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Axe on 16 MLAs! Dy Speaker sets June 27 for show-cause

Rebels say they are part of Sena, name self 'Shiv Sena Balasaheb'

PN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Five days after they rebelled against Shiv Sena president and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's leadership, the Sena rebel faction, led by senior minister Eknath Shinde, began to face the heat on Saturday as Deputy Speaker Narhari Zhirwal issued notices to 16 Sena rebel MLAs, including Shinde.

The Deputy Speaker has sought explanations from them by the evening of June 27 on the representation made by the parent party seeking their disqualification for violating the party discipline.

Acting on the basis of a letter written by Shiv Sena's chief whip Sunil Prabhu seeking their disqualification under The Members of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 1986, principal secretary of the Maharashtra Rajendra Bhagwat issued notices to 16 Sena rebel MLAs and asked them to submit written response before 5.30 pm on June 27 (Monday) supported by all the necessary documents.

"If the written response to the summons is not submitted in a given period, it would be considered as you have nothing to say over it. The office will initiate necessary action based on the complaint filed by Shiv Sena's whip against you," the notice stated.

On a day the parent outfit Shiv Sena passed five resolutions, including reaffirming confidence in the leadership of Uddhav Thackeray and asking the rebel MLAs not to use the name of late Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray, the rebel Sena group — which claims to have the support of 37 Sena MLAs out of the total 55 Sena MLAs in the State Assembly — floated a parallel Sena group named as "Shiv Sena Balasaheb".



Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut interacts with the media outside Sena Bhavan in Mumbai on Saturday

PTI

Apart from their leader Eknath Shinde, 15 other rebel Sena MLAs who have been issued show-cause notices by the office of Deputy Speaker are: Abdul Satar, Sandeep Bomre, Prakash Surve, Tanaji Sawant, Mahesh Shinde, Anil Babar, Yamini Jadhav, Sanjay Shirsat, Bharat Gogavale, Balaji Kinikar, Lata Sonawane, Sadasarvankar, Prakash Ambedkar, Sanjay Raimulkar and Ramesh Bornare.

These 16 MLAs are among the 37 rebel Sena MLAs who have given a letter to the Deputy Speaker, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, and secretary to the Maharashtra Legislature, re-affirming their confidence in the leadership of Eknath Shinde and saying that he would continue as the leader of the Shiv Sena Legislature Party till 2024.

The 37 Sena rebel MLAs (who account for more than the requisite two-third strength i.e. 36 MLAs out of total 55 Sena MLAs in the State Assembly) if they move out of the Shiv Sena bloc will attract penal action under the anti-defection law.

However, if the Deputy Speaker disqualifies 16 Sena

rebel MLAs, including Eknath Shinde, the development will result in the rebel Sena camp — the strength of which will be reduced to 21 MLAs against the earlier 37 MLAs, attracting action under the anti-defection law.

On its part, the rebel Sena camp played down the import of the notices issued to 16 rebel Sena MLAs.

"Yes, we have received notices from the office of Deputy Speaker. There is nothing to worry about. We will not be disqualified. We will respond to the notices. If need be, we will move the court against the notices issued by the Deputy Speaker," rebel Sena MLA Bharat Gogavale said.

Rebel Sena MLA Deepak Kesarkar, speaking on behalf of the Shinde camp, said that the rebel Sena MLAs were very much part of the Shiv Sena as it will not merge with any party and that they would set up a separate block of the party in the State Assembly.

"We are not going to merge with any political party. We will be setting up a separate block of the Shiv Sena in the State Assembly," Kesarkar said.

Continued on Page 2

My fight is to save Sena from clutches of 'python' MVA, says Shinde

Mumbai: Rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde late on Saturday said Shiv Sena workers should understand that he was fighting to save the party from the clutches of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

In a tweet in Marathi, Shinde said, "My dear Shiv Sena workers, try to understand the machinations of the MVA. I am fighting for rescuing the Shiv Sena and Sena workers from the clutches of the python of the MVA. I dedicate this fight to the interest of Shiv Sena workers," he added.

Shinde and his supporters earlier said they want the Sena to pull out of the "unnatural" coalition with the Congress and the NCP, and revive the alliance with BJP.

PTI

Shinde met Fadnavis in Vadodara on Friday to discuss Govt formation

PN ■ MUMBAI

The leader of the breakaway Shiv Sena faction, Eknath Shinde, flew to Vadodara in Gujarat from Guwahati on Friday night for a meeting with former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to discuss possible Government formation in Maharashtra, sources have said.

A very senior BJP leader and Union Minister was also in Vadodara on the Friday night, sources said.

Shinde reportedly boarded a chartered flight to Guwahati on Friday night to travel to Vadodara, sources said. After holding talks with Fadnavis, Shinde flew back to Guwahati where nearly 40 rebel Sena MLAs are putting up.

According to a source-based report put out by a TV channel, Fadnavis had secretly left Indore for Vadodara in

a chartered plane on Friday evening. He returned Indore and had left for Mumbai.

The development makes it clear the Sena rebel was working in tandem with the BJP to topple the Uddhav Thackeray-led alliance Government.

Meanwhile, rebel Sena MLA Chimarrao Patil justified his support to Shinde, saying, "We have been fighting the Congress and NCP for the last 30 years. The main competitors in our constituencies are the Congress and the NCP and will be our opponents in the next election as well. That is why we had requested the CM that there should be a natural alliance but he never responded to our feelings. Hence, we requested our leader Shinde to take a firm stand on this. A natural alliance is the wish of all Shiv Sena workers in Maharashtra."

Continued on Page 2

Like Shiva, Modi swallowed poison of riot charge: Shah

HM cites SC verdict, says charges were 'politically motivated'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Supreme Court upheld the Special Investigation Team's (SIT) clean chit to 64 people, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the 2002 Gujarat riot case, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said Modi endured pain for the last so many years without speaking a word and followed Lord Shiva, who swallowed poison and held it in his throat.

Shah said that allegations against the PM were "politically motivated" and that the truth had come out, "shining more than the gold".

He said "a trio of Opposition parties, certain ideologically-driven journalists, and an NGO was behind false allegations" against the Prime Minister aimed to "tarnish his image" and keep the case going as long as it is possible.

"They had a strong ecosystem so everyone started believing lies to be truth," he said.

Speaking at length in an interview with ANI, Shah said the Supreme Court verdict described the charges as "politically motivated" and "cleared a blot on BJP".

He said the court said the then Chief Minister "did best efforts to control riots" in 2002.

Asked how does it feel, Home Minister said "Satya jab itni lambi ladayi ke baad bahar ata hai, uski chamak sone se bhi zyada hoti hain, bahut achha lagta hain...," he said.

He named civil rights activist and journalist Teesta Setalvad as a person fuelling charges against Modi. Shah said the NGO being run by her had given baseless information about the riots to the police.

"I have read the judgment very carefully. The judgment clearly mentions the name of Teesta Setalvad. The NGO that was being run by her — I don't remember the name of the NGO — had given baseless information about the riots to the police," he was quoted as saying in the interview.

Continued on Page 2



Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah chairs the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi

PTI

Teesta, ex-DGP RB Sreekumar held for fabricating evidence

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

A day after the Supreme Court upheld the clean chit given by an SIT to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 2002 riots cases, Gujarat Police on Saturday arrested former Director General of Police RB Sreekumar and took in custody social activist Teesta Setalvad for allegedly conspiring to falsely implicate innocent persons.

The FIR based on a complaint filed by an Ahmedabad crime branch official, also named former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt, who is already in jail in another case. Setalvad, who was picked up from her Mumbai residence, claimed her arrest was illegal and apprehended threat to her life.

Setalvad was detained from her house in the Juhu area of Mumbai and later taken to Santacruz police station for informing the local police about her detention, sources said.

"She has been taken by the Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad... We were not informed in advance about the case. They barged into the house and assaulted her before taking her with them," alleged her lawyer Vijay Hiremath. But a local police official denied that Setalvad was assaulted.

Setalvad, Bhatt and Sreekumar "conspired to abuse



Activist Teesta Setalvad at Santacruz police station after being arrested by Gujarat Police ATS, in Mumbai, on Saturday

PTI

the process of law by fabricating false evidence to make several persons to be convicted in an offence that is punishable with capital punishment," said the complaint filed by inspector DB Barad of Ahmedabad crime branch.

They instituted "false and malicious criminal proceedings against innocent people with intention to cause injury to several persons, and prepared false records and dishonestly used those records as genuine with the intention to cause damage and injury to many persons," as per the complaint.

Continued on Page 2

Counter-terrorism, food security, energy on Modi's agenda at G7

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will discuss a range of issues, including counter-terrorism, energy, food security, and the environment with world leaders during his visit to Germany to attend the G7 summit. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the situation in the strategically important Indo-Pacific may also come up for discussion.

Ahead of his visit to Germany starting Saturday, the Prime Minister said he will exchange views with the leaders of the G7 grouping and its partners on issues such as energy, food security, counter-terrorism, environment, and democracy.

He is visiting Schloss Elmau in southern Germany on June 26 and 27 for the summit of the G7. It is a combination of the world's seven richest nations, including the USA, the UK, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, Canada, and the European Union.

The G7 leaders are expected to focus on the Ukraine crisis that has triggered geopolitical turmoil besides fuelling a global food and energy crisis. Modi is attending the G7



summit following an invitation by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. The summit is being hosted by Germany in its capacity as the chair of G7.

"In an effort to strengthen international collaboration on important global issues impacting humanity, Germany has also invited other democracies such as Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa to the G7 Summit," Modi said in a statement ahead of his visit.

"During the sessions of the Summit, I will be exchanging views with the G7 countries, G7 partner countries and guest

international organisations on topical issues such as environment, energy, climate, food security, health, counter-terrorism, gender equality and democracy," he added.

Modi said he was looking forward to meeting leaders of some of the participating G7 and guest countries on the sidelines of the summit.

The Prime Minister said he was also looking forward to meeting Chancellor Scholz again after the "productive" India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) last month.

Continued on Page 2

Maya backs Murmu, JMM likely to support NDA presidential candidate

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a further boost to the presidential nominee of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Draupadi Murmu, BSP supremo Mayawati on Saturday extended her party's support to Murmu, giving her a decisive edge over the Opposition candidate and former Union Minister Yashwant Sinha.

Murmu is also expected to gain support from Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, which is under pressure to break ranks from the Opposition and back a tribal leader.

Murmu, a Santhal tribal leader herself, also called up the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) chief and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren seeking his support for her candidature, sources said.

JMM — a constituent of the Congress-led UPA — is in power in Jharkhand in alliance with it. A meeting of JMM parliamentarians and legislators was held on Saturday under the chairmanship of party supremo Shibu Soren, sources said. The Chief Minister will soon visit New Delhi and meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah before the party takes a final



NDA's Presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu with NDA leaders after paying tribute to Bhimrao Ambedkar at Parliament House, before filing her nomination papers, in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

call on support to Murmu.

"We have some grievances to be discussed with him. Thereafter, we will take decision on supporting a presidential candidate," JMM MLA

Nalin Soren told reporters after the meeting.

Party spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya said various issues, including the presidential election and the polit-

ical situation in the country were discussed in the meeting. "The decision in regard with extending support to a presidential candidate has not been taken yet. When the time comes, we will declare it," Bhattacharya told PTI.

However, well-placed sources said that JMM will finally have no option but to support Murmu. Other Regional parties like the JD(U), the BJD, the YSR Congress have already extended support to the NDA pick.

The BSP's backing to Murmu has further brightened her winning prospect vis-a-vis Sinha as the BJP is still making effort for an unopposed victory for its NDA nominee.

Speaking to reporters at Lucknow, Mayawati, while clarifying that her party's decision to support Murmu is not a support to the BJP, attacked the Opposition for "ignoring" the BSP while deciding on its candidate. "Our decision is neither in support to the BJP nor against the opposition... it has been taken after having kept in view the ideology of the BSP, which is to support the dalits and tribals," she said.

Continued on Page 2

Biden signs landmark gun bill, says 'lives will be saved'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden on Saturday signed the most sweeping gun violence bill in decades, a bipartisan compromise that seemed unimaginable until a recent series of mass shootings, including the massacre of 19 students and two teachers at a Texas elementary school.

"Lives will be saved," he said at the White House. Citing the families of shooting victims, the President said, "Our message to us was to do something. Well today, we did."

The House gave final approval on Friday, following Senate passage on Thursday, and Biden acted just before leaving Washington for two summits in Europe. The legislation will toughen background checks for the youngest gun buyers, keep firearms from more domestic violence offenders and help states put in place red flag laws that make it easier for authorities to take weapons from people adjudged to be dangerous.

Most of its \$13 billion cost will help bolster mental health programs and aid schools targeted in mass shootings.

Detailed report on Page 5

NCRPULSE

ART LOVERS HAIL MUSEUM NIGHT HELD AT NGMA



New Delhi: The Museum Night in the National Gallery of Modern Art has on Saturday received a commendable response from the art lovers. The twilight walk in the sculpture garden and the galleries of Kshetranya with Adwait Gadanayak, Director General was delightful.

NDMC ORGANISES 2ND JAN SUVIDHA CAMP

New Delhi: The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Saturday organised its second Jan Suvidha Camp for Residential Welfare Associations aiming to resolve their grievances at their doorsteps.

2 IN TIHAR BOOKED FOR MAKING EXTORTION CALLS

New Delhi: Two men lodged in Tihar jail were arrested for allegedly making an extortion call to a businessman in east Delhi's Ghazipur area and demanding Rs 50 lakh from him, police said on Saturday.

MCD TO BEAUTIFY 20 PONDS IN NATIONAL CAPITAL

New Delhi: With an aim to beautify the national Capital, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has on Saturday decided to rejuvenate and beautify 20 Ponds under the first phase of 'AMRIT Sarovar Mission'.

CLEANLINESS CERTIFICATION PROTOCOL REVISED

New Delhi: The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has released a revised cleanliness certification protocol with the aim to sustain open defecation free status across urban India and move towards achieving new sanitation goals, according to a statement on Saturday.

IYC protests against vandalism at Rahul's office in Kerala by SFI members

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the attack on Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's office in Kerala's Wayanad allegedly by SFI members, Indian Youth Congress (IYC) workers staged a protest in Delhi demanding



Thank you holy spirit for the all blessings Celine

PD(90112)C

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Birendra Singh S/O Shri Gangaram B-166 Kondli New Delhi. I have changed my name from Brijesh Singh to Birendra Singh. I may be known as Birendra Singh in future.

PD(90113)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is informed that the cars with the following car numbers which have completed their life Petrol Cars 15 Years Diesel Cars 10 Years. The MCD drive was confiscated by Pine View Technology Pvt Ltd and has not been claimed by anyone till now.

Table with 3 columns of car numbers: DL4CAG6092, DL3CAJ9891, DL4CG1897, etc.

Punjab: Arrested IAS officer's son dies of bullet wound

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

A 27-year-old son of IAS officer Sanjay Popli, who was arrested in a graft case, died of bullet wound here on Saturday, with police saying he committed suicide but family alleging foul play.

Bureau official said they had left the house before the incident took place.

The Punjab Vigilance Bureau had earlier this week arrested IAS officer Sanjay Popli in a graft case for allegedly demanding bribe in exchange of clearing tenders for laying a sewerage pipeline in Nawanshahr.

Chandigarh's Senior Superintendent of Police Kuldeep Singh Chahal said after verifying things it has come to the fore that the 27-year-old "shot himself".

on, the SSP said, adding a licensed pistol was used in the incident.

An inconsolable Sanjay Popli's wife told reporters, "The Vigilance officials were pressuring us and they were even torturing my domestic help to give false statements in support of the case they have registered. My 27-year-old son is gone. He was a brilliant lawyer. They have snatched him".

"To build a false case, they snatched my son--Kartik Popli is gone," said Sanjay Popli's wife showing blood spots of his

son on her hands.

"I will not wash these hands till we get justice. I want justice. I will move court," said the wailing woman, repeatedly crying "my son has been killed".

(Punjab Chief Minister) Bhagwant Mann should answer," she said.

She claimed that the Vigilance officials took Kartik upstairs.

"When I went up they were mentally torturing my son," she said, adding "even our mobile phones were snatched".

A 51-year-old woman, a neighbour and family friend,

alleged that "Sanjay Popli was being pressured by the Vigilance that he should agree to the allegations levelled by them".

"Kartik Popli too was detained for hours," said the woman.

On the other hand, Vigilance Bureau DSP Ajay Kumar told reporters, "We had returned from their house after making some recoveries. We had returned with the accused."

"Who all were part of our team, that details have been given in the Sector 11 police station here," he said.

When asked that the family

is alleging foul play, he said these are baseless allegations.

"Our recovery point was not inside the house, it was in the premises. None of our team member went inside," he said.

He also denied the family's allegation that some team members manhandled them.

An official statement quoting a Vigilance Bureau spokesperson said they recovered over 12 kg of gold, 3 kg of silver, five high-end mobile phones, two smart watches from the storeroom of Popli's house at Sector 11, Chandigarh.

BJP got donations from scam-hit DHFL: Cong

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday accused the BJP of having accepted donations of crores of rupees from the tainted promoters as well as associated companies of DHFL, she alleged.

There was no immediate comment from the BJP over the charges. Shrinete claimed that Rs 10 crore was given to the BJP from RKW Developers Limited, owned by promoters of DHFL, Rs 10 crore from Wadhawan Global Capital Limited and Rs 7.5 crore from Darshan Developers controlled by the Wadhawan family.

"Why did the BJP continue to take money to the tune of Rs 27.5 crore from bank fraudsters, was this quid pro quo to allow them to misuse public money and dupe India's public sector lenders," the Congress leader asked.

10 women held after clash over opening liquor shop in S Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested 10 women after a clash broke out between a group of women protesting the opening of a liquor shop in south Delhi's Tigri area and the shop's staff.

The incident happened Thursday around 8.30 AM before the shop was opened and a police personnel, who was trying to pacify the situation, was also manhandled and his uniform was also torn.

The quarrel started with a protest staged by a group of local women, who were apparently against the opening of the liquor shop in the area, police said.

The protestors alleged that women bouncers, hired by the wine shop owner had misbehaved with them earlier also.

Kerala pays homage to 'father of library movement' in State

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala is on a mission to retrieve its status as the most literate State in the country through AKSHARA PERUMA, the one of its kind literary festival in India. The Festival of Letters observed during June 19 to June 25, to coincide with the death anniversary of P N Panicker, Father of the Library Movement, has succeeded in bringing back the new generation to the world of reading, according to Prof K N Unnikrishnan, noted writer and critic, based at Perumbavoor.

President Ram Nath Kovind had unveiled in December 2021 the statue of Panicker at Thiruvananthapuram as a mark of respect to the man who had made "Read and Grow" the message of his life. Over the last five years, Kerala has become a hub of gold and narcotic smugglings as well as a centre of human trafficking while books and reading became alien to the new generation.

This year's Festival of Letters saw a week-long action packed event at Perumbavoor under the patronage of T M Zakir Hussain, chairman, municipal council that incorporated a myriad of items like memorial meetings, book releasing, discussions and debates on books, cultural events like Chakiyar Koothu (designated as Kerala's oldest art form) and poetry session that drew hundreds of participants including students,



teachers and parents.

The initiation to the world of knowledge saw the participants registering themselves as life members of Perumbavoor Municipal Council, a treasure house of books. Zakir Hussain, who shifted his camp office from the municipal office to the venue throughout the festival, interacted with all the participants exhorting them about the importance of books and the impact of reading.

"Books are our trusted and dependable friends. You can communicate with the books till you are exhausted. Whenever you feel tired, put down the book. It will be waiting to communicate with you once you are back to normal," said Hussain, himself a voracious reader. The seven day event also featured sessions for youth, students, parents, connoisseurs of art, culture and literature and women. "Many of the participants were hearing the names of Prof Kuttipuzha Krishna Pillai and Puthethathu Raman Menon the titans of Malayalam

literature for the first time and expressed their desire to read their works. That way, this festival has done wonders," said Prof Unnikrishnan.

The interregnums during the events marked the municipal councillors, self help group members and students performing songs, dance and traditional events like Kaikottikkali. "More than Onam and Vishu, we will wait for next year's Akshara Peruma because of its live nature. This is the only event where politics took a back stage," said Anita Prakash, a councillor and livewire of the week-long event.

Experts used the occasion to convince the parents not to pressurize the children to excel in topics in which the latter do not have any interest. "Please understand that there are professions other than medical doctors and engineering in this world. Each profession has its own dignity," Zakir Hussain told the parents with a request that children should be given creative freedom and the right to choose their area of interest.

34-yr-old Delhi Police cop hangs self in police station

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 34-year-old Delhi Police constable allegedly died by suicide inside his office at Mandir Marg police station in New Delhi district. The incident occurred on Friday.

The deceased constable has been identified as Jaimal Singh. According to police, the

incident took place on Friday while he was on duty. His body was found hanging from the ceiling fan inside his office.

"Legal proceedings u/s 174 CrPC have been initiated. He had been under treatment for depression for the past three months. It could probably be a cause for committing suicide," said Amrutha Guguloth, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), New Delhi

"A suicide note was recovered from the spot and it has been seized and is part of investigation. Financial troubles apparently looks like the reason for the suicide," she said.

Singh had joined the Delhi Police force in October 2010 and was presently working in the subsidiary training unit of the New Delhi district. He is survived by his wife and a daughter, the DCP added

Like Shiva, Modi swallowed...

From Page 1

Shah said the Prime Minister set a shining example by not uttering a single word as the legal proceedings went on for 19 years.

He endured pain for the last so many years without speaking a word and followed Lord Shiva who swallowed poison and held it in his throat, Shah said.

Modi, he said, submitted himself to the SIT Investigation in dignified ways, and "I too was arrested". He also took a jibe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi when he appeared for questioning by the ED in the National Herald case.

"Modi ji didn't do drama while appearing before SIT - come out in my support, call MLAs-MPs & stage dharna...If SIT wants to question CM, he himself is ready to cooperate. Why to protest?" he said.

Modi provided the best example for all political figures on how to follow the Constitution, he said.

Shah said a campaign was launched against Modi and "articles published abroad against him". On the Gujrat riots and delay in calling the army, the Home Minister said the Gujrat riots were self-inspired after the Godhra train burning.

He said the army was called immediately "but it takes an army to reach". He sought to know why the army which is readily available in Delhi was not called by

the Congress Government for three full days during the 1984 Sikh riots.

To another question, the Home Minister said the Prime Minister did everything to control the 2002 riots. "But barely 150 policemen in each thana... it takes time to control the scale of violence".

"Former IPS officer KPS Gill said - I have not seen more neutral and prompt action than this", said Shah.

Shah said SC's judgment has put an end to a long campaign to tarnish the image of the Prime Minister.

Shah said, "This is not the first time that Modiji got the clean chit..Nanavati Commission too gave a clean chit to him".

Asked what he thought of his arrest, the Home Minister said, "I believe in destiny...whatever happened, happened for good".

On the question that the BJP thrives on the "Gujarat model" of polarisation and riots and what is being called the "Gujarat laboratory" experiment, (that BJP could win without Muslims), Shah said, "The kind of glasses you wear you see that only...Gujarat model is - zero dropouts in primary schools, 24-hour electricity, 10 per cent growth in agriculture and much more... compare riots in our State Governments with Congress States in the last five years and you would know."

On Friday, the Supreme Court dismissed a plea by Congress leader Ehsan Jafri's wife Zakia Jafri, stating that the plea was devoid of merit.

Ehsan Jafri was killed during the violence at the Gulburg Society in Ahmedabad on February 28, 2002.

Counter-terrorism, food security...

From Page 1

"While in Germany, I also look forward to meeting members of the Indian Diaspora from across Europe who are contributing immensely to their local economies as also enriching our relations with European countries," the Prime Minister said. From Germany, Modi will travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on June 28 to pay his condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the former president of the Gulf

and her NGO were co-petitioner with Zakia Jafri in the petition filed against then Chief Minister Narendra Modi and others in the SC. The SC dismissed the petition on Friday and upheld the clean chit given to Modi and others.

The complaint drew on various submissions made before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by the Supreme Court to investigate the 2002 Gujarat riots cases and submissions made by the accused before the Justice Nanavati-Shah Commission of Inquiry.

The FIR was registered earlier in the day under sections 468, 471 (forgery), 194 (giving or fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction of capital offence), 211 (institute criminal proceedings to cause injury), 218 (public servant framing incorrect record or writing with intent to save person from punishment or property from forfeiture), and 120 (B) (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code.

"Setalvad conjured, concocted, forged, fabricated facts and documents and/or evidence including fabrication of documents by persons who were protective witnesses of the complainant (Zakia Jafri)" as per the complaint. Setalvad

and her NGO were co-petitioner with Zakia Jafri in the petition filed against then Chief Minister Narendra Modi and others in the SC. The SC dismissed the petition on Friday and upheld the clean chit given to Modi and others.

The complaint also accused Setalvad of influencing and tutoring witnesses and making them depose on pre-typed affidavits. Even Zakia Jafri was tutored by Setalvad, as was clear from her statement before the Nanavati Commission on August 22, 2003, it said. IPS officers Bhatt and Sreekumar — who was additional DGP of Armed riot during the 2002 Godhra riot, and intelligence DGP soon after — had made several depositions before the Nanavati Commission of Inquiry that were against the Gujarat government, the complaint said.

Bhatt allegedly forged various documents mailed to the SIT and also falsely claimed he attended a late night meeting on February 27, 2002, called by the then chief minister (Modi) at his residence, it said.

Axe on 16 MLAs! Dy...

From Page 1

Meanwhile, a meeting of the Shiv Sena's national executive held under the chairmanship of Uddhav Thackeray adopted five political resolutions in the wake of a massive rebellion staged by senior party leader Eknath Shinde.

In the first of the resolutions, the Shiv Sena reposed full confidence in the leadership of Uddhav Thackeray and it authorized to take all necessary decisions relating to the party. In other resolutions, the Sena functionaries present at the meeting empowered him to take the sternest possible action against the party rebels, and asked the party rebels not to misuse the name of late Bal Thackeray, the party will continue to represent the ideology of late Balasaheb and it would continue to champion Marathi asmita (self-respect) and would espouse the cause of Hindutva.

In a related development, the rebel Shiv Sena MLAs have alleged that the security cover of around 16 legislators — currently camping in Guwahati — has been abruptly withdrawn.

Among other things, the rebel MLAs have expressed fear that a situation akin to Punjab where the security of several high-profile persons was withdrawn by their state government, might recur in Maharashtra. It may be recalled that rap singer Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu alias 'Moosewala' was killed in Punjab by the mafia in that state on May 29.

shows their casteist mentality," she said.

"BSP does not believe in blindly following the other parties...we take decisions after keeping in view the ideology of our party," she said. Uttar Pradesh plays a crucial role in the election of the president as it sends 80 members to the Lok Sabha and 31 to Rajya Sabha. The Uttar Pradesh Assembly has 403 members. Of the total value of votes in the electoral college, Uttar Pradesh's share is 14.86 per cent.

Maya backs Murmu...

From Page 1

"Development of the tribals is an integral part of our party's movement. The decision to support Murmu is just the part of that movement," the BSP chief said. Mayawati also lashed out at the opposition parties for, what she said, keeping BSP aside while deliberating on their candidate for the upcoming presidential poll.

"BSP was kept away from all opposition meetings held to discuss a joint candidate for the post of President, which

shows their casteist mentality," she said.

"BSP does not believe in blindly following the other parties...we take decisions after keeping in view the ideology of our party," she said. Uttar Pradesh plays a crucial role in the election of the president as it sends 80 members to the Lok Sabha and 31 to Rajya Sabha. The Uttar Pradesh Assembly has 403 members. Of the total value of votes in the electoral college, Uttar Pradesh's share is 14.86 per cent.

AAP's Dutt also gets death threats



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Am Aadmi Party MLA Ajay Dutt received extortion calls and death threats on his phone days after its Burari MLA Sanjeev Jha got similar calls, the party said on Saturday and demanded swift action by the Delhi Police.

Addressing a joint press conference with the two MLAs, AAP national spokesperson Sanjay Singh said law and order has "completely collapsed" in Delhi and sought Union Home Minister Amit Shah's intervention for the protection of the common citizens.

Singh also played an audio recording of the extortion call received by Jha on June 20 in which the caller is heard demanding Rs 10 lakh from the MLA. Calls to both Dutt and Jha were made by the same person, the Rajya Sabha MP claimed. "After our MLA Sanjeev Jha received a threat call on June 20, we lodged an FIR on June 21 and the case was handed over to the Delhi Police's Special Cell.

Despite this, Jha has received as many as 24 extortion calls so far. Now, MLA Ajay Dutt has received extortion calls and death threats.

Look at the audacity of the mafia," Singh said. "This is the situation in Delhi. Law and order has completely collapsed in the national capital," he charged.

The caller, who identified himself as Vicky Cobra, an associate of gangster Neeraj Bawana, also threatened to kill Jha and all his family members in case he refuses to pay the protection money. Bawana is currently cooling his heels in Delhi's Tihar jail.

"While speaking to Sanjeev Jha, the caller identified himself as Vicky Cobra. He identified himself as Vicky Brar during his call to demand protection money from Ajay Dutt. Both of the threat calls have been made by the same person," Singh said.

Slamming the Centre over the issue, he asked what will happen to the common citizens when the MLAs are not safe in Delhi. He demanded that the Delhi Police take swift action to trace and nab the culprit.

Singh said separate FIRs have been lodged in connection with the threat calls received by Dutt and Jha but the police are yet to make any breakthrough.

"After lodging a complaint regarding the threat calls received by Jha, we had met the

Delhi Police commissioner. We will meet him once again to demand speedy action in Ajay Dutt's case as well," he added. The AAP leader sought Shah's intervention for the restoration of law and order in Delhi and

Have registered FIRs on complaints by AAP MLAs: Delhi Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Saturday said that they have registered First Information Reports (FIRs) on the complaints given by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislators, Sanjay Jha and Ajay Dutt and police teams of Special Cell unit have initiated investigations to identify and trace the accused.

According to Suman Nalwa, the spokesperson of Delhi Police, on the complaint of Sanjeev Jha, MLA from Burari constituency regarding extortion by a caller using

Sanjay Singh seeks Home Minister's intervention for protection of citizens

the protection of the common citizens. At the press conference Dutt said he received the call on June 22. "Calling me on WhatsApp, (the caller) demanded that I pay Rs 5 lakh as protection money else he would shoot me dead.

He later also sent me a video showing how bullets will be loaded in the pistol to kill me," the Ambedkar Nagar MLA said. "I am not scared. All I want is that law and order is restored in the city and protection be provided to the common citizens from criminals," he said.

international number, the FIR under applicable sections of extortion and IT Act has been registered on June 21 at Special Cell police station. "On Saturday, a similar complaint was received from Ajay Dutt, MLA from Ambedkar Nagar constituency, who allegedly received extortion threats from the same international number.

Another case under sections of extortion and IT Act was registered at Special Cell," said the spokesperson. "Police teams of Special Cell have initiated an investigation to identify and trace the culprits," said the spokesperson.

Bring all properties under tax net to improve financial conditions, LG directs MCD officials

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to bring all properties — commercial as well as residential — under the tax net to improve its financial conditions so it can provide better services to people.

Expressing concern that 65 per cent of the geographical area of Delhi did not pay any property tax, the Lt Governor directed officials to simplify the forms for property tax registration and ensure its Aadhaar linkage.

In a review meeting on Friday, the Lt Governor also directed the civic body to make all its services related to property tax filing, assessment, recovery, mutation and building plan sanction among others IT-enabled by July 31.

The Lt Governor instructed the MCD officials to explore all possible ways of revenue enhancement and reiterated his resolve to turn the "red financial status of the MCD to a robust green".

The Lt Governor's direction came amid plans of the MCD to collect tax from major commercial establishments located in unauthorised colonies in Delhi.

Property tax remains one of the main sources of revenue for the MCD. The total property tax collection for 2021-22 was Rs 2,032 crore. Data from MCD shows that around 11.50 lakh properties paid the tax during 2021-22.

According to the officials, there is hardly any tax collection from unauthorised colony areas so the civic body is considering to tap big commercial properties in such localities and realise tax from them. Saxena



said that non-payment of property tax by as many as 65 per cent of the owners was an unfortunate, unfair and unviable situation.

"The entire city, and not only the 35 per cent of residents of 11 lakh houses in regularised colonies, was availing of amenities and services offered by the municipal corporation. It would only be fair and justified that all pay property tax at differential rates as per their respective self-assessed financial status," he said.

In this regard, the LG asked officials to take the people and resident welfare associations (RWAs) on board and address their concerns. Such partnership with the people, he said, will not only facilitate honest self-assessment on part of the assesses but also increase tax collection.

An MCD official said the civic body is planning to widen its tax net to boost revenue generation under which it is also likely to review its property tax collection system in a way that it does not put burden on people. The MCD earlier this month had decided to hike the transfer duty by 1 per cent on properties priced above Rs 25 lakh across the city to improve its financial condition. During

the review meeting, the Lt Governor ordered the linking of this database to government departments that provide services related to food securi-

ty, pensions, maternity benefits and other welfare schemes to enable automatic updating or deletion of names upon birth or death.

Complete Delhi's first transit-oriented development project before deadline: LG

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In another review meeting, Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday instructed the DDA and NBCC to complete Delhi's first transit-oriented development (TOD) project at Karkardooma before scheduled deadline.

According to a statement issued by the Raj Niwas, he had gone to take stock of the status and progress of work at the site of the project in east Delhi.

The Lt Governor issued specific directions to the DDA and NBCC to complete the project "before the scheduled deadline, stick to uncompromising structural safety and

take all prospective steps to fully integrate the upcoming complex with the neighbourhood and surroundings," it said.

Work on this project spread over 25.47 ha with minimum 30 per cent green area, had started in September 2021 and is expected to be fully completed in September 2026, it said.

This ambitious project that will change the skyline of the city and bring about unprecedented regeneration in east Delhi area had started to fructify after much delay, caused due to the COVID-19 pandemic-induced lockdowns, pollution-related construction bans and regulatory clearances, the statement said.

Delhi Govt issues notification to penalise vehicle owners found without pollution certificate

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Beware while driving your vehicle without a valid pollution under control certificate (PUC), the Delhi Government has issued a notification stating to penalise vehicle owners including disqualification of their driving licence for three months if found without PUC, in a move to control pollution in the national capital.

In a public notice, the Transport department said it will issue challans to those vehicles whose PUC has expired. The challan will be issued under section 190(2) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, which states that failure to possess PUC may lead to imprisonment up to three months or fine up to Rs 10,000 or both.

"They will also be disqualified to hold their licence for three months," it read. The notice said that all those registered vehicle owners whose

vehicles are more than a year old from the date of registration should get their vehicles checked and obtain a valid PUC to avoid a fine.

The Government is also looking to set up automated systems, such as RFID (used in FASTags), to check PUCs to avoid long queues at pumps and minimise the scope for fake documents.

Air pollution levels in Delhi touch hazardous levels every winter, and while they are driven initially by fumes from stubble fires in neighbouring states, vehicles are among the key sources of pollution at a local level.

An analysis released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) in November last year found that vehicles were the biggest contributor to local sources of particulate pollution in Delhi, with their real-time share touching more than 50% during the early phase of winter, between October 24 and November 8, 2021.

3 held, minors counselled for damaging vehicles in Delhi's Jahangirpuri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested three men in their early twenties while some minor boys were counselled after they created ruckus in the communally sensitive Jahangirpuri area in the national Capital. Police said that some of them were allegedly drunk at the time of the incident on Friday night.

Three men arrested have been identified as Narendar (24), Mohit (21) and Shankar (22), all residents of K-block in Jahangirpuri area.

According to Usha Rangnani, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), northwest district, on July 24 at about 9.00 PM, a police control room (PCR) call was received at the police station that some boys are roaming in K block at Jahangirpuri and damaging the vehicles.

"Police immediately reached at the spot and on local enquiry it was revealed that some boys (most of them were minor boys), allegedly drunk, were roaming in K Block. They were shouting and hurling abuses at each other, and while passing through the lane, they pulled down two to three old two wheelers," said the DCP.

"However, no one was injured and no damage was caused to any property. There was no stone pelting and there was no communal angle involved," said the DCP.

"Preventive action against 3 of them was taken by arresting them under section 107/151 Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) while others being minor were counselled appropriately," she added.

On April 16, clashes had broken out between two communities during the procession in Jahangirpuri in the capital, leaving eight police personnel and a local injured.

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Delhi EC: Counting for Rajinder Nagar bypolls to begin at 8 AM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The counting of votes for the Rajinder Nagar Assembly polls will begin at 8 am on Sunday amid tight security.

Delhi Chief Electoral Officer Dr Ranbir Singh said the counting will start at 8 am ITI Pusa at on Sunday. AAP's Durgesh, BJP's Rajesh Bhatia and Congress nominee Prem Lata are the main contestants from Rajinder Nagar seat.

Delhi Chief Electoral Officer Dr Ranbir Singh said the counting will start at 8 am on Sunday. "Postal ballots will be counted first, and only those ballots which have been received from service voters till 8 am tomorrow will be considered for counting.

After that, the EVM votes shall be counted," Dr Singh said. A separate special box will be there for counting of VVPAT slips, he added.

According to officials, 43.67 per cent of the male electorate and 43.86 per cent of female voters turned up for the June 23 bypoll. The percentage of third gender voters stood at 50 per cent. The bypoll passed off

peacefully with a low turnout of 43.75 per cent. This is significantly less than the figures recorded in the 2020 polls, when the voter turnout in Rajinder Nagar was 58.27 per cent -- 58.09 per cent male voters and 58.5 per cent female voters.

A total of 1,64,698 voters were eligible to exercise their franchise in the by-election, in which 14 candidates are trying their luck, although it was largely being seen as a battle between a confident AAP and a spirited BJP.

The AAP and BJP have exuded confidence that their candidates will emerge victorious with a huge margin. This was also the first electoral exercise in Delhi after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. And, 24 Covid-positive voters turned up to exercise their franchise in the bypoll, officials had earlier said.

The Rajinder Nagar bypoll turnout was even lower than the figures recorded in the Rajouri Garden bypoll (46.5 per cent) and Bawana bypoll (44.8 per cent), both held in 2017.

Sisodia asks schools to set minimum benchmarks in infrastructure, cleanliness

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia on Saturday directed the Government school principals to set minimum benchmarks in their school regarding the infrastructure, cleanliness and environment.

Sisodia's remarks came in an interaction session held with the principals of Government run schools on Saturday. The interaction was attended by over 200 school principals from all across Delhi.

Sisodia said that in the last seven years, the Government has done a lot of work on schools and has given a great model of education but now it is the responsibility of the school heads to set their own accountability for their school and ensure that nothing in the school falls below the minimum benchmark set by them.

"For this, the government will provide all the necessary facilities and funds to the schools. Also, schools will be reviewed from time to time by

the DoE officials to check the maintenance of schools," said Sisodia.

Sisodia added that now it's the responsibility of principals to ensure that no student is left behind, when we move ahead with the next session after summer vacation.

"The aim of the Delhi government is to provide dignified education spaces to all children coming to Delhi Government schools and not paying attention to the same will be an injustice to children who have chosen our schools over others," said Sisodia.

The interaction between the Deputy Chief Minister and principals was mostly centered around academic priorities of Delhi Government Schools, cleanliness and maintenance of classrooms and schools and upon developing a positive classroom culture.

Sisodia also said that schools are implementing the curriculum well and the results are evident but to make it a huge success the government will need their further support.

NDMC increases annual fees for grant of trade licences

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has increased by up to Rs 9,800 the annual fee for grant and renewal of various trades licences for 2022-23, including those for hotels and guesthouses.

According to NDMC officials, the maximum hike in the licence fee is for five-star hotels, which were earlier paying ₹65,500 and will now be required to pay ₹75,300.

Similarly, guesthouses with over 100 beds will have to shell out ₹30,100 annually instead of the earlier ₹26,200, they said. The annual licence fee for butchers, fishmongers and poulterers has been increased from ₹1,300 to ₹1,500.

The fee for guesthouses up to 20 beds has been increased to ₹3,000 from ₹2,600; ₹7,500 instead of ₹6,500 for those with 21-50 beds; ₹15,000 instead of ₹13,100 for 50-100 bedded facilities; and ₹30,100

instead of 26,200 for those with over 100 beds, officials said. While cafes and coffee shops with up to 50 seats will be required to pay ₹7,500 instead of ₹6,500, restaurants and coffee shops with more than 50 seats will be required to pay ₹15,000 which was previously ₹13,100. Cinema halls, dancing halls in hotels, clubs and spas will have to pay ₹7,500 instead of ₹6,500.

"Annual revision in the health licence fees for grant and renewal of various trades licenses for carrying out business activities like hotels, restaurants, coffee shops, lodging houses, sweet shops, small stalls and kiosks selling daily eatable items, etc., in NDMC area has been (retrospectively) effected by NDMC with effect from April 1," a senior NDMC official said.

There will not be any increase for laundry services, boilers, diesel generator sets, hawkers, chef carts, dry cleaners etc., the official added.

Water supply to get hit: DJB

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on Saturday issued an advisory stating that the water supply in the national Capital will be affected due to some maintenance work at water treatment plants including Haiderpur Phase-I, Phase-II, Bawana, Nangloi and Dwarka.

The advisory said that water supply will be affected North Delhi, North West Delhi, West Delhi and Part of South Delhi including Delhi Cantt. and the command area of Deer Park.

According to the advisory issued by the DJB, due to less receipt of raw water in Delhi Sub Branch (DSB), Carrier Line Channel (CLC) at Haiderpur Phase-I, Phase-II, Bawana, Nangloi, Dwarka WTPs. The situation is being reviewed constantly. "DJB is endeavoring to rationalize water supply, however water will be available at low pressure till the situation improves," it further said.

City temp settles at 40.5 Deg, 3 notches above normal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The maximum temperature in Delhi on Saturday settled at 40.5 degrees Celsius, which is three notches above normal for this time of the year. The minimum temperature was recorded at 24.3 degrees Celsius, which is four notches below normal for this season, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted.

According to an IMD bulletin, generally cloudy skies with the possibility of thunderstorms are expected from June 27 and light rain with gusty winds from June 28.

"Temperature is expected to drop from June 27 with thunderstorm and light rain," said Mahesh Palawat, vice president (climate change and meteorology) of Skymet Weather.

The air quality index (AQI) in Delhi was recorded in the moderate (224) category around 6 pm, data from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) showed. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

Northwest and Central India from 27th June," he said. Delhi on 26 June will witness a partly cloudy sky with the maximum temperature touching up to 40 degree Celsius and the minimum temperature will dip to 26 degree Celsius, the IMD predicted.

According to officials, in order to contain the spread of infection, micro-containment zones with even one or two houses are being made. Normally, an area is marked a containment zone where three or more COVID-19 cases are detected. But it is a dynamic exercise, conducted by district authorities on a need-based manner, they said.

The Delhi Epidemic Disease COVID-19 Regulation, 2020, authorises district magistrates to seal off a geographical area, banning entry and exit of the population from the containment zone and to take any measures directed by the health department to prevent the spread of the disease.

Covid cases in Delhi soar by 70% to 322 since June 17

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid rising coronavirus cases since June 14 when the cases breached the 1000-mark. Delhi logged 1,118 new cases on June 14, with a positivity rate of 6.50 per cent and two fatalities. Since then, the national capital has been logging more than 1,000 cases everyday barring Wednesday when it logged 928 single-day infections.

Delhi recorded 1,447 new Covid cases and one more death on Friday, while the positivity rate dropped to 5.98 per cent, according to data shared by the health department.

According to officials, the spike in coronavirus cases is due to the lax attitude of the people in following Covid-appropriate behaviour. The strategy focuses on containing the spread of infection.

"Currently, even if there are two cases in a family or in adjacent households, they are designated as a containment zone. The intention is to contain the spread of infection as Omicron is highly transmissible," said an official.

FIR filed against minor after sharing an obscene video clip on WhatsApp

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police recently registered an First Information Report (FIR) against a minor student of Class VI of a Delhi Government school after he allegedly shared an obscene video clip on a WhatsApp group of the students meant for the purpose of sharing homework. He was later provided counselling by the police.

The FIR was registered under the Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act after the minor boy who is a student of a government school in northeast Delhi.

The school administration informed the police about the act following which the FIR was registered on June 8, police said.

The boy shared the obscene video clip on the WhatsApp group of their class. Both teachers and students are part of the group where information related to their activities and home work is shared, police said.

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Cong announces 'Agnipath Ki Baat, Yuvaon Ke Saath Vishwasghath'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday announced a mega public outreach initiative coinciding with Prime Minister's monthly radio programme, Mann Ki Baat, scheduled for Sunday.

The party had dubbed its initiative as 'Agnipath Ki Baat, Yuvaon Ke Saath Vishwasghath'.

The party would hold simultaneous Press conferences at 20 top cities. The pressers would be addressed by party spokespersons, including former Union Ministers Ajay Maken, MM Pallam Raju, Manvendra Singh amongst others like Pawan Khera and Kanhaiya Kumar.

The party had earlier said it will be doing a satyagraha on June 27 over the same issue. It said the Agnipath scheme will create two categories of soldiers, which will impact the cohesion of combat units and

accused the Narendra Modi government of playing around with national security.

Former Lok Sabha member Lt. Col. (Retd) Manvendra Singh said, having soldiers with different privileges fighting in the same unit could be a potentially "dangerous" situation.

"When there is difference of status, difference in pay, perks, allowances between two soldiers doing the same duties, it is a very dangerous situation and sure shot disaster," Manvendra said at AICC press conference.

Congress has alleged the biggest impact would be on the scale of recruitment in terms of sheer numbers and the principle of regional balance that was usually followed by the armed forces in national interest.

The grand old party also questioned the effectiveness as well as motivation of a combat soldier with just a six-month training.



"Has the government given any thought to the risks of releasing a large number of trained military personnel into an environment of scarce jobs and temptations from criminal quarters, or worse?" asked the Congress.

The party has also strongly countered the government's assertion that Agniveers would be absorbed in Central armed police forces (CAPF), Coast Guards, public sector undertakings (PSUs) and Assam Rifles, among others, with current data on re-employment.

The party said that according to 2021 Ministry of Defence data, ex-servicemen were entitled to 10% of Group C and 20% of Group D jobs in the Central government, but the actual numbers were 1.29% and 1.66%. The CAPF had a 10% quota, but ex-servicemen accounted for 0.47% in Group C, 0.87% in Group B and 2.20% in Group A posts, said a Congress statement and pointed to an identical situation for Central PSUs.

NIA raids 5 locations in Mizoram in recent explosives seizure case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has conducted searches at five locations in Mizoram's Aizawl, Champai and Kolasib districts in a recent case of explosives seizures allegedly for destabilizing the cross-border Government in Myanmar.

The case relates to the recovery of a massive 2,421.12 kg of explosives including 1,000 detonators, 4,500 metres of detonating fuse, and Indian and Myanmar currency from a vehicle in the Zawlning area under Tipa police station in Saiha district.

"This consignment was meant for a Myanmar-based outfit Chin National Front (CNF) which is in the process of accumulating arms and ammunition for resisting the government of Myanmar," the NIA said in a statement.

The case was initially registered as FIR No. 1/2022 on January 21, at Tipa police station, Saiha which was re-registered by NIA on March 21.

During the searches, digital devices and incriminating documents were seized and further investigation in the case is continuing.

The probe in the seizures assumes significance in the wake of the bilateral cooperation between India and Myanmar against anti-India insurgents operating out of that country, officials said.

Myanmar government has in the past assisted Indian agencies in checking the activities of the anti-India insurgent groups which is a key for maintaining the security posture in the entire Northeast region. A number of insurgent outfits active in the Northeast seek to find safe haven in Myanmar for carrying out the nefarious activities from there, they added.

DGCA halts operations of 2 flying schools citing serious safety concerns

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has stopped operations of two flying training schools in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra-Chimes and Shirpur from flying for three weeks because of serious safety concerns.

According to a statement issued on Saturday, the DGCA said that in one case, it has been stopped till such time the runway is suitable for flying operations. During the inspection, it was observed that it had loose gravel and an uneven surface and was unsafe for flying.

In the second case, it was observed that three aircraft of a flying school had dysfunctional fuel gauge indicators and they were still being operated, it said. "The flying operations at this school (the second case) have been stopped

for three weeks. It will be allowed to operate only when things are in order," it noted.

The DGCA said it has stopped "flying operations" at these two schools, which are located in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, respectively, due to the aforementioned "serious safety concerns". The regulator's statement did not mention the names of the two training schools.

Sources said reworking the runway has already started in the case of Madhya Pradesh. "For two years operations were on halt due to which state government didn't carry out maintenance work of strip. The airstrip is owned by the MP government," said the sources.

The DGCA had on June 26 had said it has audited 30 out of the total 32 flying training organisations (FTOs) in India since March 21 and found them violating multiple safety regulations.

India's Covid surge dips 8% in 24 hrs, logs 15,940 cases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India's tally of Covid infections dipped by 8 per cent on Saturday from a day ago to touch 15,940. The active case-load increased to 91,779, according to the updated Union health ministry data. The death toll climbed to 5,24,974 with 20 more fatalities.

Active cases rose by 3,495 in a day and now comprise 0.21 percent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.58 percent, the health ministry said.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 4.39 percent while the weekly positivity rate was 3.30 percent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,27,61,481, while the case fatality rate was 1.21 percent.

According to an official



from the Ministry, as states register a spike in Covid-19 cases, the rise and fall in infections from time to time is a common phenomenon when an infectious disease transitions from pandemic to endemic phase.

Underlining the current rise in coronavirus cases is so far limited to certain districts of the country, they attributed it to people not wearing masks, increased travel and social interactions and low uptake of booster doses of Covid vaccine.

According to official sources, 51 districts in India, including 12 from Kerala, seven

from Mizoram, and five each from Maharashtra and Assam, are reporting a weekly Covid positivity rate of over 10 percent. In 53 districts, including 10 from Rajasthan and five from Delhi, the weekly positivity is between five and 10 percent.

According to the ministry, 196.94 crore doses of the Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far. India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5, and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20, and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

The country crossed the grim milestone of two crores on May 4, three crore on June 23 and four crores on January 25 this year.

Climate change likely to impact omega 3 fatty acids production

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Climate change is likely to impact the production of omega-3 fatty acids produced by plankton at the base of the food web in the ocean bed, according to a study.

This means less omega-3 fatty acids available for fish and for people. Omega-3 fatty acid is an essential fat that the human body cannot produce on its own, and is widely regarded as a "good" fat that links seafood consumption to heart health.

The first-ever survey of planktonic lipids in the global ocean predicts a temperature-linked decrease in the production of essential omega-3 fatty acids, an important subset of lipid molecules.

The survey analyzed 930 lipid samples across the global ocean using a uniform high-resolution accurate mass spectrometry analytical workflow, "revealing heretofore unknown characteristics of ocean planktonic lipids," which is the

Survey of planktonic lipids in the global ocean predicts a temperature-linked decrease in the production of essential omega-3 fatty acids, an important subset of lipid molecules

entirety of hundreds to thousands of lipid species in a sample, according to a new paper led by authors from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI).

"Focusing on ten molecularly diverse glycerolipid classes we identified 1,151 distinct lipid species, finding that fatty acid unsaturation (i.e., number of carbon to carbon double bonds) is fundamentally constrained by temperature. We predict significant declines in the essential fatty acid eicosapentaenoic acid [EPA] over the next century, which are likely to have serious deleterious effects on economically critical fisheries," states the paper. Global ocean lipidsomes show a universal relationship between temperature and lipid unsaturation, published in

Science. EPA is one of the most nutritious omega-3 fatty acids, has been linked to numerous health benefits, and is widely available as a dietary supplement. "The lipids in the ocean affect your life," says journal article co-author Benjamin Van Mooy, senior scientist in WHOI's Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry Department. "We found that the composition of lipids in the ocean is going to change as the ocean warms. That is a cause for concern. We need those lipids that are in the ocean because they influence the quality of the food that the ocean produces for humanity." "All organisms in the ocean have to contend with water temperatures. With this study, we have revealed one of



the important biochemical ways cells are doing that," says journal article lead author Henry C. Holm, a doctoral student in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) -- WHOI Joint Program in Oceanography/Applied Ocean Science and Engineering.

"These findings about EPA were made possible by using a method that gives us a very complete picture of the glycerolipids in each sample. We saw that temperature was linked with the saturation of cell membranes everywhere

we looked in the ocean." "These trends are also evident in all the other glycerolipid classes as well as the total aggregated lipidomes of all glycerolipid classes," the paper states. "Indeed, it is striking that the relationship between temperature and unsaturation emerges from our dataset despite spanning such diverse and disparate planktonic communities, from the nutrient-depleted subtropical gyres to the highly-productive Antarctic coastal shelf," says the study.

DGCA orders probe after fuselage door warnings light up on SpiceJet planes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered a probe in which fuselage door warnings lit up on two separate SpiceJet planes while taking off on Friday and Saturday, forcing the aircraft to abandon their journeys and return. There have been a total of four incidents -- including the aforementioned two -- on SpiceJet flights during the last week. According to DGCA officials, the regulator is probing all four incidents.

The fuselage is the central body of the aircraft where passengers and crew members sit. On June 19, an engine on SpiceJet's Delhi-bound aircraft carrying 185 passengers caught fire soon after taking off from the Patna airport and the plane made an emergency landing minutes later. The engine malfunctioned because of a bird hit.

In another incident on

June 19, a SpiceJet flight for Jabalpur had to return to Delhi due to cabin pressurization issues.

Officials said on Friday (June 24), the fuselage warning light on a SpiceJet Q400 plane illuminated when it was on 'rotation' -- when pilots pitched the nose of the aircraft up to climb in the air during take-off.

The pilots of the Q400 aircraft, which was heading from Guwahati to Kolkata, found that the warning was coming from the baggage door at the rear end of the plane, the officials said.

The Q400 plane was leveled off at 5,000 feet and the pilots decided to return to Guwahati, the officials noted.

An incident similar to the Friday one took place on SpiceJet's Patna-Guwahati flight on Saturday (June 25). A SpiceJet Q400 aircraft stopped its take-off roll at the Patna airport on Saturday after the plane's fuselage door warning light lit up, officials noted.



In this case, too, it was found that the warning had come from the baggage door at the rear end of the aircraft, they said. The Q400 plane returned to the parking bay of the Patna airport after canceling its take-off, officials noted.

Regarding the Friday incident, SpiceJet said that "Q400 aircraft was operating flight SG-4126, sector Guwahati-Kolkata". At rotation, the fuselage door warning light was illuminated and take-off was continued. Subsequently, aircraft was leveled off at 5,000

feet and pilot-in-command decided to return back to Guwahati," it mentioned.

Air turn back was initiated in coordination with ATC (air traffic controller) and the aircraft landed safely at Guwahati, it said. Regarding the Saturday incident, the airline said, "SpiceJet Q400 aircraft was operating flight SG-3724, sector Patna-Guwahati. During the takeoff roll, the fuselage door warning light illuminated. Subsequently, the take-off was rejected and aircraft returned to bay."

Mantri Developers' director held in ₹1K crore money-laundering case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Sushil P Mantri, Director of Bangalore-based real estate entity, Mantri Developers Private Limited, in connection with a Rs 1,000 crore money-laundering probe.

The ED started the probe in March on the basis of an FIR registered in Subramanyapura police station, Bengaluru in 2020 against the company and its directors as well as other employees.

"Many home buyers have filed complaints with the police as well as with the ED alleging that accused entities/persons are involved in money laundering and have induced the prospective buyers with rosily painted schemes, showing misleading brochures, falsification of delivery timelines and window dressing and collected more than Rs.1,000 crore as advance money from thou-

sands of buyers," the ED said in a statement.

However, they have not been given possession of their flats even after the passage of seven to 10 years after the booking. During the investigation, it was also noticed that the company offered various Ponzi-like schemes which were styled as buy-back plans and advance money was collected for the flats/homes, it said.

In some cases, the company has not refunded the amount to the buyers even after a clear direction from the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA).

The ED probe further revealed that the company diverted for personal use the amount it collected from the buyers leading to stalling of the project.

Currently, the group has total outstanding loans to the tune of Rs 5,000 crore from various financial institutions, out of which about Rs 1,000 crore



It was also revealed during the investigation that the company has cross-collateralized its assets to different financial institutions for taking multiple loans on the same assets

is overdue and some of the loan has been termed as non-performing asset (NPA).

It was also revealed during the investigation that the company has cross-collateralized its assets to different financial institutions for taking multiple loans on the same assets.

Following his arrest, Sushil P Mantri was produced before the court which granted his custody to the ED for 10 days, it added.

Powers under preventive detention law 'exceptional', can't be exercised in routine manner: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said that powers under the preventive detention law are "exceptional" and cannot be exercised in a routine manner as it strikes hard on the freedom and liberty of an individual.

The apex court observation came as it set aside the October last year order of detention of two persons in Telangana.

The detention order was passed by the Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda Commissionerate, on the grounds that these two persons were involved in gold chain snatching offences, wherein the victims were mostly

women.

A vacation bench of Justices C T Ravikumar and Sudhanshu Dhulia noted that although according to the authority, the detenus were involved in more than 30 cases but only four cases of chain snatching were considered as ground for detention, as the other cases were reported to be behind the proximity period and out of the jurisdiction of the commissionerate.

The top court also noted that offences in these four cases were allegedly committed within a span of two months between May 6 and July 26 last year and both the detenus were granted bail by the magistrate in these cases.

"The powers to be exercised under the preventive detention law are exceptional powers which have been given to the government for its exercise in an exceptional situation as it strikes hard on the freedom and liberty of an individual, and thus cannot be exercised in a routine manner," the bench said.

The apex court passed the orders on June 22 on two separate petitions filed by the wives of the detenus.

The petitioners had challenged the Telangana High Court's order on March 25 this year dismissing their pleas against the preventive detention.

In its order, the top court

noted that one of reasons assigned by the authority justifying the invocation of the provisions of detention law was that the detenus were granted bail in all the four cases and were likely to indulge in similar crime.

"The reason why bail was granted in all four cases, however, has not been given. Bail was granted in all the four cases due to the inability of the prosecution, which did not complete its investigation in time. The bail had to be given as the charge sheet was not filed by the police in all the cases within the stipulated period of 60 days. The fault thus lies with the prosecution," the bench said.

"In fact, in a recent decision

it observed that the facts and circumstances of the case, as alleged in the detention order, does reflect a law and order situation which can be dealt with under the ordinary law of land and there was absolutely no occasion for invoking the extraordinary powers under the law of preventive detention.

The apex court said invocation of the preventive detention law in this case against the two persons was "not justified".

It said the distinction between law and order situation and a public order situation has been dealt with by the apex court in a catena of decisions.

"In fact, in a recent decision

of this court, the court had to make an observation regarding the routine and unjustified use of the preventive detention law in the state of Telangana," the bench noted.

It said the state is not without a remedy, as in case the detenu is so much a menace to the society as is being alleged, then the prosecution should seek cancellation of bail or move an appeal to the higher court.

"But definitely seeking shelter under the preventive detention law is not the proper remedy under the facts and circumstances of the case," it said.

The bench noted that the detention order said that



crimes were committed in broad daylight and have thus resulted in creation of fear and panic in the minds of public, especially women, and hence, the government had to interfere in order to "maintain public order".

While allowing the appeals, the bench set aside the order of detention as well as the order of the high court and said the detenus shall be released forthwith in case they are not required in any other case.

Russia pushes to block 2nd city in eastern Ukraine

AP ■ KYIV

Russian forces are trying to block a city in eastern Ukraine, the region's governor said Saturday, after their relentless assault on a nearby city forced Ukrainian troops to begin withdrawal after weeks of intense fighting. Russia also launched missile attacks on areas far from the heart of the eastern battles.

Serhiy Haidai, governor of the Luhansk region, said on Facebook that Russian forces are attempting to blockade the city of Lysychansk from the south. That city lies next to Sievierodonetsk, which has endured relentless assault and house-to-house fighting for weeks.

After Haidai said Friday that Ukrainian forces had begun retreating from Sievierodonetsk, military analyst Oleg Zhdanov said some of the troops were heading for Lysychansk. But Russian moves to cut off Lysychansk will give those retreating troops little respite.

Russian bombardment has reduced most of Sievierodonetsk to rubble and cut its population from 100,000 to 10,000. Some Ukrainian troops are holed up in the huge Azot chemical factory on the city's edge, along with about 500 civilians.

Sieverodonetsk and Lysychansk have been the focal point of the Russian offensive



aimed at capturing all of eastern Ukraine's Donbas region and destroying the Ukrainian military defending it - the most capable and battle-hardened segment of the country's armed forces.

The two cities and surrounding areas are the last major pockets of Ukrainian resistance in the Luhansk region - 95% of which is under Russian and local separatist forces' control. The Russians and separatists also control about

half of the Donetsk region, the second province in the Donbas.

Some 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) to the west, four Russian rockets hit a "military object" in Yaroviv, Lviv regional governor Maksym Kozyskyi said. He did not give further details of the target, but Yaroviv has a sizable military base used for training fighters, including foreigners who have volunteered to fight for Ukraine. That base was hit by Russian

rockets in March, killing 35 people. The Lviv region, although far from the front lines, has been hit by other rockets during the war, destroying fuel storage areas.

About 30 Russian rockets were fired on the Zhytomyr region in central Ukraine on Saturday morning, killing one Ukrainian soldier, regional governor Vitaliy Buchenko said.

In the north, about 20 rockets were fired from Belarus into the

Chernihiv region, the Ukrainian military said.

A senior U.S. defense official, speaking in Washington on condition of anonymity, on Friday called the Ukrainians' move out of Sievierodonetsk a "tactical retrograde" to consolidate forces into positions where they can better defend themselves.

This will add to Ukraine's effort to keep Russian forces pinned down longer in a small area, the official said.

Following a botched attempt to capture Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, in the early stage of the invasion that started Feb. 24, Russian forces have shifted their focus to the Donbas, where the Ukrainian forces have fought Moscow-backed separatists since 2014.

After repeated Ukrainian requests to its Western allies for heavier weaponry to counter Russia's edge in firepower, four medium-range American rocket launchers have arrived, with four more on the way.

The senior U.S. defense official said Friday that more Ukrainian forces are training outside Ukraine to use the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, and are expected back in their country with the weapons by mid-July.

The rockets can travel about 45 miles (70 kilometers). Also to be sent are 18 U.S. coastal and river patrol boats.



Biden signs landmark gun bill, says 'lives will be saved'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden on Saturday signed the most sweeping gun violence bill in decades, a bipartisan compromise that seemed unimaginable until a recent series of mass shootings, including the massacre of 19 students and two teachers at a Texas elementary school. "Lives will be saved," he said at the White House. Citing the families of shooting victims, the president said, "Their message to us was to do something. Well today, we did."

The House gave final approval Friday, following Senate passage Thursday, and Biden acted just before leaving Washington for two summits in Europe. The legislation will toughen background checks for the youngest gun buyers, keep firearms from more domestic violence offenders and help states put in place red flag laws that make it easier for authorities to take weapons from people adjudged to be dangerous.

Most of its \$13 billion cost will help bolster mental health programs and aid schools, which have been targeted in

Newtown, Connecticut, and Parkland, Florida, and elsewhere in mass shootings. Biden said the compromise hammered out by a bipartisan group of senators "doesn't do everything I want" but "it does include actions I've long called for that are going to save lives."

"I know there's much more work to do, and I'm never going to give up, but this is a monumental day," said the president, who was joined by his wife, Jill, a teacher, for the signing.

He said they will host an event on July 11 for lawmakers and families affected by gun violence.

Biden signed the measure two days after the Supreme Court's ruling Thursday striking down a New York law that restricted peoples' ability to carry concealed weapons.

While the new law does not include tougher restrictions long championed by Democrats, such as a ban on assault-style weapons and background checks for all gun transactions, it is the most impactful firearms violence measure produced by Congress since enactment a long-expired assault weapons ban in 1993.

Iraqi PM to head to Saudi Arabia, Iran for new dialogue

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Iraq's caretaker prime minister is set to fly to Saudi Arabia, followed by Iran, carrying a new initiative aimed at renewing talks between the two regional arch foes, an official said Saturday.

The official said Mustafa al-Kadhimi was scheduled to travel to Riyadh later in the day for meetings with Saudi officials. He will then travel to Tehran on Sunday.

Al-Kadhimi's visit seeks to open new avenues that would reactivate Baghdad-mediated dialogue between Saudi Arabia and Iran, according to the official, who is privy to the Iran-Saudi dialogue track. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to divulge the information to the press.

The talks aimed at defusing years-long tensions between the regional foes began quietly in Iraq's capital in 2021 as Saudi Arabia sought a way to end its disastrous war against Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen. The

conflict has spawned one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters and brought bombs from rebel drones and missiles raining down on Saudi airports and oil facilities.

A fifth and last round of talks was held in Baghdad in April before they were suspended again amid soaring Middle East tensions.

Iran, the largest Shiite Muslim country in the world, and Sunni powerhouse Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties in 2016 after Saudi Arabia executed prominent Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr. Angry Iranians protesting the execution stormed two Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran, fueling years of animosity between the nations.

Iraq borders both Iran and Saudi Arabia and is often caught in the middle of the two nations' proxy wars.

Al-Kadhimi has stressed he wants balanced relations with the two neighbors. Improving relations with Saudi Arabia was a key policy of his administration when he took office in May 2020.

US Army Guard troops risk dismissal as vax deadline looms

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Up to 40,000 Army National Guard soldiers across the country - or about 13% of the force - have not yet gotten the mandated COVID-19 vaccine, and as the deadline for shots looms, at least 14,000 of them have flatly refused and could be forced out of the service.

Guard soldiers have

until Thursday to get the vaccine. According to data obtained by The Associated Press, between 20% to 30% of the Guard soldiers in six states are not vaccinated, and more than 10% in 43 other states still need shots.

Guard leaders say states are doing all they can to encourage soldiers to get vaccinated by the time limit. And they said they will

work with the roughly 7,000 who have sought exemptions, which are almost all for religious reasons.

"We're going to give every soldier every opportunity to get vaccinated and continue their military career. Every soldier that is pending an exemption, we will continue to support them through their process," said Lt. Gen. Jon Jensen,

director of the Army National Guard, in an Associated Press interview.

"We're not giving up on anybody until the separation paperwork is signed and completed. There's still time."

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin last year ordered all service members - active-duty, National Guard and Reserves - to get the vaccine,

saying it is critical to maintaining the health and readiness of the force.

The military services had varying deadlines for their forces, and the Army National Guard was given the longest amount of time to get the shots, mainly because it's a large force of about 330,000 soldiers who are widely scattered around the country, many in remote

locations.

The Army Guard's vaccine percentage is the lowest among the U.S. Military - with all the active-duty Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps at 97% or greater and the Air Guard at about 94%.

The Army reported Friday that 90% of Army Reserve forces were partially or completely vaccinated.

New plot to oust British PM Boris Johnson after by-election defeats

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Saturday is facing another brewing rebellion against his leadership of the Conservative Party after the governing party faced two crushing by-election defeats.

In a triple blow, Johnson not only lost a Tory stronghold in the southern England constituency of

Tiverton & Honiton and an important seat in Wakefield in northern England but was also hit with the resignation of his ally and Tory chairman Oliver Dowden.

Now, according to UK media reports, two Tory MPs who have been critical of Boris Johnson say they may stand for election to the committee which runs the party's leadership elections to trigger another leadership challenge.

Johnson, 58, survived a vote of no confidence in his leadership earlier this month even though 148 of his MPs voted to oust him and under the rules of the powerful 1922 Committee of backbench Conservative MPs, Johnson should be safe from a further challenge for a year.

But Andrew Bridgen, a Tory MP for North West Leicestershire, has said he is minded to throw his

hat into the ring and stand for election to the committee's executive, telling the BBC he would "be in favour of rule change and effectively that would be another vote of confidence".

Steve Baker, MP for Wycombe in Buckinghamshire, also said he hoped colleagues would "consider allowing him to serve" although he would not comment on changing the rules.

From the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Rwanda, Johnson said he expects people will "beat me up" after two by-election defeats, but insisted he was not worried about Conservative MPs plotting to replace him while he is abroad.

"I'm not going to pretend these are brilliant results. We've got to listen; we've got to learn," he told reporters in Kigali.

Norway terror alert raised after deadly mass shooting

AP ■ OSLO

A gunman opened fire in Oslo's night-life district early Saturday, killing two people and leaving more than 20 wounded in what Norwegian security service called an "Islamist terror act" during the capital's annual Pride festival.

Investigators said the suspect, identified as a 42-year-old Norwegian citizen originally from Iran, was arrested after opening fire at three locations in downtown Oslo.

The PST security service raised its terror alert level from "moderate" to "extraordinary" - the highest level - after the attack, which sent panicked revelers fleeing into the streets or trying to hide from the gunman.

PST acting chief Roger Berg called the attack an "extreme Islamist terror act" and said the suspect had a "long history of violence and threats" as well as mental health issues.

Upon the advice of police, organizers canceled a Pride parade that was set for Saturday as the highlight of a weeklong festival. One of the shootings happened outside the London Pub, a bar popular with the city's LGBTQ community, just hours before the parade was set to begin. Police attorney Christian Hatlo said the suspect was being held on suspicion of murder, attempted murder and terrorism, based on the number of people targeted at multiple locations.

"Our overall assessment is that there are grounds to believe that he wanted to cause grave fear in the population," Hatlo said.

Police said two of the shooting victims died and 10 people were being treated



for serious injuries, but none of them was believed to be in life-threatening condition. Eleven other people had minor injuries.

Olav Roenneberg, a journalist from Norwegian public broadcaster NRK, said he witnessed the shooting.

"I saw a man arrive at the site with a bag. He picked up a weapon and started shooting," Roenneberg told NRK. "First I thought it was an air gun. Then the glass of the bar next door was shattered and I understood I had to run for cover."

Another witness, Marcus Nybakken, 46, said he saw a lot of people running and screaming and thought it was a fist fight.

"But then I heard that it was a shooting and that there was someone shooting with a submachine gun," Nybakken told Norwegian broadcaster TV2.

Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere said in a Facebook post that "the shooting outside London Pub in Oslo tonight was a cruel and deeply shocking attack on innocent people."

He said that while the motive was unclear, the shooting had caused fear and grief in the LGBTQ commu-

nity. "We all stand by you," Gahr Stoere wrote.

Christian Bredeli, who was at the bar, told Norwegian newspaper VG that he hid on the fourth floor with a group of about 10 people until he was told it was safe to come out.

"Many were fearing for their lives," he said. "On our way out we saw several injured people, so we understood that something serious had happened."

TV2 showed footage of people running down Oslo streets in panic as shots rang out in the background.

Investigators said the suspect was known to police, as well as to PST, but not for any major violent crimes. His criminal record included a narcotics offense and a weapons offense for carrying a knife, Hatlo said.

Hatlo said police seized two weapons after the attack: a handgun and an automatic weapon, both of which he described as "not modern" without giving details.

He said the suspect had not made any statement to the police and was in contact with a defense lawyer.

Hatlo said it was too early to say whether the gunman

specifically targeted members of the LGBTQ community.

"We have to look closer at that, we don't know yet," he said.

Still, police advised organizers of the Pride festival to cancel the parade Saturday.

"Oslo Pride therefore urges everyone who planned to participate or watch the parade to not show up. All events in connection with Oslo Prides are canceled," organizers said on the official Facebook page of the event.

Inge Alexander Gjestvang, leader of FRI, the Norwegian organisation for sexual and gender diversity, said the shooting has shaken the Nordic country's LGBTQ community.

"We encourage everyone to stand together, take care of each other. We'll be back later, proud, visible but right now it's not the time for that," he told TV2.

King Harald V offered condolences to the relatives of victims and said the royal family was "horrified" by the attack.

"We must stand together to defend our values: freedom, diversity and respect for each other. We must continue to stand up for all people to feel safe," the monarch said.

Norway has a relatively low crime rate but has experienced violent attacks by right-wing extremists, including one of the worst mass shootings in Europe in 2011, when a gunman killed 69 people on the island of Utøya after setting off a bomb in Oslo that left eight dead.

In 2019, another right-wing extremist killed his step-sister and then opened fire in a mosque but was overpowered before anyone there was injured.

French lawmakers want abortion rights in Constitution

AP ■ PARIS

A group of lawmakers belonging to French President Emmanuel Macron's party will propose a bill to inscribe abortion rights into the country's constitution, according to the statement by two members of parliament on Saturday. The move comes after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a 50-year-old ruling and stripped women's constitutional protec-

tions for abortion.

The right to abortion in France is already inscribed in a 1975 law relating to the voluntary termination of pregnancy within the legal framework that decriminalized abortion. A constitutional law will cement abortion rights for future generations, said Marie-Pierre Rixain, a member of Par and of Macron's The Republic on the Move party.

"What happened elsewhere must not happen in France,"

Rixain said. The bill will include a provision that would make it "impossible to deprive a person of the right to voluntarily terminate a pregnancy," according to the statement, released by two members of the National Assembly, France's most powerful house of parliament.

Aurore Berge, the leader of Macron's party group in the parliament, said the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to revoke abortion rights is "catastrophic for

women around the world."

"We must take steps in France today so we do not have any reversal of existing laws tomorrow," Berge said in an interview with the public radio station France Inter on Saturday.

Macron's party and his centrist alliance have the most seats in the National Assembly, although it lost its majority in Sunday's legislative election as voters opted for parties on the far right and the far left.

Hasina opens B'desh's longest bridge, calls it symbol of country's pride

PTI ■ DHAKA

The landmark Padma Bridge is not a pile of brick and cement but a symbol of Bangladesh's pride, capacity and dignity, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Saturday as she inaugurated the country's longest bridge entirely built with domestic funding.

The 6.15-km-long road-rail four-lane bridge is built over the Padma river connecting southwestern Bangladesh with the capital and other parts of the country.

The multipurpose road-rail bridge, which is fully funded by the Bangladesh government, has been constructed at a cost of USD 3.6 billion.

The inauguration of the Padma bridge carries a lot of significance as the structure was built entirely with domestic financing, defying skepticism from some financial analysts if Bangladesh, which will only graduate from the UN's Least Developed Countries (LDC) list in 2026, could mobilise the fund depending on domestic resources.

Hasina expressed deep gratitude to the people involved with the construction of the Padma bridge.

"I have no complaints against anyone, but I reckon those who opposed the Padma Bridge construction plan and called it a 'pipe



dream", lack self-confidence. I hope this bridge will boost their confidence," the prime minister said. "This bridge is not just bricks, cement, iron, and concrete... This bridge is our pride, a symbol of our capacity, our strength and our dignity."

This bridge belongs to the people of Bangladesh," she said. "The bridge belongs to the people of Bangladesh. It encapsulates our passion, creativity, courage, endurance and perseverance," she said.

She said the much-cherished bridge stands on the turbulent Padma River overcoming many obstacles and breaking the web of conspiracy.

"Today, I am happy, proud, and overwhelmed along with millions of people of the country," said Hasina.

The Padma Bridge project witnessed several engineering wonders as well as technological

challenges. It emerged as the wonder structure for Bangladesh and saw the use of state-of-the-art machinery and know-how.

The project was initially expected to be funded by a consortium led by the World Bank.

In 2012, it cancelled the proposed credit saying it had "credible evidence" of high-level corruption among Bangladeshi officials.

Bangladesh has all through denied these allegations and preferred not to approach the international global lender for funding.

Meanwhile, India has congratulated the Bangladesh government on the completion of the massive project.

"Felicitations to Government and people of Bangladesh on completion of the landmark Padma Bridge project, from India!" the Indian High tweeted ahead of the inauguration.

Protesters gather as G-7 leaders set to arrive in Germany

AP ■ MUNICH

About 3,500 protesters gathered in Munich on Saturday as the Group of Seven leading economic powers prepared to hold their annual gathering in the Bavarian Alps in Germany, which holds the G-7's rotating presidency this year.

Police said earlier they were expecting some 20,000 protesters in the Bavarian city, but initially fewer people showed up for the main protest which started at noon, the German news agency dpa reported. Fifteen groups critical of globalisation, from Attac to the environmental organisation WWF, will participate in the demonstrations. Their various demands include a phase-out of fossil fuels, the preservation of animal and plant diversity, social justice on the planet and a stepped-up fight against hunger.

"My demands for the G-7 are, that they have a clear commitment to energy transition, that is the exit from fossil fuels, all forms of fossil fuels, by 2035 at the latest, so we can stop financing wars and conflicts," said Kilian Wolter from the environmental group Greenpeace who participated in the protest.

GST compensation cess levy extended till March 2026

New Delhi: The Government has extended the time for levy of GST compensation cess by nearly 4 years till March 31, 2026.

As per the Goods and Services Tax (Period of Levy and Collection of Cess) Rules, 2022, notified by the finance ministry, the compensation cess will continue to be levied from July 1, 2022 to March 31, 2026.

The levy of cess was to end on June 30 but the GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state FMs, decided to extend it till March 2026 to repay the loans taken in the last two fiscal years to make up for the shortfall in their revenue collection.

After the 45th GST Council meeting in Lucknow in September last year, Sitharaman had said the regime of paying compensation to states for revenue shortfall resulting from subsuming their taxes such as VAT in the uniform national tax GST, will end in June 2022.

However, the compensation cess, levied on luxury and demerit goods, will continue to



be collected till March 2026 to repay the borrowings that were done in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to compensate states for GST revenue loss.

In order to meet the resource gap of states due to short release of compensation, the Centre has borrowed and released Rs 1.1 lakh crore in 2020-21 and Rs 1.59 lakh crore in 2021-22 as back-to-back loan to meet a part of the shortfall in cess collection.

The Centre has repaid Rs 7,500 crore as interest cost for the borrowing in 2021-22 and Rs 14,000 crore is to be paid this fiscal year. From 2023-24, the repayment of principal

amount will start which will continue till March 2026.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced in the country with effect from July 1, 2017 and states were assured of compensation for the loss of any revenue arising on account of implementation of GST for a period of five years.

Though states' protected revenue has been growing at 14 per cent compounded growth rate, the cess collection did not increase in the same proportion and COVID-19 further increased the gap between protected revenue and the actual revenue receipt including reduction in cess collection.

Inflation sparks global wave of protests for higher pay, aid

Washington: Rising food costs. Soaring fuel bills. Wages that are not keeping pace. Inflation is plundering people's wallets, sparking a wave of protests and workers' strikes around the world.

This week alone saw protests by the political opposition in Pakistan, nurses in Zimbabwe, unionised workers in Belgium, railway workers in Britain, Indigenous people in Ecuador, hundreds of U.S. Pilots and some European airline workers. Sri Lanka's prime minister declared an economic collapse Wednesday after weeks of political turmoil.

Economists say Russia's war in Ukraine amplified inflation by further pushing up the cost of energy and prices of fertilizer, grains and cooking oils as farmers struggle to grow and export crops in one of the world's key agricultural regions.

As prices rise, inflation threatens to exacerbate inequalities and widen the gap between billions of people struggling to cover their costs and those who are able to keep spending. "We are not all in this together," said Matt Grainger, head of inequality policy at anti-poverty organisation



Oxfam. "How many of the richest even know what a loaf of bread costs? They don't really, they just absorb the prices."

Oxfam is calling on the Group of 7 leading industrialised nations, which are holding their annual summit this weekend in Germany, to provide debt relief to developing economies and to tax corporations on excess profits.

"This isn't just a stand-alone crisis. It's coming off the back of an appalling pandemic that fuelled increased inequality worldwide," Grainger said. "I think we will see more and more protests."

The demonstrations have caught the attention of governments, which have responded to soaring consumer prices with support measures like

expanded subsidies for utility bills and cuts to fuel taxes. Often, that offers little relief because energy markets are volatile. Central banks are trying to ease inflation by raising interest rates.

Meanwhile, striking workers have pressured employers to engage in talks on raising wages to keep up with rising prices.

Eddie Dempsey, a senior official with Britain's Rail, Maritime and Transport Union, which brought U.K. Train services to a near standstill with strikes this week, said there are going to be more demands for pay increases across other sectors.

"It's about time Britain had a pay rise. Wages have been falling for 30 years and corporate profits have been going through roof," Dempsey said.

Raw coking coal production likely to be 140 MT by 2030

New Delhi: The Government on Saturday said the country's domestic raw coking coal output may touch 140 million tonnes (MT) by 2030 from the present 51.7 MT. Coking coal is an essential raw material for the production of iron and steel.

"With... Transformative measures taken by Ministry of Coal under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative of PM, domestic raw coking coal production is likely to reach 140 MT by 2030," the coal ministry said in a statement.

To further increase the output of raw coking coal, the Centre has auctioned 10 coking coal blocks to the private sector, with a peak rated capacity (PRC) of 22.5 MT during the last two years. Most of these blocks are expected to start production by 2025.

The ministry has also identified four coking coal blocks and the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) will also finalise geological reserves (GR) for 4 to 6 new coking coal blocks in the next two months, the statement said. These blocks may be

offered in subsequent rounds of sale for the private sector to further step up domestic raw coking coal supply in the country.

Coal India Ltd (CIL), which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output, has planned to increase raw coking coal production from existing mines up to 26 MT and identified nine new mines with peak rated capacity of about 20 MT by FY25.

Also, CIL has offered six discontinued coking coal mines, out of the total 20 such mines, on an innovative model of revenue sharing to the private sector with an expected PRC of about 2 MT, according to the statement. The country produced 51.7 MT of raw coking coal during 2021-22, which is 15 per cent more compared to 44.8 MT during FY21.

Domestic raw coking coal production continues to witness an increasing trend in current fiscal as well with production of 8.3 MT, as per figures up to last month, which is 20 per cent more compared to 6.9 MT during the same period of the previous year. **PTI**

Future Enterprises defaults on ₹4.10 crore interest payment for NCDs

New Delhi: Debt-ridden Future Enterprises Ltd (FEL) has defaulted on interest payment of ₹4.10 crore for its non-convertible debentures.

The due date for payment was June 24, 2022, FEL said in a regulatory filing. "The Company is unable to service its obligations in respect of the interest on Non-Convertible Debentures was due on June 24, 2022," it said. This is the fourth default in June by the Kishore Biyani-led Future group firm.

Earlier this week, FEL defaulted twice on interest payments of ₹85.71 lakh and ₹6.07 crore for its non-convertible debentures. FEL had made another default on the payment of interest of ₹1.41 crore, earlier this month. The latest default is on the interest of securities issued for a sum of



₹40 crore. FEL has defaulted on interest payment for the period between June 24, 2021, to June 23, 2022, it said. The debentures are secured and have a coupon rate of 10.25 per cent per annum.

In April, FEL had informed the exchanges about a default of ₹2,835.65 crore towards its consortium of banks. Its due date was March 31, 2022.

FEL was a part of the 19 group companies operating in retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing segments, which were supposed to be transferred to Reliance Retail as part of a ₹24,713 crore deal announced in August 2020.

Boxory Logistics, Cargonix Xpress: NTC Group's two new businesses

Chennai: Diversified business conglomerate NTC Group under its flagship company NTC Logistics has unveiled two new verticals — Boxory Logistics Pvt Ltd and Cargonix Xpress Pvt Ltd — as part of consolidating its operations in the country, an official said on Saturday.

Boxory Logistics would focus on freight services like air freight, multi-city transportation, warehousing, while Cargonix Xpress would be focused on same day delivery, milk run among others.

At an event here, the company unveiled a 70 metre truck trailer for the first time in the country which would be used for transporting windmill blades. NTC Group company MAHA Auto Components has manufactured the truck trailer to serve the renewable energy logistics space, a company statement said here.

Equipped with advanced features like load sensing valves, anti-lock braking systems among many others, the trailer ensures safety and reliability by providing more thrust to logistics of windmill blades, company chairman K Chandramohan said in a company statement. Tamil Nadu Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu formally unveiled the truck at an



event held here in the presence of Chandramohan among senior officials. According to Chandramohan, the company has been taking up projects in the renewable energy sector under its entity— Everrenew Energy — which offers logistics to site construction activities for wind and solar projects.

Besides serving the domestic market, the NTC Group has presence overseas including Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and has entered into partnerships with companies in Asia, Australia, the Middle East among others. The company has strengthened its presence abroad with the opening of a new office in Malaysia recently, the statement added. **PTI**

Flipkart inks MoU with Telangana's SERP to enable market access for FPOs, SHGs

Hyderabad: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, on Saturday said it signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Telangana to enable market access for Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the state.

The MoU was exchanged between Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Secretary, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, Telangana and Smrithi Ravichandran, Vice President and Head of Grocery, Flipkart, at an event held here, a press release from the e-commerce giant said.

Through this partnership, Flipkart aims to empower local farming communities and SHGs of Telangana by providing pan-India market access to more than 400 million customers on its platform. As part of this collaboration, Flipkart will directly



source premium quality pulses, millets, staples, and spices from the local farmers, contributing to improve income and business growth. Flipkart will further engage with these communities through virtual and on-ground training and capacity-building initiatives to provide them with an understanding of quality, pricing, and licenses required to be a part of FPO ecosystem.

SERP will extend support with infrastructure and necessary approvals to take this partnership forward. Speaking on the occasion, Erabelli Dayakar Rao, Panchayat Raj, Rural

Development and Rural Water Supply Minister said, SHGs and women from Telangana will now be able to sell their products to a pan India consumer base for an improved livelihood and gaining more visibility.

"There are 4,36,000 SHGs consisting of 46 lakh members in the state. We wish to support all of them, especially women, for whom we have a target to provide loans of Rs 500 crore this year. We believe that SHGs will work hard and use these initiatives to accelerate their development and to grow their businesses," Dayakar Rao said.

NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Lokesh Kumari w/o Om Prakash Singh R/o SK 414 A, Sector-122, Noida, U.P.-201301, declare that name of mine and my minor son Anshuman Singh aged 11 years has been wrongly written as Lokesh Devi and Anshuman in his School Records. The actual name of mine and my minor son are Lokesh Kumari and Anshuman Singh respectively, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.
- Lokesh Kumari

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for Notice of the General Public that A Political Party is Proposed To Be Registered By The Name Of "Bharatiya Pravasi Janata Party". The Office of The Party is Located at 407, DLF Centre Point, Main Mathura Road, Metro Piller No. 845, Sector-11, Faridabad (U.P.) 121008. This Party Has Submitted Application To The Election Commission Of India, New Delhi Under Section 29 A Of The Representation Of People Act, 1951 Name Of The Office Bearers Of The Party Are As follows:
1. National President: DR. AJAY TIWARI
2. General Secretary: SAPNA TIWARI
3. Treasurer: SANTOSH TIWARI
Add: J-86, DLF, Sec-10, Faridabad-121006
If anyone has any objection to the registration of "Bharatiya Pravasi Janata Party" they may send their objection to the reason there of, to the secretary (Political Party), The Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi- 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Rajesh S/o Mr. Maha Singh who is owner of Property bearing No.81 (Property ID No.05/81 as per Technical Report), area measuring 117 Sq. Yds., Ward No.05, Waka Siwana Mauljha Andar Abadi Lal Dora Farukh Nagar, Tehsil Farukh Nagar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), vide Transfer Deed (No. 22/275) and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days at below address:
Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Mohd, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.-II, New Delhi-110049
Contact # 011-40046316

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Swati Pachauri & Mr. Saurobh Pachauri who are intend to purchase the Residential area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., part of Khawra No.764, Khawra No.3(2-17), Kita 1, out of area measuring 2 Bigna 17 Biswa, part 2/17, situated at Mouza Bahadurgarh, abadi known as Patel Nagar, within Municipal Limits of Bahadurgarh, District Jhajjar, Haryana; from Mrs. Praveen who is owner of the aforesaid property by virtue of Sale Deed dated 21.12.2018, which is registered as Doc. No.80/1 in the office of Sub Registrar-Bahadurgarh and intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Unmeed Housing Finance Private Limited. That, Original Sale Deed dated 17.10.2011 Doc. No.9652 are/is lost/misplaced. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days at below address:
Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Mohd, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.-II, New Delhi-110049
Contact # 011-40046316

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that my client, Gulshan Thakral W/o Late J.C. Thakral R/o C-10/166, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053, A/lottee/Purchaser/owner of Plot No.166, Block-C-10, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053 vide ODA File No.F.12(2366)76/LAB/Res(J), The original documents i.e. Demand cum allotment Letter, Possession Letter, site Possession Slip & Other Relevant Documents, of the above said plot has been lost. An F.R./NCR/LR No.527680/2022 dated 24/06/2022 to this effect has been lodged in P.S.Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person (s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address / Phone No. 971134852 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (LAB) Resd. or Director (LAB) Resd., DDA, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi

NBFCs should diversify risks across sectors: Ex SBI chief

Kolkata: Non-banking financial companies need to diversify risks across sectors and geographies, as well as maintain capital adequacy norms and introduce core banking solutions going ahead, former State Bank of India chairman Rajnish Kumar said.

Kumar also said the risk-taking abilities of NBFCs are higher than banks, and that the regulatory stance will become tougher, with the regulation arbitrage between lenders and non-banking entities ceasing to exist.

"Regarding asset quality review (AQR) of lenders, as pointed out by former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan, the NPA problem started with the NBFCs. The whole issue boils down to risk management and governance."

"There is a need for NBFCs to take a diversified approach across sectors and geographies and also be mindful about risk matrix," he

VFS Capital plans to expand portfolio to ₹1500 crore, expand branch network

Kolkata: VFS Capital (formerly Village Financial Services Limited) plans to increase its assets under management from Rs 803 crore to Rs 1,500 crore within a few years and also plans to expand the number of branches across the country, an official said.

MD & CEO of VFS Capital Kuldip Maity said at an event here on Friday night that the NBFC-MFI has 247 branches at present, and added that plans are there to add 35 more this fiscal and also to enter the state of Rajasthan.

Maity said during the last two years of the pandemic, the focus was not on increasing business, adding that VFS plans to provide loans for affordable housing and MSME loans. He also said the new RBI regulations on MFIs will help the sector to grow, particularly the deregulation of interest rates across the entities. **PTI**

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/C, Northern Railway, Moradabad Division, Invite e-auction through website www.ireps.gov.in for Pay & Use Toilets at Hapur, Hardoi, Laksar, Roorkee, Amroha, Shahjahanpur Circulating area and Waiting hall, Moradabad near CPS office, Najibabad and Rampur Railway Station. Whose detailed information is available on website www.ireps.gov.in.
1563/22

The Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645
Letter No. 02 / Camp Haldwani / Date: 25-06-2022
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 following works-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work
1	Construction of Food Godown at Saraikeht, District-Almora.	48.45 Lacs.

The tender form can be downloaded from e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> from 25.06.2022 at 17:00 hrs. to 09.07.2022 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 authority.
Project Manager

The Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645
Letter No. 04 / Camp Haldwani / Date: 25.06.2022
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 following works-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work
1	Construction of Food Godown at Chaukhutiya, District-Almora.	73.28 Lacs.

The tender form can be downloaded from e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> from 25.06.2022 at 17:00 hrs. to 09.07.2022 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 authority.
Project Manager

FORM G - INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1 Name of the corporate debtor	Sadhna Media Private Limited
2 Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	24/12/2002
3 Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies, NCT of Delhi
4 Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U92111DL2002PTC118164
5 Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	38 Rani Jhansi Road, Jhandewalan, New Delhi-110055
6 Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	30th March 2022 (Copy of order received on 12.04.2022)
7 Date of invitation of expression of interest	26th June, 2022
8 Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	Detailed Expression of interest contains details of eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the code can be sought by email at: irpsmp22@gmail.com
9 Norms of ineligibility applicable under section 29A are available at:	Same as stated in (8) above
10 Last date for receipt of expression of interest	11th July, 2022
11 Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	20th July, 2022
12 Last date for submission of objections to provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	25th July, 2022
13 Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	03rd August, 2022
14 Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	25th July, 2022
15 Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information	The Prospective Resolution Applicants are requested to send email to irpsmp22@gmail.com with a copy to pkprip@gmail.com after submitting confidentiality agreement.
16 Last date for submission of resolution plans	24th August 2022
17 Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional	The Resolution Plan shall be submitted in a sealed cover at the following address: Pradeep Kumar Ray Resolution Professional of Sadhna Media Private Limited, Address: 38, Rani Jhansi Road, Jhandewalan, New Delhi-110055. Softcopy of the resolution plan in password protected PDF file shall be sent to irpsmp22@gmail.com
18 Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval	24th September, 2022
19 Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Name: Pradeep Kumar Ray Reg. No.: IBBI/PA-002/IP-N/1100/2021-2022/13648
20 Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Address: WZ-108, First Floor, Shadpur Main Bazar, Chhoti Choupal (Pakodivali Gali), Delhi-110008 Email: pkprip@gmail.com
21 Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	Address: 38, Rani Jhansi Road, Jhandewalan, New Delhi-110055 Email: irpsmp22@gmail.com
22 Further Details are available at or with	Further information can be obtained through the email id: irpsmp22@gmail.com
23 Date of publication of Form G	26th June 2022

Date: 26.06.2022
Place: New Delhi
Sd/-
Pradeep Kumar Ray
Reg. No.: IBBI/PA-002/IP-N/1100/2021-2022/13648,
WZ-108, First Floor, Shadpur Main Bazar,
Chhoti Choupal (Pakodivali Gali), Delhi-110008
For Sadhna Media Private Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE
Known to General public that my client Satish Kumar is purchasing property i.e. 1st Floor, Property No. 210, Pocket-7, Sector-24, Area 32.00 Sq. Mtrs., Rohini from Sh. CHANDRAKANT and mortgaging with HDFC Ltd. And Sh. CHANDRAKANT does not have Registration Particular of Lease Deed, Will of Kuldeep, executed by (1) Sh. Manmohan Krishna Trika & (2) Smt. Raj Kumari Trika AND Relinquishment Deed executed by (1)Smt Manju (2)Ms. Ritu Mathur and (3) Sh. Sandeep in favour of Sh. Ashish Mathu / Will in favour of Anita Bhatt, Sushant, Delhi. Any person (s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address / Phone No. 971134852 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (LAB) Resd. or Director (LAB) Resd., DDA, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that Arun Khanna claims to be owner and in possession of Property bearing no. 49 and 49/2, Friends Colony (East), New Delhi/hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Partition Deed dated 05.08.2005 will dated 18.09.2005 executed by Jagmohan Khanna/Will dated 18.09.2005 and 11.04.2013 and said Arun Khanna's agreed to sell the said Property to EKADANT STRUCTURE PVT LTD And Said EKADANT STRUCTURE PVT LTD has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients, Standard Chartered Bank, Express Building, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi, person/s in possession of two original wills in favour of Arun Khanna or having any claim against in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof by way of sale exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, ten or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to the undersigned within 15 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.
Vishal Diwan (Advocate)
For Diwan and Company LLP
Advocates and Solicitors
House No. (2/GF), NRI Complex New Delhi-19
Mobile No. 9815399999

US delegation to visit economic crisis-hit Lanka

Colombo: A high-level US delegation will visit Sri Lanka to hold talks with the country's top leadership to help it resolve the current economic crisis as the island nation, which is on the brink of bankruptcy, is struggling to pay for the import of essentials, including food and fuel.

Sri Lanka is facing a severe forex crisis which forced the island nation to declare a default of its international debt in April, becoming the first Asia-Pacific country in decades to default on foreign debt.

The delegation representing the US Department of

the Treasury and the Department of State is due to engage in a visit to Sri Lanka from June 26 to 29, the News First newspaper reported.

The delegation will include Robert Kaproth, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Treasury for Asia, and Ambassador Kelly Keiderling, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, it said.

The visitors will meet with a wide range of political representatives, economists and international organisations, and will explore the most effective ways for the US to support Sri Lankans in

need, Sri Lankans working to resolve the current economic crisis, and Sri Lankans planning for a sustainable and inclusive economy for the future, the report said.

"This visit underscores our ongoing commitment to the security and prosperity of the Sri Lankan people," US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie Chung said.

"As Sri Lankans endure some of the greatest economic challenges in their history, our efforts to support economic growth and strengthen democratic institutions have never been more critical," the envoy said. **PTI**

HARMANPREET LEADS INDIA TO SEAL SERIES AGAINST SRI LANKA

India win by 5 wickets in 2nd T20

PTI ■ DAMBULLA

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur contributed with both bat and ball to steer the Indian women's cricket team to a series sealing five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second T20 here on Saturday.

Vice captain Smriti Mandhana's (39 off 34 balls) experience complemented by the exuberance of both Shefali Verma (17 off 10 balls) and Sabbhineni Meghana (17 off 10 balls) helped India chase down the 126-run target in 19.1 overs.

India stuttered in what should have been a comfortable run chase before Harmanpreet took India home with an unbeaten 31 of 32 balls.

Sri Lanka squandered a fine start to post a below par 125 for seven.

The third and final T20 will be played here on



Monday.

It was a day to remember for Mandhana who became the second fastest Indian woman to reach 2,000 runs T20 runs.

Mandhana reached the feat in her 84th innings, becoming the third Indian woman after the legendary Mithali Raj (70 innings) and current skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (88 innings) to cross the mark.

Opting to bat first and with the series on line, it was the duo of captain Chamari Athapaththu (43 off 41 balls) and Vishmi Gunaratne (45 off 50 balls) provided an ideal start for the Lankans by taking the Indian bowlers to the cleaners.

The duo also put up Sri Lanka's best opening stand (87) in T20s to leave the Indians frantically rummaging for breakthroughs.

However, as both Athapaththu and Gunaratne departed, it was a sorry state of affairs for Sri Lanka as they lost a slew of wickets, only managing an underwhelming total.



Archery World Cup: Abhishek-Jyothi pair grabs maiden compound mixed team gold

PTI ■ PARIS

India won its maiden World Cup gold in compound mixed team archery event after the duo of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam outclassed their experienced French opponents at the Stage 3 edition here on Saturday.

Riding on a spectacular start, the Indians withered late resistance from the French pair of Jean Bouch and 48-year-old Olympic medallist Sophie Dodemont to seal the contest 152-149, a first-ever World Cup gold for India in the compound mixed team event. The gold also opened the

account of Indian archers, who have assured a second medal in the women's recurve team event where the trio of Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and Simranjeet Kaur will fight for the yellow metal on Sunday.

Making a comeback after more than seven months, world no. 3 Jyothi, who was sidelined in the Asian Games trial, is also in the hunt for another medal as she takes on French veteran Sophie in the individual semi-final later in the day.

A Beijing Olympics bronze medalist, Sophie switched to compound discipline after failing to make the 2012 London Olympics squad.

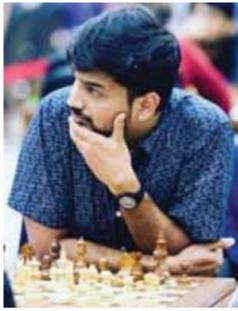
The third-seeded Indians got off to a flier, drilling in four 10s that included two Xs to race to a three-point lead and put early pressure on the French pair. The Indians managed just one 10 in the second end as the French duo reduced the deficit to one-point. The third was a tie, while in the deciding fourth end, Abhishek and Jyothi held their nerves to edge out their opponents by two points to annex the title. The most successful Indian compound pair of Abhishek and Jyothi have a handful of World Cup bronze medals and their best has been a World Cup Final silver at Yankton last year.

Chennai Open chess: Nitin remains on top

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Indian International Master Nitin Senthilvel settled for a draw with compatriot and fellow IM Ravichandran Siddharth in the ninth round lead to stay on top of the standings with 8 points in the 13th Chennai Open International Grandmaster Chess Tournament 2022 here on Saturday.

The draw in the top board saw Nitin's lead being cut to half a point as GM Boris Savchenko (Russia), Alexei Federov (Belarus), Aronyak Ghosh, Him all Gusain (both India)



moved to 7.5 points.

On Friday, tournament leader Nitin missed a win against top seed Grandmaster Savchenko and today he held the upper hand against Siddharth who just hung on to snatch a draw. The final round is scheduled for Sunday.

Results: Round 9 (Indians unless specified): Nitin S (8) drew with Ravichandran Siddharth (7), S Prasanna (6.5) lost to Boris Savchenko (Russia) 7.5, P Konguvel (6.5) lost to Alexei Federov (7). Aronyak Ghosh (7.5) beat Baghdasaryan Vahe (Armenia) 6.5,

Sajan Prakash, Srihari Nataraj to spearhead Indian swimming campaign in CWG

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The star duo of Sajan Prakash and Srihari Nataraj will lead a four-member Indian swimming team at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games next month.

Apart from Prakash and Nataraj, fast-rising Delhi swimmer Kushagra Rawat and Madhya Pradesh's Advait Page will be making their debuts at the quadrennial event, slated to be held from July 28 to August 8 in Birmingham, UK. The



Swimming Federation of India (SFI) had secured four quota places for the 2022 CWG and the national body had announced that swimmers who achieve the sixth position time in their respective events from the 2018 Gold Coast CWG would be considered for the quota slots in this edition.

"In the qualification period of one year Srihari, Sajan, Advait and Kushagra have clocked the sixth position time from the previous CWG. That is the cut off standard SFI had set," SFI Secretary General Monal Chokshi told PTI.



Third straight missed cut for Lahiri, Schauffele in lead

PTI ■ CROMWELL (US)

Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri's challenge at the Travelers Championship ended at the halfway stage as he double bogeyed twice on the back nine to miss the cut here. Lahiri had four birdies, three bogeys and two doubles during his round of 3-over 73. Putt alongside his first round of even par, he ended 3-over for 36 holes and missed the cut by five shots. The cut was applied at 2 under, with 2017 winner Jordan Spieth (1-over) also missing out along with Sam Burns (even par), Zach Johnson (4 over) and Jason Day (6 over).

It was the third straight missed cut for Lahiri, who previously exited from the US PGA Championship and the Memorial soon after a run of four Top-15 finishes in five starts.

Olympic champion Xander Schauffele shot his second straight 7-under 63 to take a five-stroke lead. He shot a 31 on the front nine at TPC River Highlands with four birdies, then had a 32 on the back, making birdies on 11, 14 and 17.

Schauffele has hit 33 of 36 greens in regulation and is the only player bogey free for two rounds. Kevin Kisner (64), Nick Hardy (64), defending champion Harris English (65), Cam Davis (66) and Patrick Cantlay (67) were tied for second at 9-under. First-round leaders Rory McIlroy and J T Poston followed opening 62s with 70s to drop six strokes back.

Patidar hits ton as MP lay one hand on coveted Ranji Trophy

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Rajat Patidar stamped his class with an authoritative century to put Madhya Pradesh on the cusp of their historic Ranji Trophy triumph against 41-time champions Mumbai on a rain-hit fourth day of the summit clash here on Saturday.

Havens opened up minutes before the tea break, and Madhya Pradesh finished their first innings at 536 soon after resumption with a game-changing lead of 162 runs, courtesy Patidar's superb 122, that had as many as 20 boundaries.

Four hundreds have been scored by batters from either side but none oozed more class and competence than Patidar's, who was in a league of his own when it came to regal drives on both sides of the wicket.

At stumps, Mumbai erased some of the deficit, reaching 113 for 2 with Prithvi Shaw (44 off 51 balls) and Hardik Tamore (25 off 32 balls), promoted up the order, showing some positive intent but throwing away their wickets in desperation for quick runs.

Shaw was dismissed with a classic plan of bowling wide outside the off-stump and he finally chased one from Gourav Yadav straight into cover's hands.



With 95 overs left on the final day, there is very little chance of Mumbai winning this match unless they score around 320-plus runs in 50 overs (including Saturday's overs) and set a target of 150-odd for MP with at least 45 to 50 overs to get the 10 wickets.

The wicket isn't showing any signs of crumbling and hence a chance of an MP collapse in the fourth innings doesn't look imminent at the moment. Especially, knowing that they have a first innings lead, MP will like to down the shutters from hereon as ends will prove the means.

DAY BELONGED TO PATIDAR

When the fourth day started, MP needed seven more runs to get the

first innings lead but what was more important was for Patidar to play at least one session and he did that with minimum fuss which could now prove to be decisive in the context of the game.

Patidar smashed seven more boundaries following his 13 on the third day and by the time he was out for 122 off 219 balls, Madhya Pradesh's lead had gone over 100 runs and the sullen faces of the Mumbai players said it all.

A poker-faced Chandrakant Pandit, who had throughout the four days, sat in one corner of the dressing room, can now afford a wide grin as even a miracle can't turn things around for his "home state".

Strong field awaits Neeraj Chopra in his first Diamond League Meet of season

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A strong field awaits Olympic javelin throw champion Neeraj Chopra in the prestigious Diamond League Meet in Stockholm on June 30, which will be his biggest event ahead of the World Championships in Eugene, USA, next month.

The 24-year-old Chopra will come into the Swedish capital with confidence after clinching his first win of the season at the Kuortane Games in Finland on June 18, beating reigning world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada for the second time this month.

The Indian superstar had won a silver in his first competition of the season at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland on June 14 with a national record throw of 89.30m.

Chopra had a nasty fall during his third attempt at the Kuortane Games but luckily he did not sustain any injury. The conditions were treacherous there



for javelin throw as the run-up was slippery due to rains.

His first round throw of 86.64m was, however, enough to hand him a gold.

Peters' name is in the list of par-

ticipants in Stockholm but he did not complete all his throws in an event at Orimattila in Finland on Wednesday, recording a best throw of 71.94m.

The athlete from Grenada has seen a dip in form after winning the Doha Diamond League Meet with a season-leading throw of 93.07m.

After that, he had thrown 86.60m at Paavo Nurmi Games for a third place and 84.75m in Kuortane Games for another third position.

Olympic silver medallist Jakob Vadlejch of Czech Republic and compatriot Tokyo Games bronze winner Vitezslav Vesely will also be in action. This will be the first time all the Tokyo Olympics medal winners will be in action together this season.

Vadlejch, who was sixth at Paavo Nurmi Games with a best throw of 83.91m, returns after skipping the Kuortane Games. The same is the case for Germany's Julian Weber, who returns after finishing fifth at Paavo Nurmi Games with 84.02m.

India U-17 women's team suffers 1-3 loss against Chile

PTI ■ AQUILEIA (ITALY)

The Indian U-17 women's team suffered a 1-3 loss against Chile in its second match in the four-nation tournament despite an improved performance here.

The women's side came into this match after haplessly going down to the Italian side 0-7 in the opening fixture.

Despite a slow start by both the teams in the initial stages, it was India that got a chance to snatch an early lead through defender Naketa, whose long-ranger free-kick failed to put the Chileans in a spot of bother.

In the 11th minute, Chile found a breakthrough in the 11th minute through Katherine Ramos, who inflicted a blow to the Indians.

While the Indians tried to bounce back quickly and were in search of an equaliser, Chile doubled their lead in the 19th minute, through a clinical header from Maitte.

With the first half ending 2-0 in favour of Chile, India came out after the break and looked desperate to restore parity.



With an uphill task in hand, the Indians reduced the deficit and made it 1-2 when a ball from Neha landed at the feet of Kajol, and the latter skillfully headed the ball into the back of the goal in a flash.

However, despite a much-needed goal, the Indian side's aspirations were soon dashed when, in the 67th minute, when Chile's Ambar Rolino made it 3-1, putting a final nail in the coffin.

The remainder of the game saw the Indians maintaining their attack but it was the Chileans who walked out of the field as victors.



Kerley, Jefferson win at the US outdoor championships

AP ■ EUGENE

Olympic silver medalist Fred Kerley flashed a peace sign at the crowd after winning the 100 meters at the U.S. Outdoor track and field championships Friday night.

Kerley crossed the line in 9.77 seconds, followed by Marvin Bracy-Williams and Trayvon Bromell. All three earned spots on the U.S. Team for the world outdoor championships in Eugene next month.

"It's all about patience and training, and doing what I've got to do," Kerley said after taking selfies with fans.

Melissa Jefferson of Coastal Carolina, who finished eighth in the 100 at this year's NCAA outdoor championships, edged Aleia Hobbs for the national title in the women's event.

Ryan Crouser, the world-record holder and two-time Olympic gold medalist, won the shot put at 75 feet, 10 1/4 inches (23.12 meters). Joe Kovaks, already guaranteed a spot at worlds as the defending champion, was second.

Allyson Felix, the most decorated woman in track history, surged the final 40 meters of her semi-final in the 400, but did not finish among the top three and had to wait to see how her time held up. In the end, she made it to the final Sunday.

"I just appreciate all the support and all the love," she said.

Athletes were greeted by temperatures in the low 80s and breezy conditions at Hayward Field on the University of Oregon campus.

The top three finishers in each event will be part of the U.S. Team at worlds, track and field's most prestigious international event outside of the Olympics.

Earlier in the evening, Kerley ran the 100 semi-finals in a world-leading and personal-best 9.76 seconds. It also was a meet record. Bromell had the second-best time in the semis, at 9.81.

Bromell won the 100 at the U.S. Olympic trials at Hayward last summer. He was widely expected to do well in Tokyo but failed to advance to the Olympic final.

Christian Coleman was a late scratch in the race but he already has a spot at worlds as the defending champion at Doha in 2019.

Hobbs, who won the 2018 NCAA outdoor 100 title as well as that year's national championship, had the fastest time in the semifinals earlier in the day with a personal-best 10.81.

But Jefferson, who just wrapped up her junior year at Coastal Carolina, pushed at the finish to win the final in 10.69 (2.9 wind), in front of Hobbs in 10.72. Twanisha Terry finished third to round out the world team.

talktime

ATIF AFZAL AKA A-ZAL

The singer, who is also a New York-based songwriter and composer is known for his compositions for American TV series Loki, NCIS: Los Angeles and The Twilight Zone and for the films Resort to Love, Prague, Pune 52, among others. He speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about his association with Marvel, his journey and more

'BOLLYWOOD INDUSTRY HAS AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF TALENT'



■ Tell us about your composition for Ms Marvel?
I have composed two songs for Ms Marvel. These are full-fledged tracks as opposed to the more dreamy track I did for Loki last year. Both of them are romantic and appear in the montage where the chemistry is building between Kamala Khan and Kamran. These tracks are very unique.
I was in talks with Marvel for a Bollywood style song since last year just after we finished Loki. So, when they approached me for it in April 2022, I initially thought it was for the same project. However, this turned out to be a new one. What's interesting is that we wrapped up the entire process from the brief till the actual release was just two months.
■ How did your association with Marvel start begin?
It first started when they reached out to me last year for Loki. However, what's interesting is that I was never told that it was for Loki since the project is kept confidential. But, I was amazed to know that I am going to be a part of the Marvel universe. It is Hollywood at its best.
■ Tell us about your journey into music. How did you make it

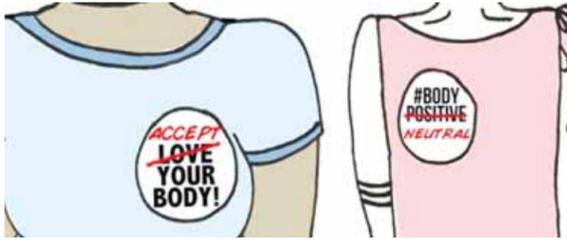
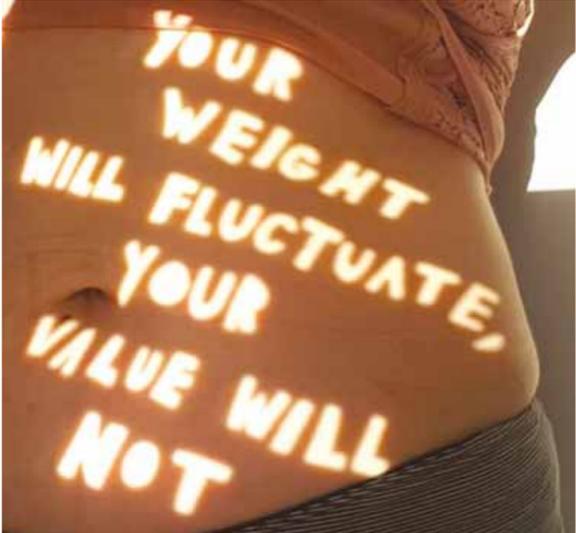
from composing music for Marathi films to Bollywood and Hollywood?
The first film that I signed was Prague. It so happened that the Marathi film Pune 52 released before Prague. Interestingly, I was approached by the producers of Pune 52 after they saw the trailer of my film Prague. I knew the journey would be tough. I knew I was a crazy guy with a crazy dream and I knew I had to take one step at a time. I had no one in the industry at all. Not a single soul who would help me navigate this journey.
When I started in Bollywood in 2013, I did films like Prague and Monsoon Shootout which had western music and an international style score. Further, it had official selections at multiple global film festivals which gave traction to my career and recognition at the global level. Monsoon Shootout was at Cannes, which was a big deal. Soon, I was approached for a German film called Gift for ARD Degeto Network in Germany. Then I did a thesis film at the New York University called The Alternative. That was my first independent American film. I worked on several advertising commercials in the USA. And finally, the big breakthrough came when I did NCIS: Los Angeles and The Twilight Zone. This really propelled me to the giant projects which I did for Marvel.
So, it was one step at a time!
■ How did the pandemic take a toll on you professionally?
I'm going to give you an answer that you probably wouldn't expect. I got my biggest breakthrough in Hollywood during the pan-

demic. The pandemic struck New York, and after a couple of months, CBS reached out to me for NCIS: Los Angeles. And, soon after I finished it, they roped me in for The Twilight Zone
■ What's your take on India's music scene when you compare it globally?
When I compare it globally, I know one thing. Indian music is one of the oldest music forms existing in the world today, and we need to retain that and stop copying the West. I feel we need to stop following what is trending and adopting a formula-based approach, but create what is unique and different. The Bollywood industry has an incredible amount of talent for sure!
■ What's your personal style as a music artist? Who do you take inspiration from?
When it comes to film scoring, my personal style is very experimental. I take inspiration from composers such as Clint Mansell who has composed iconic scores and gave the world a new sound. As a pop singer, I take inspiration from Ed Sheeran. I love British singers. My singing style and songwriting style is very similar to that of Ed Sheeran.
■ What's next?
I am in talks for another song for Marvel. There is also an interesting project going on with Netflix. What I'm most excited about is my American pop album called 17 & 11 Nights; Phonebook, Ride, Autopilot are a few songs from the album. The singles will be released later this year and that will, for the first time, bring the artist side of me to the world. I am currently shooting the music videos for my album.

MORE THAN A BODY

Body positivity is about knowing and accepting your body type as it is. Unlearn and challenge the unreal beauty standards that the popular culture and society have been claiming to be ideal

We all have doubted the shape of our bodies at some point in our lives; how our curves are reflected in the mirror has led to a drop in confidence and paved the path for disbeliefs and doubts in our minds. The unsolicited comments that we encounter throughout our lives plant the seed of uncertainties and doubts that may lead to eating disorders, feeling belittled and social anxiety.
We can't stop people from expressing their minds in words but we can work on ourselves. When we make an effort to understand that we don't have to pay attention to their words; opinions don't shape us and shouldn't become the ideologies we have to live our lives by. We need to understand the importance of living an abundant life and working towards bringing body positivity and self-confidence into our lives.
Body positivity is about knowing and accepting your body type as it is irrespective of sizes, shapes, physical abilities and colours. Loving yourself in all of its forms and living with confidence and fortitude. It is about unlearning and challenging the unreal beauty standards that the popular culture and society have been claiming to be ideal.
We have often heard the term body positivity and let's take three steps in inculcating it in our lives and embodying it.
Know your body
It's not easy to defeat darkness without even knowing what it is and how it's affecting your life. Take time to reflect on your daily routine and you'll find tiny changes that you can add to your lifestyle to be more mindful of your body confidence. Sit back and think about what are the things that encourage you to be authentically you without adulteration from the world. Put effort into knowing what makes you feel good about your body. Is it the new dress



Devina Kaur
Founder, Sexy Brilliant Non-Profit Foundation



to unlearn those definitions, remarks, and beliefs and make rules for yourself as you like them. The notions that have been idealised for years now are deemed to be toxic and should be unlearned and unheard of now. Learn what works for you, the clothes that make you shine and feel comfortable on your skin and your body and from there it will be easier to live authentically.
Do what makes you happy and feel healthy, go out on walks, exercise regularly, surround yourself with positive people and add meditative sessions so you spend enough time with yourself to know what your body actually wants. Remind yourself that you are your top priority and self-care is the most important kind of love that you can show yourself. Listen to your inner calling, challenge the negative thoughts and follow that path. It will be a challenging path but it'll be worth your efforts and time. Practice radical self-acceptance, embrace your inner self and let it shine in front of the world.

IT'S NOT EASY TO DEFEAT DARKNESS WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT'S AFFECTING YOUR LIFE. TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON YOUR DAILY ROUTINE AND YOU'LL FIND TINY CHANGES THAT YOU CAN ADD TO YOUR LIFESTYLE TO BE MORE MINDFUL OF YOUR BODY CONFIDENCE

Plan Your Day
CELEBRATE LOVE

QUEER MADE WEEKEND

FASHION, HOME DECOR, ART, ZINES, FOOD, DRINKS AND MORE!
LIVE PERFORMANCES BY

BAST, JOHNI DINKAR, PARVATI, JHALLI, THE PIV'S, KAVAN

ingle with, peruse and shop from queer entrepreneurs and small business owners at a dedicated space for all things queer made.
And if that wasn't enough, there will be music, food and drinks. All brought to you with pride and love by queer performers and caterers.
Sip on Bira's new summer collection or some amazing

cocktails from Roku, Toki, Oaksmith and many more.
Fashion, art, merch, home decor, zines — if you can think of it, you can probably find it at Queer Made Weekend!
What: Fun fair
Where: DLF Promenade, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi
When: June 26, 2022
Time: 5 pm to 10 pm

THEY ALSO WENT LOCAL

Village Square in partnership with The National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) celebrated World Localisation Day at NCUI Auditorium, New Delhi with prominent rural changemakers, urban youth, development professionals and artisans from across India.
The event was designed to raise awareness of local goods and artisan products and to promote eco-friendly living. It is a platform to learn about local influencers, opportunities, and products.
The storytelling session was the highlight, where five young rural changemakers gave an insight into their endeavors and challenges.

Masterstroke

Flat weaves, with their distinctively bold patterns and eye-catching colours, look equally at home in an airy beach house as they do in a sophisticated city apartment, and are a stylish way to keep those laid-back summer vibes going long after the season has passed.
These rugs basically come in rich colours and intricate patterns and are known for their flexibility. Lacking the pile or a backing, they are quite light in nature. The other quality of these rugs is that they are reversible and are easily used from both sides. Flat weave rugs are available in different variations despite following the basic technique, adopting different patterns and styles in different regions around the world. A few such styles include Kilims, Dhurries and Navajo rugs.
The flat-woven kilim has been a staple of the rug world for centuries, and has regained some of its former glory in recent years. Saraswati's Zara collection is a nod to the current trend in the home decor market, but with fun colors and updated patterns make its collection unique. Also, the Zara collection is thicker than a typical kilim, making it more stable and durable over time, and thus, a better overall rug.
Lovable from the outset, the Zara collection will win hearts without breaking the bank. These wool Rugs are Natural/Reversible/Durable and come in different colours like Green, Mushroom, Gold, Dusty Orange, Blue, Charcoal, Grey & Jade.

QUIRKY TALE

"Determination, hard work and passion have helped me reach this place" says Rahul Gangwani

Everyone dreams to attain big status at some point in time but very few work hard and reach their destination. Similarly, entrepreneurship is a journey that requires diligence and unmatched motivation to achieve success. The whole strata of success is based on how much you are investing in your journey of entrepreneurship. When we see people with exponential growth have reached an acumen, they have the unmatched potential.
Entrepreneurship also requires a fair amount of investment, by investing one has better leverage over the startup or the business. As we all know in the Middle East, luxury cars are in demand and luxury car rentals are the future of Dubai. In this, Rahul Gangwani is investing large amounts of money to buy the latest fleet of luxury cars. His determination, passion and hard work have helped the company to reach greater heights in the recent past. We have seen in recent times that the luxury car rental segment is increasing at a rapid pace and will attain a huge market share by the end of 2025 in the Middle East. After understanding the opportunities and the progress of the luxury car rental world, Gangwani decided to invest in the RG Rental Business. Also, categorising luxury cars from normal cars will help them to create a separate sector. It is a promising name in India and is now expanding its footprint in Dubai. Also, renting a prestige car is far more economical as most people think that it would be very expensive. In this wake, RG Rent A Car is making a big leap.

Iman Zaidi bags the Bhartiya Kala Ratna Award

Iman Zaidi's phenomenal art of beautifying brides has captured the attention of young women throughout India. Wedding wish lists are incomplete without 'bridal makeup by Iman Zaidi'. She is not only admired by brides but also by many makeup enthusiasts. She is regarded as a great influence and inspiration for budding makeup artists.
Zaidi's work and talent was recognised by Global Scholars Foundation and she qualified as a nominee for **Bhartiya Ratna Awards (Jewel of India)**. Dr VijayKumar Swarupchand Shah, **Padmashri** title holder was the chief guest and presenter of the Noble Award.
She was the only nominee from the Indian bridal and beauty industry. Her effort in bringing forth recognition for the Indian makeup styles was highly appreciated by Dr Shah and the organisers.
"While many makeup artists are appreciated in the glamour industry, very few artists are working towards recognising the art of traditional bridal makeup styles of India. Makeup artists, especially those who work closely with Indian cultures must be recognised for their efforts as they use their talent in justifying a makeover for modern day women into a traditional one." says Zaidi.
She has worked with more than thousand brides throughout India and takes personal interest in different cultures and heritage of Indian aesthetic art.
Through her art she wishes to preserve the different traditional and cultural aspects of bridal makeup in the modern age. Her aim is to bring honourable recognition to Indian bridal makeup artists.

This plan is here to save your child's future financial needs

Life is filled with uncertainty and worries about the future. While many things are not under our control, as a parent, the emotional, physical, mental and financial security of your child is of utmost importance. In this ever-changing world, when you don't know what's going to happen next and how it will affect your child's future, it's essential that as parents, it is your responsibility to protect their financial future and ensure that their needs are not compromised and timely fulfilled.
The simplest and smartest way to do so to help your child be independent and financially secure is to have an insurance plan that specifically focuses on building a robust future for your child.
While there are various types of child insurance plan available, SBI Life- Smart Champ Insurance Plan is one such individual, non-linked, participating, life insurance savings product, which takes care of the child's future educational needs as soon as they turn 18 years of age. It is carefully crafted to meet the objectives and concerns of a parent. It is a life insurance cum savings plan that secures their bright future against the uncertainties of life.
Key features:
◆ Guaranteed smart benefits in four equal annual installments starting from age 18 till age 21
◆ Financial help in case of unfortunate or accidental death of a family member
◆ Ensures the child's higher education needs
Therefore, it is crucial to secure the child's future.

Failure is a great teacher and, if you are open to it, every mistake has a lesson to offer
—Oprah Winfrey



Thousand Pillar Temple, Warangal

RELIGIOUS INTERACTIONS — A REAPPRAISAL

As Indians, we must take pride in being a Secular nation and as citizens promote an environment devoid of religious antagonism for the greater good of humanity, writes SUSAN MISHRA

As we stand in the 21st century and witness bitter inter-religion intolerance, a peek into the past is imperative to understand the present. There are numerous instances from the medieval to the modern era in the south, north, and eastern India where Hindu and Muslim communities lived side by side without a feeling of animosity and antagonism.

In Malabar, Islam probably arrived in the 7th century CE along with the Arab traders, and by the 12th century CE, a strong Muslim community existed here. The Zamorins were Hindu rulers of the Kingdom of Calicut (now Kozhikode). They maintained elaborate trade relations with the Muslim Middle-Eastern sailors in the Indian Ocean as Calicut was then an important trading entrepôt on the western seaboard of India. Under the Zamorins, the Muslims enjoyed many commercial, political and religious privileges. The very fact that Zamorin rejected Vasco da Gama's request to banish all Muslims from his kingdom clearly speaks of the significance accorded to Muslims in a Hindu kingdom.

In fact, it is the Portuguese who became the common enemy of the Muslims and the Zamorin. The latter received full support from their Muslim populace in terms of mobilization of manpower, resources, and funding of wars against the Portuguese. The Muchundi and Mishkal mosques in Kozhikode are living examples of assistance provided by the Hindu Zamorin rulers to their Muslim community. The 13th century CE inscription in Muchundi mosque in Kuttichira, Kozhikode records the establishment of the mosque by certain Shahab al-din Raihan, and the Zamorin ruler granted some land to it for certain daily expenses incurred at the mosque. The Mishkal mosque is also located in Kuttichira, Kozhikode, and was built by a merchant ship owner in the 14th century CE. This mosque was attacked, destroyed and burnt in 1510 by the Portuguese.

The Zamorin was furious at seeing the devastation of the city and the destruction of the mosque. The combined efforts and firm determination by the Nairs and Muslims shattered the dreams of the early colonizers in Malabar. Post the victory of the Zamorin in the battle of Chaliyam, the ruler supported the restoration and reconstruction of the Mishkal mosque. It is believed that the stones and the wood from the Chaliyam fort were carried and placed in the yard at Mishkal to be used in the reconstruction of the mosque. The Khasi Foundation of Kuttichira commemorated 500 years of the grand gesture of the religious harmony of the times by honoring the Zamorin. In remembrance of the great harmony between the two communities and for thanking the 'Zamorin King' for his solidarity with the Muslims, the representatives of the Khasi Foundation visited the residence of the current descendants of the erstwhile Zamorin kings and presented him a painting of the Mishkal Mosque.

Turning the focus on 21st century Kerala, at Ponnani a 16th century CE mosque, known as

Misri Palli preserves its original structure due to the efforts of a non-Muslim speaker and legislator. When the work of its demolition began for the purposes of constructing a new mosque, some people contacted P. Sreeramakrishnan, who rushed to the site and stopped the work. He called a meeting of the mosque committee and convinced its members not to dismantle it so that it is preserved under the Miziris- Ponnani heritage conservation project.

Erumeli/ Erumeli in the Kottayam district of Kerala is a living example of how myths and legends can bind two religious communities and assimilate a mosque within an important Hindu religious pilgrimage. The Mosque here is dedicated to Vavar who is considered a companion of Lord Ayyappa. Every year multitudes of Hindu pilgrims worship at this mosque before they embark on the arduous trek to the holy shrine of Sabarimala Ayappa Swami. There are many legends about Vavar and according to one, Vavar was an Arab commander who was defeated by Lord Ayyappa. Impressed by Vavar's valor, he became Ayappa's close associate and aided him in the wars in the mountainous region. According to belief, Vavar protects devotees who make the difficult trek through the forests to the main temple at the top of the hill that houses the Sabarimala Temple.

The Hindu Vijayanagara Empire's 14th century CE capital of Hampi and its monuments is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Legends and inscriptions speak of Hindu support to the Muslim populace of the kingdom. At Sindhaghatta in Mandya district of Karnataka, the Muslim community did not have a mosque and Babu setti, a local merchant, built a mosque to which the local officer Rangayya Nayaka gifted a village. What is of interest is that the mosque was not built at a site away from a Hindu settlement, but was located amidst villages granted as gifts to learned Brahmins.

Legend has it that Babbaya, a Muslim Fakir, established himself at Penukonda and had a strong following. After the death of the fakir, a dargah was erected, and the grant of Venkata II records the restoration of certain villages originally granted by Vira Narasingha Raya, Sadashiva, and Venkata I, to the dargah of Babbaya in Penukonda. Mangammal, a Hindu Nayaka queen made a gift of some villages in 1701-02 CE in Tiruchirappalli to the dargah of Babanatta.

The other contemporaneous dynasty ruling at Deccan was the Muslim Adil Shahis of Bijapur (1489 to 1686). A Farman of Muhammad Adil Shah dated to 1653 CE records a grant made by the ruler to Namdev Vithal, a Brahmin from Mubarakabad. Namdev was the head of Joshis and had approached the ruler for royal favours and the Sultan obliged by granting land at various localities. He also received a tanka (gold coin) from highway and food grains and was also exempt from payment of taxes.

Ibrahim Adil Shah II (1580 CE to 1627 CE) was a great patron of music and is credited with the composition of the book Kitab i Nauras is a book of couplets and verses dedicated to Hindu

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IBRAHIM ADIL SHAH II (1580 CE TO 1627 CE) WAS A GREAT PATRON OF MUSIC AND IS CREDITED WITH THE COMPOSITION OF KITAB I NAURAS, A BOOK OF COUPLETS AND VERSES DEDICATED TO HINDU DEITIES AND MUSLIM SAINTS. WHAT IS OF INTEREST IS THAT MOST ARE DEDICATED TO SARASWATI, GANESH, AND OTHER HINDU DEITIES. THE TEXT BEGINS WITH AN INVOCATION TO GODDESS SARASWATI FOR HER BLESSINGS AND FAVOURS. DESCRIPTIONS OF LORD GANESH AND LORD SHIVA HAVE BEEN BEAUTIFULLY DESCRIBED BY THE SULTAN IN HIS COMPOSITIONS
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Hanumangarhi Temple, Ayodhya

deities and Muslim saints. What is of interest is that most are dedicated to Saraswati, Ganesh and other Hindu deities. The text begins with an invocation to Goddess Saraswati for her blessings and favours. Descriptions of Lord Ganesh and Lord Shiva have been beautifully described by the Sultan in his compositions.

In the modern epoch of South India, the seventh Nizam of Hyderabad- Mir Osman Ali Khan (ruled from 1911-1948) deserves special mention. He had a liberal outlook toward religion and provided financial assistance and donations to temples and Brahmins in his kingdom. Mir Osman Ali Khan tended to the repair, and maintenance of the conservation of the Thousand Pillar Temple at Warangal. The Nizam also donated liberally to various temples in his dominions.

Turning towards the region of eastern India, in Orissa Salabega occupies a permanent position among the devotional poets of Odisha. He lived in the first half of the 17th century and was the son of the Mughal Subedar. According to folklore, he was held up on his way while returning from Vrindavan to Jagannatha and he prayed earnestly to the Lord to wait for him on the Nandighosha chariot so that he could see his Lord. The Lord waited there and gave darshan to Salabega, his dear devotee on the Bada Danda, near Balagandi. An ardent devotee of Shri Krishna and Jagannath, Salabega devoted his life to composing bhajans, hymns, and devotional songs in praise of the Shri Jagannath and Radha Krishna.

In Ahom kingdom, the Muslim populace was well assimilated into the Assamese society and the army included many Muslim soldiers and officers who fought against the Mughals. Ismail Siddique, popularly known as Bagh

Hazarika played a significant role in the Battle of Saraighat in 1671. An inscription of Ahom king Lakshmi Singha issued around 1780 CE records a grant in favour of Hazi Anwar Fakir. Ahom king Kamaleswar Singha reconfirmed all earlier grants made by the Mughal and Ahom rulers in favour of Khadim of Hajo Dargah.

In the context of north India, in the erstwhile region of Awadh, in 1855 at the Hanumangarhi temple at Ayodhya conflict arose between the Hindus and the Muslims. Wajid Ali Shah is said to have appointed a Committee to investigate the matter, and the decision went in favour of the Hindus. On learning about an imminent attack on the temple, Wajid Ali Shah ordered a regiment to guard the temple. Other instances include the 250-year-old Hanuman temple of Lucknow which is believed to have been constructed by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula's mother Alia Begum. The mosque, popularly called as Padain Masjid in Aminabad was built by Rani Jai Kunwar Pandey, a Brahmin as a gift to her close friend - the Begum of Nawab Saadat Ali Khan.

When we try to look at the past from a 21st-century lens, we will inevitably see Hindus and Muslims as polar opposites. While there are challenges in Hindu-Muslim relations, it would be naive to dismiss the relative social harmony in which the two communities have coexisted in India. As Indians, we must take pride in being a Secular nation and as citizens promote an environment devoid of religious antagonism for the greater good of humanity.

(The writer is a research scholar and recipient of the Devangana Desai senior Fellowship CSMVS Mumbai. She is also the author of two books

A SEARCH FOR SELF-FULFILLMENT

Review by
NAVIN UPADHYAY

Kashmir has been a favourite destination for moviemakers, writers, and poets. Before the militancy set in and Kashmir became a graveyard of artistic aspirations and dreams, the pristine valley with its sentinels of age-old chinars and fragrant saffron-inspired celluloid fantasy and small screens blockbusters. Its landscaped charms also wooed poets and writers from far and wide.

After the place turned into a theatre of prey and predators, where guns and grenades, death and decay, grief and torture dominated every aspect of living, the valley provided different types of ingredients to fuel artistic aspirations. The stories that came out of Kashmir were now laced with grief, sadness, nostalgia, and longings. Tarannum Riyaz's *BIRDS OF THE SNOW* is a similar yarn.

Originally published in Urdu as *Barf Aashna Parindey*, the book explores the transformative aspect of Kashmir, the rapid urbanization of the valley, and its impact on the people who have grown up hearing: ar Firdaus bar-rue zamin ast, hami asto, hamin asto, hamin astnot (If there is a heaven on earth, it's here, it's here.)

The book deals with the struggle of a sensitive college student Sheba to strike a compromise between her inner yearnings for freedom and the values and norms her family and society expected her to embrace. It's the story of a girl's poignant struggle to overcome the burden of conditioning and traditionality. The story explores our deepest emotions—love, fear, insecurity, and longing in a way that is both evocative and original.

Sheba wishes to be free, just like the birds that she likes observing, but understands the need to live within social conventions and accept life's responsibilities.

When Sheba returns to the valley after years spent studying outside, she is struck by a pang of sadness. Tarannum has captured Sheba's feeling in a poignant passage:



The journey to the village has been her favourite journey but today, waves of sadness washed over her mind time and again. She occasionally looked at the reflection of Amki, Baaji, and Farkhanda in the rear-

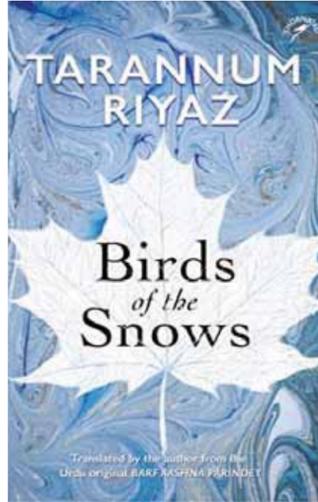
view mirror. Baaji's husband was driving and no one to talk to anyone."

Passages like this dominate the book, in which the author makes a genuine effort to bring alive the life and time of the

Kashmir valley in her own inimitable style. After reading the book, it'll be easy to understand that Tarannum wrote this story not just to fulfill some personal dreams, but to give voice to tens of thousands of

Shebas who are struggling to discover the meaning of their lives in a fast-changing society.

In the word of the publisher the Niyogi Books, This deftly translated novel



depicts the changing times in Kashmir, from a rural to more urban life, the impact of modern thinking, and through its portrayal of female characters explore their compassion and resolves, as well as their search for self-fulfillment."

The editing part of the book is fine as far as grammar is concerned. But errors on the craft side disrupt the smooth flow of the story. The writing is full of unwanted adverbs, (She walked quickly... Abbu smiled pleasantly), avoidable exclamations marks, and stilted dialogues. Paragraphs after paragraphs are littered with "hads" and "ing", the two nemeses of literary writings.

These flaws apart, which are the bane of most English books published in India, *BIRDS OF THE SNOW* is a poignant story that delves into the human relationship and social and moral values of a strife-torn landscape.

The Reviewer is the Executive Editor of The Pioneer

The Trail of Buddha is like a fascinating train journey

Review by
RAJ KANWAR

A senior officer in the Indian Revenue Service, Deepankar Aron was posted in Hong Kong as a Consul way back in 2012. It was just a happenstance that he noticed a 35-meter high Tian Tan Buddha statue standing right next to the Hong Kong Airport that put him "On the Trail of Buddha: A Journey to the East". However, his initial inspiration had come three years before when he was on the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in Tibet in 2009.

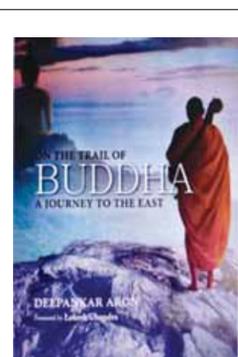
Deepankar writes about two octogenarian Japanese pilgrims who had stood with folded hands before an old and dilapidated structure that seemed to be 'sanctum sanctorum of a temple'. It was somewhat surprising that they should have travelled thousands of miles as pilgrims to a non-descript corner of China called Karakhoja. Even more surprising was the fact that one was a Buddhist priest and the other a worshipper of Lord Krishna - the Hindu Lord whose sacred message forms the essence of Bhagavad Gita.

"It is the story of these two unlikely Japanese pilgrims that epitomizes the theme of this Book - exploring the richness, depth and breadth of the spiritual, philosophical and cultural linkages that bind India to the East Asian civilizations of China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia," writes Deepankar.

The Book straddles between the various regions of East Asia, from Kashgar in Xinjiang in the West to Koyasan in Japan in the East; from Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia in the North and to Kaohsiung in Taiwan in the South. It is as much about the discovery of a tremendous unity in diversity, as it is about hopping between different time zones separated by 2000 years of history.

SIX CHAPTERS IN THE BOOK

THE BOOK is divided into six chapters for ease of navigation. The first covers the ancient cities along the Silk Road in China that were significantly responsible for the spread of Buddhism from India not only into China but also in much of the East Asia. The second covers the North-South trade axis that connects China with Mongolia. The third one moves from Sichuan in South-Western China to the primordial Kailash Parvat or Kang Rinpoche and the lake, Mansarovar or Mapham Yumtso in Tibet. The fourth moves to the South-Eastern coastal China and Taiwan from Hong Kong to



Title: On the Trail of BUDDHA: A Journey to the East
Author: Deepankar Aron
Pages: 308
Publisher: NIYOGI BOOKS
Cover Price: ₹1995/-

Shanghai touching Hangzhou, Suzhou and Nanjing. It then moves from Taipei to Kaohsiung passing through the city of Tainan, dotted with temples. It is possibly one of the most prosperous regions of China with many modern cities. It is thus not a surprise that most of the grandest and tallest statues of Buddha have come up there in the recent past. The fifth one meanders inside the calmness of Korea, and last but not the least comes the land

of the Rising Sun - a place where history, tradition, religion and culture are seen most beautifully preserved. The author also highlights five to 10 representative cities in each of these regions.

Writing a book of such magnitude was not an easy task. Initially the author did not undertake all those journeys with the object of writing a book. However, "a propitious chain of circumstances, made the way from one place to another starting with the longest pilgrimage in the world - KAILASH." He faced numerous challenges such as language, distances, permissions, paucity of time, and resources of course, but luckily all those were sorted out. Interestingly, these journeys were undertaken in all modes of transportation - both animal and mechanized - riding camels, mules and horses; walking and trekking, especially in Tibet. The most exciting of the travelling modes for Deepankar was the high speed trains in Japan, China and Taiwan.

JOURNEY ON SLOW MOVING TRAIN RATHER A BULLET TRAIN

EMINENT Indian Vedic scholar Prof. Lokesh Chandra is all ecstatic about Deepankar Aron's book "On the Trail of BUDDHA: A Journey to the East". "The Book is fascinating in its flowing diction and minimum of technical details. It celebrates the last two millennia when

the Asian Nations together made the journey of the Mind, serene depths of thought, art, piety confluence in the rapture of the roots," Chandra writes in his Foreword. "The living monasteries in East Asia and the desolation of the ruins in Central Asia due to theistic violence become the fascination of eyes in the evocative narrative of Deepankar. He opens up the immensity of our lost heritage, like the grandeur of Colossi in the Yun-Kang caves that are avise symbols of the majesty of the Avatamsaka tradition, reminiscent of the Bamiyan Buddhas," Prof. Chandra adds.

On the Trail of BUDDHA: A Journey to the East takes the reader on a slow-moving train journey rather a Bullet train. The author has chronicled the spread of Buddhism, as preserved in the traditions of these countries, binding them with India. Though somewhat smaller in size than the standard Coffee Table Book, On the Trail of BUDDHA with its 308 pages illustrated with bountiful photographs indicative of Deepankar's expertise with camera and printed on art paper provides an easy read.

The reviewer is the Commissioner, Goods & Services Tax in Uttarakhand. He is an intrepid traveller, ace photographer and a prolific writer. He has also received the Presidential Award for his distinguished contributions as an Indian Revenue Service officer.



The art of job-hunting

"JOB SEARCH SECRETS – Master the art of getting the job" co-authored by SUBIR VERMA and SAGARIKA SAHU VERMA has come at the right time as the issue of unemployment has begun to make headlines in the country. Subir works as Chief Human Resource at Tata Power DDL, and Sagarika Sahu Verma is a CEO of an edutech company.

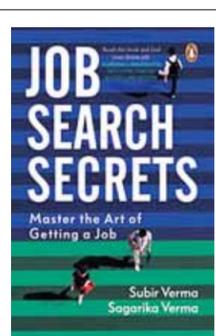
Review by
DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

This book is an effort to bring all aspects of job search to one place with various supporting tools to provide complete theory and practice to master the art of searching for a job. Free tools shared in the book can give results in the shortest possible time.

Starting from how to choose the right career, the book covers how to find a hidden job, how to find people who can help in finding job and build long-time relationships with them, what to do to crack campus, virtual and other interviews, salary negotiation, and using social media for the job hunt.

Each chapter has practical tips with examples of real students and job aspirants for each one to relate to and use. For each of the areas, free tools exercise has been recommended which anyone can use without any cost seating at home. There is a general perception that you need to relocate to bigger cities to get a job. What about those who cannot relocate themselves? The book has the answer to many such issues faced by candidates and offers solutions. "Use of social media and job portal to find a job and also use them in such way that one can easily get a job of his/her choice has been lucidly explained in the book," says Dr Sagarika.

"Not only what one needs to do, but how to do it, sample script, how to practice and implement are



Title: Job Search Secrets – Master the art of getting the job
Authors: Subir Verma and Sagarika Sahu Verma
Publisher: PENGUIN INDIA
Price: ₹250/-

what has been shared in details in very simple and easy to understand language", adds Dr Sagarika. Job seekers have qualifications, skill but they are not effectively use them during their job search and interview, she said.

The book talks about the problem of largescale unemployment. India has over five crores of educated unemployed youth. Every year more than 50 lacs of educated youth gets added into the list. Educated youth is frustrated, dejected, and is losing hope. Even professionally qualified youth who have engineering, management, and graduate

degrees are not getting job. The situation is so grim that highly educated people are taking up odd jobs.

On the other hand, companies always complain that they are not getting the "right talent". They have vacancies but are not able to hire. When there are crores of educated youth are available, why companies are not able to hire them? Where is the gap? Companies have the resources to hire talent. But crores of youth need help to find employment. The biggest gap is that job seekers search jobs based on what they need rather than what companies want.

"I feel sad when I read in the newspaper that for one vacancy for the post of peon, thousands of people, including highly educated with MBA and Ph.D. degrees as well as engineers, apply. We thought to find a way to help such youth to make them know how they can find a job. This book is an effort to help these educated unemployed youth", Subir told the Pioneer.

Not all jobs are advertised. In fact, more than 50% of jobs are not advertised by companies and they recruit through other channels. Now, students or job seekers are missing half of the available job if they do not know how to reach them. The book has received excellent responses from not only students, job seekers, and working professionals but also industry senior professionals.

The Reviewer is Special Correspondent of The Pioneer

Indo-Pacific Eco Framework: Concept to strategy

The genesis of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework can be traced to October 2021, during the East Asia Summit held virtually. At the East Asia Summit, the US President enunciated his plans to unveil a US-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

Following the initial announcement, the Biden administration released an Indo-Pacific Strategy in February 2022, which saw a formal iteration of the IPEF. As such, it bears no surprise to see US President Joe Biden officially launched the IPEF on May 23, 2022, in Tokyo before the QUAD leaders' Summit.

In addition to the four Quad members, leaders from 9 other nations namely Brunei, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam participated virtually. These countries became the founding members of the IPEF initiative making a "baker's dozen". Out of the thirteen participating countries in the IPEF, seven are also part of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). However, three ASEAN countries — Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar — have refrained from participating in the IPEF.

The partial overlap of the IPEF with ASEAN reflects that the economic strategy has factored in China. The seven countries in IPEF which have overlapping membership with the ASEAN will help the US and its Quad partners to further consolidate the "ASEAN centrality" principle of the Indo-Pacific strategy.

Both Laos and Cambodia have perhaps been left out due to their proximity to Beijing, while Myanmar has paid the price for a non-democratic political functioning that continues in the country since the military junta grabbed power. That creating competitive structures against China lies at the heart of the IPEF has become clearer with the engagement of Taiwan in a similar bilateral engagement, albeit outside the IPEF.

In many ways, the IPEF is an offshoot of the re-invigorated America's "Pivot to Asia"



For India, which is not part of the China-led Regional Comprehensive Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement, the IPEF might emerge as a more reliable and credible alternative in creating new mechanisms in the Indo-Pacific



VIVEK MISHRA



MRITYUNJAYA DUBEY

strategy launched in 2011 during the Obama administration. The strategy aimed to relocate the strategic focus of the US from West Asia to the Pacific theatre, primarily because of the competition and threats it faces from China. Besides, it also sought to advance the US' economic and geopolitical interests through wider engagements with the Asia-Pacific region.

The two important constituents of this strategy were the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor. However, the US' withdrawal from the

TPP during the presidency of Donald Trump in 2017 deteriorated the progress made in terms of coalition-building and intensification of geopolitical and geo-economic ties with allies in the Indo-Pacific region.

The "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" strategy released in 2019 during the Trump administration gathered inimical reactions from the allies and partners in the region. It was perceived as a confrontational narrative rather than a regional strategy.

Therefore, the return of a new collective strategy by the US to collectively compete

with China, at a time when the US dominance on the trade and investment is facing intense competition from Beijing in the region, may be a timely and well-calibrated step to instil fair and principled regional competition which is consistent with climate goals and predictable supply chains. China is the leading trade partner of almost all the IPEF member countries. As such, the IPEF initiative outlines the underlying thrust in building partner coalitions, developing a collective response and preventing the growing Chinese influence in the region.

Broadly, the evolving predicament within the IPEF countries is China using its economic heavyweight for achieving its security and diplomatic goals. The IPEF could present an opportunity for like-minded countries of the Quad to find new and reliable alternatives to their current dependencies on China, especially in trade related infrastructure and supply chains. In particular, for India, which is not part of the China-led Regional Comprehensive Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement, the IPEF might emerge as a more reliable and

credible alternative in creating new mechanisms in the Indo-Pacific. India's own FTA being negotiated with ASEAN could be consistent with some of the objectives of the IPEF.

Much of how the IPEF will unravel remains to be seen. The IPEF countries that are already part of some sort of Free Trade Agreements such as CPTPP and RCEP would require "substantial incentives" from the US to diversify their ties from any such already existing arrangements in the region.

Also, the four focus areas of the IPEF: trade, supply chains, clean energy, decar-

bonisation and infrastructure; tax and anti-corruption need to be implemented and assessed. While executing these focus areas, climate, labour and data localisation standards in the IPEF countries (which are not as per the US standards) might turn out to be prominent irritants.

(Vivek Mishra is fellow, Strategic Studies Program, ORF, New Delhi. Mrityunjaya Dubey is a researcher and Senior Assistant member with The Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers affiliated with the Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs)

PERSPECTIVE

Hate speeches malign the idea of India

It is high time the Government cracked down on all fringe elements and renewed its focus on 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'

The contemptuous and abominable remarks of the BJP leaders on Prophet Muhammad unleashed strong reactions not only in India but also in the Islamic countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Iran, etc, resulting in calls to ban Indian products.

Though the BJP has strongly denounced the remarks and said that insult to any religious personalities is not permissible, and immediately suspended its leaders from the party's membership for not toeing the official line on sensitive matters, it has become an international issue in no time. However, for consolation, the action taken by the BJP has been welcomed by many Muslim countries.

Provocative speeches are not a new phenomenon in India, irrespective of whether it is Congress regimes or the BJP's. However, the intensity of such communal sledging from both sides has increased during the BJP's regime.

Why did it happen?

The role of the mainstream and social media has been questionable over the last few years as they have often been found adding fuel to the fire. India's splendid past is full of glory and wonders. History develops the ability to avoid mistakes and create better paths for societies. Nevertheless, some of the media houses delve into the history and spoil all its might to prove that rottenness is actually producing high quality of fragance. The uproar on TV channels on religious lines has mostly been provocative and derogatory. Allowing fringe elements to dis-

respect religions and make controversial statements on TV shows with impunity put the anchor's role in question.

The 200 million Indian Muslims who have been living here have opted to live in India in the hope that this country will give them more respect and freedom than the neighbouring Muslim countries. Then the moot point is what purpose the provocative speeches serve.

Although there are some differences between the Muslim aspira-

tions and the BJP's ideology, but these are ideological which is permissible in a healthy democracy. The nation is already facing numerous problems, people themselves are fighting against poverty, environmental degradation, joblessness and various health problems, but some media houses for their vested interest, instead of raising the genuine issues, have deliberately been dividing and creating gulf in society in the name of religion, and this is the greatest obstacle in the way of development.

Possible trade threats

India's overall economy during Mughals was several times more than many European countries which attracted many Europeans to India. It is believed that the only reason of this richness and prosperity was peace and tranquility. However, economic destruction began during the British rule. They divided people along religious lines in order to loot India's resources. People were dying in starvation but the British were busy draining the wealth of India.

History is evident that peace, brotherhood and justice bring prosperity and development, and on the contrary hatred ruins and destroys nations. Therefore, it is required that the Government crack down on fringe elements and renew its focus on "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas".

The recent reactions from Muslim countries will further damage the Indian economy if no quick remedial action is taken. As per media reports, the Gulf countries account for almost one fifth of India's total trade. For instance, in the year 2020-21 the total value of the goods imported from the GCC countries was worth \$110.73 billion. India imports 40 per cent of crude oil, 18 per cent of petroleum gas and 8 per cent of diamond from the Gulf countries, while it exports 14 per cent of refined petroleum, 8 per cent of jewellery and 7 per cent of rice. In other words, India imports 72 per cent worth \$111 billion and exports 28 per cent worth \$44 billion.

It is noteworthy that the UAE and Saudi Arabia are the third and fourth biggest trade partners of India. The UAE alone is accounted for 6.6 per cent of India's total export, and 7.3 per cent of imports last year touched about \$73 billion. Saudi Arabia on the other hand is accounted for almost 80 per cent of import worth \$34.1 billion and 20 per cent of export worth \$8.75 billion. Other GCC countries trade volumes are: Iraq 34.3 per cent, Qatar 15 per cent, Kuwait 12.2 per cent, Oman 10 per cent and Bahrain 1.7 per cent.

Gulf countries are well known to

be the second home of almost 10 million Indians making it the largest Indian diaspora across the globe and contributing immensely in the foreign reserves of India.

As a matter of fact, India is the largest recipient of the foreign remittances. As per last year's World Bank report, India received \$87 billion foreign remittances in 2021, half of these foreign remittances was sent from just five Gulf countries i.e., UAE 26.9 per cent, Saudi 11.6 per cent, Qatar 6.5 per cent, Kuwait 5.5 per cent and Oman 3 per cent. In view of the emerging trade and cultural ties between India and the Arab world, it shall be disastrous if the differences aggravate further and no remedial and timely actions taken.

It's a well-known fact that India and Arab world have very strong trade and cultural relations for centuries. They believe in coexistence and mutual cooperation. It is the responsibility of the Government of the day to be accountable for both the successes and failures. Hence it is high time for India to work on the immediate corrective measures both internally and externally to fight the true evil of the society i.e hatred, poverty, unemployment, etc, and have proper control on the fringe elements and the media houses that are trying to divide and damage the true spirit of India.

(The author teaches at King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, KSA. He is founding Chairman of Indo-Arab Helping Hands and the International Adviser to Millennial India International Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture.)



ASIF RAMEEZ DAUDI



An artisan prepares eco-friendly idols of god Ganesha for Ganesh Chaturthi festival in Hyderabad on Saturday

AP

MY BEST FRIEND IS A PERSON WHO WILL GIVE ME A BOOK I HAVE NOT READ — ABRAHAM LINCOLN



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

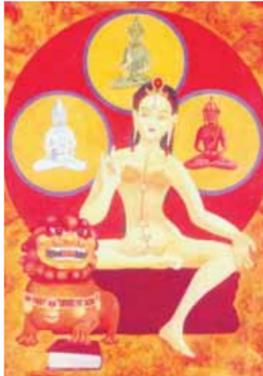
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

Health-wise, this week will be fabulous. If you are waiting on test results of some kind they are likely to be good results. You'll be calm, relieved and inspired. You are in touch with your spirituality now that this is a great time for you to reach out to others, and to share your wisdom and your joy. Something may be troubling you concerning your professional life. Worrying about your job is not going to help matters. Focus on what you can control, and try to leave your anxiety behind. Be open and straightforward in your approach to work. There are many hassles on personal fronts. Your spouse may have some other priorities in life than your love. This is not a time to act out in rage, instead, look at the situation from a place of love and compassion.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Health needs your attention. If there is stress or anxiety and you feel over-burdened due to work, find means to relax. Work with humour, laughter is the best remedy. The stress of work could be neutralized by enjoying yourself and creating a lighter environment. Bring balance in everything that is associated with exercise, way of living, relaxation and your emotional and mental wellbeing. On the career front, you are more successful in performing tasks that involve cooperation and team harmony. You are going to get a great deal accomplished with high spirit in a short period. If you are committed your relations will be more mature and have understanding. Good time to take important decisions related to the relationship. This is the time when you can fuse life in dead relations to make them alive.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Health-wise, you find things are going alright up to the satisfaction level. Prosperity, progress and happiness could be enjoyed this week. You are likely to have several clear flashes of important spiritual insights during this time. Share and discuss them with others, you are all on a spiritual journey, and your insights are likely to be valuable to others. Some doubts on the career front become clearer but all is not yet revealed at this point. This week you are focused on your approach. A pleasant surprise may be coming your way soon concerning work. You may come up with some new processes that make your work-life simpler and less stressful. This is the time to stay away from building new relationships. The time is not right for deep bonding and pure love.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you will not compromise on health issues. This is a good thing. You can create order out of chaos by carefully categorizing your thoughts and mapping out what needs to be done to solve the problem. Try to be a little flexible, sensitive and soft in your approach. Career-wise, you have a sharp mind and are ready to take risks. Your professional approach at this time will benefit you. Avoid silly debates otherwise, you will put yourself in a heated argument. You'll find a solution to a recent quarrel but don't let your pride stop you from getting immediate clarification. This is an excellent time for a new relationship. If you're already committed, your relationship may move to new, higher, more fulfilling levels. Your confidence level will increase.

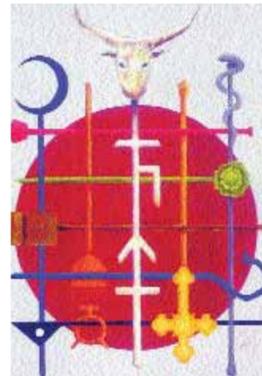
Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you need attention and care of your loved ones. Any health problems manifesting now may be a result of neglected emotional issues. Create your energy and enthusiasm. Find the most upbeat and spiritually aware person that you know, and talk to him/her about what makes them tick. You will learn helpful things. You may have recently come through a very difficult time on the career front. Just be sure that you don't make the same mistakes which will contribute to the problem. Worrying about your job is not going to help matters. You are not in a mood to tolerate boss order or a higher tone. Patience is the key. You are fully charged with emotions and sentiments. You try to fulfil the demands of loved ones. This is a good time to express feelings if you love someone.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week your medical issues need immediate attention. Remember prevention is better than cure. You may need to change in routine, environment or experiment with different spiritual traditions. Listen to the voice of your body. A grooming personality, smart looks, and good communication skills work wonders for a good career path. To gain confidence, you need to focus on your working style, attitude and your dealings with the people around you. Bring desirable changes if you want that things are not moving as per your requirements. Be a good listener. Co-operation and harmony at the workplace will get you the best results. This week does not predict a sound relationship. You may feel emotionally hurt and broken. Love relationships could be disheartening. Try to sort out the differences and find a solution.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Working on keeping a balanced perspective about life will help you to stay healthy this week. Moderation is an important part of living a sensible and healthy life. Conservatism and following strict superstitions would not be good. If you suffering from any health issues, consulting a doctor and examining yourself is a must. On the professional front, you are the leader and people will look for your guidance. Focus your attention completely on your goal and be very careful not to reveal any weaknesses or personal doubts. Through willpower and self-control, you will come out with the solutions for tough times. You enjoy the company of friends and relatives. Things should be going well, especially on the love front. You can look forward to at least one pleasant reunion with someone that you have been apart from for some time.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you are very conscious on the health front and devote time to looking after your well-being. From starting good nutrition to exercise, and relaxing to keep yourself away from tension and worries, you know how to restore your health. Every action makes a difference. Think positive, remember healthy mind stays in a healthy body and success is guaranteed. On the career front, you need to be alert, agile and patient as you attempt to juggle your family, your friends, work, finances, health and new challenges this week. Priorities your needs and activities and carefully manage your time. Financial constraints may be felt and you find it difficult to start a new venture due to a lack of funds. You feel lucky in matters of the heart. Things are smooth and you enjoy the company of your loved ones.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week brings balance between work & family, body & mind. You are very imaginative and spend a lot of time thinking, dreaming and weaving stories. The desires and passions could increase this week, making you a weak person. Your efficiency may go down. Physical exercise will help you stay grounded. On the career front, things will keep on moving as per your desires giving you much scope and hopes for the future. Be prepared for a surprise. An important project may be assigned to you. You may work for the cause and attain immense satisfaction. You are caring and generous to the needs of your loved ones and devote quite a good time to looking after them. You may feel alone in the later part of the week and may plan something exciting with your loved ones.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week some external forces are likely to make you tensed in all aspects. You remain mentally upset. You might get worried about health issues too. Trust your instincts and don't fill yourself with negative feelings, don't get upset and restless. Meditation, yoga and Pranayam activities would be good for you at this time. Gather your strength and self-confidence. Professionally, your work will pick up momentum, though, in the beginning, you would be slightly apprehensive and negative. In the later part, you may be all fired up about the issues that you are particularly passionate about. This week if you have set your mind to accomplish your goals you can achieve anything you desire. You will fall short of words to express yourself when it comes to love. True love allows for space between the lovers.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Some negative forces are at play against you this week. Be cautious of your health. This is a time that you need to watch out for being overworked, overtired, and over-stressed Addictions and obsessions could be dominant upon you. Pay attention to diet, exercise, and making time to rest and eat healthy food. Career-wise, a new job opportunity is on the card. If you are trying to switch over or looking for your career to start, this is the time when you are called for. The business person will earn good money this week. This is still a time that calls for financial restraint. Save for the hard days. Be open to new possibilities and stimulate your imagination to allow your talent to unfold. You may end or close up a stale relationship with the one you loved.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week is a good time in terms of your health, charm and personality. You are in an entertaining mood and spend time socializing. This will prove to be refreshing, rejuvenating and gives you hopes and dreams. Joy and celebrations are on the cards. Career-wise, this week is mixed with positive and negative energies. You have both mental and physical agility. Anticipation makes you an avid learner and an excellent student. Your sharpened skills would motivate you to perform exceptionally well. You will experience sudden personal growth if you use your energies for something meaningful. This is a good time for you in terms of a relationship. If you're already committed, be sure that your communication is as clear as it can be. Ensure to take some time to talk to each other.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Wednesday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Adapt fresh methods proven by research for clear lead

Astrology, like any other discipline has general rules for analysing a horoscope. The paradox, however, is that every individual is born unique, each carrying varying desire and mind trends as well as future potentialities. Even twins born within few minutes are found exhibiting diametrically opposite characters. That makes it difficult to blindly apply the law of average while reading a chart. So, more often than not reading an astrological chart becomes a puzzle.

Late Shri K S Krishnamurti, following a detailed research during mid twentieth century, came out with startling revelation, which made things easy for the astrologers. He found that instead of looking at the sign placement of planets as applied by the traditional astrology, its three coordinates when seen in togetherness - the sign, nakshatra and its further subdivisions into 9 unequal segments, as applied in working out dasha system - will offer the right lead. He also discovered that the sub-lord of the house-cusp signifying a particular matter under consideration would help figure out its poten-

tial with clarity. Here again, instead of paying attention to just the house under consideration, other related houses should also be looked into. For instance, in case of marriage, apart from the 7th house, 2nd and 11th houses too need to be taken into account. For, 2nd house signifies addition to family and 11th house is marked with fulfilment of desires. In case of career, the 2nd (income), 6th (success over competitors), 10th (job prospects) and 11th houses should be looked into. Based on his findings he developed a system of significators of different houses, to figure out the timing of events. Having applied this system for more than three decades, I found that this system offers indications with a fair amount of precision. Even working on this system, reading some charts prove baffling, especially in terms of timing of events.

Here is the case of a girl whose marriage got unduly delayed. With Mars conjunct Saturn in the lagna, it was clear that marriage would not happen before attaining 30 years, and it will not come about easy. When she entered her 35th year, the parents were



worried. So was I. For, I was not able to give them a clear answer. That made me work out afresh. The 7th cusp was ruled by Venus as the sign lord, Sun as the nakshatra lord, and Mercury as the sub-lord. Mercury the

11th lord signifying fulfilment of desire was conjunct the Sun and Venus, and so her marriage was promised. The significators of 2nd, 6th and 11th houses worked out were Mars, Jupiter, Venus, Rahu, Moon,

Ketu and Mercury. In such a situation KP system suggests having a look at the rulings planets from the chart drawn at the moment of consultation to figure out the probable dasha combination most suited to the event. Usually, the lagna sign and nakshatra lords; Moon sign and nakshatra lords; and day lord are taken as ruling planets. The ruling planets help eliminate unworkable planets from the list of significators.

I drew a ruling planets chart on September 6, 2020 at 13:48:50 hours at Delhi. The ruling planets emerged as Sun as day lord, Jupiter as lagna sign lord, Ketu as nakshatra lord of lagna as well as Moon sign, and Mars as the Moon sign lord. Ketu by its placement represented Jupiter. The girl was running Saturn antardasha during Moon dasha. Saturn neither appears as a significator or a ruling planet. So, marriage during that period was ruled out. That will be successively followed by Mercury and Ketu antardasha. Apparently, it indicated marriage during Ketu antardasha. What struck me at that moment that Fortuna when progressed one degree for a year

became exactly trine to Mars, the lagna lord, implying that her fortune was looking up. So, the marriage should happen within a year. But Mercury did not apparently appear as a ruling planet. That drew my attention Rahu, Moon's sub-lord, which represented Mercury by its sign placement. Also 7th sub-lord of the ruling planet chart was Mercury. Now Mars was conjunct Moon, and also aspected Venus, so the they were also taken as ruling planets. Accordingly, I fixed up Moon dasha, Mercury antardasha, Jupiter pratyantara, and Venus shookshma running between 20th and 31st January 2022 as the probable time of marriage. She got married on 24th January 2022.

To sum up, astrologer should analyse every chart with an open mind, without any preconditioning whatsoever, and then his experience and intuitive sense will provide him with the right lead.

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