US SHOOTINGS EXPOSE

'THERMAL COAL DEMAND TO

ANAND'S WINNING RUN ENDS, BUT



In jolt to Cong, 4 former Mins join BJP in Punjab

CHANDIGARH

In yet another setback to the Congress in Punjab, four of its leaders and former ministers Raj Kumar Verka, Balbir Singh Sidhu, Sunder Sham Arora and Gurpreet Singh Kangar joined the BJP here on Saturday.

Former Congress MLA from Barnala Kewal Dhillon and former SAD MLAs Sarup Chand Singla and Mohinder Kaur Josh too joined the BJP. They joined the BJP in the

presence of Union Ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Som Parkash, State BJP chief Ashwani Sharma, and party leaders Dushyant Gautam, Tarun Chugh, Sunil Jakhar and Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

Balbir Sidhu, a three-time MLA from Mohali, was the Health Minister, while Gurpreet Kangar, a three-time MLÂ from Rampura Phul, was the Revenue Minister in the Congress Government. Verka, a prominent Dalit leader from the Majha region, is also a three-time legislator and was the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment. Sunder Sham Arora, a former MLA from Hoshiarpur, was the Industry and Commerce Minister in the previous Congress Government.

Continued on Page 2 latest development as he was

6 ex-BSP MLAs backing Raj Govt throw tantrums ahead of RS polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

head of the June 10 Rajya Asabha polls, trouble continues to mount for Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. The six BSP MLAs who had merged with the Congress are playing the hard ball by expressing their resentment against Gehlot in public and not reaching the resort where all Congress legislators from the party are herded.

Their move comes amidst the BJP queering the pitch for the Congress by supporting media baron Subash Chandra's candidature for the fourth seat from the State.

While the Congress central leadership summoned Gehlot's arch-rival Sachin Pilot to Delhi, the BSP, which has challenged the merger in Supreme Court, first urged the Governor and Speaker to bar the defected MLAs from voting in the RS polls and later issued a whip asking them to vote for

Pilot reached Delhi and briefed the leadership about the



camping in Udaipur where the party's MLAs have been lodged ahead of the crucial polls. Talking to the media there, Pilot claimed the Congress shall win all the three seats.

But the Congress is falling 11 short of the required numbers and would need the support of the BSP MLAs and Independents.

The BJP has supported Chandra as its second candidate for the RS seat which has heightened the worries of the grand old party and thus it has taken its MLAs for political fencing to Udaipur in a resort where last month the party had the Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir.

The sudden political rumbling in Rajasthan is due to the six MLAs, who were seen enjoying a safari in Sariska

Reserve while the Congress legislators were going for camping in Udaipur. In fact, they are openly speaking about their annoyance with the Congress Government

Rajendra Gudha, Minister of State for Sainik Kalyan, attacked Chief Minister Gehlot, saving the latter talks a lot but it will be better for him if he sits down and gets "anxious" instead.

He alleged that the Congress did not fulfil the promise made to them. Expressing his displeasure, he said, "It is a fact that the respect that should have been given to us was not given. I don't know what was their compulsion? Gehlot speaks a lot in the media. Ajay Maken promised us but he did not fulfil it."

Another BSP turned Congress MLA Wajib Ali raised questions about the stance of the bureaucracy and the lack of action against complaints sent to the Chief Minister. Ali was neither made a minister nor given a political appointment despite coming

from BSP to Congress.

Continued on Page 2

Transfer info leak puts Pandits' life in danger

Kashmiri Pandit teachers' new posting locations revealed on social media

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Against the backdrop of a spate of targeted killings, the very purpose of the Jammu & Kashmir Government's move to transfer 177 Kashmiri Pandit teachers posted in Srinagar to "safer" locations has been defeated as the list has become public. The transfer list, prepared by the Office of Chief Education Officer, Srinagar, was out on social media on Friday. The community members said it has further endangered their lives.

Raising question marks, the Kashmiri migrant employees demanded an enquiry to ascertain how the transfer list was leaked in the public domain jeopardising their security. "We are already feeling insecure due to the prevailing security situation and now our new places of posting have been made public, defeating the very purpose of shifting us to safer zones," they said. Local BJP leader in

Srinagar Altaf Thakur also demanded a thorough investigation while urging the Government to take strong note of the leak and zero in on camps to prevent their move-



demanding their transfer to their home districts, in Jammu on Saturday

PATANJALI

the people who made the list public at a time when targeted killings are taking place in the Valley. The BJP spokesman demanded action against the officers involved in the leak.

On the other hand, Kashmiri Pandits' protests continued in Kashmir valley and in Jammu in support of their demand for relocation to safer places outside Kashmir valley. Though the majority of employees have already shifted to Jammu, those left behind are still holding the fort in support of their demands. Tight security arrangements have been made outside these transit

ment outside the camps. Several Kashmiri Pandit

organizations, including Panun Kashmir, are gearing up for another round of confrontation as the Government had categorically rejected the proposal of shifting these employees to Jammu region. The Panun Kashmir lead-

ership has urged the Government employees to return to Jammu to launch a decisive struggle. "First of all, we appeal to all the employees working under the PM's package to return to Jammu and here we will launch a stir to address the issue.

Continued on Page 2

Sisodia alleges PPE scam by Assam CM, Sarma threatens defamation suit

*Late City Vol. 32 Issue 154

*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RNI No. 53466/91, REGD. No. DL (C)-05/1219/2021-23 Posted at DRMS Delhi 6

New Delhi/Guwahati: Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday alleged Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma gave contracts to companies of his wife and son's business partners to supply PPE kits at "exorbitant rates" in 2020, a charge rebutted by the BJP leader who threatened to file a criminal defamation suit against the AAP leader.

At a press conference in Delhi, Sisodia said two websites had collaborated on the story on the alleged "scam" and published it two days ago.

Assam Government spokesman Pijush Hazarika said the allegations against the Sarma family were "false, imaginary and malicious". He said there was no scam and asked why the two media organisations were not going to the court if they had evidence.

Detailed report on P4

CAPSULE

HELD IN KANPUR CLASH Kanpur/Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Police has booked over 800 people, arrested 24 in connection with rioting and violence in Kanpur.

HUMPBACK DOLPHINS SIGHT AT MUMBAI SHORE

Mumbai: A recent pilot study conducted in south Mumbai's Backbay region has confirmed 27 sightings of Indian Ocean humpback dolphins.

Bhojpuri star Nirahua to contest Azamgarh bypoll on BJP ticket

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The BJP on Saturday named Tits candidates for the Lok Sabha and Assembly bypolls, including Bhojpuri star Dinesh Lal Nirahua from Azamgarh and former SP MLC Ghanshyam Lodhi from Rampur. The seats were vacated by Akhilesh Yadav and Azam Khan, who retained their

Assembly seats.
The BJP also named the Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha for Assembly bypoll from Town Bordowal in Tripura and former councillor and State unit general secretary Rajesh Bhatia for the Rajinder Nagar Assembly bypolls in Delhi.

The Rajinder Nagar seat was vacated by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Raghav Chadha after his elevation to the Rajya Sabha. The AAP has fielded the party's MCD incharge Durgesh Pathak from the constituency.

12 killed, 21 hurt

in Hapur chemical

factory boiler blast

PNS LUCKNOW



Both Nirahua, who was defeated by Akhilesh in 2019, and Lodhi are OBCs. In Rampur, SP's Azam had contested and won in alliance with the BSP and the RLD.

With these nominations Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Nagvi has lost out on the tickets for both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha. His RS seat term expires on July 7.

Like Union Minister RCP Singh of the JD(U), who could not get the Upper House seat, Naqvi too seems to be sailing in the same boat now.

Continued on Page 2

the ads going against the exist-

ing advertisement codes. For her part, the Delhi Commission for Women's

chairman Swati Maliwal issued

a notice to the Delhi Police

seeking registration of an FIR

and removal of the advertise-

ment from mass media. The

police have been asked to pro-

vide a report by June 9.

Corbevax approved as first common booster

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Pharmaceuticals firm Biological E Ltd (BE) on Saturday said its Covid-19 vaccine Corbevax has been cleared Controller General of India (DCGI) as a booster for the 18 plus after their primary vaccination with two doses of either Covishield or Covaxin.

With this, Corbevax becomes the first vaccine approved as a heterologous Covid-19 booster. This means that adults fully vaccinated with Covishield or Covaxin can take Corbevax as their third or booster shot.

The Corbevax booster dose can be given six months after administration of the second

shot of the Covid-19 vaccine. Recently, BE furnished its clinical trials data to the DCGI which after a evaluation and deliberations with the Subject Experts Committee, granted their approval for administering Corbevax as a heterologous booster dose to people who have been vaccinated.



The Government on Saturday rejected reports that a girl has been

However, it said as a samples from the five-year-

No monkeypox case in Ghzb, says Govt

PNS NEW DELHI

found to be suffering from the monkeypox disease in Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh.

precautionary measures, the old girl have been sent for testing for monkeypox to ICMR NIV Pune.

Continued on Page 2 YouTube, Twitter told to take

In a tragic incident, 12 workers died while 21 others sus-

tained injuries when a boiler exploded at a chemical factory in western Uttar Pradesh's Hapur district on Saturday afternoon and the factory was engulfed in a blaze. As per reports, there were

25 workers present in the factory located in the UPSIDC industrial area in Dholana, around 80 km from Delhi, when the incident occurred. The impact of the explo-

sion was so intense that the roofs of some of the factories located in the vicinity were also damaged. It took three hours for the fire tenders to douse the blaze in the factory.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered officials to extend all possible help to the victims and their families. Continued on Page 2



for "promote rape culture".

An enquiry is being held by regulatory body, the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) which found The first ad starts with a couple in the bedroom. Shortly after, four of the guy's friends enter the room and ask the "boyfriend", "Shot maara lagta them then rolls up his sleeves

hai (Seems you took the shot)?" He replies that he did, leaving the woman in shock. One of and begins to approach the bed saying, "Ab humari baari (Now it's our turn)." The woman recoils in fear

of being attacked but the ad

bottle from the dresser The second ad is shot in a grocery store where a group of

men are seen having a conversation, standing behind a woman. One of them says, "Hum char aur ye sirf ek (We're four and this is just one)" when another man asks, "To shot kaun lega (Who will take

then reveals that the man was

just picking up the perfume

Continued on Page 2



Dolphins sighted 27 times along Mumbai coast in pilot study

recent pilot study con-Aducted in south Mumbai's Backbay region has confirmed 27 sightings of Indian Ocean humpback dolphins, a development that has prompted the Maharashtra government to launch a detailed population study of marine mammals along the Mumbai coastline.

In what came as something to cheer for nature lovers on the eve of the World Environment Day, the Maharashtra State Mangrove Cell announced on Saturday that it would launch first-of-its-kind detailed population estimation study of dolphins along the coastline of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

The announcement follows the outcome of a preliminary research exercise carried



the Coastal Conservation Foundation (CCF), which was sanctioned by the Maharashtra State Mangrove Foundation, determined the population and habitat usage of Indian Ocean humpback dolphins in the Backbay region of south Mumbai. The study confirmed 27 sightings of dolphins of which the largest group com-

After the detailed census of marine mammals along the MMR coastline, Mumbaikars will have a clarity about the number of Dolphins along the 150 km-long Mumbai coast-

Dolphins are endangered cetacean species, protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Mumbai's waters are known to harbour at least two

humpback dolphin (Sousa plumbea) and the Indo-Pacific finless porpoise (Neophocaena phocaenoides), as per anecdo-tal sightings and documented stranding.

Indian Ocean humpback dolphins reside in groups of up to twelve individuals, however, this number varies greatly. Sciaenid fish, cephalopods, and crustaceans make up their food. The species is listed as Globally Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature

Cetaceans such as dolphins that live in close proximity to coastal development and its ramifications have a high death rate owing to anthropogenic disturbances such as fishing entanglement, pollution, habitat degradation, and noise pol-

India's religious ethos based on common religious, spiritual foundation: Kovind

PTI ■ GORAKHPUR (UP)

Tndia's cultural ethos has a Lcommon religious and spiritual foundation from east to west and north to south, President Ram Nath Kovind said on Saturday.

Kovind was addressing the centenary celebrations of Gita Press the world's largest pub-

lisher of Hindu religious texts.

"From east to west and north to south, India's cultural ethos has a common religious and spiritual foundation. Ramayan is popular not only in Hindi but also in Tamil and Gujarati," he said.

India has a long tradition of its rulers following 'Dharm' and 'Anushaasan' (discipline)

"It is said that Dharm and governance move along together and they complement each other. And today, this is visible here. Yogi (Adityanath) ji is the chief minister of this state and also the Gorakshpeeth Peethadhiswar (chief seer). Two things imbibed in one person is a big thing," Kovind said.

The President termed the Gita Press, launched in 1923 by Jaya Dayal Goyanka and Ghanshyam Das Jalan for promoting the principles of Sanatan Dharm, a "temple of iterature".

"For an ordinary person like me, the perception was that this was a press. But today, it is seen that the Gita Press is not only a press, it is a temple of lit-

'The contribution our temples and pilgrimage places have made in saving the 'Sanatan Dharm', a similar contribution has been made by literature which is being published by Gita Press," he said.

The President said, "It is my honour that I am participating in the centenary celebrations of Gita Press. This must be the result of some 'punya' (good work) done in previous births. Before coming here, I also met the staff of the Gita Press. The honesty, dedication and good-

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the press was established in 1923 at a facility rented for Rs 10, "And today, this has assumed the shape of a 'vattvriksha' (banyan tree) and is serving the country with 'dharm' and 'sanskaar' (val-

In 1955, the then President Rajendra Prasad had inaugurated the main door of the press, he recalled.

Governor Anandiben Patel credited Gita Press with giving people easy access to 'Bhagavad Gita' and 'Ramcharitmanas', among other religious texts.

The President later visited the Gorakhnath temple and performed worship there.

In the temple campus, folk artists welcomed him with songs and dance and the President got down from his vehicle and went among the artistes to cheer them.

The President fed cows jaggery, roti, and green fodder

Over dozen buffaloes die after drinking 'toxic' water

PTI MATHURA

A round 13 buffaloes died on Saturday allegedly after drinking water from a drain in Kosikalan industrial area of Mathura, officials said.

Chhata Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kamlesh Goyal said some farmers had brought the cattle here from Bayana of Rajasthan's Bharatpur for fodder and water. "Around a dozen buffaloes died after consuming water in Kosikalan industrial area," Goyal said confirming the report, and added the matter is being probed.

"If water flowing in the drain is found to be toxic, then action will be initiated against the factory owners," he said. The bodies of the dead buffaloes have been sent for post mortem at Mathura's Deendayal Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya.

Hizbul terrorist neutralised in anti-terrorist operation

PNS JAMMU

Atop commander of pro-Pakistan Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist outfit has been neutralised in an anti-terrorist operation in Anantnag. During the operation three army personnel and one civilian also received injuries.

According to a police spokesman, "a joint cordon and search operation was launched in the Rishipora area of Anantnag on Friday evening. As the joint team was establishing the cordon around the suspected area, the hiding terrorist started indiscriminate firing upon the search party which was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter".

In the ensuing encounter, the hiding terrorist was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter. The slain terrorist has been

identified as Nisar Khanday (Commander of proscribed terror outfit HM) and active since year 2018. In the initial exchange of fire, 03 army personnel & a civilian got injured. All the injured were immediately airlifted to 92 Base Hospital Srinagar for treat-

ment & are stated to be stable. As per police records, Nisar Khanday was a categorized terrorist and was part of the groups involved in several terror cases including attacks on Police/SF and civilian atrocities. According to a police spokesman, Khanday was earlier arrested in 2000 along with arms/ammunition and detained under PSA. "Before joining terrorist ranks in year 2018, the killed terrorist was working as the terrorist associate of proscribed terror outfit HM[®], police spokesman

Hasn't made masks mandatory, but appeal people to use them: Maha Health Minister

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

day after State Additional Aday after State Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Dr Pradeep Vyas announced that "mask is a must in closed public spaces", Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope said on Saturday that the state government had not decided to make masks mandatory in the state but appealed to the people to use masks when in closed spaces. The minister's clarification about the use of mask came on a day when Maharashtra recorded 1,357 fresh daily Covid-10 cases, the highest-ever daily positive pandemic cases since February this year. The state had recorded 1081, 1045 and 1134 daily positive cases on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday respectively. Talking to media persons

in Pune, Tope said said that the use of the word "must" in a three-page letter sent to local

near main Keshav Nagar and

he was arrested. A total of 505

grams of fine quality heroin

civic bodies had caused the confusion.

"Districts like Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, Pune and Raigad have seen a small surge in numbers. In this regard, the health ministry had sent a letter asking for action to be taken. The letter had the word 'must' which seems to have created confusion," Tope said.

Having taken serious cognisance of the sudden spurt in the Covid-19 cases in the state, State Health Secretary Vyas had in a letter sent to all the district authorities in the state - had said "Masks in closed public spaces like trains, buses, cinemas, auditoriums, offices, hospitals, colleges schools is a must" Alluding to reports in sec-

tions of the media about the state government having made masks compulsory for the people, Tope said that this was not the case. "As of now, there is no compulsion but I appeal to the people to use masks in closed spaces. The state government is keeping a close watch on the situation and necessary action would be taken after 10 to 15 days," the Health Minister said

"Most cases being reported are mild. We have asked the district authorities to ramp up vaccination and increase testing," Tope said.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra on Friday recorded more than 1,000 daily Covid-19 cases for the fourth consecutive day since February this year.

On Saturday, the state logged 1,357 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the total number of Covid-19 cases from 78,90,346 to 78,91,703.

With one fresh Covid-19 triggered death reported during the day, the total number of deaths registered in the state since the outbreak of Covid-19 in the state in March 2020 rose from 1,47,864 to 1,47,865.

Mayawati to campaign for BSP candidate in Azamgarh bypoll

Bahujan Samaj Party has released a list of 40 star campaigners for the upcoming bypoll to Azamgarh Lok Sabha

The bypoll has been necessitated by the resignations of Samajwadi Party MP Akhilesh Yadav after his election to UP assembly from Karhal constituency in March last.

The BSP has already announced Shah Alam alias Guddu Jamali as its candidate for the Azamgarh bypoll. BSP chief and former chief

minister of UP Mayawati will also be campaigning for her party candidate along with other senior leaders of the party for the next 15 days in Azamgarh.

The polling at Azamgarh will be held on June 23. Samajwadi Party and Bharatiya Janata Party have also declared their candidates for the Azamgarh bypoll. The SP has announced to

field Sushil Anand while the BJP has announced Dinesh Lal 'Nirahua' as its candidate from Azamgarh, making the bypoll a multi-cornered con-

Nirahua had tweeted on Friday asking the people in Azamgarh to vote for the BJP. He was the BJP candidate from Azamgarh in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls as well.

Nirahua wrote on Twitter, 'Jati dharam na kauno bharam na kauno manbad ke liye. Kamal ka button dabih bhaiya Azamgarh ke liye. (Not for caste or any strongman, push the button of lotus for Azamgarh). Apart from Nirahua, pic-

tures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home

Minister Amit Shah, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and BJP president JP Nadda were also on the poster that was tweeted by him.

Those whose names have

been included by the BSP in the star campaigners' list include BSP chief Mayawati, Bhim Rajbhar, Munquad Ali, Vijay Pratap, Rajkumar Gautam, Umashankar Singh, Manoj Harishchandra Gautam, Onkar Shastri, Baliram, Indalram, Amarnath, Vinod Chauhan, Vijay Kumar, Santosh Ram, Sangeeta Azad, Azad Arimardan, Shalim Ansari, OP Tripathi, Arvind Kumar, Jitendra Kumar Bharti, Raj Vijay, Ashwini Kumar, Ram Vilas Bhaskar, Chetai Ram, Ramji Saroj, Hariram Bhaskar, Chandradhari Suman, Shailendra Maharaj, Shailendra Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, and

Vlogger booked for abusing Mamata over KK's last concert

PTI KOLKATA

 $A^{\text{case was filed against vlog-}}_{\text{ger Roddur Roy on}}$ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over KK's last concert, police said.

The case was lodged under relevant sections of the IPC after a complaint was filed by TMC spokesperson Riju Dutta at Chitpur police station, they said. "An investigation has been started in the matter as per the relevant sections of the ÎPC. He has been summoned

as a part of the probe," he said. Roy, who widely uses expletives in his social media posts, used a barrage of abuses against Mamata.

Crime Branch of Delhi Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In two separate incidents, the Crime Branch of Delhi Police has arrested three people, including a Nigerian national indulging in supplying and Capital. Police said that they have also recovered contraband worth around Rs 21 crore

The accused have been identified as Ankush, a resident of Timarpur, Anthony, a native of Nigeria and Sanjay, a resident of Uttam Nagar.

According to K P S Malhotra, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Crime Branch, in the first incident, specific inputs were received on May 25 regarding drug peddling by

arrests 3 for supplying drugs "Thereafter, a trap was laid

> was seized from his possession," said the DCP. "During interrogation, was involved in sale of illicit liquor. His mother was also previously involved in drug rafficking," said the DCP adding that he used to procure

the drugs from Sultanpuri. In another operation on May 27, acting on a tip-off, a trap was laid near power house, Dabri Mahavir Enclave. The Nigerian national and Sanjay were held from the spot, said

Three kilograms of heroine was seized from the duo's possession. Anthony was the mastermind of the syndicate.

13K lives saved by Samaritans: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday claimed that about 13,000 lives have been saved by good samaritans under the Delhi Ke' scheme.

The scheme, launched in October 2019, encourages people to rescue those who have with accidents.

Addressing an event at the Thyagaraj Stadium, Kejriwal said, in some cases it becomes difficult for medical aid to reach an area during an emerbecause gency

congestion. "But, under our 'Farishtey Dilli Ke' scheme, this issue is being addressed. About 13,000 human lives have been saved so

far, under this scheme," he

Under the scheme, the Delhi government incurs the expenditure for treating eligible road accident victims and gives incentives to those who In February 2021, Kejriwal

tweeted that over 10,000 lives had been saved under the "People are coming for-

ward to help each other. You should also help those who met with any road accident. To save someone's life is a pious Kejriwal tweeted.

The Delhi chief minister, while launching the scheme, had said that at least 3,000 lives were saved during the pilot project of the initiative which ran for 18 months.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways implements IRAD

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

With an aim to reduce the road accidents in the Road Transport and Highways has implemented Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD) project which will work as a watchdog of road accidents. This IRAD mobile app will help in analysing the black spots where most of the accidents take place, which will help the stakeholders to take necessary steps regarding the issue.

The major stakeholders in the IRAD project are Delhi Police, Transport department, health department and Highway department.

UP on way to become defence production hub

PNS LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh is on its way to becoming a defence production hub as BrahMos Aerospace will produce 80 to 100 new BrahMos missiles facility starting mid-2024.

According to BrahMos Aerospace CEO and MD Atul D Rane, construction work is in full swing in Lucknow.

"Production of the current version of BrahMos can start once the facility is set up. Assuming all things are smooth in the set-up and professional attestation of the facility, the first BrahMos of the current version can be rolled out by mid 2024," he said

The BrahMos missile was the center of attraction in the exhibition at the ground-

breaking ceremony. The prestigious BrahMos missile autonomous launcher is displayed at one of the 110 stalls in the exhibition at the venue of the third ground breaking ceremony held in the state

Rane said that the feasibility study of the missile was nearing completion and once these preliminary studies were over, a detailed design of the system would start. He said if things went on smoothly, the joint venture of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) India and NPOM of Russia planned to finish detailed designing within two years followed by system trials.

The timeline to roll out the future generation of missiles (BrahMos-NG) will be 5-7 years from now.

Transfer info leak puts...

From Page 1

We will mobilise the whole community and organise a series of protests to raise our voice across different quarters," a senior Panun Kashmir activist told a gathering here in Jammu on Saturday. On the other hand, Jammu-based employees of reserved categories deployed in Kashmir valley have also intensified their agitation in support of the new transfer policy. The employees camping here for the last one week disrupted traffic on the main Tawi bridge and demanded the Union Territory administration to immediately frame a new transfer policy as per which they should be accommodated in their own home districts. "We are serving in Kashmir valley since 2007 and till date we have not been transferred even once. We are not going to resume our duties till the time the UT administration comes up with the new transfer policy," the employees demanded.

YouTube, Twitter told...

The girl, overhearing the conversation, turns around in anger and fear when the ad reveals they were discussing the last remain-

ing bottle of the body spray.

In emails to Twitter and YouTube , the Ministry said the ads violate the Rule 3(1)(b)(ii) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021. The Government said the video has been "viewed close to a million times and also shared on other social media platforms." The emails called the attention of the social media platforms to "certain videos which appear to be an advertisement of a company, and are being posted by several users on the intermediary platform Twitter" and the "video titled "LAYERR SHOT MALL 15 OPT2 HINDI SUB HD" published" on June 3.

The above-mentioned video is detrimental to the portray al of women in the interest of decency or morality, and in violation of the rule 3(1)(b)(ii) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, which inter-alia provides that the users shall not host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share any information which is insulting or harassing on the basis of gender," the emails to both the platforms noted. The Ministry said the ASCI too has found the videos in violation of its guidelines and asked the advertiser to suspend the advertisement on an immediate basis.

Maliwal has also written to Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur demanding that the "misogynistic" advertisement being played on mass media be taken off air. The DCW said the advertisement "promoted gangrape culture".

According to Twitter users, the ads were broadcast during the England vs New Zealand cricket match.

Bhojpuri star Nirahua to contest....

From Page 1

BJP national general secretary Arun Singh said the Central Election Committee has approved the names for the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly bypolls. In Tripura, new Chief

Minister Saĥa will contest from Town Bordowali, Dr Ashok Sinha (Agartala), Swapna Das Paul (Surma) and Malina Debnath (Jubarajnagar). Besides, Gangotri Kujur is BJP candidate from Mandar

Assembly constituency of

Jharkhand and Gundlapalli

Bharath Kumar Yadav from

Atmakur assembly seat in Andhra Pradesh. June 6 is the last day of filing of nomination for Lok Sabha and Assembly bypolls. Polling will be held on June 23 and counting votes will take place on June 26.

The BE's clinical trial data showed that its Corbevax booster dose provided significant enhancement in immune response and excellent safety profile required for an effective booster. Mahima Datla, Managing Director of Biological E Ltd, said, "We are very happy with this approval, which will address the need for Covid-19 booster doses in India. We have crossed yet another milestone in our Covid-19 vaccination journey. This approval reflects once again the sustained world class safety standards and high

immunogenicity of Corbevax."

Biological E cuts price of its
Covid vaccine to Rs 250 per dose. Biological E had earlier said the price of Corbevax has been reduced to ?250 from ?840 a dose, inclusive of GST, for

private vaccination centres. It would result in end users aying a price of ?400 a dose, including taxes and administration charges, the company

had said in a statement. Previously, in private vaccination centres the overall cost to end users of the vaccine was ?990 a dose, including taxes and administration charges, it added.

12 killed, 21 injured...

Corbevax approved as first....

From Page 1

Yogi conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families. The senior police officials and district administration officials were at the spot and were carrying out investigation.

Earlier, Inspector General of Police Praveen Kumar said that eight persons lost their lives in the incident. Out of the 17 remaining workers, 15 were

hospitalized while the rest of

the workers suffered minor

injuries. The factory is located

adjacent to a CNG pump.

In jolt to Cong, 4 former Mins join BJP....

From Page 1

Balbir Sidhu's brother Amarjit Singh Sidhu, who is the mayor of Mohali corporation, too joined the BJP. Earlier in the day, Verka, Arora, Kangar and Sidhu were seen with the BJP leaders Sunil Jakhar and Manjinder Singh Sirsa in Chandigarh.

However, Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring wished a sarcastic 'good luck' to the members who quit the party and said that he is "grateful" for the seats to be vacant for young leaders. "Best of luck for joining BJP. Grateful that the 'elite' who enjoyed all the privileges in the party have vacated the space for younger leadership from the common background," he tweeted.

6 ex-BSP **MLAs** backing Raj...

From Page 1

This is considered the main "displeasure".

Apart from Gudha and Ali, two other BSP-turned-Congress leaders including Lakhan Singh (Karauli MLA) and Sandeep Kumar (Tijara, Alwar) are also yet to reach Udaipur. Also missing are Girraj Singh (Bari, Dholpur) and Khiladi Lal Bairwa (Baseri, Dholpur).

Sources said Chief Minister Gehlot has taken the charge to bring all MLAs to Udaipur.

Ali further has left the Chief Minister red-faced by denying his claim. Gehlot a day earlier had told the media that the Central Government has issued notice to Congress MLA Ali and is threatening the MLAs during the Rajya Šabha elections.

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HC stays order that allowed lawyer's presence during ED quizzing of Jain

¬he Delhi High Court has The Delni riigh Court and stayed a trial court order allowing the presence of a lawyer at a visible but not audible distance during the interrogation of Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain, arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case.

Justice Yogesh Khanna observed that when there is credible material to indicate the real and live apprehension of a possible threat or coercion being employed at the time of recording of statement, such a direction may be passed but since there is no apprehension raised in the present matter, the direction ought not to have been given as a matter of right.

The judge, who had on June 3 reserved its order on the Enforcement Directorate's plea challenging the direction, further noted that since there is neither any FIR nor a complaint against the AAP leader, he cannot as a matter of right claim to have the presence of his lawyers during the course of recording of his statement. Even otherwise recording of the statement is videographed and audiographed which would dispel the apprehension of any coercion and threat, the court added.

The stay order was passed on a plea by the ED challenging the trial court's May 31 order allowing the presence of



a lawyer, at a distance, during Jain's interrogation in its custody from May 31 till June 9.

"In view of the above since there is neither any FIR nor a complaint against the respondent (Jain) thus he cannot as a matter of right claim to have the presence of his lawyers during the course of recording of his statement...

Even otherwise, admittedly, his entire recording of statement is videographed and audiographed which certainly would dispel the apprehension of any coercion, threat to the respondent," noted the court in its order released on

"If a litigant in a particular case is able to produce credible material to indicate the real and live apprehension of a possible threat, coercion being

statement, this court can always permit at visible, but not an audible range during the course of recording of the statement but since there is no appre-hension raised in the present matter, hence as a matter of right such direction ought not to have been given in the recording of statement.

Thus, the impugned direction in para No.26 of order dated 31.05.2022 stands stayed," said the court which listed the matter for further hearing on August 24.

Jain was arrested on May 30 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the trial court on May 31 remanded him to the ED's custody till June 9.

While remanding Jain to the ED's custody, the trial court had allowed his plea that during the time of enquiry/investigation of the accused, one advocate of the accused shall be allowed to remain present at a safe distance where he can see the accused but not hear him.

The ED had assailed the order before the high court on the ground that it was contrary to various decisions of the Supreme Court and the law.

Lawyers representing Jain had opposed the agency's plea and said it was an "extraordinary case" as the prosecution has filed the petition despite the

CM: Centre admitted in HC that Jain not accused

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday slammed the Centre over call-ing Minister Satyendar Jain corrupt. He said the Centre has itself admitted in the court that Jain is not an "accused".

Addressing the media, Kejriwal said the huge conspiracy against Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders has been exposed as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) submitted in Delhi High Court that Jain is not an accused.

"The Centre has itself admitted in the court that Jain is not an 'accused', when he is not an accused then how can they call him corrupt?' Kejriwal said. Delhi CM also took it to Twitter and wrote, "Centre has itself admitted in the court that Satyendar Jain is not an 'accused'.

When he is not an accused then how can they call him corrupt? Manish Sisodia has revealed what corruption looks like. He has exposed large scale corruption of the BJP. Meanwhile, AAP senior leader and Rajya Sabha Member



Sanjay Singh said the ED has itself admitted in the High Court that there is no complaint or FIR registered against Delhi Health Minister Jain.

BJP-controlled Centre's ED is transforming into an institution that humiliates and imprisons opposition leaders. 'Major corrupt business tycoons like Vijay Mallya, Lalit Modi, Nitin Sandesara, and Yeddyurappa, Vyapam scamsters, and Eshwarappa are not prosecuted by the Modi government's ED, while opposition is baselessly targeted.

The BJP is envious because the Delhi government's Mohalla Clinics are praised all over world, hence they had Health Minister jailed on a fake charge," Singh concluded.

Rajinder Nagar bypoll: Former councillor Rajesh BJP candidate



¬he BJP on Saturday nomi-■ nated former councillor Rajesh Bhatia as its candidate for Rajinder Nagar Assembly bypoll in Delhi. The AAP has fielded Durgesh Pathak from Rajinder Nagar while the Congress is yet to declare its candidate for the seat.

Bhatia, who belongs to the Punjabi community that forms a large chunk of votes in Rajinder Nagar, is also a former general secretary of the BJP's Delhi unit. Later, he was elevated to the post of general sec-

He was elected as a councillor in 2012 from the Rajinder Nagar municipal ward of the erstwhile North Delhi Municipal Corporation. The assembly seat fell vacant after MLA Raghav Chadha, a senior leader of the AAP party was elected to Rajya Sabha from Punjab. The BJP had last wonseat in 2013. The by-elections in high-profile Rajendra Nagar constituency in national capital will be held on June 23.

DCP involved in bar brawl relieved of duty

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Shankar Choudhary has been relieved from his duty" after his name cropped up in a bar brawl in which a woman was allegedly iniured.

The incident came to light on the intervening night of Friday-Saturday when a woman reached Max hospital for treatment of a head injury. Her husband later made a PCR call claiming a DCP-ranked officer had assaulted his wife at a Delhi club. The complaint, however, was withdrawn later. "Shankar Choudhary IPS

2011 is hereby relieved from his duty as DCP/Dwarka, Delhi with immediate effect and directed to report to police headquarters for further orders.

This issues with the approval of Commissioner of Police, Delhi," an official order issued by Delhi Police Commissioner, Rakesh Asthana office read.

The complainant had said that the injury took place at a private club named 'Uncultured Club' in south Delhi. DCP Shankar Choudhary was also there with his family..

"On the intervening night of Friday- Saturday, a women received an inflicted injury on her head after a glass was thrown in a private birthday party in Kailash Colony. Her husband later called police and alleged the involvement of the officer," a general diary entry stated. According to police,

received information in the wee hours of Saturday in which it was mentioned that a DCP rank officer of the Delhi Police has assaulted a woman at a birthday party in a private club named 'Uncultured Club' in south Delhi.

A video clip of the victim was received where she stated that she along with her family was celebrating the birthday party of a family member. The concerned officer was also present along with his family, a senior police officer said.

During the function, a glass fell upon the woman and she was injured. The husband of the woman got infuriated upon this as one person in the party was playing with the glass at that time, the officer

"Due to a miscommunication, the name of the DCP cropped up in the ensuing commotion. The matter has been resolved as it was a family issue," said a senior police But hours later the state-

ment by police, the DCP, Dwarka was asked to report to the Police headquarters.
"An internal enquiry was

initiated in the matter after the incident came to light," said police officials. The complainant, in a purported video, termed taking the name of DCP as "miscommunication".

"The DCP and his wife had come to the party but after one or two hours they left the

LG acting like dummy of BJP Govt: AAP



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday once again slammed the Lieutenant Governor over calling another meeting of Delhi Jal Board (DJB) officers. They (AAP) also said the LG is acting like a dummy of the Bharatiya Party (BJP) Government.

Addressing the media,

mockery out of Delhi's constitutional arrangement. He called another meeting of DJB officers without informing the CM.

'The Supreme Court's constitutional bench has clearly stated that the LG only has power over land, law and order and police; everything else is under the elected government. Delhi's law and order situation is in shambles since the new LG took oath, there have been dozens of shameful incidents like sexual harassment on the metro, and rape in areas," she

"I request the LG to pay attention to the cleanliness of Delhi, giving shelter to the people and law and order and safety of women instead of interfering with the jurisdiction into permanent ones. of the state government. The LG himself is in a constitutional

a meeting of DJB officers. Two days after that, AAP raised questions on the legitimacy of

At that point we thought that the LG was newly-elected and perhaps therefore, he was not aware about the constitutional provisions," she stated. "But today, he once again ille-

of the DJB, without informing the elected state government without informing the Chief Minister of Delhi. He summoned the officials of DJB and also went on an inspection to two sites, Pappankalan sewage treatment plant and Dhansa regulator." She con-

LG OK's 918 posts in hospital in Dwarka

New Delhi: Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has approved the creation of 918 posts at the Indira Gandhi Hospital in Dwarka and the conversion of 76 temporary posts at Dr Baba Sahib Ambedkar Medical College

According to a statement, 144 posts of teaching faculty, 44 constituency Atishi said the LG flout the Constitution," Atishi ing staff, 58 of administrative statement said.

staff and 273 of support staff (technicians, assistants, nursing orderlies, security supervisors and security guards) have been created at the Indira Gandhi

The hospital had been facing a shortage of staff due to various reasons and the decision will put an end to adhocism in appointments on reg-

Man dies after two brothers stab him with blade, hit with bricks over debt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Tn a bizarre incident, a 28-Lyear-old man was allegedly murdered by a 22-year-old man and his brother in Delhi's Adarsh Nagar area on Friday after a fight over money to buy drugs, police said, adding that the victim was allegedly stabbed with a blade and assaulted with bricks.

The gruesome murder that took place on Friday was captured on a CCTV camera. Both the accused have been

The footage showed the victim was walking when he was accosted by the two brothers who punched, kicked and attacked him repeatedly with SR to 15 people can be seen assaulting Narender.

occurred. A video footage of the incident which has gone viral showed residents retreating to their homes and people deserting the lane as the duo battered Narender alias Bunti, a resident of Azadpur, over a few minutes. A third man who was

accompanying the assailants tried to stop the attack, but in vain. The footage showed the victim was walking when he was accosted by the two brothers who punched, kicked and attacked him repeatedly with a blade and stone slabs.

The victim, wearing Tshirt and shorts, was attacked by a man on the busy street. Within seconds, his brother

man had come on a scooty. According to the police, the accused, Rahul Kali and his brother Rohit both residents of Mandir Wali gali, Azadpur, have been arrested. Police said that Rahul is also the 'Bad Character' of Adarsh Nagar

According to Usha Rangnani, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Northwest district, police were informed around 2.15 PM that a person was injured with a blade.

"Police reached the spot and the injured was rushed to the Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial (BJRM) Hospital for treatment. He was identitre where he was declared brought dead," said the DCP. The assailants were iden-

tified as Rahul Kali and his brother Rohit Kali. Probe found that the quarrel broke out between Rahul and Narender over the issue of repeated demands of the victim to borrow money for his

drug addiction," said the DCP.
Rahul got annoyed and called his brother on Mandir Wali street, Azadpur village and attacked Narender with a blade and repeatedly hit his head with bricks, the DCP said. A case under sections 302 (murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been regis-

Kejriwal forms committees to look after high-mast Tirangas

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said his Government has formed volunteers-based committees to look after all the 500 highmast tricolours that are being installed on flagpoles across the city under its 'Deshbhakti

Budget'.
"Each flag's condition will be monitored, cared for by the respective five-member Tiranga Samman Samiti in Delhi. Tiranga Samman Samiti will report to PWD officials if a flag gets torn, soiled or has any blemish due to dust, storm or pollution. The samiti will ensure that the tricolour is there as per the flag code,"

Kejriwal said at an event organised to address the volunteers of Tiranga Samman Samiti at the Thyagaraj Stadium. "Under this initiative, the Delhi Government will also ensure that every Delhiite has a Tiranga in their hand," he said.

The committees formed to look after the Tirangas will ensure that it complies with the flag code and protocols and if it gets dirty or torn, they will get it fixed immediately. Tiranga is not just a cloth and a pole, but a manifestation of the Bharat Mata," said Kejriwal.

"I suggest that all Samman Samitis should meet every Sunday at 10 AM and salute the Tiranga while singing the national anthem. All the com-

mittees should enroll one thousand young volunteers for Bharat Mata and I will have dinner with every committee that enrolls one thousand volunteers," said Kejriwal.

"Around 375 'Tiranga Samman Samitis' have been formed for the upkeep of the tricolors, in the coming time their number will be increased to 500. One volunteer shall act as coordinator for each such committee and will share a weekly activity report with the officials," said Keiriwal.

"About 400 flagpoles have been installed by now, with 200 Tirangas flying high in glory. By 15th August, Delhi will have 500 Tirangas all over the state," said Kejriwal.



Women use umbrellas to protect themselves from the heat on a hot summer day, in New Delhi

13-yr-old boy regains speech after 7 years post remedial surgery

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELH

13-year-old boy, who had Anot spoken a word nor eaten normally for the last seven years, underwent a complicated but successful surgery at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

Shrikant who breathed through a tracheostomy tube for over 10 years, suffered a head injury and had to be kept on a ventilator for a long

The long-term ventilation narrowed his windpipe. He then underwent a tracheostomy in which doctors inserted a tube into the windpipe by creating an opening in the neck.

Due to a long period of tracheostomy and a missing portion of the windpipe, there was no airway for him to breathe normally. According to Dr



Manish Munjal, Senior Consultant, ENT Department, "When I first saw the patient,

complicated airway and voice box surgery. I had not seen anything like

this in my 15 years of practice. The child had 100 per cent stenosis (blockage) of the cricoid and tracheal complex (air pipe)."
The hospital formed a

panel of doctors from the departments of Thoracic Surgery, ENT, Paediatric Intensive Care and Anaesthesia to perform this rare and complex procedure.

Dr. Sabyasachi Bal, Chairperson, Department of Thoracic Surgery, said, "We decided to attempt complete Crico-tracheal resection' of the affected disease airway seg-

This is a complicated and challenging surgery and there

sometimes may also lead to death. But the child did not have any other option and the same was explained to the family." On April 23, the boy was wheeled inside the operation theatre. The team of doctors worked together for six and

"Since 4 cm of windpipe near the voice box was completely destroyed and nonrecoverable, our first challenge was to reduce this gap by bringing the upper and lower segments of airway as close as possible.

half hours.

For this, 'Laryngeal Drop' procedure was performed to bring down the voice box from its normal position," Dr Munjal said."Simultaneously, the lower part of the windpipe was released from its surrounding pulled towards the voice box," Dr Bal added.

The most important and difficult part was to operate on the badly stenosed (blocked) cricoid bone. Located below the voice box, it is a horseshoe shaped bone which has minute nerves on both the sides and is responsible for voice and airway protection.

We used a system of drills to widen the severely stenosed portion of cricoid bone. We had to be extra careful to prethree days. serve the very minute laryngeal nerves (voice nerves). Had these been damaged, the child's

back," Dr. Munjal said. Finally, re-fashioned segments of both upper and lower sides of the airway were brought together and joined.

voice would have never come

The surgery was successful, but there were more challenges. The post-surgery management was very important, the doctors said.

According to Dr. Anil Sachdev, Director Paediatrics Intensive Care, Department of Paediatrics, Shrikant had a very high risk of airway leak into the chest wall, which could have been lethal.

Therefore, he was kept in neck flexion (chin locked down towards the chest position) for

"Also, he was kept on low pressure oxygen support so that he did not develop any traumatic air leak. He was also kept in ICU for three days and the recovery was uneventful" the doctor said. Shrikant has been discharged and is in a stable condition

resident of Azadpur. Later, he station. **Passengers want DTC** bus conductors to reach

them for issuing tickets

SAURAV GUPTA NEW DELHI

fter transport department Aofficials told to travel in bus at least once in a week. commuters of Delhi Transport Corporation buses have urged the authorities to ensure bus conductor go to every passenger to issue ticket.

The DTC commuters face several hardships in buying tickets during peak hours, as the conductor remains seated on their seats and the commuters have to approach them. However, in all the other States the conductors take a round to ensure that every passenger has the ticket. "Why should DTC bus

conductors make passengers come to them for issuing tickets, rather than get up and go to each traveller? This system is 40-50 years old and this should be changed. Like State roadways bus conductor who go to every commuter to issue tickets. The onus should be on DTC conductors that passengers should not be without ticket. The Conductor's duty is to ensure that every passenger who is travelling has the tickets, and if not they should issue him one," said a commuter travelling on 118 bus service plying between Mori Gate and Mayur Vihar.

Another DTC commuter who boarded the bus to cover the distance of around 400 meter to Model Town, said that the conductor in the bus did not even get up from the seat to issue the ticket. I was unable to reach the conductor as the bus was overcrowded and there

was no space for me to get him. On the next stop the ticket collectors boarded the bus and caught me for not having the ticket and fined me even after I told them about the situation. In other states, the conductor themselves approach the passengers to give the ticket but in Delhi it's the major problem for a daily passenger."

A person who did not wished to be named, boarded the bus from Karkardooma to Laxmi Nagar, said that the marshal who was present in the bus was sitting on the seat, while the women passengers were standing in the bus and when he asked the marshal to offer his seat to women passenger, he refused and misbe-The difficulties of the com-

muters does not end here, as after buying the ticket, they have to keep their pockets safe from thieves, even after marshal appointed by state government, to maintain law and order situation in buses. Instead of discharging their duties they enjoy the bus ride and remain seated on their seats. The women commuters still does not feel safe, while traveling in the bus as the marshals of the buses failed miserably in fulfilling their duties.

The Managing Director (MD) of the DTC, Neeraj Semwal told The Pioneer that no complaint regarding the conductors has been received by the DTC. We will do an inspection regarding the issue and take strict action against the conductors who are performing this kind of activity."

Sisodia accuses Assam CM US envoy to Pak calls disputed of corruption in PPE supplies

The AAP versus BJP war transcended Delhi boundaries on Saturday to reach far-off Assam. Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia came up with allegations of corruption against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Sarma in procurement of PPE kits from his wife and son's business partner's companies in 2020 when he was Health Minister and dared the BJP to get arrest Sarma arrested just as they had his Cabinet colleague Satyendar Jain,

Sarma and his wife both said the PPE kits were donated for free to the Government. The Assam Chief Minister also threatened to take criminal defamation against Sisodia.

At a press conference here, Sisodia claimed that while the Assam government procured PPE kits for Rs 600 a piece from other companies, Sarma



gave urgent supply orders to the firms of his wife and son's business partners for Rs 990 a piece "taking advantage of the Covid-19 emergency". The firm belonging to Sarma's wife does not even deal in medical equipment, he alleged.

While the contract given to the firm of Sarma's wife was cancelled as the company could not supply PPE kits, another supply order was given to the firm belonging to the business partners of his son at a rate of Rs 1,680 per kit," Sisodia said citing a media report. He said

on the story and published it two days ago.
Sisodia's statement came

hours after Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said the former would make a huge revelation against a top BJP leader soon, while sharing a tweet on Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on money laundering charges.
The AAP leader asked why

the members of the BJP were silent on corruption by a chief minister of a state ruled by the saffron party."They talk of corruption and level baseless allegations against members of opposition parties. I want to probe their understanding of corruption... Want to ask them if they consider this (Assam case) corruption or not," Sisodia added

He said the Enforcement Directorate arrested Jain on

and the Centre told the court on Friday that he is "not an accused".

Responding to Sisodia's charges, Sarma took to Twitter to defend his wife. He wrote, "At a time when the entire country was facing the worst pandemic in over 100 years Assam hardly had any PPE Kits My wife took the courage of coming forward and donating around 1500 free of cost to the govt to save lives She didn't take a single penny."
Sarma said, "While you

showed a completely different side. You refused my multiple calls to help Assamese people stuck in Delhi. I can never forget one instance when I had to wait 7 days just to get a Assamese covid victim's body from Delhi's mortuary. Stop sermonising and I will see you soon in Guwahati as you will face criminal defamation, Sarma wrote on Twitter.

Sisodia at that point of time

Gilgit-Baltistan part of Pakistan

The US Ambassador to The US Ampassauc.
Pakistan, Donald Blome, has made a statement that draws an inference that the disputed Gilgit-Baltistan is a part of Pakistan.

The Gilgit-Baltistan region is considered by India as part of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) and the US assertion runs counter to the projected strategic ties between the two

India is yet to react on the issue and a specific query did not elicit a response from the Ministry of External Affairs till filing of the report.

However, the office of the National Security Adviser Ajit Doval is seized of the matter.

During a public speech in Pakistan, Blome said he wants to travel from Karachi to Lahore and Peshawar to Gilgit-Baltistan. Blome has also posted a one minute 25 seconds

The speech begins with Arabic greeting as-salamu alaykum and concludes with thanks in the same language as a shukriva.

From the verified official Twitter handle @usembislam-abad, the US Embassy in Islamabad tagged a video of Blome's speech, saying, "We have a long-standing partnership and rich history with Pakistan. Ambassador Donald Blome has a message for Pakistan and Pakistanis near and far as he begins his tenure as the US Ambassador to Pakistan.#PakUSAt75"

The tweet was posted at 12.30 pm on Saturday. In his speech, Blome said,

'As-salamu alaykum! I am Blome and I am honoured to represent the United States as the new Ambassador to Pakistan. We are proud of our longstanding partnership with Pakistan. In fact, our rela-

tionship began 75 years ago, very shortly after Pakistan gained its Independence.

"We live today in a world full of challenges. We can address those challenges most effectively by working together side by side.

:I look forward to deepening the connections between the Pakistani and American people which have a rich history and an even brighter

future. I also look forward to exploring Pakistan from Karachi to Lahore, Peshawar to Gilgit Baltistan and other between.....Shukriya"

The move is an explicit doublespeak of the US which considers Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory but terms the portion of Kashmir under the control of Islamabad as a territory of Pakistan.

PM to launch lifestyle for green movement via video conferencing

 $P^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}_{\text{Modi will launch a global initiative 'Lifestyle for the}}$ Environment (LiFE) Movement' on Sunday via video conferencing. He will also deliver keynote address during the programme.

The launch will initiate 'LiFE Global Call for Papers' inviting ideas and suggestions from academics, universities and research institutions to influence and persuade individuals, communities and organisations across the world to adopt an environment conscious lifestyle.

The programme will also witness participation of Bill Gates, Co-Chairman Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Lord Nicholas Stern, Climate Economist: Prof. Cass Sunstein. Author of Nudge Theory; Aniruddha Dasgupta, CEO and President World Resources



Inger Andersen, UNEP Global Head; Achim Steiner, UNDP Global Head and David Malpass, World Bank President, among others.

The idea of LiFE was introduced by the Prime Minister during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow last year.

The idea promotes an environment conscious lifestyle that focuses on 'mindful and deliberate utilisation' instead of 'mindless and destructive consumption, according to a press statement from the PMO.

Plea in SC challenges provision of NCM Act, seeks district-wise identification of minorities

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging a provision of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act and seeking a direction to the Control to define tion to the Centre to define "minority" and lay down guidelines for identification of minorities at the district level.

The plea sought to declare the notification on minority community, issued by the government on October 23, 1993, as arbitrary, irrational and contrary to Articles 14, 15, 21, 29, 30 of the Constitution. The petition was filed by

Mathura-resident Devkinandan Thakur through advocate Ashutosh Dubey. It said the petitioner is filing

this PIL under Article 32 to challenge the validity of Section 2(c) of the NCM Act 1992 for not only giving unbridled power to the Centre but also being manifestly arbitrary, irrational and offending Articles 14, 15, 21, 29 and 30 of the Constitution.

It sought direction to declare that Section 2(c) of the National

Commission for Minorities Act is void, unconstitutional and inoperative for being violative of Articles 14, 15, 21, 29 and 30 of the Constitution.

The plea said that the facts constituting cause of action accrued on May 17, 1992, when the Act came into effect and by using unbridled power under section 2(c), the Centre arbitrarily notified five communities namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis as minority at national level against the spirit of the TMA Pai ruling of the top court.

"Cause of action continues till date because followers of Judaism, Bahaism and Hinduism; who are real minorities in Ladakh, Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Kashmir, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Manipur, cannot establish and administer educational institutions of their choice because of non-identification of 'minority' at state level, thus jeopardizing their basic rights guaranteed under Article 29-30", it said. The plea said that their

right under Articles 29-30 is being siphoned off illegally to the majority community in the state because the Centre has not notified them as 'minority' under the NCM Act.

"Followers of Judaism, Bahaism and Hinduism are being deprived of their basic rights to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. On the other hand, Muslims are in majority in Lakshadweep (96.58%) and Kashmir (96%) and there is significant population in Ladakh (44%), Assam (34.20%), Bengal (27.5%), Kerala (26.60%), UP (19.30%) and Bihar (18%) and (they) can establish & administer educational institutions of their choice," it said.

The petition said that Christians are majority in Nagaland (88.10%), Mizoram (87.16%) and Meghalaya (74.59%), and there is significant population in Arunachal, Goa, Kerala, Manipur, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal and they can also establish and administer educational institutions of their



BJP national president JP Nadda with Head of Missions (Ambassadors/High Commissioners) to India, at party headquarters,

UP Govt rejects reports of girl suffering from monkeypox in Gzb

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Government on Saturday rejected I reports that a girl has been found to be suffering from the monkeypox disease in Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh. However, it said that as a precautionary measures, the samples from the five-year-old girl have been sent for testing for monkeypox to ICMR NIV Pune.

UP Deputy CM and Health Minister Brajesh Pathak said that it is "unnecessary panic mongering" and that no cases of the disease have been reported from India so

According to reports, the girl complained of itching and rashes on her body. The Chief Medical Officer of Ghaziabad said the test was just a "precautionary measure" as the girl has no other health issues and did not have close contact with anyone who has travelled abroad in the



past month."Samples of a five-year-old firmed case is laboratory confirmed for girl have been collected for testing for monkeypox, as a precautionary measure, as she had complaints of itching and rashes on her body. She has no other health ing.

issues and neither she nor any of her close contacts travelled abroad in the past month," CMO Ghaziabad said.

On Tuesday, the Union Health Ministry issued "Guidelines on Management Monkeypox Disease" to ensure advance preparedness across the country, in view of the rising reports of monkeypox cases in non-endemic countries. According to the guidelines, a con-

Monkeypox virus by detection of unique sequences of viral DNA either by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or sequenc-

Nadda meets foreign diplomats under 'know BJP' programme

ontinuing his interaction Cunder "know BJP" programme with diplomats, BJP president J P Nadda on Saturday met ambassadors from several Countries, including Russia and Tazikistan, in the BJP headquarters here.

Nadda briefed envoys about party's ideology, political and economic programme and future future road map of country's development. BIP president exchanged

views with diplomats from Russia, Tajikistan, the

Republic Turkey, Uzbekistan LAO PDR (Laos), Kirgistan and Cuba. This is the third meeting of

Nadda with foreign diplomats. the BJP national president

Nadda briefed envoys about party's ideology, political and economic programme

and future future road map of country's development In his second interaction

with the diplomats in the ongoing "know BJP" programme,

sions of 14 countries including those from the USA, Australia and Israel.

Welcome address was given by Convenor of Overseas Cell Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwale. Diplomats were shown a shortfilm since the inception of Bharatiya Jana Sangh 1951 and the BJP in 1980.

Diplomats were taken through BJP's political journey from two MPS to 303 MPs in the Lok Sabha.

The BJP President spoke with the diplomats on the policies of the Modi Government as well as the party structure and its various departments and the event, according to a statement by the BJP.

The foreing guests made a

Question- Answer session on the party's ideology and politcal economic agenda in coming years under the current

leadership.

On April 6, the BJP"s Foundation Day, Nadda had launched the initiative "Know BJP" specifically to address the overseas audience and had over four-hour-long interaction including question-hour session preceded by a documentary detailing party's political history, ideology, structure and programme, with the Head of Missions of 13 countries of the

BJP intends to continue such interactions with small groups of foreign diplomats in the future too.

IMD predicts heatwave over NW, central India for next 3 days

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

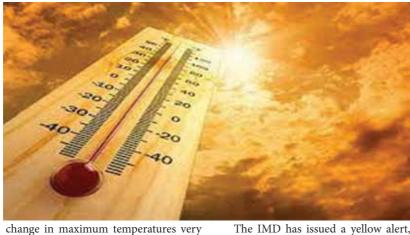
 $T^{
m he\ India\ Meteorological\ Department}$ (IMD) on Saturday predicted heatwave conditions over Northwest and central India for the next two to three days. The weather department also predicted an intense spell of rainfall over northeast India for the next five days.

The IMD said that heatwave conditions are very likely over Rajasthan, Jammu Division, Himachal, Uttarakhand, south Punjab & south Haryana-Delhi on 4-5 June. Vidarbha, Jharkhand, interior Odisha

& Chhattisgarh will also witness a heatwave from 4-6 June, the weather office warned. South UP and North MP's temperature is likely to rise from 4th-8th June. The IMD further said that rise in max-

imum temperatures by about 2°C very likely over most parts of Northwest & Central India and no significant change thereafter.

"No significant change in maximum temperatures very likely over Gujarat during next 3 days and fall by 2-3°C over south Gujarat thereafter. No significant



change in maximum temperatures very likely over rest parts of the country dur-ing next 5 days," it said. Meanwhile, IMD predicted rainfall in

these areas - northeast India and sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim during the next five days. The southern peninsular region will experience rainfall from June 7, it added.

warning of a heatwave at isolated places in the capital. The mercury may increase to 44 degrees Celsius at the Safdarjung observatory, it said.

A heat wave is declared when the maximum temperature is over 40 degrees Celsius and at least 4.5 notches above nor-

Climate change poses serious threat to mental health, well-being

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

limate change poses seri-Cous risks to mental health and well-being, and thus countries must make it a priority while taking efforts to tackle the climate crisis, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said. The findings concur with a recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), published in February this

The report revealed that rapidly increasing climate change poses a rising threat to mental health and psychosocial well-being; from emotional distress to anxiety, depression, grief, and suicidal behavior. A 2021 WHO survey of 95 countries found that only 9 have thus far

included mental health and the social determinants that psychosocial support in their national health and climate change plans.

The impacts of climate change are increasingly part of our daily lives, and there is very little dedicated mental health support available for people and communities dealing with climate-related hazards and long-term risk," said Dr Maria Neira, Director of Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health at WHO

on Friday. The mental health impacts of climate change are unequally distributed with certain groups disproportionately affected depending on factors such as socioeconomic status, gender and age. However, it is clear that climate change affects many of

are already leading to massive mental health burdens glob-

"The impact of climate change is compounding the already extremely challenging situation for mental health and mental health services globally. There are nearly 1 billion people living with mental health conditions, yet in low- and middle-income countries, 3 out of 4 do not have access to needed services" said Dévora Kestel, Director of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse at WHO. "By ramping up mental health and psychosocial support within disaster risk reduction and climate action, countries can do

most at risk.

more to help protect those The new WHO policy

brief recommends five important approaches for governments to address the mental health impacts of climate change. These are: integrate climate considerations with mental health programmes; integrate mental health support with climate action; build upon global commitments; develop community-based approaches to reduce vulnerabilities; and close the large funding gap that exists for mental health and psychosocial support. 'WHO's Member States

have made it very clear that mental health is a priority for them. We are working closely with countries to protect people's physical and mental health from climate threats," said Dr Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, WHO climate lead, and an IPCC lead author.

Shootings expose divisions on gun issue in faith communities

fter a gunman killed 19 Achildren and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24, several pastors around the country challenged their conservative counterparts with this question: Are you pro-life if

you are pro-gun?
One of those faith leaders is the Rev Steven Marsh, senior pastor of Geneva Presbyterian Church in Laguna Woods, California. That's where a gunman, who officials say was fuelled by hate against Taiwan, opened fire on May 15 at a luncheon organised by members of the Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, killing one and injuring five others.

"I've heard people tell me I'm not Christian because I'm pro-choice," Marsh said. "I ask those people: How can you be pro-life and not support getting rid of assault rifles? You can't pick and choose where you want to be pro-life."

Marsh's emotional state-

ment is a vignette in the larger narrative of a nation divided on how - or if - guns should be regulated. The faith community is not monolithic on

People of faith who are tired of years of failed gun contried or years of failed gun control efforts and grieving the latest mass shooting victims are pointing out what they say is hypocrisy - conservative Christians pushing to abolish abortion and grant unfettered access to guns. Those who discontinuous control is the same of the same access to guns. Those who disagree contend the real problem is sin and soft targets. It's not guns, but the "evil" in people and abortions that kill, they say.

These entrenched, partisan divisions in the US on abortion and gun rights are stark after high-profile massacres in New York, California, Texas and elsewhere as the country awaits a US Supreme Court ruling that could overturn the constitutional right to abortion. According to 2017 Pew

Research Center data analysed for Christianity Today, 41% of white evangelicals own a gun



compared to 30% of Americans overall - the highest share of any religious group. The survey also shows 74% of all gun owners in the US agree that essential to their sense of freedom. Most states also allow firearms in places of worship.

Christian author and activist Shane Claiborne disputes the notion that the US has a sin problem, but not a gun problem; he says it has both. Claiborne recently went to Uvalde to support victims, and to Houston to pray and protest at the National Rifle Association's convention held days after the massacre.

He passed out tracts asserting "We can't be pro-life and ignore gun violence" and asking "Will we choose the gun or

the cross?" Claiborne said he was among those asked to leave the NRA's Sunday prayer breakfast after disrupting the program to call for prayer for the Uvalde victims.

Claiborne wants to see laws change, including policies that would raise the age of gun ownership, limit magazine capacity, ban assault-style weapons and mandate training.

He said laws can't make people love each other, but they can make it more difficult to take

'We want to make it harder for folks to kill other people, and we're making it really easy right now," Claiborne said.

Conservative pastors have said mass shootings and other social harms are the result of an overall degradation in moral values and disregard for human life. Pastor Tim Lee, an evangelist and a former US Marine who lost both legs during the Vietnam War, was one of the featured speakers at the NRA prayer breakfast that Claiborne and others were asked to leave.

After the Uvalde shooting, Lee posted on his Facebook page: "This is so heartbreaking. I have said it so many times When kids hear adults say that it's OK to kill babies (abortion) then all respect for human lives is gone.'

The gun debate is deeply person for the Rev Chineta Goodjoin. Her best friend, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton,

was one of nine people shot and killed by Dylann Roof in June 2015 as they sat in prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

Goodjoin, who leads New Hope Presbyterian Church in Anaheim, California, said people of faith must rise up in "righteous anger" to demand common-sense gun regulation. When massacres occur in community spaces like churches, schools and supermarkets, it tests an entire community's resiliency, she said.

"How can you teach in schools when people are traumatised by gun violence?" she said. "When a church is no longer a safe space, do I work to enhance security or enhance people's faith? The impact is like an epidemic that touches

every fibre of our being."

But others, like the Rev Russ Tenhoff, say it is simply not possible to "legislate safe-

"There are plenty of laws, but people who are lawless don't obey them," said Tenhoff, lead pastor of Mountainside Community Fellowship in Kingwood, West Virginia. "Murders are going to happen even without firearms. We're

never going to be able to prevent gun violence." As a firearms safety officer who trains adults and children, Tenhoff says the solution is to

"harden the schools," which have become soft targets. "We need to put one-way locks on schools, have metal

detectors and an armed officer in every school," he said. For a Catholic pastor in

Newtown, Connecticut, who a decade ago experienced the grief that now envelops Uvalde, the lack of political will to enact gun legislation is unfathomable.

Monsignor Robert Weiss, who leads the St Rose of Lima parish, presided over the funeral of eight victims who were murdered in Sandy Hook Elementary School on Dec 14, 2012. He held an evening Mass in his church the day after the

US, S Korean navies end key exercise amid N Korea tension

The US aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan concluded a naval exercise with South Korea in the Philippine Sea on Saturday, the two militaries said, amid signs that North Korea is possibly preparing to conduct its first nuclear test explosion since 2017.

The three-day exercise that began on Thursday in international waters off the Japanese island of Okinawa was apparently the allies' first joint drill involving a US aircraft carrier since November 2017.

The Ronald Reagan then joined the USS Theodore Roosevelt and Nimitz in a rare three-carrier exercise with South Korean naval vessels during North Korea's last provocative run in nuclear and intercontinental ballistic

after President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in a summit in Seoul vowed to upgrade defense exercises and discuss ways to for Washington to protect its ally in the face of growing North Korean threats. The US Navy's 7th Fleet

said that the exercise was aimed at strengthening the interoperability of the two On Friday, Biden's special

envoy for North Korea, Sung Kim, said Washington is preparing for all contingencies" in close coordination with South Korea and Japan as it monitors North Korean arrangements for a possible nuclear test that could be imminent.

Kim, who was in Seoul for



counterparts to discuss the nuclear standoff with North Korea, said Washington assesses that the North is pressing ahead with preparations at its nuclear testing ground in the northeastern town of Punggye-

The North's next test would be its seventh since 2006 and the first since September 2017, when it a trilateral meeting with his South Korean and Japanese thermonuclear bomb to fit on

its intercontinental ballistic

Nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang have stalled since 2019 over disagreements in exchanging the release of cripoling US-led sanctions for the North's disarmament steps.

North Korea has already conducted missile tests 17 times this year, including its first ICBM demonstrations in

Russia puts more strength behind 'creeping' Ukraine advance

Reinforced Russian troops backed by airstrikes pummeled a portion of eastern Ukraine on Saturday, blowing up bridges and shelling apartment buildings as they fought to capture two cities that would put a contested province under Moscow's control, Ukrainian officials said.

Russian and Ukrainian forces battled street-by-street in Sievierodonetsk and neighboring Lysychansk, regional governor Serhiy Haidai said.

Russian strikes killed four people, including a mother and child, in the nearby village of Hirske, Haidai said.

The cities are the last major areas of Luhansk province still held by Ukraine. The Russian attacks are central to the Kremlin's reduced wartime goal of seizing the entire Donbas region, where Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces for eight years and established self-proclaimed republics.

Russia also escalated attacks around Bakhmut, a city in Doneskt, the other province that makes up the Donbas, the Ukrainian military said as the war reached its In recent days, the

Russians focused on capturing Sievierodonetsk, which had a prewar population of about 00,000. At one point, they held 90% of the city, but Ukrainian soldiers clawed back some ground, Haidai reported Friday. Western military analysts said Russia was devoting significant troop strength and firepower to what British officials described as a "creeping advance" in the Donbas.

"The combined use of air

and artillery strikes has been a key factor in Russia's recent tactical successes in the region," the U.K. Ministry of Defense said in a Saturday assessment. The British ministry

warned that after launching so many guided missiles, Russia was employing unguided missiles that have "almost certainly caused substantial collateral damage and civilian casualties.' The Ukrainian military

staff reported that Ukrainian forces repulsed nine attacks in the Donbas over 24 hours. The claim could not be independently verified. While Russian forces are

concentrated on seizing the Donbas in the east, Ukrainian troops have staged counterattacks to try to regain territory in their country's south.

After seizing most of the Kherson and Dnipropetrovsk

regions, as well as the port city of Mariupol, Moscow has installed local administrators, offered residents Russian passports and taken other steps to consolidate its hold on occupied areas. The Institute for the Study of War, a Washingtonbased think tank, said Russianinstalled officials and troops faced growing resistance among the local population

The institute cited accounts on Russian Telegram channels of threats against locals who received Russian

and "an increase in partisan

activity in southern Ukraine.'

The Ukrainian Center for National Resistance, which established a website to advise residents on sabotage and other techniques, said Kherson residents were encouraged to burn down a Russian passport

UN official decries continued crackdown on Sudan protesters

UN human rights official om A Saturday condemned the continued crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Sudan, which has been roiling since a military coup over six months ago.

Adama Dieng, the United Nations expert on human rights in Sudan, urged military authorities to take "more bold and concrete actions" following the lifting of a nationwide state of emergency on May 29 that had been in place since the military took over Oct 25

He called for the release of all people detained under the state of emergency and an end to the use of excessive force and arrests of anti-coup protesters.

Sudan has been politically paralysed since the coup, with near-daily street protests. Authorities launched a major crackdown on pro-democracy protesters. They fired live ammunition and tear gas at crowds on the streets and knocked the country's internet and mobile signal offline - all in efforts to keep people from

Sudanese security forces have also



been accused of using sexual violence against women taking part in the demonstrations. According to the UN, at least 99 people have been killed in the anti-coup protests.

Most recently, one protester was shot dead Friday when forces violently dispersed demonstrations in the capital of Khartoum, according to the Sudan Doctors Committee, which is part of the pro-democracy movement. Over 4,400 others have been wounded since the

Another young man whose family are in mourning today. His killing must be investigated immediately, and the perpetrator prosecuted," Dieng said

he wrapped up his second visit to the country since his appointment in November to monitor the human rights situation in Sudan after the coup. Dieng, who visited Sudan in February, was a UN special adviser on the prevention of genocide and served as an investigator for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda Friday's protests marked the third

anniversary of the deadly June 3, 2019 breakup by security forces of a major protest camp outside the military's headquarters in Khartoum and others in At least 128 protesters were killed in

the crackdown, which also involved what activists describe as a campaign of rape and sexual misconduct by troops ordered by the military to crush the prodemocracy movement.

The dispersal was a turning point in ties between between the generals and the movement, which was behind the uprising that led to the military's removal of longtime strongman Omar al-Bashir in April 2019.

Two Pakistani terrorists involved in Anarkali mkt blast killed in shootout

wo Pakistani terrorists, **I** involved in a deadly blast that ripped through a crowded market in Lahore's popular Anarkali Bazar, were killed in a shootout on Saturday, the police

The Baloch Nationalist Army (BNA), one of several ethnic insurgent groups active in the mineral-rich southwestern Balochistan province, had claimed responsibility for the blast that killed three people and injured 28 others on January 20.

On Saturday, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of the Punjab Police said: "Arrested terrorists Abdul Razziq and Sanaullah Sattar who were involved in Anarkali Blast were killed in a shootout with terrorists' companions.'

It said that during a course of interrogation, both terrorists, who were arrested in May, disclosed that they had a house in

Badami Bhag in Lahore where leftover/remaining explosives after the Anarkali blast.

"On Saturday morning when investigators and CTD teams along with both the terrorists were proceeding towards the said place for the recovery of explosives, they were attacked by their four unknown accomplices. In a cross fire, both terrorists were killed on the spot and their companions/terrorists escaped," the CTD said.

One loaded rifle with ammunition was recovered, it

The CTD in May had arrested both the terrorists who arrived here from Balochistan to carry out further terrorist attacks on law enforcement agencies in Lahore and a train at the Lahore railway station.

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'Leftist candidate asked Prez to quit Colombia poll race'

AP ■ MEXICO CITY

IVI claimed the leftist candidate in Colombia's presidential race faces "a dirty war" by "conservatives," leading the Colombian government to tell President Andrés Manuel López Obrador Friday to stay out of its domestic politics.

López Obrador makes a big point of saying he doesn't interfere in other countries' internal affairs, and has used that as an excuse to avoid criticising non-democratic regimes like Nicaragua and Cuba.

But on Friday López Obrador blasted the opposition to front-running presidential candidate, the leftist Gustavo Petro. López Obrador claimed Petro faces a scare campaign, trying to depict

him as dangerous radical, something similar to a cam-Obrador in a failed presiden-

tial bid in 2006. "I want to say I'm sending a hug to Petro," López Obrador. "Why a hug? Because he is facing a dirty war of the most cowardly and undignified kind, everything we suffered in Mexico. All the conservatives are united, unethically." Colombia's foreign relations ministry shot back on its social media accounts, saying the Mexican president's comments were "an offensive interference in our country's internal affairs.'

"We ask him to respect the autonomy of the Colombian people to choose their next president without interferences that try to influence voters," the ministry wrote.

American spy agencies review their misses on Ukraine, Russia

AP WASHINGTON

The question was posed in a ▲ private briefing to US intelligence officials weeks before Russia launched its invasion in late February: Was Ukraine's leader, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, made in the mold of Britain's Winston Churchill or Afghanistan's Ashraf Ghani?

In other words, would Zelenskyy lead a historic resistance or flee while his government collapsed?

Ultimately, US intelligence agencies underestimated Zelenskyy and Ukraine while overestimating Russia and its president, even as they accurately predicted Vladimir Putin would order an invasion.

But Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, did not fall in a few days, as the the United States had expected. And while American spy agencies have been credited

with supporting Ukraine's resis-

tance, they now face bipartisan pressure to review what they got wrong beforehand - especially after their mistakes in judging Afghanistan last year. Intelligence officials have

begun a review of how their agencies judge the will and ability of foreign governments to fight. The review is taking place

while US intelligence continues to have a critical role in Ukraine and as the White House ramps up weapons deliveries and support to Ukraine, trying to predict what Putin might see as escalatory and seeking to avoid a direct war with Russia. President Joe Biden's

administration announced it would give Ukraine a small number of high-tech, mediumrange rocket systems, a weapon that Ukraine has long wanted.

Since the war began on February 24, the White House has approved shipping drones,



anti-tank and anti-aircraft systems, and millions of rounds of ammunition.

The US has lifted early restrictions on intelligencesharing to provide information that Ukraine has used to strike critical targets, including the flagship of the Russian navy. Lawmakers from both parcould have done more before Putin invaded and whether the White House held back some support due to pessimistic assessments of Ukraine. Senator Angus King, an independent from Maine, told

officials at a Senate Armed

Services Committee hearing

ties question whether the US

better handle on the prediction, we could have done more to assist the Ukrainians earlier". Ohio Representative Mike

last month that "had we had a

Turner, the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, said in an interview that he thought the White House and top administration officials had projected "their own bias on the situation in a way that lends itself to inaction".

The Senate Intelligence Committee sent a classified letter last month to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence asking about how intelligence agencies assessed both Ukraine and Afghanistan CNN first reported the letter.

Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines told lawmakers in May that the National Intelligence Council would review how the agencies assess both "will to fight" and "capacity to fight".

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ICICI Bank Limited

Thermal coal demand to increase to around 1,500 MT by 2040: Joshi



¬o address the country's I energy demand which is set to double by 2040, thermal coal requirement would go up

to around 1,500 million tonnes in the next 18 years, Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi said on

scious about the environment and keep in mind the sustainable mining goals.
"While the expected elec-

The minister added that tricity generation by 2040 would be approximately 3000

billion units, India's energy demand was set to double by 2040. To cater to this demand, thermal coal demand by 2040 would increase to approximately 1500 million tonnes, the minister said.

Though best efforts are being made to balance the dependence on coal and lignite with development of renewables, the transition to green energy will mostly be gradual, Joshi said during his maiden visit to NLC India Ltd at Neyeli. NLC India, in a statement, said that Joshi emphasised on the importance of coal in the country's energy security today.

India has a balanced ener-

gy mix and this is helping the country move steadily towards its energy-environmental goals, the minister added.He also commended the significant role played by the company in fighting COVID.

IIFL equity dealer found guilty in front-running case, 5-yr ban imposed

Capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Friday passed its final order in the IIFL group front-running case, finding the group's equity dealer Santosh Singh guilty advance information provided by their brokers and investment

analysts, before their clients have been given the information is called front running. The SEBI also found his friend Adil Suthar guilty, thereby penalised the accountholders whose accounts were used by the duo for placing those front running trades.

Additionally, Singh and Sutar would be barred from 5 years, while slapped with Rs 10 lakh and Rs 8 lakh penalties, respectively, which must be paid within 45 days time.

Indices settle almost steady in volatile trading session



New Delhi: Domestic equity benchmark indices settled almost steady with downside bias on Friday even though there was a sharp volatility in trade throughout the session.

Sensex closed 0.09 per cent lower at 55,769 points, whereas nifty closed 0.26 per cent lower at 16,584 points.

Intraday low for sensex was at 55,719 points, whereas high at 56,433 points, data showed. On Friday, Reliance Industries was the top gainer among Nifty50 companies, rising nearly 2 per cent, whereas

Grasim Industries the top loser at 6.5 per cent. "There are still some uncertainties about global markets, but there are some pockets that may continue to outperform. Investors are advised to

stay invested in quality stocks while the current rally is an opportunity to exit stocks that have fundamental concerns, said Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Swastika Investmart. Meena is bullish on corporate facing banks, capital goods, infrastructure and hous-



Vice President hopeful of 'significant' growth in India-Senegal trade ties

ndia's bilateral trade with Senegal has touched a record USD 1.65 billion in 2021-22 despite the coronavirus pandemic, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has said, expressing hope that the figure grow significantly in the com-

ing years.
Naidu, who is here on the second leg of his three-nation tour to Gabon, Senegal and Qatar, on Friday addressed an India-Senegal business event.

"The Vice President noted that despite the pandemic, there was a welcome growth in economic and trade ties between the two countries and bilateral trade has crossed a record high of USD 1.65 billion in 2021-22," his office tweeted. He hoped that the trade would grow significantly in the coming years, it said.

As to the bilateral trade basket, major items of export from India include textiles, food items, automobiles and pharmaceuticals. The main items of import from Senegal are phosphoric acid and raw

Naidu earlier on Friday

termed Senegal as India's "natural development partner," and appreciated the African nation for its democratic ethos, as he held delegation-level talks with the President of the National Assembly of Senegal

Moustapha Niasse. Naidu, who is also the Chairman of the Rajya

Sabha, emphasised the important role of legislature in the life of a nation, and said that a strong, effective & responsive parliament lies at the core of good governance.

He also appreciated Senegal's democratic ethos, making it India's natural development partner," his office tweeted. India and Senegal are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year.

Amazon retail CEO Dave Clark resigns after 23 years

IANS SAN FRANCISCO

Amazon has announced that Dave Clark, its CEO of worldwide consumer business, is leaving the company after 23 years. Clark played a key role in developing Amazon's expansive and speedy supply chain. "After 23 years with Amazon, Dave Clark has

decided to leave the company to pursue other opportunities. His last day in the office will be July 1," Amazon CEO Andy Jassy said in a statement late on

The company also declared the move in a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Clark will be resigning to "pursue other opportunities"

Clarsk joined Amazon's Pathways Operations Programme in May 1999 -- just a day after graduating from his MBA programme -- and helped the company build and scale the consumer operations. "He's led teams who've designed several generations of FCs, built out Amazon's transportation network from scratch, and has developed significant talent throughout the



organisation," said Jassy. Clark said that 23 years ago, he took what felt like a big personal bet when he joined Amazon out of grad school. "We were a small company

with only six fulfillment centres that year, but growing fast. I was drawn to the opportunity at Amazon because of the people I met when I came to Seattle," he said.

"We have a great leadership team across the Consumer business that is ready to take on more as the company evolves past the customer experience challenges we took on during the COVID-19 pandemic," he added. Clark oversaw online stores, physical stores, the marketplace of third-party sellers and the Amazon Prime subscription business.

of wrongfully using his knowledge of impending orders of its group entities. Front-running is the practice of dealing on

Vedanta to raise

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vedanta Ltd on Saturday said a committee of directors has approved raising up to Rs 4,089 crore via debentures on a private placement basis.

"An authorised committee of directors at its meeting held today i.E. June 4, 2022, considered and approved offering for subscription... Up to 40,890 nos secured, rated, listed, redeemable, non-convertible debentures (NCDs) of face value Rs 10,00,000 each aggregating up to Rs 4,089 crore," the company said in a filing to BSE.

tion event for introducing

India's Radio Regulations

Board (RRB) candidate and

ITU Council candidature of

India for re-election, Chauhan

said the country shares the

up to ₹4,089 crore via NCDs

IANS CHENNAI

A bout 2,600 workers of Ford India Pvt Ltd's plant at Maraimalainagar continue their protest demanding better compensation as the company has decided to shut down its Maraimalainagar plant near

here, said a union official. "The management has offered 85 days pay for every completed year of service. Also, a fixed sum of Rs 42,500 for every completed year of service. Earlier they had offered 75 days of salary and the fixed sum at Rs 20,000 for every completed year of service," a worker union official told IANS preferring anonymity.

However, the Ford India workers citing another car maker's compensation scheme are demanding about 135 days of salary for every completed year of service and also taking care of the income tax burden. The official said the workers who were protesting inside the

factory since Monday have come out and are protesting outside the factory gates. The labour department

Ford India workers continue protest demanding better compensation for job loss

official who had come to the plant had told us to negotiate with the management. It is between the workers and the management and the state government has no role in the issue, the labour department official who had come earlier had told us," the union official

This will be the final job for most of the workers as age is against us. Further the employment scenario is also not good," a senior worker told IANS. According to him, the management is playing its

electric vehicle (EV) cards close to its chest. While the management has said it has no plans to make EVs in India, it has not said where the project will be housed. The possibility of Ford starting the EV project here after sending out the workers

India announced its decision to wind down vehicle assembly in Gujarat's Sanand by the fourth quarter of 2021, and vehicle and engine manufacturing in Chennai by the second quarter of 2022. Ford India has four plants in the country -- vehicle and engine plants in Chennai and Sanand. The workers at the Maraimalainagar plant are also

cannot be ruled out, he added.

In September 2021, Ford

Ford India's Gujarat plant and its workers will be taken over by Tata Motors' subsidiary Tata Passenger Electric Mobility. According to the Ford

dejected at being left out, as

India's workers union official, there are around 2,600 permanent workers and about 1,000 contract workers at the Maraimalainagar plant.

The factory closure will lead to loss of 3,600 direct jobs 3,600 and about 30,000 indirect obs, he said. Former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and AIADMK Coordinator O. Panneerselvam had said the stoppage of production by Ford India in the state was a major concern.

India to contest for re-election to ITU Council

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

following works-

District - Almora

Tndia will contest for re-elec $oldsymbol{1}$ tion to International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Council, Ministry of Communications said in a statement on Saturday. New Delhi has also underlined its firm commitment to the UN telecom body's goals and vision for a connected society, and enabling ICTs to achieve Sustainable Development

Goals-2030, the statement (ICT). Speaking at the recepquoted Minister of State for

World Summit of Information Society (WSIS) 2022 held from May 31 to June 3 in Geneva, Switzerland. He said India has been at the forefront of global digital transformation, achieving excellence in development, and use of information and communications technologies

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

The Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645, on behalf of Chairman Uttarakhand Peyjal

Nigam invites sealed item rate tender on e-Government Procurement

System (e-GPS) portal i.e. http://www.uktenders.gov.in, for the

The tender form can be downloaded from e-Government

Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. http://www.uktenders.gov.in

from 04.06.2022 at 17:00 hrs. to 24.06.2022 at 17:00 hrs. Other

information can be seen in tender form or office notice board or

obtained from office or phone no. 05966 220690 of office of tender inviting

XX Karnataka Bank

Branch: Ganaur

PH: 0130-2460700, Mobile: 8397002323/8397002600

NOTICE TO THE LOCKER HIRERS

We hereby inform that the Karnataka Bank Branch at Ganaur (407/9,

Near Ganaur Police Station, Main Railway Road, Ganaur, Dist-

Sonipat, Haryana-131 101) is proposed to be shifted to new premises at

Railway Road, Opp. Sharma Hospital, Near Vishwakarma Mandir,

Ganaur, Dist-Sonipat, Haryana-131 101 on 13.06.2022. Hence all the

customers of our Bank are requested to vacate the articles kept in the

locker in order to avoid damage to the same. In case locker is not vacated

before 10.06.2022, 4 p.m., the locker unit will be shifted with its content

Please also note that we are not responsible in any way for damage or

loss of the above articles arising out of any reason or cause whatsoever.

at the sole risk and responsibility of the hirers.

Date: 04-06-2022

Name of Work

Construction of Food Godown at Chaukhutiya,

Communications Devusinh Chauhan as saying. He was speaking during

vision of ITU for a connected society and enabling ICTs, to accomplish SDGs 2030. Proposing the name of M Revathi as India's candidate for Member, RRB, the minister said she has a proven track record of professional expertise, leadership capabilities, com-The Project Manager Construction Unit
Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645 mitment to deliver time-bound tasks, systematic problem-solving capability, and framing regulations, for inclusive ICT

Cost of Work

Project Manager

Sd/-Branch Head

The minister reiterated India's firm commitment to

development.

contributing to the realisation of ITU's goals and appealed to the participants to support India's candidature for ITU Council as well as Revathi's candidature for RRB, the statement said. WSIS is co-organized by

ITU, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in close collaboration with other UN organisations. It is an ongoing process since WSIS Summit in 2003, to take forward initiatives in building the information society for the world community.

Elon Musk plans 10% staff cut at Tesla, freezes hiring



IANS SAN FRANCISCO

Elon Musk is reportedly planning to axe 10 per cent of Tesla staff, along with freezing hiring amid stalled Twitter deal, global macroeconomic conditions like chip shortage, rising inflation and high inter-

est rates. A Reuters report said on Friday that Musk has emailed Tesla executives, telling them the electric car-maker needs to pause hiring worldwide and cut its workforce by about 10 per cent.

Tesla has nearly 1 lakh employees worldwide and Musk cites his "super bad feeling" about the economy for reducing the workforce. Tesla cut hundreds of workers in October 2017, about 9 per cent of staff in June 2018, and about 7 per cent in January

It also cut salaries and furloughed employees in April 2020. Tesla has faced shutdowns at its China gigafactory due to Covid-19 lockdowns. Musk is also facing a "crypto winter" and his favourite cryptocurrency Dogecoin has seen its value dip by nearly 60 per cent over the last six months.

Earlier this week, Musk gave an ultimatum to Tesla employees to either return to office or get out, saying they "should pretend to work somewhere else" if they disagree with the company's policy.

He sent a series of emails that asked employees to come back to the office or be terminated."Anyone who wishes to do remote work must be in the office for a minimum (and I mean *minimum*) of 40 hours per week or depart Tesla.

NCLAT allows withdrawal of insolvency proceedings against Kanoria Sugar

PTI NEW DELHI

The NCLAT has permitted withdrawal of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) against Kanoria Sugar and General Manufacturing Company.

A two-member bench of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) permitted Punjab National Bank (PNB), the financial creditor of Kanoria Sugar, to withdraw its insolvency plea after a settlement with the company.

"We permit the Creditor to withdraw the Section 7 Application filed under Section 7. In result, the CIRP initiated vide Order dated April 27, 2022 stands terminated," said the two-member bench comprising Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan and Member

Naresh Salecha. Earlier on April 27, the Allahabad bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) admitted the plea filed by the public sector lender PNB to initiate insolvency proceedings against Kanoria Sugar and General Manufacturing Company.

PNB had got the CIRP initiated for dues of Rs 49.65 crore.The NCLT order was challenged before the NCLAT.The appellate tribunal had on May 23 passed an order staying the constitution of the Committee of Creditors (CoC).

Later, an interim application was jointly filed by both the parties along with a copy of the One Time Settlement (OTS) proposal dated May 31. The bank has accepted OTS for Rs 40 crore against the outstanding amount of Rs 49.65

RBI launches annual survey on foreign liabilities, assets of MF, AMC

IANS NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India has launched the 2021-22 round of its annual survey on "Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Mutual Funds and Asset Management Companies", the central bank said in a statement on Thursday.

The survey collects information from mutual fund companies and asset management companies on their external financial liabilities and assets as at the end of March of the latest financial year.

The survey results are released in the public domain besides being used for compilation of balance of payments statistics and other uses. Asset management companies



the annual return on Foreign Liabilities and Assets (FLA) online through the web-based portal (https://flair.rbi.org.in) by July 15, 2022. In addition, mutual fund

companies (MFs) are required to fill the survey schedule, which is available on the RBI's website both in Hindi and English formats, and sent via email by July 15, 2022, the state-

ONGC applies for mining licence to discover oil fields in Bihar's Samastipur, Buxar

IANS PATNA

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), citing possibility of crude oil fields in Buxar and Samastipur districts of Bihar, has applied for the petroleum exploration license before the state government. As per officials, the state

mining department has initiated the process to provide a license to the company for digging in these two districts.

Harjot Kaur Bamhrah, additional chief secretary cum commissioner of mining department said: "ONGC has filed the application for open area mining and we have initiated the process to provide a

The company has also deposited fees along with inisurvey reports of these



districts for the license.""Under the provision of the mining department, we will provide a license for 4 years. There would also be a provision of extending it further," she said.

ONGC claimed 308.32 square km area of Ganga basin in Samastipur district and 52.1 square km area in the basin of

she said. If ONGC would obtain the license for mining, it would initiate the process of analyzing gravitational force and magnetic force of the surveyed areas using earthquake data recording techniques.



have" oil fields. "We have

informed the administrative officials of both the districts,

sunday pioneer

Singharaj, five others denied visas, will miss Para Shooting WC in France



ix members of the Indian para shooting contingent, including double Paralympic medallist Singharaj Adhana, on Saturday failed to travel to Chateauroux, France for the World Shooting Para Sport World Cup after they were denied visas, despite the intervention of the Indian gov-

The matter came to light after Tokyo Paralympic Games gold medallist shooter Avani Lekhara took to twitter, seeking help following denial of visa to

The French embassy didn't mention any reason, simply said there is a huge surge for visas. We applied for our visas on April 23 and were sure of getting all cleared. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also intervened and were helping us

tant coach) did not get their

but despite that visas of six members were rejected," he

The event to be held from Jun 4 to 13 is of significance for Índian para shooters as Paris Paralympics quota places were on offer there.

"We are now going with a 22-member contingent, which includes 14 shooters. We were

ends, but still in joint lead with Carlsen

quite confident of getting visas of all members cleared since Paris will be the host for the next Paralympics and there are 18 2024 Paralympics quota places on offer in the tournament," Nautival said.

Replying to Avani's tweet, the Sports Authority of India

termed the incident as unfortu-Norway Chess: Anand's winning run

PTI ■ STAVANGER (NORWAY)

ndia legend Viswanathan Anand's winning **⊥**run in the Classical event of the Norway Chess tournament came to an end after suffering a loss against American Wesley So in the fourth round here on Saturday.

The 52-year-old former world champion now shares the lead with Magnus Carlsen on 8.5 points each.

The regular Classical game between Anand and So ended in a draw in 28 moves. The American then beat the Indian GM in 46 moves via the Armageddon (sudden

The Indian ace had posted wins over France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Vaselin Topalov of Bulgaria and China's Hao Wang in the first three rounds.

Meanwhile, Carlsen defeated Dutchman three points and join Anand in the lead.

ed Hao Wang, while Teimour Radjavov and the experienced Topalov won via the Armageddon against Vachier-Lagrave and Aryan Tari (Norway) respectively.

In the ongoing Norway Chess tournament, the players take part in a Armageddon

ICC chair warns of reduction in volume of Test cricket in future

The ever-increasing domestic T20 leagues are squeezing bilateral ties and Test cricket runs the risk of witnessing a reduction in its volume in a decade's time, warns ICC chair Greg Barclay.

Barclay, who was appointed as ICC chair in November 2020, said the world body will face a serious challenge in deciding the next Future Tours Program starting next year.

There is a men's and women's event every year and the growth of domestic leagues are forc-ing things from the bottom and ... What is getting squeezed is bilateral cricket and so we are trying to fit everything in," Barclay told BBC's Test Match Special during the ongoing first game of the three-match series between England and New Zealand at Lord's.

There will be some unfortunate consequences from a playing experience and a revenue point of view for some of those countries who won't get the amount of cricket they might hope to have and they won't get exposure, particularly against India and to a lesser extent Australia and England. So we will see a squeeze.

"In 10-15 years time I still see Test cricket being an integral part (of the game), it may be that there is less of it," he added.

Barclay hinted that the "big three" of world cricket -- Índia, Australia and England -- will be largely unaffected by the adjustments in Test cricket. "Some countries may have to make room and play less Test cricket.

Some of the smaller full members will have to accept that they can't play the amount of Test cricket that they wanted to, so we may see a lessening of that - four or five a year - whereas England, Australia and India, I think, will be playing Test cricket as they are now."

long-form cricket and they don't really exist in any of the countries at the moment, so I can't really see women's Test cricket or long-form cricket evolving at any particular speed at all,"

"That's not to say that those countries that choose to play Test cricket - Australia and England - who provide that to the women can't do so, but I don't see it as part of the landscape moving forward to any real extent at all."

The Kiwi feels white-ball cricket is the future due to its popularity among fans and broadcast-

"If you look at strategically the way that cricket is going, there's no doubt that white-ball cricket, short-form cricket, is the way of the future. "That's the game that's sought after by fans, that's where the broadcasters are putting their resource, it's what's driving the money," Barclay concluded

Serena, Venus Williams not on Wimbledon entry lists



Serena and Venus Williams

did not appear on the women's singles entry list released by Wimbledon.

It is possible that either player could request a wild-card invitation to the Grand Slam tournament, which begins on

Serena Williams has won

major singles championships at the All England Club, most recently in 2016. The 40-yearold American was the runnerup there in 2018 and 2019 and has not competed anywhere since injuring her right leg and needing to stop playing in her first-round match a year ago. Venus Williams is a five-

her escort and mother Shewata

Jewaria and coach Rakesh

airport, chief national coach

and chairman of Indian Para

Shooting Jai Prakash Nautiyal

said Lekhara and her coach

Manpat's visas were cleared.
"Avani and her coach's visas

were granted but her escort,

who is also her mother didn't

ers -- Singharaj, Raĥul Jhakhar

and Deepinder Singh (all para

pistol shooters) and two coach-

es Subhas Rana (national

"Besides, three para shoot-

get her visa," Nautiyal said.

But talking to PTI from the

time singles champion at Wimbledon and has seven major singles trophies in all. Her most recent match on tour came at Chicago last August. She turns 42 in two weeks.

Also missing from the entry list is Leylah Fernandez, the 2021

Open runner-up who injured her right foot during a loss at the French Open this

The ICC chair, however, doesn't see the Anish Giri in the Classical game to pick up (sudden death) in case of a draw in the claslonger format evolving in women's cricket at a significant pace. In another décisive game in round four, Azerbaijan's Shakhriyar Mamedyarov defeat-So had won the Blitz event ahead of the 'To play Test cricket, you've got to have Classical event. structures domestically that allow you to play

Denmark upsets France, Netherlands thrashes Belgium

AP BRUSSELS

Denmark stunned titleholder France 2-1 in their opening Nations League match at the Stade de France, ending the world champion's sevenmatch winning streak. After Karim Benzema put the hosts

in front, substitute Andreas Cornelius scored twice to earn Denmark its first win over France since the 2002 World Cup. Cornelius leveled with a fine volley then hit the winner in the 88th minute. France was unbeaten in its past 20

matches. It will next travel to Croatia, which lost to Austria 3-0 at home in Meanwhile, Memphis Depay scored

twice as the Netherlands produced its first win against bitter rival Belgium in 25 years by 4-1 in Brussels, in another group of the the top-tier League A.

À week after the Champions League final was marred by crowd chaos, there were no reported incidents at the Stade



de France this time.

France was under pressure in the opening 10 minutes but gradually found the right balance and created its first good chance in the 13th minute through Benzema, back at the Stade de France a week after he claimed the

Champions League trophy for Real

The move signaled a good spell of dominance for France, with Benzema and Kylian Mbappé combining well to unsettle Denmark's defense.

Denmark managed to keep the

Mbappé, who appeared to pick up an injury, was replaced by Christopher Nkunku after the break. He had an immediate impact and in the 51st minute set up Ŝenzema, who dribbled his way past defenders and shot low for his 37th international goal. But Cornelius beat the offside trap

hosts at bay by closing down space.

and volleyed into the net in the 68th. Christian Eriksen came close in the closing stages but France keeper Hugo Lloris made a decisive reflex save to deny his low strike. Cornelius then gave Denmark the win after connecting with a lofted ball. He resisted defender William Saliba's challenge and fired into the top corner. In Brussels, Belgium started well but quickly faded as its preparations for the World Cup began with a worrying defensive display in the absence of their first-choice goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

"Mostly we were really distracted," Leandro Trossard said. "We gave them way too much space."

Ruud tops Cilic; into 1st Slam final

AP PARIS

asper Ruud has become the Cfirst Norwegian man to reach a Grand Slam singles final by eliminating 2014 Ŭ.S. Open champion Marin Cilic 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 at Roland Garros.

The eighth-seeded Ruud is 23 and never had been past the fourth round at any major tournament until now.

His father, Christian, was a professional tennis player from 1991 to 2001. Ruud has shown that he can play well on clay, with tour highs of seven titles and 66 match wins on the surface since the start of

France's Benzema drops appeal over sex tape conviction

 $F^{\rm rance\ and\ Real\ Madrid\ forward\ Karim\ Benzema\ has}$ dropped his appeal against a conviction for complicity in blackmail in a sex-tape case that rocked French soccer, his lawyer said Saturday.

The Versailles court gave Benzema a one-year suspended jail sentence and a fine of 75,000 euros (\$80,000) in last year's trial, convicting him of involvement in an attempt to blackmail France teammate Mathieu Valbuena in 2015. Benzema was also ordered to pay Valbuena 80,000 euros in

The initial scandal put Benzema's international career on hold for more than five years, though he has since returned to playing for France,



and the conviction has not kept him off the field. He claimed the Champions League trophy with Real Madrid last week and scored France's only goal in a 2-1 Nations League loss to Denmark on Friday

Benzema's lawyer Hugues Vigier told The Associated Press that the player decided to abandon his appeal but continues to deny wrongdoing. The appeals trial had been sched-

uled to open June 30. The Versailles court said on Saturday that it was awaiting the formal notification from Benzema's legal team.

Vigier decribed Benzema's weariness after years of legal procedures and said the 34year-old player "doesn't want to talk about it anymore. It's enough." "Karim continues to contest the slightest blackmail," Vigier said.

"He is guilty under the law, that's true. But judicial truth is different from reality."

After receiving preliminary charges in November 2015, Benzema was dropped from France's national team by coach Didier Deschamps. Benzema was called back to play for the delayed Euro 2020 tournament and has played regularly since.

Vani, Amandeep make cut, as Tvesa exits after second round in Italy

PTI ■ FUBINE MONFERRATO

ndia's Tvesa Malik went nine shots better than her first round but still missed the cut while her compatriots Vani Kapoor and Amandeep Drall ensured weekend action at the Ladies Italian Open.

Ladies Italian Open.

Missing the cut alongside
Tvesa (80-71) were Ridhima
Dilawari (77-73) and Neha
Tripathi (80-74). Vani (73-72)
and Amandeep (74-71) were
the only Indians of the five to

Vani had two each of birdies and bogeys and carded 72 to make the cut, while Amandeep had an eventful round with five birdies against four bogeys for 1-under 71.

Tickets for India's Asian Cup qualifying round match sold out in 10 minutes, AIFF issues more

PTI KOLKATA

Tickets for India's upcoming Asian Cup qualifying round match against Cambodia at the Salt Lake Stadium on June 8 were sold out within 10 minutes, forcing the AIFF to issue more.

Chhetri had on Friday urged the state government authorities to allow more people than the mere 12,000 tickets allowed for the Asian Cup qualifiers final round matches.
While the All India

Football Federation has made all the tickets "complimentary", the state government has "allowed just 12,000 tickets" in the 70,000-capacity Salt Lake Stadium to avoid any law and

order problem.
"They (opposition teams) should feel it. If in a stadium of almost 90,000 people if only 10-15,000 what's the point of having a home advantage?" Chhetri had asked.

"I hope they (state government) will allow it, otherwise it will be a chaos and they will barge in." After Chhetri's reaction made headlines, there was a meeting between the state government and the AIFF this morning and it was "decided to open up the stadium as long as there's demand". "Whoever quoted the number 12,000, spoke out of his hat, it's all rubbish", a reliable source, who attended the meeting,

Lahiri misses cut by one sho, Smith leads at Memorial Tournament

PTI ■ DUBLIN (US)

India's ace golfer Anirban Lahiri carded a disappointing one-over 73 to miss the cut by one shot at the Memorial Tournament here.

Lahiri, who shot 74 on the first day, finished at three-over 147 and missed the cut on Friday at Muirfield Village.

Two missed par putts from inside five feet on fifth and 12th saw Lahiri miss the cut for the second start in a row. He had earlier missed the weekend action at the US PGA Championship at Southern

Lahiri's will most likely next play at the Travelers Championship.

Cameron Smith, playing some of his best golf, moved into the lead. His highlight was a hole out with a downhill chip from beyond the green on the par-3 12th that carried him to three-

Smith was one shot ahead of Denny McCarthy and KH Lee at the end of the 36 holes.

In six previous appearances, Smith only made the cut twice and on both occasion finished outside the top 60. His best round was a 71.

But Smith, now a winner of THE PLAYERS Championship and the Sentry Tournament of Champions, is in a different frame of mind and in some superb form. His rounds of 67-69 gave him a total of eightunder 136.

Billy Horschel had a birdie chance at almost every hole but ended with four-under 68 that left him in the group two shots behind with Torrey Pines winner Luke List, PGA TOUR rookies Cameron Young and Davis Riley, and Jhonattan



Rory McIlroy, with a 69, was three shots behind defending champion Patrick Cantlay, who closed in with two big par putts for a 69 and was at three-under

The cut fell at two-over

Among those missing out on the weekend action were Bryson DeChambeau and Harris English, both of whom were coming back from injuries.

Jon Rahm, winner here in 2020, had a 70 and was at twounder 142, six shots behind. He was six shots ahead after three rounds last year until his positive COVID-19 test forced his withdrawal.

Korea's Lee stayed on Smith's heels. Lee traded four birdies, which included a 40-foot monster putt, against two bogeys for a two-day total of seven-under 137 as World No. 3 Smith stepped up his bid for a third victory of the season.

Another Korean, Sungjae Im kept himself in contention with a second successive 70 to lie

ESFI seeks Thakur's intervention after Rajasthan Govt Clubs Esports along with fantasy games in new Bill

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $E_{\text{(ESFI)}}^{\text{sports Federation of India}}$ on Rajasthan government's move to include Esports in fantasy gaming category in the recently announced Virtual Online Sports (Regulation) Bill 2022 released by the Revenue Department of the state.

ESFI has termed the bill as "detrimental to the growth of Esports in India". In the upcoming Asian Games, India will be sending

teams in five Esports games. The ESFI has also request-

ed Sports Minister Anurag Thakur for his immediate intervention in the matter. "It's important to understand that not all games played



electronically are Esports. The outcome of any Esports match is solely and purely dependent/based on the skills (physical & mental), and performances of the Esports athletes are just like cricket, badminton etc," ESFI President Vinod Tiwari said in a release.



ing final league encounter to wooden spooners Mumbai Indians.

DC's five-wicket defeat enabled Royal Challengers Bangalore to make it despite an inferior net run-rate throughout the tournament. "It was a shame we couldn't get into the (IPL) finals," the 30-year-old said here ahead of the three-match T20I series against Sri Lanka, beginning on June 7.

Australia will meet Sri Lanka in a five-

match ODI series.

Marsh overcame a bout of COVID-19 in the first-half of the tournament and formed the backbone of Delhi top-order with his Australian teammate David Warner. Coach Ricky Ponting entrusted him

with batting at No 3 as he scored 251 runs at a strike-rate of 132.80.



Shame that Delhi Capitals couldn't

"Everyone speaks about him (Ponting) so much and what he's achieved in the game. But I got a real sense of how much he cares for his players - I guess that's probably what he was like as a captain and a leader of a

"I got the real sense for how he (head

coach Ricky Ponting) cares for his players and that was probably how he was as a captain and a leader of a team -- it's the way he makes you feel. He made me feel like a really important player for Delhi," he added. On overcoming COVID-19, he said: "After my first couple of weeks, there I thought that I was cursed in India," he said.

I got through my initial injury - which was very minor - but then to play one game and get COVID, it was a bit of a shaky start

but once I got going it was nice to put a few consistent performances on the board. I absolutely loved my time there."

He further said he would like to continue batting at No 3.

"I have loved batting at number three, and I've been there a bit over 12 months now. I certainly feel like that's my best positioning in T20 cricket, and I've loved batting in the power play, I've batted a lot with David Warner and had some great partnerships with him - it's been really enjoyable."

talktime

KARUNA PANDEY

The actress is known for her work in films like The Bypass, Sirf Main Aur Tum, Prem Ratan Dhan Payo, Bollywood Diaries, among others. She speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about her upcoming show, how it is different, her message for the viewers and why education is important. Pushpa Impossible will air on Sony SAB from June 6, Monday to Saturday at 9:30 pm

'IN THIS SHOW, LIFE IS TRUEST POSSIBLE SENSE

■What is the show about and how is it different? Pushpa Impossible is truly dif-

ferent than the other shows because we being actors, haven't done a show like this where life is being portrayed to its truest possible sense. There are no gimmicks, there is nothing good or bad about life, it's filled with people like you and I. Every character has positives and negatives. If you see Pushpa, she is pretty unusual but we have showcased her flaws with equal attention as we did with the merits.

Despite the flaws, she is a splendid person who is young at heart and the way she carries all the goodness. Accepting our flaws and learning from it to move forward is what I think is called life and there is a thought that life is good and everything will be better in the future.

■Please tell us about your role.

Pushpa is not the usual mother. She likes to live in reality and not in a world of makebelieve. We all have good things and bad things inside us and in the show, we have tried to show as it is. Pushpa is boisterous, full of life, energetic, straightforvard, says whatever that comes to

EDUCATION HELPS YOU BY TEACHING **EXACTLY WHAT TO** SPEAK AND BEHAVE, BUT IT **CANNOT MAKE YOU**

A GOOD PERSON

So, sometimes she has to face the consequences as well. She has a different method and style to sort things out and to save her children. She has a spunk, loves Kishore Kumar songs, plays cricket and tries to live it up despite all the short comings. She takes time out for her children and to find herself time and time again. This is her beauty.

■What made you say "yes" to the role or the show?

Why wouldn't I say "yes" to it? Why wouldn't an actor say yes to it? It's a lead role. The story is from my point of view. Of course when a daily

soap is made, there are a lot of tracks but if you are getting to play the centre stage of all the tracks, from whose perspective the world revolves, I don't think any actor would refuse this role.

Yes, a lot of time is consumed as you are busy, have to take care of your health, but in the end of the day if there is an actor that is true to acting and loves what he/she does irrespective of all the problems, it's their dream come true as this is the kind of role everyone waits for.

Your character seems very inspiring. Is there any message for the viewers?

I would like to tell this to all the women of India that if you are educated or uneducated, please don't link that fact to success. That's because the character of a person has no connection to their educational status. Yes, education helps you by teaching you exactly what to speak and behave, but education cannot make you a good

It only depends on the journey of a person's life and what they take away from all the experiences. Look at a new day as a new beginning, don't fear the difficulties. Positive thinking is our motive and it is a positive show.

■How did acting happen to you?

During my childhood, I have always felt that singing, dancing making faces in the mirror while acting

was my forte. My grandfather used to teach Sanskrit and was into Hindu prayers and used to say that Kanchan will do this when she grows up. I am lovingly called Kanchan at home. I have heard this all my childhood days. My parents are very supportive and would have a separate room for honing my skills as a dancer, actor with

mirrors ■In the show, you seem to regret one thing that is to not being able to complete your education. According to you, how important is education for all?

I think that education is imporftant because it starts with your parents and creates a bonding with them. As they teach you, the bond becomes stronger while learning. In school, it is totally different

environment and experience. It introduces you to the world. Your friends and teachers become part of your life and it is a great stepping ground to not just get the bookish knowledge but gain a lot more than that. It is something you get to experience for a certain period of time and is a lifetime achievement. I believe that everyone should live that phase irrespective of the marks they get in school. One should install their foundation of knowledge and learn more things as they come along. Otherwise life teaches you everything. That's the biggest teacher.

Plan Your Day

UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY



Are you a craft lover or someone who loves to create and sell handmade pieces? This crochet art course will help you get started!

Crochet is a needlework technique performed using a crochet hook plus fiber or other similar material. Most typically, this material is yarn or crochet thread, but it might also be fabric, wire, twine, or other

innovative material Crochet is a beautiful way to unleash creativity in you and work on your DIY Projects.

By the end of this class become a master of DIY crochet art, and start your journey towards exploring the hidden artist in you

What: Workshop Where: Online When: June 6 I 12 pm

lmost the entire world population (99 per cent) breathes air that violates World Health Organisation (WHO) air quality standards, putting their health at risk. Over 6000 cities in 117 countries are now monitoring air quality, but residents are still exposed to harmful amounts of small particulate matter (PM) and nitrogen dioxide with individuals in poor and middle-income nations being the most affected. This is due to the depletion and overuse of natural resources, particularly forests, oceans and mountains for human avarice. Here are a few practices that can help us protect and conserve our environment.

REDUCE ENERGY USE

Reducing energy demand and its usage is beneficial for the environment as well as the user. For example, switching off the power when you leave your room can lower your electricity bill. You can also reduce CO2 emissions by turning off your mobile phone, laptop, coffee machine, microwave, television or printer. This is a simple yet significant approach to saving the environment.

COMMUTE MORE SUSTAINABLY

According to a study, vehicles produce around 50,000 tonnes of PM2.5 each year in India's metropolitan areas. At the same time, India's transportation industry contributes roughly 8 per cent of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions with Delhi's contribution approaching 30 per cent. However, you may help mitigate climate change by reducing your commuting frequency or switching to public transport. Carpooling to work is another smart way of tackling carbon impact. Furthermore, we can also conmass transit, which is both cost-effective and environmentally ben-

MAKE CREMATORIUMS MORE

The National Green Tribunal recently proposed the usage of gas or electricity as a replacement for wood during cremations. In recent years, especially after the tragic COVID crisis and the massive increase in the number of cremations, crematoriums have been a major source of pollution. Another option to reduce human impact on the environment is to choose crematoriums that are upgraded with air pollution controls (known as green crematoriums). Several crematoriums are now utilising water scrubbers to reduce air pollution, however, a lot of water is spent treating the smoke and this wastewater or slur-

This World Environment Day, adopt a greener and sustainable way of carrying things out. Small contribution and tiny steps can be of great benefit for all. Here are a few practices that can help protect and conserve environment



ry is then dumped into a water body or a landfill, ultimately passing pollutants from air to water and land.

AVOID BURNING WASTES

Large volumes of harmful gases and particles are released into the environment when the trash is burned releasing carbon dioxide and methane into the environment. This kind of pollution can cause major respiratory problems. This should be routinely inspected and residents should be encouraged to use public grievance system to report such incidents. At the administrative level, it's a good idea to look at the technology that may aid with landfill trash management without having any negative effects on the environment.

REUSE AND RECYCLE

Reusing and recycling are the most beneficial techniques to conserve the environment as it preserves and utilisering the emission of gases and particles. It helps to preserve the environment for future generations, which contributes to maintaining a healthy and balanced

The World Environment Day is all about raising environmental awareness, especially about climate change, and appreciating the beauty of our planet. We should take a step towards bringing transformative changes in our policies and choices that will enable cleaner, greener, and sustainable living. It will focus on the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature and our chances of shifting to a greener lifestyle. With escalating environmental concerns, we must all work together to repair the harm and maintain a clean environment.

Irfan Pathan, Co-Founder & CEO, Pi Green

Sound of.



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

Bollywood vibes

Dafa Kar (A R Rahman) Saamna (Akasa) Mast Nazron Se (Rochak Kohli) Kya Kar Diya (Vishal Mishra) Macha Macha Re (Mika Singh)

English Vinglish

Psychofreak (Camila Cabello) Seven Bridge Road (Jake Bugg) Wings Of Stone (Adam Levine) FREE (John Legend) Crazy (Doechii)



lts a reusable product Has no waste aside from its original packaging You won't feel if Can be worn safely for up to 12 hours

Can allow you to get some extra zzz's ♦Use them during almost any activity

Less bathroom breaks Odor free

Keep Your pH You carry only one with you

ves, we are talking about menstrual cups! Mom and World $oldsymbol{Y}$ Reusable Menstrual Cups are available in three sizes (small, medium and large) to suit your requirement. The small size is for moms who haven't given birth, first-time users and teenagers. Medium size is helpful for women from 25-35 years of age who have given birth. Large size is the best for ladies above 35 years, having a heavier than usual flow.

This product is designed to give you hygienic and hasslefree periods. It gives an itch-free, odor-free and rash free feel as it is made from ultra-soft medical-grade silicone which is suitable and gentle on the skin. It gives you ultimate freedom as it is safe and leak-proof. The flexible rim of the cup provides a vacuum seal to ensure that no spills or leakages occur even as you are travelling or indulging in activity.

They are made in the FDA approved facility which is BPAfree and latex-free. It is free from chemicals that irritate the skin and is environmentally friendly; can be used multiple times. It can last for 10years but it is recommended to replace it every three to five years

Extra sweet birthday ritual

An exciting opportunity

While all the performances left the

impressed during the shoot, it was

Sagar's performance to Raanjhanaa.

which was choreographed by skipper

Paul Marshal, that left Remo D'Souza

In fact, Paul's choreography since

the beginning has been top-notch. But he truly hit it out of the park

chance to work with him in his next upcoming film! "We have all

witnessed your creativity on the show since day one and whenever

whatever song I do, I will surely need your help, Paul," says D'Souza.

anyone gives you a challenge, you make them regret it. You bring

your unique elements to the stage, and I feel in my next film

Zee TV recently launched DID L'il Masters Season 5.

visiting me in Mumbai. My wish is that people continue to love my

character and our show continues to entertain viewers.

with Sagar's weekend act, so much so that Remo even offered him a

mesmerised

judges and the special guests

Birthdays are always special as one gets all the attention and affection from their family and friends. Kamna Pathak from &TV's Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, who is soon going to celebrate her birthday, shares some interesting details about her birthday celebration this year. "I am not a party animal and I have always celebrated my birthday with family. Even after coming to Mumbai for my show, I make it a point to visit my hometown, Indore, to enjoy the day with them. This time, my family is



Lauren Gottlieb recounts witnessing massive fire in North **Hollywood in Los Angeles**

RKYTAL

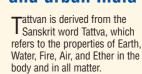
auren Gottlieb, who is currently stationed in California, recently witnessed the horrific incident of a burning auction house selling studio sets and props.

The dancer-actress was among the first ones to witness the massive fire coming out from the commercial building located in an industrial area in Los Angeles. Within no time, the entire Los Angeles Fire Department reached the location and started the evacuation process of people trapped inside the building which

Recalling the horrific incident, Lauren informs: "When I came out of the store, I could hear people screaming and there was a little bit of smoke coming but the screams were terrifying. So I was running around the building trying to find a way to get in. There were some people around with heavy tools to break the locks and the chains. They luckily threw that open because you could hear screams of the people trapped inside and metal bars. Thankfully, the entire LA fire department showed up within no time. I have never been so proud to see so many people on it. God bless the fire department.

"Thankfully, fire-fighters with LAFD were able to extinguish a greater alarm fire at a commercial building. Nearby locals were able to rescue two people who were trapped inside the building, which had metal bars on the windows." Lauren adds

Bridging the gap between rural and urban India



It provides world-class healthcare to citizens of cities and towns, as well as everywhere else where it is needed. Visitors to Tattvan's e-

clinics receive medical care that

is on par with the best in the world. In addition, their e-clinics are less expensive than traditional hospitals and clinics. It has pioneered the use of existing technologies to provide high-quality healthcare to the general public. It has been successful in bringing together engineers and physicians to provide unrivalled healthcare to those who do not have it. Patients are assessed by prominent specialists at e-clinics for a fraction of the cost of normal OPDs. They started with the first telemedicine clinic in Bareilly and have since expanded to places all

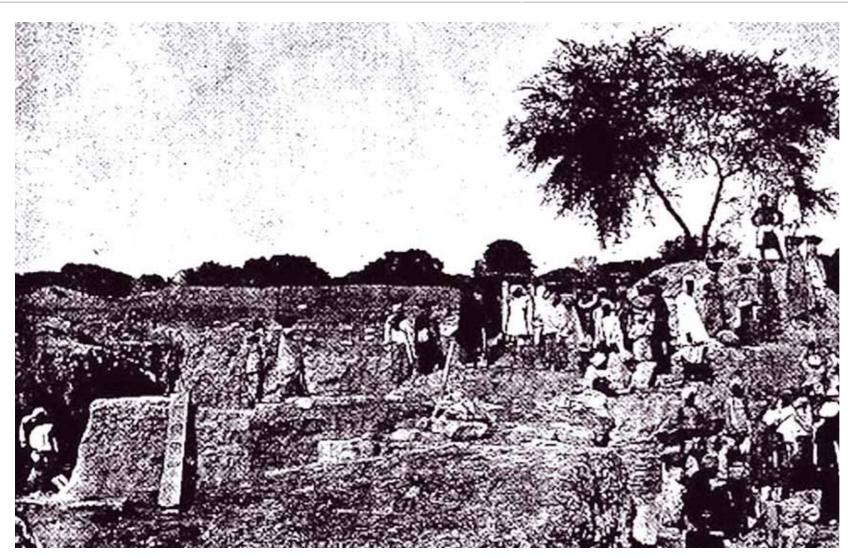
Telemedicine is still in its infancy, although accounting for a small percentage of the whole domestic healthcare market. As the public becomes more aware of telemedicine, the market will develop dramatically. Ayush Atul Mishra Founder & CEO Tattvan expects that the telemedicine industry will produce hundreds of millions of dollars in income yearly in five years. The Tattvan team is aiming for a market worth more than \$100 billion. They are aware that there is a great demand for high-quality healthcare in India because the quality of healthcare in India is poor with the exception of the larger metro centres. In terms of market share, have the largest market share among prominent telemedicine firms.

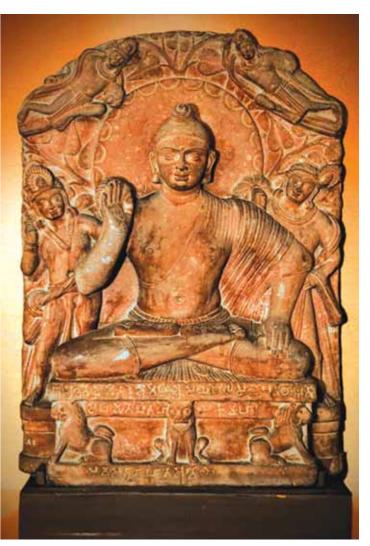
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Learning is the most important thing, no mater how you do it, or where you do it with — Saoirse Ronan



FROM THE INSIDE





MATHURA BACK IN FOCUS

The piece of land in Mathura, where today the Shai Idgah and the Krishna temple complex stand, has a long history of conflict between Hindu and Muslim communities, writes SUSAN MISHRA

athura- the birth place and abode of Shri Krishna and one of the seven sacred cities (Sapta Mahapuris) holds immense significance and is of great religious eminence for the Hindus. This site of paramount religious importance has been embroiled in controversy centring on Hindu Muslim contestation for scared space. The iece of land, where today the Shai Idgah and the Krishna temple complex stand, has a long history of conflict between Hindu and Muslim communities. The history of the current 20thcentury temple can be traced to the beginning of the 19th century when Mathura came under the British dominion. The series of events leading to the construction of the current temple is fascinating. In 1815 the entire land of Katra Keshav Dev measuring 13.37 acres was put for auction sale by the British authorities. Raja Patni Mal of Banaras was the highest bidder. After the acceptance of his bid in the auction, he became its owner.

The objection raised by Muslims against the ownership and possession of Raja Patni Mal over the land of Katra Keshav Dev was rejected by the Court as well as by the administration. More than six decrees were passed between 1875 and 1877 which were in favour of Rai Narsing Das, the heir of Raja Patni Mal, who held possession of the compound. Thereafter, a number of cases were filed by Muslims, questioning the auction sale, ownership, and possession of Raja Patni Mal, but all of them were dismissed. Rai Kishan Das filed a Civil Suit in 1928 and the Hon'ble High Court in Second Appeal of 1932 vide judgment dated 2.12.1935 declared Raja Patni Mal and his heirs as the rightful owners of 13.37 acres of land of Katra Keshav Dev. Also, the judgment stated that Muslims had no right over any part of the said land.

Shri Jugal Kishore Birla had taken a pledge to construct a glorious temple at Katra Keshav Dev glorifying the birth place of Lord Shree Krishna, and for this purpose, he had purchased the land of Katra Keshav Dev in the name of revered Hindu leader Pt. Mahana Mandan Mohan Malvia, Goswami Ganesh Duttji, and Bhikhen Lalji Aattrey in 1944. He also decided to create a trust for the development of the land associated and the 'Shree Krishna Janmbhoomi Trust' came into existence on 21.2.1951.

The crucial location of Mathura and its historical and religious significance invariably led to its being attacked and plundered numerous times. These attacks also centered on the destruction of the temples of Mathura. The onslaught of the invading armies by no means fettered the spirit of the faithful. This holy Hindu site repeatedly came out victorious—every time a temple was destroyed, the faithful worshippers of Shree Krishna built a new one.

The evidence for the earliest temple at Mathura comes from an inscription known as the Vasu Doorjamb Inscription dated to the early 1st century CE. The Sanskrit inscription

in Brahmi script was found on a red sandstone temple doorjamb dumped in an old well in Mathura. The doorjamb is about 8 feet long, 1.24 feet wide and 8 inches thick. The inscription is dedicated to the deity Vasudeva clearly indicating Vaishnavite affiliation. The inscription reads, 'a gateway of stone and the railing was erected at the... of the great temple of Bhagavat Vasudeva. May Bhagavat Vasudeva, being pleased, promote (the dominion or the life and strength) of svamin mahakshatrapa Sodasa)'. This piece of evidence is significant as it confirms that the large temple building tradition was in vogue in the Mathura region at a very early period. Another inscription from Mora, 11 kilometers from Mathura, testifies the early religious significance of the area for Vishnu worshippers in and around the sacred land of Mathura. It records the construction of a stone temple for the installation of the Pancha Vrishni Viras, by a lady called To?a. This inscription is dated to the 1st century CE and these five heroes (Pancha Vrishni Viras) have been identified by J.N. Bannerjea as Vasudeva, Sa?kar?a?a, Pradyumna, Samba and Aniruddha, who were the scions of the Vrishni family and closely related to each other. Furthermore, the find of more than two dozen four-armed Vasudeva Krishna images from the Kushana period in 1950's and joint images of Krishna his brother Balarama and sister Ekanamsa, all from Mathura between the 1st and 3rd centuries CE, leave no doubt about Mathura's sanctity in the ancient past.

The narratives relating to Shree Krishna's life are described in the Mahabharata, the Bhagavata Purana, the Bhagavad Gita and the Harivamsha Purana, a later appendix to the Mahabharata with a detailed version of Krishna's childhood and youth. He also finds mentioned in the Chandogya Upanishad which has been dated to 8th to 6th centuries BCE. The question that arises is that is there any historical evidence pertaining to the existence of a settlement at Mathura at such an early date? In fact the excavations carried out at Mathura seem to attest the literary tradition, as seen in the presence of particular pottery known as Painted Grey Ware (PGW). This pottery is dated between 1200 to 600 BCE and has been found in many sites referred to in ancient texts - Hastinapur, Mathura, Kurukshetra, and Indraprastha. The period roughly corresponds to the later Vedic and Upanishadic periods. The excavations were carried out by the ASI in the 1950s with the trial trench laid 500 feet to the north of the superimposed Aurangzeb Mosque. Excavations revealed that the vast settlement at Mathura can be dated as far back as the 6th century BCE, if not earlier on basis of the finds of PGW. The site was occupied till 2nd century BCE. After a brief period of inactivity, it was again occupied from 100 CE to about 6th century CE. It is interesting to note that found among material remains were a coppersmith's furnace and beads of crystal, agate, carnelian,

lapis lazuli and jasper.



THIS SACRED SITE WAS IN THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD PLUNDERED AND TEMPLES WERE **DESECRATED ON MORE** THAN ONE OCCASION, **BUT EACH TIME THE** SANCTITY OF THE SITE WAS RE-ESTABLISHED BY THE BUILDING OF A NEW TEMPLE. MAHMUD OF GHAZNI ATTACKED AND PLUNDERED MAHABAN, AND AL UTBI DESCRIBES IN HIS TARIKH-I-YAMINI THE **NEIGHBORING HOLY** TOWN WHICH IS **IDENTIFIED AS MATHURA**







This sacred site was in the medieval period plundered and temples were desecrated on more than one occasion, but each time the sanctity of the site was re-established by the building of a new temple. Mahmud of Ghazni attacked and plundered Mahaban, and Al Utbi describes in his Tarikh-i-Yamini the neighbouring holy town which is identified as Mathura- "In the centre of the city there was a huge and magnificent temple, which the people believed wasn't built by men but by the angels." Temples were burnt down, demolished and the gold and silver idols and wealth plundered and taken away. A stone inscription in Sanskrit records that in the 12th century, a person named Jajja built a Vishnu temple at Mathura which was described as being brilliantly white and touching the cloud. This temple too underwent destruction in the 16th century CE under Sikander Lodi and this is described by Abdullah in Tarikh-i-Daud. In 1636 with lavish sponsorship by Vir Singh Bundela of Orccha, the Keshavaraya temple in Mathura was built in red sandstone and worship at the site was quickly restored. The temple was the recipient of a Mughal grant in

Akbar's farman of 1598, and Prince Dara presented a stone railing to this temple at Mathura. The Keshavraya temple underwent destruction on the orders of Aurangzeb. But this did not hinder the continued sanctity of site as an important pilgrimage centre. Brajnath's Shri Braj Parikrama, suggests a revival of pilgrimage, shortly after Aurangzeb's destruction. In addition to the much-contested Shahi ldgah, apparently, another structure in place of an earlier temple is the Jama mosque. A Muslim officer under Aurangzeb named Abdul Nabi had destroyed a temple and erected a mosque on its ruins in 1661. According to reports of late 19th century sculptures found in a mound near the Gatasram Temple in Mathura City together with others amply testify to the earlier presence of Vishnu and other temples and a Hindu sacred landscape at

Interests in tracing the past of Mathura attracted the attention of archaeologists as early as the late 19th century CE. Their exploration and excavations brought to light the presence of Buddhist, Jain, and Hindu remains and the existence of the Mathura School of Art. Dr Führer while digging at the back of the Masjid traced the plinth of some old brick substructure, which, according to the popular belief, marks the ground floor of the sanctum of the once famous and imposing temple of Keshava visited and described by the French travellers Tavernier (1650) and Bernier (1663). About 50 paces to the northwest of this plinth a trial trench was dug, in the hope of exposing the foundations and some of the sculptures of this ancient Keshava temple. Dr. Führer mentions that, at a depth of 20 feet he came across a portion of the circular procession path leading around a stupa. On the pavement, composed of large red sandstone slabs, a short dedicatory inscription was discovered, according to which this stupa was repaired by the Kushana King. In 1853 regular explorations were started by General Cunningham on the Katra and continued in 1862. They yielded numerous sculptural remains; most important among them is an inscribed standing Buddha image 3 feet

The Mathura region is most strongly associated with the legend and worship of Krishna, but between c. 200 BCE and 200 CE, its religious landscape was extremely diverse. The details of sculptural and inscriptional discoveries in the 19th and early 20th centuries enable us to identify the location of some of the shrines. For instance, Katra Mound was the site of a Buddhist vihara from the early 2nd century CE, the Jamalpur/Jail Mound was the site of a Buddhist establishment, a shrine of the Naga deity Dadhikarna existed and a Jaina establishment stood on the Kankali Tila from the 2nd century BCE onwards.

The writer is a research scholar, worked as Project Associate and recipient of Devangana Desai Senior Fellowship CSMVS Mumbai. She has also co-authored two books

EVERY SECOND COUNTS

KRISHNAKUMAR KUNNATH, popularly known as KK, passed away last week shortly after performing at a concert in Kolkata. Doctors said KK, who had a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) could have been saved, had he been given cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on time. Every year, the first week of June (1st-7th) is being observed as CPR Awareness Week. Learn how to do CPR and save someone's life. The HEALTH PIONEER reports

ast month i.e. on May 27, low-cost carrier Go First ■shared on Twitter how its four cabin crew members assisted a doctor in saving the life of a passenger who suffered a cardiac arrest mid air. The team, the doctor and one of the crew members, performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on the passenger and, with AED (Automated external defibrillator), helped him recover from the health crisis.

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Similarly, last year in February, a CISF personnel saved the life of a 45-year-old man, who fell unconscious at a Delhi metro station, by performing the CPR medical procedure on him. However, many like KK are not lucky to get the timely CPR. In fact, at least 12 lakh people die in India due to the SCA.

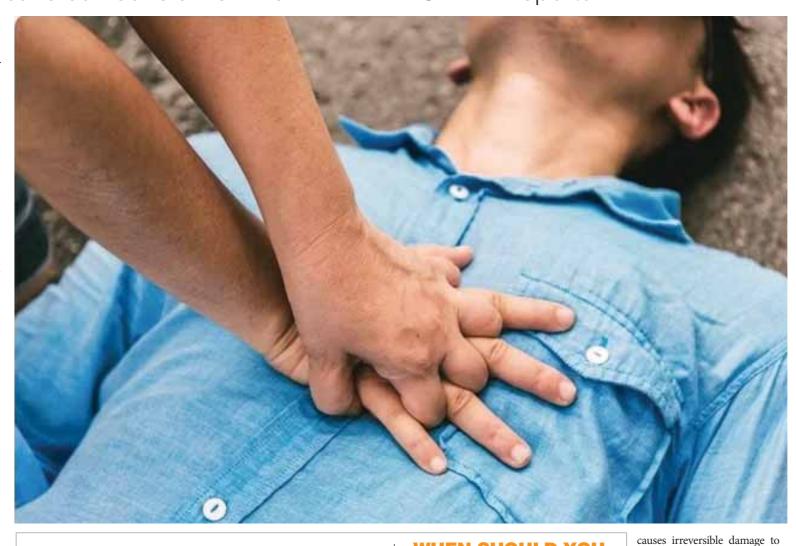
Says Dr. Rohit Goel, Interventional Cardiology doctor from Fortis Hospital In Gurugram, Haryana: "CPR is used when there is SCA of a person leading to loss of consciousness and pulse and blood pressure are not recordable. In such a situation immediate medical attention is needed but due to logistic issues it takes time in Indian settings.

"It is important to know that if CPR is not given within three minutes and blood circulation is absent, the patient can die. Therefore, its important to offer medical help immediately. Survival of a patient can be increased by 2-3 times. All the citizens should be trained in basic CPR by licensed organizations both public and private."

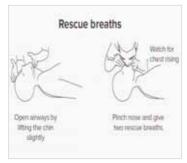
Because sudden cardiac arrest can happen to anybody and at any time, learning it properly can help save somebody's precious life.

As also, was stated by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu at an event in Vijayawada March this year. He had urged the schools, local bodies, panchayats and NGOs to organise regular camps on CPR to acquaint the youngsters with the life-saving procedure. "The training must also form a part of the high Naidu suggested.

In the case of cardiac arrest, which can occur suddenly, the heart stops functioning due to problems in the electrical system of the heart, disrupting the pumping action and the blood flow to brain and other parts of the body stops. As a result, the supply of oxygen to the tissues gets obstructed. Lack of oxygen



HOW TO PERFORM A CPR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE



 Check the surroundings for safety ❖If the patient is unresponsive, check for bleeding or for breathing ♦If the patient does not respond and

continues to gasp and not breathe, call for medical help immediately ❖Until then, place the patient on the back on a flat surface

♦Give 30 chest compressions with hands centred on the chest and place them on top of each other

♦Keep the shoulders over the hands

♦Compress the chest at 100-120 beats per minute ♦Give two mouth-to-mouth breaths

after opening the airway Ensure that each breath lasts one

second and raise the chest ♦ Allow air to be exhaled before the

♦Repeat sets of 30 chest compressions

and two breaths ♦Do not panic around the patient

WHEN SHOULD YOU **NOT DO CPR?**

♦ If someone is having a SCA but is alert with a steady heartbeat, CPR is not appropriate. In a case like this, you may do more harm to the heart than if you did nothing and waited for paramedics to arrive.

♦ Also, if you have been performing CPR and the person shows signs of life, such as open eyes and regular breathing, stop CPR immediately. Allow the person to recover, but be prepared in case the individual's heart stops beating again.

organs like the brain. 'Within seconds, a person drops down unconscious and has no pulse, and within minutes, he/she may die Cardiac arrest is reversible if the victim is administered prompt and appropriate emergency care. (This writeup is for informa-

tion purposes only and not a substitute for professional medical advice. Always contact your doctor or other qualified health professional for any medical query)

ON CPR

@pseudo_sapiens: As a doctor, for me KK's death is a tragedy that we may have avoided IF - We could have had timely bystander CPR, if instead of taking him to the hospital he could have revived first aid on site which is very much possible with a equipped ACLS ambulance with a doctor

@RajayNarain : Timely #CPR & #AED could have saved one of India's biggest talent! There should be more training for CPR in general population & more AED in public places. Time for more awareness & screening for risk factors for #heart

@American_Heart: About 90% out-ofhospital cardiac arrests are fatal. CPR, especially if performed immediately, can double or triple the chances of survival. @sanjaynagral: What we will discuss; stress, genetics, fitness, checkups, angiograms

What we could do; train bystanders to feel pulse & start CPR, install AED's at public places, start rx in ambulances, get people to hospital in an hour

EUREKA!

TRACKING SLEEP WITH A SELF-**POWERING SMART PILLOW**

The human body needs sleep as much as it needs food and water. Yet many people fail to get enough causing both mind and body to suffer. People who struggle for shut-eye could benefit from monitoring their sleep, but they have limited options for doing so.

In a new study in ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces, one team describes a potential solution: a selfpowering smart pillow that tracks the position of the head.

To construct the smart pillow, the researchers Ding Li, Zhong Lin Wang and their colleagues formulated a flexible, porous polymer triboelectric layer. Movement between the head and this layer changes the electric field around nearby electrodes, generating a current. They strung together several of these self-powering sensors to create a flexible and breathable TENG (FB-TENG) array that can be placed atop an ordinary pillow.

This smart pillow could have uses beyond tracking sleep, the researchers say. For example, the system could monitor patients with diseases that affect the movement of the head, such as the degenerative neck disorder cervical spondylosis. What's more, the smart pillow could be adapted to offer an early warning system for those at risk of falling out of

bed, they say. Studies have linked chronic lack of sleep to physical ailments, such as diabetes and heart disease, as well as mental health issues

Got Diabetes? Keep An Eye On Eyes

If you have been diagnosed with diabetes, you must schedule a comprehensive eye exam at least once a year. People with diabetes have a higher risk of not only losing sight but also developing other eye diseases such as cataract and glaucoma, writes Dr Rohan Chawla, Additional Professor, Dr RP Centre, AIIMS, Delhi, exclusively for The HEALTH PIONEER.

vision loss and blindness in diabetic people. It affects the blood vessels in the retina. If you have diabetes, it's important to get a comprehensive dilated eye exam at least once in a year.

Unfortunately, people are unaware of the risk threats that come with diabetes. No wonder, we are getting a lot of DR cases. In fact, India is heading to become the Diabetes capital of the world with perhaps one of the largest number of diabetics patients living in the country. It is predicted that about 5 to 10% of these patients are bound to develop DR over time.

Considering a large population of diabetic patients, this number will run into millions. I feel that, at present, we do not even have the infrastructural capacity in the government as well as the private sector to handle so many patients. Hence, it is all the more important that we become more aware of this diabetes-induced eye disease and take preventive steps against this disease.

In my OPD, on an average, more than 30-40 percent of patients have diabetes-induced eye vision problems. Many of them were never aware that diabetes could lead to

 $D_{\text{eye}}^{\text{iabetic Retinopathy (DR) is an}}$ blindness. Had they been told very early when diabetes had just set in that it needs to be controlled well, a regular eye check-up would have helped detect this disease early and prevented devastating complications. In many of them, blindness would have been prevented.

Even the WHO has taken diabetes as one of the diseases of importance for prevention of blindness.

DR is a preventable cause of blindness. If we keep diabetes under control, DR will not occur. So one needs to understand what is actually happening due to uncontrolled diabetes. High blood sugar levels lead to damage of the retinal blood vessels i.e the blood vessels which supply blood to the most sensitive part of the eve on which image forms, what we call as retina. Once these blood vessels start getting damaged there occurs a leakage of fluid and then blood in retina and image formation suffers leading to loss of

It can be from very mild to very severe so as to cause total blindness. And since it's a systematic disease, it generally tends to affect both the

You can reduce the risk of developing DR or stop it from getting worse by keeping your blood sugar,



EVEN THE WHO HAS TAKEN DIABETES AS ONE OF THE DISEASES OF IMPORTANCE FOR PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

cholesterol and blood pressure under control. This can be done by making healthy lifestyle choices and proper diabetes medication.

DOCTOR'S ADVISE

- Patients do not have early symptoms because the most sensitive part of the retina will not get affected initially. Thus annual eye check up recommended for diabetics even if vision is okay
- Diabetic eye disease can be prevented if we can control sugar levels. The average blood sugar level (HbA1c) should be kept less than
- Blood pressure also worsens this disease. Hence, BP needs to be controlled.
- ♦ High cholesterol level, associated anemia and kidney problems are other risk factors
- Early screening of eyes is important. Yearly eye exam is a must. If no changes are found, then the test should be repeated next year ❖ If changes are noticed in the reti-

na then as per the advice of the

ophthalmologist, investigation and

treatment should be undertaken ♦ One should exercise daily and maintain a proper balanced diet chart which needs to be followed religiously.

BEYOND THE STETHOSCOPE

When not pursuing their profession, a breed of doctors prefer to wear different hats to keep themselves fit and centered. The HEALTH PIONEER tries to catch up with them every week.



'DIL BESABRAA' **FOR MORE**

s a kid, Prashant had just two choices. Follow the footsteps of his father Chander Mehta, who was a trained Hindustani and Ghazal singer. Or, become a doctor, which most parents wanted their wards to be, and allow his 'in-born singing talent' to perish.

It, indeed, was a tough choice, he recalls: "Like most parents, my father, who besides being a singer also worked with a PSU, wanted me to study medicine and become a good doctor. But since music was in my genes, my heart was always into singing. Moreover, I was also inspired by my father's singing talent who was my first music teacher.

One who doesn't shy away from taking difficult decisions in life, Prashant went for both the choices and destiny too favoured the brave. His instincts were bang on, proving many of his critics wrong. None had predicted he would excel in the two extremely different streams. But for Dr Prashant Mehta, it was only then that he realised that music complements the medical profession.

Music is a great stress-buster. Music therapy does heal and improve the quality of life for patients. For patients with chronic diseases and even cancer, music can reduce pain perception and provide palliation.

"I do believe strongly that music should get a space in holistic care of patients with chronic diseases," says Dr Prashant (39), a well known oncologist at Asian Hospital in Haryana's Faridabad and a promising singer who released his debut music album 'Besabraa' online last year.

There's no stopping him. Five of his songs are lined up for release with music label, Dhamaka records, supported by singers like Priyaank Sharma, Paras Mehta, Padmini Kolhanuri and Shraddha Kanoor.

Kolhapuri and Shraddha Kapoor.

He knows pretty well what his audience wants, the challenges from various social media platforms and the fast changing preference of the listeners who have very less atten-

tion span.

"Recall value depends on melody, context and content (lyrics). To keep music relatable for the new generation music

ers, singers have to keep changing all the time. Old classics have a great recall value due to the context, warmth, lyrics and minimalist arrangement. But the problem is, if songs with similar sound and structure are created in this era, the new generation will not be able to connect. "See how the length of songs is reducing every day

Instagram reels are in and we want instant gratification. Old songs are also being repackaged with a new feel and sound to stay relatable. The composers and singers in this era are also brilliant and versatile," he points out.

Dr Mehta cites the examples of AR Rehman, Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, Himesh Reshamiyya, Vishal and Shekhar, Amit Trivedi and some newer ones like Vishal Mishra. "They are amazing. Indie music is also doing well and Prateek Kuhad and Aditya A have been making waves. Singers like Arijit, Jubin, Sunidhi, Nikita Gandhi and many others have given a new sound to the music industry and have been part of some amazing and classic creations," he says excitedly.

Then there non-Bollywood Initiatives like Coke studio which have produced some legendary songs, avers the father of a 3-year-old kid. The medico, who has recently also delved into philan-

thropy, feels that music can not only help reduce pain perception, but also help raise funds for treatment of needy patients. His wife, Dr Swati Pabbi Mehta, too inspires him in this direction, says the doting husband.
"Singers like Palak Mucchal have already raising funds.

I personally have been able to do the same by doing shows and my album 'Dil Besabraa' is dedicated to people with cancer," the singer, performer, doctor underlines.

-As told to Archana Jyoti (Medicos may write to us at healthp100@gmail.com)

NEWS BRIEF

UP brings BMT under Ayushman scheme

There is good news for Ayushman Bharat cardholders in Uttar Pradesh. The services under the Ayushman Bharat scheme will now also include bone marrow transplant (BMT), which is often recommended to patients afflicted with

cancer or blood disorders like hemophilia and Sickle Cell. 'Medical literature shows that patients in need of this transplant, especially those from poor socio-economic backgrounds, do not opt for the procedure on account of the cost factor. Thus, it has been included in the list of services provided under the umbrella of Ayushman Bharat," said Sangeeta Singh, CEO of state agency for comprehensive health insurance and integrated services for implementation of the scheme in Uttar Pradesh.

She said the role of medical colleges was crucial to helping patients avail the benefits of Ayushman Bharat.

Dr Nita Radhakrishnan, Associate Professor of Paediatric Hematology-Oncology at Post Graduate Institute of Child Health, Noida (Child PGI), called it a good initiative. "Upfront inclusion in Ayushman helps a lot. Patients do not have to wait for financial sanction from other Government sources to undergo BMT," she added.



PERSPECTIVE

Invincible gun **lobby in US**



MANAN DWIVEDI

At first, the gun lobby ignores the protest of the gun control lobby. But if the recriminations and protestations do not die out on their own, then the most prominent gun lobbyist National Rifles Association launches an all-out offence which is unbridled and unmitigated in nature, content and expanse

unrunning and gun-related violence, especially at offices, schools and malls, has become a repulsive feature of the US society. From the Sandy Hook killings in 2011 to the Uvalde school shooting last week, the rampage has left the American homeland dazed and President Joe Biden determined to fight against the powerful gun lobby. One can latch onto the scenario in the Chicago city wherein gun shops are conspicuous amid isolated mansions and apartments.

The condition of gun trade was much worse in the yesteryears when any individual could literally walk into a shop and buy automatic and semi-automatic weapons without the need of a psychiatric check or an age certificate. The scenario has changed for better, but the rising number of shooting cases clearly manifests that much needs to be done by the Government of the day in tandem with the NRA (National Rifles Association) and the very powerful and all pervading realm of the gun lobby.

Earlier, drug abuse, marijuana usage and tobacco consumption received a great deal of attention from the legal fraternity, now on a similar strain the frequent massacres at the hands of deranged shooters make one sit up and take up deft notice. All in all, in the contemporary American context, a few law firms and the American legal fraternity have filed suits against the norms through which guns have entered the stable and peacenik lives of the American neighborhood with dogged impact. Akin to anti-cancer initiatives, the anti-gun lobby too has been spawned with vast resources of funding but not in the same bracket as the National Rifle Association and the attendant gun lobby

President Biden too in a state of exasperation has contended that, "When in God's name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby?" The first lady and President Biden visited the shooting site in Uvalde and empathised with the families of the victims as the first couple contended that they can very readily relate to the sense of loss felt by the bereaved families as they too had lost a son in a car accident.

Al Jazeera reports about the fundamental contours of the gun lobby in America very pithily and tersely. The news portal contends, "The so-called gun lobby in the US is a broad term that encompasses efforts to influence both state and federal policy on guns, usually through supporting candidates who have pledged opposition to gun control measures. It includes direct contributions to legislators, efforts to independently support elected officials, and campaigns to sway public opinion on issues related to firearms. Such lobbying is often carefully calibrated to navigate laws. Several investigations have shown that major anti-gun control lobbying groups — notably the most prominent the National Rifle Association (NRA) — have close ties with the multibillion-dollar firearms industry in the US." It has also been investigated and research has shown that the

National Rifle Association is in cahoots with the firearms industry in the United States and it utilises every massacre with a deft legerdemain of media management to boost the sales of firearms. The initial trajectory of action of the gun lobby is that they ignore the protest of the gun control lobby. But if the recriminations and protestations do not die out on their own, then the NRA launches an all-out offence which is unbridled and unmitigated in nature, content and expanse all across the length and breadth of the US gun-running firmament.

The gun lobby counter attacks by contending that how can the gun control lobby vitiate the political ecosystem of the larger nation and its hoi polloi by adding a political tinge to the larger spectrum of events. Thus, the gun lobby lobs the accusation of politicisation upon the vestiges of protestations and contestations adhered to by the gun control groups. The second amendment was also being utilised in the past by adhering to the larger dictum of harking back to the right of the American citizens to own and bear arms in self defence.

A significant shift in the approach of the White House occurred a few years back when psychiatric check of the prospective gun owners was made part and parcel of the entire gamut of the gun debate in the besieged US. Jonathan M Metzl Kenneth and T Maclesh contend in the

American Journal of Public Health, "Four assumptions frequently arise in the aftermath of mass shootings in the US: (1) that mental illness causes gun violence, (2) that psychiatric diagnosis can predict gun crime, (3) that shootings represent the deranged acts of mentally ill loners, and (4) that gun control "won't prevent" another Newtown, Connecticut school mass shooting. Each of these statements is certainly true in particular instances.' What needs to be incisively comprehended is the idiom that the

medical veneer of gun violence is the key factor underpinning the scourge of gunrunning in the American homeland. The often deft striving to relegate the term "medical condition" and "psychiatric checks" to compartmentalisation of public health defeats the objective of the medical illness factor in the context of larger gun violence witnessed since the last decade in the US. Both the newspapers of the order of New York Times and Washington Post have contended that undiagnosed schizophrenia and manslaughter are terms which are not given the kind of required preponderance in developing a process of mitigating and constraining the menace of incivility in the

It has been recorded that 44 per cent of the Republicans and their supporters contend that they are proud and fortunate owners of guns. While in the same trending proportionality, 20 per cent of the Democrat party members and their supporters contend that they too own guns. Thus, it's all ingrained and embedded in the larger political debate of the American nation that a mainstream, corporate and nationalist ethics pave the way for a reformed and controlled gun culture in the nation. How can a nation forget the crack of guns and the echo of the horses' hooves as and when a cowboy marches across daintily and disdainfully upon the terrain of the Oregon Trail?

Also, the scintillating remembrance of gun touting patriots arranging for guns and engaging the British colonists in the marshlands of Pennsylvania has become part and parcel of the patriotic zeal of the nation all anointed by the halo of the revolutionaries who fought under the iconic leadership of George Washington.

> (The writer teaches at International Relations and International Organisations, IIPA, New Delhi)

China encircling Pacific Islands

China is interested in the Pacific Islands as these thinly populated but resource-rich small islands are rife with geostrategic, diplomatic and economic opportunities. Certainly, once ties are established with these vital nations, Beijing's larger goal of encompassing the Indo-Pacific can be easily achieved



Polynesia and Melanesia. China has already figured out critical trading outlets in the Pacific. Together these nations have more than 199 million square kilometres of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ). With a population of 1.4 billion, the pressure on both used and potential resources in China is growing very fast. For example, China has overused fishing. And also because of some of the unsustainable practices prevalent in many areas in the country, its fish reserves are depleting very fast. As a result, the commoners are experiencing skyrocketing prices in the fish markets. Further, this has forced the Chinese fishing business community to encroach EEZs of neighbouring nations and at times moving far to the South American nations like Argentina simply to catch the most prized

These far-flung islands are now receiving economic aid and diplomatic support from China. But all these are coming with multiple challenges for both Beijing and the rest of the Pacific community. It is clear that these islands are completely devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic. So the aid and loans coming straightway from China are a huge source of sustenance for them. In return, all of them have to pay the price. ring of security umbrella to its

Many of them are fast turning into China's overseas colonies. Like in the South China Sea (SCS), where Beijing is trying to control one of the busiest sea communication lines in the world, it seems it is planning for a similar model for the Pacific Islands and probably for a long haul in these tiny nations. Some of the US Congressman are voicing concerns and saying this would be detrimental for these island territories and for the US and its allies in the region. A US Congressman rightly echoed two years back: "China is directly interested in expanding its power and influence and I would submit, creating dependence in the Pacific Islands." This is what is worrying the immediate neighbours such Australia and New Zealand. These expansionist moves launched by the Communists in Beijing are not out of any sense of humanitarian concern for the Pacific Islands but it comes out of a sense of competition with the US.

Solomon Islands came to the limelight the last month as China signed a security treaty with the nation. Under the security agreement signed between the Solomon Islands and China, the former may request the latter to send forces to stabilise the situation in that country. It also allows China to offer a

diplomats, businessmen and diaspora in the event of unrests similar to those of April 2004 and November 2021. What is raising fears is that this may gradually lead to the establishment of a Chinese military base in the island, like the one Beijing set up in Djibouti, in the Horn of Africa, in July 2017.

The recent visit of US President Joe Biden to the Indo-Pacific has once again reassured all the allies of America's commitment to Asia. His visit to Asia in the last month clearly spoke out the fact that America's long term foreign policy goal is solely directed towards Asia. But for now, the Biden Administration is focussing temporarily on Europe as Russia has invaded Ukraine, bringing the continent close to the Third World

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has underlined his country's strategy towards China immediately after Biden's tour to the Indo-Pacific. He termed Beijing's geopolitical ambitions as the most serious long-term challenge to the international order". Considering the initiatives so far taken by the Xi regime, the world is fast approaching a new turning point wherein the West is closely rebalancing its interests with that of

For years, China has been working to establish an alternative global order against the US-led liberal order. And now it is gradually reaching out to the Pacific community. It's a warning sign not only for the island leaders but also for the traditional power players in the region. Now a new Labour Government in Australia under the leadership of Anthony Albanese, with Foreign Minister Penny Wong reaching out to the Pacific Island nations, might be able to bridge the trust deficit between the neighbours.

Much more than the stiff power competition between China and the US, the biggest challenge for the low-lying Pacific Islands is climate change. Thus, realising the



immediate threat to the island community, Henry Puna, the former Prime Minister of the Cook Island and the current Secretary General of the Pacific's top regional body, the Pacific Island Forum (PIF), stressed the need to immediately acting on the climate goals. He rightly says, "Our forum leaders have identified climate change as the single greatest threat facing our Blue Pacific region." Again, he reiterated that "action to keep our world below 1.5 degrees is vital for the future prosperity and wellbeing of our region". It must be pointed out here that instead of giving an anodyne welcome and bland formalities to the recently visited Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Wi to the region, (a country that is recorded today as the biggest carbon polluter of the world), Puna made it clear to him what the Pacific community is looking for.

The Pacific Islands are another battleground for big power rivalry. As China is growing, it is trying to bully the rest, particularly its neighbours like India. Meanwhile, America is mostly withdrawing from its traditional war fronts and crisis zones in the West and Central Asia. Washington knows well that today its major threat emerges from Beijing. Hence it is gathering all its resources and allies to focus on China whether through the Quad, the AUKUS or by pressing more engagements with the Pacific Islands. Keeping all these factors in the background, one can simply conclude that China's recent forays into the Pacific are adding a fresh challenge to the US and its allies in the region.

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

LOOKBACK

In the midst of troublesome

US-China relations, China's near-

ness to the Pacific Island commu-

nity is further straining the bilater-

al ties. Today, China is the third

largest aid donor, and the second

largest trading partner in the

Pacific region. And more impor-

tantly, China is investing heavily

in almost all the island nations in

becoming more assertive in its for-

eign policy goals and interested in

demonstrating the country's mili-

tary might on many occasions (like the attack on Indian soldiers

in June 2020 in Eastern Ladakh).

Significantly, the expatriate Chi-

nese business leaders are exercis-

ing strong influence over other nations like Australia and New

Zealand. Precisely, the Chinese

state power is at odds with the tra-

ditional and dominant powers in

the Pacific region such as Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the US

Pacific Islands? For China, these

thinly populated but resource rich

small islands are rife with geostrategic, diplomatic and eco-nomic opportunities. Certainly, once ties are established with these

vital nations, Beijing's larger goal

of encompassing the Indo-Pacific

can be easily achieved. The three

of the major groups of islands in

the Pacific Ocean are Micronesia,

Why is China interested in the

At the same time, China is

the region.

and France.

Growing India-US ties in critical & emerging tech

ndia and the United States recently announced the launch of a new India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) to facilitate outcomeoriented cooperation. The iCET would focus on forging closer relationship between the government, industry and academia of the two countries in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductors, 5G/6G, quantum computing, biotech and space technologies. The initiative, which will be co-led by the National Security Council Secretariat in India and the US National Security Council (NSC), plans to join six of India's Technology Innovation Hubs to support at least 25 joint research projects in areas such as AI and data science in 2022. It marked a major development in the bilateral technology partnership which will define innovation processes, economic and security landscape of the 21st century ahead.

The announcement comes at a time when the major powers are competing to develop and deploy critical and emerging technologies (CET) to shape economic and military balance to their advantage. While concerns over technology competition and rivalry between the ÛS and China, and China's use of newly acquired technological and military power in support of its expansionist goal are increasing, India and the US increasingly share a common objective of a strong partnership in ČET. The US supports "India's emergence as a leading global power and vital partner" and expects that India's rise would help balance assertive China. It wants to become India's "partner of choice" in the field of defence and strategic technologies. India's growing economy, largest consumer market, demographic dividend and its strive to become a global hub for emerging technologies provide enormous opportunities for building a robust bilateral partnership in CET.

At their first in-person summit in Washington DC in September 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden underscored the growing importance of "critical and emerging technologies in delivering economic growth and achieving strategic priorities". At their second in-person meeting on the sidelines of the fourth Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo on May 24, 2022, the two leaders described defence and security cooperation as a crucial pillar of the India-US bilateral agenda and expressed strong resolve to work closely to deepen and strengthen their cooperation in CET. PM Modi also invited the US industry to participate in the "Make in India" and AatmaNirbhar Bharat" programmes, which can be of mutual benefit. Importantly, the two leaders are increasingly emphasising on the use of emerging technologies to address the 21st century challenges such as climate change, health, energy, education, cyber, defence and security.

In this endeavour, the newly created US National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence, in its October 2020 report, urged the Department of Defence and Department of State to formally negotiate with India on developing partnership in CET. The NSCAI asked the US administration to create a US-India Strategic Tech Alliance with an objective to make India a focal point of its foreign policy. The Biden administration in its March 2021 Interim National Security Strategic Guidance and February 2022 Indo-Pacific Strategy of the United States also expressed desire to develop strong partnership with India in CET and focused on India's increasingly important geopolitical role in an overarching Indo-Pacific strategy.

As a result, the two countries launched the US-India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI) Initiative in March 2021 to scale up science and technology cooperation. The USIAI focuses on AI cooperation in critical areas that are priorities

for both countries such as healthcare, energy, education, agriculture, smart cities and manufacturing sector. It is an initiative of India-US Science and Technology Forum which was set up during the historic visit of then US President Bill Clinton to India in March 2000. It is funded by India's Department of Science and Technology and the US Department of State. In June 2020, the two countries also joined the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence as a founding member to support the responsible and human centric development and the use of AI.

On Semiconductor, both the Modi Government and Biden administration have renewed their efforts to address the growing demand for semiconductors amidst the chip shortage caused by the pandemic-related global supply-chain disruptions. In a big step towards realising the vision of "AtmaNirbhar Bharat" in electronics and semiconductors, the Modi Government in December 2021 announced Rs 76,000-crore (around \$10 billion) production linked incentive scheme, covering up to 50 per cent of project's costs, to set up semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in India. The Biden administration has earmarked \$52 billion for semiconductor manufacturing and research through the CHIPS for America Act to reclaim US leadership in the chip manufacturing industry as its share of global chip manufacturing has fallen from 37 per cent in 1990 to 12 per cent 2020.

Meanwhile, the Indian Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) and the United States Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) on April 12, 2022, signed an MoU to identify potential areas of collaboration between the two countries in the semiconductor sector. Under the MoU, the two countries will assist each other on semiconductorrelated matters and the MoU will

help strengthen India's semicon-

ductor ecosystem.

Moreover, the two countries have expanded their health and science cooperation since the Covid-19 pandemic began. A robust technology partnership in the health sector would be imperative for tracking the spread of future pandemics. The two countries can work together to create a health database of their citizens which would help effectively and efficiently address the emergence of pandemics.

Notably, the United States recognised India as a major defence partner in 2016 to build a comprehensive and mutually beneficial defence relationship; elevated India's status to Tier I of the Strategic Trade Authorization (STA) licence exception in 2018 to increase advanced technology trade with India; and, the two sides have concluded several defence agreements, i.e., the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement in 2016, Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement in 2018, a Memorandum of Intent between US Defence Innovation Unit and Indian Defence Innovation Organisation-Innovation Defence Excellence in 2018, Industrial Security Agreement in 2019, and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement) for Geo-Spatial Cooperation in 2020.

The recent meeting between PM Modi and President Biden in Tokyo added "depth and momentum" to the India-US strategic partnership. PM Modi called the partnership "a partnership of trust" and it will continue to be a "force for good" for the world President Biden whereas expressed his commitment to make the "partnership among the closest on earth." Nevertheless, India-US relationship has been transformed into a "Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership' based on the two countries' shared

values and growing convergence

of interests on bilateral, regional

and global issues. While India-US



SAROJ BISHOYI

trade in goods and services increased to over \$159 billion in 2021 from \$19 billion in 2000, Defence trade increased to over \$21 billion in 2021 from almost negligible before 2008. The US has emerged as a key supplier of defence and strategic technologies to India. The relationship also enjoys strong popular and bipartisan support in both the countries. It indeed reached a new height under the Modi Government.

A strong India-US partnership in CET therefore would not only benefit the people of the two countries, but the world at large. It would help advance economic growth, create jobs and help address the emerging challenges of the 21st century, including health, energy, climate change, cyber, defence and security. It will also help counter the growing technology dominance of China which poses threat to their economic as well as national security interests. However, the two sides need to sharpen their focus on transfer of technology and joint design, development and production of CET because no worthwhile strategic partnership can be built unless they make substantial progress in this field. This will remain a critical measure of the India-US strategic partnership and the "acid test" of US commitment to build a strategic techalliance in the 21st century.

(The writer is a strategic affairs analyst with main research focus on the USA, India-US relations and







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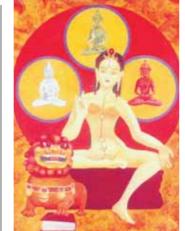




ARIES March 21-April 19

This week you will enjoy good family life and happiness. The beginning of a very happy relationship is on the card. The voung ones in the family will be happiness in disguise. You are likely to have a feeling of optimism throughout the week On the career front, a tough decision in your work area will demand your attention. You are bound to follow the company's system and discipline. By the end of the week, you must balance work and pleasure. Your passion, greed and desires will rise high making you just about lazy. There are chances of last-minute changes and as long as you are not caught off guard, you can handle everything. Opportunities to make quick money are indicated. It is likely that you may some misunderstandings with the elders. So make efforts to keep away from conflicts.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour White Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you will prove the best of your capabilities and genius and creativity will be your forte. You will have the ability to manage multiple tasks at a time. You are versatile and your expertise will be acknowledged by others. You will be quite busy this week. There will be a time when you have to take important decisions related to your professional and personal life. This decision will activate you and you be able to handle many issues. This is the right time to invest money in business expansion. The money will not be a limitation for you. In midweek, a new job opportunity will come your way. You will have a tempting job offer with a higher salary and perks. By the end of the week, you will be high on emotions, hence, making you almost a home bird. It is recommended to spend time on artistic pursuits.

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Indigo Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you are strong-minded to follow the resolutions related to your health. A healthy diet, exercise, adequate rest and spirituality all are on your checklist. You may have an adventurous spirit to keep you motivated. Creative pursuits will be satisfying. You are likely to step out of your comfort zone. In terms of your career, you may face issues related to equality and justice. You may become accountable for your choices. If everything proceeds with fairness and integrity the outcome should be positive. It would be in your best interest to look at things from other's point of view as well. Relations are demanding and need your time and attention. You have to maintain a balance between work and relationship. Married couples may face conflicts over financial matters.

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Blue Lucky day Thursday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you are letting your sentiments and emotions rule your heart and mind. Initially, the mind and thoughts are taking the charge, which is contradicting your personality. On the other days, you will have the opportunity for negotiating mind, or negotiation of important issues with important people in your life. You are likely to help or make amends with your family. Irrespective of negotiation, one must stay in balance. There will be times when you need to spend time alone to reevaluate your life and situation, the fourfold process that is experienced on all four levels of consciousness, mental, emotional, spiritual and physical. Surrender yourself to the higher wisdom, conquer material temptation and give up something to gain something better are on the card. Your patience and endurance will be put to test.

Lucky number 9 Lucky colour Orange Lucky day Saturday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week your search for a mentor in life who opens the pathways to wisdom and insight for others comes to end. This person will provide you with the comfort and help, you require. You are likely to experience mental grief or agony. You will put your family in focus than usual and conditions all around won't be at their best. Trust yourself and follow a tradition. The dreams of the past will sink in and new ones will arise. Stay calm and quiet and allow things to take their own course without intervention or control. You may change your residence or may start a journey to distant lands. Help from a male friend or relative is indicated. You will experience high energy and vitality in your daily life. Religion and traditions will become a priority and enlighten you spiritually. Those related to the travel & tourism sector will have reasons to smile.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Golden Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you will feel the healing and rejuvenating energy around you. The purity and bundle of energy will enhance your creativity. Positive thoughts will easily come to you. Ensure you continue with your health regime. Exercise like gym or yoga will add extra charm to your personality. Those who are having health issues are likely to recover, but it is advisable to still consult a doctor. Career-wise, you are creative, original, and free from restrictions imposed by ideas and criticisms. How you speak your mind is as important as what you say. For some of you, promotion, salary hike or desirable transfer is on the cards. This is a very eventful week in all aspects. In a relationship, you are making a lot of effort. Be very clear about your boundaries and preferences, and be honest with yourself about the possibilities. Whatever is the final decision, stick to it.

Lucky number 6 Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Constant worry about your health will keep you under stress and anxiety. It is important that you treat yourself well. Ensure you have adequate sleep, proper food and an ample amount of water intake. Alongside, maintain a positive attitude, therefore, follow meditation and breathing exercises to keep your mind calm. Career-wise the situations are not favourable. You are bound to face some challenges. Do not hesitate to ask for help from your trusted ones. Miracles happen every day, and you must believe in them. If you focus on your work and do your bit, the situation will improve for the better. Those in a relationship will face conflicts with their partner. Others' views on your love life may cause tension and worry in your relationship. In such a case be open to what comes your way and opt for a solution that is best for your relationships.

Lucky number 23 Lucky colour Red Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week happiness and prosperity are on the cards. A piece of good news is awaiting, and you will have reasons to feel good and enjoy life. You will have a sense of contentment in the material and spiritual world and make you feel enthusiastic about life. You will be full of energy and will enjoy good health. Settlement in a new house, cooperation from the young ones in the house or support and encouragement from the spouse is indicated on the card. A healthy environment at the workplace is likely. Your colleague or a close friend will need your attention. By the end of the week, you may ponder over your accomplishments and bring some improvement to your schedule. Some of you may travel a long distance to a foreign land. Singles, you need to be clear about what you want from a relationship before moving ahead.

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Wednesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will be in a state of confusion. You are likely to have a tough time finding a solution to an unexpected problem. Your mind will be ruled by two most powerful emotions apprehension and fear and this will not allow you to sleep at night. This is a challenging situation for everyone in the family. On the career front, workloads will keep you stressed. Your professional life will see you on the fiery side of your personality. It is very important to take time off from the busy schedule and have fun with friends and family. Delegate your duties and try to balance between work & emotions, this is the best way to stress buster. As the week comes to an end, you will gain enough confidence to control situations which were making you agitated. Couples may plan out for a movie or a picnic for relaxation and better bonding.

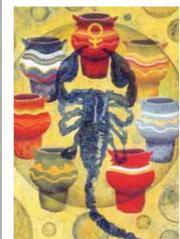
Lucky number 19 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week there is an upswing in your energy and vitality. Those who are facing health issues need to relax, a new and improvised mode of healing or a healer will come into your life this week. Maintain a positive attitude and help will be available if you seek it. On the work front, you need to control your over-ambitious nature else you may find yourself in a conflict. It is very important that you respect the feeling of your colleagues otherwise you have to struggle your way out in your professional life. Be careful of whom you trust at this time because betrayal from a colleague or a business partner is indicated. Make sure your behaviour is impeccable. In terms of relationships, you will doubt your own capabilities and will underestimate yourself. You may feel insecure and even question your partner's feelings toward you. It is recommended that you draw your inner strength and reconnect with it. Just believe in yourself and things will be back on track.

Lucky number 18 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week your health is good, and you will be emotionally balanced and in control. In case, you face any health issues, then stay calm because you will deal with them successfully. Treat your mind and body with care and compassion. On the work front, things are good for you. You should empathize with your colleagues and understand their points of view. This will bring positivity to your work environment. A role of a senior woman is indicated, taking her help or advice will be beneficial in your project. For those awaiting interview results, the good news is on the cards. Your love life is in a very good phase. You and your partner are serious about the relationship and have a caring and protective feeling for each other. Ensure you take some quality time out of your work and spend it with your partner. Those single, chance of new love is coming your way.

Lucky number 21 Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you are going to be physically attractive to others. You will experience immense energy and vitality. You are likely to enjoy sports and adventurous activities, spas and sauna baths. Ensure you follow a strict health regime like diet, exercise, and vitamins/minerals. A brief vacation to enjoy the energy is indicated on the cards. On the career front, there could be frequent journeys which may open great avenues for your professional growth. For those who are appearing for an interview or competitive exam, stars are favourable. Patience and persistence will help resolve business-related issues. You are likely to face some challenges in terms of a relationship. Accusations and misunderstandings between married couples are indicated. For singles, this is not the right time for a relationship.

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Tuesday

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→ ffortlessly remaining focused till the end of game ensures success. But for which other virtues will not bear fruits on expected lines. For, one will fail to put in one's best, and with obvious consequences. It will interesting to note that there are five broad categories of individual mindtrends - ignorant/darkening; distracted; gathering up; one pointed, and concentrated. Majority fall under first two categories.

Darkening types have ignorance at the root. They carry a narrow vision, stuck to their ill-disposed mental predisposition. They lack clarity in vision and thought. Invariably, they do not have any clue to what life is truly about, what they should expect, and what is their calling. They move directionless. Carrying a strong sense of inertia and indolence, they fail to take initiatives in time, and therefore, more often left behind in the run of life.

Mind engaged in its likes and dislikes, prejudices and obsessions, wanton desires and temptations of life, pleasures and pains, continuously keeps breeding thoughts. It is something like a monkey unmindfully hopping from one branch of a tree to the other. This is what a scattering mind means. It doesn't allow remaining focused to priority preferences, and evidently to one's detriment.

Those who somehow realise that but for focus, they may be left behind in the run of time, try to gather up their mind. It is, however, easier said than done. For, habits die hard. They keep pulling us back again and again. So, at times they get focused for a while, soon to get distracted once again. They again strive to regain their focus. This tug of war keeps going on. Such characters fall under 'gathering up' category.

From gathering up type, one tries to graduate to one-pointed state again through conscious efforts. They are the ones who have become conscious about remaining alert enough to make wholesome use of the operational tools of mind, particularly its discriminating faculty. Obviously, to achieve that end, one tries to get over distracting influences, improve their focus and remain riveted to their desired destination. Consequently, wherever they pay attention, single-pointed they are able

Focused attention is the key to success its limitations. Such a purified mind



to successfully pursue the task in hand to its logical end. Those having attained this state, carry higher probability of tasting fruits of success with ease and comfort. They, however, still

remain subject to pushes and pulls, of course relatively on a lower scale.

Beyond the one-pointed state is the 'concentrated mind'. This is a stage when mind literally becomes free from comes out with its optimum best.

The other day someone came seeking career guidance for his child. He said: "Sir, my child is quite intelligent. He was doing pretty well till two years back. Thereafter his performance has not been on expected lines. Please suggest some puja or gemstone that helps improve his performance. It is time now that he has to make career choice. Please guide as to

what discipline will suit him." Your child is not simply intelligent but has many other positive qualities. But, intelligence by itself is not enough to strike success. It needs to be backed by focused attention, patience, perseverance, consistent efforts and the zeal necessary to strike his targeted destination. Also, inherent habit tendencies often stand in way of potential side coming into full play. In so far as remedial measure is concerned, kindly note that the root of his problem lies in the mind. No puja conducted by any pundit can enter his mind space to make necessary correction. Stones can offer secondary support, but that won't suffice. The best remedy is to work upon the mind traits. He needs to look

withing, identify the shortcomings, acknowledge them, and make necessary correction through fresh educative inputs. But given his age, it may not be possible carry on this task by himself. A look into his astrological pointers can show the way.

The lagna, its lord Mercury, the two luminaries Sun and Moon are all posited in dual signs. Mercury is illdisposed off to Uranus. That speaks of a vacillating mind, who may keep breeding conflicting thoughts, not able to resolve easily. The two luminaries are afflicted by Saturn, the planet of their nemesis. That indicates his indwelling sense of inertia, which doesn't let him make persistent efforts. He carries self-doubt. Given his mental disposition, he should prefer humanities. He may eventually end up as a good teacher, as would Moon placed in Jupiter owned 10th house, read together with its exchange with exalted Jupiter in the 2nd house imply.

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