TOUGHENS ITS POSTURE

VIJAYWADA



*Late City Vol. 11 Issue 22

*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

EC extends poll rallies ban till Jan 31

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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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



"Since contesting candidates for Phase 1 elections will be finalised on January 28, 2022, the commission has decided to allow physical public meetings of political parties or contesting candidates in designated open spaces with a maximum of 500 people or 50 per cent of the capacity of the ground or the prescribed limit set by State Disaster Management Authorities, whichever number is lesser, from January 28, 2022, till February 8, 2022 (excluding the silence period)" it added

silence period)," it added.

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

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

 $M^{\text{aking a conscious effort to}}_{\text{shun the old baggage and}}$ present her party in a "new avatar" in Uttar Pradesh, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has hand-picked over 70 per cent new faces among the total 166 candidates for the high-stakes State Accombly, election State Assembly election.

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

heartland, which had slipped from the party hands in recent

Of the total 166 names

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

century-old party which has

political

into

from home turf

Akhilesh to fight

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

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

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

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

In a loud and clear message to the electorate that the BJP is

Shivpal to contest polls on SP ticket

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

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

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

Omicron not last variant: WHO

RNI Regn. No. CHHENG/2012/42718, Postal Reg. No. - RYP DN/34/2013-2015

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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"We must keep working to reduce Covid-19 transmission," she added.



Workers pack Covid-19 home isolation kits at Victory playground in Hyderabad on Saturday. Nearly 1 crore kits will be packed and sent across Telangana PTI

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

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

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

60% Goa MLAs disloyal: ADR

said in a report.

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

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

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

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

Covid-19 pandemic were either

partially or fully unvaccinated.

The study by Max Healthcare said the deaths reported were

largely among those aged over

multiple co-morbidities such as

kidney diseases, heart diseases

70 and those suffering from

RAPE ACCUSED SHOT

Muzaffarpur (Bihar). Two

diabetes, cancers, etc.

Goa ex-CM Laxmikant Parsekar to quit BJP

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

joined the ruling BJP, before contesting polls on its

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

death of Manohar Parrikar).

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

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

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

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

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

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



this tune is played at the end of the Beating the Retreat cere-mony at Vijay Chowk every year. The Retreat, an ancient military tradition, signals the end of fighting for the day, with soldiers sheathing arms and withdrawing from the battlefield. The hymn is set to the tune of Eventide by William Henry Monk.

Rupachandra.

faded

oblivion.

PNS NEW DELHI

to remain with the speaker through life and in death.

A favourite of Gandhiji

This year's ceremony will begin with "Fanfare" by Buglers, followed by "Veer Sainik" by the Massed Bands and six tunes by the Pipes and Drums band. Bands of the Central Armed Police Forces will play three tunes, followed by four tunes by the Air Force Band, which will include a special "Ladakoo" tune, by Flight Lt J. S



CAPSULE 7 killed, several injured in 60% DEATHS IN 3RD WAVE AMONG UNVACCINATED New Delhi: A study by a private hospital has said that 60 per cent of the patients who died during the current wave of

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

The fire erupted on the

"critical".

stand manager nabbed attacker

DEAD OUTSIDE COURT Gorakhpur: A rape accused was shot dead in front of the district courts here on Friday. The deceased has been identified as Dilshad Hussain, a resident of security guards and the vehicle

Mumbai skyscraper blaze TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI snorkel ladders were involved

18th floor of the high-rise building around 7.15 am. Of the 30 persons injured in the fire, seven succumbed to burn injuries, while the condition of six persons was reported to be designated it as a Level-3 (major) fire. In all, 13 fire ten-

While six persons, including two women, died in the

early part of the day, one person succumbed to burn injuries in the evening.

The injured have been admitted to Kasturba, Nair, Masina, Bhatia and Reliance hospital. Of the injured, seven were treated and allowed to go The Mumbai Fire Brigade

ders, seven water tankers, and

in the fire fighting operations. The fire brigade extinguished the fire at 12.20 pm. Though the cause of fire

has not been established, the massive plume of smoke emanating the fire-hit building enveloped south Mumbai skies, causing considerable anxiety among the residents in the neighbourhood.

While Prime minister Narendra Modi announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), the Maharashtra Government has announced an ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased.



PATANJALI



'I like human interest stories'

ROHIT ROY, who plays Ajay, a lawyer in MX Player's Sanak- Ek Junoon, speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about his role, his experience whilst shooting and the challenges

■What is your role?

It's a very interesting layered role. It's about a small town boy with big dreams in his eyes and it's about what lengths he wants to go through to attain what he thinks is success. Also it shows the cut throat world of the legal world in Mumbai. Being a junior lawyer, he desperately wants to become a senior lawyer and what all he does, that's Ajay in a nutshell.

■ How did you come on board for this project?

Vikram Bhatt is somebody who I have worked with in the past. In 2018, we did a show called *Memories*. Obviously he must have enjoyed something that he saw because the show was very good and I think my performance wasn't bad either. So he called me back again last year for Sanak- Ek Junoon". I think there is some level of trust that he has in me as an actor, that whatever is given to me will be delivered to the best of my abilities. So I think that's the reason sanak happened.

■ Do you relate to the role in real

Not at all. It's as different like chalk and cheese. Forget about relating to the character, I would not even think of stuff that Ajay actually ends up doing in the show. That's because we have a very different mentality. That's why I say it's the most challenging role I have done in my career till now.

Challenging because there is no commonality and similar thought process between me and the character so I had to clearly build a brand new character. A lot of actors actually do that but when there is absolutely zero common ground between your real self and your character, you have to start everything from scratch and usually we don't have that kind of time, liberty and luxury. But with Sanak I had to do it because I realized that it would not have been believable.

■ How was it to act besides your co-



same hunger and jitters on day 1. You Aindrita is such a bundle of joy. know I really got along with her. Infact I really love her. She is like a little kid. I know her from before personally She is a big star down South but she's and socially which made things got the hunger of a newcomer and easier. I'm very fond of her and she that's what I like. Because I had the is very fond of me. That kind of really

makes a difference when you are doing a show like Sanak where you are playing husband and wife. Our intimate scenes and husband-wife scenes were very comfortable to shoot because I know her and I'm fond of her and vice versa. It was really good to work with her.

■ An anecdote from the series which is very close to your heart.

There are several anecdotes from the stories but one thing that I'll never forget is the first shot that Aindritta and I did. On day 1, she kept fluffing up her lines and it went to a stage where we were wondering whether we could finish the show. That's one thing that I can narrate as it was day 1. Day 2, she was a completely different human being. I would fluff up some dialogues but she was going on like a rocket. I think that's one more thing that I realised working with her. Sometimes the beginnings can be slow but the end is at speed.

■ How did acting happen?

Acting happened to me in a way quite by accident I would say. It's not something that I had planned. I had come to Mumbai to do my MBA and I didn't get a visa. I had never desired to become an actor or model. But I had no plan B as my visa got rejected. I had nothing to do and at that point I kind of got an offer to become an actor. Quite frankly, the offer didn't come to me but came to Mansi to act in swabhiman. She wasn't interested in acting in television. I called the producer and asked him whether I can do this role and audition. So that's how swabhiman happened and I call myself an actor by accident.

■ How is working for a TV show different from a film?

TV shows are shot very fast and back to back. We don't have the liberty to spend time on characterisation, dialogues and look. Whatever is given to us we quickly enact it and get it on the way because it is going to telecast the next day and that's the pressure of television. But having

said that, that's also a very good training ground for an actor. Now when I do movies, you don't have to tell me anything.

I'm already prepared, that

pressure is a great help in your acting. We used to do seven pages of dialogue on 1 shot in television. We used to remember our dialogues and also the co-actors' lines. That helps you but in cinema you have the luxury of building a character, role and creating a brand new character from scratch. Working on the nuances, clothing, just the way the character stands, talks, walks and all of that. I think that's the essential difference. Film is a little larger than life wheras in television it Should be a little more natural.

■What kind of stories attract

I like human interest stories. For me that's what I really like and Sanak is a part of a genre that I like. It's a thriller but it is still a human interest story. Its about a couple and their relationship. Other than that I like romance and watch romance. I hate doing romance because I'm bad at it. I find it very odd but I love watching romance and comedy.

■ What have the challenges been like till now?

I don't know what challenges I faced on a particular project but every project has it's different set of challenges. Like coming back to creating a role, not knowing what the outcome is going to be so you are taking a risk about what you think is right. You know the way I played Ajay is not necessarily the way people might perceive, see or like it. That's a risk you are taking. All that stays in your mind when you are shooting for a project. But half way through the project, you go into auto

Then recent times have been tough and challenging because of COVID. But otherwise it's all a great journey. I don't see it as the challenges I faced but I see it as part of the process.

Plan Your Sunday



GA-GHAZAL WITH HARIHARAN

'Ga Ghazal' is a first of-its-kind masterclass by Hariharan, where he will teach the participants one newly composed ghazal of Ghalib. The ghazal has been specially composed for the masterclass, giving the participants the unique opportunity to not only learn from the this ghazal maestro but also learn a composition hitherto unheard.

Over 2 sessions, Hariharan will split the Ghazal into two learnable sections, so as to allow participants to grasp the

finer nuances of the lyric and melody. A Q&A segment shall conclude each session. Hariharan is a name that has come to symbolize soulful singing. From his hits 'Thamizha Thamizha' and 'Tu Hi Re' in Roja, to 2 National Awards for the songs, he has sung in multiple languages and remains most popular playback singers in India.

What: Workshops Where: Online

When: November 20 and 21, 2021 Time: 6 pm and 7 pm

SHOULD ART 2021

new work | on his poetry Javed akhtar and sumantra ghosal

ar

On His Poetry, a very special Sunday morning presentation! Poet, lyricist, screenwriter, and activist, Javed Akhtar and filmmaker and translator extraordinaire Sumantra Ghosal, come together for the first time in public, to share love of poetry, translations and wicked

A jugalbandi of words, worlds, and languages, Javed Akhtar will present his poems in Urdu followed by



Sumantra Ghosal's luminous translations in English, interspersed with thoughts on inspiration, discovery, process, blocks, happy resolutions. Internal journeys and candid insights all shared with a sparkling humor and

What: Theatre and Arts Where: Online When: November 7, 2021

'HAATHI MERE SAATHI IS INSPIRED BY ONE OF MY TRAILS'

When humanity serves nature, nature serves humanity! This festive season, echoing the importance of coexistence, &pictures brings a heart-warming tale of friendship, love, harmony and full-on hope with the channel premiere of Haathi Mere Saathi on 7th November at 8 pm. Translating the remarkable bond shared between humans and animals, the film narrates the heroic story of how the two races come to protect other from people trying to destroy the ecosystem. With the premiere of this film, the channel aims to bring mindful cinema to fore and celebrate a thoughtful and spirited festive season with its audiences.

With a powerful message that strings us all together and reflects on our deeds, this adventure film is written and directed by the talented Prabu Solomon. Haathi Mere Saathi is an essential plea of great relevance and the cast including Rana Daggubati, Pulkit Samrat,



Shriya Pilgaonkar, Zoya Hussain and Anant dynamism. This Diwali weekend, get ready to revel in the land of the mighty elephants with the &pictures premiere of Haathi Mere Saathi on 7th November at 8 pm.

Sharing his experience, Rana Daggubati said. "The unspoken bond between humans and animals has always been special to me. Haathi Mere Saathi has taken the emotion to a new height. I have always taken something back from my projects, but this film has

transformed me in ways I never thought. It helped my conscience grow bit by bit. As an actor, my focus has been to give quality content to my audience and Haathi Mere Saathi is a movie that will entertain and inspire the viewers. I am glad to be a part of cinema with a cause." Sharing his thought behind making this

movie, Prabu Solomon said, "I have tried my best at exploring the land in its rawest form. Haathi Mere Saathi is one such story inspired by one of my trails. I believe art adds an edge to a cause and this film was my canvas to the world. I wanted this film to be a thought-provoking masterpiece and seeing the response obtained from the audience quenched my purpose to an extent."

Haathi Mere Saathi is a heartening tale of Bandev's (Rana Daggubati) perseverance and his deep connection with nature.

WAGLE PARIVAAR KICKS OFF DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

Sony SAB's Wagle Ki Duniya - Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey continues to light up India's mood every week with a new set of struggles that the Wagle Parivaar tackles with their individualistic charisma and charm. The show caters to three different generations making it the channel's most popular and loved show on Indian television. Wagle Ki Duniya adopts the true essence of Diwali and continues to spread its heartwarming simplicity and joy through the show. This Diwali is even more special for the cast as they welcomed the festival of lights onto their sets with a fun-

What is a Diwali party without fun and games? The cast was split up into two teams, and it was time for fun activities to begin. The ladoo making activity engrossed the two teams in a healthy competition, and they were eager to see themselves as the champions. Later the atmosphere was filled with a melodious mood with an Antakshari mehfil, leading all the actors to iam to their favourite songs. Like the show, the party's atmosphere was filled with laughter, chatter and banter which was a true celebration of their beautiful bond.

filled Diwali party.



Wagle Ki Duniya - Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey truly embodies the spirit of every Indian family and portrays their problems with positivity and optimism, much like the spirit of

Bharati Achrekar essaying the role of Radhika Wagle, said, "Wagle Ki Duniya is loved by the audience so much, and I am really thankful to our viewers who have accepted us with open arms and are showering their love on us. 'Wagle Parivaar' is my second family and having this opportunity of celebrating Diwali with my family made me so happy. The concept of our show resonates with the audience, and what's better than celebrating it with your

favourite cast? This Diwali, I urge all my fans and well-wishers to spend quality time with their families and make the most of this festival. I wish my viewers a pleased and prosperous Diwali."

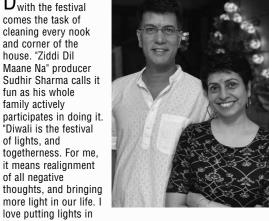
Sumeet Raghavan, essaying the role of Rajesh Wagle, said, Working on the sets is always so fun, and I relate with the stories that I'm usually portraying as I find myself thinking of past incidents from my life similar to that shown the show. This Diwali became even more special as I got to celebrate it with all my cast members. I loved the ladoo making competition; it is my favourite Diwali sweet, and to compete to make the most ladoos, brought the child in me to

life. I must say I got a little too competitive. But none of this fun and merrymaking would have been possible without our viewers and our fans who keep showering their love onto us. I wish them all a happy and prosperous Diwali." Pariva Pranati, essaying the

role of Vandana Wagle, said, "To see the set transformed with Diwali decorations was absolu breathtaking. I'm glad I got to celebrate Diwali with my cast; we have all grown close to each other, almost like a real family. I especially had fun playing antakshari with them and reminisced about my childhood days where no party was over without a round of antakshari. So in a way, Wagle Ki Duniya reminds me of all the different stages in my life because there is always a character, young or old. who is going through something that all of us might have gone through and to see it come to life with such a lighthearted spirit is absolutely magical. We all would know a Vandana or a Raiesh or someone like Sakhi and Atharva. and I think that's what everyone loves about the show, and I am grateful that we get to play those characters and bring a smile to people's faces.'

DIWALI CLEANING- A FUN ACTIVITY

Diwali is here and with the festival comes the task of cleaning every nook and corner of the house. "Ziddi Dil Maane Na" producer Sudhir Sharma calls it fun as his whole family actively participates in doing it. "Diwali is the festival of lights, and togetherness. For me, it means realignment of all negative thoughts, and bringing



my house and lighting diyas and then spending time with my family with lots of sweets and other delicacies. We decorate our mandir area and have a Laxmi puja at home in the evening. It looks so beautiful and you get such positive energy from it," he said. "Of course the day starts with deep cleaning of the house, where all family members participate. It's such a fun activity. Everyone contributes and it's a great lesson for kids too because they get to know everything that happens around a festival," he added Sudhir, however, feels that every festival has its own charm

festival has its own charm and that's why I don't have one favorite festival. Having said that, Holi is something I always look forward to. I love colours and I can play with them all day long. I feel we all are very lucky that we get to celebrate so many festivals. There is something special in each one of them. Not to forget that's the time to shine and dress up," he said.

and it's a good excuse to flaunt your best outfits. "I think every

So what are your Diwali plans this year? "I will be celebrating it with my Ziddi Dil Maane Na team and my family,"

DIPALI PANSARE ON DIWALI

↑hikoo Ki Mummy Dur Kei Jactress Dipali Pansare loves Diwali and says her child enjoying the festival as much as her is her best Diwali memory. "I love Diwali. I feel Diwali time has an amazing and different feel. Since childhood I have loved this festival. Lighting the diyas, making rangoli and meeting family members bring so much positivity. Being a Maharashtrian girl, I also love all the amazing

"I was never fond of firecrackers, but when I see

Ruaan growing up I see how fascinated he is for anar and phoolihadi. Last year only he understood the meaning of Diwali, so my child enjoying Diwali as much as me is the best memory," she added.

Her husband and Ruaan are currently in Jammu. "I have taken a break for a few days. I am going to my in-laws' place (Jammu) and will be celebrating it with my family," said the actress, who features in the show produced by Herumb Kot and Nilanjana Purkayasstha.

DIWALI BRINGS LIGHT INTO PEOPLE'S LIVES

hikoo Ki Mummy Durr Kei producer UHerumb Khot has shared the significance of Diwali and his plans this year. "For me, Diwali is a festival that brings joy and light into people's lives," he said. Sharing his Diwali plans this year, he said, "It will be same as every year. I'll either go for a biking trip or will be at home." He is spiritual, but he is not much into rituals. Festivals are seen as occasions to get all dressed up. "It's a part of the joy of Diwali, especially after the pandemic we need a rocking Diwali and a reason to dress up well and party hard. Work from home has spoiled everyone," he said. While growing up, his favourite festival was Diwali. "I would love the traditional sweetmeats, the new clothes and the holidays of course," he shared. We wish audiences continue loving your show!



SNEHA NAMANANDI VOICED FOR PAW-SAFE DIWALI

 $D_{\text{and friends, gorge on good food, decorate}}^{\text{iwali means spending fun time with family}}$ our houses with lights and divas and bursting crackers the whole night. While all these make us happy, we should not forget that bursting crackers disturbs pets, says actorentrepreneur Sneha Namanandi. Phonophobia, the fear of loud sounds, is commonly seen in a lot of pets during Diwali. Some pets may even show their anxiety by salivating too much, yawning continuously or

pacing up and down. "Diwali is a wonderful festival. It gets people together. Laxmi puja is a very auspicious occasion for all of us in India and we celebrate it with a lot of conviction. It's a belief system. We all believe so much in the Laxmi puja and we actually celebrate it with a lot of dedication and sincerity," says the Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 actor, adding that there are certain things concerning animals that one should keep in mind while having fun.

"It's wonderful getting people together



and enjoying the festival and praying. But, we should not be selfish while doing all of these. Animals, who are outside on the streets and

also in our homes, really get affected by the sound of crackers. They get anxiety, panic and a lot of things related to crackers affect animals. Along with the sound, they go through a lot of chemical reactions because of the crackers, which is really harmful for the strays. It is our duty to be responsible and take care of the animals around us because if we don't do that who will. All I want to say is be selfless and also be responsible and take care of the strays around you. One small moment that we initiate can actually help the

It's heartbreaking to see how crackers affect pets and strays, how they react to the sounds of crackers. "My own dog hides in the corner and sits quietly, panicking. We really don't want to see them like that. So we personally take care of it and don't use a lot of crackers, one or two phuljaris and some colorful ones. I'm sure there are chemical-free crackers, which are available in the market. Please look out for that," she shares.

pets to have a happy and safe life," she adds.

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Procurement of

Paddy procurement extended by a week



STAFF REPORTER **RAIPUR**

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday announced that paddy procurement on minimum support price has been extended

The paddy will now be pro-

cured from farmers till February 7. The earlier last date was January 31. Baghel made the announcement during a virtual review meeting on paddy procure-

ment. Food and Civil Supplies Minister Amarjeet Bhagat also attended virtually. The Chief Minister asked the

officers to ensure arrange ments for the millers to lift the paddy directly from the societies. It will save the transportation cost of the procured paddy, and custom

milling will be faster. He called for expediting the custom milling work besides ensuring 100 percent off-take of paddy by April. He asked for monitoring the payment to

Baghel appreciated that till date 6 lakh tonnes of rice have been deposited with the Food Corporation of India. He called for speeding up the process to achieve the target set for the central pool.

Naxalites kill police spy, torch vehicles

STAFF REPORTER

Naxalites killed a 45-year-old police spy and torched three vehicles engaged in road construction work in separate incidents in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, the police said on Saturday.

RAIPUR

menced.

on Saturday.

Forest

The Naxalites committed the murder on Friday and dumped his body on Gangloor road, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Kamlochan Kashyap said.

The police on Saturday morning recovered the body of a man identified as Ando Ram, he said. In another incident

Naxalites on Friday torched three vehicles engaged in road construction in Cherkanti Patelpara village. They set fire to a truck, a

CB machine and another neavy vehicle which were being used in the construction work under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the officer added.

Anganwadi. He added that the farm-

The procured millets will

Mohammad Akbar said the intention of the government

is to increase the millet pro-

be distributed for mid-day

meal programme, public dis-

tribution system and nutri-

tional food programme of

duction in the state.



ers have also been covered under Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana and get input subsidies.

As part of value addition, small processing units and packaging units will be established in millets producing villages. Women's groups and youth will be trained in technical aspects

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel attended a virtual meeting presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on aspirational districts on Saturday.

Date extended for filing exam form

STAFF REPORTER

The date for filing the application form of the Chhattisgarh State Open School main/chance examination with late fee has been extended till January 31. The late fee is Rs 500.

Earlier, the last date was Keeping in view the surge n Covid-19 across the state and in the interest of students, a decision was made to

extend the date, an official

communication said. The students can contact their nearest study centre for details. The list of study cenwebsite www.sos.cg.nic.in

women in rural areas.

tableau depicts the develop-

ment of gauthans into Rural

Industrial Parks. Women are

developing their own

enterprises by using new

technologies and machines.

tries in the villages. The middle section shows how the

goals of environmental pro-

tection, organic farming,

nutrition, employment and

income improvement can be

achieved by placing cows at

the centre of the rural

woman painting symbolizes

Lastly, the view of rural

development of

They run small indus-

Oil extraction, pulse mills to be installed: CM Baghel



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

hhattisgarh **∪**Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday said work to set up an oil extraction mill and a pulse mill will start in Gauthans to boost livelihood opportunities and to develop them as Rural Industrial Parks.

In the first phase, 148 Gauthans will have oil extraction and pulse mills in 188

क्रं. निविदा सुचना

क्र.∕दिनांक

G-67031/4

6/14.01.2022 90697

7/14.01.2022 90714

8/14.01.2022 90717

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता

लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग खण्ड गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही

जिला -गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही (छ.ग.)

Email id - eegpm-phe@cg.gov.in

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

कार्यों के लिए जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन द्वारा एकीकत पंजीयन व्यवस्था मे

कार्य का विवरण - जिला गौरेला पेण्डा मरवाही के विकास खण्ड पेण्डा के

विभिन्न ग्रामों में जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत एकल ग्राम जल प्रदाय योजना कार्य

ग्राम का नाम

झाबर ,कुदरी

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा सामान्य शर्ते धरोहर राशि विस्तत निविदा विज्ञप्ति निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई- प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in में दिनांक 18.01.2022 से देखे जा सकते है

सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकत ठेकेदारों से आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

सिस्टम

क्रमांक

बिड सबमिशन की अंतिम तिथि- 11.02.2022

ऑनलाईन निविदाएं प्रपत्र- ए में प्रतिशत दर अनुबंध हेतू नीचे उल्लेखित

He was addressing a virtual programme organized here to transfer the installment funds to beneficiaries under Godhan Nyay Yojana, an official communication said.

He released Rs 4.21 ores to cattle rearers Gauthan committees and women Self-Help Groups associated with Gauthans. Till date, Rs 122.17 crores have been paid to cattle rear-

विकास अनुमानित लागत

(रू. लाख में)

108.33

121.33

130.97

खुण्ड

पेण्ड्रा

कार्यपालन अभियंता

लो.स्वा.यां.खण्ड गौरेला -पेण्डा-मरवाही

जिला गौरेला -पेण्डा-मरवाही

ers against cow dung.

The Chief Minister said the Godhan Nyay Yojana is being operated on a mission mode in the state. The target are fully operational.

is to ensure and boost liveli-

hood opportunities. Of the sanctioned 10,591 Gauthans in the state, 7,933

(C.G. Govt. Undertaking) CIN-U40108CT2003SGC015820 GST - 22AADCC5773E1ZX CHHATTISGARH STATE LOAD DESPATCH CENTRE: RAIPUR PHONE: 0771-2574172. FAX NO. 0771-2574174 Web Sile season dates communication of the control of No.03-02/SLDC/TR-179/1739 Raipur, Dtd. 19/01/2022

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITE

Tender No. :

Name of the Work:

Tender for Annual Maintenance Contract of 25 Nos. Split Air Conditioners Installed at Backup SLDC, CSPTCL, Khedamara, Bhilai

Important dates: Last date for Submission of Tender Document: 10/02/2022, upto 03:00 PM Only. Date of opening of Tender Document: 10/02/2022 at 03:30

www.sldccg.com

PM The detailed Tender is also available at our official website: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (SLDC) CSPTCL, RAIPUR // Save Electricity //

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियन्ता, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड बलरामपुर जिला बलरामपुर (छ.ग.) निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से नम्नलिखित कार्य हेत ऑनलाईन (Online)निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

कार्य का नाम RETROFITTING/SVS OF PIPED WATER SIPPLY SCHEME under jal jeevan mission as per NIT निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 31-01-2022 स. सिस्टम निविदा सूचना

क्र.	क्रमांक	क्र. ∕दिनोंक		लागत	
1	89882	63/30.12.2021	SHANTOSHINNAGAR,	156.34	
			MAHRAJGANJ		
	उपरोक्त	कार्य की निविदा	की सामान्य शर्ते धरोहर राशि र्	वस्तत निविदा	

विज्ञप्ति दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई - प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है ।

कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड

बलरामपुर (छ.ग.)

वैक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा Regional Office, Jeevan Prakash, L.I.C. Building, Pandri, Bank of Baroda Raipur (C.G.), PH: 0771 - 4222611, 4222612 E-mail: recovery.raipur@bankofbaroda.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Possession Date

,68,815.00

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective lotices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The under mentioned Borrower / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub - section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. Demand Notice Date,

0.915	Name/Ph.No.	Guarantor		Amount & Symbolic / Physical Possession
	Raipur 9752099535	Director: Mrs. Ranjana Deshmukh & Mr. Abhay Kale, Guarantor: Mr.Abhay Kale, Mrs. Ranjana Deshmukh, Mr. Rajesh Deshmukh, Mr. Sushil	Darogamuda, Vikas Nagar, Street No 1, Kotra Road, Raigarh area 2400 sqft standing in the name of Mr. Rajesh Deshmukh, Mr. Sushil Deshmukh, Mr. Nishant Deshmukh. Bounded: On the North by: House of Manish Agrawal, On the South by: House of other. On the East by: Road. On the West by:	+ interest + other charges 17.01.2022 Raipur 18.01.2022 Raigarh Symbolic Possession

The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned property and any alings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Date: 21.01.2022, Place: Raipur, Chhattisgarh Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

C'garh tableau on 'Godhan Yojana' to roll out on Rajpath

hhattisgarh's tableau, depicting the 'Godhan Nyay Yojana, is all set to roll out on Rajpath on Republic Day on January 26. The Ministry of Defence on Saturday showcased it to national media during a press preview in New Delhi.

The tableau portrays the scheme in such a way as to address the multiple global concerns by synergizing traditional knowledge and scientific approach to the use of rural resources. The tableau has depic-

tions of rural women, traditional tribal costume, wearing handmade clothes and jewellery collecting cow dung and taking them to the collection centres Gauthans for sale.

One of these women is shown preparing products from cow dung and taking them to the market to sell.



The flower pots decorated around them symbolize the cultivation of vegetables and

Downstairs there is a decoration of 'diyas' (lamp) made of cow dung, which

traditional crafts and arts in the state. The tableau depicts evolving water management

> farmer in a mural style. Tribal dancers who will be accompanying the tableau also performed 'Kaksaar'

productivity and a happy

dance in front of the media. 10 gamblers

Four held for theft at Cong leader's house

STAFF REPORTER BILASPUR

ith the arrest of four Police Saturday claimed to have busted a gang which robbed a Congress leader's house of cash and ornaments worth Rs 4.5 lakhs.

Six others including the mastermind are on the run. Talking to The Pioneer,

Bilaspur Senior Superintendent of Police Parul Mathur identified the arrested robbers as Durgesh Dhruv (28), Ajay Dhruv (21), Chhotu Singh (23) and Anand Toppo (22).

The first two are from Bilaspur district and the other two from Sundergarh



district in Odisha.

Efforts are on to nab those absconding: Ramzan alias Ballu, Michael Singh alias Bablu, Anil Sai, Ayub Khan, Tulsi and Ramzan alias Balla.

They robbed the house of the Secretary of Bilaspur District Congress Committee (Rural) Takeshwar Patle when he was not at home in Darrighat village on January 13. Based on the analysis of

over 1,000 CCTV footage and following a specific tip, one of the police teams nabbed Singh and Toppo from Odisha. They told the police that

Durgesh Dhruv and Balla had planned to teach a lesson

They told that Dhruv learnt that Patle had framed him in an attempt to murder case in 2017. Durgesh and Ajay were arrested from the Lawar village. They confessed their involvement in the crime and named all other accused involved in the

The cash and ornaments have not been seized so far.

held in Durg



hhattisgarh Police have Carrested 10 gamblers from a village in Durg dis-

trict, it was announced on

A raid netted Rs 10.96 lakhs in cash and playing cards from them, Durg Senior Superintendent of Police Badri Narayan Meena

They were gambling on a roadside farm house in Sirsakala village.

Delhi lays down SOPs for Covid-19 cases

on basis of districts and assembly constituencies are part of the SOPs laid down by the Delhi government.

In an order issued last week, the Health Department stated that it has pre-pared SOPs for Covid-care centres which also listed out guidelines to be followed for telecalling patients.

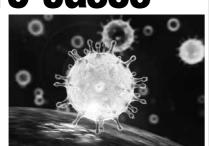
Under the SOPs, labs have been directed to give real-time data within 20 hours to the State Covid-19 Response Centre. They have been directed to segregate cases on the basis of districts, assembly names and wards, etc. This data will be published on the integrated manage-

The tele-calling unit of the Covid-centre is responsible for calling up the patient within half-a-hour of testing positive, it In case a patient requires admission, the team from the centre has to reach within an hour and facilitate it, With respect to other positive cases, all will be given visit, in coordination with the CDMO, on the first

'A home-visit team will do assessment and physical triage on spot and decide whether patient can be managed in Home

day itself within four hours and time will

be noted on software.



isolation as per guidelines or need to be shifted to the Covid facility. In brief patients may be categorized -- fit for hospital; fit for CCC; fit for Centre, fit for home isolation or Un-cooperative," it

It also said that the home visit team may consult or facilitate patient for videocalling with Doctor at Covid Care Centre, The team will coordinate with HI team at Centre for admission / isolation and shall share phone/mobile numbers of Centre, HI team, and Home visit team members and also form a whatsapp group with the pos-itive patient and will be responsible to follow the patient for the duration of home

There are 61,954 active cases in Delhi of which 48,356 are in home isolation according to government data.

AAP: SDMC looting funds in | Woman allegedly raped by cop forced to name of increasing number of students in its schools

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Chief Spokesperson and MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj on Saturday accused the BJPruled south corporation of "looting" funds in the name of increasing number of students in its schools.

"The corporation is lying about the number of student enrolled in South MCD schools in order to get funds for facilities like midday meals, uniforms, books, and more. All of it indicates a massive corruption scandal," he said. Bhardwaj said that the South MCD is citing an increase of 93,000. "We believe that many students have left MCD schools as a result of the dismal condition of these schools," he said.

Kuldeep Khatri, the head of MCD School Teachers Association said that the merger of schools proves that the increase of one lakh in number of students is baseless. 29 schools are being shut in South MCD while it claims an increase of 93,000 students on paper. 'This figure is a doubtful, false claim. The Delhi Government added 20,000 classrooms since 2015, while MCD schools were reduced from 1,739 to 1,637. While the Delhi Government gets

praised for transforming the face of public education globally, the BJP-ruled MCD gets ridiculed for the dilapidated state of its schools," he said.

Replying to AAP's claim, Delhi BJP

Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that with civic polls nearing the anxiety of AAP leaders to malign the image of municipal corporations is increasing with every passing day and they are now raising irrational issues.

AAP leader Saurabh Bhardwaj has raised the issue of merger of few schools of South DMC which is totally irrational. "Several areas of Delhi which were originally residential have with passage of time converted into commercial areas and people have shifted residence from there to other parts. In schools in such areas the number of students has drastically gone done due to which MCD has been forced to merge them with nearby properly operative schools," he added Kapoor further said that during

Covid phase due to economic reasons thousands of parents have been forced to withdraw their wards from private schools and admit them in municipal primary schools thereby raising strength of students studying in municipal

withdraw plaint; Delhi court seeks report

from a senior police officer after a rape victim alleged that she was being pressured to sign certain documents in his office, with the court saying that investigating agencies cannot conduct themselves out of the bound of due process of

The 22-year-old woman had moved the court alleging rape by a head constable, claiming that he used her as a honey trap to arrest a wanted criminal, and sought action against him. The court had earlier called an action taken report from the police on her plea.

The rape victim had on Friday appeared

before the court through video conference and alleged that she was called to the office of assistant commissioner of police (ACP) and made to sign certain documents. She further claimed that the accused cop was pressuring her to withdraw the complaint.

On her complaint, Metropolitan Magistrate Vaibhav Chaurasia asked the ACP to answer on what documents the complainant was forced to sign. "Report be called from the ACP as to for what reasons the complainant has been called to the ACP office and further the averments to being pressured to sign on certain documents are true or not. It is directed that the investigating agency cannot conduct themselves out of the bound of due process of law," the judge said.

Furthermore, the court directed the deputy commissioner of police to ensure safety and security of the rape victim.

Sahni, the woman had alleged that she came in contact with the head constable in November 2020, when she made a complaint at the police control room against a harasser.

She stated that the complaint was marked to the head constable, who was then posted at the Shahbad Dairy Police Station. He started spending time with her and expressed his desire to marry her.

She further alleged in the complaint that the accused established forceful physical rela-

tion with her in November 2020. The woman also told the court that the accused misused her photographs via a social media account to contact a wanted criminal Pankaj Sura and let her talk to the criminal over voice and video calls in 2021. She said the criminal was arrested in June 2021 with her help. She, however, got badly injured in an accident caused by police officers when she was riding the bike with the criminal.

The complainant alleged that the police officers did not pay any attention to her and got busy in arresting Sura near the Rithala Metro Station. The woman further claimed that she has invited enmity from the associates of the criminal for assisting the police and was attacked on July 25, 2021, but no action was taken by the police.

Explaining her ordeal, she alleged that she got pregnant and on July 10, 2021, the accused took her to some private hospital and aborted the child against her consent.

Partly cloudy sky

forecast in Delhi

on Republic Day

HC directs UIDAI to give info of people issued fake Aadhaar cards

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has directed the UIDAI to provide information relating to over 400 people who were allegedly issued fake Aadhaar cards for enrollment for civil defence training in the nation-

Justice Chandra Dhari Singh allowed the petition filed by the Delhi government seeking direction to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to disclose information on the Aadhar card holders sought by an investigation agency for probe of a case.

The case was lodged by the Anti Corruption Branch for the alleged offences of criminal conspiracy under the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention

of Corruption Act.
"This court is inclined to allow the instant petition. The respondent (UIDAI) is hereby directed to provide all relevant information, qua the persons named in annexure... Of the petition, as required for the purposes of investigation as per the provisions of the Aadhaar

is also directed to investigate the matter, upon receiving the requested information, with due regard to the provisions of the statute," the court said.

According to the petition, a complaint of Vijender Gupta was received in the Delhi government's Anti Corruption Branch stating that the manner of recruitment of marshals for DTC buses was illegal.

It was further alleged that the recruitment process was manipulated and the district magistrate had issued fake certificates, certifying as Delhi residents for making Aadhaar cards, to over 400 people from his home state Rajasthan and

Man kills wife over

sale of flat in Saket

New Delhi: A 57-year-old man allegedly killed his wife over the

issue of selling of their flat in south Delhi's Saket area, police said

floor inside the bedroom of their first floor house with no vis-

aunt called him and asked him to come on the first floor when

she lived. He immediately rushed there and knocked on the door,

Pandey opened the door in clothes soaked in blood and there

was a deep cut on his left side of neck, Deputy Commissioner

The man called the ambulance and, in the meantime, his cousin,

the son of his aunt, also reached there from Okhla as he had also

lance doctor checked his on the victim and declared her dead.

They also shifted her husband to Max Hospital, who is under

The crime team found a blood-stained kitchen knife on the

During enquiry, Shivam, the son of the deceased, said that

Chander worked in front office of a hotel in Connaught Place

there were some issues between his parents regarding the house

and was under depression due to being unemployed for the last

der) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered and further

investigation is going on, police added. Shashi Lata's body was

Chander asked him to call police saying that "it's all over".

The victim, Shashi Lata Pandey (52), was found lying on the

According to police, the caller said that around 6 pm his

The incident took place on Friday and police

His statement could not be obtained as he

His father wanted to sell the

A case under section 302 (mur-

His uncle Chander Mohan

The ambu-

on Saturday. The incident took place of received the PCR call at 7.09 pm, they said.

ible injury on her body, police said.

of Police (south) Benita Mary Jaiker said.

received a call from his mother, the DCP said.

was not fit and was being shifted to ICU, Jaiker said.

house, but his mother wanted to stay here, police said.

a senior police officer said.

LCD panel of drawing room.

shifted to AIIMS mortuary, they said.

in which they lived.

two years, they said.



had compelled them to pay Rs 2 lakh per head.

It was alleged that a large number of Aadhaar cards with bogus Delhi addresses were made for people from Rajasthan at the Aadhaar centre functioning in the office of the district magistrate on hol-

on the basis of the complaint, an FIR was lodged in January 2020. The prosecutor submitted before the court that the then district magistrate had committed criminal misconduct by abusing official position as public ing official position as public servant with an ulterior motive to give benefit to ineligible people, and in total, around 450 cards who had enrolled for training in civil defence.

She said the information sought by the investigation agency was crucial for establishing the forgery committed and disclosure of such an information by the authority in no way amounts to invasion of right to privacy of the card holders.

The counsel for UIDAI submitted that the authority has no objection in sharing the information being sought, to the extent and in a manner as permissible under the provisions of the Aadhar Act, on being directed by this



Haryana tableau artists during a press preview, ahead of the Republic Day Parade 2022, in New Delhi on Saturday

Delhi excise policy

Wholesalers asked to check for spurious liquor and report to authorities

New Delhi: The Delhi Excise department has asked all wholesalers to start testing liquor received from manufacturers and upload reports on a portal along with undertaking that there is no spurious alco-

Under the new excise policy of the Delhi government, each wholesale licensee is required to set up an approved laboratory at its warehouses to check the presence of spurious liquor in each batch of liquor received from the manufac-

An order issued by the Excise department earlier this month directed L-1 (wholesale) licensees to initiate testing and upload test report for each batch received from manufacturer/distillery along with an undertaking that the liquor is not spurious and is as per approved label specifications and as per prescribed BIS specification in testing module on

The wholesale licensees have started setting up testing mechanism but it is work under progress so far," said a senior Excise department offi-In December last year, the department had issued a reminder to wholesale

licensees to furnish the status of setting up the laboratory at L-1 premises with specific input on purchase of lab equipments, chemicals and hiring of technical staff. The licensees had earlier

sought extension of two months to streamline the supply of Indian manufactured foreign liquor to retailers in time, officials said.

found that no wholesale licensees had submitted the requisite detail and asked them to provide the complete detail



by January 5 for the smooth functioning of the supply chain of the licensees concerned, they said. The new excise policy anticipates the wholesale licensees to systematically check the product being sent to them for spurious liquor and to inform the Excise department in case any spurious liquor is found in their supplies.

It also mandates appointment of a deputy commissioner (wholesale operations) who will be responsible for preventing supply of any spurious and adulterated liquor by manufacturers, wholesale distributors and liquor stores

The policy further stipulates constitution of special teams for sample collection from warehouses, retail vends, hotels, clubs and restaurants across all brands. Any L-1 licence holder or

retail shop owner found in possession spurious liquor will lose their entire licence and will be subject to criminal proceedings as prescribed under law, it states. They will be permanently blacklisted and barred from operating in Delhi and in good faith besides informing it to excise departments of other states, the policy lays down. The Delhi government will set up a

state-of-the-art lab which will specialise in detecting spurious The department had and counterfeit liquor. It will also work with the industry to set safety standards and practices, according to the

New Delhi: The India Meteorological Department has forecast partly cloudy sky with no likelihood of rainfall in Delhi on January 26 when the country holds grand Republic Day celebrations on Rajpath in the However, the weatherman has predicted shallow fog in the morning in the city that day.

The maximum temperature on January 26 is likely to hover between 17-19 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature is expected to settle around 5-7 degrees Celsius, the IMD said on Saturday. According to the forecast by IMD, western disturbance

lies over north Pakistan and neighbourhood with a trough aloft in mid and upper tropospheric wester-lies roughly along longitude 65°E to the north of latitude 28°N with an induced low pressure area over central parts of west Rajasthan in lower tropospheric lev-

On January 26, no rainfall is likely, but partly cloudy sky and shallow fog in the morning has been forecast. For two days, preceding the Republic Day, the weatherman has forecast partly cloudy sky and moderate fog in the morning. And, for Sunday the forecast is general cloudy sky, light to moderate rainfall in the morning, and very light rainfall in the evening, and gusty winds with speed of 15-25 kmph have also been predicted, the IMD said.

PTI

Rain brings down Delhi's maximum temp to season's lowest

New Delhi: Rain in Delhi on turday brought down maximum temperature to 14.7 degrees Celsius, seven notches below the season's average and also the lowest for the season so far, according to the India Meteorological Department.

The city has recorded 68 mm rainfall till January 22, the highest since 1995, when 69.8 mm rainfall was received.

The Safdarjung Observatory, which is considered the official marker for the city, recorded 5 mm rainfall till 8 am on Saturday. The minimum temperature settled at 11.5 degrees Celsius, four notches above the season's average, the IMD said.

Widespread rainfall is likely over Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, west Uttar Pradesh and north Rajasthan from January 21 to January 23 due to a Western Disturbance, the IMD said.



The relative humidity at 5.30 pm was 84 per cent, the weather office said. The weatherman has predicted generally cloudy sky with light rain or drizzle for Sunday. The maximum and minimum temperature are likely to settle around 16 and 10 degrees Celsius, respectively. Delhi's air quality was

air quality index (AQI) read 316 at 4 pm, Central Pollution Control Board data showed. The AQI of Faridabad (330) and Gurgaon (304) also

recorded in the "very poor" cat-While the AQI of neigh-

egory on Saturday. The 24-hour

bouring Ghaziabad (287), Greater Noida (260) and Noida (277) recorded in "poor" category. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe" PTI 500 "severe".



Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik creates a sand sculpture saluting Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on the eve of his 125th birth anniversary, at Puri beach on Saturday

Ukraine tensions: Russia toughens its posture

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

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

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

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



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

well as the alliance's weapons deployments there as a red line for Moscow, warning that he would order unspecified "military-technical measures" if the

demands aren't met. Putin pointed to NATO drills with the Ukrainian military, increasingly frequent visits of the alliance warships in the Black Sea and the flights of US bombers near Crimea to emphasize the urgency of Russia's security demands. He argued that by creating training centres in Úkraine, Western powers can establish a military foothold there even without its

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

Baltic nations to ship Washington-endorsed arms to Ukraine

AP ■ HELSINKI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Open Indo-Pacific'

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

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

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

2 prominent activists sentences to death by Myanmar court

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

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

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

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

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

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

The two are among the



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

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

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

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

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

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

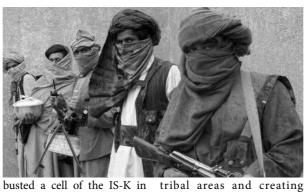
stepped up attacks in several cities in Afghanistan after the Taliban seized power in Kabul in August last year, was also responsible for carrying out a spate of terror attacks against Pakistan's security officials in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

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

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

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

Ansari said following these sustained attacks, police had



Peshawar on December 20 last

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

among the most dangerous.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stray bullet kills English astrophysicist visiting Atlanta



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

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

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

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

Willson was taken to a hospital and later pronounced

NYC police officer killed, 2nd critical in Harlem shooting

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

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

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

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

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

authorities said. Authorities said the three officers went to the apartment after a call came in from a woman needing help with McNeil, her son. Officers spoke with the woman and another son, but there was no mention

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

and opened fire, Chief of Detectives James Essig said.

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

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

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

Adams, three weeks into his job, called for federal authorities to do more to round up stolen guns like the one used in Friday's shooting.

Police said the gun used in Friday night's shooting, a .45caliber Glock with a highcapacity magazine capable of holding up to 40 extra rounds. had been stolen in Baltimore in

McNeil was on probation for a 2003 drug conviction in New York City. He also had several out-of-state arrests.

In 1998, he was arrested in South Carolina on suspicion of unlawfully carrying a pistol, but records show the matter was later dismissed.

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

PTI ■ LAHORE

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

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

world's 1st molecular-level analysis of Omicron

Toronto:A team of researchers, including an Indian-origin scientist at the prestigious University of British Columbia, has become the first in the world to conduct a molecular-level structural analysis of the Omicron spike protein, which could help accelerate the development of more effective treatments against the variant.

Spike protein helps the virus enter

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

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

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

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

	(CIII Lakir)									
		Standalone					Consolidated			
SI	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Nine Months Ended		Year Ended	Nine Month Ended	Year Ended	
No		31.12.21	30.09.21	31.12.20	31.12.21	31.12.20	31.03.21	31.12.21	31.03.21	
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited		
1	Total Income from Operations.	6351.96	5285.32	4449.16	15341.49	8583.05	13567.63	15341.49		
2	Profit before Interest, Depreciation & Taxes (EBITDA)	984.53	621.48	642.62	2118.71	1155.10	1909.27	2118.71		
3	Net Profit for the period (before Tax & Exceptional Items)	894.45	535.88	561.14	1860.70	892.04	1561.97	1860.70		
4	Net Profit for the period before Tax (after Exceptional	894.45	535.88	559.61	1860.70	890.51	1561.97	1860.70	ш	
	Items)			201712000					AB	
5	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional Items)	664.37	415.88	394.22	1382.10	641.83	1135.20	1382.10	2	
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [(Comprising	664.37	415.88	394.22	1382.10	641.83	1135.20	1382.10	ď	
	Profit) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive								¥.	
	Income (after tax)]								9	
7	Equity Share Capital	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00		
8	Reserves	7200.94	6536.57	5298.40	7200.94	5298.40	5818.84	7200.94		
9	Earnings Per Share (of ₹10/- each)	5.86	3.67	3.48	12.20	5.66	10.02	12.20		
	Basic & Diluted:									

Notes:

Sonipat, 22nd January 2022

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the website of Stock Exchange at www.bseindia.com and also on Company's website at www.jaschindustries.com.

2. The financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) 3. Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

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

TAAI seeks 'One India One Tourism' approach in Budget

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

at a global bidding fund in the Union Budget 2022-23 to enable bidding support to Indian MICE companies to bring global MICE events to India, as per TAAI. Lastly

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman while speaking at Broadband India Forum (BIF) event called upon wifi equipment makers to

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

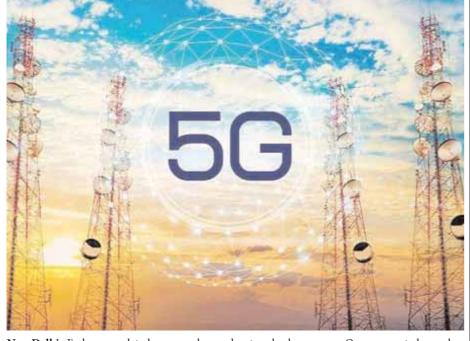
will be utilised for voluntary redemption of the company's NCDs (Non Convertible Debentures), pre-payment or scheduled re-payment of a portion of certain outstanding borrowings and general corporate purposes.

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

"We have aimed to create social impact
"Continuous commu-

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

very advanced network plan-

Auction for 5G spectrum Reliance Jio reported to

The sub-"We closed the quarter at 421 very strong 34.6 million. And

On a reported number basis, Jio's ARPU remained almost flat but the company's average revenue per user (ARPU) increased by 8.4 per cent to ₹ 151.6 on a year-onyear after making adjustments interconnection usage charges (IUC) which it had to pay to other operators. The IUC charges have become nil from January 1, 2021. Platforms posted an 8.8 per

cent increase in net profit at ₹3,795 crore for the third quarter ended December 2021. It had posted a net profit of ₹3,486 crore in the same period a year ago. Gross

revenue from operations increased by 5.76 per cent to ₹24,176 crore from ₹ 22,858 crore in the October-December 2020 period.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

zooms 80 pc as provisions decline

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

to ₹1,764 crore, despite a 0.25 per cent expansion in net interper cent expansion in net interest margin to 2.4 per cent but limited by the loan growth being suppressed at 4 per cent.

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

est income declined 31 per cent

cent to ₹ 266.43 crore in the quarter under review.

Given the de-bulking exercise where it has reduced high value loans and also de-leveraging exercises by corporates, loan growth guidance to 10 per cent from the earlier 15 per cent, Managing Director and CEO Prashant Kumar said.

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

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

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

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

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

Yes Bank Q3 profit | E-mobility start-up, VAAN Electric Moto, launches e-bikes in India Kochi: Indian lifestyle e-

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

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

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

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

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

with Shimano Tourney 7 speed derailleur gear system, front and rear disc brakes and Spinner USA front shocks.

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

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

release said.

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

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

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

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

PFS could not hold board meeting in absence of independent directors directors as per the norms of Securities and Exchange Board of New Delhi: Power solution

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

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

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

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

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

Amazon if it is willing to fund Rs 3,500 crore to repay the retail company's lenders. Notably, the question to Amazon was posted after the e-commerce giant in an earlier letter to independent directors

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

"Since you are objecting to the sale of

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

Confirm willingness to fund debt owned to

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

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

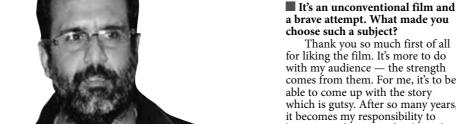
firmations in writing and agree to infuse ₹ 3,500 crore in order to repay FRL's lenders by January 29, 2022, we would be happy to assess a detailed proposal and meet Amazon India Head Abhijeet Muzumdar.'

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





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



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

nal with every subject you choose?

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

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

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

Grand musical journey

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

CookSmart



hile eating out is fun, sometimes you want to stay at home and yet make a dish that tastes like it came stright from the best restaurant kitchen. One such dish that most people balk at making is the risotto. Follow these tips to make a lipsmacking risotto

the stock on simmer. Stirring the rice constantly will add air

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

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

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

tomeSweetHome

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

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



spend big bucks on a corner that is empty, just add a plant. They add depth and character to a room. They also add much-needed colour to the roomand bring freshness. You can place plants in earthen pots, cups, mason jars or terrariums

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

Vlasterstroke

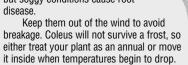


fter the huge success in North America OnetapHELLO recently launched their innovative tech product in the Indian market to change the way people connect, share information and network This start-up lets people share their information like contact details, social media profiles, business profiles.

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

Nature Iall

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

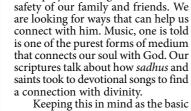


Most coleus plants require about 6 hours of sunlight in the morning hours with shade being preferred all afternoon.

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

Don't use cold stock. Keep into the risotto. slowly adding

things like mascarpone and parmesan for the end.



→he COVID-19 has once again

thrown a curve ball making us

pray for the good health and

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

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

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



scriptures that are relevant even today.

a step in this direction, says SHALINI SAKSENA

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

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

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

THIS SHOW IS VERY UNIQUE. THERE IS NO OTHER SHOW LIKE THIS ONE. THE CONCEPT IS NEW. I AM THRILLED THAT I WAS CHOSEN NOT ONLY AS JUDGE **BUT I AM THE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

♦ Could you tell us more about your book?

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

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

stant validation?

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

'We need to redefine success'



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

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

is something missing in them.

* What is mental well-being according to

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

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

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

Sound of.



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

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

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

India may try different options to avoid humiliation

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

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

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

With the two having flopped



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

which would lend some freshness to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Sindhu enters final of Syed Modi

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

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

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

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

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

IPL will start in last week of March

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

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

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

He also made it clear that the board's first preference is to hold the event in India.

"The BCCI was always keen on staging the 2022 edition that will see two new teams –

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

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

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

remains fluid.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sri Lanka and South Africa secure Super League quarterfinal spots

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

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

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

16 before Teddy Bishop and Kevin Wickham combined for a fruitful partnership, taking the West Indies to 102 for two after 26 overs. Bishop was eventually removed on 45 but

Jordan Johnson picked up where his team-

mate left off as he raced to 26.

Wickham reached his half-century before falling for 56.

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

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

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

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

his side towards the Super League quarterfinals as South Africa defeated Ireland by 153 runs in Tarouba. Van Heerden made 111 from 93 balls while Dewald Brevis better known as 'Baby

AB' contributed 96 to take South Africa's total of 315 for seven from their rain-reduced 47 overs before bowling out Ireland for 158.

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



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

the second Test in Wanderers, which led to lot of criticism from all quarters and former skipper Virat Kohli stating that they have had a word with the talented southpaw.

"There are always positive talks that as an individual what I can do. All the strokes are there but how can I play with patience and according to the situation. So a lot of discussions happen," Pant, who since then had scored a hundred in the third Test at Cape Town and followed it with career-best 85 in the second ODI, told reporters during a virtual interaction.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

"He had to undergo dialysis regularly for about three and half months. He also underwent bypass surgery about 23 years ago. Recently, he was admitted to a private hospital in Ekbalpur

with a chest infection," a family member said.

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

in win over Dutch opponent

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

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

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

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



advice to the crowd.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Villa rub salt into Toffees' wounds

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

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

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

charge of Everton following the sacking

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



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

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

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

first half. Ollie Watkins should have

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

first Villa start since joining on loan from Barcelona, but had a part to play

The Brazilian's header was tipped

From the resulting corner, Lucas

Digne came back to haunt his former

in the only goal.

over by Pickford.

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

Dominic Calvert-Lewin and

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

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

India eye goals in must-win game against Chinese Taipei



PTI NAVI MUMBAI

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

India were held to a goalless draw by lowerranked Iran in their tournament opener, while

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

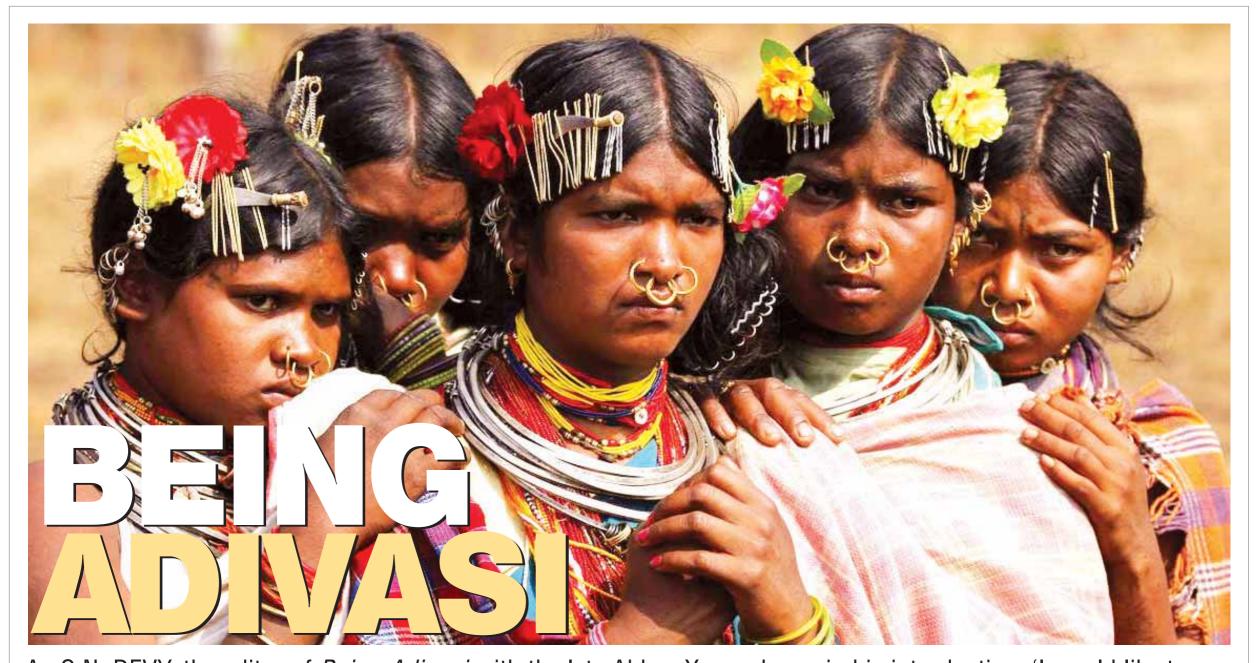
nental showpiece for the second time after 1979, will virtually send the country into the quarterfinals of the 12-nation tournament. Besides the two top teams, two third-placed

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

ip in Australia and New Zealand. Two more teams from the remaining four

uarterfinalists will also get direct berths to the of this tournament, which is highly probable.

Another former Liverpool midfield-Chinese Taipei were blanked 4-0 by eight-time World Cup if Australia make it to the semi-finals er Philippe Coutinho was quiet on his champions China.

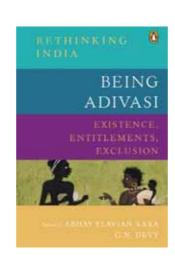


As G.N. DEVY, the editor of *Being Adivasi* with the late Abhay Xaxa, shares in his introduction: 'I would like to hope that it is received not just as a publication or academic exercise but as a prelude to change that is now overdue, a change that will bring to the Denotified & Nomadic communities at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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

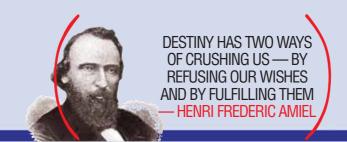
in India. Saxena states: "The oppressed tribals, unlike other disadvantaged groups, generally suffer and endure their exploitation silently. In some areas, however, they have taken to armed insurgency. The middle path of agitational politics by organising bundhs, taking out processions, and putting pressure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

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

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

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





DYNAMICS OF KARMA & DESTINY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HIDDENSOULS PRAMOD PATHAK



Disease of the century

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

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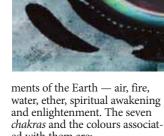
Meditate on colours

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

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

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

chakras can be related to the ele-



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

tration and anger. Red is the

and mind thereby increasing

colour that stimulates your body

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

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

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

painted green.

• Blue: Located at the base of

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

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

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

The writer is a visual artist

Are you secure?

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

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

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

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



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

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

materially and spiritually.

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

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

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Blot on American rights claims: Gitmo turns 20

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

The Guantanamo deten-

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Abu Gharib and the detention

cells of Guantanamo, we have

compromised our most pre-

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

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

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



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

India should use cash crops to its strategic advantage

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



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

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

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

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

Challenges faced by FCV farmers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vested groups and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





























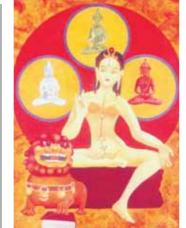




ARIES March 21-April 19

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

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

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

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

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

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour White Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

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

Lucky number 18 Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

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

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

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

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



GEMINI May 21-June 20

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

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

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

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



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

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

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



CANCER June 21-July 22

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

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

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

Lucky number 15 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Thursday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

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

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Beige Lucky day Sunday

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ASTROTURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Life: harmony of opposites

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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