest, was revived, but died about a week

She had planned to be by his bedside, but the rules barred her from going to the hospital.

"I think it's important for us not to be numbed. Each one of those numbers is someone." she said of the death toll.

# Iran welcomes US sanctions relief but says it's too little

tanced itself from the terms of

the nuclear deal with world

powers after the US pulled

out of it. Iran has demanded

the restoration of all sanctions

relief it was promised under the

deal before it returns to com-

pliance. "Good will, in our viewpoint, means that some-

'We have seen a vicious circle -

GICICI Bank | Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction

under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand

notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general

that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of

powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the

below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal

Description

Jeet Plaza Flat No B2. Plot No 1 1st Floor Northen Side

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per

with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

confrontation, condemnation, sanc-

tions, and then coming back to con-

demnation, confrontation and sanctions

again," Zhang said. "So, what will be the

Iran's Foreign Minister on Saturday welcomed US sanctions relief intended to entice Iran back to the 2015 nuclear deal, but called it insufficient.

On Friday, the Biden administration restored some sanctions relief to Iran's atomic program as world powers and the Islamic Republic continue talks aimed at salvaging the languishing agreement.

"Lifting some sanctions in a real and objective manner could be interpreted as the good will that Americans talk about," Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian told

However, he said the move "is not sufficient."

Secretary of State Antony Blinken signed several sanctions waivers related to Iran's civilian nuclear activities. The move reverses the Trump administration's decision to rescind them. It comes as US negotiators return to Vienna for what could be a make-orbreak session.

The waivers are ultimately intended to attract Iran back to the 2015 deal that it has been violating since former President Donald Trump withdrew from the agreement in

thing tangible happens on the ground," Amirabdollahian said. 2018 and re-imposed US sanc-

In the short term, the Foreign waivers will exempt foreign spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh countries and companies that on Saturday also called the US work in Iran's civilian nuclear sanctions relief insufficient, sector from American penalsaying Tehran expects the liftties. The Trump administration ing of sanctions outlined under rescinded them in May 2020. nuclear deal. Iran has gradually dis-

"Everyone knows that is not sufficient," Khatibzadeh was quoted as saying by the Iranian Jamaran news web-

"Indeed, the Islamic Republic of Iran is waiting for the US to implement its duties and commitments according to the nuclear deal dimensions.

He said that's why China and Russia tabled a draft U.N. Security

Council resolution in November that

would lift some sanctions against North

lution will solve all the problems,"

Zhang said. "But then, at least we are

doing something in facilitating the

further improvement and avoiding the

should respond to the nine missile

launches by the DPRK in January -- the

most ever -- the Chinese ambassador

said council members are still consult-

keep the situation under control and

avoiding the escalation, the further esca-

lation, the out-of-control of the situa-

tion and avoiding going back to a vicious circle," he said. "That's the

point." Zhang said the answer lies in

Date of Demand

20,95,544/-

Notice (Rs.)

July 23, 2021 Delhi/

the hands of the United States.

"The question is in what way we can

Asked whether the Security Council

escalation of the tension."

"We do not think that draft reso-

# Macron's Govt seeks to give Islam a French makeover

**AP** ■ NICE (FRANCE)

The French Government on Saturday forged ahead with efforts to reshape Islam in France and rid it of extremism, introducing a new body made up of clergy and laymen - and women — to help lead the largest Muslim community in western Europe. With France bloodied by

past Islamic extremist attacks, having hundreds of citizens who went to fight with jihadists in Syria in past years and thousands of French troops now fighting extremists in Africa, few disagree that radicalisation is a danger.

But critics also see the efforts as a political ploy to lure right-wing voters to President Emmanuel Macron's centrist party ahead of April's presidential election.

The new body, called the Forum of Islam in France, is the French Interior Ministry. Supporters say it will keep the country - and its 5 million Muslims — safe and free of foreign influence, and ensure that Muslim practices in France adhere to the country's cherished value of secularism in public life.

Its critics, including many Muslims who consider the reli-

**AP** ■ WASHINGTON

The military investigation into the deadly attack dur-

ing the Afghanistan evacuation

has concluded that a suicide

bomber, carrying 20 pounds of

explosives packed with ball

bearings, acted alone, and that the deaths of more than 170

Afghans and 13 U.S. Service

members were not preventable. The blast at Abbey Gate

outside the Kabul airport on

Aug. 26 killed 11 U.S. Marines,

a sailor and a soldier, who were

ing to get onto one of the crowded flights leaving the

country after the Taliban

takeover. The Islamic State

group claimed responsibility

military officials laid out a

detailed and graphic minute-

by-minute account of the

bombing. The bottom line,

they said, was that those who

died had wounds that were "so

catastrophic" that they could-

n't be overcome. And they

said that earlier thoughts that

it was a complex attack involving gunfire turned out to be

killed at least 170 Afghan civil-

Servicemembers by explosive-

ly directing ball bearings

and

"A single, explosive device

At the Pentagon on Friday,

for the attack.

unfounded.

of Afghans frantically try

screening the thousands



gion a part of their French identity, say the government's latest initiative is another step in an institutionalised discrimination process that holds the whole community responsible for violent attacks of a few and serves as another barrier in their public lives.

The new body will include imams, influential figures from civil society, prominent intel-lectuals and business leaders. All of its members are handpicked by the government, and women will make up at least a quarter of its members, accord-

It replaces the French Council of Muslim Faith, a group set up in 2003 by former President Nicolas Sarkozy, then interior minister. The Council served as an interlocutor between the government and religious leaders. It is being dissolved this month by Macron's government because, according to Interior Minister Gerald

Pentagon: Deadly Afghan airport

through a packed crowd and

into our men and women at

Abbey gate," said Gen. Frank

McKenzie, head of U.S. Central

this device was confirmed by

the 58 U.S. Servicemembers

who were killed and wounded

despite the universal wear of

body armor and helmets that

did stop ball bearings that

impacted them, but could not

prevent catastrophic injuries to

bomber likely got near the

gate by bypassing Taliban and

other security checkpoints.

They said it appears the Taliban

didn't know of the attack, that

security precautions were being

taken and that intelligence

about potential threats that

was circulating that day was not

gation, at the tactical level this

was not preventable," said Brig.

Gen. Lance Curtis, who led the

"Based upon our investi-

Investigators said the

areas not covered."

'The disturbing lethality of

Command.

attack was not preventable

Darmanin, it was no longer ful-filling its role in the Muslim community and French society as it was reeling from attacks in recent years that killed hun-

"We want to launch a revolution by putting an end to (foreign influence) on Islam," Darmanin said in a recent interview with Le Parisien daily. "Islam is not a religion of foreigners in France, but a French religion that should not depend on foreign money and any authorities abroad."

In his project, Macron envisions measures like training imams in France instead of bringing them in from Turkey, Morocco or Algeria — a plan many in the Muslim community approve of. Muslims are divided over

the project. Some believers visiting the Grand Mosque of Paris for Friday prayers cautiously welcomed the idea too far in trying to control their faith, or say that the govern ment has singled out Islamic institutions but would not dare suggesting such changes to Christian ones.

Muslims in France have long complained of stigmatism in daily life, from being singled out by police for ID checks to discrimination in job searches.

investigation. He added that

military leaders on the ground

in Kabul followed proper secu-

rity measures, at times closing

the gate or pausing the pro-

gunfire after the blast was

found to be warning shots

fired by U.S. And British

troops, and that no one was

killed or wounded by gunshots.

gation revealed that the ball

bearings caused wounds that

looked like gunshots. He said

some troops in the area fired a

number of warning shots, and

that led others to believe that

said all along that the U.S.

Forces at the gates were doing

a dangerous job. Overall the

U.S.-led coalition evacuated

about 126,000 people in about

three weeks, and the U.S. Left

Afghanistan for the last time at

about midnight on Aug 30.

U.S. Military officials have

the attack also included gun-

McKenzie said the investi-

Military officials said that

cessing of evacuees.

# China says US should do more to reduce N-Korea tensions

**AP** UNITED NATIONS

hina's U.N. Ambassador said Friday the United States should come up with "more attractive and more practical" policies and actions to reduce tensions with North Korea and avoid a return to the "vicious circle" of confrontation, condemnation and sanctions over its nuclear and ballistic missile pro-Zhang Jun said the solution lies in

direct dialogue, and if the Biden administration wants to see a breakthrough "they should show more sincerity and flexibility." He told reporters before heading

into closed consultations of the U.N. Security Council called by the United States following North Korea's most recent test of an intermediate-range ballistic missile capable of reaching the American territory of Guam that "what I see is the key in solving this issue is already in the hands of the United

Asked what else the United States should do since it has already said it is prepared to talk with North Korea, the Chinese ambassador pointed to talks between former U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korea's "We have seen the suspension of

the nuclear test, we have seen the suspension of the launch of intercontinental ballistic missiles" by the avoid further escalation



Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the country's official name, he said. "And then what has been done by the

Zhang said the Biden administration should be asked "in what way they can accommodate the concerns of

Whereas

the date of receipt of the said notice.

Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number

Kaushik Das Gupta/

DPRK ... To really bring tension down and then to SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE put things under con-

The Chinese ambassador called this "a critical moment" and said all including Security members "should stay prudent in words and actions" and

Advertisement for appointment of one Junior Cyber Forensic Consultant under the project Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC)

- 1. Name of post: Junior Cyber Forensic Consultant.
- 2. Number of post: 1 (one).
- 3. Salary: 1 Lakh per month.
- 4. Maximum age limit (as on the date of
- The interested candidate may download the Eligibility Criteria, Scope of Service and Terms and Condition etc. from the Assam Police Website.

appointment): Not more than 45 years.

6. The application should be submitted to the office of the ADGP, CID, Assam, Ulubari, Guwahati-781007 on or before 17/02/2022 up to 1700 hrs.

Janasanyog/D/15047/21

Sperintendent of Police, CID, Assam. Ulubari. Guwahati

#### Notice Inviting e-Tender No.SSA/Equity/Procurement (Sanitary Napkin)/366/2021/8778 Date: 04.02.2022

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Shiksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed manufacturer of Sanitary Pad Vending Machine and Sanitary Napkin Incinerator Machine / Authorized Dealer of manufacturer for supply of Sanitary Napkin Vending Machines and Sanitary Napkin Incinerator Machine.

To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves. The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website https://assamtenders.gov.in, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule

Janasanyog/CF/3213/21

Sd/-Mission Director SSA, Assam Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

(As per the judgement dated 25th. September 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of Candidate: Daljit Singh, H.No.14195, Guru Gobind Singh Nagar, Tibba Road, Ludhiana

Name of Political Party: Aam Admi Party Name of Election :...Vidhan Sabha (2022)...

\*Name of Constituency: 060 Ludhiana East

Debjani Dasgupta/ LBDEL00003105385 Premises No 1374 Maduradha Calcutta Adme an area of 1400 Sq Feet/ February 04, 2022

the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

mentioned election, declare for public information the following details

OI.	21. 1 chaing of himmar cases				
No.	Name of Court	7 75	Status of Cases	Section(s) of Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)	
1.	Presently not in court under Inquiry	FIR No. 183/ 22.10.2019	Under Enqiury/ Challan Not Present	336/323/307/506/148/149/188 IPC (False Case Attempt to Murder with Weapon)	
2.	Sh. Sumit Makkar CJM, LDH.	CHI/575/ 2017	Consideration	323/353/334/354/427/186/188/ 148/149 IPC (False Case of Physical Assault)	
3.	Sh. Varun- -deep Chopra JMIC, LDH.	2021	Notice	186/353 IPC (False Case of Violation of Govt. Norms)	

ı	(D)	Detail about cases of conviction for criminal offences.					
ı	SI.	SI. Pending Criminal Cases		Cases	Details about cases of conviction		
١	No.	O			for criminal offences		
I		Name of Court	Case No. and Date	Status of Cases	Description of offence (s) & Punishment imposed		
	1.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.		

#### Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited Format C-1 DECLARATION ABOUNT CRIMINAL CASES

I. Daljit Singh Grewal. (name of candidate), a candidate for the above about my criminal antecedents:

SI.	A. Pending Criminal Cases			
No.	Name of Court		Status of Cases	Section(s) of Acts concerned of brief description of offence(s)
1.	Presently not in court under Inquiry		Under Enqiury/ Challan Not Present	336/323/307/506/148/149/188 IPC (False Case Attempt to Murder wi Weapon)
2.	Sh. Sumit Makkar CJM, LDH.	CHI/575/ 2017	Consideration	323/353/334/354/427/186/188/ 148/149 IPC (False Case of Physical Assault)
3.	Sh. Varun- -deep Chopra	CHI/17215/ 2021	Notice	186/353 IPC (False Case of Violation of Govt. Norms)

# FM exhorts India Inc to open up their purse for sustained growth

Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday exhorted India Inc to take advantage of announcements made in Budget and "quickly" step up capex so that the virtuous cycle of investment gathers momentum.

Addressing members of CII, she said increase in capex in the Budget was done with twin objectives of supporting sustained growth and crowd in private investment.

She asserted that this is the right time for investment and industry should not lose this

"Post the pandemic with all the reshuffling happening, reset happening in the ways in which you do your business and also with that step of October 2019 in which that one condition was please start reducing by March 2023 is also now extended by one more year," she said.

The Budget 2022-23 presented on February 1 proposed that the concessional 15 per cent corporate tax rate would be available for one more year till March 2024 for newly incorporated manufacturing units.

The Government in September 2019 slashed corporate tax rate for companies that do not avail of any tax incentive, to 22 per cent. New manufacturing companies have to pay at an even lower corporate tax rate of 15 per cent.

The Government slashed corporate tax rate to provide to ramp up investment which was muted for last few years. However, this got further aggravated with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stressing that many sectors have been opened up, she said, there are immense opportunities in the sunrise sectors and New Age sectors like bulk drugs vaccines, and genome.

"Do sit back and calmly take a call. India needs all the expansion in capacity and it is that which is going to kick off the virtuous cycle.

"I would just want to green flag those areas before you and call upon the industry to quickly join and help the virtuous cycle to gain traction. The government has not given up its investment in infrastructure and that's going to have a bearing on the core industries directly and soon," she said.

The government has hiked public investment by as much as 35.4 per cent to ₹7.5 lakh crore or 2.9 per cent of the GDP in the Budget 2023-24.

She urged industry not to lose this opportunity for India to reach a higher level of industrialization and manufacturing in India. The global arena is getting opened up where global value chains are not going to be concentrated in one geography but are relocating to countries with rule of law and English speaking people.

"India fits into that very

advantage of this global shift,' she added.

Speaking on the issue of rural distress, she said, that the same was being addressed in multiple ways. The budget has enabled access to tractors and other farm equipment through rentals as well as making cred-

The government has ensured availability of nutrients and fertilisers at affordable prices, despite the increase in global prices, she said, adding, multiple welfare schemes have provided support for housing, cooking gas, electricity, health-

## Budget 2023 more directional with long-term growth: Goyal

Mumbai: Stating that the budget 2023 is more directional with a quarter of a century of sustained growth in mind, Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday sought to deflect criticism in certain quarters that the government focused more on the supply-side than on growth-boosting demand side of the

On February 1, the government presented a budget with no tax increases and thus no new revenue generation measures but chose to do record borrowings to fund a budgeted 35 per cent increased capital investment at ₹ 7.5 lakh crore and also offered an additional ₹ 1 lakh crore to the states for capital investment in interest-free loans. Together with the states,

the overall capital expenditure



high of Rs 10.5 lakh crore.

This will have the government borrowing hitting a historic high with gross borrowing at ₹14.95 lakh crore and net borrowing of ₹11.6 lakh

Demand has been the biggest missing link in the economy even before the pandemic hit the nation and scuppered the last strain of demand as those who had money chose to save and not splurge while tens of millions became

# If cos have views on Chairperson, MD posts separation, Sebi should hear them: FM



New Delhi: As Sebi plans to implement norms for separation of posts of Chairperson and MD of listed companies, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the regulator should also hear if Indian companies have a view on the matter even as she made it clear that she was not "giving a diktat".

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has asked listed entities to split the roles of chairperson and managing director before the April 2022 deadline. It is to be noted that financial sector regu-

lator Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has implemented this in the banking sector a few years Listed entities were initially required to separate the roles of chairperson and MD/CEO from April 1, 2020 onwards. However, based on industry representations, an additional time period of two years was given for compli-

On issue of split of CMD position, Sitharaman said, "I had reviewed it with Sebi. Some good number of companies has followed it...This norm was brought in by Sebi four years It was one of the global best practices and introduced with the aim of moving towards best practices so that companies are profes-

"But I do agree that the way Indian companies are run and built over the decade and over century also depends so much on the family and related members being on the board.

"So, I am of the view that Sebi- which is an independent regulator...I am not giving them diktat — I am voicing my view— I think if Indian companies have a view then Sebi should also hear them. I will leave it there and I hope that it indicates where I am coming from. This should be giving you some breath of fresh air and moment to heave a sigh of relief. So let's see and I will leave it there," she said.

At the end of December 2020, 53 per cent of the top 500 listed entities had complied with Currently, many companies have merged the two posts as CMD (chairman-cum-managing director), leading to some overlapping of the board and management, which could lead to conflict of interest and consequently the regulator in May 2018, came out with its norms to split the post.

The norms were part of the series of recommendations given by the Sebi-appointed Uday Kotak committee on corporate gover-

On the scrappage policy, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said, there should be some concrete action on that in the next few months.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August 2021 launched the national vehicle scrappage policy and had said it will help phase out unfit and polluting vehicles and also promote a circular econ-

Amazon India to support women turn into entrepreneurs via K'taka Livelihood Society

Bengaluru: Amazon India on Saturday said the company has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS) to support the growth of women entrepreneurs.

The MoU was signed and

exchanged in the presence of Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Minister of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood CN Ashwath Narayan. Amazon India would launch Sanjeevini-KSRLPS in its marketplace and extend benefits of the 'Saheli programme to train and empower thousands of women entrepreneurs to come online and access a wider market for their products, the company said in a press release.

This association would help bring in regional selection and unique products from categories like grocery, home and fashion accessories made by over 30,000 women entrepreneurs and self-help groups (SHGs) associated with Sanjeevini-KSRLPS online and make them available to millions of Amazon customers across the country, the release said. Amazon said Saheli offers extensive training and skill develop-ment workshops for its partners to help women entrepreneurs associated with them understand the nuances of online selling and develop skills and capabilities necessary to grow their business on Amazon.In.

## Will raise money from small investors for road projs; not interested in foreign investment: Gadkari

Mumbai: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday said the money from foreign investors to build infrastructure projects like roads, and instead mobilise funds from small investors willing to put Rs 1 lakh for an assured return of 8 per cent per

The minister said a Rs 8,000-crore project to build road over bridges over railway crossings in towns and cities is also under the works, but the announcement will be made after the budget. Gadkari said his depart-

ment does works of over Rs 5 lakh crore a year and added that foreign investors are now making a beeline to invest in Indian road projects but clearly stated a lack of interest on his side to the rich (more) richer, but will collect money from farmers, farm labourers, constables, clerks and government employees," Gadkari said, addressing an event organised by Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture here.

Gadkari said the plan involves a minimum investment of Rs 1 lakh from every small investor which will be for a specified road project and assured a return of 8 per cent per annum with sovereign guarantee as against a 4.5-5 per cent earned on bank deposits.

The investment proposal is pending with capital markets regulator Sebi and once their nod is received, the same will be launched, Gadkari said.

He said over the years, many foreign investors like Australia's Macquarie or Canadian pensioners have invested in India but now, it is essential for us to mobilise funds by ourselves.



Recalling an instance where a foreign investor had declined to invest in a Rs 1,500 crore masala bond roadshow a few years ago, the Union minister said now the same entities are making a beeline for investments and added that a few days ago an investor approached him offering to invest up to Rs 5,000 crore.

"I usually give them (forthank you," the Union minister Gadkari said the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is raising loans at very competitive rates of 5.75 or 5.85 per cent at present and has two banks competing with offers of Rs 25,000 crore loans at present.

The minister listed a slew of projects which are being executed - including the Delhi-Mumbai access controlled expressway which will be open for traffic in a year - and asserted that he does not see a crunch for funds in the foreseeable future.

The Delhi-Mumbai expressway will be extended to the nearby INPT, the country's largest container port, as well and a Rs 660-crore multi-tier intersection is being planned in Panvel, he said. The projects being carried out will reduce distances, travel time, pollution and also fuel, and help the economy, he said.

Gadkari said fuel alternatives

like ethanol, liquefied natural gas, green hydrogen need to be used the most for saving forex on crude, curbing pollution and also helping domestic industry and sugar growers.

Probably referring to the corporate group Essar's interests, Gadkari said a brother of Prashant Ruia showed him two trucks running on LNG in Nagpur a few days ago, which on the running costs after fitting a LNG kit costing Rs 8 lakh and its cost can be recovered in

Admitting to lower calorific value of ethanol being low, Gadkari said a team of Russian scientists who have created a part to increase the efficiency are in India at present and met Petroleum Secretary and Indian Oil Corporation chairman before visiting facilities in Faridabad.

Gadkari said he has planned a logistics park in Sangli which has a concrete road with industrial infrastructure on either sides. The road will allow for landing of aircraft, and as a result, the logistics costs will reduce for the users, he said.

The minister said Japanese auto major Toyota has sent a car running on green hydrogen, which is extracted from water. but he has not been able to take it out because there is no green bydrogen. PTI

# development programme approved for continuation

New Delhi: The commerce and industry ministry on Saturday said Índian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) has been approved for continuation with a financial outlay of Rs 1,700

IFLDP has been approved by the cabinet on January 19 for continuation till March 31, 2026, or till further review, whichever is earlier, it said in The proa statement. gramme aims at development of infrastructure for the leather sector, address environmental concerns specific to the leather sector, facilitate additional investments, employment generation and increase in production.

under the programme include sustainable technology and environmental promotion; integrated development of leather sector (IDLS); establishment of institutional facilities; Mega Leather Footwear and Accessories Cluster Development; brand promotion; and development of

sionally run, she said.

It added that development of design studios (proposed outlay Rs 100 crore) is a new sub-scheme and it would promote marketing/export linkages, facilitate buyer- seller meets, display designs to international buyers and work as interface for the trade fairs. Under the IDLS, with a proposed outlay Rs 500 crore, assistance would be provided to the sectoral units for their modernization/capacity expansion/technology up-gradation on or after January 1, 2020.

It added that under brand promotion, the government would provide 50 per cent assistance of total project cost subject to a limit of Rs 10 three years to promote ten Indian brands in the international market.

The designated agency to implement the sub-scheme is being proposed to be selected amongst institutes like NID, NIFT, IBEF, IIFT or institutes of similar standing," it said.



# DPIIT: Indian footwear, leather SBI Q3 profit jumps 62 pc to ₹8,432 cr on lower provisions accruals will be sufficient to

Mumbai: The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday reported 62.27 per cent jump in standalone net profit at ₹8,432 crore for the quarter ended December 2021, helped by lower provisions.

This is the highest ever quarterly profit reported by the SBI had posted a stand-

alone net profit of ₹5,196 crore in the same period of 2020-21. Chairman Dinesh Khara said the bank has delivered consistently improving outcomes in the business, profitability and asset quality para-

"We have a decent interest income. Treasury income has been a bit of an issue but income we have seen a good trend and also lower provisions because of the better asset quality," Khara told reporters.

It has created sufficient contingency provisions against the restructured book to insulate the balance sheet from any future shocks arising out of

During the quarter, the bank made an additional provision of ₹1,700 crore as a prudent measure, he said. Net interest income (NII)

increased 6.48 per cent to Rs 30,687 crore in the quarter. Domestic net interest margin (NIM) improved to 3.40

per cent as against 3.34 per cent in the year-ago period. Gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio reduced to 4.50 per cent from 4.77 per cent. Net

NPA ratio stood at 1.34 per

cent as against 1.23 per cent. 'We don't have any challenge on the asset quality front. We have adequately insulated our balance sheet from any



future shocks also," Khara said.

Slippage ratio for the quarter was at 0.37 per cent and credit cost stood at 0.49 per cent. Fresh slippages in the quarter were at ₹2,334 crore. Recovery and upgradation stood at ₹2,306 crore as against ₹5,657 crore in the year-ago "While the elevated level

of slippages in the first quarter exceptional circumstances, we have been able to pull back a significant amount of those slippages which indicate that our long-term strategy for maintaining asset quality through quality credit underwriting using analytics for early warning signals and focus on collections have now started delivering consistent results," Khara added.

The bank's restructuring under COVID resolution plan-1.0 and 2.0 stood at ₹32,895 crore, which is 1.2 per cent of the loan book. Provision coverage ratio (PCR) as at December-end quarter stood at 88.32 per cent.

Total provisions declined to Rs 10,090 crore from ₹12,137 crore in the year-ago period, as per the analyst presentation uploaded on the exchanges.

Capital adequacy ratio as at the end of December quarter was at 13.23 per cent. "We expect that our internal

cent to ₹26,64,602 crore. Domestic advances growth stood at 6.47 per cent year-onyear (YoY), driven by growth in personal retail advances (14.57 per cent). Home loan, which constitutes around 24 per cent of the bank's domestic advances, rose 11.15 per cent. Growth in the corporate

take care of the normal growth

Gross advances grew 8.47 per

requirement," Khara said.

and SME segment also picked up during the third

"As far as the corporate side is concerned, I would like to mention that there is a definite improvement in terms of the utilisation of limits. As compared to September 2021, come down from 52 per cent (working capital) to about 43 per cent now," he said.

Even in term loans, the undisbursed portion has come down on a year-on-year basis, from about 23 per cent in December 2020 to about 22 per cent now. This is a clear sign of the better utilisation of sanctioned limits, he said.

Khara said the bank has got an unutilised portion in the corporate credit of about ₹ 2.06 lakh crore for working capital and ₹1.99 lakh crore in term

loans.
"The trend we have seen in the month of January is that we have seen a growth of ₹50,000 crore in advances. I am quite confident that going forward we will have a decent growth in corporate credit and I do not envisage any challenge on this," he said.

Bank's credit growth is likely to be at 9 per cent by the end of the current fiscal year, Khara said.

# BoB Q3 net doubles to ₹2,197 cr; NII surges 14 pc

(BoB) standalone profit after tax (PAT) doubled to ₹2,197 crore in the quarter ended in December aided by healthy growth in net interest income (NII) and on lower provisions.

This compares with a standalone PAT of ₹ 1,061 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal. has been driven by NII, which is up double-digit. NII was up despite the fact that we had a challenging environment in terms of growth. Most of the contribution to the high NII has come from the improvement in margins. Along with NII, fee income has also grown," the bank's Managing Director and CEO Sanjiv Chadha told

NII surged by 14.38 per cent to ₹8,552 crore in Q3FY22 as against ₹7,477 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal. Fee income increased by 15.50 per cent to ₹1,557 crore from ₹ 1,342 core. Net interest margins improved to 3.13 per cent from 2.77 Gross non-performing

asset (GNPA) ratio declined to 7.25 per cent from 8.48 per cent and net NPA reduced to 2.25 per cent from 2.39 per

"We believe that this improvement (in asset quality) is likely to continue particularly because the challenges that came from Covid are largely behind us. Therefore, the improvement which we are seeing in the credit cycle should manifest itself more decisively in our GNPA and NNPA figures, going forward," Chadha

Fresh slippages in the quarter stood at ₹2,830 crore. It recovered Rs 2,032 crore and upgraded ₹1,272 crore of loans in the third quarter. The bank wrote of ₹ 3,694 crore of bad loans compared to Rs 4,708 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal. Total provisions declined by 27.36 per cent to ₹2,506 crore from ₹3,450 crore last year in the same quarter. "During this quarter, we had a significant write back in a government

guaranteed account. We have tried to

use that write back for some advanced provisioning, which is over and above what is required as per the RBI norms," Chadha said without naming the

Provision coverage ratio (PCR) of the bank stood at 85.95 per cent including technically written off accounts (TWO) and 70.60 per cent excluding TWO in Q3FY22.

The lender's capital adequa-

cy ratio (CRAR) improved to 15.47 per cent in the quarter from 12.93 per cent in the same quarter of the previous fis-Tier-I stood at 13.24 per cent

(CET-1 at 11.30 per cent, AT1 at 1.94 per cent) and tier-II stood at 2.23 per cent as of December 2021. Domestic advances increased by 3.36 per cent y-o-y to ₹6,54,315 crore. Total deposits increased by 2.46 per cent to ₹9,78,034 crore, according to the investor presentation uploaded on the exchanges. The bank is looking at a loan growth of 7-10 per cent in the current fiscal.

## IndusInd Bank moves NCLT to initiate insolvency | LIC offers opportunity proceedings against Zee Entertainment

New Delhi: Private sector lender IndusInd Bank has filed a plea before NCLT to initiate insolvency proceedings against Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL).

IndusInd Bank, in its plea before the Mumbai bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has claimed a default of ₹83.08 crore against the media and entertainment firm, ZEEL said in a late evening regulatory updates on Friday.

"An application has been filed... By IndusInd Bank Ltd, claiming to be a Financial Creditor, before the NCLT, Mumbai for initiation of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) against the company, claiming a default of ₹83.08 crore," it said. The application has been filed under

Section 7 of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC), said ZEEL. Section 7 of IBC, a financial creditor may move NCLT for initiation of CIRP over default of ₹1 crore and above. While sharing the details, ZEEL said it is party to the Debt Service Reserve Account Guarantee Agreement (DSRA Guarantee Agreement)

entered into with IndusInd Bank for the term-loan facility advanced to another Essel Group firm, Siti Networks Ltd. Siti Networks, formerly known as Wire and Wireless Ltd, is a multi-system operator promoted by media baron Subhash Chandra-led Essél Group. According to ZEEL, "the issue of the company's alleged default under the DSRA Guarantee Agreement, is sub-judice before the Delhi High Court in a suit filed by the company against IndusInd Bank.

"Filing of the said CIRP Application is in breach of the order dated 25th February 2021 as modified by the order of December 3, 2021 passed in the said suit," it said adding the company will therefore be adopting appropriate legal steps in that regard.

On December 22 last year, ZEEL announced its merger with Sony Pictures Networks India Pvt Ltd (SPNI) after signing definitive agreements. As per the deal, Sony would invest USD 1.575 billion and hold 52.93 per cent stake in the merged entity and Zee will have the remaining 47.07

# for policyholders to revive lapsed policies

Mumbai: IPO-bound Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a campaign for revival of individual lapsed policies. Policies, which are in a lapsed condition during the premium paying term and not completed policy term, are eligible to be revived in this campaign, which will begin from February 7 and on March 25, 2022, a press release said on Saturday.

While the current Covid-19 pandemic scenario has emphasised the need for mortality protection, this campaign is a good opportunity for LIC's policyholders to revive their policies, restore life cover and ensure financial security for their family," the state-run insurer said in the release.

It said that concessions are being offered in late fee for other than term assurance and high risk plans, depending on the total premiums paid. There are no concessions on medical requirements. Eligible health and micro insurance plans also qualify for the concession in late fee, the release

# INDIA LOOK FOR 'FRESH ODI TEMPLATE' IN ROHIT-DRAVID ERA

ohit Sharma's presence as the new leader, with a fresh template to arrest the familiar 'middle-order muddle', is exactly what the Indian team needs while ushering in a new era, which will begin with the ODI series against the West Indies, beginning here on

After a rude reality check against a weak South African side in the away series, India are now back in familiar settings with a new ODI captain in Rohit, who will team up with illustrious Rahul Dravid and strive to get India back to winning ways.

The series-opener is the historic 1000th ODI for India, who would like to begin their preparations for the 2023 World Cup after failing to win the coveted trophy in 2015 and 2019, and the team will indeed look at a paradigm

shift in strategy.

The 'Rohit-Dravid' duo over the course of the next few months will underline the 'Men in Blue's' philosophy in the 50-over format after it became clear that some rejigging is needed as a part of course correction.

Sunday would be the perfect platform to focus on setting their struggling middle-order right.

Firstly, skipper Rohit, one of the finest white-ball exponents, will have to lead from the front.

With KL Rahul unavailable in With KL Rahul unavailable in the first game, and other specialist openers Shikhar Dhawan and Ruturaj Gaikwad both testing COVID-19 positive, it will be Ishan Kishan who would be opening the batting with the skipper.

"Ishan Kishan is the only option we have and he will open with me." Rohit said on the eye of

with me," Rohit said on the eve of the series-opener.

"Mayank (Agarwal) was added to the squad and he is still in iso-He came (joined) late and we

have some rules in place. If someone is travelling, we have to put them in (mandatory 3-day) quar-

He has still not finished his quarantine, so Ishan will open the innings," elaborated Rohit.

Rohit on his day can take any attack to cleaners and the West Indies', rather inexperienced one, would be no exception and ditto for Kishan.

In the series against South



Africa, save Rishabh Pant's knock occasions and the need of the able for the series, there is a in the second game, the middle- hour is to have impactful players chance for aggressive Suryakumar order crumbled on all the three in it. With Shreyas Iyer not avail- Yadav and equally formidable

\_ive from 1:30pm IS7 STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

Deepak Hooda, who has had a decent outing in the last Vijay Hazare Trophy, to impress the national selectors.

Apart from two, a lot will depend on how Virat Kohli per-

India had tried rookie
Venkatesh Iyer in an unfamiliar
middle-order position in South
Africa, but the experiment didn't

In terms of bowling, left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, is back to the ODI squad, and would most probably be in the playing XI along with his seasoned partner Yuzvendra Chahal.

The 27-year-old Kuldeep played his last ODI against Sri Lanka in July 2021, and recently recovered after undergoing a

But the team management has included young Jodhpur-born googly bowler Ravi Bishnoi in the squad, and it would be interesting to see if he gets a game right away.

In the absence of key pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed

bowling unit is expected to be led by 'Palghar Express' Shardul Thakur, who shone in the Johannesburg Test against South

Africa.

It is the best chance for Thakur, whose prowess with the bat was on display in the ODI series against the Proteas, to cement his place in the side.

Also, along with him, the series provides a chance for young bowlers like Mohammed Siraj, Deepak Chahar, Prasidh Krishna and Awesh Khan to step up and and Avesh Khan to step up and stake a permanent claim with two years left for the World Cup. Meanwhile, West Indies would

come into the context after their confidence boosting T20 series win over England, although the format is entirely different. The team from the Caribbean

possess a power-hitter Nicholas Pooran, who can turn the game on its head. He would also look to impress the franchises before the

He would however need suport from others.

Also, the role of skipper Kieron Pollard and experienced all-rounder Jason Holder could be the difference on a day.

### Chris Cairns diagnosed with bowel cancer



PTI CHRISTCHURCH

Already coping with a host Of health issues, former New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns on Saturday revealed that he has been diagnosed with bowel cancer. The 51-year-old had

undergone four open heart surgeries but was left paralysed by a spinal stroke on the operating table five months ago. He was living in the University of Canberra hospital in a special rehabilitation facility.

"Another fight ahead but here's hoping this one is a swift upper cut and over in the first round," Cairns, who played 62 Tests and 215 ODIs for New Zealand between 1989 to 2006, said on social media. "I was told yesterday I have bowel cancer... Big

shock and not what I was expecting. "So, as I prepare for another round of conversations with surgeons and specialists, I keep remembering how lucky I am to be here in the first place," he said.

The Canberra-based Cairns suffered an aortic dissection -- an often fatal rare heart condition -in August and was on life support and required urgent heart surgeries last September.

However, during the operation Cairns suffered a stroke which left him paralysed in both legs.

# Australia claim 3rd place in ICC Under 19 WC

PTI OSBOURN (ANTIGUA)

A fine all-round performance from Nivethan Radhakrishnan fired Australia to third place in the ICC Under 19 World Cup with a two-wicket win over Afghanistan.

The ambidextrous all-rounder took three for 31 to limit Afghanistan to 201 all out batting first, before notching a half-century in the chase. Australia were made to sweat but eventually snuck home with five balls to Afghanistan, hoping to better their

previous best result in this tournament fourth in 2018, won the toss and elected to bat at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua and Barbuda.

However two early wickets for William Salzmann (3-43), removing Nangeyalia Kharote and Allah Noor, reduced Afghanistan to 15 for two.

Mohammad Ishaq (34) and skip-per Suliman Shafi (37) started to rebuild, adding 70 before the former was run out by Salzmann, the latter three balls later to Radhakrishnan.

Ijaz Ahmad Ahmadzai took up the baton, making 81 as wickets continued



to tumble around him, before becoming the ninth man to fall as Salzmann's final victim with the score on 201.

Skipper Cooper Connolly (2-30) finished off the innings with his second wicket in the final over, leaving Australia with a manageable chase as

Chennaiyin FC and Mumbai City FC will be eager to bag all

three points on offer after a few

underwhelming outings when

they lock horns in the Indian

Super League here on Sunday.

seventh in the points

table, threw away a

two-goal advantage

against a struggling

SC East Bengal in

their last outing,

settling for a point

and missing on a chance to reach top-

Mumbai City FC are in the same boat,

enduring a seven-game

winless run and sitting

Chennaiyin, current-

they were set 202 to win.

He and Kellaway added another 60 before a little wobble as Noor Ahmad removed both Kellaway and Connolly in quick succession.

Higgins joined Isaac Radhakrishnan, scoring 11 in a 40-run

when he takes on his former

side. Chhangte joined

Mumbai from Chennaiyin

in the January transfer

window and came on a

substitute in the second

half against ATK Mohun

head

Bagan to mark his

Chennaiyin

Bozidar

Bandovic

will hope

marksman

Nerijuas Valskis can

find his scoring boots on his 50th

ISL appearance. If

Chennaivin win, it will

also be their 50th win

coach

#### **ICC UNDER 19 MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP 2022 PLACINGS**

VOILLD	COI ZUZZ I LACINUS
3	Australia
4	Afghanistan
5	Pakistan
6	Sri Lanka
7	South Africa
8	Bangladesh
9	United Arab Emirates
10	Ireland
11	West Indies
12	Zimbabwe
13	Uganda
14	Scotland
15	Canada
16	PNG.
•••••	

partnership, but when both were dismissed with 35 still required, a few

nerves started to appear.

Lachlan Shaw (13) and Corey Miller (13) then added 26 to take Australia to the brink before three quick wickets gave Afghanistan hope.

They took it to the final over, but Joshua Garner (four not out) held his nerve to see Australia home

both of which came against FC Goa

centration in the defensive set-piece.

play against one of the best teams.

need to be focused and try to dom-

is the need of the hour. After their 1-

1 draw against ATK Mohun Bagan,

the defending champions are in

their joint longest winless run in ISL,

having not won in any of their last

to click along with their porous defence which has now conceded 22

last few games, I am very happy.

The Islanders' attack is struggling

"The way we have played in the

inate the game," Bandovic said.

"We need to keep our full con-

We need to mark well. Now we

They have strong players. We

For Mumbai, an upturn in form

in a single game.

# Out! Langer quits as Australian men's

# cricket coach **AP** ■ MELBOURNE

 $F^{\text{aced with months of complaints by senior}}_{\text{players over his rigid coaching style and more}}$ recently by an uncompromising Cricket Australia board of directors, Justin Langer resigned as head coach of the Australian men's cricket team on Saturday.

statement from Langer's management compastatement from Langer's management company DSEG while Langer was flying from Melbourne to his hometown of Perth.

"DSEG confirms that our client Justin Langer has this morning tendered his resignation as coach of the Australian men's cricket team," the statement said.

The initial announcement was made in a

"The resignation follows a meeting with Cricket Australia last evening.

The resignation is effective immediately." After weeks of scrutiny about whether he would have his four-year contract extended Friday to discuss the 51-year-old West

Australian's future. Cricket Australia said in a statement that Langer was "offered a short-term extension to his current contract, which sadly he has opted not to accept." It also said assistant coach Andrew McDonald had been appointed interim head coach. Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley said later Saturday that the decision was

"We were pretty clear with Justin that it was

for a period of transition," Hockley said. "When we sat down and looked at the needs of the team going forward, we felt that the team had evolved and the requirements of the head coach had. "The decision to start a process of transition is what we believe is in the best interest of the men's team for unity and future suc-

is close friends with Langer — they share the same agent — told Australian Broadcasting Corp. Radio that he believes Langer was pushed out of the job and it's a "really sad day as far as Australian cricket is concerned," adding that the

# in the interest of team unity.

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting, who

#### We have got seven games now and starting tomorrow, the aim will rung above in the competition. Chennaiyin at the sixth Valskis is going through a goalscoring drought. He be to get back to winning ways," ing drought. He Mumbai boss Des Buckingham said. A lot of focus will situation was "embarrassing." Emil Ruusuvuori advances to Tata Open final with win over Kamil

seven games.

goals this season.

PNS JAIPUR

The world's third-largest cricket stadium is going to be built in Jaipur, and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Saturday laid the foundation stone of the project virtually. BCCI secretary Jay Shah also joined the event virtually. Before the foundation stone laying ceremony, Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) officials performed a 'bhoomi pujan'. This stadium is being built on the Jaipur-Delhi bypass, as per an official statement.



# World's thirdlargest cricket stadium in **Jaipur soon**

#### $F_{\text{Ruusuvuori earned a shot}}^{\text{inland youngster Emil}}$ at his maiden ATP World Tour title with a hard-fought victory over a fighting Kamil Majchrzak in a high-quality semifinal of the Tata Open Maharashtra, here on

Saturday. Kamil got himself to a position where he was serving for the second to force a decider but 22-year-old Emil walked out a with a 6-3 7-6 (0) win after one hour and 46 minutes of engrossing tennis at the Balewadi Sports Complex.

Intense rallies featured from the beginning with both Emil and Kamil displaying their range of shots. It was not before the eighth proaching the net. Emil's ability to find game that a break opportunity opened up for the angled shots, that made

Finnish player in the open-Kamil work harder to reach

ing set.

Kamil's backhand landed just outside the lines and Emil found a passing winner to convert the chance as the Polish player was not in a position to counter while

out balls, made a huge difference in the opening set. In the second set, it was Kamil who drew the first blood in the eighth game. Kamil's trademark drop shot, which he found with an awkward jump but perfect

hand-eye co-ordination, got

him his break chance which

However, Kamil dropped his serve while serving for the set and ironically it was

a go-to drop shot that set up an easy winner for Emil, who dispatched the ball in the open court to deny his rival. Kamil was down a

breakpoint again in the 11th game when he netted a forehand at deuce but saved that with an ace. A battle ensued with a number of deuce points in that game, which the Polish player eventually held and now Emil was serving to stay in the set.

Emil was put under pressure by an aggressive Kamil but the Finn held to stretch it to a tie-breaker, in which he raced to a 5-0 lead and finished the match with consecutive aces.

# Salah or Mané? African Cup | Chennaiyin look to steady ship final revolves around 2 stars PTI MARGAO



**AP** ■ YAOUNDE (CAMEROON)

 $E^{\rm gypt\ or\ Senegal?\ Or\ maybe}_{\rm a\ more\ absorbing\ question}$ for world soccer fans: Mohamed Salah or Liverpool teammate Sadio Mané?

Sunday's African Cup of Nations final in Cameroon will center on two of the continent's biggest stars, now global stars, when Salah's Egypt tries to reclaim its lost glory against Mané's Senegal, which is seeking a first title and the right to finally call itself the best in Africa.

The two forwards will be on opposing sides at the Olembe Stadium in Yaounde and while their teams are playing for bigger rewards, there will be significant focus on who wins the personal battle between the club mates.

One of them is set for unrestrained joy and his first major title with his country. One is set for more misery. Salah lost in the final with Egypt in 2017, and Mané was inconsolable after Senegal lost in the final in 2019.

Mané partly predicted the matchup in a video he posted on social media at the start of the African Cup. He was cheekily addressing Liverpool teammates Salah and Naby Keita of Guinea when he said he knew he was going to face one of them in the final, he just didn't know which.

"Unfortunately I can't play against two teams in the final so I have to play against one," Mané

"Which of you?"

Turned out to be Egypt after the North Africans took the hard road to the final, beating Ivory Coast on penalties in the round of 16, Morocco in extra time in the quarterfinals and host Cameroon in another shootout in the semifinals.

That game against Cameroon saw Egypt coach Carlos Queiroz given a red card for his angry protests against some of the referee's decisions and he will be banned from the touchline for the final.

Egypt raised the possibility of the final being put back a day to Monday to help them recover because they played their semifinal on Thursday, while Senegal had an extra day to prepare after beating Burkina Faso on Wednesday.

The Confederation of African Football hasn't agreed to that request and the final goes ahead as scheduled. It's turned out to be an ideal

climax for the African Cup and its attempts to attract more attention than usual. They will be watching in Merseyside, said Liverpool manager Jürgen

Klopp.
"They (Salah and Mané) are superstars there so the pressure

they had on their shoulders was massive, and how they deal with it, I'm really proud of them," Klopp said. "We will watch it,

Both players lived up to their big reputations at the

Mané scored Senegal's first goal of the tournament and was on target again in the round of 16 and the semifinals, when he inspired the win over Burkina Faso by setting up one goal and

scoring another.
Likewise, Salah delivered the goal for Egypt's first win in Cameroon, buried the decisive penalty in the shootout against Ivory Coast in the last 16 and scored again in the quarterfinals against Morocco.

One of them will also end up being part of a landmark moment for their country at the African Cup.

Egypt is the record seventime African champion but having won three straight titles in 2006, 08 and '10 in the pre-Salah era, it failed to qualify at all for the next three tournaments when Salah was on the team. Egypt nearly returned to its pedestal in 2017, when it lost to Cameroon in the final.

Egypt now has arguably the best player in the world in Salah, its captain. He said the team must "keep our feet on the ground." "But ... We are having a very good tournament," Salah added.

For years, Senegal has had to carry the label of being the best team never to win an African Cup. Senegal made the quarterfinals of the World Cup in 2002, an achievement that many believed would be the start of a run of success in Africa. Two decades later, it still has no African Cup titles.

Senegal's story could finalchange on Sunday. "I think you can see on my

face how happy I am," Mané said after making the final. One more game, though, and a teammate to beat.

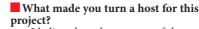


RAVI KISHAN

He is known for his roles in Bhojpuri, Hindi and Telugu cinema. The actor who is hosting Swarn Swar Bharat on ZeeTV speaks with

SHALINI SAKSENA about the show, how much fun he had among other things

nday pioneer



I believed on the concept of the show. My father was priest. I have grown up with the sounds of bhajans, shlokas and shanks. When it came to me, I knew I had to take it up.

Nobody had made a show like this before. It is very different from what has been done in the past. It is tough to get sponsors when you do something for the first time. The show has run into crores. I knew the team members and understood that what they were doing and aiming for genuine. I don the hat of Narad here who is the host. The singers here

are so amazing. It will offer them a huge platform.

How much fun did you have? There was plenty of fun. I got to hear some amazing voices. Kailash Kher, Kumar Vishwas and Suresh Wadkar are so brilliant. They have so much experience. The stories about our scriptures one gets to hear are so good. There is so much to learn when you tune in to this show. There are so many stories that are linked with each other and their back stories. It is like the mandir has walked into your home. The show will teach the youngsters how to lead a disciplined

Do you think people will watch it given the present kind of music?

Let's take an example. When Bahubali was being made, the industry thought that Raja Mouli was making a film that would never work. After all who wants to see which is like Amar Chitra Katha.



I AM LUCKY THAT PEOPLE LOVE MY WORK. AND AFTER MATSYA KAAND IT HAS ONLY GONE UP. **DESTINY MADE THIS** POSSIBLE. THE LOVE THAT I HAVE GOT FROM THE AUDIENCE IS HUMBLING.I AM BLESSED. I AM GRATEFUL TO PEOPLE THAT MY FILMS BECAME HITS EVEN IN TELUGU, TAMIL AND KANNAD



But we all know how much people loved it. This show is similar. We have done plenty of research. The canvas is so big and people will love it when they tune in.

**■** You are a politician and an actor. Are they in clash with each other when you choose a film?

I know that I don't have to send out the wrong message to the people. But this is true irrespective of the fact that am a politician. Everyone knows that acting is my profession and because of that I am an MP today. My bread and butter comes from acting. My fans want to see me on the 70 mm screen as well. However, I can't shoot for as many days as before.

You have done Telugu, Tamil, Kannad, Hindi movies besides Bhojpuri. How did this happen?

I am lucky that people love my work. And after Matsya Kaand it has only gone up. Destiny made this possi

only gone up. Destiny made this possible. I am grateful to people that my films became hits here. The love that I have got from the audience is humbling. I am blessed.

■ Where does Bhojpuri industry stand

I started with Hindi cinema. Then moved to Bhojpuri. What this industry likes is good scripts. I tell people to concentrate on working on good scripts. See how well Tollywood has evolved — from masala to films like Pushpa. Bhojpuri should move in the same direction. ■ Back to Swarn Swar Bharat, how impressed are you with the level of quality of voice of contestants?

The contestants here are brilliant. Their voice is amazing. It is a pleasure listening to them.

## CookSmart



f you are entering the kitchen for the very first time, the biggest disaster is when you cut the potatoes and they discolour. Keep a bowl of water. After you cut the potatoes dip in the this water while you prep for other

Tomatoes rotting? Store them stem end down to keep them from spoiling quickly. The idea is to prevent air from entering and moisture from exiting the scar where the tomato once attached to the vine.

Love baking but find that the brown sugar has hardened? Toss an orange peel or a slice of apple along with the sugar into an airtight container. Have eggs in the fridge for days and not sure if they are still

good? Gently place uncooked eggs in a bowl of cold water. If an

egg sinks to the bottom, it's okay. If it floats, it is time to get rid Remove seeds from vegetables like squash and pumpkin

with an ice cream scoop.

he beroom is one of the most important rooms in home It is the one place where the couple end and start the day. Hence, it is important that you decide what theme would you like to go with. Is it the place where you would like to culr up with a book? Is it a place where you want to unwind after a long tiring



When you redo this room, instead of going for a matching set, go for a mix and match look. Dig up all your furniture pieces that you may have put away. One of the best ways to ensure that your bedroom is unique and is a reflection of you, go for mix and match — your bed, bedside tables, dresser and other bedroom furniture.

If you and your spouse want to do something together, try a DIY headboard. Not only does the headboard become a centre piece, you can have lots of fun making it. There are several videos that you can watch for help

Add a chair or two and create that small and cute corner



he Rug Republic- a homegrown and sustainable. home-fashion brand has designed an intricate and beautiful collection of Tribal Rugs. The collection will enhance the décor of any room or space with its beautiful textures. Add a dash of style to your home décor with geometric patterns hand-woven to create a fresh new design inspired by the Tribal Theme These tribal artistic rugs will transform the look of your home

instantly. Make your home more opulent with a handmade luxurious tribal pattern rugs collection.Lyman — Handwoven finish for softness and a pleasing look. A must-have for your living space, it adds a luxurious look to your home. This rug goes well in both contemporary and modern layouts. Eliya — Be it your study or that casual corner we got it covered for you, presenting out Eliya rug with a plush surface design with minimal design pattern.

pine tress in a pot? Yes, this plant can thrive in plant can thrive in a pot provided that you follow a few care tips:

Though the plant doesn't do well as houseplants, potted pines can be brought indoors for several weeks.

The plant needs full sun and nartial shade. In other words, it requires a minimum of four hours of direct and unfiltered sunlight each

The potted pine needs steady watering, especially in the summer, and routine fertilising to replenish the soil's nutrients. To keep the plant indoors, use a humidifier in the room or throughly mist the plant once a week



The present pandemic is far from over. This means that we are still homebound so eating out is still a no no for many. SUNDAY PIONEER suggests these delicious winter recipes that you can whip up in your kitchen



# **BURNT GARLIC** SCHEZWAN FRIED RICE

Make burnt garlic schezwan fried rice with gram rice, green capsicum, beans, carrot, green chili, garlic, spring onion, refined oil, soya sauce, and tomato ketchup.

Preparation time 15 minutes Cook time 15 minutes Serves 4-5

- Heat Olive Oil in a wok add chopped garlic saute till it is
- Add green chilli and saute it for 20-30 seconds then add chopped carrot, capsicum, beans & stir fry it on high

Add Schezwan Sauce, Soya Sauce, Green Chilli Sauce, and toss for a minute. Add boiled rice correct the seasoning. Toss on high flame. Garnish it with chopped spring onion and serve with Tomato Ketchup.

#### **ENJOY YOUR MEAL!** Chef's Tips: The key to

good fried rice is the smoky flavour that you achieve by stir-frying the vegetables and rice at very high heat.

Variations: You can add Whole Corn Kernel for a

# CRANBERRY LEMON RICE PILAF

Combining various flavours into one, this dish is delicious and colorful at the same time. The tangy Cranberries, zesty lemons and whole spices work extremely well to add to the richness of this dish

Preparation time 15 minutes Cook time 30 minutes Serves 3-4

- Let's start by heating ghee and oil together in a pan. Add all the dried whole spices and allow it to crackle for a few seconds. Add garlic and fry for a few seconds then add sliced onions and fry until they are golden brown.
  Now add green chillies, lemon zest, and cranberries, south for a minutes. See some with sult.
- sauté for 2 minutes. Season with salt.
- Add rice and gently mix it in. Cook until all ingredients are mixed well.



Serve hot with any curries, tikka, or tandoori of your

The aroma alone will be enough to bring the entire family on the table to enjoy this delicacy.

# CREAM STYLE CORN SOUP WITH CHICKEN BITS



The perfect blend of taste provided by delicious Cream Style Corn Soup and tender chicken bits, this appetiser is per-

Preparation time 15 minutes Cook time 15 minutes

- To start off, melt some butter in a pan.
- Then add garlic and ginger and saute it until you can smell
- Now add onions and saute until pink. Then, add chicken bits and increase the flame and saute
- Add chicken stock, lemon zest, and vinegar and wait as it
- comes to a boil.
- Reduce the flame and season with salt pepper and chilli
- Let it simmer for 2-3 minutes.
- Time to add our hero ingredient. Add cream style corn and
- Cook until it is thick and creamy and looks yummy. Dish it out in serving bowls. Garnish it with flakes, cilantro
  - and serve with toasted bread.

Courtesy: Del Monte

#### KIRTI KULHARI, who plays a lesbian in Human, turned a producer with Nayeka. The actor speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about her upcoming ventures among other things

**\*** What made you turn to production?

It was not a very thought about action. This was something that happended mechanically. It came to me organically. The way things have been for me professionally for the last one-and-a-half years, it gave me the confidence. I always wanted to do do more and nit just as an actor. I want to be at the centre of things and tell stories that I really want. I want to collaborate with the people that I want to work with. By bringing them on the same platform, it was my way of movin in this direction. **♦** What is Nayeka about?

I was motivated to make this film. I wanted to add some hidden elements and see if the chanracter manages to get through all that. Things change for her. Over all, I would say that it is quirky, fun and dark. The character of Dr Saira Sabharwal is something that people have not seen me do before. It is a project that I was very excited about.

How is production different from being

an actor? There is a clear distinction. Being an actor, is only aspect — you come on board, do your job and go home. As a producer you are responsible for putting the project together, putting the film together and bringing all the people on board from various

# 'Being a producer is a different ball game'



fields and departments. You are the one who takes the final call on everything. It is your baby. Being a producer has opened my eyes this show. to so many things. There are so many nitty-gritties involves. Everybody's problem your problem. Being a producer is a

different ball game.

#### You play a lesbian. What were the challenges that came up?

Playing this role was an important part of who Saira. This is because this defines her in a lot of ways. To do justice to the character I spoke with many homosexual and bisexuals. I spoke with people from LGBTQ community - general conversation about their lives, how tough or easy it's been when they came out of the closet. I also spoke to a psychiatrist who deal with such ossues. I always like to do a thorough research about my role. I know that it is acting, but I like to perfect my craft. I also feel that this is my way of representing this community. I hope that people will take it in the right spirit and respond accordingly.

Do you think that the audience is up for

this kind of genre?

The audience is up for this kind of genre. The viewers have grown and matured in the last few years. They are exposed to a lot of international work and that makes them understand more and open to different subjects. It is a well-told story and they will like

**♦** What next?

I have Season 2 of Four More Shots. Then there is nayeka that is slated

# From a photographer's perspective

Having an experience of over 12 years in wildlife photography, CHINTAN JAIN describes his passion as both challenging and gratifying at the same time

Nature has so much to offer, there's heaven under our feet and over our heads too. It can offer you some breathtaking moments that you ignore in your everyday life. It would not be wrong to say that people actually need a wildlife photographer's spectacle to appreciate nature. The way a wildlife photographer pre-sents nature in his photographs/videos actually pro-



vide a perspective that nature, a precious gift from Mother Earth is there and needs to be protected. Jain says that you can get a perfect shot in a second and you cannot get it even after a whole day and that's the beauty of this art. He says that wildlife photographer's have a great responsibility on their shoulder's to present the nature to people. He says, "We need to create an impact with the image, it's not just about capturing the image, it's about the impact it creates in viewer's mind. You have to compose it in such a way that it sends a clear message."

Large-scale development of digital & manufacturing sectors has resulted in a booming demand for cosmetics in India, which is no longer restricted to urban centers, but equally powerful in rural areas, writes RITIKA SHARMA



negotiate your problem

ith the ever-evolving economic and social conditions, the manufacturing and digital sectors in India have made the country a force to be reckoned with. With an improved quality of life, India's personal care market saw an instant surge, to the point where predicted growth between the 2018-2023 period (before the health pandemic) was 9.7%, according to Euro monitor International. However, since its outbreak, the global pandemic has certainly played a significant role in slowing down the country's evolution of the cosmetics industry. Large-scale development of digital and manufacturing sectors has resulted in a booming demand for cosmetic products in India, which is no longer restricted to metro and minimetro urban centers, but equally powerful in rural areas

#### **GAUGING THE INDIAN BEAUTY MARKET**

International Mass beauty is a calculated sector in India as per Euro monitor, with a market value of more than \$11 billion. This is followed by hair care and personal hygiene products that showcase an unwavering market value of over \$3 billion. Given that retail has expanded drastically in the online space, a lot of new and innovative businesses have mushroomed to fill the gap in the market. Regardless of the setback people faced due to the pandemic, the beauty industry, albeit at a slightly slower pace, showcased resilience.

However, taking into account the repercussions faced by people due to the pandemic, a large number of consumers began to consider products that were ethically sourced, packaged, and made, thereby creating a global shift in trends. Today, the clean beauty market is estimated to reach \$22 billion by 2024. Due to digitisation, the new age consumer is exceptionally aware, conscious of their environment, and demands products that align with their values. These 'clean' brands contribute anywhere between 5-10 percent to the overall category of the beauty and skincare business in India. Given the emerging trend of 'skinimalism' — a term that describes using the bare minimum that your skin needs, and embracing your skin with all its flaws and strengths — it is easy to assume that consumers will continue investing in ethical, organic products built on sustainable practices and take a holistic approach to beauty.

Even as the post-pandemic complexion of the global beauty business sees a change, the \$11 billion Indian market as per Statista continues its makeover with brands, finding ways to tap India's young consumer. Expected to become \$30 billion by 2025, the Indian beauty business is betting big on multi-brand online stores, driven by key trends — the increasing number of smartphone users in the country, the penetration of the internet, the continuing rise of India's young, aspirational workforce, among others. Post pandemic, consumers are spending money on small indulgences during economic downturns and moving towards 'revenge spending' and 'lipstick effect' which has contributed to the growth of the beauty and skincare market size.

In addition to this, digitisation plays a huge role in changing the fabric of the beauty sector. For instance, connecting brands to consumers, introducing international brands, providing access, and setting new trends amongst beauty aficionados. This has simultaneously resulted in elevating standards consumers expect and pivoting with changing times to keep itself fresh, relevant, and innovative.

detrimental to our lives?

#### **DIVERSITY OF THE MARKET**

India is a diverse physical market — creating a 'retail experience' at scale is capital and time-intensive — and it still runs the risk of not finding 'critical mass' as one goes deeper in the population strata. Well-being in the definition is far more comprehensive than health or wellness — an ideology Boddess has embedded — as it considers a broader universe of personal factors and speaks to the goals of a well-rounded life. Fueled by the informed ideology and mass influence of younger generations like Gen Z, who are hyper-aware of social and environmental issues, the future of consumer health and wellness is proactive, mindful, and motivated towards well-being. There may never be a better time to be a beauty consumer or brand.

### **BEAUTY AND SELF-CARE ARE BECOMING SYN-**

The Indian beauty market is witnessing an acceleration in the self-care sub-sector. More consumers are now taking proactive steps to achieve a more sustainable and holistic approach towards their beauty regimen that serves them in the long term. We believe that the slow beauty philosophy explores the idea of remaining young, promotes the spirituality of holistic beauty & wellness, celebrating consciousness and self-expression — our ideals about ultimate beauty at large. One of the core principles of the slow beauty philosophy is to engage in practices that prioritise feelings and encounters of joyfulness.

As briefly stated earlier, customers have taken an ethical approach to their habits due to increased global awareness and exposure. The key focus to ascertain product value has now shifted towards ingredients that go into a product. With this, one can easily forecast a considerable rise in the "conscious" beauty trend. Continuing to look forward, we can also expect our make-up to double-up as skincare. A recent Mintel report reveals that 50 percent of consumers now prefer to purchase hybrid cosmetics with skin benefits, a burgeoning beauty category that is set to blossom next year. Producing make-up with skincare characteristics is a priority for both niche brands and household names.

However, as we consider conscious beauty, one of the more important factors that come into play is the impact that beauty has had on mental health. In the endeavour to make beauty a holistic approach, one cannot simply bypass addressing the repercussions of conditioned beauty standards. Hence, playing a catalytic role in the market of beauty and skincare taking initiatives to become more inclusive and genderfluid. With times and technology constantly

**MALE-MARKETED BEAUTY AND** GROOMING IS ON THE RISE AND IS A SECTOR **EXPECTED TO GENERATE** GLOBAL SALES OF \$81.2 BILLION BY 2024. THIS IS PARTLY DUE TO THE LOCKDOWNS — WHEN MEN EXPERIMENTED WITH PRODUCTS **COMFORTABLY AT** HOME. BUT IT'S ALSO DOWN TO A MORE **GRADUAL EVOLUTION** OF THE NORMS AROUND HOW MASCULINITY IS DEFINED, ALONGSIDE **OUR COLLECTIVE** INTEREST IN SELF-CARE AND THE BEAUTY BRAND BOOM OF **RECENT YEARS** OFFERING MEN MORE PRODUCT CHOICE AS WELL AS AGENDAS THEY CAN ALIGN WITH



evolving, the industry has moved to social and Livestream selling through 'social media influencers. Global brands are signing trans models and actors, K-pop stars, social-media influencers, promoting products that are gender binary for that matter. We can expect more communication in the coming year from beauty brands that will be bespoke, personalised but not hinging on any specific gender. It's taken a long time for the beauty world to think beyond the gender and fair skin box, but we're definitely on our way to becoming more inclusive today. Skincare, makeup, and hair care have all focused on the needs of those with the clichéd 'fair skin and straight hair' look for decades. But with the emergence of strong beauty markets around the world, it was only time till the rest of the spectrum came into focus. The Indian beauty market has majorly consisted of international labels till a few years ago, which meant that the products dominating our beauty aisles were more suited to the brands' home markets, as opposed to Indian skin. However, several homegrown and international brands are now developing product lines especially for melanin-rich skin, recognising that India's needs are different.

#### **ACCESSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL BRANDS**

Millennials believe that the products they put on their skin can impact their health and they are seeking the same clean label transparency in beauty products. Their purchase behavior supports this — 40% of millennials report increasing their purchases of natural skin and hair care products in the last year.

Self-expression and creative freedom are important to Gen Z, and experimentation plays a significant role in that sense of self-discovery. Gen Z sees makeup as a form of creativity and is seeking inspiration through video or social content. Earlier, a beauty store would cater to a limited captive audience, primarily to those who resided near it. Now, connecting users across locations is much easier because of progressive leaps in technology — connecting billions of users at once. Such advancements have commoditised technology in a manner that has never been witnessed before.

The future of beauty will reside in an Omni channel experience, bringing offline and online closer with the advent of a host of digital tools to enhance the consumer experience.

Another way that the market has adapted and made skincare and makeup more accessible to a wider audience is through mini-size products. Initially aimed at branching out to the tier 2 and 3 demographic — as mini products bring down costs — small packs have made their way to the bags of women across all ages and income groups. From convenience to portability, it is no surprise that miniatures are a hit in the market!

#### **SHIFT ENABLED BY TECHNOLOGY & BEAUTY GOING VIRTUAL**

However, given that we are now entering a tech-dominant era, the real trendsetters in the beauty business will be brands offering hyperpersonalized experiences to consumers. An example could be Boddess' focus on AI and AR

technology, skin and makeup diagnostic tools that have set the growth of our beauty business. Personalised packaging — name engraved on a lipstick or a customised moisturiser formula that penetrates deeper into the skin — will be a trend to watch out for. Moreover, brands in the coming year will increasingly go 'phygital',

ensuring both online and offline experiences. In addition to the pandemic causing a digital revolution in the skincare and makeup industry, one of the post-covid shifts in sales would be the male market. Male-marketed beauty and grooming is on the rise and is a sector expected to generate global sales of \$81.2 billion by 2024. This is partly due to the lockdowns — when men experimented with products comfortably at home. But it's down to a gradual evolution of the norms around how masculinity is defined, alongside our collective interest in self-care and the beauty brand boom of recent years offering men more product choice as well as agendas they can align with.

To transform the beauty and skincare shopping experience for its patrons through the perfect blend of digitisation and bespoke customisation, brands should aim to offer personalised product solutions, if done well. In keeping with the current scenario and the way forward, integrating augmented reality and virtual reality to bridge the digital and physical world is the future. Such tools help customers navigate solutions and seek recommendations for themselves while staying within the safety of their homes. Backed by Consumer data sets, machine learning, and augmented reality, the tools enable brands to diagnose beauty issues faced by several consumers, all while understanding consumer psychology. This enables consumers to have an enriched shopping experience.

Albeit over a year later, Covid-19 continues to shape the space, but brands are now better equipped to deal with the seismic shift in consumer values and expectations. In 2022, the beauty industry is taking with it learnings and permanent shifts from the past year. And while some trends end up fizzling out, others will only expand their reach. In light of the above, let's briefly recap on the beauty trend forecast that might take over the industry this year: • Sustainability: With access to more informa-

tion, consumers have taken the path towards a more wholesome beauty regime. The focus has now shifted to overall well-being and feeling good within — a strong mind and healthy body. • Clean beauty: As a by-product of holistic beauty and wellbeing, consumers are incorpo-

rating ethical practices into their consumer habits. From ethically sourced ingredients, vegan products, to environmentally friendly packaging, people are gravitating towards products that not just help their skin and health but also their ecosystem.

• Natural look: As we delve further into the concept of holistic wellness, we become more comfortable in our own skin. The trend of minimalism comes from realising that beauty products are here to enhance beauty

The author is Founder & CEO, Boddess,

[House of Beauty]

# COPING WITH STRESS

If stress was supposed to be helpful to our survival, why did it become detrimental to our lives? questions PAYAL ANAND. An edited excerpt:

nce, in an organizational behaviour class, I asked my students, 'What is that one thing that makes you similar to others sitting in the class?' Their answer, 'The fact that we all are stressed out and depressed,' cracked me up. While it really sounded funny, in reality, it isn't.

For one of my research projects, I particularly wanted to dig a little deeper and understand if managing stress is really a pervasive issue for young working professionals. I asked around 450 working professionals 'What bothers you most at work?' After analysing the responses, there were five major trends observed as a result of word cloud analysis. The dissolution of work-life boundaries and its consequent strain was one of the major observations that came out consistently. The next couple of trends that stood out were the building up of frustration and physical and psychological exhaustion. The overall feeling of gloominess and loneliness were the last two that completed the top five trends. Frankly, these trends do not baffle me. They all have been in the heavily discussed topics in psychology. However, if you notice, the common denominator for all the abovementioned issues is stress. Work may become stressful for us if we perceive too many challenges, demands and threats in the environment that we are not able to deal.

Imagine a casual day when your boss asked you to make an impromptu presentation in front of the board members. Or you heard bad news from the client you were not prepared for. Do you feel sudden rush in your body in such unexpected situations? Your breathing becomes heavier, face becomes pale and/or you feel sudden weakness in gut or legs. Do you suddenly become more attentive and your eyes get dilated? All of us do. This is a natural response of our body when we see a life-threatening situation. This is our bodily response of fight or flight, also known as acute stress response. Either we fight, in other words, approach the situation, or we flee, that is, avoid the situation. Both are different from each other and are separate constructs. Fight or flight can be considered as a bodily coping mechanism with threats, a response to something that is terrifying, either mentally or physically. There is an evolutionary explanation behind this phenomenon. Our ancestors used to be surrounded by various sorts of threats including attack from huge animals. It was matter of life or death. As their entire life was surrounded by dangerous species, to survive better, they developed the This instinct is very much intact in us even now. Through this mechanism, once our brain senses a life-threaten-



ing situation, it prepares to cope with it. 'Stress', in this regard, acts as a signal to the brain, which then releases a stress hormone, whose objective is to create an alarm in us. Thanks to our ancestors, we have a mechanism to prepare ourselves physically and biologically when encountered with stressors. Either it prepared their body to stay and deal with a threat (i.e., fight) or to run away to safety (i.e., flight).

The way stress was defined traditionally is in stark contrast with its modern definition. The old definitions explicitly indicated the positive connotation that was attached with stress at that point. It is intriguing to know that stress was a biological phenomenon against a physical or mental threat that was created to work in our favour (to alarm us of dangers), instead of working against us. The modern definition of stress, however, speaks volumes about the current interpretation of the phenomenon. The contemporary scholars define it as 'a feeling of emotional strain and pressure'. Shocking, isn't it? Modern lives have distorted our understanding of events and processes that once

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were considered as a gift to humankind. In fact, the definition of 'life-threatening situations' has changed totally. Nowadays, disagreement with peers, argument with the boss, fear of missing out, fear of rejection, exclusion or unknown stresses us out, including many other things. In fact, we have created a gamut of 'modern' issues that stress us out.

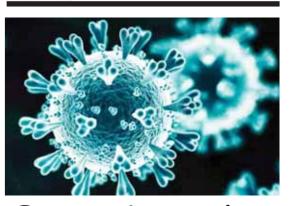
Many years ago, we started off on a note that stress is positive and helpful for our survival. However, as kids growing up, we never heard people telling us that stress is positive. We commonly hear people saying, 'Stress is extremely bad for our emotional, mental and physical health,' 'Stress can be severely detrimental to life,' and 'Don't stress yourself over things'. No doubt stress has become one of the most common reasons for psychosomatic illnesses in the current times. High stress levels lead to cardiovascular diseases, lifestyle disorders (such as hypothyroidism), sexual illnesses, strokes and what not. If stress was supposed to be helpful to our survival, why did it become detrimental to our

Note that over the years, our body has evolved to respond in a certain way (fight or flight) every time it encounters danger. Whether it is an attack from an animal or nomophobia, what we define as 'dangerous' or 'stressful' for ourselves is completely upon us. Our body will react accordingly. It is saddening that, in current times, not getting the 'best employee of the year' award is comparable to hunting for food and saving ourselves from man-eaters. So, who is to be blamed? It goes without saying, we have not quite understood the importance of acute stress in our lives. Unfortunately, we have not fully accepted that those heated arguments with clients/boss/colleagues or that two hours extra work that we did the other day for free are part and parcel of life. These events, by no means, are and should become a source of stress for us. These events should not control our lives. We really have not quite understood it.

Excerpted with permission from *Mastering Behaviour: Managing Self and Others* by Payal Anand; Published by SAGE Publications India



#### HIDDENSOULS PRAMOD PATHAK



# Corona's parting message to us

ome two years back God instructed me to visit your world. Not happy with your ways, God directed me to make you understand what divine disruption is all about. You had been interfering with the ways of the nature causing all sorts of disruptions to feed your ego. You advocated disruption as the new way of life, proclaiming that it was the next big thing. You thought that your escapades would not irk God and you can get away with all that. But God's patience gave way. I was thus pressed into service. One more time your actions invited the ire of Almighty. In the past also your unruly ways had forced the Lord to send my past also your unruly ways had forced the Lord to send my other brethren to make you mend your ways. For centuries this has been happening. But you forget things easily. Once again you invited God's ire. Perhaps you forgot the devastation by one of my cousins 100 years ago. The destruction you have caused needed divine intervention and I was pressed into service. As your actions disturb the equilibrium of this wonderful system created by the Lord, He had no option. He wanted you to realise that all those perks and benefits you enjoy as human beings is not your entitlement benefits you enjoy as human beings is not your entitlement but was bestowed on you by God's grace. Since you failed to acknowledge God's munificence and show gratitude in your actions for all that you are given in life as a gift from God, I had to descend as an agent of the divine. My mission was to make you mend your ways and behave like you were supposed to by virtue of being a human being. But you tampered with nature's bounty, destroying His creations for sensual gratification, even playing dirty with your own brethren. My intervention was the divine wish to make you realise your mistakes. I don't know how far I have succeeded in accomplishing my task, but as you should understand, even my patience is wearing out. Being sick and tired of causing disease and devastation in your world, I intend to leave. Two years is a long time to learn the basic lessons that God wants to impart and if you still don't understand, it's your choice. My experience suggests that much learning is still to be done but the question is how much more time can be given. God has been trying to make you realise to discriminate between right and wrong for centuries but he, too, has limitations. Those many pandemics of the past had only short term effect with you resorting to business as usual without remorse. Since the time of stone age I have observed that you have not changed much. The same old human nature this time also. Even as you watch your tribe perish, your greed does not go away and your ego continues to drive you to unreason. These two years that I stayed with you made me realise that despite so much of devastation and death, there are some who still want me to be here. For them my presence became opportunity to make hay even if the sun doesn't shine. Many balance sheets became profitable. Many filled coffers, many created new businesses and many became monarchs usurping all power, posing as the Messiah. But its time I must depart. To you O'Man I can only say that be vou to be I would say better luck next time.

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

# Be resilient to thrive

Don't get discouraged by failures. Instead, work hard and keep taking the next logical step, writes ANAMIKA YADUVANSHI

Tough it may be, but change is inevitable. The only way you can survive its impact is by being resilient. Your resilience can increase your chances bouncing back. In turn, you will realise that you have emerged stronger with respect to your mental and physical health. Build your resilience by using the following tips:

Assemble a support system

• Assemble a support system of family, friends or mentor: Having caring, supportive people around you can be a protective factor during the time of crisis. It is important to have people you can confide in. While simply talking about a situation with a friend or a loved one will not make trouble go away, it allows you to share your feelings, gain support, receive positive feedback and come up with solutions to deal with it.

• Take care of yourself: When you are going through a crisis, you may neglect your own basic needs. Not eating properly, no exercise, yoga or physical activity to keep you in shape or perhaps not taking enough sleep are all sorts of natural reactions to a crisis. But doing this won't resolve. It may make things worse. Focus on building your self nurturance skills even when you are dealing with bad times. Make time to do activities that you enjoy. By taking care of your own needs, you can boost your overall health and resilience and

be fully ready to face life's chal-

lenges. Take breaks and treat

yourself with good food, good



fresh perspective. Don't use alcohol, nicotine or caffeine as a coping mechanism. Long term use of these mechanisms will add to your problems further.

• Make goals: Resilient people look at the crisis in a more realistic manner and try to set goals to deal with it. Dealing with a bad situation can be overwhelming and one gets confused. Making goals and dealing with things one by one can be a practical and realistic way of dealing with a crisis. Setting goals and thinking of ways to achieve them can be transitional and can take you from not knowing to

achieving new things

• Develop your problem solving skill: Study shows that people who are able to come up with solutions to a problem are better able to cope with problems than those who cannot. Whenever you encounter a new challenge, make a quick list of possible ways to deal with it. Experiment with different strategies and focus on developing a logical way to walk through common problems. If you practice problem solving skill on a regular basis, you will be better prepared to cope with

serious challenges. **Take action:** Simply waiting for a crisis to go away on its own only prolongs its existence.

Thinking too much and plan-

ning on the safe side may not help either. By going through all the tips that I have mentioned above, just make an action plan and take action because action will give you result and over thinking won't. Take small steps to work towards resolving the crisis and your small progress each time will encourage you further to take more steps, however sometimes, few actions may turn out to be failure but they won't failures, it would be experience and learning. Don't get discouraged by failures, work hard and keep taking the next logical step and you will be the best resilient version of you!

The writer is a life coach and motivational healer

# Chant for positivity

Chanting of Rama *naam* effectively blocks out negative thoughts, if done with attention, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

hanting is a very ancient practice. Lord Krishna has mentioned about it in the verse #10.25 of the Bhagavad Gita. Chanting is done by two ways. One is mantra chanting like "Om Namah Shivaya", and the other is name chanting like "Rama". Surprising as it may seem, Lord Shiva, Himself an incarnation of God, is busy chanting "Rama" only. He, as a matter of fact, is a great setter of standard in this regard. Lord Krishna states, "Whatever a superior person does, other people follow that only. Whatever standard he establishes a common man tries to emulate that. (3.21) Lord Hanuman — a great devotee of Lord Rama is another practitioner of chanting Rama regularly. Rather all His acts begin with "Jai Shriram".

Let us get an idea about how pow erful the word Rama is from Shri Ramacharitamanasa, written by Tulsidasa. In the famous dialogue between Narada and Lord Ramachandra, Narada requests the Lord to empower Rama name such that it can benefit the chanter immensely. The Lord consented, and we see evidence of chanters of the name Rama benefiting greatly in multiple ways. It is not surprising that Rama *naam* is glorified even in a person's last journey with the chanting of "Rama nama satya hai". Mother Ahilya caught attention of Lord Ramachandra by incessantly chanting Rama. The Lord delivered her from the curse she was under, because of which she had turned into stone.

The word Rama is a primal sound like Om, and we are aware of unimaginable benefits of chanting Om. The name Rama is similarly beneficial if chanted regularly. Calling the Lord's name gets His attention immediately,



because He is near us only. How God responds depends upon Him. In The Gita, Lord Krishna has specifically mentioned, "God is outside and inside of all living entities. He is situated far away and He is nearby also. (13.15) This is how God hears our prayers also. Such chanting of God's names is very useful because this activity makes us noble. (7.18), whatever may be our desires, we can be distressed, seekers of wealth, inquisitive or wise. (7.16)" Those who chant Rama regularly and with attention/devotion can vouch for the fact that one's wishes are responded to in an appropriate manner, because God never ignores our taking His shelter,

which chanting His name is.

Peace begins to descend on the practitioner, one can sense that he is not getting agitated/worried to the extent he was prone to earlier. Chanting of Rama nama effectively blocks out neg-

ative thoughts, if done with attention. Yes, this will take time, because it is not easy to be rid of negative thoughts, but it will happen as chanting of Rama name begins to purify the chanter's existence. Additionally, one will begin to feel assured. God's presence, who is omnipresent, does wonders to the consciousness as one continues chanting His name. One begins to feel assured.

In the cosmic design, there are only

In the cosmic design, there are only two duties/responsibilities for us souls. They are doing our material and spiritual duties. And the easiest and most effective to do spiritual duties is to chant Rama. Go out/do your material duties and return to chanting Rama. Soon you will be able to get used to it and may even one day get it synchronised with your breath.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

# **Unlearning from crisis: Tiny fraction of GDP for health**

On the same day, February 1, 2021, when the ongoing health crisis was marching toward the peak, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her 100 minutes long Budget speech mentioned the word "health" at least 34 times. In the Economic Survey 2020-21, an entire chapter, "Healthcare Takes Centre Stage, finally!" was devoted to health. This chapter was full of figures, though criticised later for superfluous correlation and better performance of outlier States, and it seems like the government accepts the importance of public spending on healthcare on out-of-pocket expenditures (OOPE), poverty, and public health.

In the Budget documents, clubbing the related heads and some finance commission grants, the rhetoric of 137 per cent increase in health expenditure was streamed under the title "Health and Well-Being" budget. A careful analysis showed that it was just 10.16 per cent larger than the 2020-21 Budget Estimate (BE) and 0.34 per cent of the GDP.

This year on February 1, 2022, in her shortest (92 minutes) of four Budget speeches, the word "health" is used only 19 times and the word "digital" is mentioned 36 times which is more than twice of (16 times)

Unfortunately, the term "digital divide", a stark reality, is not mentioned even once. Looking at the Budget figures, there is a clear indication that the Government is unlearning from the health crisis. The total budget of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is ₹86,200.62 crore

& Dept of Health Research ₹3,200.62 crore) which is meagerly ₹200 crore larger than the revised estimate (RE) for the year 2021-22, and if seen in real terms, the expenditure is

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As a per cent of the GDP, the allocation to MoHFW is 0.33 per cent which is 0.01 percentage points less than the previous year. In 2021-22 Budget, ₹12,359 crore were allocated to India Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package, but allocation was reduced to zero for the current year. With such a snail pace, the target of 2.5 per cent of the GDP spending on health, envisioned in National Health Policy 2017, is becoming difficult, if not impossible. To show an increase in health budget as a share of the GDP, water and sanitation both crucial but not directly connected, are clubbed as expenditure on health.

The Covid-19 exposed the flaws of the market-oriented private health system due to its high unequal access and elite capture. By relying on insurance (actively encouraged by the profit-seeking health industry), the Government is unlearning the basic fact that the insurance market is full of imperfections, adverse selections, and moral hazards. If we do not have a robust public health infrastructure, private insurance schemes are a behavioural experiment to reduce the demand for free and publicly accessible public healthcare.

There exists a gulf in actual and targeted public health spending. This year the so-called "V" shape recovery, if it is, and an upward RE of the

Indian democracy is incom-

plete without the intra-party

democracy. The political par-

ties cannot be a "dictatorship

internally and democratic in its

essential part of the electoral

system in the democratic coun-

try. It must be understood that the foundation of a democra-

tic nation and conduction of

free and fair election can't be settled on the undemocratic

roots. Internal democracy in

political organisation can't be

witnessed in India. Either there

is a single man stranglehold or

a single-family ascendancy in

the party. How these political

parties function, whether elec-

tions take place internally or

not, what all are the function-

ing procedures of a political

party, what are the minimum

set of rules, all these questions

remain unanswered for all out-

siders. However, lack of trans-

parency within the political

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gloomy.

Political parties are an

functioning outside."



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman arrives at Parliament to present the Union Budget on February 7

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(Pratap Mohanty, teaches

Ranian Dimri I Pioneer

Economics at IIT Roorkee; Mukesh Kumar is a PhD Fellow, Economics, IIT Roorkee)

There exists a gulf in actual and targeted public health spending. This year the so-called "V" shape recovery, if it is, and an upward RE of the GDP for 2021-22 gave an opportunity to the Government to make up for previous years' lapses by spending more on health and nutrition. Like the previous year, the conclusion ends with the question: if such an undesirable global crisis cannot force the Government to prioritise health, what will?



MUKESH KUMAR



PRATAP MOHANTY

Commission of India By this report, the

Need for an amend-

## PERSPECTIVE

# Undemocratic political parties rot the system

There is an urgent need to democratise the political parties which are the very heart and soul of a democratic regime. Political parties often are accused of partisan functioning during ticket distribution, a charge that can't be shrugged off if the internal working of the party gets a



democratic set-up



**NIRAJ DUBEY** 

One is compelled to believe fact that from 2001 to 2017, be exposed to respect those make parties viable instruted with the internal function. While dealing with the reforms can't be Sonia Gandhi was elected as principles in the governance of ments of good governance. incorporated, and if incorpo- the president of the party with- the country. It cannot be dicated, it will remain ineffective out a contest. This was not the first time when the family till the time political organisations understand their respondominated in the party; same sibility towards the citizens was the case at the time of and establish internal democ-Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and now with Rahul Gandhi. racy within their parties. Neither political parties nor the The domination of the Nehru-Gandhi family in the INC is unquestionable. And this is Government can make this democracy a democracy unless political parties themselves not a problem with the introduce it in the internal Congress alone. working of their parties. The Regional parties are also on

the same page or a step ahead of them. Such parties do not have any democratic-decision making and are built around a towering leader. Their leader's whims and fancies are the party's policies. Some of the most suited examples are the Samajwadi Party (SP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the Shiv Sena, the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) or the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). Their internal politics or policy-making revolves around single person or single family.

#### 170th Report of the Law **Commission of India**

Here, the Commission recommended for a regulatory framework dealing with internal structures and inner democracy of parties, financial transparency, etc, and in the chapter titled "Necessity of providing laws relating to internal democracy within parties", it was highlighted that:

parties is a great gamble on the democracy and accountability constitute the On June 16, 1949, Pandit core of our constitutional sys-Hriday Nath Kunzru, during a tem, the same concepts must debate in the Constituent also apply to and bind the polit-Assembly, had said: "If we canical parties which are integral not expect common honesty to parliamentary democracy. It from persons occupying the is the political parties that highest positions in the disform the government, man charge of their duties, the founthe Parliament and run the dation for responsible governgovernance of the country. It is, ment is wanting and the outtherefore, necessary to introlook for the future is indeed duce internal democracy, financial transparency and accountability in the working We have witnessed in last few years that Prime Minister of the political parties. A polit-Narendra Modi has targeted ical party which does not the Congress party for dynasrespect democratic principles

in its internal working cannot

tatorship internally and democratic in its functioning out-

There are certain areas which need immediate con-

"Structural and organisational reforms: Party organisations -national, State and local levels inner party democracy - regular party elections, recruitment of party cadre, socialisation, development and training, research, thinking and policy planning activities of the party.

Party system and governance - Mechanism to

of political parties - need for a comprehensive legislation to regulate party activities, criteria for registration as a national or State party, de-recognition

#### **Powerless Election**

Commission In recent time, no such provision is there with regard to intra-party democracy. There is just one "Section 29A of the RPA, 1951" incorporated through an amendment in 1989 dealing with registration of political parties with the ECI, but this section is also nowhere since it is only limited to reg

istration. Now, in the absence of any statutory backing, the Election Commission's power is somewhat compromised when it comes to holding internal elections for the officebearers or in case of candidate selection. Ironically, the ECI cannot take suo-motu cognizance and has no power to de-register or cancel the registration of any political party on ground of the violation of the Constitution of India or breaching the undertaking annexed at the time of regis-

Institutionalisation nism of the political parties Court in 2002 in Indian Commission made certain rec-National Congress (I) v. ommendations on intra-party democracy, such as: Institute of Social Welfare & Ors., observed that, "neither under the Symbols Order nor ment to Section 29A(5) of the under Section 29A of the Act, the Election Commission has been conferred with any express power to de-register a political party registered under Section 29A of the Act on the ground that it has either violated the provisions of the Constitution or any provision

255th Report of the Law

RPA, 1951, binding political parties to add specifically in their memorandum to "shun violence for political gains, and avoid discrimination or distinction based on race, caste, creed, language or place of residence" Insertion of new of undertaking given before the part in the RPA, 1951 for Regulation of Political Parties" Election Commission at the time of its registration." dealing in formation and constitution of political parties, procedure for voting, candidate

> Insertion of a special provision empowering the ECI to de-register or cancel the registration.

selection, and regular election,

#### Conclusion

There is an urgent need to democratise the political parties which are the very heart and soul of a democratic regime. Political parties often are accused of partisan func-tioning during ticket distribution; a charge that can't be shrugged off if the internal working of the party gets a democratic set-up. Also, it has been noted that various posts in the party are held by powerful and influential people who often convince the party leadership to do away with formal internal elections. This leads to favouritism, corruption and in many cases shifting of member between parties. Corruption is caused by overcentralisation since "the more remotely power is exercised from the people, the greater is the distance between authority and accountability." These are implications of the fact that provisions related to intraparty democracy are most of the time ignored and put on the

(The writers are advocates based in New Delhi)









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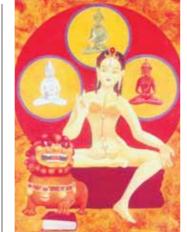




#### ARIES March 21-April 19

This week you feel negative energies at play around you. Food poisoning or other seasonal ailments could pull you down. Thyroid or hormonal imbalance may cause concern in women. Get tested and take care. At work, your logical and analytical approach to things could make you busy. You are an innovator and researcher and would not accept anything without the facts. You follow truth and discipline. You are likely to experience challenges but understand that this is just a phase of your journey to something much more positive. Stay focused on your long-term goals. On the relationship front, a new romance is on the card. You want to start afresh in your relationships. Fun and entertainment with your family are indicated.

Lucky number 21 Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Wednesday



#### **LEO** July 23-Aug 22

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

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Golden Lucky day Sunday



#### **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

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

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour White Lucky day Monday



#### **TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week there is a sense of fulfilment healthwise. A new beginning that naturally occurs after the completion of a cycle. You are in the right place, doing the right thing to be in good health. You are following the strict regime of diet, exercise, and relaxation. At work, you are filled with renewed energy and enthusiasm. A breakthrough moment is on the cards. This week you are likely to embark on a new journey of the self-made person. An idea or passion will inspire and motivate you. On the personal front, you have a crush on an unapproachable person. The danger is hidden in illusions and chances are there that you may face difficulties in the future. To move forward avoid daydreaming.

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



#### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

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

Lucky number 22 Lucky colour Red Lucky day Wednesday



#### CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

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

Lucky number 6 Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Friday



#### **GEMINI** May 21-June 20

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

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Wednesday



#### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

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

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour Sky Blue **Lucky day** Friday



#### **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

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

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



#### **CANCER** June 21-July 22

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

Lucky number 18 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Friday



#### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week you feel inspired to start a creative project. You feel comfortable with your real identity. Allowing your creative pursuits will bring new potential. Stimulating your imagination will allow your new talent to unfold. You will enjoy good health. Career-wise this is the time to dream and enjoy the pleasures of life. You are likely to spend more time on your happiness. Executing your ideas to achieve a target will put you in your senior's good book. You are rich financially and by heart too. Your generosity and kindness will nurture your relationships. This week you are at ease with yourself and others. You are likely to create a positive environment at home. Trust will give you the strength and confidence to overcome the obstacles in life.

Lucky number 20 Lucký colour Indigo Lucky day Tuesday



#### PISCES Feb 19-March 20

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

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Blue Lucky day Thursday

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#### STROTURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

# Start in a flash & end in a crash

That is in store of my destiny? I am going through a very difficult time since I got married 2 years back. Please suggest a *puja* or gem stone to help me get over my problem." Somebody came asking in a state of distress. "Are you having relationship issues with your wife?" I queried. "No sir. We get along very well. I have suffered heavy loss and I am under debt. All my attempts to overcome losses have put me further under debt trap." He answered. "What has your marriage to do with your losses?" I countered. "Sir, before marriage, I was doing fine. Whatever I looked for, came through. I became a Chartered Accountant at the young age of 23, even when I attempted the qualifying examination half-heartedly. My failings began only after marriage. I had not done any astrological matching before marriage, which made me feel having brought ill luck," he answered.

Astrological matching by itself doesn't bring in good luck. Many marriages fail even after a good matching score. A reading your astrological chart reveals that you have been a victim of your own making. Blindfolded, you tried to become quick rich by indulging in spec-

ulation, which proved a misadventure. Your indiscretion and ill-timed move cost you heavy. Yet, you did not realise. Instead, you continued to indulge in speculation in the hope that sooner or later you may recover your losses. And when you fell into a debt trap, rather than looking into your own fault lines, disillusioned you are now trying to shift the blame on hypothetical ideas. Don't mess up your marriage for no fault of your wife. Her support will help you overcome your problems in all strength and faster.

In terms of remedial measure, let me make it clear that your thought process drove you crazy. No puja, nor any gemstone can bring back good luck unless you modify your desire trends. Remember, there is no short cut to life. In your present job, growth may though be slow but it will be steady. At least it will not hurt you the way your wishful thinking has brought in. Acknowledge prevailing truth, set your priority right, and intelligently manage your finances to pay off the debt. Meanwhile, look for a better paying job, which seems probable. It may take some time to clear off the debt, but once you are out of it, you may



enjoy a stress free life in all comforts. "But sir, why did such ideas knock

me down immediately after marriage?" The young man queried. A look at your astrological pointers and progression of planets over the years will make things clear. You are born in Pisces lagna. Its lord Jupiter is conjunct finance indicator Venus in the 8th house as well as restive Rahu. That brought in the tendency to become quick rich, even it means adopting unconventional means. Incidentally, Venus happens to be the 3rd and 8th lord, respectively marked with self-initiatives and serious difficulties. That makes you vulnerable to become a victim of your own initiatives in your bid for quick gains. The lagna sub-lord Moon, marked with your basic desire trends is tenanted in the 11th house identified with fulfilment of desires. Moon being the 5th lord marked with speculative tendencies bred in such a desire. But then Moon occupied the constellation owned by Mars posited in the 4th house (the house of loss for 5th house matters). So, your initiative for gains through speculation caused loss. What further compounded your problem is that Mars happens to be the 9th lord, which being 8th from 2nd

house (identified with gains), made you

vulnerable to loss through investment. Now, about the timing, progressed Sun accounted for 25th year was adverse to mischievous Neptune as well as Uranus marked with sudden turn of events. That bred in illusionary ideas, distanced from ground realities, and blindfolded you fell into trap. Being inherently restless, as would Mars ill-disposed off to intelligence signifying Mercury may mean, you lacked the patience needed for reality check before jumping into action. Transit Saturn was bang on natal Uranus and Neptune. Since Saturn is placed adverse to natal Uranus and Neptune, they all joined hands to cause loss. For, Saturn being 11th lord that would have otherwise proved gainful, as 12th lord occupying 12th house itself, it had to cause loss. The result is there to see.

Address your mental limitations by following the process suggested and intelligently negotiate your problem. By 2024, you should be out of woods.

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