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EC extends poll rallies ban till Jan 31

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid 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-to-door campaigning to 10 and allowed video vans for publicity at designated open spaces with coronavirus restrictions.

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



"Since contesting 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.

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 restrictions.

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

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Making a conscious effort to shed 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 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 years.

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

Akhilesh to fight from home turf

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party on Saturday confirmed that party chief Akhilesh Yadav 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

Shivpal to contest polls on SP ticket

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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.

BJP is 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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The World Health 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 3,63,01,482.

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 2020.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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 tickets.

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 - Jennifer Monserrate (Taleigao), Francisco Silveria (St Andre), Filipe Nery Rodrigues (Velim), Wilfred Nazareth MeninoD'sa (Nuvem), Clafasio Dias (Cuncolim), Antonio Carano Fernandes (St Cruz), Neelkanth Halarnkar (Tivim), Isidore Fernandes (Cancona), Atanasio Monserrate (who won the Panaji by election in 2019 after death of Manohar Parrikar).

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



prayer urging God to remain with the speaker through life and in death.

A favourite of Gandhiji, this tune is played at the end of the Beating the Retreat ceremony 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.

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 L S Rupachandra.

CAPSULE

60% DEATHS IN 3RD WAVE AMONG UNVACCINATED

New Delhi: A study by a private hospital has said that 60 per cent of the patients who died during the current wave of Covid-19 pandemic were either partially or fully unvaccinated. The study by Max Healthcare said the deaths reported were largely among those aged over 70 and those suffering from multiple co-morbidities such as kidney diseases, heart diseases, diabetes, cancers, etc.

RAPE ACCUSED SHOT 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 Muzaffarpur (Bihar). Two security guards and the vehicle stand manager nabbed attacker.

7 killed, several injured in Mumbai skyscraper blaze

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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 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 "critical".

While six persons, including two women, died in the



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

The Mumbai Fire Brigade designated it as a Level-3 (major) fire. In all, 13 fire tenders, seven water tankers, and snorkel ladders were

involved 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 from 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.

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Hundreds fined for not wearing masks, police to intensify checks

PNS ■ Jamshedpur

Health department has ramped up drives against citizens found not wearing masks in public places. On Saturday, over 100 people without masks were fined. Following the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Suraj Kumar, an intensive mask checking campaign was conducted in the entire district. Public health experts have attributed the rise in Covid cases in the city to widespread violations of mask and physical distancing rules. For example, the experts said weddings and unregulated social gatherings may have been responsible for case spikes. During the drive people were made aware about the use of masks while conducting a mask checking campaign in the square-squares, haat markets, malls and shops etc. of the district. Residents were alerted about the compliance of Covid rules and the use of masks. People were explained that to prevent corona infection, it is necessary that everyone must follow



the rules of use of masks, sanitizers and social distance. The main objective of this campaign is to make people aware of the necessity of wearing a mask to protect against corona, so that no person comes out of the house without wearing a mask and understands its importance. During this, strict instructions were given to the shopkeepers that no shopkeeper will buy and sell items without wearing a mask. A team from district administration

also conducted inspections at different check posts against those violating social distancing guidelines. The team was led by NK Lal ADM (Law and Order) and City SP Subhash Chandra Jat. The administration has come with 37 checkposts. During the inspection, ADM directed the personnel to ensure that all restrictions are strictly enforced and no complacency shall be accepted which would defeat the purpose of containing COVID-19 virus spread. Despite the rising number of COVID-19 cases, the administration has observed that not all are following the rules. "People are avoiding the precautionary measures to be followed to check the spread of the virus. We cannot afford to slip at this moment. We have started a strict enforcement drive," said the official. The administration has also made it mandatory for everyone to wear a mask (either three-layered or made of cloth) if they are outside their homes. And those violating this rule are being booked by the police.

Man duped of Rs 11.30 Lakh for getting Rs 50 Lakh loan

Nityanand Dubey ■ Garhwa

Rs. 11.30 lakh were cheated in the name of the representative of Micro Finance Company from Dashrath Ram, resident of Jhura village of Garhwa police station area. After taking the money, accused Dhar-mendra Singh filled bundles of paper in the bag in the name of giving Rs 40 lakh rupees of the loan and escaped. Based on the complaint Garhwa police registered an FIR under various sec-

tions of IPC. Victim Dashrath Ram said that he has a cement-rod shop in Tedi Haraiya village. A person was asking him to get a loan of Rs 50 lakh in the name of a micro finance company for four months. He gave security money of Rs. 11 lakh and Rs. 30 thousand for additional expenses. The accused also took papers from Dasharatha in the name of loan. Then after this he reached the shop on January 19 with a bag on the bike. The accused gave the bag to Dasharatha stating that it

contained Rs 40 lakh. He did not consider it appropriate to open it in the shop immediately. When he later reached home and opened the bag, he found bundles of paper in it. Until then the accused had absconded. When the victim wanted to contact the fraud over the phone, the mobile of the accused was found switched off. The victim reached the Garhwa police station and lodged an FIR. Police station in-charge Krishna Kumar said that police have registered an FIR and adding further investigation is underway.

Online Quiz Competition for Children organised at NTPC CMHQ

125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose

PNS ■ Ranchi

As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahastov, an online Quiz Competition for children was held on Saturday as part of the week-long celebration to Commemorate Netaji Subash Chandra Bose's Birth Anniversary at NTPC Coal Mining Headquarters, Ranchi. This year Govt. of India has decided to celebrate Republic Day Celebrations commencing from the date of birth anniversary of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. On the occasion, Mahua Mazumder, President, Swayamsiddha Ladies Club was the Chief Guest and Shri Alios Topno, General Manager (HR) was guest of honour for the quiz event. The participants for the quiz program were school children from Class 5th to 10th



standard who took part through online mode from all NTPC Coal Mining projects namely Pakri Barwadih, Chattibariattu, Keredari, Dulanga and Taliapalli. The quiz was conducted through MS Team and hosted by Tanmoy Dutta, DGM(HR) cum Quiz Master. In total 19 teams with two members in each team took part in the quiz show. The quiz was based on multiple-choice questions. The participants were given random questions based on Netaji Subas Chandra Bose life history and Indian Freedom Fighters. Children answered the questions live through whatsapp mode. The team who gave the maximum correct answers in the least minimum time was adjudged as the winner and runners respectively. Encouraging the participants, Mahua Mazumder said such quiz programmes are a good opportunity to have interaction, gain knowledge and appreciate the efforts of children who participated in large numbers. She added that everybody is a winner so each participant should enjoy the quiz. Alois Topno too appreciated the efforts for organizing the program and added that "never say we are losers, You all are winners".

Electricity consumers beat up junior engineer in Latehar

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

A junior engineer Birendra Kumar Chowdhury of the electricity department was assaulted by a few electricity consumers at village Kuchila under the Chhipadohar police station in Latehar district. The junior engineer sustained a fracture in his right thumb and hairline crack in his leg and wrist. Chowdhury said he and his team were out at Kuchila village for a raid and recovery of unpaid electricity bills when this bid on his life was made. Biswajeet Tiwary officer in charge of the Chhipadohar police station said Chowdhury has lodged an FIR against three named accused Nager, Sanjay and Permode of Kuchila village. The three come from the Yadav family. Nager and Sanjay are brothers. Police officer said we are trying to arrest the three named accused. They have fled from the

village. Section 353 of the IPC has been invoked against the three for assaulting a government servant on duty. Sources said electricity officials teams don't generally inform the nearest police station for two obvious reasons. One fear of the naxals and second public outrage. This team of the junior engineer Birendra Kumar Chowdhury too had not informed the Chhipadohar police about the raid and recovery. Raid is against the theft of power while recovery is of long pending dues of electricity consumed. Sources said the junior engineer team had detected power theft by way of operation of the motor pumps for irrigating the agricultural land. This detection of theft made some three consumers of the electricity go berserk with the junior engineer Birendra Kumar Chowdhury said sources.

Man alleges to be manhandled by BPO, operator in Garhwa

Nityanand Dubey ■ Garhwa

A villager was allegedly thrashed by Block Program Officer (BPO) and computer operator after he complained about payment in construction of well work at Garhwa block, on Thursday, Radheshyam Pal, a resident of dhuma village around 10 km away from district headquarter. Victim Pal said that a bribe was demanded from him to pay the remaining amount in the construction of the well under MNREGA scheme.

AISECT University awarded as Best Pvt Varsity of Hazaribag

PNS ■ Hazaribag

The Education Excellence Awards-2022 was organized online by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), in which Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais attended as the chief guest. Among the guests were Jharkhand Assembly Speaker Rabindranath Mahato and Education Minister Jagarnath Mahato, Vice Chancellor of Kalinga University Dr Sridhar, Director General of National Academy of Construction K Bixati, Executive Director of Madhyanchal Professional University Isha Patel and others were present. In the program, there was a detailed discussion on the difficulties of providing online education to remote areas during



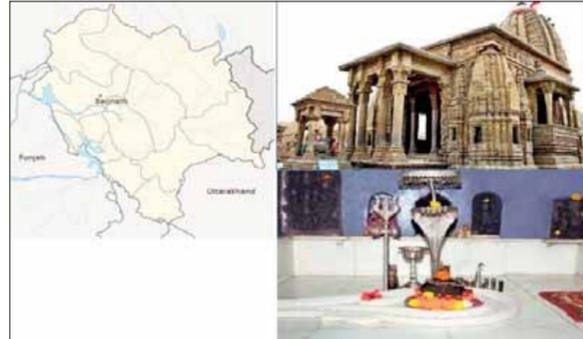
the Corona period and the aspects of making it successful with the help of alternative avenues. Meanwhile, Education Awards-2022 was announced by ASSOCHAM, AISECT University of Hazaribag was chosen for Best University of the Year in the program. Dr. Munish Govind, Registrar of AISECT University, who

was present in this online program, expressed happiness on receiving this honor and expressed his gratitude to all present in the program including Governor Ramesh Bais, Speaker of the Assembly, Rabindranath Mahato and Education Minister Jagarnath Mahato. He said that the aim of the AISECT University is to prepare the students for the modern environment by developing technical skills, traditional knowledge, values etc. On getting the title of Best Private University of the Year, Vice Chancellor of AISECT University Dr PK Nayak, Dean Academic Dr Vinod Kumar, Dean Admin Dr SR Rath, AR Admin Vijay Kumar, AR Examination Department Lalit Malviya, AR Enrollment Madhavi Mehta expressed happiness.

Shiva stories that connect India

By Aditya Chatterjee

Baidyanath Dham needs no introduction for Ranchi residents. Lord Shiva's temple at Deoghar is celebrated across the state. But do you know how Baidyanath Dham is connected with four other ancient Shiva temples separated by thousands of miles? Interestingly, all of these temples share a similar 'origin' story. Let us begin with the Shiva shrine at Baijnath, Himachal Pradesh. Located in the Mandi district, its neighbouring towns are Palampur and Kangra; the latter is known for its late medieval miniature school of painting. According to the temple's legend, in Treta Yuga, Ravana or Dashanana (the one with 10 heads), of the epic Ramayana, travelled to Mount Kailasha, Lord Shiva's abode in the Himalayas, in order to obtain great powers. When the Lord did not appear despite his fervent prayers, Ravana, as a form of complete surrender and sacrifice, started chopping off his heads one by one, and putting them in the sacrificial fire. Moved and pleased by Ravana's extreme devotion, Lord Shiva not only restored his heads - as a 'super-speciality' doctor or Vaidya will do - but also bestowed him with great powers. Ravana, thereafter, requested Lord Shiva to accompany him to Lanka. As per this legend, Shiva consented to Ravana's request and after con-



verting himself into a Shivalingam, asked Ravana to carry the Lingam to Lanka. He, however, placed one condition: Ravana, under no circumstance, should place the Shivalingam on the ground anywhere on his way to Lanka. For good measure, the Lord added, "Should you ever place me on the ground in this Lingam form anywhere en route to Lanka, I will forever rest then and there!" Ravana agreed to this condition and by chanting powerful mantras, was soon airborne. After a while, he reached Baijnath, the site of our first legend. The demon king, all of a sudden, started feeling terribly thirsty. Unknown to him, the Gods - alarmed by Lord Shiva's decision to move from Kailasha and remain in the company of his great devotee Ravana - decided to queer the pitch! Perhaps, they realised that the future battle between Lord Rama and Ravana might become problematic, if Lord Shiva joined Ravana at this stage. So, Lord Vishnu used his Maya to create a terrible thirst that overwhelmed Ravana. Flying overhead, Ravana spotted a young shepherd, who was really Lord Ganesha in disguise, and immediately came down on ground, asking for some water. Now, Lord Ganesha, in anticipation, had already requested the Lord of the Seas, Varuna, to fill the pot of water that he offered to Ravana. Since Lord Varuna had infused his powers into that pot, Ravana unknowingly drank a vast amount of water, and soon after quenching his thirst, felt a tremendous urge to urinate. According to orthodox Hindu

custom, the body becomes impure (or ashuddha) after urinating and/or defecating, and there are structured rituals about how to make one's body pure (shuddha) again. Given this custom, it was quite impossible for Ravana to hold onto the Shivalingam, while relieving himself! So, he requested the young shepherd to hold the Lingam for a few minutes, and went away to answer nature's call. But the opportunistic Lord Ganesha put the Lingam on the ground and thus, Lord Baijnath manifested himself. When Ravan returned, he realised that he has been tricked by the Gods and quietly went back to Lanka. Today, the Shivalingam as Baijnath is worshipped in the form of Ardhanarishwara, where Lord Shiva is fused vertically with His consort, the Goddess Shakti. The word 'Baij' is perhaps derived from the Sanskrit word, Vaidya (doctor); the reason has been previously explained. Ravana may have failed in his quest, but the people of Baijnath still hold him in great veneration. So much so, on the occasion of Vijayadashami or Dussehra when Ravana's effigy is burnt with much celebration across the country, this town remains remarkably quiet.

The writer is a communications professional. He explores various facets of ancient India and writes about the subcontinent's shared heritage. He may be contacted at aditya_chatterjee@yahoo.com.

करायालय उपायुक्त-सह-जिला दण्डाधिकारी, रांची (जिला शस्त्र शाखा)				
प्रेस विज्ञापित				
Arms (Amendment) Act 2019 No. 48 of 2019 दिनांक 13.12.2019 की कडिका 3 के अनुसार पूर्व में कोई भी व्यक्ति जो 02 (दो) से अधिक शस्त्र रखने हेतु विधिपूर्वक प्रतिकृत थे, वह अब इस संशोधन के फलस्वरूप मात्र 02 (दो) ही शस्त्र धारण कर सकते हैं। इस कार्यालय के आदेश 50/ शस्त्र दिनांक 20.01.2020 द्वारा स्थानीय दैनिक समाचार पत्रों में सूचना प्रकाशित कर सभी शस्त्र अनुज्ञापिका जो 02 (दो) से अधिक शस्त्र धारण किये हुए हैं, कोई एक शस्त्र को स्थानीय थाना/ओपीओ/सरकारी मालखाना/ शस्त्र एवं कार्टरूस विक्रेता दुकान के यहाँ जमा करने हेतु निर्देशित किया गया है। निर्माकित शस्त्र अनुज्ञापिका द्वारा धारण किये गये तीसरा शस्त्र को जमा नहीं किया गया है। इन सभी को पुनः स्मारित किये जाने के बावजूद भी उनसे तीसरा शस्त्र जमा की सूचना अप्राप्त है। ऐसे सभी अनुज्ञापिका द्वारा गृह मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा निर्गत Arms (Amendment) Act 2019 No. 48 of 2019, V-11026/42/2019-Arms dated 08-01-2020 एवं गृह, कारा एवं आपदा प्रबंधन विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार के पत्रांक 10/ शश0अनु-527/17 (खण्ड) - 311 दिनांक 20.01.2020 से प्राप्त निर्देश का अनुपालन नहीं किया गया है एवं अघोस्तताक्षरी के आदेश को भी गंभीरता से नहीं लिया गया है। गृह मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के पत्रांक 11026/42/2019-Arms (Vol. IV) दिनांक 26.08.2021 एवं गृह, कारा एवं आपदा प्रबंधन विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार के पत्रांक 10/ शश0अनु-527/2017 (खण्ड) - 3728 दिनांक 29.09.2021 द्वारा तीसरा शस्त्र जमा नहीं करने वाले अनुज्ञापिका के संदर्भ में की गयी कार्रवाई संबंधी प्रतिवदन की माँग की गयी है। उपरोक्त परिस्थिति में ऐसे अनुज्ञापिका को निर्देशित किया जाता है कि उनके नाम के समूख अंकित अनुज्ञापित संख्या पर धारित शस्त्र को दिनांक 31.01.2022 तक जमा कर दे अन्यथा उक्त अनुज्ञापित को रद्द कर दिया जायेगा एवं आपके विरुद्ध विधि सम्मत कार्रवाई की जायेगी।				
Sl. NO.	Name and Address	Police Station	Reminder Letter	L. No.
1	RAJ KUMAR SAHU ADD - ARGORA TELI KOCHA, PUNDAG ROAD, PS - ARGORA, RANCHI, JHARKHAND	Argora	पत्रांक - 486/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	01/2005/PS LAPUNG/RANCHI
2	MANOJ KUMAR SAHU ADD - JF-4/10, HARMU HOUSING COLONY, HARMU, PS - ARGORA, RANCHI, JHARKHAND	Argora	पत्रांक - 485/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	05/2008/PS ARGORA/RANCHI
3	VIJAYANAND PANDEY ADD - RADIUM ROAD, PS - KOTWALI, RANCHI JHARKHAND	Kotwali	पत्रांक - 533/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	I-7549/RANCHI
4	DEEPAK KR. SHAHDEO ADD - D1, KAMAL NAYAN, GAUTAM BUDH MARG, BESIDE GOVT. GIRLS SCHOOL, BARIYATU ROAD, PS - BARIYATU, RANCHI JHARKHAND	Bariyatu	पत्रांक - 510/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	01/2011/PS GONDA/RANCHI
5	PANCHAM SINGH ADD - WEST MORABADI MAIDAN, ANANDGRAM LANE NO-2, PS BARIYATU, RANCHI, JHARKHAND	Bariyatu	पत्रांक - 499/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	06/1993/CHAIBASA SADAR PS, OD NO. - 84/1999/RANCHI
6	SAVITRY DEVI ADD - 201/B SAMRIDHI ENCLAVE, ANANTPUR, PS - CHUTIA, RANCHI JHARKHAND	Chutia	पत्रांक - 503/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	04/2015/PS CHUTIA/RANCHI
7	ANOSH EKKA ADD - Q.NO-132, HIGHCOURT ROAD, PS - DORANDA, RANCHI, JHARKHAND	Doranda	पत्रांक - 505/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	11/2005/PS DORANDA/RANCHI
8	VIJAY KIJUR ADD - BIRSA NAGAR, BIRSA CHOWK, HATIA STATION ROAD, PS - JAGARNATHPUR, RANCHI JHARKHAND	Jagarnathpur	पत्रांक - 524/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	05/2000/GUMLA, OD NO. - 412/2003/RANCHI
9	ATISH KUMAR SINGH ADD - KUMAR BAG ROAD, ARSANDEY, PS - KANKE, RANCHI JHARKHAND	Kanke	पत्रांक - 525/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	02/2008/PS KANKE/RANCHI
10	BIJAY SARAWGI ADD - SWASTIK HOUSE GANDHI CHOWK, UPPER BAZAR, PS - KOTWALI, RANCHI JHARKHAND	Kotwali	पत्रांक - 529/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	04/2001/PS KOTWALI/RANCHI
11	MUSHTAQ AHMAD ADD - STAFF QTR NO-14, DORANDA, RANCHI JHARKHAND	Doranda	पत्रांक - 507/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	GML-35/2010 OD NO. - 15/2013/RANCHI
12	BINAY SARAWGI ADD - SWASTIK HOUSE GANDHI CHOWK, UPPER BAZAR, PS - KOTWALI, RANCHI JHARKHAND	Kotwali	पत्रांक - 530/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	04/2003/PS KOTWALI/RANCHI
13	NAGENDRA PRASAD SINHA ADD - LALPUR X-RAY CLINIC, PS - LALPUR, RANCHI JHARKHAND	Lalpur	पत्रांक - 535/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	I-6199/RANCHI
14	RAM CHANDRA RAM ADD - 619/F BURDWAN COMPOUND OPP PRATIBHA APARTMENT, PS - LALPUR RANCHI JHARKHAND	Lalpur	पत्रांक - 538/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	276/GAHWAR PS, OD NO. - 115/2010/RANCHI
15	SUNIL KUMAR ADD - NARAYAN 78A, BURDWAN COMPOUND, PS - LALPUR, RANCHI JHARKHAND	Lalpur	पत्रांक - 540/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	02/1998/PS SILLI/RANCHI
16	PARMESHWAR RAM ADD - FLAT NO-105, RADHA GOVIND STREET THARPAKHNA, PS - LOWER BAZAR, RANCHI JHARKHAND	Lower Bazar	पत्रांक - 544/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	13/94/GODDA PS, OD NO. - 09/2015/RANCHI
17	HEMANT KUMAR ADD - 'MANSAROWAR' BARIATU ROAD, BARAGAIN, PO- RMCH, PS - SADAR, RANCHI JHARKHAND	Sadar	पत्रांक - 559/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	I-7552/1989/RANCHI
18	VISHAKHA SINHA ADD - 'MANSAROWAR' BARIATU ROAD, BARAGAIN, PO- RMCH, PS - SADAR, RANCHI JHARKHAND	Sadar	पत्रांक - 560/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	06/2008/PS SADAR/RANCHI
19	SUNIL SHAHDEO ADD - STAFF BANK COLONY, PO-HEHAL, PS - SUKHDEVNAGAR, RANCHI JHARKHAND	Sukhdeonagar	पत्रांक - 568/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	23/2006/PS SUKHDEO NAGAR
20	ASHOK KUMAR SINGH ADD - C-412, SATYA APARTMENT, BEHIND RELIANCE MART, KANKE ROAD, PS GONDA, RANCHI, JHARKHAND	Gonda	पत्रांक - 572/ शस्त्र दिनांक - 24.08.2020	03/2003/PS KARON, OD NO. - 34/2014/RANCHI

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CM expresses reservations on proposed amendments to All India Cadre Services rules

Writes to PM, seeks burying the proposal at the current stage

PNS ■ Ranchi

Chief Minister Hemant Soren has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing deep concern over the proposed amendments in the All India Cadre Service Rules. "We are in receipt of a proposal from the Government of India which intends to introduce certain amendments in the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954. The disagreement of the Government of Jharkhand on the proposed amendments has already been communicated vide our letter no. 175 dated 12.01.2022. In the meantime, we have received another draft of the proposed amendments in the cadre rules of All India Services which, prima facie, appear to be more draconian than the previous proposal. I feel constrained to write this letter to express my

strong reservations and apprehensions about these proposed amendments and strongly urge you to bury it at this stage only," stated the CM. "First of all, it is not clear as to what has necessitated this drastic move to bring about these amendments whose only purpose and intent seems to force any officer of All India Services serving in the affairs of the State to come on deputation to Government of India without the consent of the concerned officer and NOC of the State Government. If the objective is to meet the shortage of officers serving in the affairs of the Government of India then, I must say, it is not a desirable move because the State Government exclusively get the services of only three category of officers i.e. IAS, IPS and IFS whereas the Government of India, every year, gets a huge pool of officers from more than 30 odd other All India Services for which UPSC makes recommendations without fail. The shortage in the Ministries of GOI can be easily met from this pool of officers," he further



said. "Here, I would like to reiterate that even though recruitments are being made after taking into consideration Central Deputation Reserve (CDR), the fact remains that there is an acute shortage of officers in small cadres like Jharkhand. As of today, only 140 IAS officers (65%) are working in the State as against the sanctioned strength of 215. Similarly, only 95

IPS officers (64%) are working in the affairs of the Government of Jharkhand against the sanctioned strength of 149. The situation is no better with respect to the Indian Forest Service cadre. This, you may agree, is not a comfortable scenario," asserted the CM. Soren wrote that many officers are holding more than one charge and the administrative work is suffering due to this acute shortage of officers. Further, forced removal of officers from this stressed pool will make it extremely difficult for the State Government to discharge its duties as are expected to be performed by any popularly elected government. Needless to state here, that most of the Central Government Schemes and Projects are implemented through State Governments only. The aggravated shortage of officers will hamper timely implementation of State Government and Central Government projects, he added.

"Sudden deputation of an officer outside his cadre will certainly cause immense disturbance to the officer and his family. It will also hamper and disrupt the education of his children. This will certainly demotivate the officer, lower his morale and create a fear psychosis in his mind. It is likely to affect his objectivity, performance and efficiency and the factor of uncertainty will always prevent him from giving his best while discharging his duties for the cause of poor people of a backward State like Jharkhand. He will also not be able to give candid opinion in matters which entail taking sides in sensitive matters of Centre-State disputes which are in plenty in a mineral rich State like Jharkhand. This scenario of duality will certainly impact their performance efficiency and accountability to the State Government. It will certainly cause permanent and irreparable damage to the functioning of bureaucracy in India," said the CM. "I would also like to iterate here that the proposed amendments seem to be

contrary to the spirit of cooperative federalism and fundamentally they appear to be an attempt to design a lever to exercise indirect control over the officers functioning in the affairs of the State where the political party in power is different from the one at the Centre. These amendments thus strike at the very root of the Constitutional Scheme of federal governance. Undoubtedly this move is likely to further strain the already stressed Centre State relations. It has immense potential to be misused for harassment of officers and vendetta politics against the State Government," he added. The CM further said, "In the light of the above, I hereby express my strong reservations against the proposed amendments in the Cadre Rules of All India Services. I would request you, therefore, to reconsider the proposed amendments so that the space for consultation and cooperation designed in the existing framework of the Constitution is not replaced by unilateralism."

CIL Chairman holds review meetings with Coal firms

PNS ■ Ranchi/Dhanbad

The Coal India Limited (CIL) Chairman Pramod Agrawal on Saturday hinted at a hike in coal prices after discussion with stakeholders such as Central Coalfields Limited, Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL). He held a review meeting with the stakeholders during his visit to the State. Agrawal first of all chaired a review meeting of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) at its headquarters in Ranchi on Saturday. The agenda of the meeting was to increase supply of coal to the power plants, situated in various states of the country. He also reviewed the implementation of the ERP in the company so that the stakeholders get benefitted from this new system. CMD, CCL PM Prasad, CMD, CMPDIL, Manoj Kumar and other senior officials of both companies were present during the meeting. Area General Managers were connected via video conferencing. The Chairman reviewed the performance of the company and issued necessary instructions to increase the production in the remaining period



CIL Chairman Pramod Agrawal holds a review meeting with Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) officials at headquarters in Ranchi on Saturday.

of the ongoing financial year 2021-22. He expressed confidence that CCL will attain the desired target of the current fiscal and asked each Area GMs to meet their targets of respective areas. He also asked the management of CCL to ensure uninterrupted supply of coal to the power plants. CMD CCL, Prasad briefed him on performance and related issues. After that the Chairman reviewed the performance of CMPDI, in Ranchi. CMD, CMPDI, Manoj Kumar briefed about the performance of

CMPDI including Implementation of ERP in CMPDI, Status of validation study by Drone, Status of E-auction and Cost Comparison between mining method with blasting and without blasting (with Xentric Rippers) and other related issues. Agrawal praised the work done by CMPDI in implementation of First Mile Connectivity (FMC) projects of CIL. Apart from various other decisions taken during the meeting, he directed CMPDI to complete the exercise under the 6 modules of ERP at the earliest for making it more effective. Concerned HoDs were directed to own the respective modules. Earlier on Friday, Agrawal reviewed BCCL's coal production record and said that it lags behind production targets but hoped that it would be able to reach its set target. He also asked the district administration to initiate steps for shifting of people from fire hit zones on priority basis. He said while interacting with Dhanbad Deputy Commissioner (DC), Sandeep Singh. Singh is also Managing Director, Jharia Rehabilitation and Development Authority (JRDA) that has responsibilities of implementation of Jharia Action Plan.

9 patients die due to Covid in State

Active caseload comes down to 23,770

PNS ■ Ranchi

With nine deaths and 23770 active cases, the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to keep the Jharkhand government on its toes as confirmed cases of Omicron variant too have been found. Three patients died on Friday at RIMS from the Covid identified as Pramod Pathak (Gaya), Chandramohan (Khunti), and Rita Devi from Palamu. Earlier deaths were reported in East Singhbhum, Deoghar, Dhanbad, Khunti and Ranchi district. Dr. Pradeep Bhattacharya said that the condition of the deceased was critical and they were suffering from various diseases. Currently, there are 75 Covid



Senior citizens show victory sign after getting booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine at Vaccination Centre in Ranchi on Saturday.

patients are admitted at RIMS. 17 of them are admitted to the intensive care unit. There are concerns about the manpower as staff and doctors at RIMS are getting affected by the pandemic. On Friday a total of 2167 samples were tested at RIMS out of which the report of 117 turned positive. Among them, 44 are RIMS health staff and doctors. While Ranchi continues to top the list of the district

with the maximum number of cases with a total of 487, it is followed by West Singhbhum with 466 cases. Jamshepur has reported 20 cases of the Omicron variant. On January 3, the local administration had sent 180 samples to Bhuvneshwar for genome sequencing out of which 20 were tested positive for this new variant. On Friday 2015 new cases were reported from Jharkhand. However, 3814 patients also recovered. Meanwhile, the government has intensified vaccination drive among. So far 2.42 crore people of 18 plus age group have been given the first dose of vaccine whereas 1.25 crore got both doses of vaccine. Youth aged between 15 and 17 too are getting vaccine. So far 809139 of them got their first dose against the target of 2398000.

INBRIEF

Training program at Bokaro Ispat Vidyalaya- 11D

As per CBSE guidelines one day in-house training program was organized in Bokaro Ispat Vidyalaya-11D. In the session four schools Bokaro Ispat Vidyalaya-11D, Bokaro Ispat Vidyalaya-12E, BISS-9E and BISS-8B operated by Bokaro steel participated. During the training DP Biswal Principal (Bokaro Ispat Vidyalaya-11D) gave detailed information on the topic "Experimental Learning in Practices" to the participants. In the training program KK Sinha, Assistant Manager (Education) and Principal (BISS-9E), SS Yadav, Principal (BISS-8B) and NK Rai, Principal (Bokaro Ispat Vidyalaya-12E) and other teachers were present. The training program was conducted by AD Singh and the vote of thanks by AK Thakur.



Patriotic Singing, Dance competition at PAS

As Republic Day approaches, the students of the Primary Wing of The Pentecostal Assembly School Bokaro were thrilled with their performances with a Patriotic theme and hence to instill patriotism in students, a song and dance competition was organised. Students of Prep to 2, sang different patriotic songs with a sense of pride, self-esteem and self-confidence and the students of 3 to 5 performed a dance on the patriotic song composed by the music teacher, Prasenjit Sharma "Aaj Ka Yah Aahwan Hai, Sath Chale Hardam". All the participants amazed the judges with their sense of rhythm and exemplary performances. They shot their videos and shared it in the classroom. They showcased their love and respect for the nation, its history and traditions. By singing these patriotic songs, Students expressed their devotion and vigorous support towards nation.



DAV Hazaribag student bags 2nd Prize

Ananya Singh of class XI has made a record by winning Second prize in Creative Writing, Poetry (senior category) Competition organised by Sarala Birla Public School, Ranchi. In the convolve 36 schools from 11 states of India and 2 countries participated. The Principal congratulated her and blessed her for her bright future. He also added that she has always been participating in scholastic as well as co scholastic activities with outstanding performance. J.K.Kapoor Chairman of the school cum Secretary DAV CMC New Delhi, J.P.Shour Director, Dr.Urmila Singh ARO Jharkhand Zone D, Manager M. K. Mishra and all members of the Local Managing Committee also showered their blessings on Ananya for her success.



Maoists blow up 2 mobile towers in Giridih

Pankaj Kumar ■ Dhanbad

CPI-Maoist once again let their presence felt, when the cadres blew up two mobile towers in Pirtand block of Giridih district on Friday night to protest the arrest of their top commander Prashant Bose and his wife Sheela Marandi. Heavy quantity of explosives was used for this by the Maoists. Besides, they also put up several posters in the area to spread message of protest. The mobile tower of Airtel company located at Khukhra as well as of Idea location aged at Madhuban were blown up in protest. Posters were spread at both locations demanding status of 'political prisoners' for both of them besides better



A mobile tower blown up by Maoists in Giridih on Friday Night.

health facilities for Prashant. Both the incidents were planned in such a manner to mark the beginning of the week long "pritiroth diwash" (revenge day) that started from midnight of January 21 and would con-

PM interacts with Simdega DC, takes development report

PNS ■ Ranchi

To know development and challenges of aspirational districts of the Country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with Simdega Deputy Commissioner (DC), Sushant Guarav on Saturday through virtual mode and asked him as to how he motivates the employees working under him. The DC replied that if the service related matter of the people is properly resolved, then people are very happy and if employees are given promotions and increments on time, then the enthusiasm of the employees remains high. During this programme, the DCs of the districts presented their report to the Prime Minister for about one and a half minutes on the development in various areas in the district due to inclusion in the aspirational scheme. In this, the details of the achievements of the district in the field of agriculture, education, health besides sports were presented. Simdega district got three minutes' time. During the online conversation Guarav said that whether one has come from the administrative service, whether from the agricultural service or from the engineering service, everyone is encouraged that they have come to serve and not to do one's jobs. "Arriving in the



Simdega Deputy Commissioner Sushant Guarav interacts with Prime Minister Narendra Modi (Not in the picture) during a virtual review meeting on Saturday.

office at 10 o'clock on any one day does not make the system better, but it has to be maintained regularly. If there is a lack in the motivation of an employee, then as a leader, it makes it an obligation to motivate him for better work from time to time. Apart from this, rewarding work is done from time to time based on the ranking of the work of the employees," he added. Before this, the DC also apprised about the work being done in the district under the aspirational district and the status of the district. He said that Simdega is a plateau district, soil here is acidic and poverty is rampant in Simdega due to low agricultural productivity. "Farming is being done in Simdega through solar lift irrigation in 5000 acres of land, connecting 1500 families with

public participation. Ragi has been cultivated in 2500 acres. The increase in agricultural production has proved to be helpful in removing the problem of malnutrition and anaemia in the district," he added. Gaurav further said that under the Aspirational District Programme, Simdega district has secured the third position in the whole Country by achieving more than 30 per cent achievement on all the five indicators. "In the field of education, 100 per cent schools have been electrified. Due to this there has been a 12 per cent increase in the enrollment of girls. A total of 30 stadiums are being constructed to promote sports in the district. In which international hockey stadium and two indoor stadiums are included. Last year two national level hockey competitions were organized in the district. International hockey player, Salima Tete from village Badkichapar of Simdega, reached the Tokyo Olympics," he added. In the end, the DC said that e-office is being successfully operated under good governance which has helped in taking the decision immediately. Good initiatives have also been taken in the field of health and oxygen plant and city scan facility has been provided, he added.

कार्यालय नगर पंचायत, खूँटी					
पत्रांक.....			खूँटी, दिनांक.....		
अति अल्पकालिन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं० KNP/16/2021-22					
क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	प्राकल्पित राशि (रु. पै०)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रु. पै०)	अद्यतन की राशि (रु. पै०)	कार्यदिश निर्गत होने से कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता	-	-	-	-
2	परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री की तिथि	-	-	-	-
3	निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय	-	-	-	-
4	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	-	-	-	-
5	परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री का स्थान	-	-	-	-
6	निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान	-	-	-	-
7	निविदा खोलने का स्थान	-	-	-	-
8	कार्य का विवरण	-	-	-	-
1	वार्ड नं० 01 में गायत्री नगर क्लोनी मोड़ से नीचे मोड़ तक पीसीसी पथ निर्माण कार्य।	5,19,372/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
2	वार्ड नं० 01 में उड्डुगु, मोड़ से नीचे टोली तक पीसीसी पथ निर्माण कार्य।	9,97,428/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
3	वार्ड नं० 02 में विरिन्द्र महतो के घर से बालकेशुन महतो के घर तक पीसीसी पथ निर्माण कार्य।	6,46,909/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
4	वार्ड नं० 03 में प्रकाश साहू के घर से रामू महतो के घर तक पीसीसी पथ निर्माण कार्य।	5,21,415/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
5	वार्ड नं० 04 में रंजीत मंडू के घर से दरशा सलना नाला तक पीसीसी पथ निर्माण कार्य।	9,99,643/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
6	वार्ड नं० 04 में छोटी पुलिया का निर्माण कार्य।	9,99,363/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
7	वार्ड नं० 05 में सुदर्शन पुरी के घर से मरियम तोपनो के घर तक पीसीसी पथ निर्माण कार्य।	5,30,011/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
8	वार्ड नं० 06 में वने स्कूल से राजीव राम मंडू के घर तक पीसीसी पथ मरम्मत कार्य।	5,01,594/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
9	वार्ड नं० 06 के मोहना टोली में पीसीसी पथ निर्माण कार्य।	6,24,684/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
10	वार्ड नं० 07 में पुराने दुर्गा मंदिर के पास पेंवर ब्लॉक कार्य।	5,05,534/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
11	वार्ड नं० 08 में महावीर पाहन के घर से आंगनावाड़ी तक पीसीसी पथ निर्माण एवं अटल क्लोनिंक से महावीर पाहन के घर तक पीसीसी पथ मरम्मत कार्य।	5,57,018/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
12	वार्ड नं० 09 में गुलाबी पेड़ से बीनू महतो के घर तक पीसीसी पथ मरम्मत कार्य।	3,48,731/-	1,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
13	वार्ड नं० 10 में आबिफ के घर से आजाद रोड तक पीसीसी पथ निर्माण कार्य।	3,16,754/-	1,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
14	वार्ड नं० 11 में गंदीस मिर्ज़ुर के घर से काला रोड तक पीसीसी पथ एवं दया सागर के पीछे से अरुण क्लीन के घर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य।	4,56,344/-	1,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
15	वार्ड नं० 12 में सुशीला देवी के घर से एतवा महतो के घर होते हुए पीपल पेड़ तक पीसीसी पथ मरम्मत कार्य।	5,77,312/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
16	वार्ड नं० 13 में मास्ती लॉज से महादेव महतो के घर तक पीसीसी पथ मरम्मत कार्य।	5,50,217/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
17	वार्ड नं० 14 में शोभा देवी के घर से पंजज साहू के घर होते हुए संतोष कुमार, काली साहू, पिंकी देवी के घर तक एवं इन्द्र राम के घर से सुखाना पिंकी के घर तक पीसीसी पथ निर्माण कार्य।	5,40,664/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
18	वार्ड नं० 15 में प्रभास सिंह के घर से मनोरमा देवी के घर तक पीसीसी पथ एवं विजय जायसवाल के घर से लकी कांत शर्मा के घर तक पेंवर ब्लॉक निर्माण कार्य।	7,43,844/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
19	वार्ड नं० 15 के लोकन कानन रोड नं० 03 में राजेश गुप्ता के घर पास पीसीसी पथ मरम्मत एवं कलमट निर्माण कार्य।	3,54,420/-	1,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
20	वार्ड नं० 16 के शातिपुर में मनोज चामिया के घर से संसार सिडू के घर तक एवं सुभाषिती तिकी के घर हना होरे के घर तक पीसीसी पथ निर्माण कार्य।	7,59,082/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
21	वार्ड नं० 17 में जय सिंह नाग के घर से नूना राम मांसी के घर तक एवं रानी तोपनो के घर से तुलसी तोपनो के घर तक पीसीसी पथ मरम्मत एवं कलमट निर्माण कार्य।	5,11,159/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
22	वार्ड नं० 18 में संगीता तोपनो से संगीता रोषनी सोय के घर एवं पीटर मुंडा के घर तक पीसीसी पथ निर्माण कार्य।	5,83,594/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days
23	वार्ड नं० 19 में लखन मुंडा के घर से निकोलस ओडेशा के घर तक पीसीसी पथ एवं कनना में कलमट निर्माण कार्य।	7,71,483/-	5,000/-	2 % of Estimated Amount	60 Days

PM: Backward dists now catalyst for development

Govt backing such districts, Modi tells DMs via video address

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

The Prime Minister was



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

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

Modi said "handholding of these districts is in focus" of his government.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Forces all set to enthrall audience

16 marching contingents, 17 military bands to take part in R-Day parade

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The Army will be represented by a mounted column of cavalry, 14 mechanised columns, six marching contingents and a fly past by advanced light helicopters of its aviation wing. The mechanised columns of the Army will show one PT-76 tank, one Centurion tank, two MBT Arjun MK-1 tanks, one APC TOPAS armoured personnel carriers, one BMP-I infantry fighting vehicle and two BMP-II infantry fighting vehicles, officials said here on Saturday.

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

Five marching contingents of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Police

Full dress rehearsal parade to be held at Central Vista

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

According to the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, there will be a total of 915 light poles, including those

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lieutenant General Vijay Kumar Mishra, General Officer Commanding Delhi Area, will be the parade commander and

Major General Alok Kacker, Chief of Staff Delhi Area, will be the second-in-command of the parade. The parade will start from Vijay Chowk and end at the National Stadium through the traditional route of Rajpath, it said.

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

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

The rear portion of the tableau shows symbol of Buddhism and motto of UDAAN - Sab Uden, Sab Juden.

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

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

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

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Around 2,000 cadre of various militant groups living in designated camps after signing a tripartite Suspension of Operation (SoO), a ceasefire pact, with the State and Central Governments in 2008, will now cast their votes in the forthcoming Assembly polls in Manipur.

Although they will not go to the polling stations to cast their vote, they have been allowed to vote through Postal Ballots. The Election Commission (EC) has allowed members of Manipur militant groups that signed ceasefire agreements with the government, whose names are listed in the electoral rolls and who are currently residing at various designated camps to vote in the forthcoming assembly polls by postal ballot. The state polls are scheduled to be held in two phases on February 27 and March 3.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Security personnel examine Rajpath on the eve of full dress rehearsal of the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on Saturday

Govt ropes in Ayush doctors for consultation on eSanjeevini portal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



doctors are helping in easing the burden and meeting the demands of scarcity in a big way.

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

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

Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had also recently informed.

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

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

Rahul: Govt trying hard to snatch public rights

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday hit out at the Modi Government accusing it of trying to destroy public rights.

Rahul said that the world's largest democracy is nothing without public rights and asked people whether they can imagine India without fundamental and public rights. "What's the point of the world's largest democracy without public rights? The Modi government has been trying to destroy the rights of the public from the beginning. Can you even imagine India without these rights including the fundamental rights?" he said in a social media post.

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



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

Addressing the media while launching the party's youth manifesto for Uttar Pradesh Assembly Elections a day earlier, Rahul had criticised the BJP government for depriving the youth of opportunities. "Youth is the biggest strength of India. They are called demographic dividend; Narendra Modi and the BJP has converted it into a demographic disaster... India needs a new vision and only the Congress party can give that vision to the country... The BJP's vision is not of the country's vision," he said.

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

Long Covid affecting human nervous system, says expert

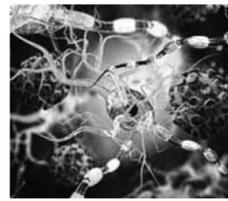
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



treat what is becoming an ever-increasing public health concern," emphasized Nath.

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

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

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

They also drew parallels between the symptoms experienced by individuals with Long Covid to those living with multiple sclerosis (MS), a chronic autoimmune disease of the central nervous system. "Owing to the significant variability in symptoms from person to person and the fact that many individuals with LongCovid were healthy prior to a relatively mild Covid-19 infection", the scientists have highlighted the urgent need for global research efforts.

NIA raids places in Punjab in Jalalabad IED blast case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The case relates to an explosion in a Bajaj Platina bike near Punjab National Bank, Jalalabad City, police station Jalalabad, Fazilka, Punjab. The NIA had re-registered the case on October 1 last year. Till now five accused persons have been arrested in the case, it added.



"Initial investigation revealed that accused were in touch with Pakistan-based terrorists/smugglers and were recruited for carrying out terrorist attacks in crowded areas by triggering explosive devices," it said.

TAAI seeks 'One India One Tourism' approach in Budget

Mumbai: The Travel Agents 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.

TAAI 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

well as domestic income tax 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

and most vital is a structured 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 agents money. **PTI**

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

New Delhi: India's hotel and 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

domestic travel for individuals 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 status.

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

New Delhi: Setting up of 1 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 said.

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," Rajaraman said.

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



deployed across the country till date. 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. **PTI**

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.

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

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

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

"We have aimed to create social impact and foster well being for our artisans, communities, employees and investors, using environmentally responsible and ethical means," it added. **PTI**

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

very advanced network planning 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.

Auction for 5G spectrum is expected to be held in the first quarter of the next financial year.

Reliance Jio reported to close the third quarter which ended December 31 with net addition of 1.02 crore customers year-on-year (YoY) at 42.1 crore.

The subscriber base, however, declined on a quarter-on-quarter basis. "We closed the quarter at 42.1 million subscribers. That was a reduction of 8.4 million, but the gross addition continued to be very strong 34.6 million. And the reduction was really on account of SIM consolidation and some of the less active customers, now with tariff increases, etc, looking at consolidating uses in a single SIM," Reliance Jio head of strategy Anshuman Thakur said. **PTI**

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-on-year 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.

Jio 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 crore earlier. **PTI**

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 provisions.

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 lower at ₹39,865.80 crore in the 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-on-year 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 fiscal.

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 release.

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 period.

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 about ₹4,018 crore compared 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. Its 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 per cent.

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**

Yes Bank Q3 profit 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 loans.

The bank's core net interest income declined 31 per cent to ₹1,764 crore, despite a 0.25 per 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 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, the bank has reduced its FY22 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 performing 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 restructured 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 COVID cases. **PTI**

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 Skill 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 future.

According to VAAN, the vehicles offer a maximum assistance (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. Both 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. VAAN claims that its removable battery is a first in this segment, 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. "The 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 integrated into the rear hub," the 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 said. 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 hour.

VAAN says the lithium-based removable battery weighing around 2.50 kg with a two-year 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 e-mobility start-up. It was globally launched at the EICMA motorcycle show in Italy. Vaan has technology partnership with the well-known motorcycle producer brand Benelli. **PTI**

Asia's first-ever Email Excellence Awards

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

PFS could not hold board meeting in absence of independent directors

New Delhi: Power solution provider PTC India arm PTC India 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 Nayyar and Thomas Mathew -- resigned en masse from the board of PFS citing corporate governance issues. The source told PTI that the PFS cannot hold board meeting in the absence of all three independent

directors as per the norms of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The source also stated that now the company will have to seek SEBI permission or exemption for holding its board meeting. 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 confidential.

At present, there are three members on board of the PFC, Rajib Kumar Mishra (CMD of PTC India), Pankaj Goel (CFO of 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". **PTI**

Confirm willingness to fund debt owned to lenders: FRL independent directors to Amazon

New Delhi: Future Retail's independent directors have asked e-commerce giant Amazon if it is willing to fund Rs 3,500 crore to repay the retail company's lenders. Notably, the question to Amazon was posted after the e-commerce giant in an earlier letter to independent directors objected to the sale of Future Retail Ltd (FRL)'s small-format stores.

"FRL is in need for cash infusion urgently in order to repay its lenders. FRL is required to pay its lenders ₹3,500 crore by January 29, failing which it will be classified as an NPA," said the letter dated January 21.

"Since you are objecting to the sale of

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

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 by January 22, 2022.

"Once you have provided these confirmations 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 Mumzdar."

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 'solution'."

India may try different options to avoid humiliation

PTI ■ CAPE TOWN

Indian team's strategy is expected to undergo paradigm shift with 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 Sunday.

India's strategy looked completely 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 them.

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 the attack.

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

conditions were more familiar with what they get back home, compared to what they are used to getting in South Africa.

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

and the Indian team that has been 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 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

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

patriot Malvika Bansod on the summit clash on Sunday.

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 Saturday.

Sindhu, the top seed, easily pocketed the first game 21-11 before Kosetskaya conceded the second women's singles semifinal match. Former world champion Sindhu will face com-

panion Malvika Bansod in the first over. Chamindu Wickramasinghe in the first over. Sadisha Rajapaksa and Shevon Daniel got their side back on track before Daniel was removed for 34.

IPL will start in last week of March

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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 27.

"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 BCCI.

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," Shah said.

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 stakeholders 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 Plan B since the COVID-19 sit-

uation with new variants 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 Lanka.

"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 said.

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

PTI ■ BASSETERRE (ST KITTS)

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 Somaratna'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 teammate left off as he headed 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.

There has been discussions on how I need to play shots: Pant



PTI ■ PAARL

Rishabh 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

"The reason to bat at number four was if a 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 bowl."

"...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.

takes 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 believes 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."

E-Tender Notice

No-MC/09/Open/2021-22 Dated: 20/01/2022
For and on behalf of the President of India, E-Tender are invited from the Firms/Agencies/Contractors of repute having technical expertise and financial solvency for the following work:-
Name of work with its location and completion period : Epoxy Flooring in Toilet are of LHB coaches of Dhanbad based trains. Completion period: 18 months.
Approx. cost of the work : Rs. 26,41,508.80 (Rupees Twenty six lacs forty one thousand five hundred eight and eighty paise) only. Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 52,800.00 (Rupees Fifty two thousand eight hundred) only. Date & Time for closing of e-Tender : 17.00 hrs. on 10/02/2022. Date & Time for opening of e-Tender : 12.00 hrs. on 11/02/2022
Website particulars : https://www.ireps.gov.in No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.
Divl. Mechl. Engineer (C&W) / DHN PR/1545/DHN/MECH/T/21-22/32

कार्यालय नगर परिषद्, चतरा

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आम सूचना
"मुख्यमंत्री श्रमिक योजना" के अंतर्गत नगर परिषद्, चतरा क्षेत्र में नालियों की सफाई हेतु निर्बंधित श्रमिकों की आवश्यकता है। उक्त योजनागत सफाई कार्य करने हेतु इच्छुक निर्बंधित श्रमिक नगर परिषद्, चतरा कार्यालय से संपर्क करें तथा अन्य व्यक्ति जो निर्बंधित नहीं है और अपना निर्बंधन सफाई कार्य हेतु करवाना चाहते हैं, वे Website:- www.msyjharkhand.gov.in पर अपना निर्बंधन करवा सकते हैं। विशेष जानकारी के लिए श्रीमती पिन्की सिन्हा, नगर मिशन प्रबंधक, नगर परिषद्, चतरा के मोबाईल संख्या-+91-7488475790 से संपर्क कर सकते हैं।
PR.NO.262200 Urban Development(21-22):D कार्यालय पदाधिकारी, नगर परिषद्, चतरा।

पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय, गुमला

(आवश्यक सूचना)
आमजनों को सूचित किया जाता है कि गुमला (अहलू) थाना कांड सं 42/16 की पीड़िता बसुरा परवीन उम्र करीब 20 वर्ष, उँचाई करीब 5 फीट, रंग गँहूँआ, पिता एहतेशाम खान सा 0 हरिजन बस्ती थाना+जिला गुमला को नुरी खातुन पिता स्वा लियाकत सा 0 रजा कॉलोनी थाना+जिला गुमला द्वारा वर्ष 2015 में बहला फुसलाकर महानगर में बेच देने के आरोप में गुमला थाना में कांड अंकित किया गया है, बसुरा परवीन आज तक वापस नहीं आई है तथा पीड़िता के संबंध में किसी भी प्रकार की सूचना प्राप्त नहीं हो सकी है। अतः इनके संबंध में किसी भी प्रकार की सूचना प्राप्त होती है, तो नीचे लिखे अंकित मो 0 पर सूचना दे सकते हैं। सूचित करने वाले का नाम पता गोपनीय रखा जायगा।
1 पुलिस अधीक्षक, गुमला- 9431706372
2 अनुमण्डल पुलिस पदाधिकारी गुमला - 9431706200
3 थाना प्रभारी, गुमला थाना - 9973519070
पुलिस अधीक्षक गुमला
PR 262229 Police (21-22)_D

कार्यालय अभियंता का कार्यालय

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, लोहरदगा
e-mail ID : eedwsd.lohardaga@gmail.com
ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट अति अत्यावलीन निविदा सूचना
(PR No. 259166 का द्वितीय आमंत्रण)
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 15/2021-22 दिनांक : 20-01-2022
1 कार्य का नाम - Construction of mini water supply Scheme with 1.0 HP DC Solar motor pump complete set for Location-St. Charles School Jangi, Village - Jangi, Panchayat - Lagagain Block- Kuru which is not included in MVS and has no electricity or less electricity on New Tube Well having potential to supply water 2000 LPH under D.W.& S.Division, Lohardaga for the Year 2021-22 (SCA)
2 प्रकलित राशि 8,02,447.00 रुपये
3 अग्रघन की राशि 17,000.00 रुपये
4 परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य 1,250.00 रुपये
5 कार्य पूरा करने की अवधि 02 Months
6 वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 24-01-2022, 03:30 बजे अपराह्न से
7 बीड प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 31-01-2022, 03:30 बजे अपराह्न तक
8 अग्रघन एवं परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (हार्ड कॉपी में) जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि, समय एवं स्थान 01-02-2022, 03:30 बजे अपराह्न तक
9 निविदा खोलने की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान 02-02-2022, 11:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न से कार्यालय अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, लोहरदगा
10 निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी एवं कार्यालय का पता कार्यालय अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, लोहरदगा
11 प्रोक्वोरमेंट कार्यालय का संपर्क नं 9431516030
नोट :- 1. निविदा की नियम एवं शर्तें आदि कार्यालय सूचना पट्ट पर झारखण्ड सरकार के वेबसाइट www.dajharkhand.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।
2. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि बैंक ड्राफ्ट के रूप में प्राथमिकता के आधार पर भारतीय स्टेट बैंक का देय होगा।
3. सर्वेदकों का UCAN निर्बंधन अनिवार्य है।
4. प्रकलित राशि घट या बढ़ सकती है, तदनुसार ही अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।
कार्यालय अभियंता पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, लोहरदगा
PR.No.262225 Lohardaga(21-22):D

झारखण्ड सरकार

वन पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग

न्यायालय-प्राधिकृत पदाधिकारी-सह-वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, गिरिडीह पूर्वी वन प्रमण्डल

सूचना

एतद द्वारा निम्नांकित सूचीबद्ध अधिहरण बाटों में संबंधित बाहनों एवं उस पर लदे वन पदार्थ के विरुद्ध प्राधिकृत पदाधिकारी-सह-वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, गिरिडीह पूर्वी वन प्रमण्डल के न्यायालय में चल रहे सुनवाई में प्रतिवादी/वाहन स्वामी लगातार अनुपस्थित हैं, या कुछ राजस्वगत बाटों में प्रारम्भ से ही अनुपस्थित हैं।

व्यवस्थित नोटिस समाचार पत्र के माध्यम से उन्हें सूचित किया जाता है कि निम्नवत राजस्वगत बाटों में निम्न निर्धारित तिथि को अपराह्न 3.00 बजे प्राधिकृत पदाधिकारी-सह-वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, गिरिडीह पूर्वी वन प्रमण्डल के न्यायालय में स्वयं या अपने अधिवक्ता के माध्यम से उपस्थित होकर अपना पक्ष रखें, अन्यथा एक पक्षीय आदेश पारित कर दिया जायगा। कोविड-19 प्रोटोकॉल के तहत सुनवाई में अधिवक्ता के साथ केवल वाहन मालिक रहेंगे। बाट की सुनवाई एक-एक कर की जायगी। मास्क, सॉसल डिस्टेंसींग एवं सैनीटाइजर का उपयोग अवश्यक होगा।

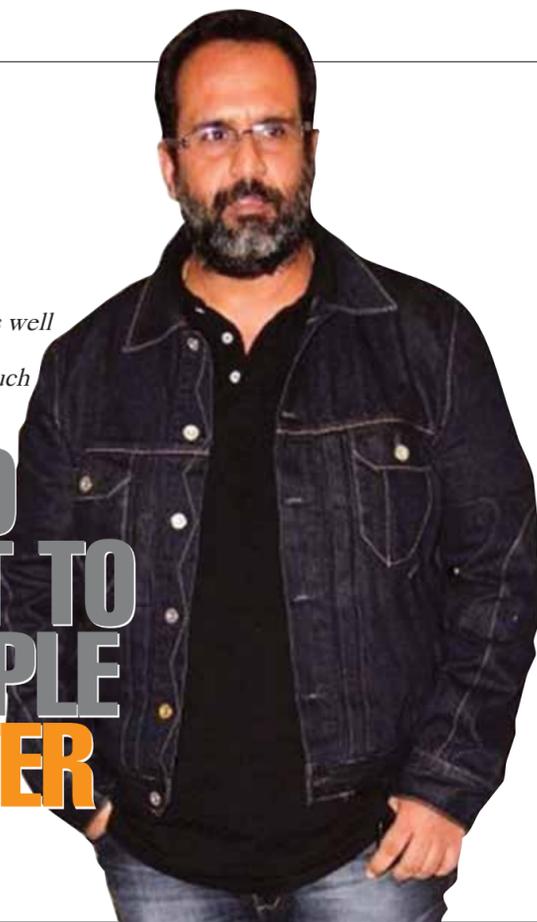
क्र 0	वन बाट/थाना कांड सं 0 एवं तिथि	राजस्वगत मुकदमा सं 0	जप्त वाहन का प्रकार	निकाम संख्या	जप्त वाहन का नाम एवं पता	जप्त वन सम्पदा	निर्धारित तिथि
1	सी0सी0न0-28 19 / 19	03/20	ट्रेक्टर डेलर	Holland, Model-3030	अज्ञात	लकड़ी	02-02-2022
2	सी0सी0न0-31 19 / 19	05/20	ट्रेक्टर डेलर	Johndeer- Eng. No. PY3029D422219, Model-5039D	1 मो 0 अज्ञात, पिता- मोहम्मद, सा 0-उम्रगा, थाना- गवा, जिला- गिरिडीह 2.अज्ञात रिजनी, सा 0-कोडवाडीह, थाना- धनवा, जिला-गिरिडीह	लकड़ी	02-02-2022
3	सी0सी0न0-46 3 / 20	14/20	दस घक्का ट्रक	JH-12B-0074	1.संजय कुमार, पिता- शिवनाथ मेहता, सा 0-ओमवांच, जिला- कोडरमा 2.शमू मेहता, पिता- स्वा 0-डेगलात मेहता, सा 0-महेसपुर, थाना-ओमवांच, जिला-कोडरमा 3.सुमन कुमार मेहता, पिता- मधुनाथ मेहता, सा 0-ओमवांच, जिला- कोडरमा	माईका / डिवरा	02-02-2022
4	सी0सी0न0-66 9 / 20	20/20	HMT 3522 ट्रेक्टर डेलर	Eng. No.64022, Chassis No.C-47506	मो 0 शमशाद, पिता- तुलाम रसूल, सा 0-सतलान, पो 0-चन्दौरी, थाना-तिसरी, जिला- गिरिडीह	लकड़ी	02-02-2022
5	सी0सी0न0-93 5 / 20	23/20	ट्रेक्टर डेलर	Eng. No. 3100FLS23E291941F2, Chassis No. HZJSD29145656M, Model-DI 35	मो 0िन अंसारी, पिता- अदुल अंसारी, सा 0- बेलगाना, पो 0-चन्दौरी, थाना-तिसरी, जिला-गिरिडीह	माईका / डिवरा	02-02-2022
6	सी0सी0न0-12 28 / 20	26/20	ट्रेक्टर डेलर	Eng. No. 3100DL43H43650F Chassis No. JZQSE4394225M	सुनील वर्णवाल, पिता- लखन लाल वर्णवाल, सा 0- तिसरी, थाना-तिसरी, जिला-गिरिडीह	माईका / डिवरा	02-02-2022
7	सी0सी0न0-12 42 / 20	27/20	LPT ट्रक 2615	Chassis No. 444026KTZ139268	विपिन कुमार, पिता- दुर्गा राय, सा 0-सुधीमती (पुरानानगर रोड) थाना+जिला- कोडरमा	माईका / डिवरा	02-02-2022
8	सी0सी0न0-14 05 / 20	36/20	ट्रेक्टर डेलर	Model- SHAKTIMAN Eng. No. 53501803103, Chassis No. 53501803103	1.श्रवण साव, पिता-स्वा छोदू साव, सा 0-राजोकार, थाना- गवा, जिला- गिरिडीह 2.शैलेन्द्र सिंह, पिता-सुरेश सिंह, सा 0-सादा, थाना-गावा, जिला- गिरिडीह	लकड़ी	02-02-2022
9	सी0सी0न0-15 62 / 20	41/20	ट्रेक्टर डेलर	Model-EICHER Eng. No. G51520, Chassis No. 923513140340	आशीष यादव, पिता- सुनील यादव, सा 0- हरवा, थाना- गावा, जिला- गिरिडीह	लकड़ी	02-02-2022
10	सी0सी0न0-15 32 / 20	43/20	ट्रेक्टर डेलर	Eng. No. 3100FL85E732969F3, Chassis No. FZJSG74500353	संजीत सोरेन, पिता- मंजू सोरेन, सा 0- केवटा, थाना- तिसरी, जिला- गिरिडीह	माईका / डिवरा	02-02-2022
11	सी0सी0न0-51 1 / 21	09/21	ट्रेक्टर डेलर	Eng. No. 62869, Chassis No. C-46833	रमणचंद्र राय, पिता- स्वा घेतलाल राय, सा 0-नयनपुर, पो 0-लोकार, थाना- नयनपुर, जिला- गिरिडीह	लकड़ी	02-02-2022
12	बंगाबाद थाना कांड सं 0- 80 / 21	24/21	709 ट्रक	Chassis No. 386030BS070755	1.सुरेश वर्मा, पो- देवकी महतो सा 0-मोतीलेवा, थाना- बंगाबाद, जिला- गिरिडीह 2. नरेश वर्मा, पो- देवकी महतो सा 0-मोतीलेवा, थाना- बंगाबाद, जिला- गिरिडीह 3.मुकेश राय, पो- बाबूलाल राय, सा 0-मोतीलेवा, थाना- बंगाबाद, जिला- गिरिडीह 4.सुरेश तुरी, पो- जाधवपुर तुरी, सा 0-मोतीलेवा, थाना- बंगाबाद, जिला- गिरिडीह 5.इ.नानुस, सा 0- घाघरा, जिला- गिरिडीह	लकड़ी	02-02-2022
13	गिरिडीह मु 0 थाना कांड सं 0- 164 / 16	25/21	पीकअप थान	Engine No- 235253410173705, Chassis No- MAT4780129100748	गुब्बर यादव उर्फ विष्णुनाथ यादव, पो- स्वा रमन यादव, सा 0- फलानावाडीह, थाना- गिरिडीह(जिला)-गिरिडीह	कोयला	02-02-2022
14	सी0सी0न0- 935 / 21	26/21	407 ट्रक	--	--	डिवरा	02-02-2022
15	निमागाघाट थाना कांड सं 0- 121 / 20	27/21	ट्रक-2	1.JH-10AU-6107 2.JH-10AC-2710	1.मो 0 नासीर, पो- मो 0 शाकील सा 0-कतसरस मोड, थाना- झरिया, जिला-धनबाद 2.संजय कुमार, पो- स्वा शिव प्रसाद, सा 0-दुखहरी मंदिर, ईस्ट भातडीह, थाना- झरिया, जिला-धनबाद	कोयला	02-02-2022

वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, -सह- प्राधिकृत पदाधिकारी, गिरिडीह पूर्वी वन प्रमण्डल
PR 262228 Forest, Environment and Climate Changes(21-22):D

talktime
ANAND L RAI

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 unconventional subject this time

'I WANT TO REACH OUT TO MORE PEOPLE WITH BETTER STORIES'



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

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

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

It is very important for a director to be original with the story and am very thankful to the audience for accepting it and loving it. When they have not liked something, it has been an unusual experience. It has given strength to 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 everytime.

■ 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 central to Atrangi Re. May be subconsciously a story like this was not happening around us. Nobody was working on a script like this. I wanted to tell a father-daughter story with a perspective in this film. I am happy



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Grand musical journey

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

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

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

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

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



scriptures that are relevant even today. Produced by Fathom Pictures and Kailasa Entertainment Pvt Ltd, this reality show is also humble contribution to the Prime Minister 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 been roped in as the host.

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

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 judge but am the co-producer too (Kailasa Entertainment Pvt Ltd)," Kher says.

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 co-producers," Kher tells you.

Second, this is the first time in the history of television, music and film industry that entertainment and enlightenment 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 guruwars," 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 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 anecdotes on what these kids were singing. When I was approached by Zee 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-Sun at 8 pm

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

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?

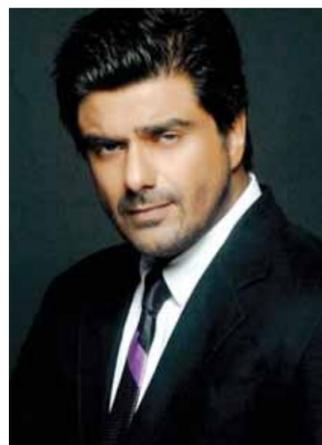
It has got prose and poetry. There is a part about self-discovery, finding out what's your place in society and in your mind. Because we live in an extroverted world and if you find yourself not being represented or relate to them, you feel like an outsider no matter where you go. Hopefully, anyone and 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 constant 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



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

'We need to redefine success'

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 being.

■ What is mental well-being according to you?

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 well-being 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 Everest.

■ 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

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 (BPrak, 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)

CookSmart



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

Don't use cold stock. Keep the stock on simmer. Stirring the rice constantly will add air into the risotto. slowly adding

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

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

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

HomeSweetHome



When you begin to 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 case.

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 them.

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

Several small 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.

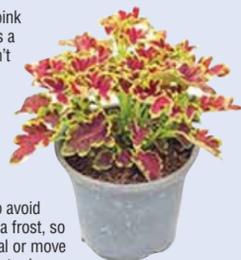
Masterstroke



After 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.

NatureTalk



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 perennial 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 disease.

Keep them out of the wind to avoid breakage. Coleus will not survive a frost, so either treat your plant as an annual or move it inside when temperatures begin to drop.

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

I like to be in the spotlight once in a while, and then I like to be in the shadows. It's really regenerating — Monica Bellucci



FROM THE INSIDE

Dynamics of Karma & Destiny

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

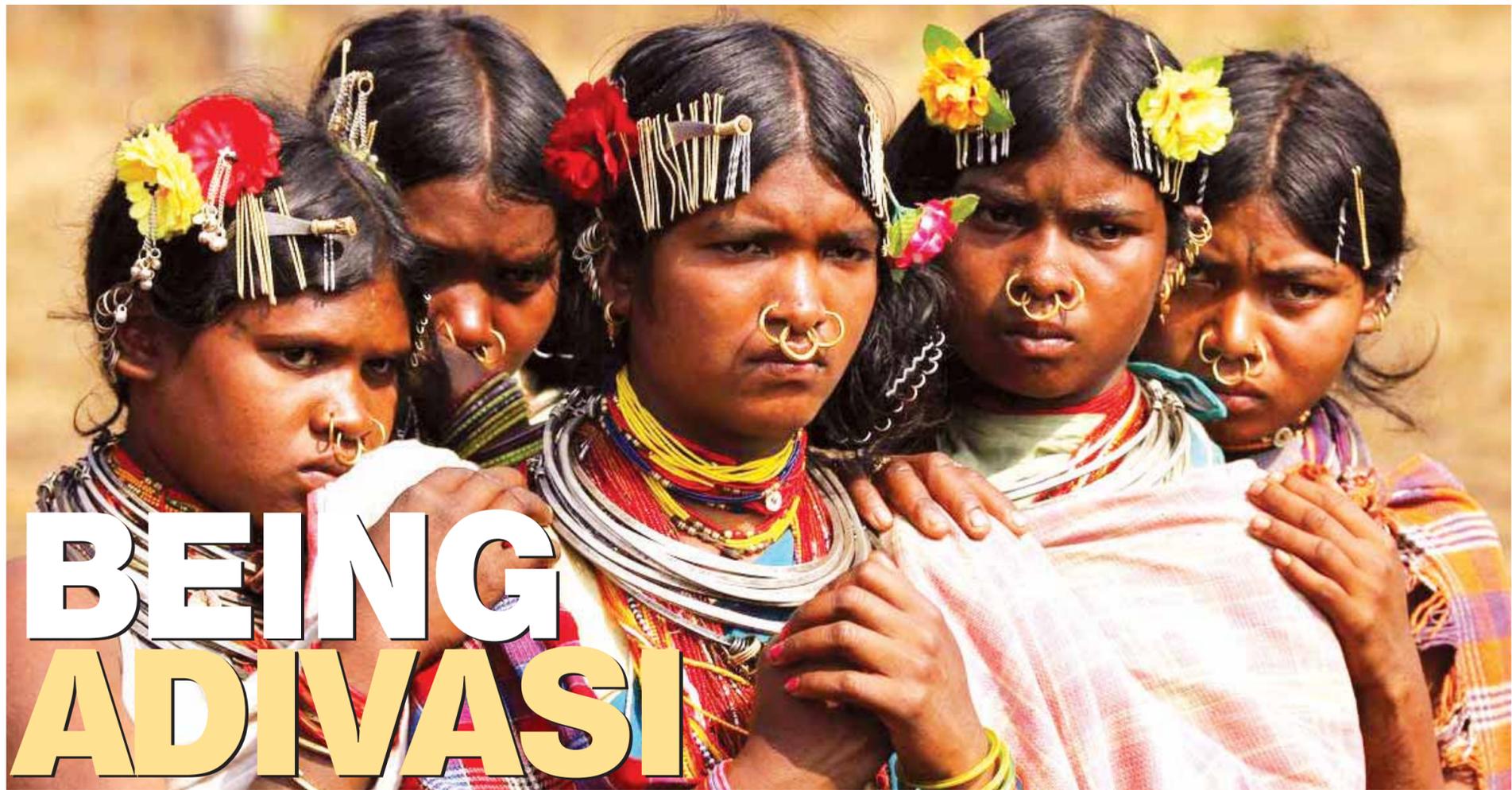
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Life: Harmony of opposites

Creation is a result of convergence of the opposites. So, reconciling dualities of life is called for



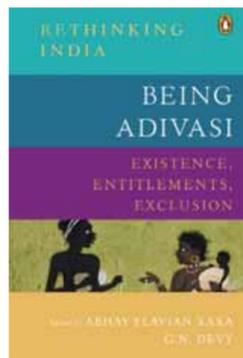
BEING ADIVASI

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:

If 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 tendency. 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. In 1952, 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-



“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



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



DESTINY HAS TWO WAYS OF CRUSHING US — BY REFUSING OUR WISHES AND BY FULFILLING THEM — HENRI FREDERIC AMIEL

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

Karma 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 perception.

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 Destiny.

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

So, what about free will? Is that too an illusion? How can there be free will when it is being conceived of 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 fruited, 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 guess the truth.

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 'real'.

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 overcome 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 there. So be patient and aware of your experiences.

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



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK



Disease of the century

If we ask somebody what is the disease of the present century 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 battle 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 relationship is also business. It is the commerce age. Naturally, 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

Colours 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-



ments of the Earth — air, fire, water, ether, spiritual awakening and enlightenment. The seven *chakras* and the colours associated 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 frustration and anger. Red is the colour that stimulates your body and mind thereby increasing 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.

- **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 you 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

My 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 design.

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 smi*'. 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 acts.

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. '*kriya-mana*' 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 perish, as promised by Him in the Gita verse #9.31. This means that the resultant suffering must be tolerable.

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

Blot on American rights claims: Gitmo turns 20

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

The Guantanamo detention camp, also called Guantanamo Bay, 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 were 158 al-Qaeda and Taliban prisoners being held at Camp X-Ray

were detained in this secluded 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 during the Obama administration, in a way, the biggest

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 of maintaining the 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 glare. 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 rights under the country's justice 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

Rights (ICCPR), the 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 glare, 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

once said: "In the dark halls of Abu Gharib and the detention cells of Guantanamo, we have compromised our most precious 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.

Is there any hope that Biden will be able to close down the prison? At present, the Democrats have a razor-thin 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 moment.

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



JAVARE GOWDA

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 employment loss.

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 employ-

ment 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 figures 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 figures 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 country.

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 non-profit federation whose mission is to support the farming community in India and create a sustainable future for farmers)



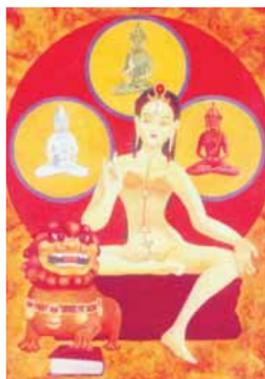
THERE IS ALWAYS ONE MOMENT IN CHILDHOOD WHEN THE DOOR OPENS AND LETS THE FUTURE IN — GRAHAM GREENE

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



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



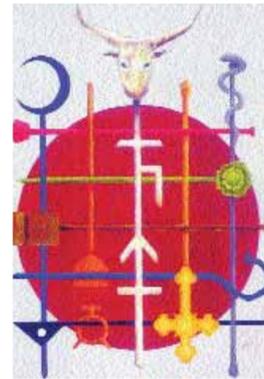
SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
Concerning your health, the news is going to be good. You are in a stronger position now and can control what happens around you. Any efforts that you put right now towards the improvement of your health will bear fruit. The only thing that you need to be careful about is to 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 dreams are.
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 long-term 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

“Sir, 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 pre-conditioned 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 mind-trends. 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 anger 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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