WORLD 5

UKRAINE TENSIONS: RUSSIA

TOUGHENS ITS POSTURE

MONEY 6

TOURISM' APPROACH IN BUDGET

TAAI SEEKS 'ONE INDIA ONE

SINDHU ENTERS

FINAL OF SYED MODI

VIJAYWADA DEHRADUN, SUNDAY JANUARY 23, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

DEHRADUN HYDERABAD



*Late City Vol. 10 Issue 22

*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

EC extends poll rallies ban till Jan 31

Public meetings with 500 people for Ph 1 allowed from January 28

PNS NEW DELHI

 $A^{mid\ the\ third\ wave\ of}_{Covid-19\ in\ the\ country,}_{the\ Election\ Commission\ (EC)}$ on Saturday extended the ban on physical political rallies, roadshows, pad-yatras, cycle and bike rallies and processions till January 31 in five poll-bound States — Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Punjab and Uttarakhand

This is the second time the commission has extended the ban after the first one was announced on January 15 and the second on January 22. The poll panel also increased the five-person limit for door-todoor campaigning to 10 and allowed video vans for publicity at designated open spaces with coronavirus restrictions.

"No roadshow, padyatra, cycle/bike/vehicle rally and procession shall be allowed till January 31, 2022," the EC said. The decision was taken following a virtual meeting to take stock of the Covid-19 situation with all stakeholders, including the Union Health Secretary, Chief Electoral Officers, Chief Secretaries, and State Health Secretaries of the five poll-

bound States. "Since contesting candi-



dates for Phase 1 elections will be finalised on January 28, 2022, the commission has decided to allow physical public meetings of political parties or contesting candidates in designated open spaces with a maximum of 500 people or 50 per cent of the capacity of the

ground or the prescribed limit set by State Disaster Management Authorities, whichever number is lesser, from January 28, 2022, till February 8, 2022 (excluding the silence period)," it

The EC said that limit of five persons for door to door campaign has been enhanced to 10 people, excluding security personnel and video vans for publicity permitted at designated open spaces with Covid

Cong 'new avatar'! 70% fresh faces in UP polls

Making a conscious effort to shun the old baggage and present her party in a "new avatar" in Uttar Pradesh, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has hand-picked over 70 per cent new faces among the total 166 candidates for the highstakes State Assembly election.

Besides sticking to her promise of 40 per cent women candidates, Priyanka has overwhelmingly given a chance to debutants with an aim to build

a new leadership in the Hindi heartland, which had slipped from the party hands in recent

Of the total 166 names declared so far by the Congress, 119 candidates will be making their electoral debut, party spokesman Anshu Awasthi told PTI. With the candidature of Sangeeta Tyagi, wife of party leader late Rajiv Tyagi, from Sahibabad seat, Priyanka has made an earnest effort to break the mould and create new leadership in the century-old party which has faded into political oblivion.

Akhilesh to fight from home turf

The Samajwadi Party on Saturday confirmed that party chief Akhilesh Yaday will contest the Assembly poll, his first, from Karhal constituency in Mainpuri district, which is in his family's home turf.

Karhal has voted for Samajwadi Party candidates in every election since 1993, except in 2002, when the BJP wrested it. It returned to the SP in 2007 and is currently held by Sobaran Yadav.

By contesting from Karhal, the current and long-time Lok Sabha seat of his father Mulayam Singh Yadav, Akhilesh is trying to secure his party's fortress of the Yadav belt where the BJP has made inroads.

Buoyed by the success of the huge turnout in Vijay Rath Yatra, Akhilesh had decided not to contest the Assembly election and concentrate on campaigning. Two events, however, forced him to change the strategy — ban of campaigning by the EC (now extended till January 30) due to the third wave of Covid-19 pandemics, and BJP deciding to field Yogi Adityanath from Gorakhpur.

In a loud and clear message to the electorate that the BIP is leading the battle from the

Shivpal to contest polls on SP ticket

Ashivpal Yadav's uncle Ashivpal Yadav on Saturday announced that he will be contesting the upcoming assembly elections from his old seat Jaswantnagar. Shivpal said he will be contesting on SP's ticket instead of his own party Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party.

front, the saffron party announced Yogi's name in the very first list of its candidates even when the polling in Gorakhpur will be held in the sixth phase of election on March 3.

Karhal constituency has a high population of Yadavs. The SP won it in 2017 with a margin of more than 38,000 votes despite the BJP wave in the State. Karhal town is just a 15-minute drive from the Yadav family's native village, Saifai, in the Etawah district. With Akhilesh taking the plunge into Assembly elections, the SP is trying to send a larger message in the entire Yadav belt from Firozabad to Kannauj to rally behind the party in these elections.

Omicron not last variant: WHO

3,37,704 Covid-19 cases, 488 deaths in 24 hrs in India

PNS NEW DELHI

 F_{2}^{rom} one case on December 2 last year, the Omicron tally in the country has crossed the 10,000-mark! India recorded a total of 3,37,704 Covid-19 new cases of the novel coronavirus, along with 488 deaths due to the infection in the past 24 hours. India's daily Covid cases have remained over 3 lakh for the 3rd day in a row.
The World Health Health

Organization (WHO) has warned that "to suggest that Omicron will be the last variant is unwise...this virus is circulating at a very intense level around the Earth globe and it's still evolving... Absolutely critical we continue to track, monitor & assess variants".

"We're hearing a lot of people suggest that #Omicron

is the last variant & that it's over after this and that is not the case... This virus is circulating at a very intense level around the world," said Maria Van Kerkhove, infectious disease epidemiologist; Covid-19 Technical Lead of the WHO. 'We must keep working to

reduce Covid-19 transmission," she added.

According to the data



kits at Victory playground in Hyderabad on Saturday. Nearly 1 crore kits will be packed and sent across Telangana PTI

shared by the Union Health Ministry, the country saw a total of 2,42,676 discharges in the last 24 hours, taking the total recovery rate at around 93.50 per cent, and total recoveries data reached to 3,63,01 The total active cases of

Covid-19 in India have risen to 21,13,365, the Ministry data showed today. The total death toll in the country is now at 4,88,884. In India, the first death due to the Covid pandemic was reported in March

Additionally, the tally of Omicron cases reached 10,050 on Saturday with an increase of 3.69 per cent since vesterday. The daily positivity rate is at 17.22 per cent today.

60% Goa MLAs disloyal: ADR

said in a report.

oa's MLAs who were elect-Ged in the 2017 Assembly polls do not seem to have any allegiances to the party which As many as 24 MLAs in Goa, which is 60 per cent of the 40member Assembly, shifted their loyalties in the last five years, the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR)

Goa has set a unique record, which is "unparalleled" in the history of Indian democracy. Assembly polls in Goa will be held on February 14.

"In the five-year tenure of the current Assembly (2017-2022), as many as 24 MLAs have changed their parties, which is 60 per cent of the total strength of the House. It has never happened anywhere else in India. A clear reflection of utter disrespect to the mandate of voters. A callous approach to ethics and discipline overborne by uncontrolled greed at its worst," the report stated.

It said the list of 24 MLAs did not include the names of Vishwajit Rane, Subhash Shirodkar, and Dayanand Sopte, who had resigned as Congress MLAs in 2017, and

CAPSULE

60% DEATHS IN 3RD WAVE AMONG UNVACCINATED

New Delhi: A study by a private hospital has said that 60 per cent of the patients who died during the current wave of

Covid-19 pandemic were either partially or fully unvaccinated. The study by Max Healthcare

said the deaths reported were

70 and those suffering from

RAPE ACCUSED SHOT

Muzaffarpur (Bihar), Two

DEAD OUTSIDE COURT

Gorakhpur: A rape accused was

diabetes, cancers, etc.

largely among those aged over

multiple co-morbidities such as

kidney diseases, heart diseases

Goa ex-CM Laxmikant Parsekar to quit BJP

New Delhi: Former Goa CM Laxmikant Parsekar to quit the BJP. He said, "I was a member of BJP for years but the party took me for granted. I have prepared to dissociate myself from the BIP and have decided to contest independently. I will come out with this declaration in a couple of days?

joined the ruling BJP, before contesting polls on its tickets.

At least 10 Congress legislators had crossed over to the BJP in 2019. They included the then leader of opposition Kavlekar Chandrakant (Quepem constituency). Other Congress MLAs who had switched over to the BJP are -Jennifer Monserrate (Taleigao), Francisco Silveria (St Andre), Filipe Nery Rodrigues (Velim), Wilfred Nazareth MeninoD'sa (Nuvem), Clafasio Dias (Cuncolim), Antonio Carano Fernandes (St Cruz), Neelkanth Halarnkar (Tivim), Isidore Fernandes (Cancona), Atanasio Monserrate (who won the Panaji by election in 2019 after death of Manohar Parrikar).

Gandhi's favourite 'Abide with Me' left off Beating Retreat

PNS NEW DELHI

Mahatma Gandhi's With Me" will not figure in this year's Beating the Retreat Ceremony on Rajpath on January 29.

This hymn played at the annual ceremony since 1950 was omitted in 2020 but was included later following criticism from various quarters.

Incidentally, this development on Saturday came a day after a political slugfest over the shifting of the Amar Jawan Jyoti from the India Gate to the newly constructed National

War Memorial (NWM). Veterans and Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi said the extinguishing of the Amar Jawan Jyoti was an insult to the fallen soldiers. However, the Government refuted the charge and said the flame was not extinguished and instead merged into the eternal flame

at the NWM. "Abide With Me" is a hymn that was written by Scottish Anglican Henry Francis Lyte in 1847 while battling tuberculosis. It is a prayer urging God



to remain with the speaker through life and in death.

A favourite of Gandhiii year. The Retreat, an ancient military tradition, signals the end of fighting for the day, with soldiers sheathing arms and withdrawing from the battlefield. The hymn is set to the tune of Eventide by William

This year's ceremony will begin with "Fanfare" by will play three tunes, followed

Though the cause of fire

this tune is played at the end of the Beating the Retreat cere-mony at Vijay Chowk every Henry Monk.

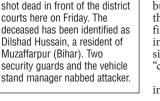
Buglers, followed by "Veer Sainik" by the Massed Bands and six tunes by the Pipes and Drums band. Bands of the Central Armed Police Forces by four tunes by the Air Force Band, which will include a special "Ladakoo" tune, by Flight Lt L S Rupachandra.

7 killed, several injured in Mumbai skyscraper blaze

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

t least seven persons were Akilled and 23 others injured when a massive fire broke out in a 20-storey Kamala building located in front of Bhatia Hospital at the bustling Nana Chowk-Gowalia Tank area of Grant Road in south Mumbai

injuries, while the condition of six persons was reported to be



on Saturday morning.

The fire erupted on the 18th floor of the high-rise building around 7.15 am. Of the 30 persons injured in the fire, seven succumbed to burn

While six persons, including two women, died in the

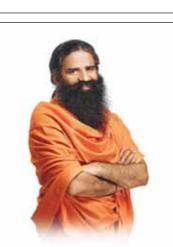


early part of the day, one person succumbed to burn injuries in the evening. The injured have been admitted to Kasturba, Nair, Masina, Bhatia and Reliance hospital. Of the injured, seven were treated and allowed to go home.

snorkel ladders were involved

nating the fire-hit building enveloped south Mumbai skies, causing considerable anxiety among the residents in the neighbourhood. While Prime minister Narendra Modi announced an

ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), the The Mumbai Fire Brigade Maharashtra Government has designated it as a Level-3 (major) fire. In all, 13 fire tenannounced an ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh to the next of kin of the ders, seven water tankers, and deceased.







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sunday pioneer

Anganwadi workers say selling sanitary napkins is torture

The Anganwadi workers have claimed that despite the chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's announcement of providing free sanitary napkins to women, the department of Women Empowerment and Child Development (WECD) has given them thousands of napkins to sell in their respective areas which is akin to torture for them. The president of Anganwadi Workers Association, Rekha Negi said that the officials are asking the Anganwadi workers to pay for all the napkins in advance when in fact, most of the women are not buying these sanitary napkins due to inferior quality. She said, "First of all, many Anganwadi workers in rural areas feel embarrassed to sell sanitary napkins by approaching women door to door as everybody knows everyone in the villages. Secondly, women are not ready to buy them again despite the cheap prices due to their inferior quality. Many

selling them when the government has announced to

even question us why we are take these napkins but if they have to spend money to buy them, they will definitely buy

napkins either on their heads or book an autorickshaw to take them to their centres. "The



provide them for free. Distributing them for free would be easier and those who desperately need them will

the better quality napkins that last longer." She said that Anganwadi workers have to carry big boxes of sanitary

workers get no remuneration for carrying such big boxes to the centres. Also, we are being asked to pay in advance for the

sanitary napkins provided to us. The department has directed us to sell each packet of the napkin at Rs six and the profit of Rs one is given to the Anganwadi workers. The whole process of selling the napkins is torturing all Anganwadi workers across the state." stated Negi

She also said that the department has asked the Anganwadi workers to update them with the daily activities that require internet. She said, "The price of internet recharge has increased in the last few months but the department has not paid us any amount for the mobile recharge. Also, over 1,000 mobiles provided by the department are damaged and those workers cannot work without them. There are several of such issues that need the department's attention.'

Negi said that she has written a letter to WECD about the issues and hopes that officials will take cognisance of the matter.

U-khand expects tableau to be centre of attraction at R-Day parade

Uttarakhand is expecting its tableau to be the centre of attraction in the Republic Day parade at Rajpath this year. The state tableau's nodal officer KS Chauhan said that the state's entry had passed through a long process to secure a place in the final selection. Out of the 29 proposals, Uttarakhand's tableau is among the tableaux of 12 states selected for the Republic Day parade. However, before reaching this stage, the meetings began in September last year. There were three meetings with the expert committee apart from meetings for design selection, model

selection and presentation for the music selection. A total of 16 artistes from Champawat, Almora and Pithoragarh will



Uttarakhand's folk culture along with the tableau which will display Badrinath temple, Valley of Flowers, all weather road, Hemkund Sahib Gurudwara, Dobra-

dam. Chauhan said that since the creation of Uttarakhand, the state's tableau has been part of the Republic Day



Visitors frolic on a mountain slope after fresh snowfall in Nainital on Saturday



Man caught with heroin & smack worth Rs 62 lakh



PNS ■ HALDWANI

n a major seizure of illegal drugs, the police arrested a man with heroin worth Rs 60 lakh and smack worth Rs 2.6 lakh in Haldwani on Saturday. The police are currently undertaking special measures to check the movement of contraband in view of the ensuing Assembly elections in the state. A joint team of the Mukhani police station and

Nainital special operation group (SOG) was conducting checks on the route from Block trijunction to Bhagwanpur Road when they caught Somdutt, a resident of Meerut in Uttar Pradesh. On checking him, the police recovered about 541 grammes of heroin and 26 grammes of smack. The police said that the heroin is worth Rs 60 lakh while the smack is worth Rs

that Goel sought Rs 25

lakh bribe, saying that even Rs 20 lakh would do.

Gupta said that he had

received calls from two

different phone numbers

in which he was told that

he would lose land worth

crores of rupees if he

didn't pay the amount. He

further alleged that the

proposal for renewing his

lease was deferred

purposely in the board

meeting to pressurize him

charge Devendra Chauhan said that a case

will be registered and the

allegations will be investigated. On being

asked about the matter.

the mayor said that he had

no information about any

such police complaint. He added that if such a

complaint has been

lodged, it should be

investigated impartially.

The Kotwali in-

to pay the bribe sought.

The Kumaon DIG Nilesh Anand Bharne announced a cash reward of Rs 20,000 while Nainital senior superintendent of police Pankaj Bhatt announced a cash reward of Rs 10,000 to the team which

Businessman accuses Roorkee mayor of seeking bribe

PNS ■ ROORKEE

A promine... prominent city has lodged a police complaint accusing the Roorkee mayor Gaurav Goel of seeking Rs 25 lakh bribe for renewing land lease. Businessman Subodh Gupta filed the complaint in the Kotwali seeking action in the case. He has stated in the complaint that during

application for renewal of the lease in the Municipal Corporation of Roorkee (MCR). However, the MCR didn't hold a board meeting and his application was not addressed. He then approached the Uttarakhand high court which directed the MCR to hold its board meeting. Gupta said that before the

1942-57, through three separate documents, the municipality had allocated a land in

Rajputana to him, Mathura Das and Om Prakash. Later, the land was transferred in his name and has been so since then. The lease of the land was to expire in 30 years so he submitted an

board meeting held on January 8, he met the mayor to explain the

whole matter. He alleged

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited (A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking) Electricity Distribution Division (Rural), Roorkee ite: www.uktenders.gov.in, CIN: U40109UR2001SGC

Date Extension Notice (Contact Number No. 01332-277897) The last date & time of submission of tender documents of Tender No. 43/2021-22 is hereby extended upto 04.02.2022 upto 11:00 hrs and Date of opening of bid is hereby extended upto 04.02.2022 at 15:00 hrs Others terms & conditions will remain same.

No.: 359/EDD(R)RKE Date: 22.01.2022 Electricity Distribution Division (Rural), Roorke "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION," Use LED Bulb to Save Electrici (Toll Free: 1912) "Pay Electricity bill online 24x7 from www.upcl.org" (For information on Electricity Theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 18001804185/ Fax No. 0135-2760911

THE PIONEER PUBLIC NOTICE

apprehended the man smuggling the

In my Army records my wife's name is mistakenly recorded as PARWINDER KAUR whereas her correct name is PARMINDER KAUR. In future it may be read as above for all purposes. No. TJ-6507X, Rank SUB Satnam Singh, C/O 56 APO R/o Village Kalwa, Post Office Boharpur, Tehsil & Distt Patiala, Punjab, Pin-147001.

The general public is informed that we have changed my son's name from Ayush to Ayush Kalura and in future my son should be known as Ayush Kalura s/o Pancham Singh Kalura Address:-vpo-Chidderwala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from Sachchida Nand to Sachchidanand Dabral and in future I should be klnown as Sachchidanand Dabral S/o Siddhanand Dabral Address:-H No- 97, Phase- 2, Gali No- A-15, Tihari Vishathapit Colony, Near Pac 40 BN Gas Godwan, Ranipur Range, BHEL, Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

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-Covid - 19 ---

Seven deaths, 4,759 new Covid cases in U'khand

Positivity rate at 12.48 % active cases- 28907

The infectivity and the fatality of the third wave of the pandemic of Covid-19 is continuing to increase in Uttarakhand. After eight deaths and 4,964 new cases of

from the disease on Saturday.

The cumulative count of Covid-19 patients in the state is now at 3,96,674 while a total of 3,52,076 patients have



health department reported 4.759 cases and seven deaths

recovered from the disease so far. A total of 7,475 people have died in the state so far

from Covid-19. The recovery percentage of the disease further dropped to 88.76 per cent on Saturday while at 12.48 per cent the positivity rate continued to remain high on

The authorities reported death of four patients from Covid-19 at Mahant Indiresh hospital Dehradun while one patient each died at All India Institute of Medical Sciences AIIMS) Rishikesh. Himalayan hospital Dehradun and Sushila Tiwari government hospital Haldwani on Saturday.

The state health department reported 1,802 new patients from Dehradun, 607 from Haridwar, 565 from Nainital, 395 from Udham Singh Nagar, 259 from Pauri,

243 from Chamoli, 176 from Pithoragarh, 159 from Rudraprayag, 143 from Almora, 120 from Bageshwar, 112 from Champawat, 108 from Tehri and 70 from Uttarkashi on Saturday.

The active case count of Covid-19 in the state has now jumped to 28,907. Dehradun with 11,965 cases is at the top of the table of active cases while Nainital has 3,791 active cases of the disease which is followed by Haridwar district with 3,568 active cases. Uttarkashi is at the bottom of the table with 230 active cases of the disease.

In the ongoing vaccination drive 33,337 people were vaccinated in 1032 sessions in the state held on Saturday.

Covid fallout-AIIMS- Rishikesh to close general OPD from Jan 24

PNS DEHRADUN

In view of the increasing cases of the Covid-19 being witnessed during the ongoing third wave of the pandemic, the administration of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh has decided to close the general OPD of the hospital. This decision will come into effect from Monday (24 January). However the emergency services, trauma

will be closed from January 24 but emergency services will be kept operational round the clock. He said that the facilities of chemotherapy and radiotherapy for the treatment of cancer patients will continue as before. Dr Dalal said that patients should take advantage of the telemedicine services of AIIMS to avoid unnecessary hassle. He said that every



treatment, and radiotherapy would continue uninterrupted in the hospital. The patients can get the services through the telemedicine OPD which will be available from 9 am to 1 pm on every working day.

Giving information about the decision, the Medical Superintendent (MS) of the AIIMS Rishikesh Dr Ashwani Kumar Dalal, said that General OPD services

person has to understand the seriousness of the Covid-19 infection and follow the Covid guidelines issued by the Central and State Governments

Telemedicine Number AIIMS-Rishikesh

Saturday during the party's

virtual campaign

Navparivartan Samvad, he

said that from sacrificing their

lives for the state and from

preserving villages to saving

culture, women have contributed immensely at

every front but it is shameful

that there is still no significant

improvement in the conditions

of women. "Many women lost their lives or their babies due

to lack of medical facility in

the mountainous areas. Both

BJP and Congress who have

alternatively formed

governments in the state have

failed to provide basic medical

facilities for women in the

remote areas in the past 21

years," stated Kothiyal. He

asked women voters to

remember their issues and

think which party can provide

health facilities, quality

1-7302895044. 7454989545, 9621539863 2- Toll Free Number-

Brother of late CDS requests people to vote for BJP

PNS DEHRADUN

he late Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat's brother Colonel (retd) Vijay Rawat who recently

India had done commendable work for the honour of the armed forces. The government took steps like implementing one



joined the Bharatiya Janata Party, has appealed to exservicemen, families of soldiers and people of Uttarakhand to vote for the BJP in the ensuing Assembly elections. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done commendable work for soldiers and for the security and prestige of the nation. Considering this, the people should vote for the BJP in the Assembly elections for development, security and prosperity of the state.

Addressing the media here on Saturday, Rawat said that he had joined the party after being influenced by PM Modi's leadership and the BJP's nationalist ideology. He said that he had been unable to work in society for a long time due to health reasons but is now eager to serve the people of Uttarakhand and the nation through politics.

The brother of the late CDS said that under PM Modi's leadership, the Government of

Kothiyal appeals women voters

to choose AAP for better future

rank-one pension and various steps for modernisation of the armed forces, "Modi understood the requirements of the jawans posted on the borders and got them equipped with the latest equipment. There was a time when army officers had to look towards Delhi to respond immediately to the enemy at the border but now they have the full authority to give a befitting reply in such situations. PM Modi has facilitated granting of equal rights to women in the armed forces while increasing their recruitment with permanent commission," said Rawat. He further said that Uttarakhand has borders with two nations considering which a network of roads is being laid under the Bharatmala project for strengthening the borders. The BJP state spokesman Suresh Joshi, Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee chairman Ajyendra Ajay, Rajiv Talwar and other office bearers were

also present on the occasion.

U'khand hit hard by price rise in BJP regime- Congress

PNS DEHRADUN

The Congress party has claimed that the price rise has affected Uttarakhand more than the rest of the country. According to it the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 8.1 per cent in the state as compared to 6.2 per cent of the Addressing the media

persons here on Saturday the national spokesperson of the Congress party Gaurav Vallabh said that the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is at an all time high of 12 years and the CPI too is increasing in the country with no reprieve to the general public in sight. To add to the woes of the people the GST on many essential goods was hiked from 5 to 12 per cent from January 1.

Giving a comparative account Vallabh said that the excise duty on petrol in the year 2014 was Rs 9,80 which has now jumped to Rs 27.90. Similarly the excise duty on the diesel has risen from Rs 3.56 to Rs 21.80 during this period.

He claimed that the wealth of 98 richest people of the country is more than the combined wealth of 55.20 Crore Indians. " In the development model adopted by Modi, the wealth of 84 per cent of Indians decreased in the year 2021 but the income of one of his friends increased eight times while the income of another friend doubled," he general prices are 15 per cent



The Congress spokesperson claimed that the double engine has given a gift of 30 per cent more price rise to the people of Uttarakhand as compared with the rest of the country. Giving examples he said that the prices of pulses, edible oil and vegetables increased substantially in the last one year. Vallabh said that the prices in villages of Uttarakhand are 15 per cent more than the cities of the state. While the prices in the cities of Uttarakhand are more than

more in villages than cities," he claimed. Vallabh added that the price of a cooking gas cylinder has increased by Rs 325 in the last one year.

Launching an attack on the double engine government the Congress spokesperson said that the BJP government has scored well on two accounts, unemployment and price rise in which Uttarakhand is on top and in all other things the government has failed completely. He said that the BJP should answer the questions on price rise posed

Leader of Opposition (LoP)

over the choice of

candidates in about

Sappal said that during the Modi regime the number of billionaires has increased by 23 per cent but the number of poor people has increased by 4.60 crore. He said that the Monmohan Singh government worked hard to lift people above the poverty line but now more and more people are becoming poor. He said that on one hand the government is hitting people by price rise. It is systematically destroying have played an important role Public Sector Undertakings in the formation of (PSU). The employment opportunities are getting has deteriorated with each

sources claim that the party

could release the list of 55

candidates late on Saturday

is on the way from Delhi has got

lead over the Congress by

announcing candidates for 59

stuck in a traffic jam.

decades. He said that women must choose AAP for their better future in the state. stolen jewellery

night. However Congress came at the receiving end of the jokes over its list over the various social media platforms. One user said that the list has got wet in the rains and the Congress leaders are drying the list while another said that the list which It is worth mentioning here

worth Rs 12.50 lakh PNS DEHRADUN

Aam Aadmi Party

year in over two

↓ (AAP) chief ministerial

candidate colonel (retd) Ajay

Kothiyal said that women

have played an important role

Uttarakhand but their situation

he police caught a woman with stolen jewellery worth Rs 12,50 lakh while investigating a complaint lodged by Old Survey Road resident Rohit Sharma. The 21year old Anchal, hailing from Bijnor district of Uttar Pradesh used to work as a domestic help in Sharma's home. She was arrested on a tip off from the Dalanwala area on Saturday. During questioning, the police recovered the jewellery stolen that the BJP has already taken a from the complainant's home from her. She was to be presented in the court later during the day.

seats on Thursday. Badrinath covered in 3-feet snow, higher



PNS JOSHIMATH

Badrinath has been experiencing snowfall for is being experienced in the Valley of Flowers, Hemkund, Niti and Mana valleys. The high Himalayan peaks including

Nanda Devi, Neelkanth, Satopanth and others are covered in fresh snow, While the higher altitude regions are experiencing snowfall, the places at relatively lower altitudes are experiencing consistent rainfall which has intensified the cold in Joshimath block.

Public will forget Congress in Uttarakhand as they did in Delhi, says AAP

PNS DEHRADUN

Calling Congress leader minister Harish Rawat the captain of a sinking ship, Delhi MLA and state incharge of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Dinesh Mohaniya said that people of Uttarakhand will also forget Congress as they did in Delhi after AAP came to power. He said that Rawat is making the same mistake

education and other facilities

after staying in power for 15 years. Congress assumed that no new party can make the government in Delhi but today, nobody even remembers them, said Mohaniya. He added, "We will repeat the history here too and would eliminate both Congress and BJP for the redevelopment of

that Congress did in Delhi

they cast their votes on

Woman arrested with Four men nabbed in US Nagar for aiding absconding Punjab bomb blast accused



PNS DEHRADUN

I ttarakhand Special Task Force (STF) has arrested four accused from Udham Singh Nagar for allegedly giving shelter to one of the absconding accused of the Punjab bomb blast at Pathankot in November last year. According to the STF, the arrested accused and the absconding criminal were also in touch with a Canadian resident who is associated with Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF).

The officials informed that a team was working on the secret inputs associated with the bomb blast incidents in Punjab last year under the guidance of the Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttarakhand, Ashok Kumar. The STF arrested four accused

on Friday from Udham Singh were also connected with Nagar who had allegedly provided shelter to the accused of the bomb blast Sukhpreet and helped him to seek a safe hideout from the authorities. The arrested accused include two 24-yearold men Harpreet Singh and Gurpal Singh who belong to Ramnagar village in Udham Singh Nagar and Rampur district in Uttar Pradesh respectively. The other two accused are 26-year-old Shamsher Singh and 30-year-old Ajmer Singh and both belong to Udham Singh Nagar. The STF also recovered a pistol and a car that was being used to take the absconding accused Sukhpreet from one place to another. The officials informed that the four accused

some dubious people from Canada, Australia and Serbia through international WhatsApp calls and Sukhpreet was also connected to them. The STF has filed an FIR against the arrested accused in Pantnagar police station for providing shelter to absconding Sukhpreet alias Sukhi and making arrangements to send him to a safe hideout under Section 19 Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 and Section 25 in Arms Act. The STF informed that information revealed by the four men is being shared with national agencies and the state police and not much can be revealed publically in view of the national interest.

Internal issues prolong wait for Cong candidates list

The Uttarakhand Congress party has lagged behind other parties in campaigning as it could not declare its much anticipated list of candidates for the ensuing assembly elections by Saturday night till the time of this report being filed. The nomination process for the polls has already started but the Congress contenders are still awaiting the official party list.

alert regarding the possibility

of heavy rain/snowfall at

isolated places in Dehradun,

places in the plains of the state.

Apart from this, light to

moderate rain/snowfall is likely

to occur at most places in the

districts of the state today while

snowfall is likely to occur at

places located at altitudes of



15 constituencies is said to be the reason for delay in the release of the list. It is learnt that the Congress high command has now included general secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal and senior leader

Mukul Wasnik in the selection

camps led by the former chief

and toughening of stance by the

procedure. The Congress Heavy rain/snowfall alert

issued for six districts today The State meteorological centre has issued a yellow 2,000 metres and above. The on Sunday. alert comes on a day when

many parts of the state received

light rain and snowfall which

resulted in colder conditions.

Uttarkashi, Chamoli. The provisional state Rudraprayag, Nainital and Pithoragarh districts on capital Dehradun is forecast to



cloudy sky with the likelihood of a few spells of light to moderate rain/thundershowers. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be about 13 degrees Celsius and 10 degrees Celsius respectively

Meanwhile, the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded at various places in the state on Saturday were 14.6 degrees Celsius and 9.5 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 17.6 degrees Celsius and 7.1 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 1.5 degrees Celsius and 0.4 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 6.2 degrees Celsius and 2.4 degrees Celsius respectively in New Tehri. Between 8:30 AM and 5:30 PM there was 2.1 millimetres rain in Dehradun, 0.7 millimetres in three consecutive days. The Pantnagar, 1.5 millimetres in temple township is covered in Mukteshwar, 1.6 millimetres in more than three feet of snow New Tehri, 12.5 millimetres in with the snowfall continuing. Narsan, 11.5 millimetres in Along with Badrinath, snowfall Bhagwanpur, four millimetres in Jankichatti, two millimetres in Bhimtal and 2.5 millimetres

reaches blanketed by snow

catalyst for development 16 marching contingents, 17 military bands to take part in R-Day parade Najor General Alok Kacker Chief of Staff Delbi Area will

Govt backing such districts Modi tells DMs via video address

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stating that the districts which were earlier tagged as backward districts have now become a 'catalyst' for the nation's development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that "hand holding" of these "aspirational districts" is in the sharp focus of his Government.

Modi, who was interacting with District Magistrates (DMs) of various districts via video conferencing, said the "success of aspirational districts which in the last 75 years were tagged as backward and left behind have now become a catalyst to nation's development and progress". He said "even Chief

Ministers would accept the remarkable role and achievements of the aspirational districts" which also "reflected increasing federal cooperation between states and the Centre".

He hailed "direct connect between people in aspirational districts and the government as also use of "technology and innovation" in these areas.

Modi cited examples of Assam, Bihar and Telangana where, he said, "many success stories have emerged" ending

The Prime Minister was



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with the DMs of various districts via video conferencing on Saturday

addressing top officials along with the state Chief Ministers regarding the implementation the key Government schemes. He complimented Chief Ministers for appointing 'young and sharp" officials in the aspirational districts and also "ensuring their full tenure" in the regions.

Modi said "handholding of these districts is in focus" of

his government.
While admirimg inspired leadership in aspirational districts, the Prime Minister also called for "recognizing strength of aspirational districts and combining people's desire to progress with that of government's efforts".

"District administrations have an important role in good governance. It helps govt to implement the schemes in a better way. Detail guidelines should be made for field visits and inspections," said the Prime Minister.

Modi further stated that every district needs to learn from the success of others and also evaluate their challenges.

The Prime Minister also called for a direct, emotional connection between administration and public to ensure 'top to bottom' as well as 'bot-

tom to top' governance flow.

During the interaction,
Prime Minister took direct feedback about the progress and present the status of the implementation of government schemes and programmes in the districts.

"The interaction will help review the performance and ascertain the challenges that are being faced," the PMO had earlier said in an official statement.

The meeting comes ahead

of the upcoming Assembly elections in five states. The five states that are going to the polls Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa, and

PM: Backward dists now | Forces all set to enthrall audience

The Army will field 16 marching contingents while 17 military bands comprising the three Services will enthrall the audience at this year's Republic Day parade. The annual event will also see 25 tableaux of various States, departments and armed forces.

The Army will be represented by a mounted column of cavalry, 14 mechanised columns, six marching contingents and a fly past by advanced light helicopters of its aviation wing. The mechanised columns of the Army will show one PT-76 tank, one

Centurion tank, two MBT Arjun MK-I tanks, one APC TOPAS armoured personnel carriers, one BMP-I infantry fighting vehicle and two BMP-II infantry fighting vehicles, officials said here on Saturday.

One 75/24 Pack howitzer, two Dhanush howitzers, one PMS bridge-laying system, two Sarvatra bridge-laying systems, one HT-16 electronic warfare system, two Taran Shakti electronic warfare systems, one Tiger Cat missile system and two Akash missile systems will also be part of the mechanised columns. The six marching contingents include Rajput Regiment, Assam Regiment, Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, Sikh Light Infantry, Army Ordnance Corps Regiment and Parachute Regiment. One marching contingent each of the Indian Air

also participate in the parade. Five marching contingents of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Police

Force and the Indian Navy will

Full dress rehearsal parade to be held at Central Vista

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

People witnessing the Republic Day parade this year will get to see major changes along the stretch in terms of the new look of Rajpath and facilities created under the Government's ambitious Central Vista redevelop-

Red granite walkways spreading 1.10 lakh square metre with greenery all around, 133 light poles along the Rajpath, 4,087 trees, 114 modern signages and stepped gardens will be part of the redeveloped Central Vista in the national capital.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, who visited the Central Vista Avenue, said that a full dress rehearsal parade will be held here on Sunday.

According to the Union Housing and Urban Affairs

Ministry, there will be a total of 915 light poles, including those

Force (CISF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Indian Coast Guard (ICG)and Border Security Force (BSF) will also participate.

Overall, there will be 16 marching contingents from the armed forces, central paramilitary forces, Delhi Police, National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme (NSS) along with 17 military bands, pipes and drum bands at the

in gardens and along the Rajpath between the Rashtrapati Bhavan and the India gate, a move aimed at making the Central Vista more pedestrianfriendly round the clock.

"In spite of (recent) rains, etc., all the work is complete," Puri told reporters, adding that only 25 trees have been relocated and of them, 22 trees have been shifted to another location and three are here. Although temporary bridges on water bodies along the Rajpath have been set up as part of the Republic Day parade arrangements, a total of 16 permanent ones will come up.

According to an official

document, eight amenity blocks are being constructed while four pedestrian under-passes will come up in the entire stretch. It shows that on the developed stretch, 'Tree Avenue' has 4,087 trees, but the earlier number was 3,890. The stretch also sports 422 red granite benches.

parade. Two Param Vir Chakra and one Ashok Chakra awardees will also participate in this year's parade.

Before the commencement of the parade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the nation in paying homage to the soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial, the official statement by the

Along the Rajpath, the new red granite walkways spreading 1,10,457 sqm have been created, replacing bajri sand that lined the ground earlier. As many as 987 concrete bollards have been installed on the Rajpath. A total of 1,490 modern-look manholes have replaced the earlier

On January 11, Puri had said the recent record rainfall had delayed the Central Vista Avenue redevelopment project by "a day or two, but not more". Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Limited is executing the redevelopment work of the Central Vista Avenue. The redevelopment project of the Central Vista -- the nation's power corridor -- envisages a new triangular Parliament building, a common central secretariat, revamping of the three-km Rajpath, a new prime minister's residence and prime minister's office, and a new vice president's enclave.

army said. The parade will begin at 10.30 am and end at 12 noon, it said. Two teams -- one male team of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and one female team of Border Security Officer (BSF) -- will perform

daring motorcycle display. Lieutenant General Vijay Kumar Mishra, General Officer Commanding Delhi Area, will be the parade commander and Major General Alok Kacker, Chief of Staff Delhi Area, will be the second-in-command of the parade. The parade will start from Vijay Chowk and end at the National Stadium through the traditional route of Rajpath, it said.

The Indian Navy's tableau will depict the 1946 naval uprising, which contributed in the country's independence movement, and its marching contingent will be led by a woman officer Lt Commander Aanchal Sharma. The tableau will also show the navy's theme of 'Combat Ready, Credible and Cohesive'.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation tableau is showcasing its "Udan" scheme (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) this year. In the aircraft shaped tableau, the front part showcases women pilots depicting women power in Indias aviation, as India tops in women commercial pilots, globally. The rear portion of the

tableau shows symbol of Buddhism and motto of UDAN- Sab Uden, Sab Juden.

The middle portion showcases Buddha circuit, featuring, Buddha Statue at Gaya where He attained enlightenment, Dhamekh Stupa, Sarnath where He delivered his first sermon (Dharmachakra Parivartan) and the Mahaparinirvana Stupa, Kushinagar where He attained Mahaparinirvana.

Both sides of the middle portion of the tableau depict heritage sites- Humayun tomb from North, Konark sun temple in East, Hampi temple chariot in South and Ajanta caves in West,

2K ultras who signed ceasefire pact to cast vote in Manipur polls

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Around 2,000 cadre of various militant groups living in designated camps after signing a tripar tite Suspension of Operation (SoO), a ceasefire pact, with the State and Central Governments in 2008, will now cast their votes in the forthcoming Assembly polls in Manipur. Although they will not go to the polling stations to cast their vote, they have been allowed to vote through Postal Ballots.

has allowed members of Manipur militant groups that signed ceasefire agreements with the government, whose names are listed in the electoral rolls and who are currently residing at various designated camps to vote in the forthcoming assembly polls by postal ballot. The state polls are scheduled to be held in two phases on February 27 and March 3.

According to the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur, the EC has allowed the cadres of the protalks militant outfits which are under ceasefire agreements with the government and those who are currently residing at various designated camps in the state to cast their votes.

The decision was made considering that a number of persons belonging to the SoO and MoU groups living in the 14 designated camps in Manipur have been

enrolled in the electoral rolls of various assembly constituencies of the state. The poll panel has taken the decision in exercise of powers conferred by clause (c) of Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and in consultation with the central government and state gov-

According to officials, over 20 Kuki militant groups operating in the state under two conglomerate groups
— United People's Front (UPF) and Kuki National Organisation (KNO) of Operation (SoO), a ceasefire pact with the state and central governments in 2008.

The EC has directed that these electors shall be allowed to vote by postal ballot, taking into account the right of franchise of such electors as they cannot move out of the said designated camps, the statement

The notification further mentioned that a survey shall be made for appropriate location of Postal Ballot Facilitation Centers (PBFC) for distribution, recording, collection of PB in different camps of SoO and MoU

Manipur has a total of 60 Assembly constituencies. In the first phase, elections will be held for as many as 38 constituencies and the remaining 22 constituencies will vote in the second phase



Govt ropes in Ayush doctors for consultation on eSanjeevini portal

To ease the burden and meet scarcity of allopathic medical professionals, the Government has roped in AYUSH doctors for providing consultation on the eSanjeevini OPD platform, a free health service portal launched by the Union Health Ministry with an aim to provide better healthcare services to patients in their homes.

It has been observed that the demand of Ayush health- demands of scarcity in a big way. increased exponentially in the current period. Accordingly the Centre has decided to rope in AYUSH doctors from Ayush institutes of the country for free consultation on this portal, said Dr Anupam Srivastava, Director of Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (RAV).

An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Ayush, has been assigned with the responsibility as a nodal agency to coordinate the programme which includes induction training of doctors too on the portal.

Dr Srivastava said, "We are witnessing an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases and this rise has also affected the doctors and other frontline health workers in a big way. AYUSH



there has been a resurgence in burden and meeting the had also recently informed.

and other AYUSH systems of medicines have played a very crucial role during the Covid-19 pandemic for the last two years and a larger section of the society got benefitted through it, he added.

In fact, the AYUSH Ministry has also operationalised a dedicated community support pan-India helpline to provide AYUSH-based approaches and solutions for the people grappling with Covid-19. Encouraged by the positive results of alternate traditional medicines in fight against Covid-19, the Centre has asked the Union Health Ministry to integrate the Ministry of AYUSH to multiply resources in the fight against the pandemic, Union

Minister Sarbananda Sonowal

The AYUSH department kit - "Ayuraksha Kit' - comprising Chyavanprash, Sanshmani Vati, Anu Tail and Ayush kadha - to improve the immunity of people and keep them healthy.

The Minister said that the time tested AYUSH systems have many evidence-based interventions for the management and treatment of Covid-19. India's AYUSH has reported tremendous growth in the last few years because of growing global and domestic demand, enabled by research and development in the sector. According to a report from the Ministry, with a turnover of \$18.1 billion, the market size of the Indian AYUSH industry, as a whole, has grown by 17 per cent during 2014-2020.

Rahul: Govt trying hard to snatch public rights

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{\text{ormer Congress president}}_{\text{Rahul Gandhi on Saturday}}$ Government accusing it of trying to destroy public rights. Rahul said that the world's

largest democracy is nothing without public rights and asked people whether they can imagine India without fundamental and public rights.
"What's the point of the

world's largest democracy with-out public rights? The Modi government has been trying to destroy the rights of the public from the beginning. Can you even imagine India without these rights including the fundamental rights?" he said in a social media post.

Rahul further listed out the basic rights. "Right to food – so that no one has to face hunger. Right to Education- Today every child goes to school, makes a better tomorrow for



himself and for the country. Right to Employment- Despite the BJPs staunch opposition, the UPA gave employment security. Right to Information-Transparency is another name of democracy. People have the right to question and get answers. RTI was also given by UPA. Which of these rights does the PM object to? And

why?" he asked. The Congress leader also recalled a desperation by a section of UPSC aspirants demanding extra opportunities. "A delegation of UPSC aspirants met me recently and shared their serious concerns. The Centre must find a viable solution in

that time and opportunities lost during the two years of pandemic don't cost our youth their future," Rahul said on Twitter with a special mention Justice for Students.

Addressing the media while launching the party's youth manifesto for Uttar Pradesh Assembly Elections a day earlier, Rahul had criticised the BJP government for depriving the youth of opportunities.
"Youth is the biggest

strength of India. They are called demographic dividend; Narendra Modi and the BJP has converted it into a demographic disaster....India needs new vision and only the Congress party can give that vision to the country...The BJP's vision is not of the country's vision," he said.

He had also accused the BJP government of taking the unemployment rate to a record high in the last 40 years.

nervous system, says expert

Long Covid affecting human

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Long Covid is affecting human brains and nervous systems at a deeper level and there is an urgent need for significant research into identifying the full extent of its complications and underlying causes, according to researchers.

The viewpoint of Avindra Nath, an Indian-American scientist who specialises in neuroimmunology, has been published in the prestigious Science journal Nath, who is clinical direc-

tor of the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke(NINDS), along with Serena Spudich from Yale Medicine, School of Connecticut, said that the medical community needs to carefully study individuals with Long Covid categorized by their specific symptoms.

"It is crucial to the development of diagnostic and therapeutic tools to identify and



increasing public health concern," emphasized Nath.

Neurological symptoms that have been reported with acute Covid-19 include loss of and smell. headaches, stroke, delirium and brain inflammation. "There does not seem to be extensive infection of brain cells by the virus, but the neurological effects may be caused by immune activation, neuroinflammation and damage to brain blood vessels," they

Long Covid can include a wide variety of symptoms in the brain and nervous system that range from a loss of taste

and smell, impaired concentration, fatigue, pain, sleep disorders, autonomic disorders and/or headache to psychological effects such as depression or psychosis. Nath and Spudich have outlined the currentscientific understanding of the potential body responses to acute Covid-19infection and how those responses could lead to Long Covid symptoms.

They also drew parallels between the symptoms experienced by individuals with Long Covid to those living with m y a l g i c encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) or post-Lyme Disease, which suggests there could be common risk factors involved.

"Owing to the significant variability in symptoms from person to person and the fact that many individuals with LongCovid were healthy prior to a relatively mild Covid-19 infection", the scientists have highlighted the urgent need for global research efforts.

NIA raids places in Punjab in Jalalabad IED blast case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has conducted searches at multiple locations in Punjab in the 2021 bike IED blast case of Jalalabad.

The agency conducted searches at five locations in Taran Tarn, Fazilka and Ferozepur districts of Punjab, the NIA said in a statement.

During the searches that continued till late on Friday, electronic gadgets, ammunition, documents and other incriminating materials have been seized. Further investigation in the case is continuing, it said.

The case relates to an explosion in a Bajaj Platina bike near Punjab National Bank, Jalalabad City, police station Jalalabad, Fazilka in which one person namely Binder Singh died on the spot.



touch with Pakistan-based terrorists/smugglers and were recruited for carrying out ter-rorist attacks in crowded areas by triggering explosive devices," The case was first registered as FIR No 205/2021 dated

September 16, 2021 under various sections of the Explosive Act at the police station City Ialalabad, Fazilka, Punjab. The NIA had re-registered the case on October 1 last year. Till now five accused persons have been arrested in the case, it added.

Ukraine tensions: Russia toughens its posture

sands of Russian troops positioned near Ukraine, the Kremlin has kept the US and its allies guessing about its next moves in the worst security crisis to emerge between Moscow and the West since the

Amid fears of an imminent attack on Ukraine, Russia has further upped the ante by announcing more military drills in the region. It also has refused to rule out the possibility of military deployments to the Caribbean, and President Vladimir Putin has reached out to leaders opposed to the West.

The military muscle-flexing reflects a bold attempt by the Kremlin to halt decades of NATO expansion after the end of the Cold War. In talks with the United States, Russia demands legally binding guarantees that the alliance will not embrace Ukraine and other former Soviet nations, or place weapons there.

It also wants NATO to pull back its forces from countries in Central and Eastern Europe that joined the alliance since the 1990s.Putin has described NATO membership for Ukraine and the others as



Members of Ukraine's Territorial Defense Forces, volunteer military units of the Armed Forces, train in a city park in Kyiv, Ukraine, Saturday. Dozens of civilians have been joining Ukraine's army reserves in recent weeks amid fears about

well as the alliance's weapons deployments there as a red line for Moscow, warning that he would order unspecified "military-technical measures" if the demands aren't met.

Putin pointed to NATO drills with the Ukrainian military, increasingly frequent visits of the alliance warships in the Black Sea and the flights of US bombers near Crimea to emphasize the urgency of Russia's security demands. He argued that by creating training centres in Úkraine, Western powers can establish a military foothold there even without its

"We have nowhere to retreat," Putin said. "They have taken it to the point where we simply must tell which annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014, has denied it intends to attack its neighbour. Last year, however, Putin issued a stark warning that an attempt by Ukraine to reclaim control of the areas in the east controlled by Russia-backed separatists would have "grave consequences for Ukrainian

Baltic nations to ship Washington-endorsed arms to Ukraine

AP ■ HELSINKI

The Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will send US-made anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles to Ukraine in a move that Washington says it is fully endorsing amid Kyiv's escalating tensions with Russia.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a tweet posted on Saturday that Washington saluted the three NATO nations and former Soviet republics "for their longstanding support to Ukraine"

"I expedited and authorized and we fully endorse transfers of defensive equipment @NATO Allies Estonia Latvia Lithuania are providing to Ukraine to strengthen its ability to defend itself against Russia's unprovoked and irresponsible aggression," Blinken said in another tweet.

Dmitry Peskov, spokesperson for Russian President Vladimir Putin, earlier this week described western arms supplies to Ukraine as extremely dangerous and said they "do nothing to reduce ten-

Moscow has massed tens of thousands of troops at the border with Ukraine, leading to fears of an invasion.

The West has rejected Moscow's main demands promises from NATO that Ükraine will never be added as a member, that no alliance weapons will be deployed near Russian borders, and that it will pull back its forces from Central and Eastern

A meeting Friday between Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov ended with no breakthrough.

In a joint statement published late Friday, the defense ministers of the three Baltic states said they "stand united in our commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in face of continued Russian aggres-

sion."
They said Estonia would provide Ukraine with Javelin anti-tank weapons while Latvia and Lithuania were sending Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and other related equipment to bolster Kyiv's defensive military capabilities.

Biden, Kishida agree to 'push back' China's attempts to change status quo in East China Sea, SCS

Washington: US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida have agreed to "push back" against China's attempts to change the status quo in the East China Sea and the South China Sea, and highlighted the importance of the Quad grouping as a critical forum for promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

During the 80-minute virtual meeting on Friday, their first formal summit meeting, Biden said the age-old alliance between the US and Japan is the cornerstone of peace and security in the strategic Indo-Pacific region and across the world.

'It was an honour to meet with Prime Minister Kishida to further strengthen the US-Japan alliance - the cornerstone of peace and security in the Indo-Pacific and around the world," Biden said in a tweet after the meeting.

"As Indo-Pacific powers, the United States and Japan are united in a shared purpose to sustain and enhance our commitment to the region," the White House said in a readout of

The two leaders resolved to push back against the People's Republic of China (PRC)'s attempts to change the status quo in the East China Sea and South China Sea," it said.

The US, India and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's aggressive military manoeuvring in the region.

The Chinese military is actively eying the strategic Indian Ocean region to step up

Beijing's influence. China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it.

Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea. China also has territorial disputes with Japan in the East China Sea. The US maintains it will support its regional allies in the defence of a free and open

Indo-Pacific region. The Japanese government said in a statement that "the two leaders shared the intention to coordinate closely under the strong Japan-US alliance and to deepen cooperation with likeminded countries such as Australia, India, ASEAN, and Europe, toward realising a 'Free and

Biden and Kishida said they remain committed to working closely with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

Open Indo-Pacific'

The two leaders highlighted the importance of the Quad - Australia, Japan, India, and the United States - as a critical forum for promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific region, according to the White House readout.

They also decided to ensure that the Quad delivers practical results in areas such as COVID-19 response, climate and clean energy, and infrastructure.

In 2017, India, Australia, Japan and the US gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the "Quad" or the Quadrilateral coalition to counter China's aggressive behaviour in the strategically-vital Indo-Pacific

2 prominent activists sentences to death by Myanmar court

ical activists in military-ruled Myanmar have been sentenced to death for alleged involvement in terrorist activities, an army television station has reported. Myawaddy TV said on its

evening news broadcast on Friday that Kyaw Min Yu, better known as Ko Jimmy, and Phyo Zeyar Thaw, also known as Maung Kyaw, were convicted under the country's counterterrorism law.

They were found guilty of offenses involving explosives, bombings and financing terrorism.

Both have been detained since their arrests, unable to comment on the allegations, and no lawyer ever emerged to comment on their behalf. Min Yu's wife, Nilar Thein, in October denied the allegations lodged against her husband.

unavailable because the proceedings were carried out in a closed military court. It was unclear if their two cases were

Modern-day Myanmar has a record of rarely carrying out death sentences.

The two are among the



most prominent activists to be given death sentences since the military in February last year seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu

Its takeover sparked widescale popular protests, which have since turned into a lowlevel insurgency after nonviolent demonstrations were met with deadly force by the security

Almost 1,500 civilians are estimated to have been killed, and more than 11,000 arrest carried out for political offenses.

have engaged in assassinations, drive-by shootings and bombings in urban areas, The mainstream opposition organizations generally disavow such activities, while supporting armed resistance in rural areas, which are more often subject to brutal military attacks.

IS-K bigger threat than TTP in Pak's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: province police chief

Peshawar: The Islamic State's Afghanistan affiliate, dubbed Islamic State Khorasan or IS-K, posed a bigger threat to peace and integrity of Pakistan's restive province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa than the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the provincial police said on Saturday.
The IS-K, which has

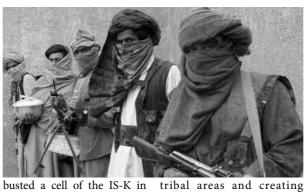
stepped up attacks in several cities in Afghanistan after the Taliban seized power in Kabul in August last year, was also responsible for carrying out a spate of terror attacks against Pakistan's security officials in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

"I see IS-K as a bigger threat to peace and security in the province compared to the TTP in near future," Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police chief Moazzam Jah Ansari said.

In October last year, IS-K had also claimed responsibility for the killing of a wellknown Sikh hakeem named who practised Unani medicine here in the provincial capital.

At least three police personnel were killed in different parts of the province in the months of October and

Ansari said following these sustained attacks, police had



Peshawar on December 20 last

While both TTP and IS-K were responsible for attacks on security forces in Pakistan, Ansari believed that the latter posed a great threat because when one of its cells became dysfunctional, another cell began operations.

These [militant] outfits are operating in small groups and the neutralisation of one cell does not end the possibility of another cell resorting to

He said that there had been security issues in North and South Waziristan tribal districts, but the security officials had acted swiftly to enforce the writ of the state

Ansari said the provincial and federal governments were focusing on development of employment opportunities for the youth. These efforts will motivate

the people to support govern-ment efforts for peace," he The police chief said his force had completed the training of 17,000 out of 27,000 Levies and Khasadar Force

personnel in the tribal districts. The police force was working in tandem with Pakistan's armed forces for bringing peace back in the region, Ansari

According to a US State Department's report, IS-K received funding from its parent organisation, the militant Islamic State group (IS), with additional funding coming from "illicit criminal commerce, taxes and extortion

US-backed fighters chase IS gunmen near prison in Syria Iraqis and Syrians in past

Beirut:Kurdish-led fighters advanced slowly Saturday under the cover of US-led coalition air power in Syria's northeast. Intense clashes with Islamic State militants took place around a prison where thousands of extremists were held, officials said.

Fighting broke out Thursday night when IS unleashed its biggest attack in Syria since the fall of its 'caliphate" three years ago. More than 100 militants assaulted the main prison holding suspected extremists in the northeastern city of Hassakeh, sparking a battle with US-backed Kurdish fighters that has so far left dozens dead.

Despite their defeat in Syria nearly three years ago, IS sleeper cells have carried out deadly attacks against US-backed fighters of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces as well as government forces on River in eastern Syria.

The group's territorial control in Syria and Iraq, where they once declared their "caliphate" was crushed by a years-long US-backed campaign. But its fighters continued with sleeper cells that have increasingly killed scores of The US-backed Kurdish-

led Syrian Democratic Forces brought more reinforcements into Hassakeh in an attempt to regain control of areas taken by IS, residents said. More civilians fled the areas of fighting as sounds of explosions echoed in the city and black smoke billowed from the Gweiran Prison area on the southern edge of Hassakeh. Hassakeh Governor

Ghassan Khalil told Syrian state media that some 4,000 civilians have fled to areas controlled by Syrian government forces in the city and its suburbs.

The IS attack targeted Gweiran Prison, the largest of around a dozen facilities run by US-backed Syrian Kurdish forces holding suspected IS fighters. Gweiran holds some 5,000, including IS commanders and figures considered among the most dangerous.

"The battles are taking"

place on the edge of the prison, SDF spokesman Siamand Ali told The Associated Press, adding that most of the prison is under their control apart from a small part that is held by rioting prisoners. He added that fighting is also ongoing in

the nearby Zuhour neighbourhood, where IS fighters were holed up.
Ali said SDF fighters and

US-led coalition aircraft targeted a technical academy ouilding where dozens of "Daesh terrorists took positions". Ali, who used an Arabic acronym to refer to IS, said SDF fighters are advancing slowly in order to protect the lives of civilians as IS gunmen are holed up in alleys and in residential homes.

Ali said some 45 IS gunmen were killed in the fighting, adding that a statement will be issued later about the casualties among SDF fighters.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said that since Thursday night, 78 people have been killed, including 45 IS gunmen, 28 Kurdish fighters and five civilians. The Observatory added that SDF speakers to call on IS fighters to surrender but the extremists refused.

On Friday, the SDF's top military commander, Mazloum Abadi, said IS mobilised "most of its sleeper cells" to organise the prison break.

Stray bullet kills English astrophysicist visiting Atlanta



Brookhaven (US): A stray bullet struck and killed and English astrophysicist while he was inside an Atlanta-area apartment, and police say the less" gunfire by random indi-

Matthew Willson, 31, of Chertsey, Surrey, England, was shot once in the head while laying in bed, Brookhaven police announced Thursday. The shooting happened early

Sunday morning.
Willson was in Brookhaven visiting his girlfriend, Katherine Shepard. She told WSB-TV that the bullet came through the wall of her apartment, from a neighbouring apartment complex. She called

911.
"I held him for another 20 minutes while we waited for the ambulance," she said. "And while we were waiting, there were more gunshots fired."

Willson was taken to a hospital and later pronounced

NYC police officer killed, 2nd critical in Harlem shooting

New York: A New York City police officer lay in a hospital Saturday after being critically wounded in a shooting in a Harlem apartment that left a fellow officer dead, authorities

The man who shot them with a stolen gun was also in critical condition, wounded by a third officer who fired at him as he tried to flee, officials said.

The two officers were shot Friday night while answering a call about an argument between a woman and her adult son. Officer Jason Rivera, 22,

was killed, and Officer Wilbert Mora, 27, was critically wounded, authorities said. Police had no update on Mora's condition Saturday

morning but said he remained hospitalised. The man police say shot them, 47-year-old Lashawn J. McNeil, also was critically

wounded and hospitalized, authorities said. Authorities said the three officers went to the apartment after a call came in from a woman needing help with McNeil, her son. Officers spoke with the woman and another

of a weapon. Rivera and Mora walked from the front of the apartment down a hallway, and McNeil swung open a bedroom door

son, but there was no mention

and opened fire, Chief of Detectives James Essig said.

As McNeil tried to flee, a third officer who had stayed with McNeil's mother in the front of the apartment shot at McNeil and wounded him in the head and arm, Essig said.

They were among the four officers shot in the city in as many days, prompting an emotional response from Mayor Eric Adams.

This was just not an attack on these brave officers," Adams said Friday night. "This was an attack on the city of New York.' Rivera joined the force in November 2020. Mora has been with the NYPD for four years.

his job, called for federal authorities to do more to round up stolen guns like the one used in Friday's shooting. Police said the gun used in Friday night's shooting, a .45-

Adams, three weeks into

caliber Glock with a highcapacity magazine capable of holding up to 40 extra rounds. had been stolen in Baltimore in McNeil was on probation

for a 2003 drug conviction in New York City. He also had several out-of-state arrests. In 1998, he was arrested in

South Carolina on suspicion of unlawfully carrying a pistol, but records show the matter was later dismissed.

Pak YouTuber gets just 1 year jail term for | Indian-origin scientist among UBC researchers unveil justifying lynching of Sri Lankan citizen

PTI ■ LAHORE

A Pakistani anti-terrorism court has sentenced a 27-year-old man to one year of imprisonment and imposed a fine for justifying the lynching of a Sri Lankan citizen in a video, which went viral on his YouTube channel.

On December 3 last year, a mob of over 800 men, including supporters of hardline Islamist party Tehreeke-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), attacked a garment factory in Sialkot district, some 100 km from Lahore, and lynched its general manager Priyantha Kumara, 47, and burned his body over allegations of blasphemy.

world's 1st molecular-level analysis of Omicron

ular-level structural analysis of the Omicron spike protein, which could help accelerate the development of more effective treatments against the variant. Spike protein helps the virus enter

Toronto:A team of researchers, including

an Indian-origin scientist at the prestigious

University of British Columbia, has become

the first in the world to conduct a molec-

and infect cells.Dr Sriram Subramaniam, professor in UBC faculty of medicine's department of biochemistry and molecular biology, said that Omicron has greater binding affinity than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus, with levels more comparable to what seen with the Delta

Website: www.jaschindustries.com, Email: accounts@jasch.biz

(Standalone And Consolidated Financial Results under Regulation 47(1)(B) Of Listing Regulations)

Extract of Reviewed Ind AS Financial Results for the Quarter & Nine Months Ended 31st December, 2021.

(₹in Lakh Standalone Consolidated **Particulars** Quarter Ended Nine Months Ended Year Ended ne Month Ended Year Ended 31.12.21 30.09.21 31.12.21 31.12.20 31.03.21 31.12.21 31.03.21 Unaudited Unaudited Unaudited Unaudited Unaudited Unaudited Audited 15341.49 Total Income from Operations 5285.32 4449.16 8583.05 13567.63 15341.49 2 Profit before Interest, Depreciation & Taxes (EBITDA) 621.48 642.62 2118.71 1155.10 1909.2 2118.71 894.45 535.88 561.14 1860.70 892.04 1561.9 1860.70 Net Profit for the period (before Tax & Exceptional Items 1860.70 394.22 1135.20 1382.10 394.22 Profit) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive income (after tax)] 7 Equity Share Capital 1133.00 5818.84 8 Reserves 7200.94 6536.57 5298.40 7200.94 5298.40 7200.94 Earnings Per Share (of ₹10/-each) Basic & Diluted:

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the website of Stock Exchange at www.bseindia.com and also on Company's website at www.jaschindustries.com. 2. The financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)

3. Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

Sonipat, 22nd January 2022

sd/- (J. K. GARG) MANAGING DIRECTOR

TAAI seeks 'One India One Tourism' approach in Budget

Association of India (TAAI) has sought 'One India One Tourism' approach, which is inclusive of 'One Tax Structure,' in the forthcoming Union Budget to revive the pandemic-hit domestic travel, tourism and hospitality industry.

Besides, the Association has sought bringing Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) under the ambit of GST to make air travel "more viable" for all stakeholders as well as extension of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

There are several aspects which can be expected in the upcoming Budget to support the entire sector of 'travel tourism and hospitality,' which will help in making this sector revive and survive, TAAI, which is headed by Jyoti Mayal, said in a statement on Saturday.

"For this, it is extremely important for both the central and state governments to work in tandem to facilitate this sector and support it to be included in the concurrent list to get Industry status to make it more structured," the Association

said the Government should strive to increase the disposable income of the middle classes to spur that discretionary spending. According to the travel agents body, concrete steps should be taken to improve cash flows and reduce the working capital burden on startups, existing



MSMEs and SMEs along with access to easy credit, reducing income tax rate and GST rate, abolishment of tax collected at source (TCS) and wage support with ease of business.

Besides, strengthening MSMEs, creating a fund of funds scheme for technology adoption for use in industry 4.0, reviving the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) for technology upgradation are the other steps TAAI is expecting in the forthcoming Union Budget, it said.

To revive this struggling sector, "we need 'One India One Tourism' approach inclusive of 'One Tax Structure," TAAI said in the statement, adding that, important points to be considered are e-visa fees waiver for all tourist visas for 2022-2023, to support inbound revival export status for

tourism export earnings.
It has also sought double expenditure allocation for the tourism ministry to enable intensive global reach-out to support the inbound revival as travel credit for Indian citizens and Indian companies to support domestic retail and domestic MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and

exhibitions)pick-up.
The Association is also looking at a global bidding fund in the Union Budget 2022-23 to enable bidding support to Indian MICE companies to bring global MICE events to India, as per TAAI. Lastly

mechanism to secure travel agents' payments to ensure security for travel agents and operators' survival, it said.

TAAI added that travel agents' payments to principals are unsecured credit and there is need to ensure that some form of mechanisms, whether escrow or guarantee or underwriting based mechanisms, are in place for securing travel

Industry Speaks: Make travel expenses deductible under IT returns in Budget FY23

restaurant industry has urged the Centre to make travel expenses deductible under IT returns in Budget FY23.

Notably, the sector has been heavily battered due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent restrictions imposed to check the infections' spread.

According to Gurbaxish Singh Kohli, Vice President, Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India, since foreign travel is at least 12-15 months away from returning to the pre-pandemic levels, Centre should give impetus on domestic travel.

'We have requested Finance Minister to allow and corporates to be a deductible expense in their IT returns. This tax incentive could be offered for a fixed number of years until hospitality comes back to pre-pandemic conditions," Kohli told

IANS.
"The move will encourage the 28 million-plus people who otherwise travel out of the country, to holiday in India. We also ask for a review of the decision to introduce LTC cash vouchers in lieu of LTC fare to the Central Government employees.

Besides, the hospitality industry has asked the Centre to be granted the infrastructure

Public wifi hotspots have potential to generate 2-3 cr jobs this year: Telecom Secretary

crore public wifi hotspots across the country by this year as envisaged under the present telecom policy has the potential to create 2-3 crore job opportunities, a senior government official said on Saturday.

Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman while speaking at Broadband India Forum (BIF) event called upon wifi equipment makers to lower the cost of their products for the

expansion of Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme which aims to set up wifi hotspots across the country.

Given by conservative estimate of each hotspot enabling 2-3 direct and indirect employment opportunities, the creation of 10 million hotspots as per the NDCP (National Digital Communications Policy) target by 2022 would potentially generate 20-30 million job opportunity in the small and medium scale sectors," Rajaraman

Public wifi hotspots have immense potential to act as catalysts for rural economy and as a means of rural livelihood besides propelling socio-economic growth by providing employment opportunities for millions of small local and village entrepreneurs. "Sprawling manufacturing units will be needed to produce millions of access points for PM WANI which is the core of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission and would lead to therefore more job creation, Raiaraman said.

According to the PM-WANI portal, over 56,000 wifi hotspots have been



Rajaraman said that he wants more entrepreneurs to join PM-WANI programme facilitated by C-DoT.

"We also want local communities to join PM-WANI scheme wholeheartedly. We will be happy to facilitate existing entrepreneurs in local neighborhoods especially local cable operators, internet service providers, tourism operators etc to come forward and help proliferate WANI access points across the country," he said. BIF announced the launch of BIF

Connectivity Accelerator Programme in partnership with Meta (formerly Facebook) to enable entrepreneurs and startups build innovative connectivity solutions and support the public wifi ecosystem.

"This (BIF Connectivity Accelerator) virtual programme will give startups the opportunity to partner with BIF to help develop relevant use cases and help scale their businesses. We appeal to all stakeholders to come together and join hands with us to expeditiously and effectively implement this national mission," BIF president TV Ramachandran said.

FabIndia plans ₹4,000 cr IPO; promoters to gift over 7 lakh shares to artisans, farmers

New Delhi: Lifestyle retail brand FabIndia plans to raise up to ₹4,000 crore through an initial public offer and in a novel approach, the company's promoters also plan to gift more than 7 lakh shares to artisans and farmers.

On Saturday, the company filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with markets watchdog Sebi for the offer that will include fresh issue of shares worth up to ₹ 500 crore. Besides, there will be an Offer For Sale (OFS) of up to 2.50,50,543 shares. Market sources said the Initial Public Offer (IPO) is expected to be worth around Rs 4,000 crore.

In order to "reward and express gratitude to certain artisans and farmers engaged with the company or its subsidiaries", FabIndia's two promoters -- Bimla Nanda Bissell and Madhukar Khera -- intend to transfer 4,00,000 shares and 3,75,080 shares, respectively, to them, subsequent to the filing of the DRHP.

'Ŏur promoters, namely, Bimla Nanda Bissell and Madhukar Khera have opened their respective demat accounts and have transferred 4,00,000 equity shares and 3,75,080 equity shares, respectively, that are proposed to be transferred by way of gift to the artisans and farmers," the DRHP said. Proceeds from the fresh issue of shares

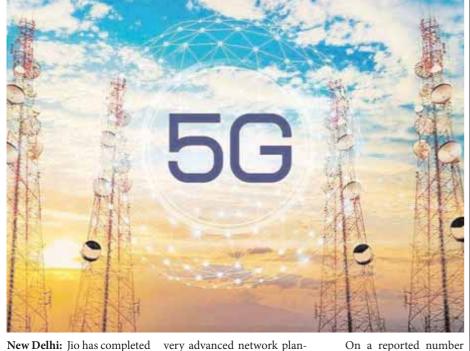
will be utilised for voluntary redemption of the company's NCDs (Non Convertible Debentures), pre-payment or scheduled re-payment of a portion of certain outstanding borrowings and general corporate purposes.

In the DRHP, the company has mentioned about its ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) initiatives, saying it believes that enabling and uplifting the people we work with, taking care of the environment, and being ethical in our conduct with have a long and lasting positive impact".

"We have aimed to create social impact
"Continuous communications communication communication communication communication communication comm

and foster well being for our artisans, communities, employees and investors, using environmentally responsible and ethical means," it

Jio completes 5G coverage plans for top 1,000 cities in country



New Delhi: Jio has completed 5G network coverage planning for top 1,000 cities in the country and is augmenting its fibre capacity as well as running pilot across sites, a senior company official said during a presentation.

The company has created teams to focus on dedicated solutions for 5G deployment in India, Reliance Jio Infocomm President Kiran Thomas said on Friday evening.

"5G coverage planning has been completed for 1,000 top cities across the country. Jio has been doing trials on advanced use cases across healthcare and industrial automation on its 5G network," Jio said in a statement.

Thomas during the presentation said that the company is running a 5G pilot in multiple cities and network planning for the roll out of 5G using 3D maps and ray tracing technology is going on. "We are using the most modern approaches towards network planning, especially 3D maps and ray tracing technology because 5G is pretty unique technology, which requires

ning techniques, and we are undertaking that for all of India, so that as and when the approvals are received for us to roll out this network, we will be well geared-up to prioritise our rollout, where we can make the maximum contribution," Thomas said.

is expected to be held in the first quarter of the next finan-

close the third quarter which ended December 31 with net addition of 1.02 crore customers year-on-year (YoY) at The sub-42.1 crore. scriber base, however, declined on a quarter-on-quarter basis. "We closed the quarter at 421 million subscribers. That was a reduction of 8.4 million, but the gross addition continued to be very strong 34.6 million. And the reduction was really on account of SIM consolidation and some of the less active customers, now with tariff increases, etc, looking at consolidating uses in a single SIM," Reliance Jio head of strategy Anshuman

very advanced network plan-

(IUC) which it had to pay to other operators. Auction for 5G spectrum charges have become nil from January 1, 2021. Platforms posted an 8.8 per cent increase in net profit at ₹3,795 crore for the third quar-Reliance Jio reported to ter ended December 2021.

It had posted a net profit of ₹3,486 crore in the same period a year ago. Gross revenue from operations increased by 5.76 per cent to ₹24,176 crore from ₹ 22,858 crore in the October-December 2020 period. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd

basis, Jio's ARPU remained

almost flat but the company's

average revenue per user

(ARPU) increased by 8.4 per

cent to ₹ 151.6 on a year-on-

year after making adjustments

interconnection usage charges

The IUC

(RJIL), the telecom services arm of Jio Platforms, posted a 9.8 per cent rise in net profit at ₹3,615 crore for the quarter, compared to ₹3,291 crore in the year-ago period.

RJIL's revenue from operations increased 4.62 per cent to ₹19,347 crore from ₹ 18,492

ICICI Bank Q3 consolidated profit jumps nearly 19% on NII growth, lower provisions

Mumbai: Private sector lender ICICI Bank on Saturday reported a nearly 19 per cent jump in its consolidated profit to ₹6,536 crore for the quarter ended in December 2021, helped by higher net interest income (NII) and lower provi-The bank had posted

a profit after tax of ₹ 5,498 crore in the year-ago period.

"It was an all-round growth. We had an NII growth

of 23 per cent and core operating profit also grew by 25 per cent. Our provisions declined by 27 per cent," the lender's Executive Director Sandeep Batra told reporters here.

However, total income was third quarter this fiscal compared to ₹ 40,419.08 crore in the same quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing. On a standalone basis, the profit after tax jumped by 25 per cent to ₹ 6,194 crore in the third quarter of FY2022 compared to ₹4,940 crore in the same quarter of FY2021. Total income increased to ₹ 27,069.67 crore from ₹24,416 crore in the year-ago period.

Net interest income (NII) jumped by 23 per cent year-onyear to ₹12,236 crore compared to ₹9,912 crore. Net interest margin (NIM) stood at 3.96 per cent compared to 3.67 per cent in the year-ago quarter.

Fee income grew by 19 per cent year-on-year to ₹4,291 crore from ₹ 3,601 crore in the same period of the previous fis-

Treasury income declined to ₹88 crore during the reporting quarter compared to ₹ 766 crore in Q3 FY2021. The treasury income in Q3 FY2021 included a gain of ₹329 crore from sale of shares of ICICI Securities, the lender said in a

Gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio was at 4.13 per cent in the third quarter as against 4.38 per cent in the year-ago quarter. Net NPA stood at 0.85 per cent from 0.63 per cent in the year-ago peri-

Speaking of the impact of the third wave of Covid-19, Batra said, "As things stand today, the third wave may have created local disruptions. We do not anticipate, at this point of time, any significant economic disruptions to the portfolio that we have.

The lender has a Covid provision of ₹6,425 crore, which it did not release during the December quarter, he said. Provisions (excluding provision for tax) declined by 27 per cent to ₹2,007 crore from ₹ 2,742 crore. The gross addition to NPAs during the quarter was to around₹ 5,500 crore in the September quarter. Of that, retail was about ₹ 3,853 crore and corporate and SME was about ₹ 165 crore.

Recoveries and upgrades of NPAs, excluding write-offs and sale, were ₹ 4,209 crore. The gross NPAs written-off in the quarter were ₹ 4,088 crore. Îts restructured book stood at ₹ 9,684 crore or 1.2 per cent of total advances as of December 31, 2021. The bank's total capital adequacy as of December 31, 2021 was 19.79 per cent.

Total advances increased by 16 per cent year-on-year to ₹8,13,992 as of December 31, 2021. The domestic advances grew by 18 per cent y-o-y. Its retail loan portfolio grew by 19

Total deposits rose by 16 per cent year-on-year to ₹10,17,467 crore as of December end.

Batra said the value of credit card spends in Q3 FY2022 was 2.2 times the value of credit card spends in the year-ago period.

Meanwhile, the bank on Saturday informed exchanges that Vibha Paul Rishi has been appointed as its Additional (Independent) Director for a period of five years with effect from January 23, 2022. PTI | COVID cases.

Yes Bank Q3 profit | E-mobility start-up, VAAN Electric zooms 80 pc as provisions decline

Mumbai: Yes Bank on Saturday reported 80 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at ₹265.76 crore for December quarter 2021-22, helped by a fall in the provisions for bad The bank's core net inter-

est income declined 31 per cent

to ₹1,764 crore, despite a 0.25

per cent expansion in net interper cent expansion in net interest margin to 2.4 per cent but limited by the loan growth being suppressed at 4 per cent.

On a standalone basis, the profit jumped 77 per cent to ₹ 266.43 cross in the

cent to ₹ 266.43 crore in the quarter under review. Given the de-bulking exercise where it has reduced high value loans and also de-leveraging exercises by corporates, loan growth guidance to 10 per cent from the earlier 15 per

CEO Prashant Kumar said. The provisions declined 82 per cent to ₹ 375 crore from the year-ago period's ₹ 2,089 crore, helping the bottom line.

cent, Managing Director and

The share of gross non per forming assets (NPAs) in the overall loan portfolio declined to 14.65 per cent from 15.36 per cent in the year-ago period and quarter ago's 14.97 per cent, as the fresh slippages got contained at ₹978 crore.

The bank management said ₹435 crore came from corporate loans, ₹388 crore from retail and ₹123 crore from small businesses. The quantum of restruc-

tured loans increased to ₹6.878 crore from the quarter ago's ₹6,184 crore, which Kumar attributed to some projects facing a delay in date of commencement of commercial operations and also the COVID-2 restructuring.

Kumar said the bank's plans for floating an asset reconstruction company (ARC) to house the entire quantum of its ₹50,000 crore in stressed advances seem to be getting delayed by a quarter due to the fresh outbreak of

Moto, launches e-bikes in India Kochi: Indian lifestyle ewith Shimano Tourney 7 speed

mobility startup VAAN Electric Moto Pvt Ltd has launched its electric bicycle-Urbansport in the country. Union Minister of State for

Development, Entrepreneurship, Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, launched the Van Electric Moto brand in India in a virtually held event in Kochi on Friday The e-bike is available in two variants- Urbansport and Urbansport Pro, priced at ₹59,999 and ₹69,999 respectively and will initially go on sale in Kochi, before being launched in other high-potential markets like Goa, Bangalore, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Delhi in the

According to VAAN, the tance (top speed) of 25 km/h, and a pedal assisted range of 60 kilometres. VAAN claims that a full charge would require just half a unit of electricity, costing around ₹4-5. The removable battery pack, with a net weight of 2.5 kg, would offer added convenience and would require 4 hours for a full charge.

Leader of the Opposition in Kerala Assembly V D Satheesan and the Chairman and Managing Director of OilMax Energy Pvt. Ltd, Kapil Garg jointly launched the VAAN e-bikes in the Indian market. Ernakulam MP Hibi Eden unveiled the VAAN brand logo in the event in which former MP Chandran Pillai was also present. the electric bikes get, compact 6061 aluminium unisex frames, saddle, rims and handlebar designed by Benelli Biciclette, the e-bike vertical of the Italian brand. "VAAN has tied with

them for engineering and supply chain and has worked closely with the Benelli team for the development of the Urbansport duo," the group said in a release. claims that its removable battery is a first in this segment, **PTI** | adding that the bicycles come

derailleur gear system, front and rear disc brakes and Spinner USA front shocks.

"The electric pedal assist system consists of a 250W hub mounted electric motor, a 48 Volt, 7.5 Ah removable Lithium-ion battery, and a total of 5 electric 'gear levels," it said. VAAN Urbansport e-bikes

get a Smart LCD display serving all necessary information, that can also be used to control front and rear lights. Urbansport is the most practical of the two and gets 20 inch spoke wheels, a carrier that can carry up to 15 kilograms and an exposed electric motor. Urbansport Pro is a more stylish and premium e-bike that offers alloy wheels and an electric motor that is neatly inte-

release said.

The company's plant at Ernakulam has a capacity to assemble 2,000 cycles a month, and are initially targeting sales of 8,000 to 10,000 cycles a year. "We targeted a young crowd earlier but are now looking at even those in the age group of 40-55 years who need not be cycling enthusiasts, considering the advantages of our product that comes with three modes," Jithu Sukumaran Nair, Chief Executive Officer and founder of VAAN Electric Mobility He said the e-cycle has a power-assisted mode with five electric gears and a full-throttle mode ratcheting up a speed of up to 25 km per

VAAN says the lithium-based removable battery weigh-ing around 2.50 kg with a twoyear warranty can be fully charged in around four hours and lasts for 50 km to 60 km depending on the mode in which the cycle is used. KTM-owned KISKA GMBH, Austria handles branding for VAAN an Indian lifestyle emobility start-up. It was globally launched at the EICMA motorcycle show in Italy. Vaan has technology partnership with ducer brand Benelli.

Asia's first-ever Email **Excellence Awards**

New Delhi: Asia is going to witness its first-ever email excellence award show "For the Love of Emails - Awards 2022" on February 25, 2022. The FTLOEA 2022, being organised by Asia Inc.500 and martech solution giant Netcore Cloud, offers a unique opportunity to recognise and celebrate the email marketing industry. "The event will virtually bring together the new-age email marketing communities, said Anshika Purwar, global head, strategic alliances & partnerships, Asia Inc.500.

PFS could not hold board meeting in absence of independent directors New Delhi: Power solution At present, there are three

provider PTC India arm PTC Îndia Financial Services (PFS) board could not hold its scheduled board meeting on Saturday in the absence of all independent directors, a source said.

On Wednesday, the three independent directors -- Kamlesh Shivji Vikamsey, Santosh B Nayar and Thomas Mathew -- resigned enmasse from the board of PFS citing corporate governance issues. The source told PTI that the PFS cannot hold board meeting in the absence of all three independent

directors as per the norms of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The source also stated that now the company will have to seek SEBI permission or exemption for holding its board The queries sent to PFS remained unanswered. Earlier on Friday, PTC India CMD Rajib Kumar Mishra had told in a virtual press conference that PFS board will be meeting on Saturday. However, he had not divulged the details about agenda of the meeting saying it was con-

members on board of the PFC, Rajib Kumar Mishra (CMD of PTC India), Pankaj Goel (CFO PTC India) and PFS MD and CE Pawan Singh. Earlier this week independent director of the PTC India, Rakesh Kacker, in his resignation letter, had said that despite best efforts, the "independent directors could not convince the management of PTC and PFS to take proper action to run the company in accordance with what we considered the correct course of action".

lenders: FRL independent directors to Amazon New Delhi: Future Retail's independent directors have asked e-commerce giant

Amazon if it is willing to fund Rs 3,500 crore to repay the retail company's lenders. Notably, the question to Amazon was

posted after the e-commerce giant in an earlier letter to independent directors objected to the sale of Future Retail Ltd (FRL)'s small-format stores.

"FRL is in need for cash infusion urgently in order to repay its lenders. FRL is required to pay its lenders ₹3,500 crore by January 29, failing which it will be classified as an NPA," said the letter dated

"Since you are objecting to the sale of

small-format sales, the proceeds of which were to be used to repay lenders and thereby avoid NPA classification, please confirm that you are willing to fund this amount by Monday through an unsecured, long-term loan, subordinated to FRL's existing lenders or any other mutually suitable and legally acceptable struc-

Confirm willingness to fund debt owned to

Besides, the letter to e-commerce giant said, "If you do so, FRL will use such funds in order to repay FRL's existing lenders. Alternatively, you are also free to engage with the lenders so that we do not fall foul of our OTR process or obligations." Accordingly, the independent

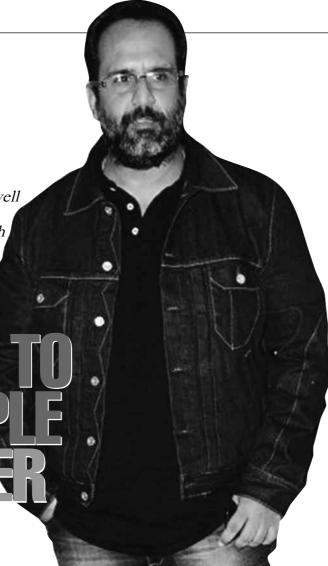
directors asked the e-commerce giant to provide the confirmations for such funds y January 22, 2022. "Once you have provided these con-

firmations in writing and agree to infuse ₹ 3,500 crore in order to repay FRL's lenders by January 29, 2022, we would be happy to assess a detailed proposal and meet Amazon India Head Abhijeet Muzumdar.'

Furthermore, the letter asked Amazon, "Coming to the specific aspects of your proposal -- we note that your letter refers to a potential transaction between Samara Capital and FRL as a



The director known for films like Nil Battey Sannata and Shubh Mangal Savdhan latest venture Atrangi Re was well received on the OTT. He speaks with Shalini Saksena about why he chose such an unconvetional subject this time



■ It's an unconventional film and a brave attempt. What made you choose such a subject?

Thank you so much first of all for liking the film. It's more to do with my audience — the strength comes from them. For me, it's to be able to come up with the story which is gutsy. After so many years, it becomes my responsibility to bring something new for the audience. It's not just about being successful. It's more to do with how you contribute to the newness of your cinema.

How important is it to be original with every subject you choose?

It is very important for a director to be original with the story and am very thankful to the audience for accepting it and loving it. When they have not liked something, it has been an unusual experience. It has given strength be it films like *Tanu Weds Manu Returns* and *Zero*, they have helped me to bring something new Atrangi Re. May be I am a good student who is learning with every film. I want to reach out to more people with better stories

■ Were you sceptical if the story will connect with the audience?

I always knew I am walking on thin ice. But I wanted to tell this story. I wanted to bring out something which is as centrical to Atrangi Re. May be subconsciously a story like this was not happening around us. Nobody was working on a script like this. I wanted to tell a father-daughter story with a perspective in this film. I am happy

I WAS VERY SURE THAT THE MOVIE HAD TO HAVE AR REHMAN MUSIC. THE MINUTE THE STORY WAS FINALISED, THE FIRST NAME THAT CAME UP WAS HIS. THIS IS A SENSITIVE STORY. HE IS SO GOOD WITH EMOTIONS. WE WOULD NOT HAVE DONE THE PROJECT IF HE HAD NOT COME ON **BOARD**



that people accepted it.
■ How did AR Rehman get on board for the film?

The only credit I take for this is that I was very sure that the movie had to have AR Rehman music. The minute we (Himanshu Sharma and I) finalised the story, the first name that came up was Rehman sir. This is a sensitive story. He was a pillar of strength for us. He is so good with the emotions. We were sure that we needed him for this movie. There was never a doubt in my mind. We would not have done the project if he had not come on board.

What was the reason to choose a small town as your backdrop?

With characters like Rinku and Vishu it is always interesting to explore with characterisation. It has more to do with the flavour rather than the location. It's to do with the character they bring to life. It's not about the place it's about the character. A small town adds culture to the characters. It goes so well. Every film teaches me so much.

■ Can you tell us something about your future projects Good luck Jerry, Raksha Bandhan?

Now that this film is over, I will be taking a break for a few days. In fact, I am on my break at present. Once I am back, I will officially start working on the post-production for Raksha Bandhan since the shoot is complete. The same is for *Good Luck Jerry*. The shoot is complete. Final edit changes are being done. Action Hero will go on floor in the next few days. I am working on different stories. I am really looking forward to 2022. My production house Colour Yellow Productions has so much to offer.

CookSmart



hile eating out is fun, sometimes you want to stay at home and yet make a dish that tastes like it came stright from the best restaurant kitchen. One such dish that most people balk at making is the risotto. Follow these tips to make a lipsmacking risotto Don't use cold stock. Keep

the stock on simmer. Stirring the rice constantly will add air into the risotto. slowly adding

stock, you allow the rice to bump up against each other creating that creamy starch. Like pasta, the rice should be al dente — just cooked, with a little bite to it.

If your pot is too wide, the rice will cook in a thin layer and won't be able to bump and grind enough to generate starch. The rice should be at a medium simmer throughout cooking. Save things like mascarpone and parmesan for the end.

Chopped onions and garlic add a classic flavour base to risotto. They add a hint of sweetness to the dish

tomeSweetHome

hen you begin o redo your home, people will tell you that you must have a theme and stick to a pattern. But experts tell you that doesn't have to be the

You don't need to stick to one pattern. You can mix two or three prints. A word of caution - pay attention to the patterns - smaller, busier prints look best on compact surfaces like cushions. Bold. large patterns usually work well with white space around

If you don't want to spend big bucks on a corner that is empty, just add a plant. They add depth and character to a room. They also add much-needed colour to the roomand bring freshness. You can place plants in

earthen pots, cups, mason jars or terrariums Several smal objects are visually appealing than a single piece. You could arrange clusters of earthen pots in different sizes and even two pairs of cushions in different patterns

Grand musical journey

The present pandemic has once again thrown a curve ball. Music is the purest form of medium that resonates with everyone. Swarna Swar Bharat, a reality show on Zee TV, is a step in this direction, says SHALINI SAKSENA

→he COVID-19 has once again thrown a curve ball making us pray for the good health and safety of our family and friends. We are looking for ways that can help us connect with him. Music, one is told is one of the purest forms of medium that connects our soul with God. Our scriptures talk about how sadhus and saints took to devotional songs to find a connection with divinity.

Keeping this in mind as the basic

concept, Zee TV is all set to introduce the first-of-its-kind devotional singing reality show — Swarna Swar Bharat.
One is told that the show will celebrate the country's values and take us back to our roots through a unique blend of insightful and relatable stories narrated in verse and soulful devotional music.

Aparna Bhosle, Zee TV's business head, tells you that music is the most organic and powerful medium for man to communicate with the powers through devotional music; be it in the form of the flute, the shankh naad or chanting that most of us feel connected with divinity. Offering our audiences a few moments of solace while reconnecting them to their roots through devotional music and stories of Indian culture narrated in verse, we are happy to present Swarna Swar Bharat. This first-of-its-kind devotional singing reality show is a grand celebration of Indian culture," Bhosle says.

What is even more interesting is that through fictional narrative being portrayed through magical realism, this show will bring us the stories of some of our immortal Gods and Goddesses like Lord Vishnu, Goddess Laxmi, Narad Muni, Ganapathi and Hanuman from the vedic texts and



scriptures that are relevant even today.

Produced by Fathom Pictures and Kailasa Entertainment Pvt Ltd. this reality show is also humble con-Narendra Modi's initiative Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav that celebrates India's rich cultural heritage on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of our Independence.

The show will have renowned poet Dr Kumar Vishwas, Padmashri Kailash Kher and Padmashri Suresh Wadkar as judges. Each of them have felt a strong connect with divinity through countless devotional songs that they have sung over the years. The show will present a talented bunch of singers from different parts of the country. Actor Ravi Kishan who was recently seen in MX Player's Matsya Kaand, playing a cop, has ben roped in as the host.

Kher tells you that there a couple of reason how and why he came on

THIS SHOW IS VERY UNIQUE. THERE IS NO OTHER SHOW LIKE THIS ONE. THE CONCEPT IS NEW. I AM THRILLED

BUT I AM THE CO-PRODUCER TOO — PADMASHRI KAILASH KHER

THAT I WAS CHOSEN

NOT ONLY AS JUDGE

board as a judge. First, this show is unique. "There is no other show like this one. The concept is new. I am thrilled that I was chosen not only as (Kailasa Entertainment Pvt Ltd),"

He tells you that the concept of the show is such that it was not easy to execute. "The idea of the show was a brilliant one. But it was tough to put things in reality. It was necessary to give the team a boost that what they are doing is fantastic. Hence, we stepped in as coproducers," Kher tells you.

Second, this is the first time in the history of television, music and film industry that entertainment and enlightment have come together. "We have avoided doing this in the past. But not now. The idea is to tell people that if your body, mind and soul aren't healthy however much you may have risen professionally, there is no point in running after things

blindly. People, through this show, besides being entertained will also be able to enrich their lives. The last two years have proved how helpless we have been in the face of COVID-19. It is time that we lived our lives that is aligned with nature," Kher opines.

The show will be judged on the basis of sur, saar and bhaav. "Sur will be judged by Suresh Wadkar ji, saar by Kumar Vishwas ji (how important are the words, the lyrical value) and I will judge the *bhaav* (with how much devotion it has been sung). This time, we are not calling ourselves judges; we are *guruvars*," Kher tells us.

For Dr Kumar Vishwas, the reason for coming on board is simple. Though he used to get many offers, he was looking for a show where what he had learnt could be used for a wider good. "I wanted to be part of a show where I could share tales of people who were proud to be called Indians; that I could share ancedotes on what these kids were TV, I saw no reason to turn it down. I am grateful to the makers of this show who explained the concept so beautifully," Vishwas tells you.

He was very happy to learn that there are people who can come with such an interesting concept. "It is very nice that there are people who want to create humanity of the soul, thought and heart in the society. Big nations are not built of brick and mortar, it is the thoughts that count. Our culture is thousands of year old. If cracks appeared because we were slaves and there are people who are making a show to mend this tear, it is a beautiful gesture," Vishwas says.

Swarna Swar Bharat premiered on January 22, 2022; it will air every Sat-

Vlasterstroke

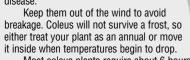


fter the huge success in North America OnetapHELLO recently launched their innovative tech product in the Indian market to change the way people connect, share information and network This start-up lets people share their information like contact details, social media profiles, business profiles.

websites, option to make payments and much more, all with just a tap of a phone or scan of a QR code. They have introduced multiple NFC based physical products like digital business cards and trendy tags that allow short-distance wireless data transmission between two devices, or between one device and an unpowered tag, all by just one tap on the devices. Jayesh Narani, Entrepreneur and Data Governance expert is the Founder and CEO of OnetapHELLO. His vision is to make sustainable networking tools that have a lower environmental impact

Nature Iall

with a border of green and pink centre, the Coleus (Pink) is a pretty plant. While it doesn't thrive in very cold temperatures, this perinnial plant can do well, if taken care of. It thrives in cool, even moist, well-drained soil. Consistent moisture is good, but soggy conditions cause root



Most coleus plants require about 6 hours of sunlight in the morning hours with shade being preferred all afternoon.

SAMIR SONI, who made his debut with the Hindi serial Samandar, speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about his book My Experiments with Silence: The Diary Of An Introvert

♦ Could you tell us more about your book?

It has got prose and poetry. There is a part about self-discovery, finding out what's your place in society and in your mind. Because we live in an extroverted world and if you find yourself not being represented or relate to them, you feel like an outsider no matter where you go. Hopefully, anyone and everyone who has dealt with issues of not belonging, will relate to it because my book is dedicated to all the misfits in the world. ♦ How can this book help a reader?

I have shared my journey and how I dealt with it. Hopefully, some might relate and get inspired by dwelling into their own journey. Another issue that I raise is that, what exactly is success because our generation is plagued by being successful without knowing what that really means. In the 21st century, we need to redefine success and what does it mean to be successful. * Why do you think introverts need con-

stant validation?

I am not saying that introverts need constant validation. It's me who needs constant validation. It's not constant but driven by validation. Introverts have their own battles to fit in. Just like in an extroverted world, most introverts don't fit. For example, I remember going to go see an IPL match. And there

'We need to redefine success'



were like 30-40 thousand people shouting Sachin and going crazy over him. I loved it but after a while I just wanted to go home and watch the same match on TV without 30 thousand people screaming into my ears. Introverts find that overwhelming and if you

don't know better you will think that there is something wrong with you. I don't want to make a valid judgement like experts on how they lead their lives. What is happening is that inherently the world is dominated and driven by extroverted value systems. A lot of introverts feel undervalued and they might feel the need to do something or there

is something missing in them.

* What is mental well-being according to

I think you need to figure out what is conditioning, what is true for you and what false value systems you might be carrying with you. You might have a belief system which won't have any basic reality. It is what you are told, it is what you are fed and it's what the society told you. So, mental wellbeing is a way of self extraction. It's like climbing Mount Everest just because others say that it's a great thing to climb Mount

❖ What is that one thing you would like to tell the readers?

If you are happy, God bless you. May you always be happy. But if you are not happy or you are struggling with something, get to the bottom of it and discover yourself. Maybe, you are a diamond and are embarrassed of the fact that you shine so much.

Sound of.



Music is the best medicine. Here are the top 10 songs of the week that will lift up your weekend mood

Bollywood vibes Fillhaal 2 (BPraak, Jaani) Galat (Asees Kaur) Jaane De (Atif Aslam) Aaj Bhi (Vishal Mishra) Kaise Hua (Vishal Mishra)

English Vinglish Goosebumps (HVME) Blinding Lights (The Weeknd) Dynamite (BTS) SugarCrash! (Elyotto) Hold On (Justin Bieber)

India may try different options to avoid humiliation

ndian team's strategy is expected to undergo paradigm shift with some players getting a subtle yet stern message to lift their games as they face an embarrassing possibility of a clean sweep against South Africa in the third ODI, here on

India's strategy looked complete-ly out of sync with modern day white ball game as the batters failed to keep the momentum in the middle overs and more importantly the bowlers, save Jasprit Bumrah, looked club class and without ideas of getting breakthroughs.

In two matches, India have been only able to pick up seven wickets -four in the first game when Proteas batted first and only three in the second. Ravichandran Ashwin and especially Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the two senior-most bowlers looked far from threatening and the young Proteas batters like Rassie van der Dussen, Janneman Malan along with seniors like Quinton de Kock have feasted on the pedestrian stuff dished out by

With the two having flopped



completely, it needs to be seen whether Rahul Dravid, the man who is currently calling all the shots as far as tactics is concerned, takes a dim view and at least try out Jayant Yadav and Deepak Chahar in the next game which would lend some freshness to

Worse, the first two games were played on a Boland Park strip that didn't have a lot of pace and bounce and even skipper KL Rahul admitted that

what they get back home, compared to what they are used to getting in

However at Newlands, there will be more pace and bounce on the track

perennially struggling would want to avoid the ignominy of a 0-3 loss.

For skipper Rahul, the whole tour, save his match-winning hundred in the first Test, has been a nightmare. Although he is being seen as a long-term future leader, there hasn't been any spark whatsoever in his leadership that would make anyone sit up and feel that he is the one cut out for the job. There hasn't been any tactical improvisations in the two games so far which would inspire confidence in his leadership abilities.

Add to that, his own style of batting at the top of the order is outdated in modern ODIs and his inability to rotate the strike for the better part is also creating pressure on the later batters, who aren't as adept at maneuvering the strike.

It is a foregone conclusion that once Rohit Shara is back in action, Rahul will lose his spot at the top of the order with Shikhar Dhawan scoring runs and at a better clip compared to his younger partner.

Virat Köhli may have scored 51 in the first game but what is visible is his lack of energy on the field having been sacked from ODI captaincy.



Sindhu enters final of Syed Modi

Two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu reached the women's singles final of the Syed Modi International badminton tournament after her fifth seeded Russian opponent Evgeniya Kosetskaya retired hurt midway into their semifinal here on

Sindhu, the top seed, easpocketed the first game 21-11 before Kosetskaya conceded the second women's singles semifinal match. Former world champion Sindhu will face compatriot Malvika Bansod in the summit clash on Sunday. Malvika defeated another

Indian, Anupama Upadhyaya, 19-21 21-19 21-7 in a tough three-game contest. It was expected to be an

easy outing for Sindhu going by form, world ranking as well as head-to-head record.

Ranked seventh in the BWF rankings, Sindhu had defeated world number 28 Kosetskaya twice before Saturday's tie, and the Indian ace once again came out on top to extend her dominant record against the Russian.

IPL will start in last week of March

The BCCI is set to conduct the 2022 IPL from last week of March to end of May and efforts would be made to host the lucrative event in India as per the wishes of team owners, Board secretary Jay Shah said on Saturday.

If sources are to be believed, the tentative start date is March

"I am delighted to confirm that the 15th season of the IPL will start in the last week of March and will run until May end. A majority of the team owners expressed their wish that the tournament be held in India," Shah was quoted as saying in a press note issued by the

He also made it clear that the board's first preference is to hold the event in India. "The BCCI was always keen

on staging the 2022 edition that will see two new teams –

Ahmedabad and Lucknow – in India. I can tell you that we will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that IPL stays in India,"

While the UAE and South Africa are back-up options as per sources who attended the meeting, Shah stressed that the health safety of all stakehoders including players, match officials is paramount for the board.

"The BCCI has not compromised on the health and safety of its stakeholders in the past and will concurrently work on

remains fluid.

The mega IPL Auction will take place on February 12-13th and we will lock in venues before that," Shah further added. The BCCI was initially

mulling two start dates for the next IPL with some preferring a March 27 kickoff and few other influential people wanting the mega event to begin on April 2, which conforms to the Lodha Committee ruling.

"Some of the owners prefer March 27 start but India play their last international game against Sri Lanka, a T20I at Lucknow on March 18, and then you need a 14-day gap as per Lodha rule which is why April 2 is also an option for start date," a senior BCCI official told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

It is understood that the India players will also be exhausted after staying in three back-to-back bubbles in South

Africa (away) and at home against West Indies and Sri

"The BCCI must take bubble fatigue of players into account if they start IPL in less than 10 days of completion of Sri Lanka tour," a BCCI source

However, after Shah's statement, it looks like March 27 will be locked in.

It is also learnt that all the 10 IPL owners, including the two new teams from Lucknow and Ahmedabad, want India as the host country for the 2022 IPL, with Mumbai and Pune being the two preferred cities.

Their second choice is the United Arab Emirates where the IPL has been organised thrice while the final option is South Africa where the mega event was held back in 2009.

However, the UAE and South Africa will only come into the picture if the COVID-19 situation in India worsens.

Sri Lanka and South Africa secure Super League quarterfinal spots

Sri Lanka sealed their qualification for the last eight stage with a dramatic three-wicket victory over West Indies while South Africa defeated Ireland by 153-runs to also book their place in the quarterfinals of the ICC U-19 World Cup.
Dunith Wellalage took three wickets as Sri

Lanka restricted the hosts to 250 before Sadisha Rajapaksa (76) Anjala Bandara (40) and Ranuda Somarathna's unbeaten 28 guided the Group D winners to a three-wicket success on Friday.

WI openers Shaqkere Parris and Matthew Nandu ensured they made a steady start, reaching the end of the fifth over for 20 without loss before Treveen Mathew removed the latter for seven. Parris was then bowled by Wellalage for

16 before Teddy Bishop and Kevin Wickham combined for a fruitful partnership, taking the West Indies to 102 for two after 26 overs. Bishop was eventually removed on 45 but Jordan Johnson picked up where his team-



mate left off as he raced to 26. Wickham reached his half-century before falling for 56.

Two wickets in three balls in the 45th over stunted the hosts' momentum, though, with Wellalage accounting for Johnson as he fell three runs short of his fifty before Giovonte Depeiza was run out moments later by Anjala Bandara without scoring.

In response, Sri Lanka lost opener Chamindu Wickramasinghe in the first over. Sadisha Rajapaksa and Shevon Daniel got their side back on track before Daniel was removed for 34.

Rajapaksa powered on regardless as he reached his fifty. Anjala Bandara contributed 40 before his wicket fell with Rajapaksa (76) also falling the same bowler in the 40th over. With 51 needed off 60 balls for victory, Shiva Sankar removed Wellalage (15) to set

up a tense finale. Mckenny Clarke bowled Raveen De Silva (13) but a nerveless 28 from 27 balls from Ranuda Somarathna saw Sri Lanka home. In the day's other game, a blockbuster century from captain George Van Heerden propelled his side towards the Super League quarter-

runs in Tarouba. Van Heerden made 111 from 93 balls while Dewald Brevis better known as 'Baby AB' contributed 96 to take South Africa's total of 315 for seven from their rain-reduced 47 overs before bowling out Ireland for 158.

finals as South Africa defeated Ireland by 153

There has been discussions on RIP Subhas Bhowmick Medvedev wins over Aussie crowd how I need to play shots: Pant



 $R_{\mbox{\footnotesize wishabh}}$ Pant understands the value of his wicket and the reason why the team management often asks him to use his discretion in shot selection during important phases of various matches. Pant was out to an atrocious shot during

the second Test in Wanderers, which led to lot of criticism from all quarters and former skipper Virat Kohli stating that they have had a word with the talented southpaw. "There are always positive talks that as an individual what I can do. All the strokes are there

but how can I play with patience and according to the situation. So a lot of discussions happen," Pant, who since then had scored a hundred in the third Test at Cape Town and followed it with career-best 85 in the second ODI, told reporters during a virtual interaction.

"And whatever we discuss, we practise and after that try to implement in the match," he added. According to Pant, who made a career-

best 85, the team management has entrusted him with responsibility of batting at four, to ensure right-left combination

left-hander gets a chance to bat in the middle, then it becomes easy to rotate strike, with the left-right combination, especially in the middle overs when leg-spinners or left-arm spinners

.So that is why the team management felt that a left-handed batter should bat and that is why that role was given to me," he said.

Pant also said that the team is learning from the mistakes in its endeavour to get better.

"I think as (from) a batting point of view, we are fine, we are going fine. We are learning from our mistakes and every day as the Indian cricket team we strive to improve our cricket and that is the only thing we are looking forward (to)." Pant beloeves that Shardul Thakur's batting in both games (50no and 40 no) has been one of the biggest positives in the series so far.

"One more positive was the way Shardul (Thakur) batted down the order, in both the matches, that was also a positive. The way Venky (Venkatesh Iyer) bowled, he conceded more runs in one or two overs, but still it felt that he could bowl (at this level). So, there are a lot of positives, which we can take as a team.

Pant admitted that Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram and Tabraiz Shamsi bowled better than Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal in the two games.

"I think they (SA spinners) were more consistent in their lines and lengths and they are used to playing in these conditions," he said.



A fearless competitor who used brain and brawn in equal measure, Subhas Bhowmick was one of the most fascinating characters in Indian football through the 1970's with his muscular built and equally expressive carefree opinions.

On Saturday morning, Bhowmick, who was undergoing dialysis for a long time breathed his last at the age of 72, survived by his wife, son and daughter and the legions of fans, who loved and lived the moments left by him both on and off the field "He had to undergo dialy-

sis regularly for about three and

half months. He also underwent

bypass surgery about 23 years

ago. Recently, he was admitted

to a private hospital in Ekbalpur

with a chest infection," a family member said.

While India had some of the finest international footballers in 1960's which include Pradeep Banerjee, Chuni Goswami, Tulsidas Balaram, Jarnail Singh, Arun Ghosh, Peter Thangaraj to name a few, the numbers quote dwindled in the 70's save two Bengalis, who were thought of international standard. They were pint-sized right back Sudhir Karmakar and 'bulldozer' winger Bhowmick, who were both part of the 1970 Asian Games bronze winning Indian football team. Bhowmick, in fact, scored in the tournament and in his,24 games for India had nine goals including a hattrick in the Merdeka Cup (Indian teams were regular feature in 60's and 70's) along with goals in the Asian Games in Bangkok.

in win over Dutch opponent

As Daniil Medvedev sat courtside trying to reimage of nine-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic flashed up in the stadium behind him.

It was in the third set Saturday, and it was like the absent No. 1 was looking over the shoulder of the player who is effectively the No. 1 seed at the year's first Grand Slam tournament. Medvedev, who lost last year's Australian Open final to Djokovic but avenged that with a victory over the Serb for the U.S. Open title, reached the fourth round for the fourth straight year at Melbourne Park with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 win over Botic van de Zandschulp.

The 25-year-old Russian was a conspicuous fan favorite on Margaret Court Arena, too, two days after being unsettled by the boos and jeers of a parochial crowd on Rod Laver Arena when he ended the run of mercurial Aussie Nick Kyrgios.

He was critical of a lack of respect in that match — mostly about the noise between first and second serves — and this time offered some relationship



advice to the crowd.

"Every good relationship must have its ups and downs, he said in his on-court TV interview, explaining that he planned to be back on court quite often in the future.

"I hope it's going to be more good times than bad times, otherwise it doesn't work."

Medvedev later clarified he didn't have a problem with the Australian crowds and had been fully expecting to have them against him when he played Kyrgios — just not while he was in his service motion.

"The other night I was playing against an Australian player, very electric Australian player," he said.

"After the match, I think it was, yeah, straightaway pretty actually fun for everybody.
"That's how I felt, and I did-

n't see actually a lot of let's say negative reactions." Medvedev avoided a showdown with Djokovic after the world's topranked player had his visa canceled and was deported on the eve of the tournament.

Villa rub salt into Toffees' wounds

 $E^{verton's\ change\ of\ management\ did}_{not\ result\ in\ a\ change\ of\ fortunes\ as}$ Aston Villa manager Steven Gerrard enjoyed a winning return to Merseyside with a 1-0 victory at Goodison Park.

Emiliano Buendia's header in first half stoppage time separated the sides to leave the Toffees still just five points above the relegation zone in 16th. Duncan Ferguson took temporary

of Rafael Benitez last weekend after a run of just one win in 13 league games. Ferguson was unbeaten in three matches as caretaker boss against Chelsea, Manchester United and Arsenal before Carlo Ancelotti took

charge of Everton following the sacking

charge just over two years ago. But he could not replicate that success as former Liverpool captain Gerrard got one over on his old rivals. Ferguson bought a round of drinks



for fans in a pub next to the stadium before kick-off and got the raucous

atmosphere he was looking for. Both sides flew into tackles, but there were few clear-cut chances in the

done better when he prodded wide with just Jordan Pickford to beat.

first half. Ollie Watkins should have

Another former Liverpool midfielder Philippe Coutinho was quiet on his

first Villa start since joining on loan from Barcelona, but had a part to play in the only goal. The Brazilian's header was tipped

over by Pickford. From the resulting corner, Lucas Digne came back to haunt his former

club just weeks after leaving Everton as his corner was flicked in by Buendia. Digne and Matty Cash were hit by a bottle thrown by the home fans as they celebrated the goal.

Everton should have salvaged at least a point after the break in their battle to beat the drop.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin and

Richarlison started together up front for the first time since August and both the Toffees star men were guilty of missing big chances to equalise.

Richarlison headed over before Calvert-Lewin failed to make a good connection to Anthony Gordon's teas-

India eye goals in must-win game against Chinese Taipei



PTI NAVI MUMBAI

osts India will need to be more clinical with Hosts flidia will need to be more that their finishing when they face a struggling Chinese Taipei in a must-win group match of the women's Asian Cup here on Sunday.

India were held to a goalless draw by lowerranked Iran in their tournament opener, while Chinese Taipei were blanked 4-0 by eight-time champions China.

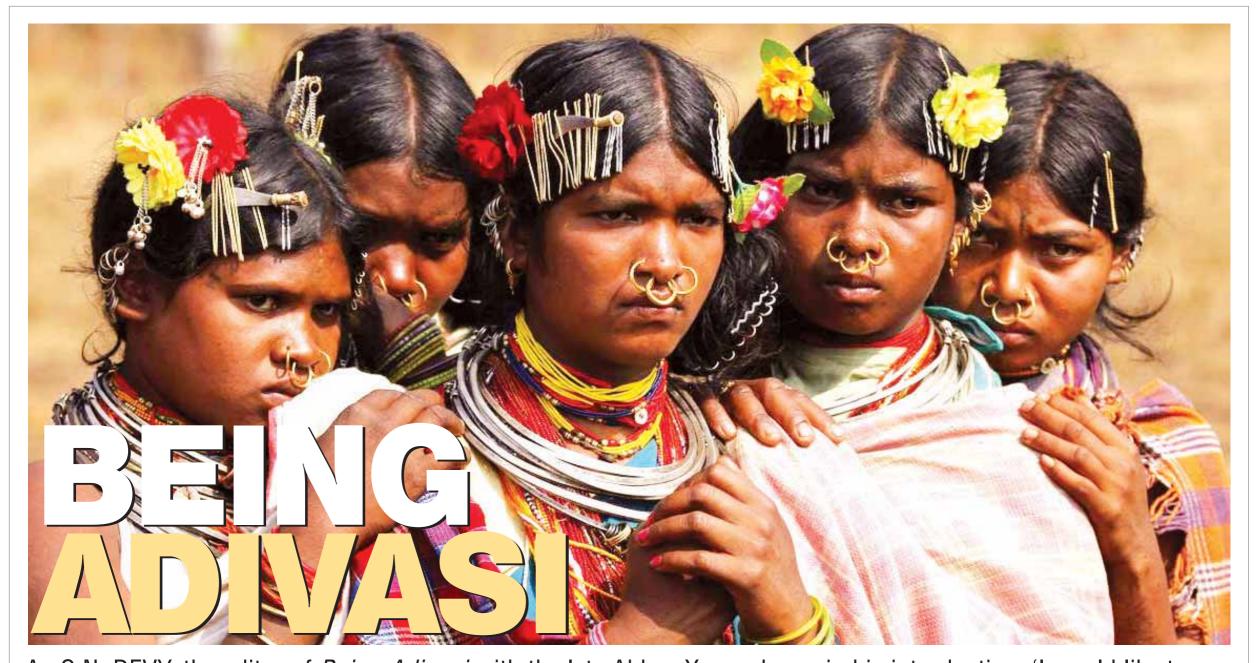
A FIFA World Cup play-offs spot within their grasp, India are seeking to meet their head coach Thomas Dennerby's "realistic target" of making the quarterfinals, for which they will need to win the next match at all costs, as the home team is scheduled to play Group A heavyweights China in its last league fixture. A win for India, which is hosting the conti-

nental showpiece for the second time after 1979, will virtually send the country into the quarterfinals of the 12-nation tournament. Besides the two top teams, two third-placed

sides across the three groups will also qualify for quarterfinals. All the semi-finalists of the ongoing tournament will directly qualify for the 2023 FIFA World

ip in Australia and New Zealand.

Two more teams from the remaining four uarterfinalists will also get direct berths to the World Cup if Australia make it to the semi-finals of this tournament, which is highly probable.

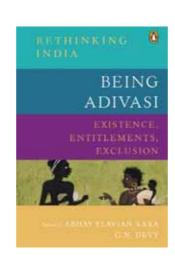


As G.N. DEVY, the editor of *Being Adivasi* with the late Abhay Xaxa, shares in his introduction: 'I would like to hope that it is received not just as a publication or academic exercise but as a prelude to change that is now overdue, a change that will bring to the Denotified & Nomadic communities at least some measure of justice and human rights that they expect to get as citizens of a democratic country & to Adivasis the understanding of their distinct identity. We, the people of India, owe it to them as the indigenous people of India'. An edited excerpt:

f the awareness of Adivasis and their concerns is scant among the non-Adivasi population of India, knowledge about communities described as 'Denotified Tribes' is almost absent. Lest the term be misunderstood as 'some kind of Adivasis' or 'officially non-recognised Adivasis' — which is not unusual among even those who know something about Adivasis — I would like to offer the following brief description of the Denotified Tribes. During the nineteenth century, after the British had more or less secured authority over all princely states in India, they found it necessary to disarm the disbanded soldiers of the vanquished armies of Indian princes. The British also wanted to ensure safe travels in Indian states for commercial purposes. In order to accomplish the two objectives, they appointed William Henry Sleeman to detect the use of arms by unauthorised individuals. Sleeman made copious notes and listed instances of armed clashes on highways in central India. In the process, he gave rise to the idea of 'thuggee'. The idea attracted readers of his books back in England. The list of persons and their communities came to be associated with the idea of thuggee or communities that make looting and crime their profession. The 1871 Criminal Tribes Act (CTA) was based on this notion. It listed communities as 'criminal communities, implying that being born in any of those communities made one automatically criminal intendency. The CTA provided for 'reformatory settlement', which were soft prisons. The listed communities were interned in these settlements, with severe restrictions placed on their free movement. Sleeman's list had many flaws in it. Most of the communities had been traditionally nomadic in habit, an age-old social phenomenon in India. Members of the interned communities were put to hard labour, in most instances unpaid labour.

It is difficult to estimate as to how many perished due to the stress of labour. The members of these communities continued to live in the settlements for several generations spread over eight decades. In1952, two years after India adopted the Constitution, the 'notified' communities were 'denotified'. They continued to be described as Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNT), while very few of them found a place in the official lists of jan-jatis, the 'indigenous peoples' or Adivasis. The stigma of criminality continued to stick to them despite the slight change in the label. Not being included in the lists of STs and SCs, with a few exceptions, they continued to languish without land, livelihood or access to schools and healthcare. Not having fixed

addresses, their minimum rights as citizens too were not safeguarded. The stigma around their name often causes harassment from villagers and the urban population even to this day. There have been widespread incidences of mob lynching of members of the DNT communities. Governments have been generally indifferent to the plight of the DNTs as they do not form even a substantial minority, though their total population in the country is by no means insignificant. When Dr Manmohan Singh's United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government appointed me as chairman of the Technical Advisory Group for the Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Communities, I found that the population of the DNTs could be close to seven-eight crore. That was in 2008. At present, the number may have gone up and may be close to ten crore. The Census of India has never carried out any clear counting of the DNTs. And since the numbers are not officially ascertained, the locations of these communities are not properly documented and no systematic thought has been given to their livelihood requirements and their human rights; they continue to remain in India's imagination as the invisible nowhere people. The present volume includes an introductory essay on the DNTs. For several decades following Independence, 'Adivasi' was an anthropomorphic 'type' cast in sentiment and piety, or else dismissed as historical baggage worth leaving behind in India's march to modernity and nationhood. Though the complexities of Adivasi society received attention in scholarships related to the theme, the popular attitude to Adivasis was severely restricted by the acronym 'ST'. Excessive pity and excessive contempt are both equally potent instruments of 'othering' people. It is therefore that Archana Prasad's analysis of the class-currents within Adivasi communities becomes important as an antidote to the 'othering' processes. She concludes, after presenting a nuanced analysis of the tensions and textures in Adivasi contemporary identity discourse: "... the multifarious manifestations of neoliberal policies have also created diverse forms of Adivasi politics with different social basis. It is therefore important to distinguish between identity based struggles which have been led by those who are situated within the working class and those whose motive has been to get incorporated within the current power structure. Further, the culturally exclusive character of Adivasi politics is also hegemonic and camouflages the inequalities within the Adivasi society. On the other hand, non-culturally exclusive class politics has had to come to terms with the persistence of identity-



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based politics by adopting a more nuanced approach towards it. This collaboration has been facilitated by the intensifying communal polarisation and economic crisis, leading to the transformation of Adivasi politics, both class and identity based. Such a development is not only positive, but also essential to take on an authoritarian and neo-liberal government and the challenges that it poses to all progressive forces within the country."

It needs to be mentioned that the facts of Adivasi political expression, cultural production and major social struggles over the last half century, all go to show that the general perception of Adivasis and their participation in modern India's process of becoming falls woefully short of reality. The new-generation Adivasis are keen to create a more realistic view, one that is from the perspective of Adivasis. Abhay Xaxa states in clear words: "Apart from development issues, there was also a demand for a stringent anti-conversion law which has been used as a tool to divide the Adivasi communities on the lines of religion. The communal agenda of these organisations has gradually created a fear among people who don't subscribe to the dominant discourse of assimilating the Adivasis in the Hindu fold. As a result, the harmonious relationship between various Adivasi and forest dependent communities have been broken and communal violence is also increasingly experienced in Adivasi areas."

In order to obtain this view, the UPA-II government appointed the Committee headed by Virginius Xaxa. Abhay Xaxa refers to the Xaxa Committee report and points out that: "The panel recommended radical changes to the laws, regulations and rules to protect Adivasi communities from land alienation and to ensure their rights over resources are handed back and protected. The report also laid out an overhauled, expansive and detailed framework for providing better education, health and opportunities to tribal communities across the country. If the recommendations of the Xaxa committee are implemented, it will surely have an empowering effect on Adivasi communities."

On the other hand, N.C. Saxena's essay presents a deeply sympathetic but somewhat predictably simplified view. Dr Saxena's historically important contribution to Adivasi development and the role he played inside government bureaucracy in favour of Adivasis are of a legendary proportion. Yet, seen from an Adivasi perspective, his overview is likely to be read as slightly less than a full view of what is happening today inside the minds of Adivasi communities

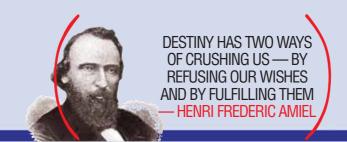
in India. Saxena states: "The oppressed tribals, unlike other disadvantaged groups, generally suffer and endure their exploitation silently. In some areas, however, they have taken to armed insurgency. The middle path of agitational politics by organising bundhs, taking out processions, and putting pressure on the politicians, so successfully adopted by other groups in India to articulate their grievances, is alien to the tribals and has historically been unknown to them. Civil society needs to play a big role here, and government too should not brand all tribal activists as Maoists."

These comments need to be read together with fictional works by Mahasweta Devi in order to understand that the silence of Adivasis is not the absence of voice but rather a powerful statement which we have not yet begun grasping. The 'silence' is extremely powerfully articulated by Vikrant B.: "... stunted reading of social, economic and political realities created a host of mythologies and prejudices with respect to Adivasis and tribes in India. They were perceived to be isolated, self-sufficient, animist, under-developed and backward. Seemingly harmless, these mythologies have had serious policy and political implications. For example, tribes are seen as inter-linked with castes in India, by policymakers, academics, and even in popular perception. At one level, it is perhaps necessary to denote common subalternity, so as to emphasise the State's obligation to their upliftment and empowerment. However, this manufactured equivalence glosses over the fact that while the Dalit question is relatively centre stage in the nation's consciousness, the Adivasi question is not."

The last clause of this paragraph sums up the purpose of this volume. It is, in the simplest words, to present 'the Adivasi question.' It includes the question of Adivasis in the context of modern India, the questioning of the nation's ideas of development by Adivasis and also the manner in which Adivasis pose their questions within the much-misunderstood framework of their understanding of what democracy means. Or, in other words, the Adivasi is the question handled by this volume, the Adivasi manner of questioning too is its concern and the questions raised by Adivasis before the Indian nation too are its paramount concern.

Extracted from Being Adivasi: Existence, Entitlements, Exclusion by Abhay Xaxa (Editor), Ganesh N. Devy (Editor) & run with due permissions from Samruddha Bharat Foundation and publishers Penguin Random House India





DYNAMICS OF KARMA & DESTINY

As we create the world along with our cravings and attachments, these are apparently writing our destiny, through us, shares HINGORI

arma and Destiny — these words are quite familiar and a part of our everyday conversation. However, when we dig deeper into the true meaning of these, we come to realise what appears simple isn't so if we view it from the lens of duality.

So, what are Karma and Destiny? It would not be very wrong, if we were to say that memory and latent tendencies (conditioning of the mind) is 'Destiny' and 'perceived action' as a result of the circumstances created by this combination of memory and latent tendencies, is Karma.

Let's examine what this memory is, and why the action is described as 'perceived'. When deeds get stored in the perceived subconscious, the tendencies and memory come together to create a situation where the action needs to come to fruition. The stored deeds awaiting fruition are destiny and the fruition itself is karma. When we view it from a lens of duality, we perceive all of this within the mind.

Our scriptures say, all that has been created is from and in the infinite consciousness or the consciousness supreme. Like when we dream, we create form, experiences, consequences and feelings, but when we wake up from the dream, we realise it was all unreal. Those who are in an enlightened or in an awakened state see themselves as no different from this consciousness supreme, and the actions, and all else that exists, are a part of the dream and therefore, unreal that we view as real, only in our

As we create the world along with our cravings and attachments, these are apparently writing our Destiny, through us. However, rather than being truly written, its being imagined. Since the past, past present and future too, are measures of the mind and for the sake of simplicity, may be viewed as stacked in a layered manner as opposed to linear progression, the fruition is not awaiting a subsequent date, but is also happening in the moment. This is quite like watching a movie at home, one has the ability to forward, rewind, skip and imagine what is likely to happen in the movie. Now imagine the director of the movie conceiving it in his mind — all the parts, wardrobes, the sets, the visual cues and each scene being shot independent of the other to be strung together later as he deems fit. As you start to see how this plays out, so do our lives in terms of Karma and

When we identify ourselves as distinct from the infinite consciousness, we create duality as a result of the ty there is only one perpetual truth simplistically stated as us being the creations of the thought or imagina-



tion of the consciousness supreme. Therefore, all that exists, all beings, their minds, their fruition, exists in the infinite consciousness.

Some like Sage Bhrigu and Nostradamus have seen this movie called destiny because they see the infinite consciousness, and all the memories, tendencies, characters and the actions are ultimately just a part of this consciousness. To explain it in simple terms — if we can wake up, recount and document each detail of the dream we have witnessed, we will be able to write a perceived prophecy, since in each dream there are beings, environments, elements actions and consequences. Like in a dream, in an enlightened state we transcend time since we are capable of viewing all that is on at the same time. In any event, from the place we are viewing it, time is a measure of epochs and not years.

So, what about free will? Is that something that in itself is unreal? The action too exists in our mind and has

WHEN WE **IDENTIFY OURSELVES AS DISTINCT FROM** THE INFINITE CONSCIOUSNESS, **WE CREATE DUALITY AS A RESULT OF THE** MIND AND **EGOTISM**

been determined by our memory and tendencies — it is also being created like in a dream where we are imagining new things as we deal with the existing. Our individualised consciousness is the recipient of the memories pending fruition, and we then live part of these out, and create another set of memories for further fruition. This is why it is said that the scenarios repeat till we learn our lessons.If the perceived action plays out in a way that we perceive as wrong, we create a different script from this, for fruition at another time. However, when our embedded memories believe that the action has fructified, the memory is discarded as it creates no further actions and leads us on the path to freedom from samsara. All of this too is unreal, much like a simulation or as in a movie like the Matrix or Inception. However, unlike the movies you don't need 'software codes' or 'spinning tops' to second

Once you realise it, you see the movie as the director as opposed to actor impacted and immersed in the

role so deeply that he is unable to see the difference between what is 'real' and what is 'reel'.

Can destiny be changed? Only a Siddh Guru can change destiny. Being enlightened, he knows the true nature of reality as he is 'one' with the reality. It is easy for him to distinguish between what is real and the unreal. He can alter the unreal through a simple thought. A Siddh Guru is the guide who can take you through the journey of self-enquiry and help you over-come the inner turmoil that arises from cravings of the mind.

While the above explanations are perhaps those at a 'school level' in the spiritual journey, you will need a *Siddh Guru* to accelerate your 'Spiritual PHD'. It's a journey of experiencing and realisation through the experiences. And as you go through it, you will know that there are not timelines that can be set in the world we are familiar with in order to help you get experiences.

The writer is the author of Hingori Sutras series of spiritual books

HIDDENSOULS PRAMOD PATHAK



Disease of the century

tury the answer we are likely to get would be Covid-19. -How ironical and sad because the disease of the previous century also was something similar though it was called by a different name — Spanish flu. Two conclusions can be drawn. First, that we have hardly achieved anything significant to prove that humanity has grown in strength when it comes to being a match for nature's power and intrigues. True, we have spent billions on so called research and technology to make human beings less vulnerable. But neither the research nor the technology came to our rescue in the bat-tle against this pandemic. Yes, the research and technology has made a few richer and many poorer. The second conclusion that we can draw is that our predicament will be no better hundred years from now when it comes to man versus nature. But this reality notwithstanding, let's come back to the initial question regarding the disease of the century. But is Covid-19 really the disease of the century? Not exactly. And the reasons are not far to seek. Of course, the recent coronavirus pandemic was in some way responsible for killing a large number of people around the world. But so are many other diseases. Then there are many other reasons why people die. Accidents, suicides and what not. Further, in many cases deaths cannot be attributed to one single reason because of the fact that multiple causation cannot be ruled out. Moreover, statistical data is hardly reliable, given the problems in their recording, accuracy, and, of course, ability and desirability of the enumerators. For the same reasons there are many who say that deaths due to Covid-19 were not correctly reported. Not just in India, even in more advanced countries like the US, deaths are usually recorded by the precipitating cause. Incidentally, even this is not very accurately diagnosed. Thus, in many cases it is difficult to pinpoint exact cause of death. These days, to further confound the confusion a new term co-morbidity has found its way into the popular discourse. So it is difficult to be sure whether corona aggravated co-morbid conditions or co-morbid conditions worsened corona. However, in reporting deaths, corona finds a place more often, given the excessive noise around the pathogen that leads to availability bias. This is a psychological phenomenon, a mental shortcut that people tend to resort to while evaluating, due to excessive information about the subject. These days we found that everything veered around corona increasing the possibility of availability bias. And there were other interests, too. In fact, those other interest played a major role in precipitating the crisis. No marks for guessing what were those interests. We may come to that a little later, but see what these interests led to. Hundreds of so called scientific research papers being published and circulated everyday worldwide, and without any clinching evidence or conclusion. It seemed as if confusion was helping the cause of some interested quarters. We are into strange times that is wrongly called knowledge era. It is a purely business era. Everything is business, business is everything. Health is business. Education is business. Religion is business. Even in this age greed is the biggest disease.

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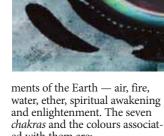
Meditate on colours

Colour meditation requires you to focus on chakras and their colours to maintain an ideal balance, writes AARRTI ZAVERI

olours are an integral and essential part of our daily ✓lives. Their role in our lives is at times dramatic and at others subtle. They can be used to express, impress and more. There are numerous ancient cultures around the world that believe in the healing powers of colours. Chromo therapy also known as light therapy is a popular holistic healing and meditating treatment. Psychologists and medical researchers, have for years, conducted several studies on the effect of colours on the psyche. Advertisements incorporate conscious use of colour to emanate certain feelings about products and places. For the same reason, we believe that focusing on colours during your daily meditation will prove to have a significant impact on your daily meditation. Before we delve into this,

let's understand the relationship between colours and chakras. The sanskrit word for wheel, 'chakra' is known to be located in a straight line with your spine. The seven *chakras* in the body run down the centre, right from the top of your head to the base of your spine. Each chakra is an individual energy centre and has a unique colour representing it. Colour meditation requires you to focus on each of your chakras and their respective colours to maintain an ideal balance between body and mind. This balance will thereby promote healing and peace of mind. The

chakras can be related to the ele-



ed with them are: • **Red:** The colour represents the chakra located at the root of your spine. It is known as your life force and represents stability. While meditating focusing on the colour red will help you assuage gnawing feelings of frus-

tration and anger. Red is the

and mind thereby increasing

colour that stimulates your body

your stimulation. • Orange: It represents the chakra located in the naval area, also known as the sacral *chakra*. Focusing on the colour orange will help you mitigate issues with sensuality, relationships, physical pressure, emotional self expression and creativity. Orange is known to kick start your nervous system and activate stimulation.

• Yellow: Just below your breastbone, is located your solar plexus chakra. Yellow focuses on your solar plexus *chakra* and has an impact on your optimism, happiness and thought processes. Yellow is the colour that affects your physical vitality, mental awareness and ability to think and process analytically.
• Green: The heart *chakra* is

located in the centre of your chest. Green focuses on your heart chakra and instills emotions of peace, love and nurturing. It initiates physical healing. This is why most hospitals are

painted green.

• Blue: Located at the base of

your larynx is the throat chakra and blue focuses on it. While meditating, focusing on your throat *chakra* will help you with your confidence and self expression. Physically blue controls your thyroid gland and lymphatic system.

• Indigo: This represents the third eye *chakra*, i.e. located in the middle of your forehead. Focusing on the colour while meditation will help with your intuition and peace of mind.

Violet: Located at the top of your skull the crown chakra is represented by the violet colour. Meditating on the colour will help you align with universal consciousness and make your more self aware and at peace with your self.

The writer is a visual artist

Are you secure?

Taking shelter of God is tough, because one has to give up ahankar, an intrinsic part of us, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

y honest answer is no; I don't except, occasionally. As I am a thinking person, I am always looking for ways to feel secure. There are not so many ways; there is just one. I have to take shelter of God, period. As you may have guessed, I have tried every way, but nothing else could make me feel secure. Taking shelter of God is tough, very tough, because one has to give up 'ahankar' (ego) — an intrinsic part of us. This is the cosmic

The same cosmic design lets us know that we live in two worlds. Yes, there are two, not just one world. One is the material world, about which we are all aware of, and the other is the spiritual world. This world consists of God and those who have realised their identities as souls, i.e. 'aham brahma asmi'. Both these worlds are governed by the 'karmaphala' principle, which in short means 'what we sow we reap.' All our acts, whether done by our minds, words or the rest of our bodies result in fruits, both good and bad, depending on whether they were good acts or bad

Fortunately, in the spiritual world there are only good acts, i.e. spiritual acts, beginning from a silent prayer of a child asking for the well-being of his parents. Each such act is duly recorded for rewards in future. Lord Krishna states in the *Bhagavad Gita*, "Neither there is waste of effort here nor there is opposite effect. Even a little of this activity protects one from great fear." (2.40) This goes on throughout one's life. All acts add up and continue to be recorded. The question is: Have we totaled enough spiritual acts, especially by the time we reach old age, when we need them the most? Because



knowingly or unknowingly we have also been accumulating bad material acts in the past, including in previous lives, which come to fruition at their appointed times. Why else are we here?

If we have been doing spiritual acts also, God gets involved, He is pleased. He manifests vis-à-vis the person/devotee concerned. He begins to take charge of that fortunate soul's life. Guidance and help start arriving. God, being omniscient, is in perfect position to do so. Surprising as it may seem to some, God guides about everything material and spiritual. He even helps in changing people's hearts in our favour, if God becomes so inclined. God also gives us strength to tolerate the inevitable miseries of this material world. Our present activities, i.e. 'kriyamana' become highly productive and efficient. Our ego begins to shrink. One becomes more and more dutiful both

materially and spiritually.

Personally, I am much gratified when God bails me out of some punishment, which was due to me for bad acts done earlier God manages to do so without infringing on the 'karmaphala' principle. He takes into consideration the bad act done earlier, which is due for punishment. He also considers what spiritual acts have been accumulated, which could be used to mitigate the suffering. God has to ensure that His devotees never perishes, as promised by Him in the Gita verse #9.31. This means that the resultant suffering must be tolerable.

Having understood what the Lord does for us devotees, I am absolutely amazed. Not only do I feel more secure now than ever before, I am able to control my mind and senses better Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached

at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

Blot on American rights claims: Gitmo turns 20

The infamous Guantanamo Bay military prison completed two decades of its operations this January 11, 2022. Many say that this secret jail is truly an ethical failure of the American justice system. Besides, the last twenty years in Guantanamo have been a catastrophic legal misstep that is bringing home more problems and disgrace than credible solutions. It is increasingly becoming a symbol of torture. The military prison in Cuba is now left with only 39 inmates. During its peak time, it housed nearly 800 prisoners. Indeed, some media reports say that it is symptomatic of CIA-sanctioned torture cells carried out in stealth. Today another critical question looms large over the Biden Administration: Is it worth guarding 39 prisoners with one of the most sophisticated ring of 1,500 commandos? It is felt that the taxpayers' dollars must be spent judiciously at a time of global pandemic like the Covid-19.

The Guantanamo deten-

tion camp, also called Guantanamo Guantanamo or Gitmo, is in the Southeastern part of Cuba. The horrible prison is located at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base of America. It was created by then US President George W Bush in the year 2002 after September 11 terror attacks on the country. And the prison was especially designed to host the inmates who were caught as a part of the Global War on Terror (GWOT). Though the prison was first used in 2002, the American Government has been maintaining a military naval base there since 1903. Interestingly, the original prison was named Camp X-Ray. In fact, after the terror attack on September 11, the prison facility was made ready for immediate use in just 96 hours. Shortly after the Bush administration dethroned the Taliban Government headed by Mullah Omar in Afghanistan, the facility came into being as the most secure prison. The first batch of detainees was brought to the prison on January 11 the very next year and they were classified as "enemy combatants".

Most of the inmates of Guantanamo Bay were from those nations who were either a part of the GWOT or those who had helped harbouring terrorists. Precisely, the majority of them belonged to the countries of West Asia. The worst part of the Guantanamo saga was that these prisoners were captured on foreign soil but were not charged on any particular crime. Further, they



In this February 6, 2002, file photo a detainee is led by military police to be interrogated by military officials at Camp X-Ray at the US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. At the time the image was taken there

prison for an indefinite period and were denied access to any legal counsel. Another important point to be noted here is that the GWOT is not an official war as there was no declaration of war by the US Congress. On November 13, 2001, barely two months after the terror attack, President Bush announced a military order, officially permitting these actions: it authorised the detention and trial by the Military Commission of any current or former member of the al-Qaeda and anyone who aids or abets its work or harbors its members. Thus, the GWOT has no scheduled end date, and it has handed down an indefinite mandate to the powerful armed forces to carry out the operation as long as the real culprits are not held. And when Osama bin Laden, the brains behind 9/11, was killed by American forces in 2011 rights under the country's jusduring the Obama administration, in a way, the biggest

were detained in this secluded milestone of the operation was already achieved

Now, America's withdrawal from Afghanistan was completed last year by handing over the reign to the same Taliban, the butchers against whom America and other liberal nations fought for nearly two decades. Now, there is no point maintaining Guantanamo Bay. In fact, the terror has come home all the way. It is ubiquitous now.

Now, the most pertinent questions are: Why Guantanamo was chosen and why is it still open? First of all, the US strategic experts and security agents wanted to keep the global terror suspects outside the purview of public and, most importantly, the constant media glaze. Also, when they are housed far away from the US mainland, these detainees will not be able both to demand and enjoy the protection of tice system. Another critical point to note here is that the 117-square kilometre base had enough space and facilities to hold the prisoners for a long time. Many human rights advocates say that this Bay is not technically a part of the US territory, but rather an "island outside law". Second, it is still open as there are tough Congressional roadblocks to close the jail.

Global experts condemn unrelenting human rights violations at Guantanamo Bay. The detention centre is internationally known for its human right violations committed there. The saddest part is that the international community has failed to discharge their responsibilities to get the prison shut by using pressure on the successive US Government since 2002 or by enforcing international human rights obligations. Rights advocates say that the American actions at the prison violate its obligations under the Third Geneva Convention, the International Covenant for Civil and Political

(ICCPR), Convention Against Torture (CAT) and the customary international law. It is widely recognised that violations at Guantanamo Bay include illegal and indefinite detention, inhuman conditions, torture, unfair trials (military commissions), etc.

Today, the prison has become a symbol of American injustice and torture. In a nutshell, Gitmo was prepared just to torture the detainees, mostly belonging to the al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Today, this island prison bears the testimony of what many call the first war of the 21st century. This war was a different kind of a war against a different kind of enemy. The GWOT highlights the fact that the enemy is not a nation, but the enemy is massive global terror network that threatens the way of

life of all peaceful people. Frankly speaking, it is clear now that there had been and also continues to have flagrant

violations of international human rights of the detainees inside the prison complex. As the prison has been kept completely out of global media glaze, a very few of the tragic incidents that took place inside were brought to the notice of the outside world.

The maintenance of Guantanamo Bay prison is an insult to American democracy and the liberal ethos that Washington has been preaching for decades. President Biden can finally put an end to the extra-judicial and abhorrent system that has existed in Guantanamo for the last twenty years. If one flashes back and observes, they can single out how different US Presidents attempted to deal with the Guantanamo crisis differently after the exit of Bush in 2009. Barack Obama, a Democrat, who took over the reign from the Republican Bush, indeed pledged to shut it down during his first campaign for office. During his electoral march, he

cious values." An eloquent speaker as he used to be, but he found it too difficult to put an end to the tragedies of the prison. Even though he signed an executive order to close the prison within a year, he failed to do so. Sadly, the Congress maintained such restrictions that barred Obama from closing the prison in the first two years of his time in office. And these two years have recorded a Congress, largely controlled by the Democrats. Interestingly, liberal veterans like Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren voted against easing Congressional restrictions in the Senate in the year 2013. But Obama reduced the number of inmates from 242 to 41 during his tenure, by transferring some of them to the United Arab Emirates. When Donald Trump came to office, he maintained the status quo.

Abu Gharib and the detention

cells of Guantanamo, we have

compromised our most pre-

Is there any hope that Biden will be able to close down the prison? At present, the Democrats have a razorthin majority in the Congress. And this is the only golden chance to bring an end to Gitmo, which Obama miserably failed despite his tall promises. If Biden wants to do something on the issue, first he must repeal long-held restrictions on shutting down the prison as the US Congress brings two legislations each year, namely, an annual defence authorisation bill and a Government spending bill. These are legal hurdles that Biden needs to overcome at the

On record, Biden has also pledged to close Guantanamo. But the irony is that those Congressional impediments that prevented Obama are still in the books. However, Biden should give a final push. He must not postpone. This collective scar on American democracy should be buried with full presidential might and by taking all legal nuances. Hope, Biden, a matured and a patient listener to the woes of the world, would be able to fix the rights problem.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions o national and international repute after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the Journal of Global Studies, an internation*al research journal)*

It's high time US **President Joe** Biden closed the books on the **Guantanamo Bay** prison which is infamous for its unrelenting human rights violations. The continuation of the Guantanamo prison is an insult to American democracy and the liberal ethos that Washington has been preaching to the world for decades



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

India should use cash crops to its strategic advantage

Tobacco farming is suffering due to the actions of vested groups advocating high taxes on FCV tobacco to achieve tobacco control goals by making cigarettes unaffordable



World Bank has held its growth outlook for the Indian economy at 8.3 per cent despite a global pandemic. To support growth, there would be greater demand on natural sources where agriculture holds a pivotal role. Today, we are expecting agriculture to provide alternative fuel and sustainable energy sources. In India, agriculture remains the largest source of employment. It is imperative for India to actualise the PM's vision for farmer welfare at the core of agri development.

Farm production must be aligned with good market infrastructure to enable farmers to sell their produce at reasonable prices and improve the flow of much-needed private investments in the sector for crop development and farm practices.

Many government initiatives in this regard are laudable such as National Agriculture Market (eNAM) to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) for enhancing agricultural productivity in rainfed areas, and digitisation.

Cash crops like tea, coffee, tobacco, cotton have a strategic role in India's international agriculture play. Take for example tobacco crops which are one of the largest foreign exchange earners with exports of ₹6,500 crore in 2021. Indian FCV tobacco has a new opportunity in the global market due to new-found usage in medicines for several autoimmune and inflammatory diseases, including diabetes. But for this to happen, we must invest in R&D to produce value-added tobacco products that capture growing buyer interest and thus improve the country's position as the 2nd largest exporter of tobacco.

Challenges faced by FCV farmers

Unfortunately, tobacco farming is suffering due to the actions of vested groups advocating high taxes on FCV tobacco to achieve tobacco control goals by making cigarettes unaffordable. This has resulted in reduced crop size with a decline in the acreage of land under tobacco cultivation. According to industry sources, tobacco use in legal cigarettes registered a sharp decline in the

last few decades when illicit cigarettes gained market share. This contributed to shrinkage in FCV crop size by sharp 39 per cent from 316 million kg per annum to 218 million kg per annum between 2013-14 and 2021-22. Our country has also witnessed a big decline of 1 lakh hectares in FCV tobacco acreage between 2013-14 and 2020-21 which led to 35 million man-days of employ-

Also, FCV tobacco exports from Indian have become uncompetitive globally losing share to countries like Zimbabwe, which is catering to the international tobacco market despite its small size.

Today, legal cigarettes have become unaffordable in India. Cigarette in India cost amongst the highest in the world as a percentage of per capita GDP at 7.70 per cent in comparison to 0.46 per cent for the USA and 1.14 per cent for China (WHO Report). This is even though cigarettes are only 8 per cent of tobacco consumed in the country while 92 per cent is other forms of tobacco. This is in stark contrast to the rest of the world where tobacco is synonymous with cigarettes representing 90 per cent of

tobacco consumption. The World Health Organization (WHO) in a report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic 2021 has acknowledged that the affordability of legal cigarettes in India reduced sharply from 11.10 per cent in 2010 to 13.78 per cent in 2020. These findings were further corroborated with the results of the American Cancer Society study which observed that India has one of the lowest per capita cigarette consumptions in the world.

The above situation is stressing the farm community as consumers shift to smuggled cigarettes that do not use domestic tobacco. This is besides revenue loss to the exchequer which further limits the government's ability to invest in R&D which means farmers are not able to refine their products to meet international standards or come up with other farm innovations which can increase demand for Indian tobacco.

As per FICCI CASCADE's study, the total loss to the economy because of cigarette smuggling has been ₹16,138 crore while the total employment opportunity lost in the sector is about 3.34 lakh.

Vested groups and

flawed research reports The problem lies in misleading data, which the policymakers are bombarded with, which limits their capacity to make informed and prudent decisions. Take for instance two separate studies conducted in 2018 and 2020 and cited in certain media articles which claim that the illicit cigarette sales fig-

ures are exaggerated. The first study uses empty packs picked from retailers to compare legal and illegal cigarette sales, in total disregard of the fact that retailers would be hesitant to disclose that they are selling illegal cigarettes. No retailer in his right mind would save the empty pack as there is a deep fear because of coercive laws against them. Our custom laws put the onus on retailers to prove that the product being sold is a legal product. So, the researchers using this technique to understand illegal cigarette sales will only get a

lopsided view. The second study, on tax gaps, confirms a steady increase in consumption of illegal cigarettes between two time periods. Also, the proportion of illegal cigarettes as a percentage of legal ones in the two studies has a difference exceeding 100 per cent, raising doubts as to which of the fig-

ures are accurate. It is unquestionable that smuggled cigarettes are a raging phenomenon not only in India but all international markets. It has been established through studies by reputed research firms that India is the fourth largest and fastest-growing illegal cigarette market in

the world. As per Euromonitor International, Illicit cigarette volumes in India registered a whopping 44 per cent in a decade from 19.5 billion sticks in 2011 to 28.1 billion sticks in 2020. This takes the market share of illicit cigarettes in the country from 21.3 per cent in 2015 to 27.6 per cent in 2020.

It is noteworthy to know that a recently released report by Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) states that one of the largest global cigarettes MNC as part of its market expansion strategy has been using smuggling as one of the distribution

channels to increase their market penetration. Unfortunately, vested groups do not share such market developments with the policy makers. Despite this, the move to

project in studies low penetration levels of illicit cigarettes below international markets (which are better regulated) is an obvious mis-projection.

Such grossly unreliable studies should be looked at with caution as they give a skewed picture of the illegal cigarette trade in the country and downplay the severity of the illegal cigarette trade in the

India has the option to use cash crops like FCV tobacco to its strategic advantage given the huge potential of tobacco in newer applications. We should not let this opportunity slip and extend all necessary policy support to the FCV tobacco farmers in earnest to capture the growing tobacco market.

(The writer is president of Federation of All India Farmer Associations (FAIFA), a nonprofit federation whose mission is to support the farming community in India and create a sustainable future for farmers)





























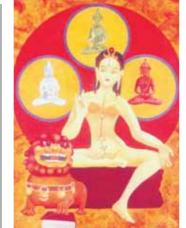




ARIES March 21-April 19

When it comes to health, patience is the key. The expensive tests and diagnosis system may cause a big hole in the pocket, if your health has been out of balance, then you need to act with greater foresight and wisdom. If you are awaiting test results, don't jump to conclusions and panic. Wait it out with courage. On the career front, a raise in your pay or a better position may come to you at this time. Some of you also feel a sense of accomplishment as you have been able to attain your goals after setbacks. You may find that others look up to you for guidance even before you are called upon to head a project or oversee a particular activity. If you are committed, you will move to the next level

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Your vitality is strong. This is an excellent time to make changes in your fitness plan as you will make more progress than imagined. You need to take care of channelising this energy in the right manner. Acting on an impulse of any sort may create health problems for you. Professionally, you are filled with analytical energies, how you speak your mind and conduct yourself is important at your workplace. You may find yourself in conflict and disagreeing with others. Choose your battles wisely rather than picking upon every disagreement. Don't let any emotional hurt of the past affect your relationship with your beloved. Know that there is a lot of love in your life, and you must appreciate it otherwise it will slip away.

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Concerning your health, the news is going to be good. You are in a stronger position now and can control what happens around you. Any efforts that you put right now towards the improvement of your health will bear fruit. The only thing that you need to be careful about is to attempt to try alternative ways to treat and deal with health challenges if any. You need to pull up your sleeves on the career front. Some of you are going to experience a new beginning. Those looking for employment will get a new position which will test yours. Be on your toes and keep working hard. This can be a period of chaos and uncertainty in terms of a relationship. Believe in making a solid foundation, whether it is love or marital life.

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour White Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

If you feel that something is amiss with your body, then you need to pay attention to your concerns. This is not the time to panic and to feel that you can't do anything about it. Trust your intuition and look for ways for help. Take care of yourself with proper diet, rest, and exercise. On the career front, the end of one thing to begin with new is indicated. Things may not be going as per your expectations at the moment. Some of you may have faced or are facing challenges with something related to your work. You need to take a breather from the chaos around you because challenges will return as soon as you are ready to face them. This is a phase where you have an opportunity to improve your relationship with your partner.

Lucky number 18 Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

On the health front, your efforts are likely to bear fruit. You can control what happens around you. You take a long-term view of things and investigate the future. This will not only help you to improve your present health situation but also lay foundation for it to be robust in the future as well. What you do at your workplace has consequences. You might be faced with a dilemma and a decision to make. Try to behave as reasonable as you can and consider what others want before you make a choice. It's a time of change on the relationship front. Those committed but experiencing problems with their partner, can have an honest discussion so that each of you can work on changing certain aspects to keep it going.

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You need to keep your balance in every way, even in mundane things like eating right and getting rest. Those facing health challenges, know that things will get better. Mentally you are in a strong and stable frame of mind, wherein you know what you should do. You may be faced with a dilemma or situation at your workplace which requires immediate action or decision. It may be of importance and many options are available to you. Analyse all the available information first before you finally come to a conclusion. Emotional as you are but you are filled with forceful energy which some people find abrasive. Beware the impulse to be too forceful. Your mother or a mother-like figure may interfere in your relationship, whether she means to or not.

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Magenta **Lucky day** Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

The period has negatives in store for you on the health front. Those suffering from heart ailments & BP may experience a major upheaval on the health front. This has the potential to affect you spiritually, mentally, and physically. So, pay attention to what you are doing for your body. Stay positive and calm about the situation. Stress and anxiety with something relating to work are likely to affect you now. You tend to fear the outcome of your career in the future. Crisis of employment, finances could be faced by some of you. Stay as adaptable and flexible to deal with it. This may be an emotional time in your relationship. Things are not what they appear to be. Take a break if you need it. Treat your partner as your friend.

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week your stamina and energy metre will remain good. However, if you do face health challenges then, try to follow a naturopathic or a homeopathic approach in your health regime. Childbirth for those who are due is on the cards too. Things may not be going as per your expectation at the work front. If you are not happy with your current job or are facing a problematic situation at work, know that there is a lot you can do to improve your current environment. Try to adopt the right mindset before making any decision. Others may also oppose you, but that shouldn't deter you from moving forward as you have a lot of choices available. It's a loving time for you in your relationship. You and your partner can connect well.

Lucky number 6 Lucky colour Purple **Lucky day** Friday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You might face health challenges at this time. Worrying unnecessarily is not going to help. Even in the face of serious problems, you need to hold your ground. A cheerful outlook will give you the motivation to do the right thing for your health. If the situation requires you to take medical tests, then go out and get them done by a trusted practitioner. Money is likely to come your way. Some of you may get surprised with an increase in your current pay or getting a promotion. This may be due to all the challenging work you have put in, winning over all the challenges faced and accomplishing your goals. It's love for you this week. Positive emotional energy will be created between you and your partner, which will leave you feeling good about yourself and life in general.

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Brown **Lucky day** Saturday



CANCER June 21-July 22

On the health front, you need to pay close attention to your emotions. There are chances that you are not at best when dealing with challenges. If you have found out that you have an ailment or are awaiting test results then, instead of becoming negative get help by talking to someone. There may be information that you don't know about. On the work front, some of you have accomplished a lot of your goals and have attained great material wealth. You may be financially stable now. Some of you may have a tough time at your workplace. This may be due to your inflexible attitude. In your relationships, you should be clear about what you want and what your hopes and

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You will be required to balance your health efforts with your personal and professional responsibilities. You are moving into a phase wherein you need to be patient and alert. Be sure you take time out for your healing and relaxation. This is a very promising time for you in your career. Your mental abilities and intelligence are your great strength. You will finally be acknowledged for your efforts by others and have been successful in achieving your goals. The success will instill immense confidence in your abilities. Ensure that you don't become arrogant due to this. A wonderful time of love and solidarity is on the cards this week. Your relationship will strengthen more and some of you are likely to get to a stage of future commitment.

Lucky number 15 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Thursday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

An upward increase in your health and vitality is seen. For those dealing with a serious illness, a new and improved healing modality or healer will come your way. You are generous and have concern for others, but don't compromise on the health front. Nourish your body and mind. Challenges and opposition might be faced this week, especially on the financial front. If you are not keeping track of your finances, and expenditures, it is likely that your budget crosses the limit. This is a time when you will feel that your longterm committed relationship has come a full circle. As a result, there is a sense of closure and fulfillment of what you desired. More love and gratitude will keep your good fortune going.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Beige Lucky day Sunday

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ASTROTURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Life: harmony of opposites

ir, what is in store of my daughter's destiny? Does it indicate marital break? My son-in-law has serious anger issues, difficult for my daughter to bear with." Worried parents of a married daughter came asking the other day.

The above questions made me recall Lord Buddha's saying: "In a transitory world, ever changing from within and beyond, there is no scope for having a perfect situation in life. Life is paradoxical — full of contradictions. Even creation is a result of convergence of the opposites. So, reconciling dualities of life is called for. Life, in fact, is an expression of harmony of the opposites." Those who realise this profound truth, will relate well to the self and those around with relative ease and comfort.

The irony, however, is that every being is born unique, each manifesting varying desire and mind-trends, often in conflict with others, coming as they may as Karmic carryover from the past. So, invariably we are all born with a preconditioned mind, which allows a narrow window frame to look at the issues in hand. More often that doesn't let you look beyond with an open mind for a

reality check or better alternatives if any. So, we fail to look at subject matter under consideration in the right perspective due. Consequently, we are neither able to articulate our thoughts and moves rightfully, nor able to respond and react intelligently to external promptings. If that would not be enough, one's ego makes you conduct in a demanding mode — expecting life to move on one's own exclusive terms. That is at the root of all conflicts in life, be it marital, familial or societal. What gets lost sight of in the process is that we don't exist just by oneself and therefore life won't move necessarily to our asking. We can't service even our existential needs by oneself. We, therefore, need to learn to relate well with those around, overriding each other's limitations. It needs to be appreciated here that if one has a few weaknesses, the positives would be much more. The usual human tendency, however, is that we get stuck to few negatives of others, and all the more particularly in a conflicting situation. In the process, their positives elude our attention. So, we are not able to perceive the other side rightfully, and evidently to our detriment. Before answering the questions



raised above, let me make it clear that perception drives a being, which is dependent on one's inherent mindtrends. So, whether any couple is to enjoy a happy marital life or it would be subject to twists and turns, will depend on personality traits of the two. That makes a look into their mind-traits imperative. Your son-in-law does seem to have ange issues, but before expecting him to behave, your daughter too needs to look into her own flaws. Having said that, let me assure you that their marriage is going to stay. Progression of their charts suggest that they are expected to make necessary amends now and try to improve their relationship.

Let us now look at the astrological pointers to personality traits of the two. Your son-in-law is born with Aries lagna, which by itself is enough to indicate that he would be impulsive, aggressive, impatient and irritable. Mind signifying Moon occupies the constellation owned by Mars, incidentally the lagna lord, which is tenanted in Virgo sign. It brings in a perfectionist streak, by his self-defined measures. If others don't prove true to his expectations, it becomes difficult for him to digest. But then exalted Jupiter in

the 4th house suggests that he would be a well-meaning person carrying the natural urge to improve. In terms of time frame, his progressed lagna was placed adverse to Saturn, which accounted for his unseemly conduct. But now he is coming out of that trap, and so is expected to self-reflect upon himself to make necessary amends.

Your daughter is born in Sagittarius lagna, which makes her tactless and undiplomatic, marked with indiscreet, ill-phrased and ill-timed reactions, which may offend others. Moon occupies Gemini sign, and is placed adverse to the Sun, which brings in the tendency to live on her own exclusive terms. And when she gets provoked, would be tempted to go for a fight till finish. In her case also, progressed lagna is closing up with natal Venus, which implies that life ahead should be comfortable.

These positive indications would however come true only when they are counselled to work upon their fault lines.

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