WORLD 5

6 PEOPLE SHOT OUTSIDE

OREGON CONCERT IN US

GAIL DIRECTOR BOOKED

IN BRIBERY CASE

VIRAT KOHLI QUITS TEST CAPTAINCY,

A DAY AFTER SERIES DEFEAT

VIJAYWADA



*Late City Vol. 32 Issue 15

*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

sunday pioneer www.dailypioneer.com **OBC** dominates BJP list in UP,

Yogi to fight from his bastion Dy CM Maurya to contest from Sirathu;

list of 105 announced

The BJP on Saturday announced that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will contest from his home constituency Gorakhpur and Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad

Maurya from Sirathu in Pragraj while announcing 105 of 113 seats for the first two phases of the high stake Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.

The BJP has repeated 63 sitting MLAs and effected changes in 20 seats, changing sitting MLAs in the list of two (of seven phases) initial phase es of polls on February 10 and

February 14. Of the candidates whose names were announced on Sunday, 44 are from OBC and 19 from Scheduled Caste. The party has fielded ten women candi-In a bid to offset the impact of rebellion by OBC leaders like

Swami Prasad Maurya, the party has fielded OBC and SC candidates from seats that are not reserved for these com-



UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during his visit to inspect a Covid-19 care ward at BRD Medical Collage in Gorakhpur on Saturday

The names of Yogi and Keshav Maurya have been announced though their election is not scheduled in the first two phases. BJP election-incharge Dharmendra Pradhan said, "Yogi happily accepted party's decision for making candidate from Gorakhpur."

Gorakhpur is Yogi's stronghold and has voted him to the Lok Sabha for five straight terms. Polling for the Gorakhpur (urban) seat will be held on March 3 — the sixth

and penultimate phase.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav took a jibe at Yogi minutes after the BJP announced him as the party candidate from his stronghold in Gorakhpur.

"Earlier they used to sometime say 'he will fight from Ayodhya' or 'he will fight from Mathura' or 'he will contest from Prayagraj and Deoband '... now see... I like that the BJP has sent Yogi Gorakhpur," he said.

Continued on Page 2

Channi, Sidhu in Cong's first list of 86 candidates in Punjab

PNS CHANDIGARH

head of the February 14 Assembly polls, the Congress on Saturday released its first list of 86 candidates for Punjab, fielding Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi from his traditional seat of Chamkaur Sahib and PCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu from Amritsar East.

Two Deputy Chief Ministers of the party Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and Om Prakash Soni have been fielded from their traditional seats of Dera Baba Nanak and Amritsar Central respectively.

Without going for major surprises and not bothering for anti-incumbency, the Congress denied tickets to only four sitting legislators, including the one who returned to the party six days after joining the BJP. They are Harjot Kamal from



Moga, Balwinder Singh Laddi from Sri Hargobindpur Sahib, Nathu Ram from Balluana and Deputy Speaker of Punjab Assembly Ajaib Singh Bhatti from Malout.

Laddi had quit the Congress and joined the BJP on December 28, but six days later, he returned to the Congress fold. Controversial Punjabi

singer Sidhu Mussewala, who joined the Congress some time ago will contest from Mansa and actor Sonu Sood's sister Malvika Sood from Moga. *Continued on Page 2*

K'taka tops Covid spike; Maha, Delhi cases drop

Karnataka reported the highest number of cases across the country while the situation somewhat improved in Maharashtra and Delhi, the other two worst-affected States. But Kerala continued to report high numbers and poll-bound Uttar Pradesh is also seeing no improvement in the situation.

India overall added 2.68 lakh new Covid cases in the last 24 hours, raising the tally to 3.67 crore, including 6,041 cases of Omicron which continue to spread fast in almost all the States in the country. The Covid-19 curve appears to be on a downward slope in worsthit Delhi and Mumbai which still maintain India's top spots among cities recording the highest number of coronavirus infections.

Karnataka reported 32,793 new Covid-19 cases on Saturday with a test positivity rate of 15 per cent. Bengaluru alone accounted for 22,284 new infections. The State reported seven related deaths of which five were from Bengaluru. The total number of active cases in the State is currently at 1,69,850.

Neighbouring Kerala recorded 17,755 new Covid-19 cases on Saturday after testing 65,937 samples, taking its Test Positivity Rate (TPR) to 26.92 per cent. The State now has 90,649 active cases. The Covid-



19-related toll reached 50,674 after 17 recent deaths and 89 previously undocumented ones were made officials by the health department.

Delhi reported 20,718 fresh Covid-19 cases and 30 deaths on Saturday. The positivity rate is at 30.64 per cent. The national Capital had reported 24,383 fresh Covid-19 cases and 34 deaths on Friday, with a positivity rate of 30.64 per-

Meanwhile, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Saturday said that it seems the national Capital has reached its peak in Covid-19 infections and the Government will think of easing restrictions when the cases decline to touch 15,000. "We can say that Delhi has reached a peak in terms of cases. Cases have started slowing down. Let's see when the decline happens," he told reporters. He reiterated that the hospitalisation rate has stabilized in Delhi.

Mumbai also saw a dip in the number of cases but a rise in fatality. On Saturday, Mumbai reported 11 new coronavirus-related deaths, the highest single-day toll since July 29 last year. The city logged 10,661 fresh infections during the last 24 hours as against 13,000 plus cases on

Poll-bound Uttar Pradesh on Saturday reported 15,795 fresh coronavirus infections that pushed its active caseload to 95,148, while four more fatalities pushed the death toll to 22,953, an official statement issued here said.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

KERALA TO PROVIDE SECURITY TO NUNS

Kottayam: A day after a sessions court here acquitted Roman Catholic Bishop Franco Mulakkal of the charge of raping a nun in a convent in the State, the Kerala Police on Saturday said it will conduct a threat assessment if necessary and provide protection to the nuns and their convent here if

JUMPS TO DEATH

Kota: A 17-year-old girl from Bihar, preparing for NEET- UG, allegedly jumped to death from the sixth floor of her hostel here on Saturday morning, police said

UNIONS FIGHTING POLLS NOT PART OF US: SKM

New Delhi: The farmer unions

contesting the Puniab Assembly nolls will no longer be part of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) the umbrella body that spearheaded the agitation against the now-repealed agri laws said on Saturdav. SKM leaders in a press conference after their meeting at Kondli on the Singhu border also said that BKII leader Rakesh Tikait will press for sacking of Union Minister Ajav Mishra whose son is accused of mowing down protesting

SP MLA Nahid Hasan arrested in Gangster Act



New Delhi: The Uttar Pradesh Police on Saturday arrested Samajwadi Party MLA Nahid Hasan in an old Gangster Act

Nahid, who is an SP candidate from Kairana constituency in Shamli district, is a two-time SP MLA from the same constituency.

The arrest comes a day after he filed his nomination papers. Nahid was the lone candidate who filed his nomination papers on the first day of issuance of notification on the UP Assembly elections.

Police alleged that the SP politician was on run, since Gangster Act proceedings were pressed against him.

The UP Police had presented Nahid Hasan in a fast track court in the State.

EC extends ban on physical rallies, road shows till Jan 22

Indoor meetings with maximum 300 allowed

PNS NEW DELHI

fter reviewing the Covid-After reviewing the Covid-19 situation in the poll bound-States, the Election Commission (EC) on Saturday extended the ban on physical rallies of political parties, road shows, padyatras, cycle and bike rallies by a week, till January 22.

The Commission, however, has granted relaxation to political parties to conduct indoor meetings with a maximum 300 persons or 50 per cent of the capacity of the hall. Earlier, the ban was imposed till 15 January.

'No road show, padyatra, cycle/bike/vehicle rally and procession shall be allowed till January 22, 2022. The commission shall subsequently review the situation and issue further instructions accord-



ingly. No physical rally of political parties or candidates (including probables) or any other group related to election shall be allowed till January 22, 2022," the EC said in a state-

This comes after deliberations with the Union Health Secretary, Health Secretaries and Chief Secretaries of the five poll bound states.

"However, Commission has granted relaxation for the political parties to extend indoor meetings to a

maximum of 300 persons or 50 per cent of the capacity of the hall or the prescribed limit set by the SDMA (State Disaster Management Authority)," it

The EC has directed all political parties to adhere to the provisions of MCC (Model Code of Conduct) and the broad guidelines of Covid.

The EC also directed State and district administrations to ensure compliance of all instructions related to the poll code and to the pandemic con-

trol measures.

pandemic.

The EC on Saturday held a slew of virtual meetings with the Health Ministry and the Chief Secretaries and Health Secretaries of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, and also the Chief Electoral Officers of these five poll-going States. The Commission also discussed SDMA's restrictions and state specific extant guidelines regulating the norms of gathering of persons during the period of

Cases rose 9-fold in Delhi. ventilator need saw only 2-fold rise from Jan 1-14

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

lthough the number of rose almost by nine times between January 1 and 14, the percentage of patients on ventilator support in city hospitals grew only by double during the same period, Government data

showed. During the second wave of coronavirus when the number of cases were on similar lines. the hospitalisation rate and those on ventilator support

was higher, officials said. The City Government has, at various stages, said that people developing serious illness are mostly those who are unvaccinated and have comor-

bidities Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain had earlier this week said that though the cases are increasing, the hospitalisation rate has stabilised which indicates that the wave has

Paralysed, lost his voice 4 yrs ago, but

plateaued. According to the data pro-

vided by the government, on January 1, there were 2,716 Covid cases, while on January 24,383.

Similarly, on January 1, the hospital occupancy was 247, out of which five patients were on ventilator support (2.02 per cent), while on January 14, the hospital bed occupancy was 2,529, out of which 99 patients (3.91 per cent) were on ventilator. It shows that the number of cases rose by 8.9 times between January 1 and 14, but the percentage of Covid patients on ventilator support

saw only a two-fold rise. An official of the health department said the data clarifies that the growth rate of percentage of ventilator patients with respect to total hospitalisation is very low.

Only those Covid patients who have comorbidity require ventilator support, but we still have to exercise caution, the

Army's new combat uniform unveiled

PNS NEW DELHI

farmers last year

reeping pace with the fast-Keeping pace with the changing nature of modern warfare, the Indian Army has opted for a new combat uniform and displayed it for the first time on Saturday. The allweather-friendly uniform could provide camouflage to the soldiers in all kinds of terrain and battlefield.

The new uniform was donned by the elite commandos of the Parachute Regiment here on Saturday during the Army Day parade witnessed by Army Chief General MM Naravane. The Pioneer had reported on December 3 last year about the new initiative.

The newspaper had also said the marching contingents in the Republic Day parade now would don the uniform of a different era starting over 100

Unlike the previous years



when the contingents wore the the troops marching past the

dress of their regiments, the saluting dais in uniform rang-Republic Day this year will see ing from those worn during

other campaigns.

World War I, World War II and The new combat uniform,

which features a mix of colours, including olive and earthen, has been designed taking into considerations aspects like areas of deployment of the troops and climatic conditions in which they operate.

The new uniform has been designed after analysing combat uniforms of armies of various other countries, in association with the National Institute Fashion Technology. This uniform is more comfortable and it would be worn in all types of terrains, sources said.

The digital disruptive pattern is designed with help of computer aid, they said. The shirt in the new uni-

form does not have to be tucked in the trouser. The shirt in the old uniform had to be tucked in. The new uniforms will not be available in the open

Continued on Page 2 | pened to him after taking the

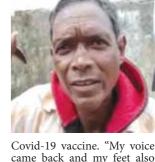
moving, speaking after Covid-19 shot **Bokaro:** A 55-year-old man who had become paralysed medical condition after taking and lost his voice four years ago

in an accident said he was able to move and speak after he was given Covishield vaccine on January 4. Bokaro Civil Surgeon Dr Jitendra Kumar said he was

surprised and has asked for the constitution of a medical team to analyse the medical history of the case Dularchand Munda from Salgadih village in Bokaro said on Friday, "Glad to have taken

this vaccine. I can move my legs after taking the vaccine on January 4. As per Dularchand Munda's family, after an acci-

dent four years ago, he lost his voice and became paralysed. But Dularchand Munda claimed that a miracle hapunderstood but recovering suddenly from a four-year-old



came back and my feet also moved," he said. He himself stood on his feet and walked. Health officials are sur-

Dr Jitendra Kumar said, "Amazed to see this. But it needs to be ascertained by scientists. Had he recovered from a medical condition not more than some days old, it could be

the vaccine is unbelievable."

Health officials said it was a subject of research. "Accurate information and answers will be available in the

coming days when the medical

world will conduct research on Dularchand Munda's illness

and his recovery," said Albel Kerketta, in-charge of Petarwar health centre. According to Dularchand Munda's family, he underwent treatment after the accident, but his body part had stopped working. With this, his voice

also started to falter. Dr Albel Kerketta said that the vaccine was given by the Anganwadi centre's worker on January 4 to Dularchand Munda and his family. From January 5, Munda's lifeless body started to move.

Continued on Page 2

'Rashtrapati Bhavan didn't | Maha to depute ATS lawyers for Malegaon trial signal for degree to Prez'

Kerala Raj Bhavan denies media reports that Guv got nod from Rashtrapati Bhavan for DLitt for President

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

Bhavan, Raj Thiruvananthapuram, has denied media reports that Governor Arif Mohammed Khan had obtained green signal from Rashtrapathi Bhavan for conducting convocation of the Kerala University and honour President Ram Nath Kovind with a D Litt degree.

A note issued by S D Prins, Public Relations Officer, Raj Bhavan late on Friday evening said that Rashtrapathi Bhavan

Aday after the Samajwadi Party welcomed two Bharatiya Janata Party Ministers and five MLAs into

its fold, party chief Akhilesh

Yadav said there was no more

room in his party for 'any BJP

Adityanath Cabinet, Swami

Prasad Maurya, Dara Singh

Chauhan and Dharm Singh

Saini, quit the Cabinet and the

ruling party and joined the SP

on Friday ahead of next

Saturday hit out at the UP chief

minister minutes after the BJP

announced Yogi Adityanath as

the party candidate from his stronghold, the Gorakhpur

assembly constituency.
"Earlier they (BJP) used to

sometimes say he will fight

from Ayodhya or he will fight

from Mathura or he will con-

test from Prayagraj and Deoband'... now see... I like that

the BJP has already sent Yogi Adityanath to Gorakhpur. Yogi

should stay there... there is no

need for him to come from

"Let me say this... I will not take any BJP MLA (or) minis-

ter anymore. The BJP can deny

wish to..." Yadav said in a press

Besides the BJP rebels, the

The exodus of Other

conference here on Saturday.

SP chief on Friday had also

inducted one MLA from Apna

Backward Classes leaders from

the BJP and the Yogi

Dal, a BJP ally.

there," the SP chief said.

Akhilesh Yadav on

month's election.

Three Ministers of the Yogi

MLA or Minister anymore'.

No room for any

more BJP MLA,

Minister: Akhilesh

the proposal to confer D Litt. The Kerala Governor had

only informed the Vice Chancellor, Kerala University that the Rashtrapati Bhavan was never in favour of the Honorable President being conferred D.Litt by any University in the country. However, the Governor offered to personally speak to those concerned in Rashtrapati Bhavan and persuade to accept the D.Litt of Kerala University, as a special case, being one among the oldest universities. The Vice Chancellor was requested to get the proposal cleared by the University Syndicate," Prins said in the

He denied reports that "the Governor had decided to hold the convocation in a grand style and got in touch with the President of India and

guest of the function" is absolutely baseless.

President Kovind's visit to Thiruvananthapuram had created a lot of controversies like the security breach of the official cavalcade caused by the Mavor

Thiruvananthapuram and the non-availability of water in the wash room set up for the First Citizen's use.

The furore over the D Litt issue surfaced after President Ram Nath Kovind wound up his tour and left for the nation al capital. The war of words between Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, higher education minister Bindu (who is the pro vice chancellor of the University and Kerala University Vice Chancellor Mahadevan Pillai over awarding the D Litt is still continu-

Talking to media persons after his interaction with Walse-Patil, Khan said: "I have spoken to the State Home Minister and explained to him that a conspiracy has been hatched to put pressure on the NIA and bail out the accused in the 2008 blasts case. In the process, an effort is being made to malign both the ATS (which investigated the case first) and the Maharashtra government. To prevent this, I have asked the State Home Minister to

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Two days after the Maharashtra Congress

complained to the State Home

department that the NIA was

"weakening" the case and "not

prosecuting all the accused

with honesty and sincerity", the

Maharashtra Government has

agreed to depute a team of offi-

cers and lawyers of the State

Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) to present its side of the evidence

during the ongoing 2008 Malegaon blasts trial.

Minister Dilip Walse-Patil gave

an assurance to this effect to

State Congress' Working pres-

ident Mohd. Arif Naseem

Khan, who requested the for-

mer to deploy a team of ATS'

lawyers and officers to the trial

court to monitor the manner in

which the NIA is trying to

"dilute" the 2008 Malegaon

Maharashtra

the case to ensure free and fair trial in the case. The State Home Minister has agreed to my request".

In a letter shot off to the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) chief Vineet Agrawal. State Agrawai,
Congress'Working president Mohd. Arif Naseem Khan had recalled that the ATS, under its martyred chief Hemant Karkare, had "cracked" the Malegaon blasts case, arrested prime accused Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur and Lt Col Prasad Shrikant Purohit and filed a charge-sheet in the trial

Subsequently, the NIA took over the case and filed a supplementary charge-sheet and exonerated Sadhivi Pragya at the behest of the Central government and dropped MCOCA charges against the case and has in the process weakened the case," Naseem

Khan had - in the wake of as many as 16 "important witnesses" turning turned "hostile" in the 2008 Malegaon blasts case -- accused the NIA of 'weakening" the case and "not prosecuting all the accused with honesty and sincerity".

In a serious accusation made against the central investigating agency, Khan had stated: "The NIA is not prose-

State Govt agrees after Maha Cong complains of NIA safeguarding accused in case depute a team of lawyers and cuting all the accused with honesty and sincerity. (Out of 223 witnesses, 16 important accused have till today accused. Hundred more witnesses are left to be accused. These witnesses are crucial. They need

to be protected".

"The NIA has not challenged any order passed in favour of the accused in higher court which shows its intentions clearly. Strict supervision by the ATS is a must for a fair trial and effective prosecution, since the ATS had recorded the statements of maximum and conducted most part of the investigations," Khan wrote in his letter to the State ATS chief.

"So that the guilty can be punished and justice can be delivered to the public at large and through your action, a tribute will be paid to the martyred ATS chief Hemant Karkare," Khan wrote.

It may be recalled that an improvised explosive kept under the seat of a LML Freedom motor-bicycle had exploded between Bhikku Chowk and Anjuman Chowk, near Noorani Masjid, at Malegaon in north Maharashtra, on the night of September 29, 2008, leaving six persons dead and injuring 101 others.

Based on a strong case against the accused by the ATS which investigated the case

initially before the NIA took special court had on October 30, 2018 framed charges against Lt Col Prasad Shrikant Purohit, Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur and five other accused under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and various other sections of the IPC for their alleged involvement in the 2008 blasts.

In his letter to the State ATS chief, Khan stated: "It seems witnesses are under the influence of the accused and are deliberately taking the names of the BJP-RSS people to get mileage in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections and defame the Maharashtra government and the ATS, as Prosecution Witness no 220 went beyond what was recorded in his earlier statements by mentioning the name of (UP chief minister) (Adityanath) etc and the irony is that Special Public Prosecutor did not take objection on it".

Khan went on to say that after the prosecution witness no 220, a leading national television channel went to town confirming that the witness had taken the name of UP chief Yogi Adityanath's name.

Khan said that "the ATS as an investigation agency is being maligned as to be anti-Hindu and that under the circumstances to maintain the trust of

Maharashtra government, it was necessary that ATS deployed its officers who were part of the investigations in the case to attend the court which is hearing the case on a day-today basis.

Seven key accused, including Lt Col Purohit and Sadhvi Pragya, are being tried under sections 16 (committing a terror act) and 18 (criminal conspiracy) of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), and sections 120(b) (punishment of criminal conspiracy), 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder) and 326 (intentionally causing harm to others) of the IPC. They were framed harges under the Explosives Substances Act.

On December 27, 2017, a Special NIA court had dropped charges under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, Lt Col Prasad Purohit and five other key accused in the much-discussed case. However, the NIA court observed that it could not exonerate Sadhvi Pragya from the case as her motorbike has used in the blast.

However, all the accused including Pragya Pragya and Lt Col Purohit – are being tried for being tried for all other non-MCOCA charges against

K'taka. From Page 1 Lucknow reported the

highest number of fresh cases at 2,769, followed by 1,873 from Gautam Budh Nagar, 1,371 from Ghaziabad and 1,135 from Meerut, among other districts, it said. With the new infections, Uttar Pradesh's coronavirus tally stands at 18,16,974. The latest deaths were reported from Lucknow, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar and Mainpuri, the statement said.

Odisha's Covid-19 caseload mounted to 11,22,735 on Saturday with 10,856 fresh infections, while two more fatalities pushed the death toll to 8,478, the Health Department said in a bulletin. The State also reported 32 new Omicron cases taking the tally of the new strain of coronavirus in Odisha to 202, a health department official said.

Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday recorded 3,251 fresh Covid-19 cases, its highest single-day spike in infections so tally to 3,55,874, while four related deaths were reported in the past 24 hours, officials said. Of the fresh cases, 1,129 were from the Jammu division and 2,122 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory.

India added 2.68 lakh new Covid cases in the last 24 hours, raising the tally to 3.67 crore, including 6,041 cases of Omicron which continue to spread fast in almost all the States in the country. The Covid-19 curve appears to be on a downward slope in worst-hit Delhi and Mumbai which still maintain India's top spots among cities recording the

highest number of coronavirus infections

Tamil Nadu registered 23,459 cases and 26 deaths, while West Bengal logged as many as 22,645 cases, along with 28 fatalities.

In Bengal, 77.2 per cent of the samples, that is, 1,200 out of 1,499 samples sent for genome sequencing, have come out positive for the Omicron variant. Although the State reported a slight dip in cases, Kolkata took a U-turn from its declining trend and logged a marginal spike in the single-day case count with 6,867 Covid-19

infections. In other parts of the country, the new Omicron variant continues to cause a surge in infections. There were a total of 6,041 Covid-19 cases linked to the Omicron strain, the Union Health Ministry said in its bulletin on Saturday.Other States that recorded more than 10,000 daily Covid-19 cases are Kerala (16,338), Uttar Pradesh (15,975), Rajasthan (10,307)

and Odisha (10,273). Active cases now comprise 3.85 per cent of the total infections. As a result, the national has decreased to 94.83 per cent. An increase of 1,45,747 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours, according to

the Health Ministry data. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 16.66 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 12.84 per cent. The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive has exceeded 156.02 crore, the Ministry said.

As many as 402 people have died of Covid during the past 24-hour period, according to the Health Ministry.

Devotees take holy dips in the Ganga on the occasion of Makar Sankranti festival in Varanasi on Saturday

Adityanath government over a 72-hour period this week is being widely seen as having blown a big hole in the ruling party's re-election bid.

Apart from Swami Prasad Maurya and Dharam Singh Saini, five BJP MLAs -- Roshan Lal Verma, Brijesh Prajapti, Mukesh Verma, Vinay Shakya and Bhagwati Sagar -- also joined the SP on Friday. The third minister to quit -- Dara Singh Chauhan -- will also join the SP soon.Akhilesh Yadav's declaration also came hours after Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad said seat-sharing talks between his Azad Samaj Party and the Samajwadi Party had broken

.. We are saying now we will not take any more leaders into the Samajwadi Party... We sacrificed a lot to bring people together (but) now there is no scope to take to anyone else," Akĥilesh Yadav said.

Ahead of the election, Akhilesh Yaday has stitched together an alliance of regional parties, including those with sway in the non-Yadav OBC communities -- like those brought on board on Friday to defeat the BIP.

In 2017, the BJP's strategy to beat the Samajwadi Party OBC castes given Yadav's most loyal voters are seen to be Yadavs and Muslims. Akhilesh Yadav last year also joined hands with Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party and with Jayant Chaudhary's Rashtriya Lok Dal in December.

RLD releases list of seven more candidates in UP

PNS LUCKNOW

Rashtriya Lok Dal, on Saturday, issued its second list of its candidates for the UP Assembly elections from western UP. The list showed that the party did a lot of balancing in selecting the candidates for the seats it got from Samajwadi Party under the seat-sharing

RLD is contesting the UP assembly elections in alliance with the Samajwadi Party.

In the first list, RLD had released that list of 19 candidates. The second list has the names of seven more candidates. The RLD has fielded maximum number of Jat and Muslim candidates while giving tickets to Brahmins, Gujjar and Dalit also.

As per the second list, RLD will field Asraf Ali from Thana Bhawan, Rajpal Baliyan from Budhana, Chandan Chauhan from Meerapur, Surendra Kumar Munni from Muradnagar, Kiran Pal Singh from Shikarpur, Pramod Gaur from Barauli and Veerpal Singh Diwakar from Iglas.

RLD leaders Anil Dubey and Anupam Mishra congratulated those who were given tickets to contest the election and appealed to the party workers and leaders to work with full strength to defeat the rivals in the election.Party get more seats under the seatsharing formula from the

"However, the race among small parties to forge an alliance with SP for the assembly election has reduced the RLD's hope of getting more than 32 seats", they said.

Book throwing light on 'Man Ki Baat' released

New Delhi: Internationally acclaimed author KK Srivastava, also a former Additional deputy CAG, has published his fifth book The Descent: Essays & Critiques, a collection of eighteen essays and twelve critiques already published (2010 to 2021) in newspapers: The Pioneer; The Daily Star, and International Literary and GREEN INTEGER, USA etc.

Books critiqued are authored by persons of stature like Narendra Modi, Régis Bonvicino, Sitakant Mahapatra, Ajai Mansingh, Abhay K, Kurt F Svatek, Zafar Anjum, Raj Kamal Jha and a few more. Essays are on issues agitating human minds, historically and contemporarily. These include topics like Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat', literary festivals, dissent and disagreement, returning literary awards.

Paralysed, lost his voice 4 yrs ago, but moving, speaking after...

From Page 1

Village teacher Raju Munda said the incident is nothing short of a miracle. According to him, Dularchand had been under treatment at a cost of? 4 lakh which had no outcome.

"Then how can the COVID-19 vaccine do wonders?" he asked.

women, doctors..", said Pradhan

didate for UP polls. He said even an SC candidate has been fielded from a general seat

who said a renowned ortho-

pedics Raghuvendra Sharma

has been nominated as a can-

As against leaders deserting the party, the BJP UP pollin-charge said many new leaders would be joining the party within a day or two.

Aruna Chaudhary from Dina

Nanagar, Raj Kumar Verka from

Amritsar West-SC, Sukhbinder

Army...

The Army is likely to switch over to the new combat uniform from mid this year. The uniform will be a mix of colours, including olive and earthen. The uniform is formally known as battle dress uniforms (BDU).

Several countries, including the US and European armies, have switched over to digital pattern uniforms. The Indian Army decided to change its combat uniform after studying the dress of these countries, officials said.

such as shades of green or brown to blend in with the background. The new combat uniform

is made of lighter and durable

material suitable for both sum-

mer and winter as the Army

operates in all kinds of terrain

ranging from minus 40 degrees

at the Siachen Glacier to 50

degrees plus in the Thar desert.

working on the issue of having

shoulder or collar tags marking

the rank of the personnel.

Some armies around the world

have such rank markings on

Meanwhile, the Army was

From Page 1

The sources said the new combat uniform is of a digital pattern which will help the personnel to have better camouflage in the battlefield besides comfort.

To ensure safety and comfort element in the operational areas, the uniform is camouflaged, either in monochrome

the button of their combat However, some others prefer to have no rank or tags on the shoulders to maintain secrecy on the battlefield.

With more than 13 lakh troops on its roll, it will take some months before the entire Army is provided with the new combat uniform, sources said. They also said the authorities were mulling over changes in the present olive green reg-

OBC dominates **BJP** list in UP, Yogi to fight...

From Page 1

Yogi should stay there... there is no need for him to come from there, he said. Former Uttarakhand

NO. SB/Store/2022-25(14),

S.NO. Name of Item (s)

Safari Suit

4. Tender Schedule:

No.

iii

Governor Baby Rani Maurya, who had resigned from the constitutional post and soon thereafter appointed party vicepresident, will be contesting from Agra rural.

Among others Pankaj Singh, son of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and sitting MLA will again be a candidate from Noida as would be the senior State Power Minister Srikant Sharma from

SPECIAL BRANCH

POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

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Aturauli seat.

from west UP.

"We are releasing list of

Bhopal, Dated 11-01-2022

1st Tender

Mathura.The BJP has also fielded former UP Chief Minister and backward class key Lodh leader Kalyan Singh's grandson Sandeep Singh from

Suresh Raina and Sangeet Som-controversial BIP leaders of the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots- have also been nominated as Assembly candidates

candidates on 57/58 seats in the first phase and 48/55 in the second phase," said Pradhan while announcing the list of candidates at a joint Press conference with party general sec-

retary Arun Singh. On the question of recent defections from the party, he said, "BJP sarvsamaji party hain, Hamare karvan main log ate jate rahtain hain...Hamra mudda Garib Kalyan hain...".

es are meant to be considered for allies like Aapna Dal and Nishad party. More than 60 per cent of

the names announced in the two lists are from the OBC and SC categories. 44 seats are for OBC candidates and 19 seats for SC.
"Changes in 20 seats is to

give place to new faces, youth,

He said a few seats unan-

nounced for the first two phas-

Assembly seat. All other sitting Ministers will contest from their respective constituencies they currently represent. Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal will contest from Bathinda Urban, PWD Minister Vijay Inder Singla from Sangrur, Water Supply and Sanitation Minister Razia Sultana from Malerkotla and

place from Patiala rural

Other Ministers like Rana Gurjit Singh will contest from his Kapurthala Assembly constituency, Tript Rajinder Bajwa from Fatehgarh Churian, Randeep Singh Nabha from Amloh, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring from Gidderbaha and Pargat Singh from Jalandhar Cantt. Besides Ministers like test and his son Mohit Sangat Singh Gilzian has been

Singh Kotli from Khanna.

Ludhiana West.The Congress also gave tickets to Balbir Singh Sidhu, Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, Sunder Sham Arora and Gurpreet Singh Kangar, who were dropped from the Ministries after Channi took over from Amarinder Singh as Industries Minister Gurkirat the Chief Minister last year. Punjab Assembly elections are slated in a single phase on February 14 and the results will be out on March 10. The party is yet to declare its candidate for the Patiala Urban constituency which was

represented by former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. The party will also declare its remaining 31 seats for the 117 member Assembly soon.

A.I.G. of Police Special Branch (G) M.P. Bhopal कोरोना में सावधानी हटी, समझो दुर्घटना घटी G-21419/21 Tel. No. 0755-2443654

Jhannı...

From Page 1 In another development,

party's Rajya Sabha MP Pratap Singh Bajwa will contest from the Qadian Assembly seat in Gurdaspur, which is represented by his brother Fatehjang Singh Bajwa. The list was released after

the party's central election committee chaired by party chief Sonia Gandhi cleared the names in its meeting earlier.Former PCC president and campaign committee chief Sunil Jakhar will not contest the Assembly polls. His nephew Sandeep

Brahm Mohindra will not con-

Jakhar will contest the Abohar Assembly seat instead. Similarly, Punjab Minister

Sarkaria from Rajasansi, and Bharat Bhushan Ashu from

Mohindra will contest in his fielded from his Urmar seat,

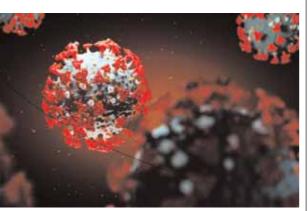
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Covid cases down, 30 die, but +vity rises to 30.64%

Delhi on Saturday reported 20,718 daily Covid -19 cases and 30 deaths related to the infections. With this the active Covid cases have risen to 93,407 while the positivity rate recorded at 30.64 per cent.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain also indicated that the national Capital has reached its peak in Covid -19 infections and the Government will think of easing restrictions when the cases decline to touch

Earlier in the day, he told reporters that Delhi is expected to record around 20,000 cases on Saturday, less than Friday's figures of 24,383 on Thursday, that were 28,867 cases recorded in Delhi, the highest since the beginning of the pandemic. "We can say that Delĥi has reached a peak in terms of cases. Cases have started slowing down. Let's see when the decline happens,"



He stressed that the hospitalization rate has stabilized in

When asked whether restrictions will be eased in Delhi as cases have come down, he said, "Let's wait. The cases have started declining. They came down to 24,000 yesterday and will come down to 20000 today. Let them come down to 15,000 or below and then we

Meanwhile, according to the Delhi Government's database, on Friday, city reported 24,383 Covid-19 cases and 34 fatalities while the positivity rate surged to 30.64 per cent, according to health department data. On Thursday, Delhi had reported 28,867 Covid-19 cases, the sharpest single-day spike since the beginning of the pandemic, and 31 deaths, while the positivity rate stood at 29.21 per cent.

Unaware of new guidelines, people being turned away from Covid testing centres

guidelines for Covid-19, a number of people, including those in need of a negative RT-PCR report to be able to work, are being turned away from testing centres in Delhi and surrounding areas.

According to the Centre's new guidelines, asymptomatic patients do not need to undergo a test. Also, contacts of laboratory-confirmed Covid-19 patients do not require a test unless they have comorbidities or are aged above 60.

Neha Madal, who works as a domestic help in Mayur Vihar, needed a negative RT-PCR report to be able to work in households.

"Some of the societies allow us to work only after we furnish a negative RT-PCR report. When I visited a Covid-19 testing centre, they said I cannot undergo testing because I am asymptotic. It has impeded my work," Mandal said.

Laxmi, a resident of Lajpat Nagar, got a cold and cough, and thought of getting a test done to be on the safe side. consulted my doctor who said it could be due

to a change in weather but I wanted to be sure and went to a nearby testing centre. They denied a test, saying I should monitor my health for a week," she claimed.

district authorities in Delhi have received instructions to conduct tests of symptomatic persons and those eligible under the new guidelines.

"Even high-risk people like family members may not be tested unless they have symptoms. International travellers can get tested after producing flight tickets," the official said. On Thursday, Delhi had recorded 28,867 Covid-19cases, the sharpest single-day spike since the beginning of the pandemic, when the city conducted 98,832

However, Friday's figure of coronavirus cases came out of 79,578 tests, with a senior government official saying the drop in cases may be due to lower testing.

Shreya Raman, whose friend contracted coronavirus two days ago, was turned away on Saturday because she did not have any My friend and I live in the building and

visit each other frequently, so, I thought I should also get tested. Now, I will never know if it has already spread in my house, Raman, a resident of Jangpura, said. On Saturday, in some parts of south Delhi,

symptomatic people were also turned away for the lack of a doctor's prescription.**PTI**

Delhi HC, district courts to continue virtual hearing till Feb 11

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has said that it would continue hearing cases through the virtual mode till February 11.

According to an office order dated January 12, the district courts would also hear matters only through the video conferencing mode till "In continuation of this court's office order dated 30.12.2021, as directed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice, the existing system of hearing of cases in this court [including the courts of Registrar and Joint Registrar (Judicial)] as well as in the district courts in Delhi shall continue till 11.02.2022," the latest order said.

On December 30, the high court - which resumed physical hearings from November 22 - had decided to shift to the virtual mode from January 3 in view of rise in Covid-19 cases and the subsequent 'yellow alert' declared by the government in the national capital.

The decision to go back to the virtual system was taken after an office note was placed before Chief Justice D N Patel highlighting the rise in number of cases of Covid-19 infections.

There is, indubitably, a sudden spurt and spike in Covid-19 cases in the NCT of Delhi. Such rise is quite alarming and worrisome. The government of NCT of Delhi has already issued 'yellow alert' in Delhi. It's high time that this court also takes all the possible precautionary and preventive measures to thwart any possibility of resurgence of any wave of extreme nature," the statement issued by the high court had said.

The statement had quoted Justice Patel saying, "I have also consulted with the esteemed members of the Administrative and General Supervision Committee of this court. They all are also of the view that immediate steps are required to be taken to safeguard the health and well-being of all the stakeholders while also ensuring that the justice delivery system remains functional."

The high court had first moved to the virtual system in March 2020 following the outbreak of Covid-19, and subsequently, few benches had started holding physical courts everyday on rotation basis.

High court holding physical courts also held hybrid proceedings, wherein lawyers have the option to attend the hearing via video conference instead of appearing in person ference instead of appearing in person.

Delhi Congress launches SharabNahiRozgarDo drive

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress launched a campaign "SharabNahiRozgarDo", demanding jobs for the youth. Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said that the campaign will be run on all social media platforms, including Facel and Thirty and Trait of Thirty and platforms, including Facebook and Twitter. "The Arvind Government's new liberalised Exise Policy, including lowering of the liquor consumption age from 25 to 21 years, will make Delhi "Nashe Ki Rajdhani," he said.

Kumar said that the latest Covid restrictions have robbed lakhs of youth of their jobs and shrunk the the job market but the liquor vend network has expanded hugely as Delhi now boasts of 849 liquor shops, with at least three liquor shops in every ward. "It is shocking to learn that Delhi's 18 Assembly con-

stituencies, which together had only five liquor shops earlier, have now 216 liquor vends, as shops have been allowed to open everywhere, flouting all norms, rules and regulations," he said. Kumar also said that late Prime Minister, Bharat Ratna Rajiv

Gandhi, empowered the youth by giving them voting rights but Arvind has given them drinking rights at a very young age.

Congress workers keep protesting against the opening of liquor shops in residential areas, near educational institutions and places of worship, and forced the closure of many such



An anti-smog gun sprays water to curb air pollution, in New Delhi on Saturday

Traffic advisory issued ahead of Republic Day Parade rehearsal New Delhi: The Delhi Police on Saturday native route from north to south and vice

issued a traffic advisory ahead of Republic Day Parade rehearsal next week.

According to the advisory, rehearsals of Republic Day Parade-2022 shall be held on Raj Path on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from Vijay Chowk to India

During rehearsal, traffic will be restricted at Rajapth-Rafi Marg, Rajpath-Janpath, Rajpath-Man Singh Road and Rajpath-C-Hexagon from 9 am to 12 pm, it said, adding that Rajpath from Vijay Chowk to India Gate will also remain closed for traffic. The parade will start from Vijay

Chowk and go to C-Hexagon via Rajpath. The traffic will be diverted.

Commuters are requested to observe traffic rules, road discipline and follow directions of traffic police personnel deployed at all intersections, the advisory said. It suggested the commuters to take alter-

Severe cold day in parts of city, maximum dips to season's lowest

versa using Ring Road (Ashram Chowk-Sarai Kale Khan-I P Flyover-Rajghat), from Lajpat Rai Marg-Mathura Road-Bhairon Road-Ring Road, from Aurobindo Marg-Safdarjung Road-Kamal Attaturk Mar-Kautilaya Marg-Sardar Patel Marg- Mother Teresa Crescent-RML-Baba Kharak Singh Marg, from Prithvi Raj Road-Rajesh Pilot Marg-Subramaniam Bharti Marg-Mathura Road-Bhairon Road-Ring Road and from Burfkhana-Azad Market-Rani Jhansi Flyover-Punchkuian Road-Hanuman Murti-Vande Matram Marg-Dhaula

Similarly, from east to west and vice versa, the commuters have been advised to take Ring Road-Bhairon Road-Mathura Road-Subramaniam Bharti Marg-Rajesh Pilot Marg-Prithvi Raj Road-Safdarjung Road-Kamal Ataturk Marg-Panchsheel Marg-Simon Boliver Marg-Upper Ridge Road-Vande Matram Marg, etc. *PTI*

Security tightened at Ghazipur flower market day after IED found

New Delhi: Security has been tightened at the Ghazipur flower market in Delhi, a day after an improvised explosive device (IED) stuffed with RDX and ammonium nitrate was found inside an unattended bag there ahead of Republic Day, officials said on Saturday. The IED was defused

According to police, while

the flower market is not exempted from the Covid curbs in the national capital, fruit and vegetable market is spared and is

"The security has been tightened in the market. The fruit and vegetable market is open as it comes under exempted category. People are requested to follow the Covid- appropriate behaviour," Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (east) Vinit Kumar said.

Police said that a person who had come to the market on Friday to purchase flowers spot-



A police vehicle at the Ghazipur flower market a day after an IED was found inside a bag, in New Delhi, Saturday

ted a suspicious unattended bag near his scooty at an abandoned place. He then informed there.

people and also alerted the Delhi Home Guards deployed

The person then made a PCR call around 10.30 am

New Delhi: Delhi shivered under "cold day" conditions for a second consecutive day on Saturday recording the season's lowest maximum temperature at 14.8 degrees Celsius, with thick fog blotting out

The minimum temperature at the Safdarjung Observatory, which is considered the official marker for the city, settled at 6.1 degrees Celsius, a notch below nor-

"Today also there was a layer of moderate fog/low cloud over Delhi-NCR Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and north Rajasthan. It prevented the sunlight from reaching the surface. Light north westerlies are also blowing over the region. These conditions led to a cold day," an IMD offi-

Similar conditions are predicted for Sunday too. Severe cold day conditions persisted at Narela and Jafarpur, where the maximum temperature dipped to 10.7 degrees Celsius and 10.9 degrees Celsius, seven and nine notches below normal, respectively.

Narela was also the coldest place in Delhi on Saturday. On Friday, the autoabout the unattended bag. PTI | matic weather stations at Narela and



Jafarpur had logged a maximum temperature of 11 degrees Celsius and 12.1 degrees Celsius.

According to the IMD, a "cold day" when the minimum temperature is less than 10 degrees Celsius and the maximum is at least 4.5 degrees Celsius below nor-A "severe" cold day is when the maximum temperature is at least 6.5 notches below normal.

Dense to moderate fog is predicted in Delhi for the next four days, the IMD said. When visibility due to fog is reduced to the range of 0 to 50 metres, it is categorised as "very dense" fog. In the case of "dense" fog, visibility is between 51 and 200 metres, "moderate" is 201 and 500 metres, and "shallow" is 501 and 1,000

The capital's air quality improved improved a bit and the 24-hour air quality index (AQI) read 258 at 4 pm, as against 348 at the same time on Friday.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500

Illegal constructions in Rithoj | City records power village razed amid resistance



Gurugram: The Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) on Saturday carried out a demolition drive in village Rithoj, in which Dhaba, building material shop, office and under-construction structures were demolished amid resistance from villagers.
DTCP officials said that

around 500 villages gathered at the spot and opposed the demolition drive they even tried to attack the team and blocked the way. RS Bhath, district town planner (enforcement), said that the colony was being developed in violation of rules, withthe competent authority.

We carried out demolition drive despite the villager's resistance. The department will soon recommend FIR against those who were involved in disputing government work. Notices were also issued to plot owners earlier as well.

We have repeatedly issued them warnings that this was an illegal colony and no construction would be allowed but it was found that construction was going on, following which a decision to demolish the illegal structures was taken," Bhath

said. Three earthmoving machines were pressed into service to demolish an illegal construction.

"Several under-construction properties were also demolished and work being carried out by the plot owners was stopped. The enforcement team was supported by a large contingent of the Gurugram police," Bhath said.

A major demolition drive was also conducted by the DTCP team on Friday in sector 93 and sector. During the drive, 3 colonies covering 10 acres were demolished.

demand of 5,104 MW Higher than last winter's peak

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

t 5104 MW, Delhi's peak winter **1** power demand clocked the season's highest, a disoms officials said on

However, BSES authorities said that they are fully geared up to ensure adequate power availability for its around 46 lakh consumers during the winter months.

According to officials the demand this year also pipped the peak winter power demand of 2021, which had clocked 5021 MW. "The BRPL and BYPL successfully

met this season's highest peak winter power demand of 2140 MW and 1114 MW in their respective areas on January 14, 2022. Last year, the peak winter power demand in BRPL and BYPL areas had reached 2091 MW and 1107 MW respectively," he said.

The official also said the back-bone of BSES' power-supply arrangements during the winter-months includes longterm agreements from powerplants; including Hydro and Delhi based gas fuelled generat-

Apart from these, BSES discoms are using avenues like "Banking", "Reserve Shutdown", "Power Exchange" and ensuring sufficient "Spinning Reserves" to dispose of surplus power as well as ensuring reliable power supply, as also making arrangements to get power during summer months, the official said.

The official said that to meet power challenges; BSES uses a mix of advanced statistical forecasting models using complex algorithms, combined with state-ofthe-art weather forecasting solutions, including artificial intelligence and machine learning.



Adoption of electric vehicles by ride aggregators, delivery services made mandatory

SAPNA SINGH NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Saturday ▲ announced that it has notified a draft policy under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986, has notified a draft policy on Friday, to mandate all aggregators and delivery service providers to adopt electric vehicles in their newly onboarded fleets for operations.

With this, Delhi has become the first Indian state to adopt an aggregator policy to regulate vehicular emissions from the ride-hailing indus-

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said the Delhi government has taken a robust initiative to combat air pollution. "The draft policy has been placed for public opinion for 60 days," Rai said. "The policy will provide a necessary push to the aggregator industry to become environment friendly," he added.

According to the Delhi government, aggregators and delivery services would need to ensure 10 percent of all new two-wheelers and five percent of all new four-wheelers are electric in the next three months.

"Aggregators and delivery services

will have to ensure 50% of all new twowheelers and 25% of all new fourwheelers are electric by March 2023,"

Reena Gupta, advisor to the Environment Minister, while talking about the draft policy mentioned, "The essence of the proposed policy by the GNCTD is to ensure the entire spectrum of vehicles used by aggregators and delivery service providers are brought into the fold of a sustainable, clean and electric mobility, given the impact of large-scale adoption of clean vehicles and the serious concern over the air quality of

It is noteworthy that Delhi Government has been taking effective vehicular pollution initiatives throughout, including measures like better traffic management system, augmentation in public transport system, generating mass awareness, drives for checking adulteration, implementation of stringent emission norms for both new and in-use vehicles, an efficient PUCC system, improvement in vehicular technology, improvement in the quality of fuels, and switching over to cleaner

PM to hold Pariksha Pe Charcha

Appeals students, teachers, parents to register for PPC-2022

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged parents, teachers and students to participate and register for the Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) 2022. PPC is an annual event where in the PM interacts with students ahead of board exams and addresses their queries on exam stress and related issues. The registration for this year PPC is underway in which along with the students of Classes 9 to 12, parents will also be able to participate in Pariksha Pe Charcha.

Saying that Pariksha Pe Charcha is a fantastic learning

media post said, "I get the opportunity to connect with our dynamic youth, understand their challenges and aspirations better. It also gives the opportunity to discover the emerging trends in the world of education.

Students and teachers can register at mygov.in to participate in Pariksha Pe Charcha.

"Exams are approaching and so is 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2022.' Let's talk stress-free exams and once again support our brave Exam Warriors, their parents and teachers. I urge you all to register for this year's PPC2022," the PM added. Union Education Minister

Dharmendra Pradhan in a Press statement invited students, teachers and parents to participate in the 5th edition of "Pariksha Pe Charcha 2022" and get a chance to be mentored by Prime Minister

exam stress, excelling in career & life and much more. Here is your chance to get mentored directly by the PM. Inviting students, teachers and parents to participate in PPC2022," Pradhan said.

The format of this year programme is proposed to be in online mode like in 2021. An online creative writing competition is being conducted on various topics from December 28 to January 20, 2022, to select participants. Questions asked by selected winners will be featured in the Pariksha Pe Charcha programme," a senior Ministry of Education official said.

The topics for creative writing for students include exam stress management strategies during COVID-19, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a self-reliant school for selfreliant India; Clean India, Green India; digital collaboration in classrooms, environmental conservation and climate change resilience.

Similarly, the theme for teachers is "National Education Policy (NEP) for Naya Bharat" while the themes for parents include — Beti Padhao, Desh Badhao; Local to Global -Vocal for Local; Lifelong Students' Yearning for Learning.

"About 2050 participants selected through competitions on MyGov will be presented with a certificate of appreciation from Director, NCERT and a special Pariksha Pe Charcha kit comprising 'Exam Warriors' book in Hindi and English, written by the prime minister," said Education Ministry official.

Last year Pariksha Pe Charcha was held on April 7 amidst the Covid pandemic in a virtual mode. The PPC 2022 date and time have not been announced yet.

In the last year's Pariksha

said children should not be pressurised by parents, teachers and others so that they can appear in exams without any pressure.

"If we decrease the pressure on students, their fear of exams will also be reduced. Parents should understand their child's calibre and focus on their strengths. Parents must create a healthy environment for students," PM Modi had said.

The first edition of the

prime minister's interaction programme with school and college students "Pariksha Pe Charcha 1.0" was held at the Talkatora Stadium on February

In the subsequent editions the programme, students, parents, teachers from across the nation and also from overseas interacted with him to discuss and overcome the stress emerging out of examinations in order to celebrate life.

Declining claim for reason that deceased was engaged as helper, not cleaner wholly unjustified: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has set aside an order of the Rajasthan High Court denying the insurance cover to a man employed as "helper" terming

Gupta and Ramasubramanian said there is no clear demarcation of duties of helper and cleaner.

the parties and find that the high court has accepted appeal on a make-believe argument that cleaner or helper engaged by the employer are engaged in two different duties and that a helper is not covered by the

"Investigation under PMLA revealed that Rajeev

Sharma had supplied confi-

dential and sensitive informa-

tion to Chinese Intelligence

officers, in exchange for remu-

neration thereby compromis-

ing the security and national

interests of the country," the ED

Pakistan, the Chief said the sit-

uation is better than the previ-

ous year but Pakistan is still

training camps across the border are waiting to intrude into

India, he said, adding a total of

194 terrorists were killed in

counter-operations in the last

one year. "Attempts to smug-

gle arms across the border

through drones continue,'

In the interior areas of

Naravane said.

Nearly 300-400 terrorists in

harbouring terrorists.

During investigation it was

said in a statement.

"The high court has recorded a finding that admittedly deceased was a helper. In the absence of any clear demarcation of duties of a helper or a cleaner and in view of the fact that helper and cleaner are interchangeably used, there-fore, declining claim for the reason that deceased was engaged

The top court was hearing

Urge Union Health Ministry to intervene into unwarranted,

medication, tests PNS NEW DELHI

Agroup of 35 doctors from across the country has flagged concern over the unwarranted testing, medication and hospitalisation during the ongoing Covid pandemic and urged the Union Health Ministry to urgently intervene for an evidence-based response to the current wave.

While there continues to be much uncertainty amidst the outbreak of this novel disease, there is now substantive high-quality scientific literature that provides unequivocal guidance on the clinical management of Covid-19. Despite the weight of this evidence and the crushing death toll of the delta wave, we find the mistakes of the 2021 response being repeated in 2022", said the open letter by the medical professionals.

The doctors have identified three main issues of unwarranted medication, unwarranted tests and unwarranted hospitalisation.

The letter said that the vast majority of patients with Covid-19, with asymptomatic and mild symptoms, will require little to no medication. "Most prescriptions we have reviewed in the past two weeks include several Covid-19 'kits' and cocktails. The prescribing of vitamin combinations, azithromycin, doxycycline, hydroxychloroquine, favipiravir, and ivermectin for treat-

ing Covid-19 is irrational practhese "unwarranted" practices tice. Such wanton use of drugs is not without harm as the Delta wave has shown.

Outbreaks of opportunistic fungal infections like mucormycosis in India, and aspergillosis in Brazil were attributed to the widespread abuse of inappropriate medications", said the letter.

Doctors concerned of clinical

mismanagement of Covid-19

Dr Anant Bhan, Yenepoya (deemed to be University), Mangaluru, one of the signatories, said that with almost two years of dealing with the pandemic behind us, it's extremely important that we ensure that evidence based medical and policy decisions are made. Our letter appeals to all relevant stakeholders to focus on public health measures including vaccination, and ensure inappropriate medications and

diagnostics are discouraged. In the letter signed by Dr Satendra Singh, University College of Medical Science, Dr Richa Gupta, Christian Medical College, Vellore and Dr Ashish Satav from Mahatma Gandhi Tribal Hospital, Amravati among others appealed to the central and state health authorities to stop

and promote evidence-based

They have suggested the Government to update the evidence-based June 2021 DGHS guidelines. Through public education and professional training, discourage the use of medications that have no supporting evidence for the treatment of Covid-19, the doctors

The doctors also suggested to discourage the use of unwarranted diagnostics, especially for asymptomatic and mild cases, where none are required, except for confirmatory Antigen or PCR tests and to publish guidelines in local languages. Stop any state-sponsored promotion or distribution of medications, cocktails, alternative therapies or potions that are not scientifically proven therapies, said the letter also signed by a few Indianorigin doctors such as Dr Karthik Cherabuddi from University of Florida, Dr Amita Sudhir (University of Virginia) Satchit Balsari (Harvard University) Dr Bhavna Seth (Johns Hopkins University) in

Startup to be backbone of new India, says Modi



on Saturday. Modi announces that every year January 16 will be marked as the National Start-up Day

PM announces January 16 'National Start-up Day'

PNS NEW DELHI

India will celebrate January 16 as 'National Start-up Day', announced Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, saying "Start-ups are going to be the backbone of new

"To make the culture of start-ups reach the far-flung parts of the country, it has been decided to celebrate January 16 as "National Start-up Day", the Prime Minister said while addressing start-ups across the

The Startups gave presentations to the Prime Minister on six themes- Growing from Roots; Nudging the DNA; From Local to Global; Technology of Future; Building Champions in Manufacturing; and Sustainable Development.

More than 150 startups were divided into six working groups for the purpose of these presentations. For each theme, there were presentations by two Startup representatives, who spoke on behalf of all the startups selected for that particular theme.

During their presentation, the startup representatives thanked the Prime Minister for the opportunity to provide such a platform to share their ideas, and support to the startup ecosystem. They shared ideas and

inputs on a variety of sectors and areas including robust data collection mechanism in agriferred agri business hub; boosting healthcare through use of technology, tackling issue of mental health; promoting travel and tourism through innovations like virtual tours, edtech and job identification; space sector; connecting offline retail market with digital commerce, increasing manufacturing efficiency; defence exports; promoting green sustainable products and sustainable means of transport, among others, according to the Orime Minister's Office.

The Prime Minister said

new opportunities for India's start-up sector and organizing ofStart-Up India Innovation Week is also important in the 75th year of India's independence. "Start-ups are going to be

the backbone of new India. When India completes 100 years of independence, startups will have an important role. Country's innovators are making the country proud globalhe said.

Modi also assured startups that government will support all their suggestions, ideas, innovations. He said this

"In this decade, the decisions being taken by the government for innovation, entrepreneurship and startup ecosystem have three major Firstly, Entrepreneurship- to free it from beauracratic silos.

Secondly, Innovation - Institutional mechanism needs to be developed. Thirdly, Handholding young innovators," said Modi.

Prime Minister interacted with over 150 startups to boost the startup ecosystem in the that 2022 has brought more country, said the PMO.

the order as wholly unjustified A bench of justices Hemant

"We have heard counsel for

insurance policy.

PNS NEW DELHI

as a helper and not cleaner is wholly unjustified," it said.

an appeal filed against an order of Rajasthan High Court whereby the appeal of the insurance company under Section 30 of the Employees Compensation Act, 1923 was

ED attaches ₹48L assets of scribe in money laundering case Attached property belongs to journalist Rajeev Sharma held in spying for Chinese intelligence outfit Properties worth ₹400 cr disclosed under Prevention

of Money laundering Act

The Enforcement (chargesheet in police parlance)
Directorate (ED) has on March 26 last year before the attached flats worth ₹330 crore Session Court, Mumbai. Group and an open land situated at Viram, Pune worth ₹ 80 crore of a company belonging to Sachin Joshi under Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The ED had initiated money laundering investiga-tion on the basis of FIR No. 109 of 2020 filed by City Chowk Police Station, Aurangabad.

The ED had conducted a search last year on January 25-27, 2021 and arrested Babulal Varma, Managing Director of ORDPL, Kamal Kishore, Chairman of ORDPL and later on Sachin Joshi.

The agency had earlier filed a Prosecution Complaint Enforcement (chargesheet in police parlance)

> ED found that loan amount of Rs 410 crore was fraudulently acquired by Surana Developers Wadala, LLP, a sister concern of ORDPL through falsely increased slum dwellers numbers and FSI (Floor Space Index).

> Out of the Rs 410 crore loan, an amount of Rs 330 crore was laundered into the sale of a building of Omkar Group and an amount of Rs 80 crore was laundered through Sachin Joshi and his Viking Group of companies under the guise of services and investment. Further investigation is in progress.

Enforcement The Emotechient Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹48.21 lakh belonging to journalist Rajeev Sharma under Prevention of Money Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with a money laundering investigation. The

attached asset is the residential property in the name of Rajeev Sharma at Pitampura here. money laundering investigabased shell company that was tion on the basis of an FIR and run by Chinese nationals chargesheet filed by the Delhi namely Zhang Cheng alias Suraj, Zhang Lixia alias Usha Police against Sharma under and Qing Shi along with a Nepali national Sher Singh the provisions of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and the Official Secrets Act, 1923. alias Raj Bohara, it said.

'This Chinese company was acting as a conduit for the Chinese Intelligence agencies to provide remuneration for persons like Rajeev Sharma who indulged in criminal activities. The remuneration was being paid in cash through carriers as well as through cash deposits," it further alleged.

Sharma also received

revealed that such remunera- money using the bank account tion to Sharma was being pro- of his friend in order to conceal activities In addition to obtaining

remunerations in cash, he also received remuneration in kind in the form of various paid foreign trips which were arranged by the Chinese Intelligence Agents, it said. The ED has earlier filed a

complaint rosecution (chargesheet in police parlance) in the present case before the PMLA Court, Patiala House Courts here on which the Court has taken cognizance of the matter vide order dated September 7, . 2021. Further investigation is under progress, it added.

change LAC status quo: Army Chief PNS NEW DELHI

In a clear warning to China, Army Chief General M M Naravane on Saturday said here the force will not allow any unilateral attempt to change the status quo on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). He also said dialogue is on between the two countries to resolve the tension at the border in Ladakh for the last two years.

Conveying this while addressing the troops on the occasion of the Army Day, Naravane said the Indian Army's message is clear that it will not let any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo along the country's borders succeed.

He also said last year was extremely challenging for the Army due to ongoing standoffs at the friction points in Eastern Ladakh. The

Army Day is observed on January 15 to mark Field Marshall K M Cariappa taking over as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, replacing his

British predecessor in 1949. Referring to the eastern Ladakh standoff, Naravane said to keep the situation under control, the 14th round military-level talks were held between India and China recently. He said joint efforts at various levels have led to disengagement in many areas which in itself is a constructive

The Chief said on the basis of mutual and equal security, efforts would continue to find a solution to the current situation. He assured that the morale of the soldiers deployed on snow-capped mountains for the country's security was sky-high.

"Our patience is a sign of our self-confidence, but no one should

make the mistake of testing Our message is clear, the Indian Army won't let any attempt to unilaterally change status quo along country's borders to succeed," Naravane



the two sides completed the disengagement process last year in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

However, disengagement process is yet to be done in areas of Hot Springs, Depsang bulge and Demchok. Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the LAC there. The Chief had described the situation the LAC as stable while interacting with the

media two days back. On the situation on the Jammu and Kashmir, there has As a result of a series of Line of Control (LOC) in been progressive improvement military and diplomatic talks, Jammu and Kashmir facing during the last two years, he

organisations across the border have been trying to create hurdles on the path of the development and they have increased their attempts, the Army chief stated. "It is a part of their conspiracy to target non-locals and poor labourers," he added.

noted. Therefore, terrorist

The security situation in the Northeast has improved significantly in the last one year due to proactive military operations, he mentioned. Because of these operations, most of the terrorist organisations in the Northeast have announced ceasefire, he said.

Naravane said the plan to creating joint theatre commands with the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force is moving ahead in a time-bound manner.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the Indian Army will remain central to securing the national interests as India grows in stature and strength. He said the Indian Army inspires confidence among the citizenry as it resolutely maintains an unflinching vigil across the frontiers of the nation.

Won't allow any unilateral attempt to Stolen stone idol of Goat on way back home after 40 yrs

Stolen in the 1980s from a temple in Lokhari Village in Uttar Pradesh, a 10th century stone idol of Goat Head Yogini is all set to come back to India.

Union Minister of Culture G Kishan Reddy tweeted on Saturday, "Repatriation of our rightful artifacts continues: 10th Century Goat Headed Yogini Idol which had been illegally removed from a temple in Lokhari, Uttar Pradesh is being returned to India from UK. @NarendraModi Govt is committed to realise the Civilisational Glory of Maa Bharati."

The Ministry of Culture informed that the stone idol had been stolen sometime in 1980s. The sculpture is of a goat headed Yogini that originally belonged to a group of stone deities in sandstone and installed in Lokhari temple, it

According to the statement, these had been the subject of a study by Indian scholar Vidya Dahejia on behalf of National Museum in New Delhi in 1986 which was later published under the title, Yogini Cult and Temples: A Tantrik Tradition". "It is learned that the sculp-

ture had briefly surfaced in the art market in London in 1988. In October 2021, High Commission of India received information about the finding of a goat-headed Yogini Sculpture that had matched the description of the Lokhari set, in the garden of a private residence near London," the min-

Following this, India Pride project Singapore and Art Recovery International, London assisted the Indian High Commission in London in the identification and recovery of the statue.

Interestingly, a similar sculpture of the buffalo-headed Vrishanana Yogini, apparently stolen from the same temple at Lokhari village, had been recovered and repatriated by the Embassy of India, Paris in 2013. This Vrishanana Yogini

was installed in the National Museum, New Delhi in September 2013.

6 people shot outside Oregon concert in US Suspect not in custody

Eugene (US): Six people were shot during a concert at an event hall in Oregon on Friday night, and the suspected shooter was not yet in cus-

tody, police said. Officers responded to the WOW Hall in Eugene after reports of a shooting around 9:30

pm, police said in a statement.
"What law enforcement found when they came on scene is what you would exactly expect when six people just got shot," Eugene Police Chief Chris Skinner said at a news conference. "People are just trying to get out of here, their friends are on the ground, they're trying to help."

Six people were taken to the hospital, and at least one of them was in critical condition, Skinner said. The extent of the other injuries was not immediately clear.

The shooting happened in a back parking lot outside the venue, police and WOW Hall

Bean & Zay Bang, and other artists, was being held at the hall at the time. Police said no suspect was in custody. Skinner described "chaos" when officers arrived, and said investigators had not received much information from possible witnesses.

WOW Hall released a statement on its website acknowledging the shooting but declining to speculate on any details. "We at the WOW Hall want to thank all first responders who came so quickly to ensure everyone's safety and administer first aid," the message said. We believe all staff and volunteers are safe and accounted for." Investigators have not determined whether the shooting was random or targeted, the police chief said.

Eugene is located about 110 miles (177 km) south of Portland, Oregon.

Prez Xi stresses on safeguarding national security, social stability as he gears up for 3rd term in power

Jinping has called for greater efforts to safeguard national political security and social stability as he gears up for an unprecedented third term in power this year.

In an instruction to the political and legal work committee of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), Xi said efforts should be made to ensure fair access to justice for every individual, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported on

Calling on the political and legal work front to uphold the absolute leadership of the CPC and draw wisdom and strength from the party's century-long struggle, Xi urged party officials to promote the ability to forestall and defuse major risks and improve law enforcement and judicial policies and measures.

He also stressed on deepening the comprehensive reform of political and legal work and consolidat-

education campaign of officers of the Party committees at all levels should study and resolve the prominent issues that restrain political and legal work in a timely manner and support political and legal organs to perform their duties in accordance with laws, Xi noted in the instruction. Efforts should be made to pro-

vide a strong guarantee for advancing the 'Peaceful China' initiative and promoting the rule of law at a higher level, thus welcoming the 20th CPC National Congress with solid actions, he said. The second five-year term of 68-year-old Xi as the CPC General Secretary, the central authority of power, will end this

He is widely expected to continue in the post for an unprecedented third term and perhaps for life after the once-in-five-year CPC Congress, scheduled to be held in the

ing the achievement made in the middle of this year, and re-appointed as president and head of the powerful Central Military Commission (CMC). All his predecessors, including Hu Jintao who handed over the reins to Xi in 2012, retired after two terms in power as a widey-followed convention to encourage the new and collective leadership of the party. A major constitutional amend-

ment in 2018 removed the two-term limit for president to enable Xi to continue in the post.

Decks for Xi's continuation as

CPC General Secretary were cleared at the last year's meeting of the party's Plenum, a powerful conclave of the party, for his continuation in power, perhaps for life.

Politically, the meeting is regarded as significant for Xi, who in the last nine years of his tenure in power, has emerged as the most powerful leader after party founder Mao

Fire near New Jersey chemical plant spreads thick smoke

Passaic (US): A large chemical fire burned through the night and into Saturday morning in northern New Jersey, its smoke so heavy that it was detected on weather radar and seen and smelled in neighbouring New York City.

The fire at Majestic Industries and the Qualco chemical plant in Passaic spread to multiple buildings and threatened their collapse, officials said.

Water from firefighter hoses froze in cold weather and made the environment slick and hazardous for responders.

The fire was in buildings housing plastics, pallets and chlorine, officials told NorthJersev.Com.

'There have been bad fires, but this is the worst that I've ever seen," Passaic Mayor Hector Lora said. Residents near the blaze were advised to close their windows but were not required to evacuate.

One firefighter was taken to a hospital after being struck by debris, officials said. was doing well, though other firefighters slipped and fell in the slick conditions, officials

Kazakhstan activists recall path from protest to bloodshed

Almaty (Kazakhstan): The mass protests in Kazakhstan began peacefully over the New Year's weekend, with marchers denouncing a sharp rise in fuel prices. They spread quickly from the western part of the Central Asian nation to more populous areas, eventually reaching its largest city of

But something changed over the course of a week.

Groups of armed men appeared in Almaty, with some seen riding in cars without license plates or with their faces covered. Marchers at the peaceful protests say these men began urging them to storm government buildings, promising to give them guns. Člashes with police soon

broke out, and by the night of Jan 5, Almaty was in chaos. City Hall was burning, as were cars and buses; stores were looted; and attempts were made to storm the presidential residence. Gunshots were heard in the streets, the internet was blacked out, and even the airport was briefly seized.

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has blamed the unrest on "terrorists" who received foreign training and support. But nearly two weeks after the events that led to scores of deaths and about 16,000 arrests, the government has not presented any evidence to support its allegation of outside involvewhether these more violent actors were individuals taking advantage of the mayhem to loot and vandalise stores, or if they were part of organized groups with larger political motives.

Protesters, however, say their rallies were somehow undermined, leading to the crackdown by security forces. Tokayev has said authorities didn't use force at peaceful demonstrations.

Pak to offer permanent residency scheme for rich foreign nationals to boost weak economy

Islamabad: Pakistan has decided to offer a permanent residency scheme for wealthy foreign nationals, including Sikhs living in the US and Canada, Afghans and Chinese, to attract investment and boost its flagging economy and national growth, it emerged on Saturday. Information Minister

Fawad Chaudhry through an overnight tweet announced that the new scheme was in line with the new National Security Policy, which was formally launched by Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday.

"In line with new National Security Policy, through which Pakistan declared geo-economics as the core of its national security doctrine, the government has decided to allow permanent residency scheme for foreign nationals, the new policy allows foreigners to get permanent resident status in lieu of investment," the tweet

The Express Tribune newspaper reported that while sharing the background of the scheme, a key federal minister said that one of the purposes of opening the PR scheme was to attract rich Afghans, who were moving to Turkey, Malaysia and some other countries fol-lowing the fall of Kabul last

"They needed to be incentivised," Chaudhry said. In addition, the minister said, the scheme targets the Sikhs livwere willing to invest in religious sites, especially in Kartarpur Corridor but had no option to do so. He said the third objective of the scheme was to incentivise the Chinese nationals, who wish to move or establish industrial units in Pakistan. "It's a historic step... for the first time in the history of Pakistan for-

eigners are being allowed to

invest in the real estate sector,"

The Cabinet on Tuesday had directed the finance and interior ministries to sit with the Board of Investment and deliberate upon a scheme where foreign citizens could be facilitated in buying properties in Pakistan.

In just three days, the government has given a go-ahead to the scheme in an attempt to bring in billions of dollars in foreign exchange

Citing Turkey's example, which recently allowed foreigners to buy properties in the country, the information minister had termed the project a 'game-changer," saying that the foreigners would be able to buy houses, hotels and invest in real estate once the scheme was approved. Giving an example of Sikh pilgrims, the information minister had said that they would be able to buy property in Kartarpur, assuring that both the projects will have complete legal protection.

Sources while referring to the federal Cabinet's decision taken in its last meeting to launch a housing project in the capital for the overseas Pakistanis said that it has now been decided that two more such projects would be launched in Lahore and Karachi. In the post-Cabinet press briefing, the information minister had shared that a housing project stretching on 400 kanals (50 acres) of land overseas Pakistanis, saying it would have roughly 6,000

apartments and houses. While sharing the purpose of the scheme, the minister had said that all the overseas Pakistanis who have Roshan Digital Accounts would be able to invest in the housing project, hoping that the government would fetch roughly USD 2 billion from the project in the cap ital, the media report said. PTI



The northern lights, or aurora borealis, illuminate the night sky above the Yllas fell in Kolari, Finnish Lapland, early Saturday

Major winter storm: South braces for blast of snow, ice

ice as far south as Georgia have put a big part of the Southeast on an emergency preparedness footing as shoppers scoured store shelves for storm supplies and crews raced to treat highways and roads as a major winter storm approached from the

In Virginia, where a blizzard left thousands of motorists trapped on clogged highways earlier this month, outgoing Gov. Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency and urged storm seriously. In North Carolina, some store shelves were stripped bare of essentials including bread and milk.

Elsewhere, trucks began spraying a briny mixture on hundreds of miles of interstates and other roads to prevent icing across the region.

Mahindra

Travis Wagler said he had-

(LC No. 593212 MEERUT Branch)

CHHATARPAL SINGH CHAUHAN

SHEKHAR KUMAR CHAUHÁN

PUSHPA CHAUHAN (Co Bor

at his Abbeville, South Carolina, hardware store in at least two "We're selling everything you might expect: sleds, but also salt, shovels and fire-wood," Wagler said from Abbeville Hardware on Friday. That region faced predictions of a quarter-inch (0.6 centimeters) of ice or more on trees and power lines, which could lead to days without electricity.

"People are worried," Wagler said.

Parts of Tennessee could get timeters) of snow, forecasters said, and northern Mississippi and the Tennessee Valley region of Alabama could receive light snow accumulations. With lows predicted in the 20s across a wide area, any precipitation could freeze, making driving difficult if not hazardous.

By Friday, the fast-moving

heavy snow across a large swath of the Midwest, where travel conditions deteriorated and scores of schools closed or moved to online instruction. The storm, after its expected weekend dip into the Southeast, was then expected to head into the Northeast while dropping snow, sleet and rain around the densely populated Eastern Seaboard. A winter storm watch

extended from just north of metro Atlanta to Arkansas in the north, covering parts of 10 states including Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia.

Travel problems could extend into metro Atlanta, where about 2 inches (5 centimeters) of snow brought traffic to a slip-sliding halt in 2014, an event still known as "Snowmaggedon."

Possession Notice

पत्र सं0: 46

extended as follows:

'www.ujvnl.com'

Tender No: NIT-02/EE(T)/MB-II/21-22

CHINYALIŚAUR, UTTARKASHI.

Volcano erupts in Pacific, islanders rush to escape tsunami Wellington: An undersea vol-

cano erupted in spectacular fashion near the Pacific nation of Tonga on Saturday, sending large tsunami waves crashing across the shore and people rushing to higher ground. There were no immediate

reports of injuries or the extent of the damage as communications with the small nation remained problematic. Video posted to social

media showed large waves washing ashore in coastal areas, swirling around homes and New Zealand's military

said it was monitoring the situation and remained on standby, ready to assist if asked. Satellite images showed a

huge eruption, a plume of ash, steam and gas rising like a mushroom above the blue Pacific waters. Tonga Meteorological Services

said a tsunami warning was in effect for all of the archipelago, and data from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre showed waves of 80 cm (2.6 feet) had been detected. Residents of American

Samoa were alerted of the tsunami warning by local broadcasters as well as church bells that rang territory-wide. An outdoor siren warning system was out of service. Those living along the shoreline quickly moved to higher

reports of any damage and the miles).

Hawaii-based tsunami centre cancelled the alert. Authorities in the nearby

island nations of Fiji and Samoa also issued warnings, telling people to avoid the shoreline due to strong currents and dangerous waves. The Japan Meteorological Agency said there may be a slight swelling of the water along the Japanese coasts, but it was not expected to cause any damage.

The Islands Business news site reported that a convoy of police and military troops evacuated Tonga's King Tupou VI from his palace near the shore. He was among the many residents who headed for higher The explosion of the

Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcano was the latest in a series of spectacular eruptions. A Twitter user identified as Dr

Faka'iloatonga Taumoefolau posted video showing waves crashing ashore. "Can literally hear the

volcano eruption, sounds pretty violent," he wrote, adding in a later post: "Raining ash and tiny pebbles, darkness blan-

keting the sky."
Earlier, the Matangi Tonga news site reported that scientists observed massive explosions, thunder and lightning near the volcano after it start-

ed erupting early Friday. Satellite images showed a 5-km As night fell, there were no into the air to about 20 km (12

3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh

शुद्धि पत्र

के द्वारा आमंत्रित की गई निविदायें आदर्श आचार संहिता प्रभावी

TENDER TIME EXTENSION NOTICE-1 Due to unavoidable circumstances the date of submission and

opening of following tender invited by the office of the Executive Engineer (Test), MB-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) is hereby

Name of work: SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING &

COMMISSIONING OF FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR 220V DC

(1395 AH) BATTERY BANK AT DHARASU POWER HOUSE,

Last date for submission of tender: -22.03.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website

Executive Engineer (Test)

Due date for opening of tender: - 24.03.2022 at 11:00 Hrs.

होने के कारण अग्रिम आदेशों तक स्थगित की जाती हैं।

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 159/984 C 03/2022 date 07.01.2022

UJVN Limited

HO "UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax- 0135- 2763508

Serbian environmental protesters reject lithium mining plans

Belgrade: Environmental protesters demanding the cancelation of plans for lithium mining in western Serbia took to the streets again Saturday, blocking key roads and for the first time a border crossing.

Traffic on the Balkan nation's main northsouth highway was halted for more than an hour in Belgrade, the capital, along with several other roads throughout the country, including one by Serbia's border with Bosnia.

Minor incidents have been reported with angry drivers trying to push their way through the crowds. Witnesses told N1 television that a man was injured in one incident

in the western town of Sabac. Environmental groups want Serbia's pop ulist government to halt the possibility of lithium mining in western Serbia.

Activists have pledged to press on with blockades until their demand is met and the Rio Tinto mining company is "expelled" Thousands joined similar demonstrations several weeks ago, forcing the government to withdraw two laws that activists said were designed to speed up the country's

"This is an ecological catastrophe, that I think Serbia is already one foot in, and even a worse one (catastrophe) is threatening," said Belgrade resident Mirjana Podolsek.

Another protester, Janko Krizan, believes that "it is our duty to come here." "Rio Tinto will not only pollute Serbia, but it

will pollute everything else, entire system, everything," he said.

mining plans.

Rio Tinto has performed explorations in

western Serbia but environmental groups want the project abolished, saying that lithium mining would devastate nearby farmland, waters and the area's entire ecosystem.

Italian high court faults prosecutors in Vatican-linked case

Rome: Italy's supreme court has faulted prosecutors for withholding evidence benefiting the key suspect in the Vatican's fraud and embezzlement trial in a parallel case in the Italian courts.

The Court of Cassation ordered the Tribunal of Review to consider that evidence before deciding whether to uphold an international arrest warrant for Gianluigi Torzi, a London-based Italian broker who is wanted in both Italy and the Vatican for

alleged financial crimes. The Cassation annulled the warrant in October but the reasons for the decision were only released on Saturday. The court agreed with Torzi's lawyers that Italian prosecutors had failed to turn over his defense evidence to the judge who initially authorized the arrest warrant in March.

When Torzi's lawyers appealed the warrant to the Tribunal of Review, the appeals judges should have considered whether Torzi's missing defense materials provided a "decisive" weight in his favour, the Cassation judges wrote. The Tribunal of Review upheld the arrest warrant in June without making that evaluation. The case in Italy was launched after Vatican prosecutors had already been investigating Torzi for his role in the Vatican's bungled 350 million-euro investment in a London residential property. Vatican prosecutors have accused Torzi of trying to extort the Vatican of 15 million euros to turn over full ownership of the property. Torzi says the case is the fruit of misunderstandings. The Vatican tribunal indicted him in July, but

his status in the trial has been in limbo because of the extradition proceedings between Italy and Britain and the legitimacy of the Italian arrest warrant that launched them. The Vatican doesn't have an extradition treaty with Britain.

In a statement Saturday, Torzi's lawyer, Marco Franco, said the ruling appears to allow the Tribunal for Review the space "to make a new, comprehensive evaluation" of the case.

MAHINDRA RURAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Corporate Office: - Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. Sadhana House, 2nd Floor, 570, P.B.Marg Worli, Mumbai 400 018 India, Tel: +91 22 66523500 Fax: +91 22 2497274 Branch Office: - LDA Colony, B2/B70 Kanpur Road, Near Phoneix Mall, Lucknow.

Branch Office: 139-141, 3rd Floor, Mangal Pandey Nagar, Opp. CCS University, Meerut – 250002, Uttar Pradesh vable Property) (Under Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enfor

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of M/S Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "MRHFL"), Having its registered office at **Lucknow** and Branch office at **Meerut**, under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names and addresses mentioned below) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower mentioned herein above having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein above and to the public in general that undersigned has taken **possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with the Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **7** day.

The borrowers mentioned herein above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the Charge of M/S Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. for an amount and interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to

redeem the secured assets.				
S.N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
1.	(LC No.1221860 MEERUT Branch) SANDEEP KUMAR PAL (Borrower) ANJU (Co Borrower)	PLOT NO-32^ KHASRA NO-699^VILL BAMAN HERDI MUZAFFARNAGAR-251002645 East:-PLOT OF SHASHANK, West:- RASTA 25 FT WIDE, South:- PLOT OF ABDUL MANAN, North:- RASTA 18 FT WIDE		10-01-2022 Physical Possession
2.	(LC No.810150 MEERUT Branch) SANNAVAR (Borrower) SHAINA (Co Borrower)	A RESIDENTIAL PLOT NO-135/2, KHASRA NO-1162 MIN., NAGAR PALIKA PARISHAD,NEAR RADHA KUNJ COLONY, DAURALA ROAD , PARGANA, TEHSIL - SARDHANA,DIST-MEERUT,UTTAR PRADESH -250341. East: BOUNDARY OF RADHA KUNJ COLONY, West: RASTA 12 FT WIDE , South: PLOT OF SATYAJEET BHEEM SAIN AND KUNWAL PAL, North:- PLOT OF OWNER	Rs. 17,58,748/-	10-01-2022 Physical Possession
3.	(LC No.630826 MEERUT Branch) RAM KUMAR (Borrower) LATA KUMARI (Co Borrower)	PLOT NO 2, KHASRA NO 1501, JATOLI SARDHANA, MEERUT, UTTAR PRADESH -250001 . East:- RASTA 20 WIDE, West:- PLOT OF OTHER PERSON, South :- PLOT NO 3, North:- PLOT NO 1 OF OTHER PERSON	10.00.2021	10-01-2022 Symbolic Possession
4.	(LC No.585390 MEERUT Branch) SUMAN DEVI (Borrower) VIRENDRA KUMAR (Co Borrower)	KHASRA NO.1711, SHRI NAGAR COLONY, MODINAGAR, PARGANA-JALALABAD, TEHSIL-MODINAGAR, DISTT-GHAZIABAD PIN-201204. East:- 555~00" HOUSE OF SMT KASTURI, West:-550~00"PLOT OF OTHERS, South:- 18~00"	10.00.2021	11-01-2022 Symbolic Possession

HOUSE OF SANTOSH, North:- 18~00" RASTAA 10

2ND FLOOR, NO.85,KHASRA NO.112/1M,

EXTENTION , NO.53,N1ASKA NO.112/IM, SITUATED ATGREATER APPU ENCLAVE EXTENTION , REVENUE VILLAGE/ PARGANA - DAURALA , TEHSIL SARADAHNA, DISTRICT MEERUT. East:- PLOT NO.86, West:- PLOT NO.84 , South:- RASTA 25~ FOOT WIDE, North:-

Place: - Meerut, Ghaziabad Date:-16.01.2022 Sd/- Authorised Officer Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited

FOOT WIDE

Rs. 9,27,377/- Sym

10-01-2022 13. 08.2021 Symbolic

Rs. 9,73,221/-

DP/1233/NE/21(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused

Savitri Devi R/o H.No. 1053, B-Block, Gali No. 09, Baba Colony, Sant Nagar, Burari, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 1033/2014 U/S 498A/406/506/34 IPC, P.S. Gokal Puri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Savitri Devi cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Savitri Devi has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Savitri Devi of FIR No. 1033/2014 U/S 498A/406/506/34 IPC, P.S.

Gokal Puri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 21.02.2022. Sh. Nitish Kumar Sharma

Metropolitan Magistrate-09, Karkardooma Courts, Shahdara,

GAIL director booked in bribery case

5 arrested

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

¬he CBI has booked E S The CBI has booked E S Ranganathan, director (marketing) of GAIL, and arrested five persons including alleged middlemen and businessmen in a case of alleged bribery of over Rs 50 lakh for giving discounts to private companies buying petro chemical products marketed by the Maharatna PSU, officials said

Saturday. Following the registration of the case on Friday, the CBI conducted searches at about eight locations in Delhi-NCR including the office of Ranganathan at Bhikaji Kama Place in Delhi and his residence in Sector 62, Noida.

The CBI has so far recovered Rs 1.3 crore in cash from Ranganathan's premises.

Besides Ranganathan, the agency has also booked middlemen Pawan Gaur and Kumar, Ramakrishnan Nair who had allegedly collected bribes, businessmen Saurabh Gupta and his Panchkula -based company United Polymer Industries and Aditya Bansal and his company Karnal-based Bansal

Agency, they said.
"CBI laid a trap and apprehended a private person (Gaur)

and a director of a private company (Kumar) based at Delhi when the alleged bribe of Rs 10 lakh was received by the private person from the said director of private company allegedly on behalf of director (marketing) GAIL, (Ranganathan), spokesperson RC Joshi said.

The agency has so far arrested five persons but Ranganathan has not yet been taken into custody. Searches at this premises are still on, sources said.

"Subsequent, searches were conducted at the premises of accused at Delhi, Noida, Gurgaon, Panchkula, Karnal etc, which led to recovery of Rs.84 lakh(approx), so far which include recovery of Rs 75 lakh from Gurgaon based private person. Searches are continuing at the premises of public servant," Joshi said.

It is alleged that Ranganathan was "indulging into corrupt and illegal activities in criminal conspiracy" with Gaur and Kumar who is also director of Rishab Polychem Pvt. Ltd based at Bahudargarh Road, Delhi. Kumar and Gaur alleged-

acted as Ranganathan's middlemen, by obtaining bribe from the private companies buying petro chemical products marketed by the GAIL, the FIR alleged.

the CBI that at the direction of Kumar, Gaur had asked Ranganathan for allowing some discount to the buyers on petro chemical products being marketed by GAIL in return of illegal gratification.

It is alleged that Kumar and Gaur met Ranganathan at his Noida residence on December 11 last year for discussing the proposal, the FIR alleged.

Two days later Gaur informed Kumar that proposal of discounts is being considered in GAIL, the FIR alleged.

In order to arrange bribes, Kumar got in touch with other prospective beneficiaries of discount, after the final decision is taken in GAIL on issuance of the discount order. Gaur, Kumar and Ranganathan again met at a five star hotel in Delhi on December 14 to discuss it further.

"Source has further

informed that on December 17, 2021, Rajesh collected the demanded bribe amount from beneficiary private parties and delivered it to Gaur for Ranganathan. Source has further informed that on December 18, 2021, on the direction of Ranganathan, Nair...Has collected the said amount of Rs. 40 Lakh from the residence of Gaur. Thereafter on December 20,

Ranganathan for issuance of order, on which he had told him that he would sign after returning from Mumbai," an official said.

Kumar allegedly roped in two more perspective beneficiaries -- Gupta and Bansal -and convinced them for paying bribe in exchange for the favourable orders, the FIR alleged. Kumar on January 13, told

Gupta to fulfil his side commitment for issuance of discount order from GAIL and put forth alleged demand of Rs 12 lakh from Ranganathan, it

Gaur also told Gupta to send money at the earliest after which he allegedly paid Rs three lakh to Kumar while remaining was to be sent through hawala route, it said.

"...Ranganathan on the request of Pawan Gaur and Rajesh Kumar got some checks conducted in the month of November, 2021 in the premises of some authorised stockists of GAIL. However, before the said surprise check, Sh. E.S. Ranganathan had also cautioned some of his favoured parties," the FIR alleged.

The CBI bas booked the accused under IPC sections of criminal conspiracy and provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act, they said.

PM calls for innovating for India, from India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for innovating for India and from India to tackle challenges facing the country as he counted steps taken by the government in freeing entrepreneurs and innovation from bureaucratic

"Our startups are changing the rules of the game. I believe that startups are going to be the backbone of New India," he said interacting with youngsters from the world of startups through video conference. "Let us innovate for India, innovate from India.

India, he said, has over 60,000 startups with 42 uni-

The government is focusing on three aspects -- first, to liberate entrepreneurship and innovation from the web of government processes, bureaucratic silos; second, creating an institutional mechanism to promote innovation; and third, handholding of young innovators and young enterprises, he

Narrating successes during the recent years, he said 28,000 patents were granted last year as compared to 4,000 patents in 2013-14. Against registration of 70,000 trademarks in 2013-14, 2.5 lakh trademarks have been registered in 2020-21.

Similarly, in the year 2013-

were granted, last year their number has crossed 16,000.

"India's ranking on the Global Innovation Index is improving because of the programme on innovation started in the country. India was ranked 81 in 2015 and now it is at No. 46," he said. Startups are not just bring-

ing innovations but are also evolving as major job creators.

The year 2022 has brought new opportunities and avenues for startups, he said adding January 16 will be celebrated as National Startup Day to help percolate startup culture to the grassroot level.

Modi said easier access to funds as well as making selfcertification for compliance of nine labour and three environment laws is helping promote startups.

Innovation and technology-based solutions are being encouraged for finding solutions to challenges facing the country, he said.

The startups gave presentations on six themes Growing from Roots; Nudging the DNA; From Local to Global; Technology of Future; Building Champions in Manufacturing; a Sustainable Development.

More than 150 startups were divided into six working groups for the purpose of these

inputs on a variety of sectors and areas including robust data collection mechanism in agriculture; making India preferred agri business hub; boosting healthcare through use of technology; tackling issue of mental health; promoting travel and tourism through innovations like vir-

tual tours; ed-tech and job

identification; connecting

offline retail market with digital commerce. Speaking after the presentations, the Prime Minister said that organisation of this Start Up India Innovation week is all the more important in this year of Azadi Ka Amrit

Mahotsav as "the role of the startups will be critical when

Indian freedom reaches its

centenary year". "I congratulate all the startups of the country, all the innovative youth, who are raising the flag of India in the world of startups. For this culture of startups to reach the farflung parts of the country, it has been decided to celebrate January 16 as National Start-up Day,", Modi said.

Recalling the concept of the current decade as the 'techade' of India, he listed three important aspects of the massive changes that the government is making in this decade to strengthen the innovation, entrepreneurship and

roblems of 'angel tax', simplification of tax procedure, arranging for government funding, allowing self certifi-cation of certain labour and environment laws and removal of more than 25,000 compliances have taken the process further, the Prime Minister

He said the government's effort is to institutionalise innovation in the country by creating attraction for innovation among students since childhood.

Modi said, "Our startups are changing the rules of the game. That's why I believe startups are going to be the backbone of new India...Today India is rapidly moving towards hitting the century of the unicorns. I believe the golden era of India's startups is starting

He also underlined the role of empowerment by entrepreneurship in addressing the problems of development and regional-gender disparities. "Do not just keep your dreams

local, make them global. Remember this mantra- let's Innovate for India, innovate from India," he exhorted the innovators.

Further, the Prime Minister suggested several areas where the startup ecosystem can play

RIL unit, Hyundai, Mahindra among 10 cos to bid under PLI scheme for ACC battery

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

RIL subsidiary Reliance New Energy Solar, Hyundai Global Motors, Ola Electric, Mahindra & Mahindra and Larsen & Toubro are among the 10 firms that have submitted bids under the Rs 18,100 crore production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery storage, the government said on Saturday.

A total of 10 bids with capacity of 130 Gwh -- over twice the manufacturing capacity to be awarded -were received.

Amara Raja Batteries, Exide Industries, Rajesh Exports, India Power Corporation and Lucas-TVS have also submitted bids.

"Industry has reposed its faith in India's stellar progress as a world class manufacturing destination which resonates strongly with Prime Minister's clarion call of Atma Nirbhar Bharat - a self-reliant

approved the PLI scheme National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage' for achieving manufacturing capacity of 50 Giga Watt Hour (GWh) for enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities with a budgetary outlay of Rs 18,100 crore.



manufacturing facility would have to be set up within a period of two years. The incentive will be disbursed thereafter over a period of five years on sale of batteries manufactured in India.

encouraging response from local as well as global investors as bids received is 2.6 times the manufacturing capacity to be awarded i.E. 50 Gwh," the heavy industries ministry stated.

The technical bids received for the scheme were opened on Saturday.

According to the government, the incentive structure would encourage industry to

promote fresh investments in indigenous supply chain/ deep localisation for battery manufacturing in the country.

The ACC PLI scheme is expected to result in savings to the nation on account of oil to a significant extent and increase the share of renewable energy at the national grid level, the statement

The scheme for ACC along with PLI scheme for the automotive sector and FAME will enable India to leapfrog to environmentally cleaner, sustainable, advanced and more efficient electric vehicles (EV) based system.

Annual investments into startups increase to \$36 bn: DPIIT Secy



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investors are taking huge interest in the country's startup ecosystem and in the last one year, annual fundings into startups have increased from USD 11 billion to USD 36 billion, a top government official said on Saturday.

Anurag Jain, Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), said the share of investments coming to startups includes domestic investments also, has risen to 6 per cent from 4 per cent earlier.

"The kind of interest which is being taken in the startup investment climate...In the last one year, annual investments into the startups have increased from USD 11 billion to USD 36 billion," he said at the National Startups Award event.

Speaking at the online event, Commerce and Industry

Minister Piyush Goyal urged startups to come up with more suggestions on making regulatory burden simpler, and easier to further promote the start-"I am given to understand

that 2021 has also seen over 1,000 deals with a total funding of USD 23 billion in the first nine monthsIt shows the strength of our startups," Goyal

The minister suggested focusing on five areas to take

The focus areas include developing solutions and content in Indic languages; encouraging products and solutions with larger social and economic impact; promoting startups in every district; creating innovation zones at different local levels where Universities can become incubators; and adoption of best practices from around the world to enhance India's competitiveness.

HDFC Bank standalone net profit rises 18% to ₹10,342 cr in Dec qtr

PTI NEW DELHI

The country's largest private sector HDFC Bank on Saturday reported an 18.1 per cent rise in its standalone net profit at ₹ 10,342.20 crore for the quarter ended December 2021, helped by healthy non-interest income and fall in bad loans provisioning. The bank had registered a

net profit of ₹8,758.29 crore in the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal year. income on a standalone basis rose to Rs 40,651.60 crore in the October-December quarter of FY22, as against Rs 37,522.92 crore in the same period of FY21, HDFC Bank said in a regulatory filing. Its non-interest income

comprised nearly 31 per cent of net revenues at Rs 8,183.6 crore during Q3 FY22, up by about 10 per cent from a year

Net interest income (interest earned minus interest expended) rose by 13 per cent 16,317.60 crore.

The advances grew at 16.5 per cent reaching new heights driven through relationship management, digital offering and breadth of products. New liability relationships added during the quarter remained at all time high, the lender said. Continued focus on deposits helped in maintenance of a healthy liquidity coverage ratio at 123 per cent, well above the regulatory requirements, which positions the bank favourably ly Rs 900 crore. Bank's total deposits grew

to capitalise on growth opportunities, it added. On the asset quality side, there was a rise in bank's bad loan proportion with the gross

non-performing assets (NPAs) rising to 1.26 per cent of the gross advances as of December 30, 2021 as against 0.81 per cent from year ago same period. It was down sequentially from 1.35 per cent by the end of September 2021.

Net NPAs or bad loans too rose to 0.37 per cent year on year from 0.09 per cent, but sequentially.

Despite the increase in bad loan ratio, its provisions and contingencies for the quarter ended December 31, 2021 fell to Rs 2,994 crore, as against Rs 3,414.10 crore for the quarter

ended December 2020. The provisioning consisted of specific loan loss provisions of Rs 1,820.60 crore and general and other provisions of Rs 1,173.40 crore. Total provisions for Q3 FY22 included contingent provisions of near-

by 13.8 per cent to Rs 1,445,918 crore as of December 31, 2021. Total advances rose by 16.5 per cent to Rs 1,260,863 crore. On a consolidated basis, bank's net profit was up by 21 per cent to Rs 10,591 crore in

the December 2021 quarter, as against Rs 8,769 crore in the year-ago period. Income (consolidated) rose

to Rs 43,365 crore from Rs 39,839 crore.

"We added 294 branches 12 months and made other investments to position ourselves and capitalise on the growth opportunity. Operating expenses for the quarter ended December 31, 2021 were Rs 9,851.10 crore, an increase of 14.9 per cent over Rs 8,574.80 crore during the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The cost to income ratio for the quarter was at 37 per cent," HDFC Bank said in the filing.

'India's economic package has given Sri Lanka breathing space'

PTI ■ COLOMBO

India's financial package has prevented Sri Lanka from spiralling into a major economic tailspin for the time being, top economist WA Wijewardena said on Saturday, but warned that the Gotabaya Rajapaksa regime would need to seek an immediate bailout from the IMF to tide over the foreign exchange shortage grappling the country.

Ôn Thursday, India announced a USD 900 million loan to Sri Lanka to build up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports, amid a shortage of almost all essential commodities in the island nation.

The Indian Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay met the Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal and "expressed India's strong support to Sri Lanka in the wake of RBI extending over USD 900 million facilities over the last week".

"These include deferment of Asian Clearing Union settlement of over USD 509 million and currency swap of USD 400 million," the Indian High Commission's tweet said.

"India's economic package has averted an immediate economic crisis after settling of international sovereign bonds due on January 18. The swap of USD 400 million helped improve the gross reserves to



an extent. The Indian credit line of USD 1.5 billion will also ease shortages of essentials via imports from India,' Wijewardena, the former Sri Lankan Central Bank Deputy

Governor said. Wijewardena said India's timely assistance has given the helped Sri Lanka, but they Sri Lankan government two cannot bail us out. While we

time in which tough economic reforms need to be implemented and a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is needed for a permanent solution. "India's intervention has

came on the heels of External

need to honour the promises made to India to realise the gains. In the meantime, we need to seek help from the IMF," he asserted. Wijewardena's comments

Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

and Sri Lanka's Finance

Minister Basil Rajapaksa con-

ducting an extensive virtual meeting on the Indian economic assistance to Sri Lanka on Saturday.

During the meeting, Jaishankar conveyed that India has always stood with Sri Lanka, and will continue to support that country in all possible ways for overcoming the economic and other challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs said.

As close friends and maritime neighbours, both India and Sri Lanka stand to gain from closer economic interlinkages, Jaishankar said during the virtual interaction.

The issue of an IMF bailout has been contentious, one that has deeply divided the Sri Lankan Cabinet.

Sri Lanka's Gross Domestic Product had contracted by a record 3.6 per cent in 2020 and its foreign exchange reserves plunged by over a half in one year through July to just USD 2.8 billion. This has led to more than

a 9 per cent depreciation of the Sri Lankan rupee against the US dollar over the past 12 months, making imports more expensive. The island nation is also square feet.

Mumbai and Bengaluru facing a severe foreign exchange crisis after the pansaw absorptions of 6 million demic hit the nation's earnings square feet and 4.6 million from tourism and remittances. square feet, respectively.

Industrial, warehousing space leasing up 35 pc in 2021: Report

PTI NEW DELHI

easing of industrial and Lwarehousing spaces across eight major cities went up by 35 per cent during 2021 to 35.1 million square feet, driven by higher demand from thirdparty logistics and e-commerce players, according to Savills

The leasing stood at 26 million square feet in the previous calendar year.

Property consultant Savills India highlighted in a report that fresh supply rose 64 per cent to 36 million square feet from 22 million square feet during the period under

Third-party logistics (3PL) players and e-commerce companies continued to drive warehousing demand, accounting for 62 per cent of the total absorption in 2021, followed by manufacturing sector at 14 per

Among the major eight cities in India, Delhi-NCR led with the highest absorption in 2021 at 8.1 million square feet, followed by Pune at 6.5 million



Apart from eight major cities, Savills India reported that leasing of industrial and warehousing space stood at 8.6 million square feet in 11 tier II, III cities while new supply was at 8.9 million square feet. The comparative figures of tier II and III cities were not

available Savills noted that the rental

values remained stable in 2021 across the major cities.

New projects were delivered with improved specifications and of high quality environmental, health and safety (EHS) standards.

The market witnessed 4,200-plus acres of manufacturing and warehousing land

warehousing space stock in tier I cities stood at 266 million square feet at the end of 2021.

tier II cities. The industrial and

logistics sector witnessed

investments exceeding USD

asset class was due to its growth

potential and stable returns.

The market is likely to witness

continued and growing inter-

est from investors in this asset

class in 2022 as well," Savills

The overall industrial and

'Continued interest in this

1.5 billion in 2021.

Meanwhile, vacancy levels in tier I cities have increased from 8.4 per cent in 2020 to 9.4 per cent in 2021, the report

Virat Kohli quits Test captaincy, a day after series defeat against Proteas

PTI ■ CAPE TOWN

he inevitable came a bit early as Virat Kohli on Saturday quit as India's Test captain, saying he did his job with "absolute honesty" and time was right to quit the leadership role.

Kohli's announcement came a day after India suffered an embarrassing Test series defeat against South Africa

Kohli was dealing with one controversy after another as he was recently removed as ODI captain by the BCCI after he decided to step down at Twenty20 captain.

His decision to quit as Test skipper has come at a time when his relation with the BCCI is so strained that he preferred to announce his decision on social media.

Kohli was appointed Test captain back in 2014 when M S Dhoni stepped down in the middle of the series against Australia.

"Every thing has to come to a halt at some stage and for me as Test captain of India, it's now," Kohli wrote in a statement which he posted on Twitter, taking everyone by sur-

"There have been many ups and also some downs along the journey but there has never been lack of effort or lack of belief."

Interestingly, when Kohli had quit T20 captaincy, he had also

posted his message on social media "It's been seven years of hard

sunday pioneer

work, toil and relentless perseverance everyday to take the team in the right direction. I have done the job with absolute honesty and left nothing out there," he wrote in his statement.

Kohli led India to the top of world rankings and during his tenure, the team recorded a memorable series win in Australia.

He is the third most successful captain in history of Test cricket (who have led in at least 20 Tests) in terms of Test wins behind Steve Waugh (41 wins in 57 games) and Ricky Ponting (48 in 77 games).

Kohli has 40 wins in 68 Tests in which he led India.

The 33-year-old said that perhaps he is now spent and no longer able to give 120 percent to the job.

"I have always believed in giving my 120 percent in everything I do, and if I can't do that, I know it's not the right thing to do. I have absolute clarity in my heart and I cannot be dishonest to my team.'

He hasn't had the best of relationship with BCCI of late but took the opportunity to thank the establishment in his statement.

"I want to thank the BCCI for giving me the opportunity to lead my country for such a long period of time and more importantly to all the teammates who bought into the vision, I had for the team from day



Kohli was dealing with one controversy after another as he was recently removed as ODI captain by the BCCI after he decided to step down at Twenty20 captain. His decision to quit as Test skipper has come at a time when his relation with the **BCCI** is so strained that he preferred to announce his decision on social media.

tion," he said.

He didn't forget to thank Ravi Shastri and MS Dhoni for their contribution.

"You guys have made this journev so memorable and beautiful. To Ravi bhai and the support group who were the engine behind this vehicle that moved us upwards in Test cricket consistently, you all have played a massive role in bringing this vision to life."

"Lastly, a big thank you to MS Dhoni who believed in me as a captain and found me to be an able individual who could take Indian cricket forward," he signed off.

Stunned cricketing fraternity lauds India's most successful Test

Virat Kohli's unexpected decision to quit Test captaincy stunned the cricketing world, which lauded the Indian star batter for taking his team to new heights.

Kohli ended his seven-year reign as India's most successful Test captain with memorable series wins in England and Australia being the highlight. 'Although I also am shocked by

@imVkohli sudden decision, I respect his call. I can only applaud him for what he has done for world cricket & India. Easily one of the most aggressive and fittest players India has had. Hope he'd continue tweeted former teammate Suresh

Kohli took India to the top of world rankings and made them a

formidable force in all conditions. When Virat took over as Test captain, India winning a test overseas was an achievement, now if India lose an overseas test series it is an upset. And that's how far he has

taken Indian cricket forward,

and that will be his legacy

Congratulations on successful reign," wrote former India opener Wasim Jaffer. The great Virender Sehwag wrote: Congratulations #ViratKohli on an outstanding career as India's Test Captain. Stats don't lie & he was not only the most successful Indian Test Captain but one of the most successful in the world. Can be very proud @imVkohli & looking forward to watch u dominate with the bat."

"It's always an honour to lead the dynamic Indian team. And the decision to step down is an emotional heavy moment. A journey well travelled," added former India skipper Mohamad Azharuddin.

Former India pacer Irfan Pathan wrote: "Whenever the talk of Indian cricket captains will arise in test cricket @imVkohli's name will be up there, not only for results but the kind of impact he had as a captain. Thank you #ViratKohli."

Shubman Gill likely to be middle-order enforcer



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The supremely-talented Punjab bat-L ter Shubman Gill will lend solidity to the Indian middle-order when a major reshuffle is expected to force struggling Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane out of the Test team.

The reshuffle is likely to happen in the wake of India's shock 1-2 defeat against an unfancied South Africa.

India's next Test assignment is a two-match series against Sri Lanka, starting February 25 in Bengaluru and at least two middle-order slots will be

Rohit Sharma is expected to be fit also heard saying.

for that Test series and will take up his

opening slot alongside KL Rahul. Gill has mostly played as an opener but once he recovers from his shin injury and makes himself available, it is expected that both team management and the selectors will pick him as a specialist middle-order batter.

Pujara and Rahane's exit from the national side is certain. They can only save their places if coach Rahul Dravid puts his foot down and asks the selection committee to give the out-of-form duo one last chance. But if that happens, it is under-

standably going to cause a lot of heartburn to all the deserving youngsters, who might feel severely let-down for not getting the break at the right moment in their respective careers.

"I think both Pujara and Rahane will be dropped from the team for the Sri Lanka series. Shreyas Iyer and Hanuma Vihari will both play," Sunil Gavaskar said while commentating on India-South Africa series.

'We'll have to see who plays at number three. Hanuma Vihari may take Pujara's place and Shreyas Iyer could be number five in place of Rahane, but we will have to see. Nevertheless, I think there will certainly be two spots up for grabs

Australia, Sri Lanka register wins on day one of U-19 World Cup



PTI ■ GEORGETOWN (GUYANA)

ustralia and Sri Lanka logged Australia and on Lands 1968

their first points at the U-19 World Cup after registering comfortable victories over West Indies and Scotland, respectively, on the

opening day here. While Australia notched up a six-wicket win over West Indies. Sri Lanka beat Scotland by 40 runs in two Group D matches on

A disciplined Australian bowling unit first bundled out hosts West Indies for a paltry 169 and then returned to overhaul the target, scoring 170 for four in 44.5 a 129-ball 86, studded with eight damage. Auguste joined wicket- runs to the West Indies total.

However, the home team suffered another collapse following

the dismissal of Clarke by Indianorigin spinner Nivethan Radhakrishnan (3/48) in the 22nd

keeper Rivaldo Clarke (37 off 42

balls) in the middle and the two

stitched together a partnership of

95 runs for the fourth wicket,

steadying the innings in the

Radhakrishnan struck two more blows, sending back Anderson Mahase and Johann Layne in quick succession to leave the West Indies at 131 for eight in only the 32nd over.

Cooper Connolly, who is

leading the Australian team in the age-group tournament, too bagged three wickets including the significant one of Auguste, after which the hosts struggled to

Opening the Australian bowling, Whitney too, returned impressive figures of 3/20 in 8.1

Batting at number nine McKenny Člarke struck 29 off 35 balls, with the help of three sixes and two fours to stretch the

Indian women's cricket to guarantine in Mumbai ahead of WC departure



PTI NEW DELHI

The World Cup-bound Indian ble in Mumbai on Sunday for a week of quarantine before its travel to New Zealand.

The players had gathered in Dehradun recently for team bonding and youngsters in the team were also assigned tasks to develop leadership skills. The 15-squad members and three reserves have now been asked to report to Mumbai where they will isolate for a week. The team is expected to depart for New Zealand on January

India play a five-match series and one off T20 against hosts New Zealand beginning February 11 before the ODI World Cup in March-April.

The team management wanted a week long training camp before departure but it could not be arrange due to rising COVID-19 cases across the country. India reached the final of the 2017 edition giving a massive boost to women's cricket in the country. The Mithali Raj-led squad is expected to go all the way this time.

Seasoned names like Shikha Pandey, Jemimah Rodrigues and Punam Raut were dropped from the

Sen, Chirag-Satwik enter final, Sindhu out of title race



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World championship bronze medallist Lakshya Sen entered his maiden World Tour Super 500 summit clash on Saturday with a come-frombehind win over Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open, here.

Third seed Sen, ranked 17 in the world, will face reigning world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in the summit clash on Sunday in a repeat of Dutch Open final last year.

The 20-year-old from Almora, who had joined his mentor Prakash Padukone, B Sai Praneeth and Kidambi Srikanth as a medallist at the World championships last month, notched up a 19-21 21-16 21-12 win over the world number 60 Yong in a thrilling semifinal

clash.

"It is a good feeling to play my first super 500 final at my home country. The first game was pretty close, I did some errors which cost me. But I kept my calm in the second and third game and managed to pull out," Sen said after the match.

Loh, seeded fifth, was given walkover in the other semifinals by Canada's Brian Yang after developing a sore throat and headache.

Sen will be itching to set the record straight after losing the Dutch Open final to Loh. Overall, the duo has a 2-2 headto-head record with Sen losing two of the last three meetings.

"Both of us are playing well, it will be a good match tomorrow and I am really looking forward to playing him," Sen said about his final clash.

Both shuttlers showed their attacking prowess during the last four clash

Sen made his opponent move across the court with his returns and used his smashes to good effect to open up a fourpoint lead at 10-6 after being 2-4 down initially.

The Indian entered the interval at 11-8 after Yong went

After the break, Sen came up with some stiff smashes to bother the Malaysian but he couldn't sustain the pressure as

Yong made it 14-14. The Malaysian left Sen

wrong-footed with a precise net shot to take the lead.

Yong then won a video referral to take a two point lead

Sen controlled the proceeding thereafter to claw back at 17-However, Yong grabbed two

game points when a return of serve from Sen went wide and sealed it comfortably. Yong carried the momen-

tum in the second game, opening up a 4-1 advantage. Sen did well to erase the deficit but Young ensured he had his nose ahead at the break.

Resuming at 9-11, Sen continued his pursuit to turn things

He drew parity at 13-13 and crafted his way to a 19-16 lead with a powerful drive away from the forehand of his opponent. A net error from Yong gave Sen four game points and he sealed it when Yong again erred at the net.

In the decider, Sen made a confident start, leading 4-1 and then reached 9-5 with another cross court jump smash. He played another precision shot at the baseline and with Yong going wide, Sen entered the interval with a massive sixpoint advantage.

Sen went on a smash hitting spree thereafter to quickly jump to a 18-12 lead. He grabbed eight match points with a drop and sealed it without much ado after his opponent went to net

Sen had won two Super 100 titles -- Dutch Open and SaarLorLux Open -- besides three international challenge at Belgium, Scotland and Bangladesh in 2019 before COVID-19 somewhat halted

England lose openers, trails Australia by 269 runs on Day 2

For WI, skipper Ackeem

In the other match, Sri Lanka,

Auguste top-scored with a 67-ball

opting to bat, were all out for 218

in 45.2 overs but their bowling

unit led by Dunith Wellalage

(5/27) rose to the occasion to bun-

dle out Scotland for 178 with 8

the toss, the West Indies were off

to a disastrous start as they found

themselves reeling at 12 for three

in the sixth over at the Providence

Stadium, with pacer Tom

Opting to bat after winning

Whitney and leg-spinner

balls to spare.



AP ■ HOBART

 $E_{\text{continued in the Ashes after}}^{\text{ngland's top-order batting woes}}$ Australia's tailenders led them to 303 all out in its first innings in the fifth day-night test on Saturday.

Rory Burns, recalled for the final test, was run-out for a duck while going for a needless run and Travis Head took a sharp catch from Zak Crawley at forward short leg as England reached 34-2 at the dinner break on the second day.

England, which has already lost the Ashes after losing the first three test matches and drawing at Sydney, still trails by 269 runs with Dawid Malan batting on 9 and captain Joe Root not out on 3.

In the second over of the tourist's innings, Marnus Labuschagne's direct hit throw caught Burns short of his crease after Crawley called for a single which was never there.

Crawley was then brilliantly caught by Travis Head reaching high above his head for 18 as the batsman got a big inside edge onto his pad which Head claimed on the second attempt from a sharp Pat Cummins delivery

Nathan Lyon (31) had earlier scored half of the runs Australia added in the afternoon after resuming at 241-6.

Mark Wood (3-115) took two quick wickets of Mitchell Starc (3) and Cummins (2) but Lyon hit the fast bowler for three sixes and a square driven boundary much to the frustration of England.

Alex Carey played onto his stumps from Chris Woakes (2-64) after scoring 24 off 60 balls, but Lyon added 23 runs for the last wicket with Scott Boland (10 not



Hockey India names 66 players for junior women's camp

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

eeping in mind selec-Keeping in initial current for the upcoming World Cup, Hockey India has called up as many as 66 players for the junior women's national camp, which is set to begin at the Sports Authority of India in Bengaluru from Monday.

The players have been selected on the basis of their performance in the Hockey India sanctioned domestic junior events in 2021. The camp will be held with an aim to select the core probable list of players, the federation said in a media release.

Highlighting importance of the camp, the Indian women's team's Chief Coach Janneke Schopman said the players have been selected keeping in mind the junior World Cup, which will be played in South Africa in April after being postponed due to the surge in cases of the Omicron variant in the country, among other tour-

India drops to 5th in WTC standings after Newlands loss

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's seven-wicket loss to South Africa in the seriesdeciding third Test has cost them a top four spot as Virat Kohli and his men slipped to the fifth position in the World Test Championship standings.
India the runners up of

the inaugural edition of the WTC, are currently placed fifth in second cycle with a 49.07 percentage of points won (PCT), which is taken into account rather than the points

India have played nine Tests in the second cycle of WTC, winning four, losing three and drawing two. They have 53 points, the highest among all teams so far.

After the second Test India were in fourth position with 55.21 PCT and South Africa were one slot behind with a

Djokovic back in immigration detention in Australia begin his title defense at the first Grand Associated Press reported that Djokovic

champion was due to

Novak Djokovic was reported to be back in immigration detention Saturday after his legal challenge to avoid being deported from Australia for being unvaccinated for COVID-19 was moved to a higher court. A Federal Court hearing has been scheduled for Sunday, a day before the men's No. 1ranked tennis player and nine-time Australian Open

Slam tennis tournament of the year.

Police closed down a lane behind the building where Djokovic's lawyers are based and two vehicles exited the building midafternoon local time on Saturday. In television footage, Djokovic could be seen wearing a face mask in the back of a vehicle near an immigration detention hotel. Australian

was back in detention. He spent four nights confined to a hotel near downtown Melbourne before being released last Monday when he won a court challenge on procedural grounds against his first visa cancellation. Immigration Minister Alex Hawke on Friday blocked the 34-year-old Serb's visa, which was originally revoked when he landed at a Melbourne airport on Jan. 5.Deportation from Australia can lead to a three-year ban on returning to the country, although that may be waived, depending on the circumstances. Djokovic has

acknowledged that his travel declaration was incorrect because it failed to indicate that he had been in multiple countries over the two weeks before his arrival in Australia. He has won the past three Australian Opens, part of his overall Grand Slam haul of 20 championships. He is tied with Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer for the most by a man in histo-

In a post on social media Wednesday that constituted his most extensive public comments yet on the episode, Djokovic blamed his agent for checking the wrong box on the form.

The actor, who is known for his roles in movies like Waah Zindagi, Masaan, Ankhon Dekhi, will now be seen in Dinesh Yadav's Turtle, which will air on January 21 on &pictures at 9 am and on Zee Cinema HD at 8 pm. He speaks with Supriya Ramesh about the movie among other things

ınday pioneer

'I don't want my work to be like the breeze



It's about water crisis. We wanted to show the viewers that in the coming years, a huge water crisis is awaiting us. It has already started in a few places, water is scarce. We need to understand the value of water as it's available readily but not easily. Water is on sale in many forms but we should not take it for granted. I have done two films about climate change and water crisis, Kadvi Hawa and Turtle.

■ What is your role in the film? Ashok Choudhury is my producer and this is his grandfather's story. He was a man of integrity and used to strongly address the issues of his village and move ahead to solve it by bringing in water supply. The character is the grandfather. Even before the story was ready, the grandfather was set to be a pivotal role. Ashok ji gave me his grandfather's kurta to wear as well.

■ What made you say yes to the role? After doing movies like Guthlee and Kadvi Hawa, I felt self-satisfied as an actor. At the end of the day, I have a responsibility of sending a message to the society. I want people to see my work and say that I was an actor who enjoyed comic roles and then, when it came to do a serious job, I did that in spades and taught a lesson or two in the process. That was my main motive for doing this film. I am very lucky that I'm able to do such awesome projects and people actually write stories with my role in

Can the audience relate to the movie during these times?

AT THE END OF THE DAY. I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY OF SENDING A MESSAGE TO THE SOCIETY. I WANT PEOPLE TO SEE MY WORK AND SAY THAT I WAS AN **ACTOR WHO ENJOYED** COMIC ROLES. WHEN IT CAME TO DO A SERIOUS JOB, I DID THAT IN SPADES AND TAUGHT A LESSON OR TWO IN THE PROCESS. THAT WAS MY MAIN MOTIVE FOR DOING THIS FILM

The audience that drinks water, they can relate to this movie. It will go from a mother telling her children to drink water properly everyday to asking her children, "How dare you drink this much water, don't you know we can't afford it?" I think that this is an issue which is prevalent everywhere, not just India. Everyone can relate to this

You are well known for comedic roles. Is that your favourite genre?

Yes! Why not? People prefer me in comedic roles. I love it to another level and I'm still doing them. I'm very much into it. Even the upcoming Rohit Shetty film, Cirkus and Anees Bazmee's Bhool Bhulaiya are comedy films. All these films will always be there with two different types of audiences but I'm very glad to have them appreciating my

■ What have been the challenges so far? One huge challenge for me was to contemplate if my work would be worth registering. I don't want my work to be like the breeze that came and went away. No matter how small my appearance is in a project, I have this thought in my head that if my performance was memorable? Its a challenge for me and the characters I play. I know how to do my job but I want it to be a mesmerising one.

■ What is that one role you will always

As the film is made or after it's realeased, I make sure that I enjoy the movie set. I always think that my current movie or my next movie will be my favorite one. Otherwise, I love my role in Kaamyaab and I relate to that movie more than my other

re you a beginner and just started to develop interest in Acooking? Here are a few tips nd tricks that you should know.

Always read the entire recipe properly. This will help you to uderstand the steps to follow in a proppr order. It will also help



you to know what ingrediants you need and what prep i required before you actually get down to the cooking Ensure that the

pot or the pan you use is of the correct size. Too small and and the food would not cook properly. If

you don't have a proper size, cook in batches

If there is one kitchen tool that is a must — a good sharp knife. A good knife can make cutting so much easier and save time. Invest in a good knife.

Ensure that you purchase quality ingredients. Food tastes better if the ingredients are fresh and of good quality

redoing the home can be a lot of fun. At the same time, it can be a dauting task. There are so many decisions to take What colour to paint the walls? What furniture to buy? What theme



one should go with? The list is endless A few simple guidelines can help

Never start decorting by paiting the walls first. Choose your furniture, the theme and what carpet to put. Once you have stacked up the iteams, then choose the wall paint

Next comes lighting. No room is complete without a light fixture. According to many designers, no room is complete without at least three light fixtures. Living room nd bedroom, they opine should have at least three light sources in addition to the overhead

Statement-making pieces can take a home from simple to striking one. But there is a rule of thumb — put a single showstopper in every room



To give your beard proper nourishment and care follow it up with beard oil, which is infused with argan, jojoba, avocado,

macadamia, seed and almond oils to soften your beard and for better beard growth

Transparent Shave Gel, which is infused with argan and white tea extracts will actively protect your skin during the shave and give visibility while styling your beard.

Beard Wash consists of coconut water, argan oil and avocado oil, leaving your beard and skin feeling fresh and clean every day.

he Zebra plant may be sensitive to over an under watering. But it is pretty looking and can enhance the look of the area wherever you put. Here is how one can take care of it.

Keep the soil consistently moist throughout the active growing seasonAllow the soil to dry out a bit between waterings in winters. Use a potting medium that drains well and keep it moist, not

The zebra plant thrives in bright, indirect light. Use a liquid houseplant fertilizer diluted to half the recommended strength once every one-two weeks during the spring and summer

IT IS ALL ABOUT DRAMA

Grab your snacks and choose a comfortable spot on the sofa because here are five TV shows that will make your lockdown weekends entertaining, says SUNDAY PIONEER



*ing: Shaalien Malhotra, Kaveri Priyam, Kunal Karan Kapoor, Diljot Chhabra, Aditya Deshmukh and Simple Kaul

It is a romance-driven, youthful show that will revolve around an ensemble of characters - a young team of trained and civilian volunteers who meet at the Parakram SAF (SPL. ACTION FORCE) Base Camp in search of fulfilling their aspirations while figuring out a way to fit in and survive at the camp.



ANUPAMAA

StarPlus

*ing: Rupali Ganguly, Sudhanshu Pandey, Gauarav Khanna, Madalsa Sharma and Paras Kalnawat

Anupamaa, who parts with her ambitions and goals in a bid to raise her family, feels dejected when she fails to get any credit for her sacrifices and trials. She then decides to live on her own terms

NAREN KUMAR, who makes his debut with Switchh, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about Day 1 of shoot, the fun at the sets and the good response he is getting

♦ Was Day 1 of shoot nerve racking?

Yes, definitely. Day 1 was nerve racking. I was having jitters on my first day of the shoot. But it was also a dream come true. It was a moment that I had been waiting for. I had been waiting for this moment forever. And it was finally here, it was bound to bring in plenty of jitters. Facing the camera for the very first time brought nervousness. But when I stood in front of the camera, it was an amazing experience. The entire team was so helpful including the co-star who were extremely supportive.

♦ How did you get into acting?

It was my childhood dream to be an actor. I knew that acting was my calling. I never looked at any other profession. I just knew that I would fit here, in this industry, perfectly. With this project, my dream turned into a reality. I want to thank God and of course, the entire team for making it come true. Even as a kid I used to watch movie. In fact, I was fascinated by the world of cinema. I just love movies; they are my universe. I eat, breathe and live movies. They are my universe.

❖ Did you have fun off-screen? Life should always be fun. That's my

BHABHIJI GHAR PAR HAI

*ing: Shubhangi Atre, Rohitash Gaud, Neha Pendse and

This comedy show revolves around two neighbouring couples, the Mishras and the Tiwaris, in which the husbands are attracted to each other's wives and attempt various ultimately unsuccessful and hilarious techniques to

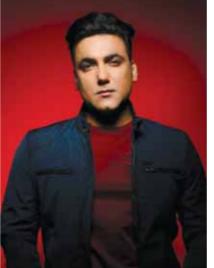




*ing: Aan Tiwari, Mouli Ganguly, Siddharth Arora, Shivya Pathania, Krrip Kapur Suri, Praneet Bhatt

Mahadev Ki Undekhi Gatha While there have been several fascinating shows on Lord Shiva and his various roops, one story that has not been shown before on Indian television is the story of his Baal Roop. Aptly positioned as Mahadev Ki Undekhi Gatha, the show Baal Shiv depicts the mythical Katha of the mother and son, Mahasati Anusuya and Baal Shiv and their eternal bond. Considered Infinite and the Unborn, Lord Shiva had taken many avatars, but he had never experienced childhood and mother's love. However, post his marriage with Devi Parvati, Mahadev takes the form of a child to fulfil Devi Parvati's wish and becomes the dutiful son of Mahasati Anusuya.

'I eat, breathe and live movies'



WAGLE KI DUNIYA

family man, who aspires for a better

lifestyle for himself and his family,

yet is hesitant to take risks and move

with the times. Wagle Ki Duniya cel-

ebrates the aspirations, new age sto-

ries and dilemmas of today's middle

class with humor and positivity.

The show emphasises that family val-

ues and togetherness is a timeless

virtue and brings out the importance

of near and dear ones especially at

trying times like these.

Bharti Achrekar

mantra. If there is no fun in life what is the point. One should always enjoy things in life— be it on-screen or off-screen. One's motto is to enjoy every aspect of life and keep working hard. There is so much to improve and do now in the future.

♦ Why choose a web film to make your

Actually, the project was supposed to be a theatrical release. Unfortunately, the present pandemic has thrown everything out of gear. So few films are now releasing in theatres. The makers didn't want to wait and we decided that OTT was the best way forward. Today, a release o the OTT grabs more eyeballs. Also, the reach is wider. This is good. There were so many big banner movies that released on the OTT. This platform caters to wide taste of the people. The audience is so mature now. They are looking for different content. OTT offers that.

❖ Did you expect this kind of response?

I have taken every response as another step in the learning. It is important to take every thing that comes your way in way of response to improve your craft. The bad and the good, keep you grounded. You don'ttake things for granted. It just makes you want to work harder in the future.

What next?

There are couple of projects in discussion. As of now I have signed one web series and a feature film.

ART DEPICTS

ntertainment in India is important and every kind of entertainment is important as it has long been people's stress buster. However, the pandemic has taken a toll on the entertainment industry worldwide. Now, the world has moved towards the OTT platform, i.e. Over The Media and that has conquered the place of motion pictures for a moment.

Although the movies have taken a backside, OTT platforms have been a prime face in entertaining people and making their lives more and more stressfree. Many new faces are coming into this industry with the hope to get famous. Where the OTT platform has been appreciated by the audience, many models have been taking the modelling industry by

storm. One such model who has been inspiring is Ava Aashna Chopra, her jour-



mination and she was honoured to be the first Southeast Asian model to feature twice on the cover page of L'Officiel Latvian Edition in Eastern Europe. Ava has chosen this enchanting profession and worked tremendously to become the known face. Her journey has been showcased by the various videos and hots that she keeps sharing on social media.

The global modelling industry is back into action after the months of stag-



ndrew Yan-Tak Ng, a computer scientist and technology entrepreneur who focuses on machine learning and Artificial Intelligence (AI), said AI is the new electricity.

In a world where we are all becoming ncreasingly dependent on technology, it would

increasingly dependent on technology, it would be hard to think of any industry that is untouched by AI. Just as electricity transformed almost every single aspect of our lives a 100 years ago with its incredible capabilities and convenience, in a similar manner AI is now being embedded in our daily experiences. From unlocking your phone using facial recognition software to making recommendations for restaurants that will be close by based off what you like to eat! Even when you chat with a customer care chatbot, you are literally talking with AI. We have seen phenomenal development in this space within Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Knowledge Management, and Pattern Recognition in the last few years, bringing more predictability, efficiency, and growth in conventional industries such as banking, healthcare, data processing as well as new industries such as content distribution platforms. The surge and adoption of AI in industries are now becoming a norm and are going through explosive growth.

At the global average level of adoption and absorption implied by our simulation, AI has the potential to deliver additional global economic activity of around \$13 trillion by 2030, or about 16 percent higher cumulative GDP compared with today. This amounts to 1.2 percent additional GDP growth per year. According to PwC's 'Global Artificial Intelligence Study: Exploiting the AI Revolution' to make this a reality, there must be a broad and overarching strategic investment from various countries in different types of AI technology. Improvements in labor productivity will drive the initial GDP positive numbers as firms seek to "augment" the productivity of their labour force with AI technologies and to automate some tasks and roles. The study also shows that 45% of total economic gains by 2030 will come from product enhancements, stimulating consumer demand. This is because AI will drive greater product variety, with increased personalization, attractiveness, and affordability over time.

In 2021, we saw some interesting break-throughs such as Open AI's launch of DALL-E, a multimodal AI system that can generate images from text, the US Department of Homeland security using AI to recognise masked faces, Tesla's claim to build an AI humanoid that can perform repetitive tasks, IBM's AI service to assist with climate change analysis, DeepMind's announcement of Player of Games — an AI that can perform both perfect information games (like Chess) and imperfect games (like Poker) and the most recent Facebook's announcement of Metaverse – a multi-modal virtual reality uni-

verse. Certainly, this breadth and pace of development and breakthroughs in AI should be expected in 2022. Here are some key trends we will see in 2022:

AI AUTOMATION

The AI revolution is upon us, and it's only just begun. We're going to see an increasing demand for physical, manual labour as machines take over routine tasks that are now done by humans in industries such as healthcare or customer support; this will lead many people with those skill sets to have minimal employment opportunities because their job has been automated into software programs which can be accessed remotely through any device with internet access — no matter where you're located! To stay competitive during these changing times workers in the years to come will need to constantly update their skills to work alongside machines in the new AI-driven workplace. Social, emotional, and higher cognitive skills such as creativity and critical thinking will become more relevant profes-

VOICE & LANGUAGE DRIVEN INTELLIGENCE

Last few years we have seen significant advancement in Speech Recognition, Natural Language Processing, and Speech Synthesis, where machines can understand and speak in human language. Large dataset language models such as GPT-3 by Open AI, (the most advanced and largest language model ever built) have shown the capability of AI in generating human-like speech. We are getting very close to a stage where bots can respond with human-like intelligence evident with their choice of words and prosody (the rhythm, stress, pitch of speaking based on context) According to recent reports, AI will save 8 billion USD per annum by 2022 for Customer Service Sector. Other industries where Voice AI will create a wave is Healthcare, where advanced diagnostics will become more accessible through AI. Today, Voice Biomarkers-based AI can detect Covid with 80% accuracy! Similar advancements will be seen in detecting other pulmonary diseases and mental health diseases such as depression, anxiety, and Alzheimer's.

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

Over the last 2 years of the pandemic, we have seen a massive shift of purchases moving from offline to online stores which require massive feet on the ground. Hence there is a need to invest in the development and deployment of the next generation of delivery vehicles that are completely autonomous be it long-haul trucks or last-mile delivery vans. Motional, the \$4 billion autonomous driving joint venture formed by automaker Hyundai and Aptiv, announced a partnership with Uber Technologies Inc to deliver Uber Eats food orders using self-driving

OUT OF THE 5000 AI PATENTS FILED OVER THE LAST DECADE, 94% WERE FROM THE LAST 5 YEARS, OUT OF WHICH 60% OF THEM ORIGINATED IN INDIA. **COMPUTER VISION AND** NLP ARE THE LEADING **SEGMENTS WITH 50%** OF AI PATENTS. THERE HAS BEEN A FIVE-FOLD INCREASE IN VC FUNDING OF INDIAN AI FUNDS FROM \$200 MILLION IN 2015 TO **OVER \$1 BILLION IN**



vehicles. The service will kick off in early 2022 in Santa Monica, California.

Amazon has already started delivering packages with drones and testing autonomous vehicles on road. There is also a big data revolution in the automotive industry where these autonomous vehicles can gather tons of information about their passengers and surroundings, which can then be used for different purposes such as providing personalized services. The AI-powered automotive market is expected to grow up to 35 percent by 2026.

METAVERSE EXPANSION

Metaverse is a virtual reality platform that uses speech API, computer vision, natural language understanding to simulate real-world environments and characters, where humans can operate in their life-like avatars and collaborate and communicate with each other. The end of 2021 saw major headlines from Facebook Nvidia, and Amazon announcing their ventures into this future of digital space. With the pandemic-driven shift to a digital world, Metaverse is expected to see growth outside gaming and media. Microsoft for example is building a version for virtual team meetings. The fashion brand H&M launched a metaverse store. Metaverse this year will become more accessible to mainstream users, and we will see a lot more experiential movies, digital stores, social networks, and digital tourism frontiers open up.

LOW CODE/ NO CODE AI

While every industry is assessing how to leverage AI to enhance their business, there are proportionately very less people who understand the depths of this technology and how it can be used efficiently. There are even fewer people today who can develop AI-based solutions for their organizations. The talent gap is a real challenge that would lead to more organisations looking for low-code/no-code deployments for AI/ML solutions for quicker turnarounds. While the machine learning models will be developed by a handful of experts, the implementation and utilization will be opened for the masses.

HUMAN FACTORS & ETHICS IN AI

With time, artificial intelligence (AI) will enter our lives in increasingly novel ways. This is not only true for professional applications, where technology already plays a major role in many fields of science and industry. What is often overlooked, however, is that intelligent machines not only find their way into individual situations or human-machine interaction contexts; increasingly also into very intimate settings, by predicting human decisions.

India has made rapid leaps in the AI space. Out of the 5000 AI patents filed over the last decade, 94% were from the last 5 years, out of which 60% of them originated in India. Computer Vision and NLP are the leading seg-

ments with 50% of AI patents. There has been a five-fold increase in VC funding of Indian AI funds from \$200 million in 2015 to over \$1 billion in 2019. While initial days we saw a wave of smart personal assistants (chatbots) in consumer electronics, today we see more complex use cases in IOT, Robotics, AR & VR being adopted at a wider scale. Our countries education institutes are also gearing up for to nurture talent in this space. At the beginning of 2022, IIT Madras incubated startup GUVI partnered with AICTE (All India Council of Technical Education) to offer free Python and AI courses online to 1 million kids from low-income

groups and families 2022 will certainly be an exciting year for AI with more funding, government incentivised research and tech companies accelerating growth in this space. In the next decade, one hopes that additional curriculums are developed that teach Artificial Intelligence not just in engineering colleges, but that is also aimed at children at an elementary level from school just as we teach other subjects such as Physics, Chemistry and Math. There must be a concentrated effort towards this as in the next decade as the knowledge and skill in AI will become a must-have background for even non-software professionals. Having a conceptual understanding of AI and how it works will enable more people to contribute to its growth through new ideas and use cases

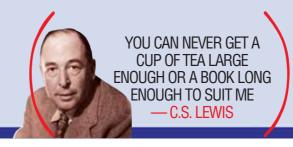
As early as 2014, Researchers at the University of Glasgow were able to demonstrate how machines could understand our minds better than our partners as early as 2014! By merging existing technology with mind-reading apps to understand intent or thinking processes, autocorrect and speech recognition software will be able to achieve 100 percent accuracy.

Concerns concerning AI's security will continue to be prevalent. There has been a surge in government interest in artificial intelligence and security, as well as legislative recommendations. Many of these policies, on the other hand, place a greater focus on plans to fund more AI research and train more people in this sector, which will ultimately boost economic growth and creativity through the development of AI technologies, rather than on AI security. The importance of transparency, testing, and accountability for algorithms and their developers has been emphasised by countries that have proposed or implemented security-focused AI policies, though few have gotten to the point of operationalizing these policies or figuring out how they would work in practise.

To protect people's interests in this AI-driven environment, governance policies and cyber laws in India and globally as well must undergo major consideration and dramatic reform.

The writer is Chief Product Officer, Augnito, India's 1st advanced medical Voice AI solution powering the healthcare industry





SAGA OF A PERFECT FRAUD

Sree Iyer's National Herald Frauds is a unique work as he takes the reader through myriad corruption charges, scams and illegalities that are inter mingled with one another, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

he period 2004 to 2014 could be easily rated as India's season of scams and frauds. The 2G Spectrum that saw the incarceration of a princess from the ruling clan of Tamil Nadu, the Commonwealth Game scam which tarnished the image of India across the globe, the Augusta Westland chopper deal, Coal Gate, the disclosure by an upright chief of army staff that middlemen had the audacity to offer him crores as bribe in return for approval for purchasing a particular brand of armored vehicle for the Indian Army, the list goes on. Scams, corruption in high places, commission and kickbacks, violation of foreign exchange rules, mysterious accidental deaths of key witnesses and officials probing crimes are inherent in the post-independent history of the country. One has lost count of the controversies and scams that have rocked the

A senior investigating journalist has brought out the plot of *Chidambara Rahasya* (the mystery behind the presiding deity at Chidambaram, a coastal pilgrim centre in Tamil Nadu) highlighting how a politician built up a financial empire stretching across the five continents. The details are endless. What is unique about these scams is that we just read these reports for days altogether and relegate the same to the back of our minds only to forget them as new and spicy scam stories emerge periodically. How many among us remember the Bofors gun kickbacks and the HDW submarine deal? Even the Rafale fighter aircraft scam which was an issue of the 2019 Lok Sabha election has been forgotten though a Chennai based national newspaper makes occasional hue and cry. Corruption has become a way of life for us which made a former Prime Minister declaring to the nation that it was a global phenomenon and there was noth-

One of the scams/frauds which refuse to move out of public memory is the massive corruption associated with Associated Journals Ltd (AJL), the publishers of National Herald, an English daily once rated as the voice of India. The paper was launched by Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of modern India who was also the first Prime Minister of the country. The paper was a failure though it boasted some of the best names in journalism those days. Nehru himself used to write the op-ed of the paper. But the truth is that National Herald is an illegitimate progeny born out by consum-

ing the forbidden apple!

The latest saga of National Herald



hogged the limelight in October 2012 when J Gopikrishnan, the star reporter of The Pioneer flashed a news about the Gandhis' (Sonia and Rahul) plans to revive the daily. The Ma-Beta team launched a company by name Young Indian which acquired the liability of Associated Journals Limited, the enterprises that owned National

The AJL had availed Rs 90 crore from Indian National Congress and this liability wad bought over by Young Indian at a value of Rs 50 lakh. Why should Young Indian buy out the Rs 90 crore liability of AJL from the INC by paying Rs 50 lakh is the unanswered question. The National Herald was forced to wound up its operations for want of readers. Even Congressmen refused to read the iconic paper launched by the cult figure Jawaharlal Nehru. Though Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Manmohan Singh had tried in vain to squeeze the newspaper industry in the country by hiking import duty on newsprint and other paraphernalia, newspapers managed to survive because the tenure of their governments were marked by mega scams and super mega scams. (During 2009 to 2014, there was a scam per day on an average!). Since the entire opposition line up is busy scheming means to dethrone the Modi government, they do not discuss these scams nowadays. The deeds/misdeeds of P Chidambaram, Karti Chidambaram, Maran brothers, poetess Kanimozhi, media barons Peter Mukherjee and Indrani are all forgotten.

The day after *The Pioneer* reported that the ma-beta duo would relaunch National Herald, Rahul Gandhi issued a release stating that the news was not correct. But he did not deny the disclosure that Young Indian had bought over the Rs90 crore liability AJL owed to the Congress party. What was the reason behind the formation of Young Indian and why did it buy the AJL's liability remained a mystery as "Omerta" (Italian for Silence) is the rule of the game involving the Nehru-Gandhi clan. Subramanian Swamy MP, the whistle blower, took it up and filed a case in a New Delhi court.

Instead of taking Dr Swamy head on, Sonia and Rahul Gandhi tried in vain to derail the case by citing procedural issues. This was a proof that something was rot-

ten in Herald House, which was built by AJL in plot of land the company got for a song. It was disclosed that AJL owns prime real estate in the major cities that was offered on a platter to the company to launch the editions of NH. Last heard, the case is progressing at a snail's pace in one of the Delhi courts. Though the duo claim that they do not have anything to hide, they are working roundthe-clock to hush up the case.

It is with this background that US based entrepreneur Sree Iyer wrote National Herald Frauds, a work of different genre that could serve the layman as a ready reckoner. Starting from the scoop made by Gopikrishnan in October 2012, Iyer takes the reader through the history of National Herald and the Nehru-Gandhi clan's hidden interest in the company. Though Rahul Gandhi denied that Young Indian would revive the now defunct National Herald, the company relaunched the web edition of the daily. Iver has recounted the entire saga of National Herald from the day it was launched in 1938 and he has made some startling disclosures. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, independent India's first deputy

Prime Minister and Home Minister had warmed Nehru many times when the latter tried to tap certain forces to mobilise funds for the daily. Nehru had dealings with certain undesirable elements from whom he collected funds meant for Herald. Sardar Patel had warned Nehru about the entrapment that lie ahead. But his plea fell on Nehru's deaf ears. The Sardar had warned Nehru of certain people with dubious track records donating money for sustaining the family newspaper but the forer's words did not make any impact on the then Prime Minister, The newspaper stands out because of the chromosomes of sins that

gave it the shape.

V Shankar, a former ICS officer, who had worked as Sardar's private secretary had in his memoirs My Reminiscences of Sardar (two volumes) vividly describe the modus operandi employed by Nehru to mobilise funds for the newspaper and has reproduced the communication between the two over the issue. Of late SN Aggarwal, a former judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in his book *Had Sardar been India's* First PM has ruled that National Herald is



enmeshed in corruption and it would be difficult for Sonia and Rahul to come out clean from this 85 year long scam. Remember, it is a judge who has said this. The only option mother and son have is to take on Dr Swamy by the horns and fight it out in the courts and come clean. The delay tactics and attempts to derail the court proceedings are signs that they do have something to hide from the public. If Sonia and Rahul come out of the case with flying colours, well, that would be the end of whatever dissidence

they face now. Iyer's National Herald Frauds is a unique work as he takes the reader through myriad corruption charges, scams and illegalities that are inter mingled with one another. The work is a ready reckoner and must read for those who want to know the kind of politicians we are blessed with. Why certain officials and politicians are kept out from the corridors of power despite the highest judiciary in the country taking the government for task for its indifference and apathy. Rajeshwar Singh, a Uttar Pradesh cadre IPS officer in a living martyr of the "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours" approach of the people who matter in India.

Having read the earlier books authored

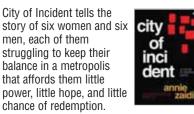
by Iyer, one can trust the data he has furnished. All official information he has collected and collated through RTI Act. Thank you, Iyer. Waiting for your next revelation.

ARRIVALS

THE CITY OF INCIDENT: A NOVEL IN TWELVE PARTS

Annie Zaidi Aleph, ₹499

City of Incident tells the men, each of them struggling to keep their balance in a metropolis that affords them little power, little hope, and little



Their stories twine together to give us an unsettling look into the lives that take place on the peripheries of our vision. These are people you may encounter on the Metro, glimpse from the window of your car, or read about in brief items on the inside pages of the newspaper. They might be among those who watch as you hurry past, from silent balconies, under flyovers, and behind the glass partition at the bank: people who don't particularly interest you until a fragile moment shatters. The lives of the characters in City of Incident coalesce into a great darkened lens that presents an unnerving view of a great city and its most powerless inhabitants.

WHEN MOMMY WAS A LITTLE GIRL

Edited by Pranav Kumar Singh Ponytale, ₹299

what your Mommy was as a 'little girl'? Was she wellbehaved or a mischievous prankster? Did she stay indoors or did she love

Have you ever imagined your

Mommy as a little girl'?

Have you ever wondered

sneaking out of the house to play with her friends, or to cycle and climb trees? Did she drape her mother's saree and apply her make-up? Did she dance in front of the

Fifteen Mommies from different parts of India are here to tell you the stories of what they did when they were 'little girls'.

Listing of the unsung heroes

Indian Muslims' role in the freedom movement hasn't come to light the way it should have. They played prominent role in the country's freedom movements and gave significant sacrifices for the cause, writes H ANJUM

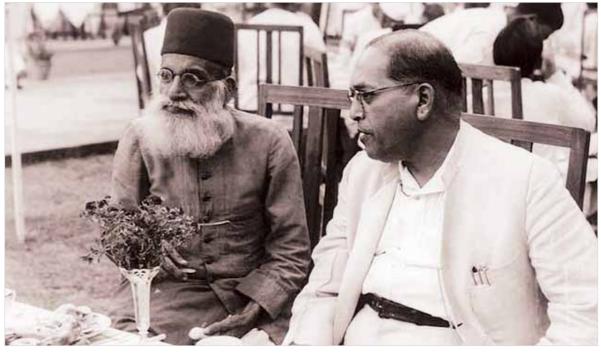
ndian Muslims' role in the freedom movement hasn't come to light the way Lit should have. They played prominent role in different phases of the country's freedom movements and gave significant sacrifices for the cause. From the last Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar to nawabs, princes, landlords of all sizes, clergy and *ulema* and the common people, they all stood for the cause, took on huge challenges and sacrificed almost everything for it. Thousands of ulema were slaughtered in the wake of 1857 uprising, entire Delhi was emptied of Muslims and they were not allowed to return back to their homes and reclaim their properties that they had built after a lifetime of hard

work and struggle.

It was due to the significant role of the Muslim community that that the British officials accused them for the 1857 Ghadar. To be true, both British officials and historians have named Muslims as the most important rebels and termed the Mutiny as a sinister plot by Muslim ulema and mujahideen to reclaim their lost powerhouse in India.

Long before the 1857 Mutiny, Muslim ulema and sufis had been predicting the imminent doom of the British rule in the country. And the role of mujahideen cannot be simply underestimated in the 1857 Ghadar. When the Mutiny was on its height, hundreds of thousands of ghazis (Muslim mujahideen), converged to all the hotspots of revolt including Delhi, Lucknow, Bareilly, Agra and Thana Bhawan, besides Kanpur and Shahjahanpur, and fought till the end. It is no secret that in Delhi when the rebels almost gave up, these were the ghazis who, despite going hungry for days due to lack of supplies, gave the stiffest fight and highest number of sacrifices against the marauding British armies when they eventually defeated the rebels.

In many places Muslim *ulema* and sufis gave the call for Jihad long before the actual outbreak of Ghadar in 1857. Maulavi Ahmadullah Shah was preaching jihad in Agra long before the Mutiny. He was arrested for this very reason in Faizabad a couple of years before 1857 and



was released only when the fighting started and his supporters broke open the Fizabad prison. Similar was the case of Maulavi Liaqat Ali, who took control of Allahabad during the Mutiny and was proclaimed the governor of Allahabad by none other than the last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar.

Maulavi Ahmadullah Shah and Maulavi Liaqat Ali were not the only ulema who played prominent role during the 1857 Mutiny. Moulvi Sarfaraz Ali is one leader whose role has remained shrouded in mystery. It is said that Maulavi Sarfaraz Ali was the spiritual mentor of Bakht Khan who rose to become the commander in-chief of armies fighting the British Army in Delhi and its surrounding places. Sarfaraz Ali has been called the imam of the mujahideen (leader of the rebels) by many people. He was a known face in Delhi and enjoyed trust of the Mughal Court. He had taught in a madrasa in Delhi and had a huge fan fol-

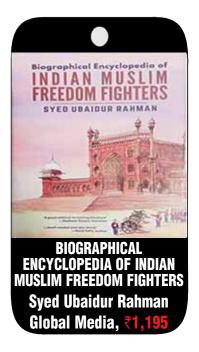
lowing across north India. It is said that it was he who persuaded Bakht Khan to march to Delhi and take on the British armies engaged in fighting against the ragtag mutineers in Delhi. After coming to Delhi, it was Bakht Khan who brought some iota of discipline in the ranks of the rebel armies and made them fighting fit.

Azimullah Khan, the Divan and later Prime Minister of Nana Saheb is one of the most famous heroes of 1857 War of Independence. He has attracted praise from historians of all hues due to his grit, determination, ideas and sacrifice for the cause of the freedom of the nation.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar while writing in his The Indian War of Independence of 1857 mentions Azimullah Khan in glowing words:

"Of the important characters in the Revolutionary War of 1857, the name of Azimullah Khan is one of the most memorable. Among the keen intellects and minds that first conceived the idea of the

War of Independence, Azimullah must be given a prominent place. And among the many plans by which the various phases of the Revolution were developed, the plans of Azimullah deserve special notice... Azimullah was poor by birth. He rose gradually on the strength of his own merits, and at last became the trusted adviser of Nana Sahib. His early poverty was such that he served as a waiter in the household of an Englishman. Even while in such a low state, the fire of ambition was always burning in his heart. He took advantage of his profession as a Baberchi in order to learn foreign languages, and in a short time he had learned to speak English and French with fluency. After acquiring knowledge of both these languages, Azimullah left the service of the Feringhis and began to study in a school at Cawnpore. By his extraordinary ability, he soon became a teacher at the same school. While still serving as a teacher in the Government school at Cawnpore, his



reputation as an able scholar reached the ears of Nana Sahib, and he was introduced

at the Brahmavarta Durbar". "Once, at the Durbar, his wise counsels were appreciated and valued by Nana Sahib, who would take no important step without first consulting Azimullah. In 1854, he was made the chief representative of Nana Sahib and sent to England. His face was noble, his speech sweet and silvery. Knowing very well the customs and manners of contemporary English life, he soon became very popular among Londoners. Attracted by his pleasant and silvery voice, his spirited mien and Oriental magnificence, several young English women fell in love with Azimullah. There used to be a crowd, in those days, in the parks of London and on the beach at Brighton, to see this jewelled Indian "Raja", writes Savarkar.

He played a very important role during the Siege of Cawnpore, when revolutionaries took control of the entire area.

The reviewer is a freelance writer



Primacy of OBC: When UP 'castes' its vote

Caste is in the DNA of Indian democratic politics and the influence of an assorted group of politically awakened castes within the Scheduled Caste and the Other Backward Class (OBC) brackets is profound in determining election results. Therefore, any change in the caste equation sets off a chain reaction by political parties. Uttar Pradesh is witnessing a similar political upheaval triggered by the defection of OBC Ministers and leaders from the Yogi Adityanath Cabinet and the BJP. It has ensued into an avalanche of political manoeuvring by the BJP and other Opposition parties since the OBC vote matters to all parties as the group constitutes a little over one-third of the total vote. Moreover, the rebellion led to the speculation in certain quarters — a section of media and political observers — that the OBC leaders' exodus portends the end of the BJP rule in

The speculation has been fed by the perception about the ill-treatment of the OBC Ministers who claim to be the sole representative of their castes. If the assertion is given any credence, these OBC leaders found the Yogi Government a stumbling block in realising their "personal" and political aspirations. But this is not surprising. The BJP is perhaps the only party in India where leaders don't grow bigger than the party or the Government. Moreover, no other leaders are allowed to have a unbridled sway under the regime of Narendra Modi at the Centre and Yogi in UP. However, if one examines the policy decisions and the Government outreach, there is no evidence of discrimination against the OBC or

any castes in this group.

The second reason for the exodus too points towards the perception that the "Kshatriya" Chief Minister may not be able to retain majority in the forthcoming election as he has been unable to even retain the confidence of non-Kshatriya upper caste voters. And it resulted into a storm of exodus by political "weather scientists" who invariably grab any opportunity to



Devotees take holy dips and pray on the banks of the River Sarayu on a cold and foggy morning in Ayodhya on January 5, 2022

ride the changing wave. Swami Prasad Maurya is one of such proud weather scientists. He is a self-proclaimed clairvoyant who sees his political future will be secured in shifting loyalty to the Samajwadi Party (SP).

However, even if the defections are about political opportunism, it doesn't augur well for the BJP, particularly Yogi, as it sends out a hapless signal to the voters about the breaking up of the Hindu vote, mostly comprising the OBC besides a section of upper castes and SCs. The speculation also takes a dim view of the sincerity of the "sabka saath" sankalp of Modi's

The third reason again is the perception about SP chief Akhilesh Yadav emerging as a formidable challenge against the BJP from the Opposition camp, which has no other serious player as the Congress, despite gaining some lost ground under the stewardship

of Priyaka Gandhi Vadra, is unable to shed its image as a spent force. And the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is no longer in the reckoning.

Also as it is a general understanding among the parties that no single party has the wherewithal to give a successful challenge to the BJP, the defectors are pinning all their hopes on Akhilesh who seems to fit the bill. However, the divided Opposition, with some trying to revive the UPA and others the Third Front, doesn't arm Akhilesh sufficiently against the might of the BJP despite the latter struggling to do some damage control after the exodus of OBC leaders.

The centrality of the OBC in electoral politics is undisputed but caste equations even within the group in UP is very intricate. The post-Mandal era has seen the meteoric rise in the electoral prospects of the OBC politics, but these parties

al pockets. The OBC vote has been sliced by smaller singlecaste based parties in UP, like those of OP Rajbhar and Anupriya Patel in their area of aspirations. Therefore, if there is any influence. While the SP does Yadav-led OBC politics retaintruth in the speculation that the ing the Muslim vote, the BSP OBC voters have lost trust in has Jatavs at its base. This is the BJP, it certainly is the obitbecause unlike Muslims and uary for the party in UP. SCs, the OBC is not that homogenous political entity. Caste leaders are, therefore, subsets of that the universal OBC category. As the regional

have been confined to region-

doing the Hindu nationalist

However, no matter how strong is the speculation, it is too early to say how the defection by a few disgruntled OBC leaders will translate into the exodus of OBC vote from the BJP. It is "secular" parties could not capture the whole of the OBC vote also interesting to note that they compensate the loss by lurthese leaders have accused the ing the expedient Muslim vote. Yogi Government of ignoring However, the BJP, which took the aspiration of not only the birth as a Hindu nationalist OBC but also the youth, farmparty, consolidated the socialers and traders. Though in the ly heterogeneous OBC as a electoral politics, the social political entity at the national truth is nothing but perception level and gradually it became among the masses that shapes the backbone of its Hindu vote. their preferences at polling And that is why the BJP despite booths, to gauge public per-

ception is not a cakewalk.

politics which seemingly stands Perceptions keep on changing in contrast to caste politics in the event of competing nartries to consolidate the OBC ratives, and one should not forvote — the core of the Hindu get that the BJP tops the art of vote — and tries to fulfill their weaving narratives.

Moreover, the electoral outcome of the changing circumstances in UP will depend on how the SCs and Muslims take the bait offered by other parties. As for Muslims, their vote is almost certain to go to any promising party or candidate that is the main contender against the BJP. If the whole of Muslim vote is not collected by a party that also grabs the OBC vote, the Muslim vote loses its strength to influence election results. That is the trickiest part of managing the Muslim vote when there are many so-called secular parties in the fray. And this is an area of concern for

Second, there is no certainty if the exodus of OBC leaders will translate into the

exodus of OBC votes from the BJP because, first some OBC leaders are infamous for shifting loyalty at the time of election after enjoying their stint in Government for almost full term. Also the exodus of leaders doesn't always predict a loss. We have an example in West Bengal. The media speculation of the BJP gaining ground had triggered a similar exodus by TMC leaders, but the election results proved all wrong.

During the last five years of the Yogi rule, the public perception is that Maurya has retained his influence on the OBC in the eastern UP, but that part of Uttar Pradesh has the constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi whose charisma has not faded particularly after delivering the Ayodhya pledge. Also the claim that Maurya is the undisputed OBC leader in the region was shattered when Maurya could not help his son win Assembly election in 2017 despite a clear BJP wave. But at the same time, the fact is history and till the BJP weaves a narrative with these facts to mould a perception that these OBC leaders quit the BJP not for the cause of their community but for their own interests, the loss for the BJP is certain.

While political pundits predict the outcome, they will be left with egg on their faces if they discount the possibility of the BJP capitalising on the Modi magic. Interestingly neither the BJP Government in UP or at the Centre has taken any policy decision which ignores the aspiration of the OBC. Instead the recent decision of the Centre to extend the OBC quota in the all-India category of the NEET is an example which the BJP can employ to weave a pro-OBC narrative.

As the Covid third wave is about to peak, the possibility of the Election Commission allowing physical election rallies is high, and then all eyes will be on Modi. Wait till the polling day before predicting any election outcome as nothing is impossible in politics.

(The writer is Associate Editor & News Editor, the Pioneer, New Delhi)

The BJP. which took birth as a Hindu nationalist party, consolidated the socially heterogeneous OBC as a political entity at the national level and gradually it became the backbone of its Hindu vote. Therefore, if there is any truth in the speculation that the **OBC** voters have lost trust in the BJP, it certainly is the obituary for the party in UP. However, no matter how strong is the speculation, it is too early to say how the defection by a few disgruntled OBC leaders will translate into the exodus of **OBC** vote from the BJP as long as Modi, a backward Hindu leader, retains his



charisma

SWARN KUMAR ANAND

Industrialisation in Tamil Nadu: Some worrisome trends



ANISH GUPTA



MOUSUMI BISWAS



RAHUL RANJAN

States in India. The noticeable inclusive growth. In other words, economic growth and human development have been the quintessential features of this region. Tamil Nadu has one of the lowest "Gini scores" among Indian States, which indicates the lowest income or wealth inequality in this region. It shows that the distribution of wealth and resources in Tamil Nadu has been comparatively better than in many other Indian States. This is a remarkable feature of the economic growth in Tamil Nadu in geographical or spatial distribution

of the same. Undoubtedly, the State of Tamil Nadu has been consistently performing better compared to the average of whole of India, and continues to occupy the status of one of the most developed States in the country by making impressive contributions towards India's economic growth. However, in the midst of better than all India averages in most indicators, few trends stand out as very

alarming in this State. The growth rate of Tamil Nadu's manufacturing sector was highest among all major industrial States in the period 2000-01 to 2010-11, which stood at 8.73 per cent, and fell to 7.13 per cent during 2011-12 to 2020-21. The service sector in Tamil Nadu witnessed declining growth rate over the years. It went marginally down from 9.34 per cent in 1993-94 to 1999-00 and 9.20 per cent in 2000-01 to 2020-11.

Tamil Nadu is regarded as Unfortunately, in the last decade, it saw the steepest decade, it saw the steepest decline (just 6.25 per cent) as aspect of this State has been compared to preceding decades.

The manufacturing sector generates the biggest number of jobs in Tamil Nadu but the share of employment in the said sector has been decreasing over the years. It plunged from 6.02 million in 1993-94 to 2.26 million in 2018-19. The construction sector provides the second largest number of employments in Tamil Nadu, and though this sector has overtaken the manufacturing sector (in terms of employment) because of rapid urbanisation, the growth in this sector is not sustainable.

This plummeting performance of the state of Tamil Nadu may be attributed to challenges related to industrial unrest. Industrial disputes hamper industrial growth and reduce the opportunity of employability.

This may also be the cause for the reduction of the number of man-days labour by the workers. In the year 2003, out of a total of 552 industrial dispute cases registered in India, 81 cases were from Tamil Nadu. In the year 2016, 102 industrial dispute cases were registered, in which 5.79 lakh workers were involved and 12.71 lakh mandays got affected.

Tamil Nadu contributed about 15 per cent of total industrial disputes in India in the year 2003 which increased to 23 per cent in 2010. When we compare Tamil Nadu's share in industrial disputes among the seven most industrialised States (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Combined Andhra

The plummeting performance of the State of Tamil Nadu may be attributed to challenges related to industrial unrest. The high rate of industrial and social disputes is hampering the economic growth in Tamil Nadu. Stalled projects should be resumed and the grievances of workers should be resolved promptly, otherwise the State will lose the stature that it had built up over the centuries. It will also result in skewed

industrialisation where only powerful people will run the businesses and small investors will be abolished. All these issues should be noticed and taken care of by the Government in order for the State to continually prosper

Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh), then we find that it contributed about 42 per cent in the year 2003, which increased to 56.86 per cent in

Though it came down to 18.87 per cent in 2016, the damage had already been done by then. Tamil Nadu as the leading State was accounting for a sizable number of protests for various reasons.

There were protests to demand wage revision, as well as against ill-treatment and unemployment issues from different industries. Apart from these, there were also protests linked to professions such as blue-collar workers, manual labours, daily wage labours, technicians, auto engineers, Government sector jobs, sanitation workers, etc. for various

Often, protests led to a law-and-order crisis which when checked stringently by the Tamil Nadu police led to even more violent outbreaks. Police firing, either to dispel the crowd or to control the situation sometimes, resulted in vehement repercussions.

The Manjolai tea estate incident is a case in point where the act of firing 2 rounds of bullets in the air, resulted in numerous deaths.

The data from 37 districts of Tamil Nadu can be broadly categorised into seven kinds of protests. The first is that of the farmers and fishermen protesting against their land being taken to be utilised for some industrial purposes, or their water bodies being targeted, or inadequate compensation

received from the Government; the second kind is the protest by residents agitating against the industries depositing waste and contaminating drinking water; the third kind of protest is similar to the second kind, except for that it is undertaken by green activists; the fourth kind of protest is by workers who are trying to reopen the stalled projects in order to resume their livelihood; the fifth is against privatisation; the sixth is due to workers coming together to demand issues related to work and social security; the seventh and the last type which is still going on is because of units closing due to the lockdown in

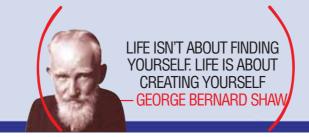
India owing to the Covid crisis.

The high rate of industrial

and social disputes is hampering the economic growth in Tamil Nadu. Stalled projects should be resumed and the grievances of workers should be resolved promptly, otherwise the state will lose the stature that it had built up over the centuries. It will also result in skewed industrialisation where only powerful people will run the businesses and small investors will be abolished. All these issues should be noticed and taken care of by the Government in order for the State to continually prosper.

(Anish Gupta and Mousumi Biswas are Assistant Professors at Delhi University and Rahul Ranjan is working with Ministry of Commerce and Industry. This article is an outcome of ICSSR-IMPRESS project titled Industrialisation and Social Unrest: A Case Study of Tamil



























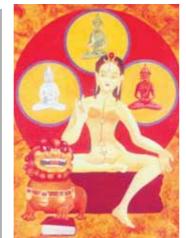






On the health front, you need to be alert this week. You may encounter some health challenges. Don't try to avoid them rather deal with them. Managing your stress level is important to stay in good health. Get enough rest and heal both physically and emotionally. On the career front, a good time is on the cards. You will experience happiness and satisfaction concerning work. Your near and dear ones will be happy to see your progress. Promotion, success in a project will be yours. Those awaiting interview results will get good news and will get their desired job. On the personal front, you may have to face some issues in love. At such a time, don't get tense and give yourself and your partner some space to deal with the problem.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Beige Lucky day Sunday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week your health will be good. Pay attention to diet, exercise and take some time to rest. You might feel disengaged or demotivated in general and try to cut yourself out from the world. This may not be the right thing to do. On the career front, things will go well. If you are facing challenges, follow a compassionate approach towards work. You may experience a sense of calm and emotional connectedness with others. Trust your intuition to bring balance. This is a make-or-break period in your relationship. Evaluate everything and be true to yourself and your needs. Be very clear about what you want from life and your relationships and take steps to make it happen.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week there will be an abundance of opportunities to entertain yourself and spend quality time. This will be reflected in your health. The charm and attraction in your persona will be magnetic and others feel positive vibes in your company. Family plays a major role in your success whether it is personal or professional. On the career front, something good is likely to happen. The dilemma you had been facing the last few days will get over now and you can look forward bright future. Your colleague or friend is quite supportive of you. If you are in the line of promotion it may come to you soon. On the personal front, love and romance are in the air. Those seeking love will meet the partner of their liking this week.

Lucky number 15 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Thursday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you may overwork yourself into exhaustion. Stress may take a serious toll on your body. There are things you need to do to rebuild yourself. First, calm down and take adequate sleep and rest. You need to prioritise your activities so that you can balance your work and health. On the career front, you may have a difficult time. Your feelings or ego might get bruised with something that happens at your work. You need to follow a different approach and take some assistance in this regard. Those looking for employment should probably look at a different field. On the relationship front, you need to be open to the other person for it to work. Don't avoid any issues in your relations, because it will only make things worse.

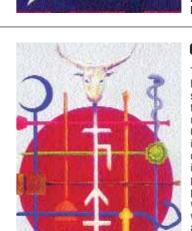
Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Monday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you may be down with health problems but don't lose heart. You need to take a spiritual leap and heal yourself with meditation and positive thinking. Take care of yourself and allow yourself to get in touch with your inner strength to heal faster. Stay positive in terms of work. You will have to make this line your ally in difficult times. You may worry and be full of anxiety about something concerning your work. Understand that this is not going to help, rather leave your anxiety and focus on what you can control. On the relationship front, be resilient in your relationship with others. There will be challenges but if you give space to yourself and your partner, any differences can be resolved

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you will enjoy the warmth of relations and a healthy lifestyle. You feel physically, emotionally and spiritually a sound and a happy person. Things are at their right place. Those with heart and BP problems will recover fast with proper medical attention and willpower. Career-wise, the week promises monetary gains. Those in business could earn good money. The income may come from more than one source. Business expansion is indicated. You may meet an influential person who could prove highly beneficial in terms of your career. On the personal front, you are a positive and caring person. You work for the benefit of others, and this will work very well in terms of your relations too. Love demands your attention which probably you won't be able to pay much.

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour White **Lucky day** Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week moderation and balance is the key to good health. Ensure that you are eating well, sleeping well and exercising the right amount. Look where you are out of balance and try to remedy it. Work-wise, this week you will be enthusiastic about your work. Your confidence levels will be high and you are ready to take on new projects. However, you also tend to be impulsive. Don't rush into things and take into account what consequences of your actions can be in the future. On the personal front, you will rejoice in friendship and harmonious relationships. You are open to helping others which in turn means others are helping you. Some of you will be celebrating some special occasion with close family members.

Lucky number 18 Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Your energy and vitality will be high this week. Make sure to take out time for adequate rest as well. You can take care of yourself and when faced with health challenges, with a positive mindset you will not only face them but will be able to overcome them. At your workplace, you may find yourself engaging in conflict or disagreeing with others. This might be due to your behaviour. Trying to accomplish your personal goals with disregard to their consequences on others, you might think to be a winner but still, end up being a loser. On the personal front, maybe you or your partner is working very hard in your jobs, but this might be interfering with your relationship. The workload is not letting you take out time for each

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week is not so lucky in health matters. There may be some seasonal ailments that you may suffer. Drink plenty of water and consume green salads. You are advised to avoid tea and coffee, or any kind of addiction this week. Stay away from black colour and try to include light pastel colours in your daily routine. On the work front, your wish could be accomplished this week. Those who are searching for a job; will get a call from the company they have been aspiring for. Your family and friends support will boost up your morale high. In the matter of love, you need to be a little soft and considerate in relations else you might spoil them. Avoid conflicts and confrontations which are likely to occur this week.

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week take a break from difficult times such as health worries and stress. It is good that you develop your mental strength. Practice meditation in calm space and do some spiritual thinking. This is a time to count your blessings and take things easy Professionally, your life is full of hope and good things. Things are going extremely well. New opportunities will come knocking at your door. A deeper understanding of yourself and others with mental stability will help you ease out any difficulty at the workplace. You may not be in a very comfortable position in your relationship at this point. It may be that either you or your beloved is having a tough time. You need to give your support.

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week your health may not be too good. Anxiety, stress, and worry will affect your life. Health challenges are likely to come your way. Make sure you are treating yourself well. A balanced diet, exercise and fluid intake will help you. More than this, meditation and breathing exercises are particularly useful to you. Workwise, you will have a pleasant time. Things are going well, and you are happy with your work. You may be bonding with coworkers. The work environment is also constructive. Money inflow is good. On the personal front, if you are in a committed relationship, then the bonds with your lover are stronger than before. You are tolerant of others, easily forgiving their imperfections. In doing so, you create a safe and trusting environment.

Lucky number 6 Lucky colour Purple Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You feel creative, enthusiastic, and full of energy this week. Health remains good and you take care of your near and dear ones. Your theory of 'Prevention is better than cure' will work well. On the work front, your creativity is reflected in your work. With unbounded energy and stamina, you could work day and night and finish the unfinished and pending tasks. You are a workaholic and attain the favour of your seniors. You may leave your colleagues and rivals surprised and overwhelmed. In the matter of heart, you are lucky as this week your search for the right partner will come to an end. There will be true bonding between you and your partner. The support for each other will be strengthening and increase your work efficiency.

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

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ASTROTURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Expand your vision nal challenges in the right perspective

≺he New Year has taken off on a sour note marked with phenomenal rise in Covid infections. Scientific study reveals that the Sun is subject to heightened activity (solar flare) every 11 years. After 9 such cycles get over, we become due for pandemic, as it happened during 2018-20, 1820, 1720, 1620 and 1520. Incidentally, 10th cycle of solar flare, since the last pandemic, began in December 2019, and immediately thereafter, the whole world came to a grinding halt. Government has imposed restriction in people's movement to curb spread of virus. It is a periodic environmental challenge, which recurs every hundred years but eventually passes after sometime, but not before hitting us hard. But in the usual run of our life, limiting tendencies of mind, will keep knocking us continuously, unless otherwise identified, acknowledged and consciously addressed.

The most glaring limiting tendency in evidence in large majority is a narrow vision. It limits you to self-defined beliefs and perceptions. It usually doesn't allow you the scope to go beyond for a reality check or explore better options if any. It doesn't let you perceive external or interdue and with obvious consequences. Our narrow vision has two roots. First the societal — the racial, religious, cultural, caste, lingual, political and economic divide — which of late has been growing beyond proportion. The paradox, however, is that we keep fighting in the name of our religious identity, but seldom do we realise the truth that Creator has not provided any scope for a divide. Otherwise, there would not have been just one Sun, common pool of space, air and water available to all in equal proportion.

Looked at a deeper level, the world happens to be a unified organism, where no existence has a reality independent of the whole. It is framed into an interdependent set up, where we are to complement and supplement each other's effort to carry on the cycle of life. For, no individual is capable of servicing one's existential needs in one's own right. In fact, we have a shared destiny. So any untoward happening at any end of the globe, has to have far reaching consequences. The recent pandemic offers us with a glaring example. It began somewhere in China but within no time it overtook the whole world. Even modern science



believes the same as would the saying of Australian physicist Paul Davies mean: "For a naïve realist, the world is a collection of objects. But for a quantum physicist, it is an inseparable web of vibrating energy patterns, where no individual component has a reality independent of the entirety, and including in that entirety

is the observer". The second source of our narrow vision are individualistic beliefs and our selfish desires, coming as they may with Karmic carryover from the past, which makes every individual unique. Each of us reflect varying mind and desire trends and often at odds with others. They define how we conduct in day to life and the way we relate to others. The world, thus becomes a natural breeding ground for conflict of thoughts and interests. We have to live with those having different identities, but we always remain suspicious about them. Consequently, a sense of unease prevails, which doesn't let you live in peace. Even in individualistic sense, life becomes full of pains and suf-

A case in point is that of a young man born with Cancer lagna, an emotionally oriented sign marked with

unpredictable mood swings. Crab is the symbology identified with Cancer sign. If a crab entraps something, it will hold on to it, even if it loses its claw in the process. It implies that if ever Cancer born pick up a belief or perception, they will remain emotionally stuck to them, no matter how much painful they prove. What further compounds his problem is that Moon, the sign lord is posited in the 8th house, identified with difficulties. If that would not be enough Saturn is placed adverse to Moon, which gives him a negative mindset, who will habitually remain suspicious of others and even his own conduct. Given a difficult situation, he will start sulking and get into a state of depression. He, thus, becomes vulnerable to become a victim of his own making. To come out of this hang, he needs to seek guidance from a proven Guru, who may help him overcome his mental limitations. And then, the positives within, that that are immense, will begin playing out unhindered and lead him to a better tomorrow

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