PAK INTERIOR MINISTER ADVISES IMRAN

TO CALL ELECTIONS AFTER BUDGET

'INDIA CAN GROW AT 8%

FOR NEXT 20 YEARS'

DEHRADUN HYDERABAD

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Post poll win Govt extends Cong to make a din over mehngai free foodgrain scheme

PMGKAY to go on for another 6 months until Sept; cost Govt ₹80k cr: Goyal

PNS NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday I extended the free foodgrain programme 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), for six months till September this year to provide relief to the poor. A decision in this regard was taken in a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to experts, the free foodgrain scheme meant for the poor was a trump card for the Modi Government in recently-concluded Assembly polls in five States, especially in Uttar Pradesh.

Announcing the decision, Union Food Minister Piyush Goval tweeted that the Government has extended the scheme till September 2022. The extension of the scheme despite the end of the Covid-19 pandemic shows the Modi Government's sensitivity towards the poor, he tweeted.



Under the PMGKAY programme, which has been running since March 2020, the Government will distribute 1,003 lakh tonnes of foodgrain at a cost of ₹3.4 lakh crore to the exchequer.

Applauding the Centre for launching the PMGKAY, a Parliamentary Standing Committee report on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, tabled in the Lok Sabha last week, asked the Food Ministry to make an

"objective assessment" and find out to what extent the scheme has helped beneficiaries and for how long it needs to be continued. The committee said the Ministry had "not carried out or proposed a study or an objective assessment" of the foodgrains scheme launched in 2020 as the Government's economic response to the Covid

pandemic. In March 2020, the Centre had launched PMGKAY, to provide free foodgrain to over

80 crore beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) as part of its efforts to reduce the hardships of people during the coronavirus pandemic. The Centre provides 5 kg of food-grain per month for free under this scheme.

The additional free grain is over and above the normal quota provided under the NFSA at a highly subsidised rate of ₹2-3 per kg

Continued on Page 2

Asks people to beat drums against hike in fuel price after State polls; 3-phase stir from Mar 31

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress has come up with an innovative way to highlight the issue of price rise by involving the common man in a countrywide protest.

The Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said on Saturday that party workers and the common people would protest outside their homes and at public places on March 31 with the beating of drums and bells and the garlanding of gas

"On March 31 at 11 AM the people will protest outside their homes and public places by garlanding gas cylinders and beating drums, bells and other instruments to draw the other instruments to draw the attention of the 'deaf' BJP Government towards the insurmountable increase in prices of gas, petrol, and diesel, Surjewala said.

Attacking the Narendra Modi Government over the fuel price hike soon after the Assembly elections got over, the Congress on Saturday announced a three-phased campaign against price escalation in the country. The party named the countrywide campaign as 'Mehngai Mukt Bharat Abhiyan' from March 31 to April 7.

The decision was taken at the meeting of State Congress chiefs, General Secretaries, in-



Indian Youth Congress (IYC) members stage a protest over the rising inflation and hike in prices of petrol, diesel and LPG cylinders, in New Delhi on Saturday

charges of States including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra which was chaired by Organisation General Secretary KC Venugopal.

The meeting, convened in the backdrop of the failures of the party in the Assembly polls, also discussed the membership drive of the party besides the current political situation in the country. It was decided to reach out to leaders like those from the 'Group of 23' who have

been critical of the party's leadership during the last couple of years. The party will organise a 'Mehngai Mukt Bharat' dharna and march at the district level from April 2-4. On April 7, protest marches will be held

at State headquarters. Pointing out that the fuel prices were hiked again on Saturday -the fourth increase in five days - Surjewala said the last one week has been a nightmare for the budget of every

'The daily increases in prices have proved the dictum for the Narendra Modi Government - 'fleece the people, fill coffers'," he said.

Petrol and diesel prices were hiked by 80 paise a litre on Saturday as oil firms recoup losses from holding rates during the period prior to the recently-concluded Assembly

Continued on Page 2

AAP Govt's ₹75,800 cr Budget aims to create 20 L jobs in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the focus to create 20 lakh jobs in five years by setting up an electronic city and and retail and wholesale markets in the national Capital Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia presented a 'Rozgar Budget' in the Assembly on Saturday with an outlay of ₹75,800 crore for the financial year 2022-23.

Presenting the budget for the eighth-consecutive year, Sisodia, who also holds the finance portfolio, said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government will spend $\stackrel{?}{\scriptstyle{\checkmark}}$ 4,500 crore in the next five years to generate 20 lakh jobs and ₹800 crore will be set aside in the

2022-23 budget for the purpose. Under its 'Rozgar Budget', Kejriwal Arvind Government will organise shopping festivals to promote retail and wholesale markets in the city, seeking to make these



Delhi Dy CM and Finance Minister Manish Sisodia with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal before presenting the annual budget 2022-23 in Delhi Assembly, in New

create jobs to boost the economy. An amount of ₹250 crore has been allocated for this in the 2022-23 budget.

"The Rozgar Budget will take the economy of Delhi on the path of progress and generate lakhs of employment opportunities," he asserted.

The budget size for the next financial year is 9.86 per cent higher than that of the previous year — ₹69,000 crore — Sisodia said, adding that Delhi's economy is recovering gradually from the impact of Covid-

Continued on Page 2

Nepalese PM to visit Varanasi on **India trip in April**

To meet Modi and discuss ways to boost ties with New Delhi

PNS NEW DELHI

ndia and Nepal will review and find ways to further enhance their historical ties during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba here on April 2. It will be his first foreign visit

after assuming charge.

Besides his official engagements in New Delhi, Deuba is also scheduled to visit Varanasi during his three-day tour commencing April 1, sources said

here on Saturday.

During the talks, the two



leaders will take stock of their centuries old bilateral relations, economic partnership, trade, power, connectivity, development, connectivity and

people to people links.

Incidentally, this is Deuba's fifth term as Prime Minister and he last visited India in 2017. Recently, he had thanked Modi and the Indian Government for safely evacuating Nepalese citizens from war-torn Ukraine.

This visit is in the tradition periodic high-level exchanges between the two

Continued on Page 2

India to resume regular int'l flights from today

PPE kits for air crew of foreign flights dropped

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation on Saturday announced to remove the restriction of keeping three seats vacant on international flights and the requirement of a complete PPE kit for crew members as Indian skies open for regular international flights

from Sunday.
While Indian carriers are prepared for normal international services, various foreign airlines, including Emirates, Virgin Atlantic and LOT Polish, have also announced plans about their services to and from India. As many countries are relaxing their Covid-19 restrictions by the day, trav-

keep three seats vacant on international flights for medical emergencies and security personnel at airports can resume pat-down search of passengers. However, wearing of protective face masks and mainte-nance of hand hygiene/sanitiser is still mandatory at airports and on flights, the MoCA said.

"Airlines may carry a few additional PPE protective gears, sanitiser and N-95 masks, to handle any respiratory infections related to cases on air, for passengers as well as the crew,' the Ministry further noted. However, use of face mask and maintenance of hand hygiene/sanitiser continues to be mandatory," it added in the

The MoCA on March 8 announced that international scheduled commercial flights to

3 vacant-seats rule, ellers are still advised to check the advisories before travel. and from India will resume on March 27, after a 25-month As part of the relaxation, ban. The Government on March the Ministry of Civil Aviation 8 notification has allowed all scheduled International com mercial flights to operate at 100 per cent capacity beginning

March 27. The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national Capital, which is also the country's largest airport, expects international flight departures to witness a significant jump in the first week of April after the resumption of regular international operations. An assessment carried out by the airport oper-ator, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), showed that there could be 1,029 international departures this summer, a slight increase from the average of 994 international departures in the winter of 2019. The number of international departures in the

winter of 2021 was 607. Continued on Page 2

places attractive for tourists and CAPSULE

'PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA TALKS OF EXAMS, LIFE' New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the Parikshape Charcha (PPC) interaction gives one an opportunity to talk about exams

'BJP DOING POLITICS OVER PANDITS' EXODUS' New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal on Saturday attacked the BJP for 'doing'

politics' over Kashmiri Pandits exodus. **CEC LAMENTS WOMEN'S**

POOR PRESENCE IN PARL New Delhi: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sushil

Chandra on Saturday lamented the lack of representation of women in Parliament. **BIRBHUM KILLINGS: CBI**

STARTS PROBE Rampurhat : A team of Central

Bureau of Investigation (CBI)reached Bogtui village in West Bengal's Birbhum district on Saturdayand started its investigation into the violence

Clip of girl offering namaz in classroom goes viral

MP varsity orders inquiry after Right wing activists submit video

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

A fter a video of a Muslim girl offering namaz in a hijab inside a classroom went viral, the Dr Harisingh Gour University in Madhya Pradesh has ordered an inquiry into the incident. A complaint along with the video was submitted to the Central university in MP's Sagar district by a Rightwing organisation, the Hindu Jagran Manch, demanding action against the students by the university.

University Registrar Santosh Sahgaura said a complaint has been received along with a video clip. "A fivemember committee has been constituted to look into this matter. The committee will submit a report within three days and further action will be taken based on this report," he

The University's Media Officer Vivek Jaiswal said that there is no formal dress code basic ethical dressing.

for students on the campus of the educational institution but students must attend classes in The Hindu Jagran Manch's Sagar unit president Umesh

Saraf alleged that the girl in the video has been attending lectures wearing hijab for a long He further said that such religious activities should not oe allowed in educational insti-

tutions. She was coming in

hijab for long but she was

he said, alleging that this is objectionable as educationa institutions are a place for every religion.

"A complaint in this regard has been submitted to the vicechancellor and the registrar," he said while referring to the Karnataka High Court verdict of March 15, where it dismissed the petitions seeking permission to wear hijab or headscarf inside classrooms, observing that it is not a part of the essential religious practice in Islam. Reacting to the incident

university's vice chancellor Neelima Gupta confirmed that a probe has been ordered into it. "We have notified a committee to probe the matter and directed all students that since this is a Central university, all religious acts are to be done in spotted offering Namaz inside the class on Friday afternoon, personal premises/ religious places," she said.

Centre to put man-animal conflict in 'disaster' category

Move will help victims get relief faster

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a cue from the Uttar Pradesh Government, the Center is set to bring man-animal conflict under the ambit of "disaster" category as is being done for the cases of fire and floods. The idea is to ensure early resolutions of such incidents in a coordinated manner at the district level across the country.

The Yogi Adityanath Government in Uttar Pradesh in 2018 had made man-animal conflict a "State Declared Disaster" bringing such incidents under the cover of the State Disaster Response Fund



(SDRF) to ensure better coordination and relief during such mishaps in the State. per the State

Government order, faster monetary relief is enabled to the victims of attack of wild animals. As per the provisions of the order, in cases of human death due to man-animal conflict, relief of ₹ 5 lakh is doled out to

the family of deceased while the disbursement of compensation for injury is provided in

accordance to SDRF guidelines. It also ensured that the amount of ₹1 lakh per death would be arranged by the State forest department from its own budget to the revenue depart-Continued on Page 2

Biden calls Putin a butcher while visiting refugees in Warsaw

to further sour already tenuous relations between America and Russia, US President Joe Biden on Saturday called Russian President Vladimir Putin a "butcher" after visiting with refugees in Warsaw, efugees Poland.

Warsaw: In a move that is sure

This shockingly intense criticism of the Russian leader's actions in Ukraine, that have seen millions of refugees flee to neighbouring countries, came on a day when authorities in Ukraine's western Lviv region on Saturday reported three powerful explosions near the regional capital Lviv.

During the visit to Warsaw, Biden was asked by reporters what seeing the Ukrainian refugees at Stadion Narodowy made him think of as he deals with Putin every day. Biden responded: "He's a butcher."

Continued on Page 2

Chaos, confusion mar Silver Yogi extends free ration **Line Rail works in Kerala**

The agitation against the 530-km Silver Line semi High Speed Rail Project of the Kerala Government took a new turn on Saturday morning. People whose lands and houses would be taken away to lay the rail tracks pulled out the survey stones installed in their plot of lands and threw them into nearby ponds and rivers much to the shock of the K-Rail authorities.

The agitation against the project reached its peak in the districts of Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Alappuzha as the Siilver Line Rail passes through the farmlands in these regions. The laying of survey stones came to a halt on Saturday as more than 7,000 private buses in the State remained off the roads which brought Kera to a grinding halt. Many Government offices in the ees could not make it to their places of work because of agi-

The last week saw police analysis. highhandedness against women and children who demonstrated and opposed the laying of survey stones as part of the proposed rail project. For the first time in the State, thousands of women, mainly home makers and farm labourers came out in the open questioning the propriety of laying survey stones without the permission or concurrence of the land own-

In an embarrassment to the Government, the Revenue Department as well as the K-Rail (the holding company of Silver Line Rail) declared on Saturday that they have not authorised anybody to lay the survey stones. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan toned down

Modi on Thursday and announced that the survey stones were being laid as part of the social impact

But E Sreedharan, former chairman, Delhi Metro, told reporters at Ponnani that there was no need to lay survey stones to conduct social impact analysis. "This is a ploy to acquire the land under the pretext of SIA, I have headed many projects in the past and from my experience I can tell that there is no need of laying survey stones for the SIA," said E Sreedharan.

Sreedharan pointed out scientific studies which concluded that the soil structure of Kerala was not compatible or suitable for semi speed rail lines. "If they still want to go forward with the project, the Silver Line would lead to major mishaps in future," he

The claim by Pinarayi Vijayan that the project would cost Rs 64,000 crore was corrected by the CPI(M) Kerala Secretary Kodiveri Balakrishnan. "It is based on earlier estimation. Now it would cost Rs 86,000 crore," said Balakrishnan while speaking

reporters. The CPI(M) has launched a massive awareness programme all over Kerala to convince the people about the necessity of the Silver Line Rail. Trained youths belonging to the DYFI, the party's youth wing are on a house to house campaign mission to convince the people about the benefits the project

would bring to the State. They call on all houses along the proposed Silver Line Route, distribute literature about the advantages of the project and also provide food

distribution for 3 months

Tn the first decision of his 2.0 Government, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced to continue the scheme of providing free ration to 15 crore poor people of the state for the next three months.

Free ration was claimed to be the game changer for the Bharatiya Janata Party in the LIP ascembly and the lip asce UP assembly polls as the beneficiaries whom the party called `labharthi' helped it win the 2022 elections with a resound-

A formal decision in this regard was taken in the first meeting of the Yogi cabinet 2.0 held at Lok Bhavan on

"The first decision of the newly-formed government in Uttar Pradesh is dedicated to 15 crore poor people," Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said while making this announce-

end this month and has been extended for next three months. This is the third extension of this scheme.

As per the scheme, the Antyodaya card holders will get 35 kilograms of free food grains along with 1 kg dal, 1 litre refined oil, 1 kg iodised salt and 1 kg sugar per month. The other ration card holders will get 5 kgs free food grains per unit along with 1 kg dal, 1 litre refined oil and 1 kg iodised salt.

The state government will end around Rs 3,270 crore on

Yogi said that during the novel coronavirus pandemic period, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had started the Anna Yojana with the aim of providing support to every

From April 2020 till March 2022, about 80 crore people of the country were getting direct benefit of the scheme. At the ment had implemented the free ration distribution scheme in addition to the scheme of the Central government.

Yogi said the free ration scheme had been very useful in addressing the problem of starvation arising out of the pandemic even as the novel coronavirus was controlled with the efforts of free tests, treatment and vaccines.

Under the scheme, Antyodaya and eligible household card holders comprising 15 crore people of the state were getting a double dose of free ration under the doubleengine government of the

"Considering that the period of this scheme was ending in March 2022, in the first cabinet meeting of the new government, it has been decided to extend it for the next three months till June 22," the chief

ent ration distribution system, the chief minister said that e-POS machines had been installed at 80,000 fair price shops in the state due to which distribution of ration to the right beneficiary was possible.

It may be recalled that from April 2020, apart from the Central government, the state government was providing free ration to 15 crore poor people from its own resources. Under the scheme, 35 kg of food grains was being given to Antyodaya card holders by the state government, while the eligible households were getting five kg of food grains per unit. Apart from this, from December 2021 onwards, the state government also provided food grains as well as one litre refined oil, one kg pulse and one kg salt while one kg sugar was also being provided to Antyodaya category

Shivpal: Not invited to SP MLAs' meeting

Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) president Shivpal Singh Yadav on Saturday created a stir by saying "he has not been invited to the meeting of the Samajwadi party MLAs".

Shivpal Yadav had contested the recent assembly election on the symbol of

The Samajwadi Party, however, clarified that the meeting of the MLAs and leaders of the allies of the SP would be held here on March 28 and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav would preside over the meet-

The SP had convened the meeting of its 111 newly-elected MLAs to elect the leader of its legislative party and review its performance in the recently concluded Uttar Pradesh assembly polls and plan for the upcoming legislative council

The polling for the UP Legislative Council from the local bodies constituencies will be held on April 9.

"I was not invited to the SP meeting. I waited for two days and cancelled all my programmes for this meeting but

I was not invited. I am an MLA of Samajwadi Party but still 1 was not invited (to the meeting). I am going to Etawah today," Shivpal Yadav said.

Responding to Shivpal Yadav, SP state president Naresh Uttam Patel said, "Shivpal Yadav is the leader of an ally party. Alliance leaders have been called for a meeting on March 28."

In the recently-held polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party retained power in the state by winning 255 of the 403 assembly seats, while the SP won 111

After the results, Shivpal had blamed the BJP for their defeat. "Our (SP alliance) seats and vote percentage have increased in the election. The people of the state did not defeat the SP. It was because of BJP's dishonesty and cunningness that we lost," he had

Earlier, the meeting of the SP legislators was scheduled to be held on March 21, but it was rescheduled to March 26 because of the nominations for the legislative council elections, SP chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary had said.

The presence of all MLAs and MLCs was mandatory.

Akhilesh appointed leader of Opp in UP Assembly

PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav was elected leader of the SP Legislature Party during a meeting of newly-elected party MLAs in Lucknow on Saturday. With this, Akhilesh Yadav

was appointed leader of the Opposition in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly. Principal Secretary (UP

assembly) Pradeep Kumar Dubey issued an official notification stating that Akhilesh Yadav has been appointed leader of opposition in UP assembly with effect from March 26. The order has been issued

as per the Section 2 (h) of UP Legislature (Members Emoluments and Pensions) The 111 legislators of the

SP unanimously elected Akhilesh Yadav as the leader of Samajwadi Party Legislature Party. On Tuesday, Akhilesh had decided to retain the Karhal assembly seat and give up his Lok Sabha membership from the Azamgarh constituency.

SP state president Naresh Uttam said at a press conference after the meeting that

of employment as envisaged in

the Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra

of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

In its first term, the Yogi

government fulfilled its resolve

by giving five lakh government

jobs in Uttar Pradesh in the last

five years. Yogi's 'Mission

Employment' did not slow

down even during the COVID-

19 pandemic. The process of

recruitments was completed

in a fair and transparent man-

ner, merit being the sole crite-

he stressed.

Akhilesh Yadav had been elected leader of the SP Legislature Party. He said the proposal to elect him SPLP leader was made by senior MLA of the party, Awadhesh Prasad, and it was supported by all elected

He said Akhilesh Yadav would soon meet leaders of SP allies to discuss the issues that the opposition parties would raise in the assembly.

"The MLAs have given their blessings to Akhileshji to raise the issues faced by the people in the assembly. He will oppose the wrong policies of the government as per democratic principles. In the past, the Bharatiya Janata Party has cheated the people of the state and hence, the tally of seats of the BJP has been reduced as compared to the 2017 assembly elections. The people have shown confidence in the leadership of Akhilesh Yaday," Patel said.

A first-time MLA, Yadav resigned as Azamgarh MP ear-lier this week after he was elected legislator from family stronghold Karhal in UP's Mainpuri district. Sources said the former chief minister intended to take on the BIP on the floor of the Vidhan Sabha

with an eye on the 2027 polls in the politically significant state.

SP was the main challenger to the BJP in this year's assembly election. While Akhilesh's party finished a distant second, winning 111 seats in the 403-member assembly, it managed to record a massive jump in its vote share and clocked its best show in state

Sources say Akhilesh Yadav's strategists believe it is a necessity not a choice to keep the party's vote share intact and also to avoid the perception that the SP chief, the party's biggest vote-getter, is "running away" after his party's defeat. The party's top leaders fear

that if their chief is not proactive in state politics, the Muslim and Yadav voters, who apparently backed the party in the polls, may drift to other parties. Akhilesh Yadav has termed

his resignation as MP a necessary sacrifice. "Crores of people of UP have given us a moral victory in the assembly polls. To honour this, I will represent Karhal and always remain committed to the progress of Azamgarh," he said in a tweet after submitting his resignation to Lok Sabha Speaker Om

Prepare action plans for next 100 days: Yogi to depts

In pursuit of establishing an administration of the people, by the people, for the people', Chief Minister Yog Adityanath, just a day after tak ing oath for his second consecutive term, directed officials to be accountable towards the people of the State. In a meeting with

Government officials in Lucknow on Saturday, the Chief Minister asked all departments to prepare action plans for the next 100 days, six months and a year. The officials will present

the action plans to the council of ministers, according to the department-wise timetable, which will be announced At the high-level meeting

organised at Yojana Bhawan, Yogi said: "It is really important that all officers memorise every point of the Lok Kalyan . Sankalp Patra announced by the Bharatiya Janata Party for the UP Assembly election and start working towards achieving the goals.'

The chief minister even commended officials saying that they made sincere efforts

to convert all the promises of BJP's 2017 Lok Sankalp Patra into reality. "As a result, people experienced a positive change in Uttar Pradesh after decades, he said. Yogi further added, "It is

my target to make Uttar Pradesh the No 1 state in the country and the state's economy the No 1 economy. The roadmap for the future should be prepared with teamwork and inter-departmental coordination. For this, 'Team UP' will have to be engaged with full commitment.

The chief minister also pointed out that to make the state a \$1-trillion-economy, ten primary sectors had to be identified. Yogi said to ensure proper functioning and implementation of all sectors and schemes, the chief secretary would hold weekly reviews
while he himself would hold fortnightly reviews.

Emphasising on efficiency, transparency and punctuality in the functioning of the government, the chief minister expressed the need to enhance inter-departmental coordination along with technology for the better implementation of schemes. While instructing officials to be sensitive towards the citizens, he said, "Our government is determined for 'Antyodaya'. You must ensure that villages, poor, farmers, women, and youth are at the centre of every policy of the government.'

"In the first term, our main challenge was deep-rooted malpractices. But we succeeded in establishing good governance in the last five years. In the next five years, our competition will be with the works of our first term.

Now, our competition with ourselves will start to further strengthen good governance. In such a situation, the establishment of good governance will have to be carried forward with more strength," Yogi

The chief minister added that his government has had a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption since its inception and it should be effectively continued.

"In order to make the reach of the government schemes more widespread, technology should also be included on a large-scale,"

UP CM's directive to fill up vacant posts | Biden calls Putin.....

PNS LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh **I** Government will soon launch a drive to fill vacant posts in various State Government departments, boards and corporations. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has issued directions in this regard to all senior officials in his first meeting post swearing-in.

On Saturday, the Chief Minister said that the process of filling up vacant posts in Government departments should be completed as soon as

"Take this as a drive and prepare an action plan in this regard," he said.

Yogi stressed that the entire selection process should be done in a fair and transparent manner as was done in the last five years. He was all praise for the officials for setting up high norms of transparency and fairness in the recruitment "My government is com-

mitted to fulfilling the promise rion for recruitment

From page 1

After trying to downplay a personal rivalry between himself and Putin, Biden has ramped up his rhetoric against the Russian leader over the last ten days. Last week, Biden for the first time called Putin a "war criminal" and then later referred to him as a "murderous dictator, a pure thug who is waging an immoral war against the people of Ukraine." He's also called the Russian invasion of Ukraine "inhu-

Soon after authorities in Ukraine's western Lviv region on Saturday reported three powerful explosions near the regional capital Lviv and urged residents to take shelter. "There were three powerful explosions near Lviv from the direction of Kryvchytsy, now there is an air raid warning, so keep calm and take shelter," said regional Governor Maksym Kozytskyy in an online post, referring to an area in the eastern outskirts of the city.

Cong to make.... From page 1

With three increases beginning from March 22, petrol and diesel prices have gone up by Rs 2.40 a litre. The party accused the Government of earning Rs 26 lakh crore in eight years by increasing the excise duty on petrol and diesel alone. The people of India have been betrayed, duped and deceived by the Modi Government," Surjewala said. Among others who attended the meeting were Chandy, Mukul Wasnik, Tariq Anwar, Ajay Maken and AICC treasurer Pawan Kumar Bansal.

Centre extends....

The scheme has been extended several times with the recent one being until March 2022. Initially in 2020-21, the PMGKAY scheme was announced only for a period of three months of April, May and June 2020 (Phase-I).

Later, the Government extended the scheme from July to November 2020 (Phase-II). With the Covid crisis continuing in 2021-22, the Centre in April 2021 had re-introduced

the scheme for a period of two months of May and June 2021 (Phase-III) and extended it for another five months from July to November 2021 (Phase-IV). The scheme was again extended from December 2021 to March

(Phase-V). Under the Phases I to V, the Food Ministry had allocated a total of about 759 lakh tonnes of foodgrain to States/UTs, which is equivalent to about Rs 2.6 lakh crore in food subsidy.

AAP Govt's ₹75,800 cr....

From page 1

Chief Minister Kejriwal lauded his deputy for presenting a budget that has "taken care of" every section of the

"Many congratulations to Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Manish Sisodia for presenting the 'Rozgar Budget' for Delhi. This budget will create employment on a large scale for youngsters. Every section of Delhi has been taken care of in this budget," he said in a tweet in Hindi "Other States have learnt a lot from the Kejriwal model of governance when it comes to improving Government schools and creating jobs. I am sure that with this 'Rozgar Budget', Delhiites will be benefitted. In the next one or two years, State Governments will also learn from this (Rozgar

Budget) on how, both, the Government and private sectors can provide opportunities for people," Sisodia said during

He said an Artificial Intelligence-based website and a mobile application — "Rozgar Bazaar 2.0" — will be launched with an aim to provide at least one lakh jobs every year to the youngsters of Delhi, especial-

ly women. An electronic city will be set up at Baprola to create 80,000 jobs by attracting big IT companies, Sisodia said, adding that a "food truck policy" will also be introduced under which local delicacies will be promoted. These food trucks will be allowed on the streets from 8 pm to 2 am, a move that is aimed at promoting the night economy in the national

Nepalese...

From Page 1

It would give an opportunity to both sides to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, sources said.

An aide of the Nepalese Prime Minister had earlier said Deuba was invited by the Indian Prime Minister. Earlier in January, he was scheduled to travel to India to take part in a business summit in Gujarat. The trip, however, was cancelled after the summit was rescheduled due to growing cases of Covid-19.

Deuba and Modi had met in Glasgow, Scotland, in November last year on the sidelines of the UN climate conference and had "fruitful talks" on many aspects of India-Nepal friendship.

Deuba had thanked his

Indian counterpart for provid-

ing support to Nepal in essen-

tial medical supplies and vac-

cines in its fight against Covid-

19 pandemic during their first meeting in Glasgow. During the meeting, overall matters of the bilateral relations were discussed.Deuba's visit will take place immediately after Chinese Foreign Minister and State councillor Wang Yi's three-day tour to Nepal from March 25 to March 27. Nepal has recently appointed senior economist Shankar Prasad Sharma as its Ambassador to India.

Wang travelled Kathmandu after a two-day visit to India where he held talks with his counterpart S Jaishankar on the present situation on the border in Ladakh. It was the first visit by a Chinese Minister to India since trouble erupted on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh nearly two years ago. Last week, Sri Lankan

Finance Minister Basil

Rajapaksa visited New Delhi and

met Modi as well as Jaishankar.

He had thanked Modi for the

support extended by India for

the Sri Lankan economy.

From page 1

Now, the Union Environment Ministry too is planning to toe almost similar the lines, in view of rising man-animal conflicts across the country. A senior official from the Ministry said that steps are underway to declare such incidents as disasters "so that early resolution to such conflicts could be made in a coordinated manner at district level". "Efforts are also being made to evolve a mechanism for formulating a uniform compensation policy for the country and that the inclusion of NDMA into the scheme for prevention and management of national disaster at national level would further help in early resolution of man-animal conflict and its prevention," the official said.

Centre to declare man-animal.....

activities like grazing of cattle, collection of firewood, etc, in forests, which often leads to attack on humans and cattle by the wild animals. "Therefore, work is being carried out for demarcation of forest area and its boundaries and also electric fencing of the boundaries," he pointed out. In fact, a Parliamentary committee led by Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh in its report which was recently submitted in Parliament, also called for creation of grasslands for grazing of cattle outside the forest area to minimise man-animal conflict. As per the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) under the Ministry, during the last three years at least 48 cases of death of wild animals due to electrocutions have been reported for which 99 people have been arrested. This is just The official attributed the one type of several man-animal increase in cattle population as conflicts reported in the counone of the major reasons for try, the official added.

India to resume....

In February, around 76.96 lakh domestic passengers travelled by air, approximately 20 percent more than in January.In a statement on Saturday, IndiGo Chief Commercial Officer Willy Boulter said the airline is keen on resuming international operations back to pre-Covid levels but that will also depend on factors like arrival guidelines of various

"We certainly have plans to open new destinations in the near future, as well as pump up capacity on our existing routes as travel further, opens up. Reaching economies of scale in such a dynamic environment where ATF and other fixed costs are constantly going up, becomes challenging," he said.IndiGo is

the country's largest airline. Gulf carrier Emirates said it would re-introduce pre-pandemic service frequency across

its destinations in the country from April 1.Prior to late March 2020, when the scheduled international services were stopped by India, Emirates was operating 170 weekly flights to nine destinations, including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata. All these flights are being restored now, starting from April as per

SriLankan Airlines said it would start operating up to 88weekly flights to India to match the pre-Covid flight schedule. The airline flies to nine cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Chennai, and Bangalore.

British carrier Virgin Atlantic would start a second daily service between Delhi and London starting from June 1. Coupled with its service from Mumbai, Virgin Atlantic will offer three daily flights from India, it said on Friday.

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DELHI BUDGET

Transport, bridges, roads get ₹9,539 cr

Delhi Finance Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday proposed ₹9,539 crore for the transport, roads and bridges sector which is ₹145 crore more than the previous year's allocation. The Government has made

provision for five road bridges, two underpasses, DND Flyway extension and a pedestrian subway in the budget for 2022-23. Presenting the Budget in the Assembly, Sisodia on Saturday said the allocation is 13 per cent of the total Budget of ₹75,800 crore. In 2021-22, the Government had allocated ₹9,394 crore for the sector.

"The work on five bridges, two underpasses, a pedestrian subway and extension of DND Flyway to Ashram will be completed in 2022-23. This will help in decongestion of Tri Nagar, Inderlok, Karampura, Nangloi, Basai Darapur, Kondli and Ashram Chowk," Sisodia Out of₹43,600 crore set

aside for funding programmes and schemes, the transport sector has got 20 per cent of it for 2022-23. The Government has also increased the budget allocation for construction of bus shelters by about 150 per cent. In financial year 2021-22, ₹30 crore was earmarked for bus queue shelters while it has been increased to ₹75 crore in 2022-23, budget documents showed. However, the budgetary allocation for marshals in buses has been reduced to ₹280 crore from the previous year's ₹ 467 crore.

According to data provided by the Government in budget documents, around 11,000 free WiFi hotspots have been set up in various constituencies and on an average 4.1 lakh people are using these services every day.

As part of the celebration of 75th year of Independence, as many as 175 high-mast national flags have been erected across Delhi. The government has plans to set up a total of 500 such national flags at different locations in Delhi.

"The remaining flags will be set up by August 2022," Sisodia said.

 $Sisodia_said that the$ Transport Department has made its 47 services faceless.

He said that with the help of facial recognition software, people can get learners' driving licence from home. More than 11 lakh applicants have benefited from this programme till March 7 this year.

Sisodia also earmarked ₹250 crore for the financial year 2022-23 to continue the facility of providing free travel to women in Delhi Transport Corporation and cluster buses. Sisodia said that Delhi's bus

fleet has reached its highestever level."In Delhi, the numsaid Kejriwal. ber of buses has reached 7,003 which is the largest in the history of Delhi," Sisodia said.

Sisodia praised for Rozgaar Budget

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal praised his Deputy Manish Sisodia for presenting 'Rozgaar Budget 2023-23 which pushed for an employment boost and measures to fight inflation in the national Capital. Keiriwal said that their Government had presented a holistic plan to generate 20 lakhs employment opportunities in five

Kejriwal also said that the Delhi Government has managed to increase its budget by 2.5x since coming to power because of its commitment to

Sisodia, who is also Delhi's Finance Minister, presented the budget in the Assembly on Saturday with an outlay of ₹ 75,800 crore for the financial year 2022-23, focusing on creating 20 lakh jobs in five years by setting up an electronic city and promoting night economy, retail and wholesale markets in the national Capital. "Government's free education, healthcare, water, power and bus travel for women are a huge relief during backbreaking inflation. Health is one such sector which can push people into poverty and people are forced to sell their assets if someone falls ill,"

"This budget will go on to bring relief from inflation and provide employment in Delhi. Homeless chil-

dren and beggars are not voters so no government till date tried helping them but our Government will build a residential school at a

cost of 10 crores to rehabilitate them," said Kejriwal in his speech during the budget session.

"It takes immense courage to take a resolve to generate 20 lakhs jobs and this is no election promise. 1.68 crore people of Delhi are job qualified today but only one third of those have jobs. We must increase the number of our workforce from 33 to 45 per cent and employ 76 lakhs people in the mainstream," said Kejriwal.

"Delhi has emerged as the startup capital and through our startup policy, the youth will develop new business and increase employment opportunities. Food truck policy will be brought in to promote Delhi as a one of a kind food hub. There are huge plans to establish film policy, cloud kitchen clusters, and electronic city to support employment generation," said

Addressing the press after the budget presentation, Kejriwal said that the leap in the budget over the seven years is a result of the arduous and honest hard work - where AAP put an end to corruption, unnecessary Government expenditures, fixed leak-

ages in revenue sources and spending.
"Five traditional markets in Delhi

Cong: Budget anti-poor, anti-Dalit, anti-youth revamped and renovat-

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

ed, following which we expect the businesses

to flourish like never

before in these areas. A Delhi Shopping Festival will be organised to

draw attention and crowd to Delhi,

with a spike in tourism contributing to Delhi's economy," said Kejriwal.

"Delhi's wholesale markets will be

revived in the State and in addition,

a Delhi Wholesale Festival will also be

organised. An announcement was

made regarding the Dilli Bazaar Portal, which will serve as a one stop

destination for buyers and sellers for

all markets and shops throughout Delhi. This will avail the facility of

buying and selling 24x7, with the

added bonus of shopping from the comfort of one's home," said Kejriwal.

is the only state where regardless of

economic background, free treat-

ment is available for all patients. If one

unfortunately falls prey to a more seri-

ous disease which costs some 20-40

lakhs, they can head to GTB Hospital

or LNJP or GB Pant, or any of the

major 38 Delhi's government hospi-

tals, the entire treatment will be pro-

vided for free," said Kejriwal adding

that the Delhi Government will bear

all costs, without asking whether you are rich or poor, no BPL card is need-

"In the health department, Delhi

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar termed the Budget presented by the Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia as anti-poor, anti-Dalit and anti-youth.

Kumar alleged that like in the past, Sisodia had indulged in a gimmick by calling it the "Rojgar Budget" to mock the unemployed youth, as Delhi has the highest unemployment rate in the country at 45.5 per cent.

He said that in 2018, Sisodia had presented a "Green Budget", but four years down the line, by 2022, Delhi had become the most polluted Capital in the world, and the fourth most polluted city in the world!

Reacting on the budget to the media, Kumar said that 15,34,832 youth have registered with the Delhi Government's employment portal, and Sisodia was only rubbing salt into their wounds by naming the budget "Rojgar Budget". He asked whether the ₹800 crore allotted was for the welfare of the

The Congress president said the Delhi Chief Minister had boasted about the "Delhi Model of Education" everywhere, but the allocation for education has been reduced, which will only further dent the aspirations of students from poor families. He said that ₹13,881 crore had been allocated for education in the last budget, which was slashed to ₹13,691 crore this time, proving the Arvind Government's lop-sided priority for

Budget a bundle of lies, says State BJP

Terming the Delhi Government's Budget 2022-23 as "bundle of lies", Delhi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Adesh Gupta alleged that the Arvind Kejriwal led Delhi Government had earlier talked of giving eight lakhs jobs in 2015 then promised 10 lakhs jobs and now it is 20 lakhs but the fact is so far it could give only 440 jobs which was revealed through an RTI.

Gupta further said that in this Budget proposals, there is provision of Rs 3062 crore for social pension while the fact is for the past two years it has not been given and now pension amount is nearly double of what has been provided now.

"In the Budget of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has claimed increasing the limit of free power distribution and raising water output by 20 per cent. But the fact is the Government is praising itself by giving people a boring water supply rather than yamuna drink-

ing water," Gupta said.

Commenting on the budget, former

Delhi BJP unit president, Vijendra Gupta said the budget presented by Delhi's Finance Minister Sisodia is 'visionless' and devoid of substance.

MLA from Rohini, Vijender Gupta also said that the finance minister did not present any substantive planning or commitment, as to how job creation is being ensured in Delhi.

"In fact, they are only repeating their previous commitments for the past seven years. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been pushing to create job creators over job seekers since he came into power at the Centre while the AAP government has only realised the virtue of entrepreneurship recently," said former BJP president. He also said that the AAP Government talked big on entrepreneurship but it did not mention what would be its contribution in fulfilling the aspiration of Delhi's youth. He added that the Budget does not speak of the manufacturing sector and has come as a disappointment to the traders in the national capital as well as those part of whole-

Edu gets highest allocation, schools for homeless kids

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $E_{\text{the Budget allocation, a part of which}}$ will go to building boarding schools for homeless children and a Science Museum in a city school, announced by the Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday. Sisodia announced ₹16,278 crore for the education sector, a part of which will go to building boarding schools for homeless children and a Science Museum in a city school. Speaking in the Assembly, Sisodia said, "Children from homeless families who live on roadsides, footpaths, under flyovers and stairs or on open places of worship, pavilions, railway platforms etc. are deprived of basic facilities like shelter, food and education." The Government has taken several

measures to provide basic education to these children. However, these measures have been only partially successful. It is not possible to get quality education unless basic facilities like food and shelter are in place. The Government has decided to set up a boarding school with modern facili-

ties. These schools will also facilitate the children to live along with education and try to bring them into the mainstream of the society," Sisodia said

"Delhi Government schools have so far achieved the best results in Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) board examinations despite the COVID-19 pandemic and achieved the 99.84 per cent passing percentage considered almost impossible," Sisodia said. "Now the children of all the rich or poor are setting new records every year in examinations like National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and Indian Institutes of Technology-Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE) by taking good education in the government schools of Delhi," Sisodia said. "The classrooms of all government schools in the national capital will be converted into digital classrooms in the next four years," Sisodia said. "Delhi Teachers University has also

started its work and is going to provide B.Ed courses from the next session after obtaining necessary approval from the Government of India," Sisodia further

AAP Govt to hold int'l film festival every year: Sisodia Sisodia further said that the film poli-

ed to be shown.

While presenting the Budget for financial year 2022-23 in the Delhi Assembly, Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Siodia said that in order to promote the national Capital as a global shooting destination, the Government will hold an international film festival every year under

On Saturday, Sisodia had presented a ₹75,800 crore Budget in the Assembly for the financial year 2022-23.

Sisodia, who also hold the Tourism portfolio, said the Delhi International Film Festival will promote the city's rich culture and diversity. In his Budget speech Sisodia also said that with the introduction of the 'Delhi Film Policy,' the AAP Government aims to promote the city as a national and international brand.

The Government will organise the Delhi International Film Festival every year from this year onwards. Through this film festival, the rich culture and diversity of Delhi will be showcased. Film fraternity from across the country will be invited to the festival," said the Deputy CM

cy will create an environment for the promotion of tourism by attracting filmmakers from across the globe to He said that through the Delhi Film

Policy and the film festival, the Government

will establish new employment and business opportunities related to tourism and art & One of the important aspects of the film policy will be a completely online single window clearance mechanism (e-film clear-

processes involving 25 stakeholder agencies, "The most important thing about this film policy is that it will bring forth opportunities for the new local talent and skilled

ance) which will fast-track all the approval

youth in Delhi," Sisodia said. He further said that the policy will create a highly skilled workforce required for the film sector in Delhi.

"This workforce, which will be professionally trained by our Government, will provide scholarships to the talented youth of Delhi and will also provide internship opportunities," Sisodia said.

'Will create 1 lakh green jobs in 5 years through Smart Urban Farming, rooftop solar plants, 25K e-autos

New Delhi: The Delhi Government Saturday said it will create one lakh "green" jobs in the next five years by starting "Smart Urban Farming" campaign, adding 25,000 e-autos and installing rooftop solar plants of a cumulative 2,500-megawatt capacity. Green jobs are jobs that have a direct, positive impact on the environment traditionally involving renewable energy, electric transport, energy efficiency or nature conservation.

"Providing clean air and water for future generations is an integral part of the Delhi Government's vision of 2047. Keeping this in mind, in the next five years, the Delhi government is going to launch several initiatives, which will create more than one lakh green jobs," Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said while presenting Delhi's budget for the financial year 2022-23.

He said that within 18 months

of the launch of Delhi EV Policy-2020, the capital has emerged as the "EV Capital

The share of EVs in the sale of new vehicles has increased from 1.2 per cent in 2019-20 to 10 per cent in February 2022, Sisodia said, adding Delhi has become the first state in India to cross the 10 per cent mark in EV sales, which is more than the share of electric vehicles in many developed countries like the UK, France and Singapore.

"With the increasing share of EVs, 20,000 new jobs will be created in the next five years in EV sales, repair and maintenance, operation and maintenance of EV charging stations," said Sisodia, who also holds the finance portfolio.

Besides, the Delhi Government will launch more than 4200 e-autos with 33 per cent reservation for women drivers in the coming

Two held in liquor traders' murder case

Gurugram: A crime unit of Sector-10 of the Gurugram police have arrested two more criminals, including the prime accused, in connection with the murder case of two brothers, who were liquor merchant, the incident took place on February 25 at Khor village in

The arrested accused have been identified as Ajay alias Jaildar of Jhajjar district a suspected henchman of Laurence Bishnoi, Kala Jetedi and Goldy Brar gang and Karambeer alias Karmu of Badli in Jhajjar district.

The police have made three arrests in the incident earlier the police had nabbed Akshay Kumar on February 27, a resident of Khor village in Pataudi, who had to provide the information of the deceased brothers to the criminals.

Assistant Commissioner of police (crime), Preet Pal Sangwan said, "Ajay hatched the plan to eliminate the duo brothers on March 25. While Karambeer had helped them to avoid police arrest and had also provided Mahindra Scorpio which was used by the criminals during the incident".

Female beggar raped, thrashed | Man kills cousin by 2 people; no arrest made yet | in fight over drugs

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 35-year-old woman was allegedly gangraped by an auto-rickshaw driver and his associate in east Delhi's Ghazipur area. The incident took place on Wednesday and the woman was found near the

Ghazipur market. On Saturday, the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) also issued a notice to police seeking details of First Information Report (FIR) and steps taken to arrest the accused in connection with the case. According to a senior police official, a woman beggar was

found in the area of Ghazipur on Wednesday after a police control room (PCR) call stating about an unclaimed person was received following which a police team was dispatched for the spot.

"The woman was taken to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital in east Delhi for preliminary treatment. The woman was later shifted to Safdarjung Hospital for better medical management. The incident reportedly happened on Wednesday evening and based on

the victim's statement, a case has been registered at Ghazipur police station under appropriate sections," said the senior police official. Police said that five teams have been formed and the investigation has begun in the case. "No arrest has been made so far.

The condition of the woman is stable," said police.

Police said that prime facie, it was revealed that two persons were involved in the incident and further investigation is in progresses. The DCW has taken cognizance of media reports of abduction and rape of the woman. As per reports, the beg-

gar was found in a serious condition on a road near Ghazipur poultry market, the notice said. The survivor has informed that she was abducted and gangraped by two men, one of whom was an auto driver, it said. She has also alleged that the accused beat her up brutally. Presently, the woman is admitted in hospital in ICU in a serious condition and has been operated upon for severe injuries on her private parts, the notice stated. An FIR has been registered.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

↑ man was allegedly stabbed to death by his 20-year-Aold cousin following a fight over drugs in north Delhi's Holambi Kalan area. According to Brijendra Kumar Yadav, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer north district, police received a police control room (PCR) call on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, informing that one Imran was stabbed by

"He was rushed to Harischandra hospital. A police team also reached the hospital and found the patient unfit for recording a statement. Later, the victim was shifted to BSA hospital in Rohini where he was declared dead," said the DCP. "Meanwhile, another injured Sohel was shifted to a hospital for treatment. Based on the statement of Armaan, the elder brother of Imran, a case under section 307 (attempt to murder) was registered against Sohel, who is undergoing treatment at Safdarjung hospital, the DCP said.

According to police, Sohel called Imran from his home around 5 pm on Friday. Both have been involved in drug abuse. Police suspected that a sudden altercation broke out between them over drugs which may have triggered the fight. However, the investigation is underway which will ascertain the exact cause behind the incident, police said.

AAP will challenge MCD merger Bill in court: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP will study the Bill introduced in ■ Parliament to unify the three municipal corporations and challenge the decision in court if need ed, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Saturday. "The MCD Bill has been brought only to delay the elections. What is the logic of reducing the number of wards? We will study the Bill and will chal-

lenge it in the court if need be," Kejriwal said. He was speaking at a press conference after his deputy Manish Sisodia presented the Delhi Budget.

The bill to merge the three municipal corporations in the national Capital into a single entity was introduced in Lok Sabha on Friday by the central government amid Opposition claims that the move was beyond the legislative competence of Parliament. It also proposes to reduce the number of wards to 250.

Currently, the three corporations in Delhi - North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) and East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) - have 272

While the North and South corporations have 104 wards each, the East corporation has 64.

Kejriwal: BJP doing politics over exodus of Kashmiri Pandits

With Delhi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) unit demanding the film, 'The Kashmir Files' be tax free in the national Capital, the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday alleged that the BJP is doing politics over Kashmiri Pandits exodus.

During the post budget press conference, Kejriwal also again suggested that the film, 'The Kashmir Files', should be uploaded on YouTube and proceeds so far earned from it should be spent on the welfare of Kashmiri

"Was a single Kashmiri Pandit family relocated to the valley by BJP in the last 8 yrs?" Kejriwal asked the BJP.

"BJP is doing politics over the issue. We demand The Kashmir Files! film to be used. Kashmir Files' film to be uploaded on YouTube. The money earned from it should be spent on welfare of

Kashmiri Pandits," he said. The suggestion was first made by him on Thursday, when during an assembly session he criticised the move of making the film tax-free, and suggested the filmmaker to just upload it on YouTube for all to see free of

Kejriwal's anti-Hindu mentality has come to fore, alleges BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leaders and a large number of workers led by state BJP president Adesh Gupta on Saturday staged a protest near the state assembly against Delhi Chief Minister for allegedly making fun of Kashmiri Pandits in the Assembly.

The BJP leaders also observed a silence while remembering carnage against Kashmiri Pandits. Addressing the gathering, Adesh Gupta said that Kejriwal who made fun of Hindus and Kashmiri Pandits in the Assembly will meet the same fate as happened with Congress, Lalu, Mulayam.

Gupta said, "This is not the first time when Kejriwal's anti Hindus mentality has come to fore. He opposed the CAA, raising questions on Ram temple, sheltering Delhi riots kingpins Tahir Husain and Amantullah, supporting tukde tukde gang, demolishing old Hanuman temple in Chandni chowk, or giving salaries to maulvis. All this shows he has

worked for a particular community."

BJP national secretary and Delhi co incharge Dr Alka Gurjar said Kejriwal has



dharma which is shame-

ful. He said someone hurting the Sanatan dharma which believes in sarva dharma sadbhavana can never be pardoned.

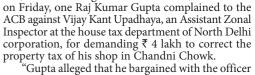
Talking about Kejriwal remarks on uploading The Kashmir Files on YouTube, Gandhi smriti vice chairman Vijay Goel said that Kejriwal has made 21 movies tax free in past seven years but he is making fun of such a serious issue.

Former Union Health Minister and MP Dr Harshwardhan said the kind of language being used by Kejriwal for Hindus shows his mental bankruptcy. "The development that took place in Jammu and Kashmir in the past seven years has not happened in 60 years since inde-

ACB arrests house tax dept officer for graft

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Government's Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) has arrested an officer of the house tax department for allegedly taking a bribe of ₹50,000. According to a senior official,



and brought him down to ₹ 2 lakh, which he agreed to accept in installments. He informed the police that he was supposed to give the first installment of ₹50,000 on Friday," said the official. "A raiding party was constituted and reached the

office of the property tax department in Kashmiri Gate along with the complainant. In line with their ploy, Gupta went inside Upadhaya's office and gave him ₹50,000. As he did that, the raiding party entered his office and caught Upadhaya in the act," said the offi-

A case has been registered at the ACB Police Station against him, and he has been arrested. An investigation is in progress, the official added.

Jaishankar to visit Sri Lanka next week Portal to bring 'inspiring'

India likely to offer more help to the country to avert its ongoing economic crisis

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

A mid the ongoing economic crisis in Sri Lanka, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will visit Colombo for three days next week to hold talks with his counterpart GL Peiris and other leaders. India has already extended credit to Sri Lanka and is likely to offer more help to help it to overcome the present crisis.

Giving details of his visit here, the Ministry of External Affairs said Jaishankar will visit Sri Lanka from March 28 to March 30. Prior to this tour, he will tour Maldives and inaugurate some key projects there. Both the countries are key maritime neighbours of India.

As regards the Lanka visit, the ministry said "the bilateral

ister will have in Sri Lanka highlight the priority that Sri Lanka occupies for India."

Incidentally, his visit to

the island country comes a week after India announced a USD 1 billion line of credit to Sri Lanka to help it deal with the ongoing economic crisis. Moreover, the visit follows the visits to India by Sri Lankan Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa in December 2021 and earlier this month and that of Foreign Minister GL Peiris in February.

The ministry said Jaishankar will also partici-pate in the BIMSTEC Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation(BIM-STEC) ministerial meeting on March 29 in Colombo.

"Both Maldives and Sri Lanka are India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and occupy special place in the prime minister's vision of 'SAGAR' and Neighbourhood First," the external affairs ministry said.



"The external affairs minister's visit is testimony to the importance that India attaches to its close and friendly relations with the Maldives and Sri Lanka," it said. SAGAR or Security and Growth for all in the Region" is aimed at cooperative measures for sustainable use of the oceans in the

On his first stop in Maldives, the ministry said Jaishankar will inaugurate a number of India-supported projects and firm up several agreements to further bolster bilateral cooperation.

During his visit to the Maldivian city of Addu from March 26 to March 27, Jaishankar will call on President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and hold discussions with Foreign Affairs Minister Abdulla

"The external affairs minister's visit will see the signing of several agreements related to the bilateral development cooperation, inauguration and launch of a number of key India-supported projects that will contribute to the socioeconomic development of the Maldives and enhance its security," the MEA said in a state-

The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean region and the bilateral defence and security ties have been on an upward trajectory in the last

stories of Modi launched

work for the country as he trav-

elled far and wide for the party

experiences and anecdotes

from the likes of BJP leader

Manoranjan Kalia from

Punjab, a state Modi handled in

the early days of his political

journey as a party office-bear-

er, Rasbihari Maniyar, his

school principal at Vadnagar in

Gujarat, and Sharda Prajapati,

The portal shares stories,

A portal "www.modistory.in" was launched on Saturday to bring together "inspiring" stories related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi from those who have interacted with him during his life journey over several decades.

A number of associates, not necessarily well-known, have shared episodes they were witness to in Prime Minister's

past political and personal life.
The portal—Modi Story
— was inaugurated by Sumitra
Gandhi Kulkarni, grand daughter of Mahatma Ğandhi. The portal is a volunteer driven initiative to bring together inspiring moments from Narendra Modi's life, as narrated by his co-travellers. This young man used to

visit us in Delhi and stayed with us every now and then and we became good friends and this continued till today," Sumitra Gandhi Kulkarni said. Dancer Sonal Mansingh

too has also shared her expe-

prime minister often stayed in. It also details her journey in a disguise as a 'Sardar' during the emergency.
Olympic gold medallist
Neeraj Chopra and ace shuttler
Pullela Gopichand are also

among those who have shared their experiences and time with the prime minister.

In a video, Narendra Modi's school teacher Rasbihari Maniyar said Modi in his childhood wanted to join in his childhood wanted to join a Sainik school. rience with the Prime Minister. Commenting on the portal Union Minister Smiriti Irani Some have shared their early experiences of Modi's

tweeted "Stories of grit & grace ... memories of the magic of personal meetings, talks that reflect an amiable persona, a decisive political personality...stories till now untold,

The portal has invited more people to contribute to 'Modi Story' and enrich the reminisces on the Prime

Anyone can contribute to 'Modi Śtory' portal.

CEC laments lack of representation of women in Parl, lauds their surge in voting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sushil Chandra on Saturday lamented the lack of representation of women in Parliament but at the same time, pointed to the surge in the number of women coming out to vote in recent years. Addressing an event where 'Sansad Ratna Awards 2022' were presented to Parliamentarians, Chandra said the first Lok Sabha had 15 women MPs and the 17th Lok

for Lifetime Achievement was presented to Dr M. Veerappa Moily (Congress) and Dr H.V. Hande (BJP). The Excellence Awards - Lok Sabha Committee were given for Agriculture (Chairman: P.C. Gaddi Goudar, BJP, Karnataka); for Finance (Chairman: Dr Jayant Sinha, BIP, Iharkhand); for Labour (Chairman: Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, BJD, Odisha) while

The Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

the same for Excellence Award - Rajya Sabha Committee were given for Education (Chairman: Dr Vinay P. Education Sahasrabuddhe, Maharashtra).

Chandra also expressed concern over the time lost due to disruptions in Parliament, saying this does not augur well for democracy. "But the progress is still slow.... True, Parliament has to be very very inclusive," he said. The CEC pointed out that in local bodies, the Constitution guarantees a one-third reservation for women and noted that many grassroots-level women leaders have demonstrated their leadership qualities and brought about visible changes in their communities.

Stressing the need to maintain a connect between the lawmakers and people, he recalled voters telling him that after the COVID-19 pandemic triggered a ban on physical campaigning, some leaders came to their doorstep after a long gap.

On the issue of disruptions in parliamentary proceedings, Chandra said while heated arguments, debates and speeches are a barometer of a robust Parliament, frequent disruptions, walkouts and hunger strikes are not.

He further said that the history and destiny of a nation is determined by 3 Ps -- principles, people and Parliament. The principles and core values were set out very clearly in the Constitution of India. Being a representative democracy, it is the will of her

people, which is sovereign and most powerful. The Parliament is the repository of the Trust of people and an expression of this sovereign will," he said. As per the Sansad Ratna

Award, the Lok Sabha Excellence Award General Overall tally was presented to Bidyut Baran Mahato (BJP, Jharkhand); the Lok Sabha -Excellence Award - First time MP - was presented to Kuldeep Rai Sharma (INC, Andaman

Nicobar Islands); Lok Sabha -Excellence Award - Women MP - overall tally was presented to Heena Vijayakumar Gavit (BJP, Maharashtra); the Lok Sabha - Topper in Initiated Debates was presented to Saugata Roy (AITMC, West Bengal); the award for Lok Sabha - Topper in Questions was Sudhir Gupta (BJP,

MPs - General - was presented to Amar Patnaik (BJD, Odisha), the Rajya Sabha Excellence Award - Sitting MPs - Women MP - Total tally was presented to Fauzia Tahseen Khan Ahmed Maharashtra) and the Rajya Sabha - Excellence Award Retired MPs was presented to K.K. Ragesh (CPI-M, Kerala). The awards for Super per-

Madhya Pradesh), Rajya Sabha

Excellence Award -Sitting

formers - sustained performance (Sansad Vishisht Ratna) N.K. Premachandran (RSP, Kerala) and Shrirang Appa Barne (Shiv

piratory infections it analyzed

from July 2021, to January

study has found that patients

with co-infection of SARS-

CoV-2, which causes Covid-19,

and influenza viruses were

over four times more likely to

require ventilation support and

a prevalence of

In contrast, the Lancet

BRO opens up Manali-Sarchu Road

To ensure seamless logistical supply to troops at LAC

PNS NEW DELHI

n an effort to ensure seamless **L**and unhindered logistical back-up to the troops guarding the Line of Actual Control(LAC)in Ladakh, the Border Road Organisation (BRO) opened up the 210 Km long Manali-Sarchu Road in Himachal Pradesh on Saturday. This is the alternate route to Ladakh besides through Kashmir.

This achievement comes a day after the BRO opened the Zojila Pass for civilian traffic on thé Srinagar- Kargil- Leh Road. Opening the Manali — Sarchu Road establishes the vital connect to Lahaul District in Himachal Pradesh which further leads to Leh in Ladakh.

The pass and the road, in



the last week of April, but with the successful movement of a road convoy on March 26 the BRO has opened the pass almost a month in advance which is a record in

During the winters the road normally remains closed for over 160-180 days in a year, but this time Project Deepak of BRO has opened the road in 117 days, as the last convoy had moved on November 29, 2021.

The early opening is more creditable due to the fact that this year the region witnessed an exponential increase in snowfall as compared to last Opening the Manali-

Sarchu Road was premised on successful conduct of snow clearance operations over one of the highest passes of the Zanskar Range, the formidable Baralacha La Pass (16,043 feet). The BRO adopted a two prong approach, with simultaneous

deployment of snow clearance teams from two sides, one from Patsio to Baralacha La and the second from Sarchu to Baralacha La.

Since Sarchu is cut off from rest of the country during winters, as part of proactive actions and planning by the Project winter stocking of snow clearance plant equipment and spares was done well in advance during November last year in Sarchu Camp.

To achieve success and early opening of the pass, and the road, aerial induction of the snow clearance team was undertaken on March five from Sarchu. Team comprising of six skilled operators and technicians was dropped at Baralacha La to commence snow clearance operations.

As a precautionary measure in the initial days the road will be opened only for movement of Army logistics convoys, for delivery of essential supplies for troops deployed in forward areas. Movement of all traffic will commence in the near future, on approval from

Army carries out two-day airborne insertion exercise



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Sustaining its tempo of operational readiness in all kinds of weather and terrain, the Indian Army has carried out a two-day airborne insertion and rapid response exercise near the Siliguri Corridor along the northern border with China. It was the second such exercise in the last three weeks in the strategically important region near Šikkim.

The latest exercise involving around 600 soldiers was conducted from March 24 to March 25. It involved advanced aerial insertion techniques or airdropping of soldiers, surveillance and target practice.

The Siliguri Corridor is a stretch of land bordering Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. It connects the northeastern region with the rest of India and is considered very impor"Around 600 paratroop-

ers of the Indian Army's airborne rapid response teams carried out large-scale airdrops near the Siliguri Corridor after being airlifted from various airbases," an official said.
"The exercise involved

advanced free-fall techniques, insertion, surveillance and target practice and seizing of key objectives by going behind enemy lines," the official added.

Incidentally, the Indian army has conducted regular exercises involving commandos and Special Forces in the last six to eight months beginning with the first such drill close to the Line of Actual Control(LAC)in Ladakh followed by another exercise near the Line of Control(LOC) in Kashmir. A similar exercise was conducted in Port Blair a few weeks back

Covid with flu poses greater risk in adults infections among 13,467 people with flu symptoms and res-

 $A^{ ext{dults in hospitals who have}}_{ ext{Covid-19}}$ and the flu at the same time are at much greater risk of severe disease and death compared with patients who have Covid-19 alone or are infected with other viruses, according to a new study published in the Lancet.

However, Indians can heave a sigh of relief. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has claimed in a separate study that in India such cases are rare and mostly low risk. The study by experts from ICMR, New Delhi, and the Pune-based

2.4 times more likely to die than if they only had Covid-19, experts found. Researchers say the findings show the need for greater flu testing of COVID-19 patients in hospitals and high-light the importance of full vac-National Institute of Virology
— found only five cases of

and the flu. The team from the

University of Edinburgh, University of Liverpool, Leiden University, and Imperial College London, made the findings in a study of more than 305,000 hospitalized patients with COVID-19.

The research—delivered as part of the International Severe Acute Respiratory and emerging Infection Consortium's (ISARIC) Coronavirus Clinical Characterisation Consortium—is the largest ever study of people with Covid-19 and other endemic respiratory viruses.

The team looked at the data of adults who had been

the UK between 6 February 2020 and 8 December 2021.

Test results for respiratory viral co-infections were recorded for 6965 patients with COVID-19. Some 227 of these also had the influenza virus, and they experienced significantly more outcomes.

Dr. Maaike Swets, Ph.D. student at the University of Edinburgh and Leiden University, said: "In the last two years we have frequently witnessed patients with COVID-19 become severely ill, at times leading to ICU admission and the employment of an artificial ventilator to help with breathing. That an influenza infection uation was already known, but less was understood about the outcomes of a double infection of SARS-CoV-2 and other res-

Professor Kenneth Baillie, Professor of Experimental Medicine at the University of Edinburgh, said: "We found that the combination of COVID-19 and flu viruses is particularly dangerous. This will be important as many countries decrease the use of social distancing and containment measures. We expect that COVID-19 will circulate with flu, increasing the chance of co-infections. That is why we should change our testing strategy for COVID-19 patients in

piratory viruses."

Professor Calum Semple, Professor of Outbreak Medicine and Child Health at the University of Liverpool, said: "We are seeing a rise in the usual seasonal respiratory viruses as people return to normal mixing. So, we can expect the flu to be circulating alongside COVID-19 this winter. We were surprised that the risk of death more than doubled when people were infected by both flu and COVID-19 viruses. It is now very important that people get fully vaccinated and boosted against both viruses, and not leave it until it is too late."

Khadi boosts self-employment in Rajasthan

n a major boost to the self-Lemployment spree in Rajasthan, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on Saturday distributed 200 electric potter wheels to potters, 240 waste wood toolkits to carpenters, and 10 dona paper plate making machines o 450 local artisans in Jodhpur.

KVIC Chairman VInai Kumar Saxena distributed the machines to these khadi artisans from Jaisalmer, Barmer and Nagaur districts. The distribution of machines will create direct employment for nearly 1100 people. These beneficiaries also include 170 BPL families.

The electric potter wheels have been distributed to 200 potter families from Jaisalmer that is known for its exquisite clay pottery. These potters have been empowered under KVIC's flagship scheme "Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana" which aims at reviving the dying art of pottery and empowering the marginalized potter community. Similarly, artisans have



been trained in making paper dona plate and wood craft by KVIC so as to make them self-

reliant by providing self-Saxena said these initiatives

KVIC's "Gramodyog Vikas Yojana" which aims at empow-

have been launched under ering the rural masses through self-employment and also strengthening the rural econ-

omy of the country. "These initiatives of KVIC is a major step towards fulfill-ing Hon'ble Prime Minister's dream of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat". Through these schemes, KVIC has created lakhs of employment not only in Rajasthan but in other parts of the country, too," Saxena said. He said that KVIC is for the first time providing online marketing platform for the potters of Rajasthan so that can their clay products across the country.

Rajasthan is a focus area of KVIC which has an immense potential of employment creation through Khadi activities. Also, a number of traditional art forms in Rajasthan including clay pottery are being revived by KVIC. So far KVIC has distributed over 5000 electric potter wheels in the state which has created nearly 14000 employment. The distribution of waste wood toolkits will create employment for 240 carpenter families while 10 paper machines will employ 50 per-

Shelled city in north Ukraine to become 'next Mariupol'

Ukraine's besieged city of Chernihiv, linguistics scholar Ihar Kazmerchak spends his nights in a bomb shelter and starts his day lining up for the little potable water authorities have left to hand out.

Surrounded by Russian forces and under constant bombardment, the northern city known for its eclectic monasteries has no electricity, heating or running water. The lists at pharmacies of the medicines no longer available grow longer by the day.
"In basements at night,

everyone is talking about one thing: Chernihiv becoming next Mariupol," Kazmerchak, 38, said, referring to the southern port city 845 kilometers (525 miles) away that has suffered some of the worst horrors since Russia invaded Ukraine. The fear is not misplaced.

Russian bombs destroyed Chernihiv's main bridge over the Desna River on the road leading to Kyiv on Wednesday; on Friday, artillery shells rendered the remaining pedestrian bridge impassable, cutting off the last possible route for people to get out or for food and medical supplies to get in.

Just over a month into the invasion, Russia's attack has slowed into a grinding war of attrition as its military tries to pound cities like Chernihiv into submission. Bombings of hospitals and other non-mili-



An Ukrainian soldier exits a Psychiatric hospital damaged by a Russian bombing earlier this week, in Mykolaiv, Ukraine on Friday

tary sites, such as the Mariupol tion of Donbas." theater where Ukrainian offi-

Donbas is the largely Russian-speaking eastern region where Russian-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces since 2014 and where many residents desire close ties to Moscow. Mariupol is located there, although outside of the two territories controlled by the separatists.

U.S. Officials said Russian troops appeared to have halted for now their ground offensive aimed at capturing the capital, Kyiv, and were concentrating more on gaining control of the Donbas region in the country's southeast.

UK to send vital food Putin can't win his supplies for besieged unprovoked, illogical Ukrainian cities

London: The UK will provide GBP 2 million in vital food supplies for areas of Ukraine encircled by Russian forces, UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said on Saturday.

The Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said the decision follows a direct request from the government of Ukraine, with the supplies covering a rapid donation of dried food, tinned goods and water. Warehouses in Poland and Slovakia are being readied to supply these goods to the government of Ukraine from early next week.

This vital donation of food and supplies will help support the Ukrainian people in the face of Russia's barbaric invasion," said Truss.

"Our teams are working day and night with our Polish and Slovakian friends and the government of Ukraine to ensure those at most at risk get the essential supplies they so badly need," she said.

Around 25 truckloads will be transported by road and rail to the local Ukrainian communities in greatest need. It is estimated over 12 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance across Ukraine, with the actual figure likely to be much higher. Therefore, the FCDO said

rapid donation is essential, with the window to reach towns and cities already encircled, as well as those at high risk, closing.

"The need on the ground in Ukraine is clear, with so many people in encircled areas trapped in basements without access to food or water. Nearly 6 million children remain in Ukraine, many sheltering inside buildings which are coming under attack," said Alice Hooper, FCDO humanitarian adviser.

"We are working with partners at the borders to ensure these vital UK supplies reach the places they are needed most as quickly as possible," she said. Access to food, water and cooking facilities for those trapped by Russian advances is becoming increasingly diffi-cult, with people taking refuge in basements from shelling. AP

war: NATO Dy GS

Bucharest: NATO Deputy-General Secretary Mircea Geoana says that Russian Ukrainian authorities said President Vladimir Putin's month-old "barbaric war" against Ukraine is a war he cannot win. In an interview with The

Associated Press, the former Romanian Foreign Minister and ambassador to the United States added that NATO would be "forced to take appropriate measures" in the event of a chemical or nuclear attack, which follows a string of ominous comments from Moscow officials who refuse to rule out their use. He declined to say what those measures would be.

"NATO is a defensive alliance, but also it's a nuclear alliance," he said. "If they will be using chemical weapons or other kinds of higher-end systems against Ukraine, this will be changing fundamentally the nature of the war that Mr. Putin has waged against Ukraine."

"I can guarantee that NATO is ready to respond proportionately," he added. Geoana said Russia's attack

Friday killed about 300 civilians, is "another proof that Putin's war is a war that is unprovoked, illogical, and also barbarian?

"We hope that Mr. Putin will not go even further down the road of war crimes, and even more devastation against a sovereign nation," he said.

But the brutal war that Russia has waged since Feb. 24, is having the opposite effect to what Putin hoped for, the NATO official said, and has only united the West and worked to bolster the 30-nation defensive alliance.

At a NATO summit on Thursday, alliance leaders agreed to launch four new Eastern Flank battlegroups which usually number around 1,000-1,500 troops — to Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria.

"These groups are already constituting themselves," Geoana, a former foreign minister in his native Romania,

Biden ends Europe trip with unity message echoing the past

Warsaw: Twenty-five years ago, Joe Biden visited Warsaw, Poland, with a warning: Even though the Soviet Union had collapsed, some of NATO's original members weren't doing enough to ensure the alliance's collective defense.

"Now it is time for the people of Western Europe to invest in the security of their continent for the next century," said Biden, then a U.S. Senator.

Biden, now president, spoke again here Saturday as European security faced its most precarious test since World War II. The bloody war in Ukraine has entered its second month, and Western leaders have spent the week consulting over contingency plans in case the conflict mutates or

The invasion has shaken NATO out of any complacency it might have felt and cast a dark shadow over the conti-U.S. National security

adviser Jake Sullivan said the speech will outline the urgency of the challenge that

China, Russia soft on US further curbs on North Korea

United Nations: North Korea's test of a big new intercontinental ballistic missile prompted the United States to press Friday for stiffer UN sanctions, but China and Russia showed little appetite for tightening restrictions that they have been trying to ease.

A day after North Korea's first long-range test since 2017, US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield urged the council to condemn the launch and encourage North Korea to return to negotiations.

"It was an egregious and unprovoked escalation" that threatens the world, said Thomas-Greenfield, whose country joined Albania, France, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom in calling for the meeting.

that the US would propose a measure "to update and strengthen" sanctions. She declined after the meeting to give specifics.

The Security Council originally imposed sanctions after

Islamabad: Pakistan's Interior

Minister Sheikh Rashid on

Saturday said that he has

advised Prime Minister Imran

Khan to call elections after pre-

senting the budget, claiming

that the cricketer-turned politi-

cian's popularity had increased

following the Opposition's sub-

mission of a no-trust motion

the idea for early elections

after presenting the federal

budget for fiscal year 2022-23

was his own "opinion" and

should not be taken as the rul-

ing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI)'s stance, the Dawn news-

ence in Islamabad, Rashid said

that he has advised Prime

Public Notice

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odeon cinema building consisting of odeo

misplaced / lost somewhere w.r.t Entire

Addressing a press confer

Rashid, however, said that

against him.

paper reported.

the North's first nuclear test explosion in 2006 and has tightened them over the years, in response to further nuclear tests and increasingly sophisticated nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Britain agreed Friday more

cials said a Russian airstrike is

believed to have killed some

300 people last week, have

given rise to war crime allega-

tion of Russia's offensive sur-

faced Friday when a high-

ranking military official said

the main objective of the first

stage of the operation — reduc-

ing Ukraine's fighting capacity — had "generally been accomplished." Col.-Gen Sergei

Rudskoi, deputy chief of the Russian general staff, said Russian forces could now focus

on "the main goal, the libera-

Questions about the direc-

sanctions should be considered, and several other members urged action of some kind.

But veto-wielding China and Russia proposed last fall to lift sanctions that bar their neighbour from exporting seafood and textiles, limit its imports of refined petroleum products and prohibit its citizens from working overseas and sending home their earn-ings. Russian Deputy Ambassador Anna Evstigneeva said Friday that further sanctions would "threaten North ceptable socioeconomic and humanitarian problems," while Chinese Ambassador Zhang Jun urged the council "to consider how to accommodate the DPRK's justified security con-

Sanaa: A Saudi-led coalition fighting Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen unleashed a barrage of airstrikes on the capital and a strategic Red Sea city, officials said Saturday. At least

seven people were killed.

The overnight airstrikes on Sanaa and Hodeida — both held by the Houthis — came a day after the rebels attacked an oil depot in the Saudi city of Jeddah, their highest-profile assault yet on the kingdom.

Brig. Gen. Turki al-Malki a spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition, said the strikes targeted "sources of threat" to Saudi Arabia, according to the staterun Saudi Press Agency.

He said the coalition intercepted and destroyed two explosives-laden drones early Saturday. He said the drones were launched from Houthiheld civilian oil facilities in Hodeida, urging civilians to stay away from oil facilities in

Footage circulated online smoke over Sanaa and Hodeida. Associated Press journalists in the Yemeni capital heard loud explosions that rattled residential buildings

The Houthis said the coali-

Talking to reporters here

on Saturday, Rashid said that

voting on the no-confidence

motion against Prime Minister

Khan can be held on April 3 or

4. He said that he was giving the

likely dates for vote on the pre-

sumption that the motion of no-

trust would be presented in the

National Assembly on March

28. "The voting is held between

three to seven days after the

Pak Interior Minister advises PM Khan to call elections after budget

tion airstrikes hit a power plant, a fuel supply station and the state-run social insurance office in the capital. A Houthi media office

claimed an airstrike hit houses for guards of the social insurance office, killing at least seven people and wounding three others, including women and children. The office shared images

it said showed the aftermath of the airstrike. It showed wreckage in the courtyard of a social insurance office with the shattered windows of a nearby multiple-story building.
In Hodeida, the Houthi

media office said the coalition hit oil facilities in violation of a 2018 cease-fire deal that ended months of fighting in Hodeida, which handles about 70% of Yemen's commercial and humanitarian imports. The strikes also hit the nearby Port Salif, also on the Red Sea. Al-Malki, the coalition

spokesperson, was not immeon the Houthi claims.

The escalation is likely to complicate efforts by the U.N. Special envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, to reach a humanitarian truce during the holy month of Ramadan" in early

ting the no-trust motion against

Prime Minister Khan and said

that the move has taken the

prime minister to a level of pop-

to go for early elections."

ularity where "it is the right time

tions after presenting a good budget because this incompe-

tent Opposition has allowed us

to win again. When the

Pakistani nation sees their (Opposition leaders) faces, they

(Sharif) who says (former

"This is the same Shehbaz

switch channels," he said.

"I'm asking for early elec-



Saudi airstrikes hit Yemen's Houthis after Jeddah attack

Firefighters extinguish the fire following Saudi-led airstrikes targeting two houses in Sanaa, Yemen. A Houthi media office claimed an airstrike hit houses for guards of the social insurance office, killing at least seven people and wounding three others, including women and children

It comes as the Gulf Cooperation Council plans to host the warring sides for talks late this month. The Houthis however have rejected Rivadh — the Saudi capital where the GCC is headquartered — as a expected to include an array of Yemeni factions.

Yemen's brutal war erupted in 2014 after the Houthis seized Sanaa. Months later, raising concerns about Saudi Saudi Arabia and its allies launched a devastating air cam-

prime minister) Nawaz (Sharif)

greatly respects (Chief of Army

Staff Gen Qamar Javed) Bajwa

and the Army. Where did 'vote

ko izzat do' go? The vote has

been sold at shops, they have

insulted democracy," Rashid

said, referring to Sharif's ear-

lier rhetoric of attacking the

Army chief for allegedly oust-

interior ministry could also

summon the army under

Article 245 of the Constitution

after approval from the prime

He said that if needed, the

ing him from power.

Dated this 24.03.2022

Saudi-led airstrikes targeting two houses claimed an airstrike hit houses for guards east seven people and wounding three AP/PTI

Paign to dislodge the Houthis and restore the internationally recognized government.

The conflict has in recent years become a regional proxy war that has killed more than 150,000 people, including over 14.500 civilians. It also created one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world.

The Houthis' Friday attack came ahead of a Formula One race in the kingdom on Sunday, Arabia's ability to defend itself against the Iranian-backed

minister and his cabinet. The

remarks by the interior minis-

ter come as both the govern-

ment and the opposition were

making claims about their suc-

cess in the vote of confidence

edge since Opposition parties

on March 8 submitted the no-

confidence motion before the

National Assembly Secretariat,

alleging that the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) gov-

ernment led by Prime Minister

Khan was responsible for the

economic crisis

Pakistan has been on the

rebels.Friday's attack targeted the same fuel depot that the Houthis had attacked in recent days — the North Jiddah Bulk Plant that sits just southeast of the city's international airport and is a crucial hub for Muslim pilgrims heading to Mecca. In Egypt, hundreds of

passengers were stranded at Cairo International Airport after their Jiddah-bound flights were canceled because of the Houthi attack, according to airport officials.

The kingdom's flagship

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform to all concerned that Sh. Faiyaj S/o Late Karamat Ali R/o Vill- Asgarpur

Jagir Noida Dist: Gautam Budh Nagar, who is the original allottee of Plot No. S-35, Sector-

carrier Saudia announced the cancelation of two flights on its website. The two had 456 passengers booked. A third canceled flight with 146 passengers was operated by the low-cost Saudi airline Flynas. Some passengers found

seats on other Saudi Arabiabound flights and others were booked into hotels close to the Cairo airport, according to Egyptian officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because there were not authorized to brief media.

It is Notified for the Information that I,Rajkumar Saini C/o M/s Supreme Trading I,Rajkumar Saini C/o M/s Supreme Trading Co. Address 1043, Gali No.9, Shop No.8, GF Akashdeep Complex, Govindpuri Kalka Ji Delhi have actually Lost ORIGINAL C-FORMS (TOTAL 2 C-FORM) ISSUED BY M/S S.A.N IMPEX TO M/S SUPREME TRADING CO. (TIN NO: 07160231826) DETAILS AS FOLLOWS:1st QTR 2014-2015 OF Rs.283502 /- 2nd QTR 2014-2015 OF Rs.163674/- WERE LOST ON THE WAY AT THE TIME GOING TO SHOP(GOVINDPURI KALKA JI) FROM HOME ON 21-03-2022 LE

Public Notice
This is to inform general public that Mr. Harsukh Bhogayata is owner of Entire Second floor without roof rights, (Hereinafter referred to as "said floor") Part of freehold built up property bearing municipal no. 156, part of old plot no. 31, area measuring 50 Sq. yds. ie. 41.8 Sq. mtrs., Gali no. 17, out of khasra no. 200, Khewat no. 1, situated in the area of village Ghowkir Muradabad, Delhi State Delhi, Abadi known as Onkar Nagar- B, Tri nagar. Delhi- 1100.35 vide Sale Deed dated 26.05.2015, executed by Mrs. Pushpa and Now, Mr. Harsukh Bhogayata is intending to sell the above said property/Floor to Mr. Rajesh Verma. Further Mr. Rajesh Verma is mortgaging the above said property/floor with

Rajesh Verma. Further Mr. Rajesh Verma is mortgaging the above said property/floor with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place. Delbi. 1100/34 or contact at

the original allottee of Plot No. S-35, Sector-128, Sultanpur, Noida G.B. Nagar (U.P) which is registered Sub Registrar office 3rd Noida dated 19.11.2012, Bahi No.3, Jild No.468, at page No. from 111 to 122, & Serial No. 5066. So it is informed to all concerned that the said Plot is going to be transferred in favour of Shri Satish Singh Chauhan S/o Late Kishori Lal R/o Vill-Asgarpur Jagir, Noida Distt: Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) on the basis of registered Will. If any one has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection along with the may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Residential Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Sh. Satish Singh Chauhan 9066707172/9818228636 (M). **BEFORE THE HONB'LE BEFORE THE HONB'LE NATIONAL COMPANY**

LAW TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH BENCH, **CHANDIGARH KAILASH AGGARWAL**

Versus **GENEX INFRATECH** LTD. & ORS. CP No. 151/Chd/Pb/2019

Next Date: 12.05.2022 Publication issued to : 1. R-3 Sourabh Gupta S/o Sh.

Raghubir Chand Gupta, R/o H.No. 17-B, Near Telephone Exchange, GTB Market, Khanna, Punjab - 141401

. R-5 Reenu Gupta W/o Sh. Rohit Gupta, R/o H.No. 17-B, Near Telephone Exchange, GTB Market, Khanna, Punjab -141401

R-6 Ashish Jhakodia S/o Sh. Gopal Jhakodia, R/o H.No. 603, Omaxe Grand, Sector 93B, Noida, Uttar Pradesh -201305 In the above titled case, the above

mentioned Respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that Respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on

Membe (Technical)

NATIONAL COMPANY **LAW TRIBUNAL** CHANDIGARH BENCH. CHANDIGARH

KAILASH AGGARWAL Versus **GENEX POLYFAB LTD.** & ORS.

CP No. 134/Chd/Pb/2020 Next Date: 12.05.2022

Publication issued to :

1. R-3 Sourabh Gupta S/o Sh.

Raghubir Chand Gupta, R/o H.No. 17-B, Near Telephone Exchange, GTB Market, Khanna, Punjab - 141401

R-4 Abhishek Kansal S/o Sh. Anish Kansal, R/o H.No. 661 Phase 1, Ranjit Avenue, Malerkotla Road, Ludhiana, Punjab - 147301

3. R-5 Ms. Ripple Gupta D/o Sh. Gopal Krishan, C/o Shiva Steel, Harchand Road, Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab - 147301 In the above titled case, the above

mentioned Respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that Respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 12.05.2022. For details login to: nclt.gov.in

Dated, this day of 29-11-2021

Opposition "foolish" for submit-

five-year term in office.

General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Meent Chhabra Wife/o Mr. Ashok Chhabra Plot No. 224, area Chinatra Wife/o Mr. Ashok Chinatra Plot No. 224, area 86 Sq. Yds., The current owner of the southern part of Which is part of Khasra No- 21/5m, is situated in the population of "Jai Colony-I" known as "Uttam Nagar", area of Block-T, Village Matiale, New Delhi. which is owned and held by the Notary GPA dated 07.12.1990 and intends to sell the same to Mr. Sandeep Sha which will be financed by Clix Housing Finance Limited. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 15 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, Il be assumed that be a summer ty.
ect of the aforesaid property.
Raghay Tiwari (Advocate
Now Delhi – 11000) umed that there are no claims or issues

PUBLIC NOTICE

Kolkata - 700020 Notice is hereby given that the share certificate No 18748 with Distinctive no(s) 4355801 to 4355900 in respect of Folio No S02659 Registered in the name of Pramod Sharma is reported to be lost and the company has received application for issue of duplicate share certificate(s). If no objection from any interested person is received by the company's registrars Maheshwari Datamatics Pvt. Ltd., 23, R.N. Mukherjee Road, Kolkata 700001, within 15 days from the publication hereof the company will proceed to issue duplicate share Certificate(s) to the applicant(s)

Dated: -23-03-2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that "INDEED FINCAP PRIVATE LIMITED" (which is a RBI registered

DHANANJAY SHUKLA DIRECTOR DIN: 01264947

NBFC Company, incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and having its registered office at 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi -110001) has received the approval from the Department of Non-Banking Supervision, Reserve Bank of India. New Delhi for the change in the management of the company, in respect of appointment of Mr. Ravi Aggarwal as the director of the company vide Letter No S886/CMS-V/05.09.110/2021-22 dated 23rd March 2022. Any persons(s) who have any objection in this regard may submit their objections/comments to the Company at its Registered office or to the Department of Non-Banking Supervision, Reserve Bank of India, New Delhi within 30 (Thirty) days of this For Indeed Fincap Private Limited

Add: Flat No 337, BLOCK-B, TYPE -A, POCKET-3. DDA FLAT, BINDA PUR, **UTTAM NAGAR DELHI 110059**

(CIN: U70102DL2008PTC177009) egistered Office: B-1/504, Satyam Apartments, The New Progressive CGHS Ltd 'asundhara Enclave, Delhi-110096, Tel. No: 9560280404; E-mail:ndga504@gma

Form No. CAA. 9 [Pursuant to Section 233(1) and rule 25(1)] In the matter of: The Companies Act, 2013 And

ADIHM ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED

In the matter of: Scheme of Merger under section 233 of the Companies Act, 2013 rea In the matter of: Scheme of Merger under section 233 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016 Notice is hereby given by Adihm Enterprises Private Limited (Transfere Company) that a scheme of merger or amalgamation is proposed to be entered with Abhilasha Estates Private Limited (Transferor Company-7). Bolster Construction Company Private Limited (Transferor Company-3), HBR Commodities Private Limited (Transferor Company-4), HBR Stock & Shares Private Limited (Transferor Company-4), HBR Stock & Shares Private Limited (Transferor Company-6), KACL Marketing Private Limited (Transferor Company-7), Rahaliya Ji Tour And Travels Private Limited (Transferor Company-7), Kanhaliya Ji Tour And Travels Private Limited (Transferor Company-10), Linear Pharma Private Limited (Transferor Company-11), RST Buildtech Private Limited (Transferor Company-12), Tanwar Electronics Private Limited (Transferor Company-13) with Adihm Enterprises Private Limited (Transferor Company)-3) with Adihm Enterprises Private Limited (Transferor Company)-4) with Adihm Enterprises Private Limited (Transferor Company)-

Copy of the scheme of merger or amalgamation can be inspected at the registered on the transferee company situated at L B-1/504, Satyam Apartments, The New Prog CGHS Ltd., 20-B, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-110096. Objections or suggestions are invited from Registrar of Companies, NCT of Delhi & Haryana, 4th Floor, IFCI Tower, 6: Nehru Place, New Delhi – 110019;

iii) Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed scheme Any person mentioned in (i), (ii) or (iii) above, desirous of providing objections o suggestions in respect of the scheme should send their objections or suggestions within thirty days from the date of this notice to the Regional Director at B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor, PT Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi – 110003, and Kushal Singl (DIN: 02539447) at E-9 Beta-1 Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar-201306 being subtrained by the provided of the Temperage Complex of the Temperage Compl

ii) Official Liquidator, 8th Floor, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi -110003; and

For Adihm Enterprises Private Limit Kushal Singh (DIRECTOR

By order of the Board of Directo

For details logon to: nclt.gov.in Dated, this day of 26-11-2021 Member

(Technical)

12.05.2022.

Membe (Judicial)

(Judicial)

return to mentioned below address. Sender detail and address:

executed between Governor General Council of the one part and L Balmoka and L Kanhaya Lal, L Puran Chand and L Devi Chand. 2. Original supplementary lease deed dated 13.10.1966 executed between President of India of the one part and M/s Isherdas Sahni & Bros. All people are hereby informed not to de or carry out any transaction with anyon

on the basis of the said missing

cinema, flats and a shop constructed on a plot measuring 13000 sq. ft. Approx. situated in D Block Connaught place, Nev Delhi 110001. Detail of lost documents: 1. Original lease deed dated 06.06.1942

having its Office ITO, Indian Express Building, Delhi-110002. Now, Mr. Amit Jain has agreed to create mortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our Client IDFC FIRST Bank Limited. Further, if any person, body, individual, institution having any claim, title, interest and for objection in respect of or against or relating to or touching upon said property or part of the property by may of sale, exchange, lease, lein, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary deposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title, documents pertaining the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at below mentioned address within 10 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or my Client & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 10 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unitno 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/ 9818228636 (M). document. And if someone found pleas

Complex,Connaught Place New Delhi-110001,Contact: 9811078779

eral budget, which is presented each year weeks before the end of fiscal year on June 30. This is the second time in a week that Rashid has advocated for snap polls to end the

Minister Khan to call elec-

tions after presenting the fed-

ongoing political crisis. On Thursday, Rashid had said that early elections can be held in the country to end the current political uncertainty due to the no-trust motion against Prime Minister Khan. The next general election is due

by late 2023. No Pakistani prime min-

motion is tabled," he said. Rashid termed the PUBLIC NOTICE

ister has ever completed a full

veyance Deed dated 13.05.1995 related

Conveyance Deed dated 13.03.1995 related to the above said property. Anyone who find the above said documents shall handover the same to the Manager of IDFC FIRST Bank Limited having its Office ITO, Indian Express Building, Delhi-110002, Now, Mr. Amit Jain has agreed to

Public Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that Mr. Amit Jain (hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagors's Borrowers) is purchasing Property Bearing No. 90, area measuring 247.25 Sq. Mtrs., Block-AK, situated at Shalimar Bagh, Delhi from Mr. Shaishav Gupta who became owner of the said floor vide Relinquishment Deed dated 09.12.2021 and Gift Deed dated 09.12.2021. Above said owner has misplaced the Original Perpetual Lease Deed dated 27.02.1937 and Convevance Deed dated 13.05.1995 related to

Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 110001 Mob.: +91-8076188328

Dhunseri Ventures Limited Dhunseri House 4A, Woodburn Park

India can grow consistently at 8% for 20 yrs on current investment strategy: Vaishnaw

the noble laureates and they are in

a very bad situation. We decided

to choose the path which had three

elements- public investment, very

focussed consumption and

reforms and incentives for private

Japan, China and South Korea

have followed the same path of

He said Germany, the US,

industries," Vaishnaw said.

Indian economy can grow consistently at 8 per cent for the next 20 years leading to the generation of up to 1.5 crore new jobs and bringing out 3.5 crore people out of the poverty every year on the basis of the capital investment strategy of the government, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

While addressing the annual general meeting of Assocham, he said that the government has set a target of increasing the capital investment level in the budget from 27 per cent of the GDP to 35 per cent of the GDP over the next few years.
"We follow the strategy of cap-

ital investment for 5-6 years more, tently for the next 20 years. 8 per cent growth in the next 20 years means, every year close to 1-1.5 crore new employment, 30-35 million people coming out of

That's the change we can bring in our society by that



thought process," Vaishnaw said. The minister said that India has been a consumption-led economy in the past and the Prime Minister has taken a "path of faith" to increase capital investment despite reluctance from several economists.

"Many of the European countries followed the prescription of capital investments for several

The minister said the country's nominal GDP at the end of the financial year 2021 was Rs 198 trillion and the target was to reach Rs 225 trillion.

In this Rs 198 trillion economy, close to Rs 116 trillion came from consumption which is about 59 per cent of the GDP and Rs 53 trillion came from investment which is only about 27 per cent of the GDP, the minister said. The government after analysing that its liability is around 60 per cent of the GDP, decided to go for increasing capital investments.

Vaishnaw said that the Centre gets roughly Rs 20 trillion as

tax revenue and net tax revenue, after taking out state government share, is about Rs 15 trillion and non-tax is about Rs 3 trillion.

About Rs 18 trillion is the total receipt that the government of India gets on the revenue side,

The minister said that the government in the last year's budgetmade a capital investment of Rs 5.5

He said that the GDP target surpassed the Rs 225 trillion target and reached Rs 232 trillion.

The minister said that the result of Rs 5.5 trillion is now visible and based on the result the government has decided to increase the capital investment to Rs 7.5 trillion.

"This will add Rs 22.5 trillion to the Indian economy," Vaishnaw

He said that the way our economy is structured Rs 13 trillion will go to the MSME sector and close to Rs 10 trillion will go as wages and salaries which lead to people spending in several sec-

The minister said that people who are in the brick and mortar industry may have seen that the factory capacity utilisation was around 60-70 per cent a year ago which has now reached about 80-85 (per cent) and in some sectors it has reached 90-95 per cent where people are now planning setting up new facilities.

Akasa Air to launch operations from June

PTI HYDERABAD

Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed airline Akasa Air is all set to roll out its commercial operation from June, its CEO Vinay Dube has said here.

Speaking at an inter-active session on the side-lines of Wings India 2022, Dube on Friday said the airline hopes to have a fleet of 72 aircraft in the next five years.

'We hope to launch our first commercial flight in the month of June. We are working very closely with Ministry of Civil Aviation, DGCA (Director General of Civil Aviation) to get our licensing done," he said replaying to query.

He further said the airline plans to have 18 aircraft on ground as part of its fleet within 12 subsequent months of launching and then add 12 to 14 every year making it 72 in five years.

Sebi plans reducing timelines for open, buyback offers

To reduce the overall time I taken for the completion of open and buyback offers, markets regulator Sebi has suggested changes in the time-lines for procedural activities, including a lesser time period

for tendering shares.

The proposed changes would bring down the overall time taken for completion of open offers to 42 working days from the current 62 working days, while in the case of buyback offers, the time period will reduce to 36 working days from 43 working days at present.

According to Sebi, the changes would be "investorfriendly and make the process more efficient". In this regard, the watchdog has issued a consultation paper, and public comments have been sought on it till April 15.

"Considering the technological advancements in

digital and fin-tech and changes made in the manner of tendering and settlement of shares, a need was felt to review the overall timelines for procedural activities, including the duration of the tendering period, involved in the open offers and buy-back

tender offers," it said.

Further, Sebi noted that the changes would also help conclude the offers in a more efficient and time-bound manner and to synchronise the timelines of similar activities across all the tender offers to the extent possible.

Among other changes, the regulator has proposed the period for tendering shares in an open offer to 10 working days from the date of receiving comments from Sebi and would remain open for 5 working days."Considering that the same is being proposed in case of open offers, we may implement the same in buyback offers also.

Lankan newspapers run out of newsprint due to forex crisis; suspend publication

Colombo: Sri Lanka's two major newspapers on Saturday suspended their publication over newsprint shortage and price escalation caused by the country's all-time worst foreign exchange crisis.

The Island, an English daily along with its sister Sinhala paper Divayina, ceased to print as the newsprint scarcities and price escalations hit the

"We regret to inform our readers that we have been compelled to suspend the publication of The Island print edition on Saturday until further notice in view of the newsprint shortage," Upali Newspapers Limited said in a statement.

Sri Lanka is facing its all-time

worst foreign exchange crisis after the pandemic hit the nation's earnings from tourism and remittances.

The import costs of newsprint also rose remarkably since the government's decision early this month to float the Sri Lankan rupee against the US dollar. The Island newspaper, which has been in print since October 1981, will now function as an e-paper.

Sri Lanka is facing an acute economic and energy crisis triggered due to shortage of foreign exchange. A sudden rise in prices of key commodities and fuel shortage forced tens of thousands of people to queue for hours outside petrol filling stations. People are also facing long hours of power cuts daily.

Gold devaluation pulls India's foreign exchange reserve lower by \$2.5bn

Mumbai: Devaluation of gold and other asset classes pulled India's foreign exchange reserves lower by \$2.597 billion during the week that ended on March 18.Reserve Bank of India data showed that India's forex reserves fell to \$619.678 billion from \$622.275 billion reported for the previous week.

The country's forex reserves consist of foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, SDRs, and the country's reserve position with the IMF.

On a weekly basis, FCAs, the largest component of the forex reserves, edged lower by \$703 million to \$553.656 billion. Similarly, the value of the country's gold reserves decreased by \$1.831 billion to \$42.011 billion, while the SDR value fell by \$62 million to \$18.865 billion.

On the other hand, the country's reserve position with the IMF remained flat at \$5.146 bil-"India's FX reserves decreased by

\$2.60 billion to \$619.68 billion in the week ending 18th March largely due to valuation effects in gold by \$1.8 billion and \$0.7 billion in foreign currency," said Sajal Gupta, Head Fx & Rates, Edelweiss.

"The week prior to that, the FX reserves had decreased by \$9.65 billion to \$622.27 billion.

for early resolution of matters: NCLT New Delhi: New-age technologies so that there is certainty in decision

such as ArtificialIntelligence (AI) could be used for early resolution of matters, including insolvency cases, National Company Law Tribunal PresidentJustice Ramalingam Sudhakar said.

While addressing a nationallevel colloquium of NCLT, JusticeSudhakar suggested that AI can be used in case of resolution, especiallyin the admission of cases, a statement issued by NCLT said."One aspect for early resolution is the development of Artificial Intelligence technology," he

said."We are focusing on leveragingartificial intelligence and standardisation of processes. This willhelp in reducing delays. We are also focussed on evolving a codeof best practices

making,"said Justice Sudhakar. According to Justice Sudhakar,

Artificial Intelligence could be used

India was envisioning a multi-trilliondollar economy. "The bedrock in a nation's econ-

omy is industry and commerce, whichis governed by Company Law besides other laws," he said. NCLT President stated that the

government has come out with a codeto resolve corporate issues to enable corporates of India to competewith the world."NCLT is the guardian of the corporate law and each of the Membershas a role to play in the economic growth of the country. Today'sColloquium will address effective and judicial process and resolution,"he said.

The national-level Colloquium

on the topic, "NCLT- The Road Ahead"was also addressed by Ministry of Corporate Affairs Secretary Rajesh

Verma and Indian Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Chairman Ravi Mital.While IBBI Chairman stated that there are two cornerstones of theInsolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) viz timelines in process and thecontrol is given to creditors as against Debtors

He stated that with more standardisation, the speed of resolutionof cases can be increased. MCA Secretary Verma said

NCLT has performed commendably, particularlyduring Covid-19. It has disposed of about 62,000 cases out of about83,000 cases filed before it,

Vodafone Idea shareholders approve ₹14,500 cr fundraising proposal



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shareholders of Vodafone Idea have approved a proposal to raise Rs 14,500 crore, the debt-ridden telecom operator said in a filing on Saturday.

Shareholders approved the proposal at the extraordinary general meeting held on Saturday, the filing said. Vodafone Idea (VIL) had placed spe-

cial resolution of issue of equity shares worth Rs 4,500 crore to the group firms of promoters Vodafone and Aditya Birla Group for transaction at the EGM.

As part of its fundraising, VIL had also sought shareholders' approval to raise Rs 10,000 crore through sale of equity or through a mix of ADR, GDR and FCCBs.

Promoter firm Vodafone plans to infuse up to Rs 3,375 crore into debt-ridden Vodafone Idea Ltd. Besides, Aditya Birla Group plans to pump in up to Rs 1,125

Vodafone's group firm Euro Pacific Securities and Prime Metals will subscribe to 253.75 crore equity shares. This will be 75 per cent of the total equity shares to be issued by the company on preferential basis, indicating a contribution of around Rs 3,374.9 crore from the British telecom

Aditya Birla Group firm Oriana Investments Pte will subscribe to 84.58 crore equity shares which is about 25 per cent of the preferential shares of VIL as part of the fund raise, implying a contribution of Rs

Currently, Birlas own more than 27 per cent stake in VIL while Vodafone Plc holds over 44 per cent shareholding in VIL.

VIL sought shareholders' nod to increase the authorised share capital to Rs 75,000 crore, divided into 7,000 crore equity shares of Rs 10 each and 500 crore preference share of Rs 10 each.

CIAL bags Covid champion award

PTI ■ KOCHI

The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has bagged the 'Covid champion' award at Wings India 2022. Which is Asia's largest event on civil aviation jointly organand FICCI at the Begumpet airport in Hyderabad.

ĆIAL Managing Director S Suhas IAS received the 'Covid champions' trophy from Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia.

The airport operator was selected for the successful implementation of a meticulous project named 'Mission Safeguarding' during the pandemic time to ensure safe travel at Kochi Airport, CIAL said in a release. "CIAL followed the 5R rule; Recognise, Respond, Repeat, Record and Refer for this project which maintained hassle-free passenger movement at the terminals. The project comprehended extensive covid testing facilities, medical surveillance and follow up planning programmes ensuring seamless traffic,"

Petrol, diesel prices hiked again

IANS NEW DELHI

State-owned oil marketing companies (OMC) on Saturday raised petrol and diesel prices for the fourth time this week.

These prices were revised for the very first time on Tuesday, March 22, after a gap

Accordingly, the increase in selling price which includes state levies, central excise and cess amongst others, came days after crude oil prices saw astronomical rise due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

In New Delhi, the price of petrol and diesel were increased again by 80 paise per

As per pump prices, petrol now costs Rs 98.61 per litre and diesel Rs 89.87 per litre in the national capital.On Friday, petrol prices were increased to Rs 97.81 per litre and diesel Rs 89.07 per litre in Delhi.

In the financial capital Mumbai, prices were hiked to Rs 113.35 per litre for petrol and diesel to Rs 97.55 per

litre.Besides, the prices of both the transport fuels were raised in Kolkata.

The petrol prices rose to Rs 108.01 and diesel to Rs 93.01 per litre.In Chennai too, they were increased. Petrol there now costs Rs 104.43 and diesel Rs 94.47 per litre. Till Tuesday, fuel prices

2021 when the Centre reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 5 and Rs 10 per litre, respectively. The OMCs revised the transportation fuel cost based

on various factors such as

rupee to US dollar exchange

rate, cost of crude oil and demand of fuel amongst Resultantly, the final price includes excise duty, value added tax and dealer's commission.It was widely expected that the OMCs will revise the current prices due to high

Lately, crude oil prices have been volatile surging by nearly 35-40 per cent on fear of tight supplies.

crude oil cost.

Coal India arm NEC resumes mining operations

Coal India-arm North Eastern Coalfields on Saturday resumed its mining operations at Tikak colliery in Assam, a statement said on Saturday.

were halted owing to nonavailability of land for overburden dump and certain clear-

"Coal mining operations at North Eastern Coalfields (NEC), a unit of world's largest coal company Coal India Ltd (CIL), resumed on Saturday with the Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi inaugurating resumption of mining operations at Tikak colliery of NEC," according to an official statement.

Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma was also present on the occasion.

"Today we have resumed mining operations at Tikak colliery and it is a very impor-

tant step towards development of the region. The coal quality of NEC is superior and it is in high demand by several of India's domestic industries,"

Joshi said.

NEC presently operates in Tikak colliery in Margherita, jects (OCPs) namely Tikak OCP and Tikak Extension OCP with a combined coal production capacity of four lakh tonne per annum. NEC will also start producing coal from its Tirap OCP from upcoming fiscal 2022-23. NEC has planned to produce 10 lakh tonne of coal from 2023-

"Increased production in the mines will generate more revenues for the State Government, more employment for the people and also support small business activities, while catering to the energy demand," Joshi added.

Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of country's coal production.

UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM

E-Tender Notice Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT INTER
COLLEGE MAIN BUILDING AT MACHOD, DISTT-ALMORA
Estimated Cost:- Rs. 198.98 Lakh
Period of Complete Costs (198.98 Lakh)

Online Bid submission: End date :- 16-04-2022 (17.00 hrs

Period of Completion: - 8 Month 26-03-2022 (17.00 hrs)

Date & Time of Technical bid Opening: -19-04-2022 (11.00 hrs)

Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- General Manage (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Laxmi Niwas Durgapal Garden, Pilikothi, Haldwani.
Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 30-03-2022 (11.00

hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet . For further details, details of subsequent Amendment/correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement port

UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM

E-Tender Notice Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT INTER COLLEGE MAIN BUILDING AT Painsiya, DISTT-ALMORA Estimated Cost:- Rs. 198.98 Lakh . Date and Time of availability

Online Bid submission: End date :- 16-04-2022 (17.00 hrs) . Online bid submission: End date: - 10-04-2022 (17.00 ins)
. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening: -19-04-2022 (11.00 hrs)
. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- General Manage (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Laxmi N Durgapal Garden, Pilikothi, Haldwani.

26-03-2022 (17.00 hrs)

 Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 30-03-2022 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment/correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement port **GENERAL MANAGER**

VASTU HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED A Public Ltd. Company Incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956

CIN: U65922MH2005PLC272501 Registered & Corporate Office: Unit Nos. 203 & 204, 2st Floor, A wing, Navbharat Estates, Zakaria Bunder Road Sewri (West), Mumbai - 400015 Tel No: 022-24190911 Email: cs@vastuhfc.com

Website: https://www.vastuhfc.com SHIFTING OF BRANCH OFFICE he Branch office of Vastu Housing Finance corporation Limited ("Company") at Delhi shal e shifted to the new premises as mentioned w from 27th April, 2022 (effective date):

Old Address E-38, 2rd floor, Naraina Vihar, Hari Swar Building, New Delhi 110028 **New Address** F NO - 301/10165 Mezzanine Gurudwara Road West Extn Area, Karol Bagh Delhi -110005

the Company should be sent to the address only. In case of any queries, you may contact us at customercare@vastuhfc.com
Address: Unit Nos. 203 & 204, 2nd Floor, A wing, Navbharat Estates, Zakaria Bunde Road, Sewri (West), Mumbai 400015 Date : 27th March, 2022

The Old Premises will remain operational till 27th April, 2022. From 27th April, 2022 onwards,

Domestic coal supply to be made proportional: Power Min ${ m T}$ he power ministry on Saturday said it will not be possible to sup-

ply coal other than on proportionate basis to make up any shortfall. The Ministry of Power in a state-

ment said it is monitoring the coal supply situation in the country and has taken steps to ensure adequate coal supply and coal stocks based on the domestic coal received from Coal India Ltd (CIL), Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) and captive coal

As per the decision taken in the ministry in consultation with state gencos, IPPs (independent power producers) and central gencos, domestic coal supply will be made proportional to the coal received from CIL/SCCL for all the gencos and it will not be possible to give more coal other than on proportionate basis to make up any shortfall, it added.

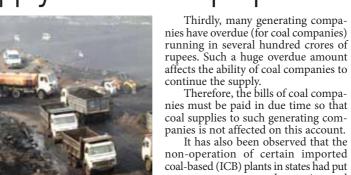
It has issued a circular directing certain actions to be taken on priority to enhance the supply of domestic coal.

Firstly, production in captive coal mines allotted to power plants may be maximised to the limit permitted by the Secondly, it has been decided that available to such power plants where there is slackness in prompt unloading of coal from rakes This step has been taken to max-

imise the utilisation of available railway rakes. Therefore, this aspect may be monitored at the state government level and unloading of coal may be ensured within the given norm.

It has been reported that several power plants are taking much longer time than the norm in unloading coal from railway rakes, which is affecting the turn-around time, the statemen

The central electricity authority (CEA) has been asked to monitor the lesser number of rakes would be made unloading time at power plants.



affects the ability of coal companies to continue the supply. Therefore, the bills of coal companies must be paid in due time so that coal supplies to such generating com-

It has also been observed that the non-operation of certain imported coal-based (ICB) plants in states had put more pressure on domestic coal demand, leading to low coal stocks for domestic coal-based (DCB) plants.

The procurer and sellers are legally bound by the PPA (power purchase agreement) signed by both parties. While the procurers are bound to

pay the bills timely, the gencos (sellers) are bound to maintain adequate fuel stocks and offer availability as per

Not maintaining adequate fuel stocks or not giving availability on any pretext (such as the high price of imported coal etc) is inexcusable, the ministry said. Such conduct on the part of a sell-

legal interventions at the level of State

er should be immediately responded to by the procurer sternly by using all possible contractual and other available

government, the statement noted. If any gaming is noticed on the part

of the seller such as not supplying electricity under PPA and selling in the market should be brought to notice of the Regulatory Commission without any delay under intimation to the Ministry of Power for immediate intervention, the ministry added. However, it is understood that

some of the imported coal-based power plants are facing issues in the PPA due to changes in Indonesian Regulations and an increase in international coal prices, the statement noted. These issues also need to be

resolved based on mutual negotiations in a just and transparent manner, it Hence, states may ensure imple-

mentation of PPA with ICB plants with necessary contractual interventions or in extraordinary circumstances use statutory provisions of the Electricity Act 82003 to ensure generation and may approach the ministry for any intervention required in case of an inter-state

The ministry also said that necessary action may be taken to import coal in a transparent and competitive manner for blending purposes based on the demand assessment and to deal with any shortfall of coal availability.

KKR beat CSK by six wickets in IPL opener

clinically all-round Kolkata Knight Riders beat defending cham-₌pions Chennai Super Kings by six wickets as Mahendra Singh Dhoni's first tournament fifty in three years went in vain in the IPL lung opener here on Saturday.

Unburdened by captaincy, Dhoni, who relinquished the leadership role just two days back, smashed an unbeaten 50 off 38 balls to take CSK to 131 for 5 after being put in to bat. But, KKR, who lost to CSK

in the last season summit clash, chased down the target with nine balls to spare, with out of favour India batter Ajinkya Rahane top-scoring with a 34ball 44.

Rahane, who was bought for Rs 1 crore by KKR after playing very few matches for Delhi Capitals last season, was in good touch as he hit six fours and one six during his knock. He shared 43 runs for the opening wicket with Venkatesh Iyer (16) and that was the highest partnership for KKR in the end. Nitish Rana (21), new captain Shreyas Iyer (20 not out)

Smith ruled out

Australia suffered a blow ahead of their upcoming

ODI series and lone T20 against

Pakistan with senior batter Steve

Smith being ruled out with an

elbow problem. Cricket

Australia said on Friday night

that Smith will miss the white-

ball leg of the tour of Pakistan

to manage discomfort in his left

elbow. "Smith experienced some

discomfort during the three-

match Test series and, with a full

schedule of international crick-

et over the coming 18 months,

it was felt prudent to prioritise

recovery and treatment at this

Swepson who failed to impress in

the three-match Test series has replaced Smith in the white-ball squad. Australia play three One-Day Internationals (March 29, 31

and April 2) and a T20

International (April 5), with all the

matches taking place in Lahore.

Cameron Green, Travis Head,

Labuschagne, Mitchell Marsh,

Marnus

Inglis,

Adam Zampa.

Leg-spinner Mitchell

time," a CA statement said.

of Pak series

PTI KARACHI

and Sam Billings (25) made useful contributions to give KKR a winning start to the tourna-

Iyer thus started his KKR captaincy with a win while his counterpart Ravindra Jadeja, who took the place of the iconic Dhoni as CSK skipper, began his stint with a loss.

Iyer hit the winning runs, a boundary, as KKR reached 133 for 4 in 18.3 overs.

Quitting captaincy may unburden Virat Kohli the batter but the

focus will still remain on the maestro

in Royal Challengers Bangalore's IPL-

15 opener against Punjab Kings here

will not be leading RCB in nearly a

decade, turning out only as a player,

instead. Relinquishing captaincy, how-ever, will in no way take away any

attention from Kohli, who will look

to rediscover his glorious touch and

power the franchise to a maiden title

triumph in the 2022 edition of the

new captains at the helm in Faf du

Plessis and Mayank Agarwal respec-

tively, but Kohli will certainly attract

Both RCB and PBKS will have

For, it will be the first time Kohli

Dwayne Bravo (3/20) was the pick of the bowlers for

Earlier, KKR dished out a clinical bowling show to restrict

CSK to 131/5.

CSK crossed the 130-run mark thanks to Dhoni's unbeaten 50 off 38 balls (7x4; 1x6) and skipper Jadeja's 26 not out off 28 balls (1x6). Dhoni's last IPL fifty was 84 not out versus Royal Challengers Bangalore on Apr

entrusted with leading the side, some-

thing which he last experienced in

umphs, both teams will be eager to

Plessis, who was acquired by RCB for

Rs 7 crore in the IPL mega auction last

month, will captain the side even as

it continues its search for its first-ever

title, having failed in the previous 14

outings. At 37, du Plessis doesn't have

many IPL seasons left in him and he

would be too eager to guide the team

to grapple with the absence of

Australian duo of Glenn Maxwell and

Josh Hazlewood in the team's first few

matches. Maxwell is away for his mar-

While they will have a new captain with fresh ideas, RCB will have

to an elusive triumph.

make a strong statement first up.

Still eying their maiden title tri-

Seasoned South African du

opener Ruturaj Gaikwad (0) perished cheaply. After being caught by Nitish Rana in the slip cordon off pacer Umesh Yadav (2/20).

The typical Wankede track, which had a good amount of bounce, did aid the KKR bowlers and they took maximum advantage.

Devon Conway (3) and Robin Uthappa (28 off 21 balls)

RCB, Punjab begin quest for 1st title

Behrendorff.

Dinesh Karthik.

On the other

hand, the Kings will

miss the services of

Jonny Bairstow, who is

in the West Indies with

with the Test side and will miss three

matches at least, so is pacer Jason

options in players like Sherfane

Rutherford, Finn Allen etc. A lot of

focus will be on Sri Lankan all-

rounder Wanindu Hasaranga and

the England Test side in their first

game, and also Kagiso Rabada as he

has just finished his ODI engagement

for South Africa against Bangladesh.

bowling attack looks quite thin and

they would hope that back-up players deliver the goods against a strong

In the absence of Rabada their

But RCB still have some good

then tried to revive the CSK another boundary and a maxi-

BCCI honours Olympians ahead of IPL opener



The BCCI on Saturday felic-including gold medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, with cash awards ahead of the IPL opener between Chennai Super Kings and Kolkata

innings, but managed to add only 28 runs for the second

Conway, who was looking rusty, became Umesh Yadav's second scalp. Uthappa was brutal on Shivam Mavi, whom he hit for a boundary in the second over and followed it up by

PBKS vs RCB

STAR SPORTS 1 & 2

Knight Riders here.

The Board handed
Chopra a cheque of ₹1 crore while Tokyo Games bronze medal winning boxer Lovlina Borgohain was given ₹25 lakh for her achievement.

The men's hockey team, which had also won a historic bronze medal at the quadrennial multi-sport event in Tokyo, was also handed a combined cheque of ₹1 crore.

Captain Manpreet Singh picked up the cheque from BCCI chief Sourav Ganguly in the presence of Board Secretary Jay Shah.

mum in the fourth over. In between, he hammered Umesh

But his stay was cut short, stumped by Shedlon Jackson off Varun Chakravarthy (1/23) in the eighth over as CSK found themselves in a spot of bother



MI for Del

 M^{umbai} Indians' five titles to Delhi Capitals' none will matter little when the heavyweights, equipped with multiple match-winners, lock horns in a clash of titans in a new IPL here on Sunday.

Mumbai have retained their core in skipper Rohit Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Kieron Pollard and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, and the role of these four would be crucial against DC at the Cricket Club of India (CCI), as well against other teams through the sea-

While the leadership skills and tactical acumen of Rohit, who is now the India captain in all formats, are well documented, how Rishabh Pant performs as skipper will be watched with interest, keeping in mind the need to identify future leaders for the country.

Rohit has already announced that he and Ishan Kishan, who was bought for a staggering Rs 15.25 crore, would open the batting. The duo can take any good attack to the cleaners, and Delhi's

DC vs Mumbai STAR SPORTS 1 & 2

experienced one would be wary of their prowess. Suryakumar Yadav isn't available for the game as he is undergoing rehabilitation at

the NCA and Fabian Allen, another hard-hitting strokemaker, could be an able replacement. While Bumrah will spear-

head the pace attack, experienced left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat can be more than handy on the Brabourne track.

Meanwhile, with Australian David Warner yet to join the squad, Prithvi Shaw and Pant could open the batting for DC.

The key for the Capitals will be Pant, who will need to lead from the front and is known for his ability to singlehandedly turn a game on its

South African pacer Anrich Nortje is expected to lead the DC pace attack and be the team's go-to man in the death overs, along with

a lot of attention now that he is not riage while Hazlewood is in Pakistan Prannoy enters Swiss Open final

Aaron Finch (capt), Sean stormed into the men's singles Abbott, Ashton Agar, Jason final at the Swiss Open Super Behrendorff, Alex Carey, Ben 300 badminton tournament Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, with a hard-fought win over Indonesia's world number 5 Anthony Sinisuka Ginting here on Saturday.

The 29-year-old eked out a Ben McDermott, Marcus Stoinis, Mitchell Swepson, 21-19, 19-21, 21-18 win over Ginting in a thrilling semifinal

that lasted an hour and 11 minutes. It was Prannoy's first final ontinuing his impressive in five years, having won the US

> He will take on either compatriot Kidambi Srikanth or Îndonesia's Jonatan Christie in the summit clash on Sunday.

On Friday, Srikanth notched up a stunning three-game win over world number three Anders Antonsen to progress to the men's singles semifinals of Swiss Open tourney.



RCB batting unit.

Ponting sees Pant as 'successful' future India captain

wo-time World Cup-win- faith in the player. Ricky Ponting has no doubt that flamboyant wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant will be a successful India captain if he is handed the responsibility in

Pant took over the captaincy at IPL franchise Delhi Capitals last season in the absence of an injured Shreyas

Iyer, with the Ponting-led the most successful IPL skip- to what Rishabh over here. team management showing per for the record five-time

a role like this in such a highpressure tournament like the IPL, you know, I've got no doubt in years to come there is every chance that Risabh could be international captain. No doubt about it," Ponting

Ponting, who oversaw Rohit Sharma's rise to become have identical qualities.

"I haven't thought about that actually. But I think they are actually quite similar. When Rohit took over at Mumbai, he was quite a young man as well and he just sort of started out in his international career. He would probably been about 23-24, similar age

"To be totally honest, champions Mumbai Indians, they're actually quite similar mates and they probably

exchange little things about

leadership and captaincy along the way as well," he said. Ponting said Pant can emulate what Rohit has

achieved for Mumbai Indians. There is every opportunity for Rishabh's journey to

be quite similar to Rohit.

Salah sets up win for Egypt over Senegal



AP JOHANNESBURG

Prolific Liverpool scorer Mohamed Salah was the architect of the only goal as Egypt edged Senegal 1-0 in Cairo on Friday in a high-profile World Cup play-off first leg.

Salah turned inside the box and slammed the ball against the crossbar with the rebound hitting Senegal defender Saliou Ciss and rolling into the net for an owngoal. The eagerly awaited clash was a repeat of the Africa Cup of Nations final last month, which Senegal won 4-2 on penalties in

Messi's Argentina take unbeaten run to 30

ionel Messi scored on his

Lreturn to the national team as Argentina stretched their worldleading unbeaten run to 30 matches with a routine 3-0 World Cup qualifying win over Venezuela on Friday. Goals from Nicolas

Cameroon after 120 goalless

Gonzalez and Angel Di Maria,

It was one of three first legs decided by a solitary goal with Algeria winning 1-0 against Cameroon in Douala and Tunisia achieving a similar result against

Mali in Bamako. Ghana and Nigeria played a

had nothing riding on it. Argentina have long qualified for the World Cup in Qatar later this year, while Venezuela were the first team in South America's single 10-nation qualification group to be eliminated. 0-0 draw in Kumasi and Morocco

both created by Rodrigo De Paul, also kept a packed

Bombonera stadium enthralled

in Buenos Aires for a match that

came from behind to hold the Democratic Republic of Congo 1-1 in Kinshasa.

The five second legs are scheduled for Tuesday and the aggregate winners will represent Africa at the World Cup in Qatar from November 21.

Bates, Rowe star in NZ win

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Suzie Bates compiled her 12th ODI century and became the first New Zealand batter, and fourth overall, to reach 5,000 runs in the format as the hosts beat Pakistan by 71 runs to end an otherwise disappointing Women's World Cup campaign on a positive note here on Saturday.



After Bates' magnificent century guided New Zealand to 265 for eight, a maiden fivewicket haul from medium pacer Hannah Rowe helped New Zealand register a comfortable victory at the Hagley Oval.

Bates hit 126 from ust 135 deliveries in the White Ferns' total and that proved too much

for Pakistan as Rowe picked up 5/55 to effectively seal the result for New Zealand.

The victory is unlikely to help the Kiwis reach the semi-finals of the tournament though, with New Zealand now requiring both England and India to record large losses on Sunday to have any chance of sneaking in.

Women's World Cup semis berth at stake for India



PTI CHRISTCHURCH

 $T_{
m go}^{
m heir}$ destiny in their own hands, India will go all out to brush off an inconsistent run and seal a semifinal berth in the Women's World Cup when they play South Africa in a do-ordie match here on Sunday.

So far in the tournament, the 2017 runnersup haven't fired in the manner they would have

With three wins and as many losses India, who are in the fifth spot with six points in the overall standings, find themselves in a must-win situation heading into their final league match.

Their semifinal chances were dented when West Indies, who are also vying to advance to the knockout stage, and South Africa's match was washed out with the former moving up to Wozniacki in 2009 to win five or seven points earlier this week.

A win on Sunday will see India advance to

India vs South Africa Live from 6:30 am IST **STAR SPORTS 2 & 3**

the last four, and a point from the game will also work for the Mithali Raj-led side, as they have a superior NRR (+0.768) than West Indies (-In case India lose to South Africa, their only

hope of advancing to the semifinals will be if England, who have a better NRR (+0.778), also lose their last league stage match to Bangladesh and finish on a lower NRR. That seems unlike-

But the 'Women in Blue' would want to hold all the cards and also get a two-match winning momentum going into the semifinals.

India's inconsistent batting came to the fore yet again in an otherwise 110-run win against Bangladesh, and skipper Raj would be keen to improve on that aspect against a challenging South African bowling attack.

Raj herself has been struggling with the willow. She has four single digit scores in the tournament.

Potentially playing her last game for India should they not make the semis, the 39-yearold veteran would be eager to get some runs under her belt, and ensure that her team makes the cut. Smriti Mandhana, barring the century

against West Indies, has also looked scratchy. Shafali got some much-needed runs against Bangladesh while Yastika Bhatia has slotted herself perfectly at No 3. Vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur has been

India's most consistent performer with the bat while all-rounders Pooja Vastrakar and Sneh Rana have shown they can be counted on to score quick ruire as a group to get the better of South Africa who have only lost one match in

Swiatek becomes new world No 1 with Miami win Poland's first Grand Slam

 $P^{\text{oland's Iga Swiatek clinched}}_{\text{becoming the new world}}$ number one in women's tennis on Friday by defeating swiss Viktorija Golubic 6-2, 6-0 at the WTA Miami Open.

Swiatek will move into the top spot vacated by Australian Ashleigh Barty after the threetime Grand Slam champion announced her retirement ear-



The 20-year-old Warsawborn star had to win her secondround match at the South Florida hardcourt tournament to ensure she would replace

Światek will be the first Polish woman to reach the rankings summit, eclipsing the old mark for players from her homeland she shared with former world number two

singles title was won by Swiatek at the 2020 French Open. Swiatek has enjoyed a blis-

ning WTA titles at Doha and Indian Wells and is now on a career-best 12-match win streak. She's also the first player since Denmark's Caroline

more titles before turning 21.

tering start to the season, win-





You are back to host the dance show. What does it feel like to return after years?

It feels great to be again associated with DID and that too with DID L'il Masters Season 5 and am very happy to be a part of it again.

This show was my first ever reality show as an anchor as this show has given me an opportunity to host and my journey on this platform has been amazing. My audience and fans have loved me hosting this show and I owe all my success journey to DID. This show has given me my real identity and am grateful to be back on the kid's show as I enjoy being around them.

According to you, how has hosting changed over time? Hosting has definitely changed over the time, and I believe I was the one who took the first step forward to transform and change the rule book of hosting. I still remember there used to be an anchor who just

from the tele-prompter. But when Mithun Da and I got together for DID, and he started pulling my leg, that's where the whole profile of an anchor changed.

used to come and tell his script, reading

Now the audience not only wants to see the anchor delivering his lines

Host holds some responsibility for making a show enjoyable for viewers. How challenging has it been for you? It definitely gets challenging every year, but I am a very different person on the stage and otherwise. I like the attention that I get and enjoy teasing the contestants and the kids around. They react according to my vibes, if I behave seriously, they are also serious with me and if I behave and casually talk to them, I get the same in return. I think it is the one of the ways that content gets created on its own, and once my connection with the kids has been established, they let me know everything. I try to spend a lot of time with the contestants as well as their family, which helps their families talking on the show too. I enjoy interacting with them and the kind of response I get from them is very enthusiastic. They know that if there is anything they want to talk about, they can come to me, either the kids or the par-

■ How is your rapport working with Remo D'Souza, Sonali Bendre and Mouni Roy in the fifth season of DID L'il Masters?

I have known Remo Sir for a long time, and we have been so close until then, we spend our vacation together in Goa too and used to play cricket. He is a very good person at heart and is such a great choreographer and director, but he is very down-to-earth. He never

I BELIEVE I WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK THE FIRST STEP FORWARD TO TRANSFORM AND **CHANGE THE** RULE BOOK OF HOSTING. I STILL REMEMBER THERE USED TO BE AN ANCHOR WHO JUST USED TO COME AND TELL HIS SCRIPT, READING FROM THE TELE-



demands for respect, and this is something I really love about him. With Mouni, we have started our television career together, so we have known each other since then, so I was sure of gelling up with her so fast since she herself is a very happy-go-lucky person to talk to. Talking about Sonali Mam, I believe you get a vibe from the person whenever you talk or meet them for the first time, and when we met for the first time on the stage of DID, I knew I won't take much time to gel up with her too and now, all four of us have a very good chemistry on-screen as well as off-screen.

What are your future plans?

I am really looking forward to some good work, interesting shows. I want to get back to my acting and showcase my talent as an actor. My fore here loved talent as an actor. My fans have loved me as an actor, and so I need to get back into acting soon and entertain them. I always keep getting messages from them that they want to see me acting in shows and I think I need to get back into my acting zone for them.

■Any message for your fans

I just want to ask them to keep shower ing their love on me and the show DID L'il Masters Season 5 as they always have done. Also, DID is on-air now and I request them to watch it once for me and I know they will not regret

Plan Your Day

35TH SIC MELA 2022



Asplash of colours, rhythm of drum beats and joy de-vivre Amerge at Surajkund in Faridabad, Haryana starts usually during the first fortnight of each February. The curtains go up on the acclaimed annual Surajkund International Crafts Mela from 1st February onwards every year, a celebration of Indian folk traditions and cultural heritage. What: Festival

Where: Surajkund International Crafts Mela, Faridabad When: Last Day April 4, 2022 Time: 12:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Sound of.



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

Bollywood vibes

Tumse Bhi Zyada (Arijit Singh)

Aankh Marey (Kumar Sanu, Neha Kakkar)

Saiyaan (Asees Kaur)

Yaad Na Aaye (Akull) Kamle (Yasser Desai)

English Vinglish

Hymn For The Weekend (Coldplay)

Heat Waves (Glass Animals) Messin' Around (Pitbull)

Good 4 U (Olivia Rodrigo)

Montero (Lil Nas X)

It is a moral obligation for humans towards future generations to avoid activities that lead to environmental degradation and adopt a sustainable lifestyle, which is also immensely beneficial for the health of humans, plants and other living beings, says DR MUKESH KWATRA







t is imperative to protect the environment and eco-systems from being devoured by a myriad of human activities. It is in fact a moral obligation for humans towards future generations to avoid activities that lead to environmental degradation and adopt a sustainable lifestyle, which is also immensely beneficial for the health of nans, plants and other living

Air and water pollution, climate change, global warming, deforestation, are some of the environmental issues that confront us. We should not rely only on others to bring about a change, making some adjustments in our lifestyle is all that is needed to reduce carbon footprint and help maintain the eco-systems that are the bedrock of life on Earth.

There are six different types of environmental protection laws and policies in India which citizens should be aware of: The Forest Conservation Act, 1980, The Environment (Protection) Act 1986, The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Air and The Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Water (Prevention and Control of

Pollution) Act, 1974.

Besides, The National Green
Tribunal Act, 2010 has been legislated to establish National Green Tribunal (NGT) for the speedy and judicial disposal of cases with reference to environment protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

Reduce Waste and Consume Less The goal is to become more

aware of our consumption habits and their environmental impacts. Every product has an environ-

mental impact and could end up eventually in the dumping ground. The impact of plastic pollution on our oceans and its drastic impacts on marine life is very much evident.

Besides reducing, reusing and recycling, we need to refuse too. Refusing to accept unnecessary stuff into your life can help one save money, minimize clutter and lower the environmental footprint.

It's not just the products we buy. Even the food we eat should not be wasted. Do not leave food in plates, Have or buy food only what can be consumed.

Compost the organic and green waste. Composting your food scraps and yard trash has two advantages: it diverts a significant quantity of garbage from landfills and creates free, nutritional fertilizer for your garden

Single-use plastic should be consequences for our eco-systems. Switch over to reusable things. You'll have less trash stacking up, and you'll be making a significant contribution towards environmental protection.

BUY LOCAL

Tap the local farmers market for fresh, package-free food; try eating at a farm-to-table restaurant; and shop from local artists, fashion makers, and stores.

SHIFT TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

With global energy consumption anticipated to rise 56 per cent in the next two decades, meeting those emissions objectives will be unattainable if we rely solely on existing fossil fuels. Shift to renewable energy sources like solar panels in urban areas and wind energy in rural areas.

Use Eco-friendly Cleaning Products We need to use eco-friendly cleaning products as often as possible instead

of traditional cleaning products that are largely made of synthetic chemicals that are extremely harmful to both our health and the environment

WATER CONSERVATION

Water is one of the most important serve it by adopting sustainable practices in our daily lives. For example, not keep the taps running while brushing or shaving or washing vegetables etc.

Rainwater harvesting needs to be encouraged. The water gathered in this manner can be used for a variety of purposes, including gardening, washing and irrigation.

Energy Conservation

You can limit the quantity of hazardous gasses generated by thermal power plants, save natural resources, and safeguard ecosystems by using less

Reduce your energy consumption by simply switching off electric switches and gadgets not in use, using less air conditioners, using energy efficient lighting like LEDs, and more.

Eat Sustainably

Moving away from a meat based diet towards a more plant based diet can lower your impact on the environment. Meat diet causes wildlife extinction, biodiversity loss. Farming animals for meat and dairy requires space and also big amounts of water and feed. Besides, producing meat results in more carbon dioxide than from plants such as vegting down on meat and dairy products can reduce your weekly food bills too.

TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

Transport is one of the most polluting sectors and hence one of the most efficient ways of lowering your environmental impact is by traveling responsibly. Choose a more sustainable way, walk or cycle whenever you can. Holidaying closer to home can make a big impact on your carbon footprint. Try to use smart travel apps which depict the environmental impact of various modes of travel to a particular destination.

Adapt and adopt a healthy, green and sustainable lifestyle to help make the world a better and healthier place

to be handed over to future generations!

The writer is founder, Smiling Tree

he Rug Republic- a leading homegrown and sustainable home floor fashion brand, has designed an exclusive collection of recycled rugs. The summer collection is a conscious effort in giving it back to society by recycling denim, pet bottles, and bamboo viscose to create and design beautiful rugs. Each

handmade rug will add newness and freshness to your home. The vibrant collection of rugs made from 100 percent materials is a great way to give your homes a quick update The PET fibers used in making these rugs make them

an ideal décor

piece for your

an excellent

outdoor spaces

as well. They are



choice to decorate your outdoor spaces, as the PET fibers can withstand all harsh weather making them more durable.

Hemel Rug- Almost like a maze, these pleasing textures are incredibly versatile. A contemporary area rug waiting to adorn your space. Hemel is hand-woven in PET, extremely durable for your high-traffic areas. Not gonna lie, you're gonna get stuck sitting on this because of texture, as well as the pattern. More than 300 plastic bottles are recycled to make one of these! Priced at ₹ 11,900

TAKING UP DOUBLE ROLE

Arshad Warsi is a master in the comedy genre and he reminded that to his audience with his recent release Bachchhan Paandey alongside Akshay Kumar, Kriti Sanon and Jacqueline Fernandez. And now it seems like the actor is ready to take things up a notch as Arshad will be seen playing a double role for the first time in his career in his next titled Jeevan Bheema Yojana



The film is a quirky crime comedy and is helmed by the Dolly Ki Doli director Abhishek Dogra, who is also making his debut as the Producer of the film

Arshad will be seen playing two extremely different but same looking people, Jeevan and Bheema, in the film and what happens when their paths cross forms the crux of the story.

EVERYTHING HAS AN END

Sony SAB's youth-based show ZiddiDilMaane Na continues to enthrall audiences with its adrenaline pumping storyline peppered with love. friendship and all things action. This week, the show lands at a crucial juncture that's set to change the course of the show forever. Replete with intense emotions and a life-threatening accident, the latest track promises to leave the viewers shocked and misty eyed. Has Karan met his end? Will Monami and Balli succeed in escaping the building safely?



BAD WHEN MAD

He is Bollywood's ultimate action hero, he is Vidyut Jammwal! Get ready to witness this daredevil's latest action drama, Sanak where when a hospital is hijacked, a common man



becomes a hero to save the people. Winning hearts as always, Vidyut's slick kicks, punches and backflips raise the stakes of this action-packed drama. Witness great passion of a one-man army, the right mix of suspense, drama and thrill, and the extent to which the power of love can push you with the World Television Premiere of Sanak on Zee Cinema on March 27 at 12 noon.

COMEDY ISN'T EASY

Actor Vidisha Srivastava recently entered &TV's cult comedy Show *Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai* as the new Anita Bhabi. She says, "Anita Bhabi is an iconic character who enjoys massive popularity and fan following. I feel elated and honoured to be given this opportunity. When I got selected, my first reaction was, 'Oh my gosh! Is this really happening!'. I was ecstatic. I have always enjoyed watching the show for its entertaining characters and humorous plots. I had never imagined that I would be a part of it as one of its lead characters one day. I am thrilled to take on this huge mandate and, most importantly, share the screen with the accomplished and talented actors Aasif Sheikh, RohitashvGouri, and ShubhangiAtre. I am grateful to Sanjay and Binaiferr Kohli Ji for believing in my abilities and giving me this wonderful

ACTION-PACKED TRIPLE ROLE

gorgeous Nora Fatehi in the dance number KusuKusu catch the World Television Premiere on March 27, at 12 noon

Sony MAX is all set to raise the temperature this summer with the World Television Premiere of the hottest film of the season, Satyamev Jayate 2. Synonymous to power packed action



entertainers John Abraham returns as the famed Satya in the hit action-drama helmed by Milap Zaveri and Divya Khosla Kumar in a pivotal role who returns in front of the camera after 17 years.

It is John VS John in this film as the season actor returns to his favourite action genre in a high octane triple role a rarity especially in the past decade of cinema. Sequel to the 2018 Satyamev Jayate, Satyamev Jayate 2 is a John Abraham show through and through with the action hero rocking an enticing triple role of a vigilante, a police officer and a father, as he sets out on a mission to see a corruption free India. However, the vision of a corruption free India is filled with roadblocks as enemies and wrong doers are spread across verticals in society from police, to politicians, industrialists and even common men. Will Satya prove successful in his fight against corruption and abuse of power? Initially hesitant to play the third role of the father, John Abraham does justice and teleports us to a different era as he dons the hat of a herculean farmer much different from the real life people he is known to portray on screen.



The increased accessibility and affordability of genetic analysis and preventive healthcare are indicative of the possibility of how the healthcare system in the country can evolve to not only provide early diagnosis to patients but also better prognosis along with curative or preventive treatment, writes RAHUL RANGANATH

ith a modern lifestyle come modern problems. And these modern problems require modern solutions. The rising number of health issues in the country's population is one example. From obesity to cancer, the graph continues to rise and the causes are often linked to a combination of factors including an unhealthy lifestyle, genetics, and environmental impact. But can we say for sure what causes these diseases? Is there a way to catch them before they manifest in the body? And if so, does India have the healthcare infrastructure to implement these measures?

The simple answer to all of the above questions is 'yes'. But the reality is slightly more nuanced. When it comes to the human body, there is so much that we don't know and we are still making sense of what we do know. That however doesn't mean that we haven't made advancements that can help catch diseases and lifestyle disorders early enough that individuals can take preventive measures.

Did you know that to date more than 7,000 diseases have been known and reported world-wide? From these, nearly 80% are known to have a genetic predisposition (according to Global Genes). That's a huge number! What if you could predict with a certain amount of surety if you have the gene for particular diseases like obesity and hypertension? This is where predictive healthcare and genetic analysis come in.

Despite the fact that on average eight crore Indians are affected by rare diseases that have genetic causes, the predictive healthcare industry has only just started growing in the country. However, DNA-based wellness organisations are helping increase the reach of predictive healthcare across India. This has far-reaching implications because it means that individuals can now use services like these to help predict the likely turn their health might take and take preventive measures to lessen or altogether avoid the impact of serious diseases and medical conditions.

The field of genetics is developing at a fast pace across the country, with more people becoming aware of its impact and benefits towards the betterment of physical health and wellbeing. With this rapid growth, in fact, it is hard to believe that the first effort to sequence a genome cost nearly \$3 billion and took 13 years to complete (the Human Genome Project). Fast forward nearly two decades ahead, and it's harder to believe that Whole Genome Sequencing can nowadays be done for under Rs 1 lakh and targeted genetic analysis for specific

conditions can be done below 10 thousand in

Now before we delve any deeper into the benefits of predictive healthcare and genetic analysis, let's understand how it actually works. The process of genetic analysis basically involves studying a person's genes, which are these units that carry the hereditary information that determines all of a person's traits. These genes, therefore, carry information about what kind of diseases someone might be predisposed to. For instance, you may have heard a doctor tell someone they have a family history of high blood pressure or thyroid and therefore should take better care of their health. Well with procedures like genetic analysis, blood analysis, and lifestyle analysis that are now available, you can figure this out with a certain amount of surety and thereby take preventative measures accordingly without having to shoot in the dark.

The reason why genetic analysis is so important and groundbreaking is that the human body has around 20,000 genes and the mutation in any of these genes on their own or in a combination with others can result in disease. So analysing your genetic code can actually help understand where the mutation happened. And this has far-reaching implications not just for the regular Indian but also for all branches of medicine. Because this is information that can help doctors give a better prognosis for a disease. For instance, if someone has a parent or grandparent who suffered from cancer, the predictive health analysis from genetic testing can actually help doctors figure out the patient also has the genetic predisposition for the disease. This can help them take preventive measures, making it a lot easier for them to even deal if this is something they can't avoid. There are plenty of examples in mainstream media of celebrities who have done this successfully. One celebrity who comes to mind is Angelina Jolie who got a double mastectomy done after the results from her genetic testing procedure revealed she possessed the gene that put her at a higher risk for breast cancer and it was passed down from her mother's side. Although the Indian market is not as devel-

oped as let's say the United States, where you can get genetic analysis as well as screening on a day-to-day basis, it holds a huge potential. Compared to 5 years ago, when the market for it was nearly non-existent in India, the industry has risen to a market share of over 500 crores and is growing at 30% annually. This is a sign of how far genetic testing has come in India, with an increasing number of tests being done

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here and a lot of them costing half as much as they did five years ago. Moreover, tests that

took weeks can now be done in days.

Its further rise in popularity can be addressed to the discovery of new ways in which genetic testing is helping people in their day-to-day lives. Predictive health analysis, which is becoming a popular tool amongst many individuals concerned for their health, is making use of genetic data to provide users with actionable insight that can have serious implications on their healthcare.

Post the pandemic there has been a rise in the level of health awareness in the country. People are now looking for healthier lifestyle changes and attempting to lead more holistic lives. The problem here is that most people approach healthy living from a one-size-fits-all approach but in reality that is not how it works. For instance, a lot of people go on crash diets or rigorous workout schedules to try and lose weight without first understanding why they're gaining weight in the first place. It could be simply because of a sedentary lifestyle or it could be another issue altogether like having metabolic issues that are leading to the condition, or it could be a deeper issue still such as a hormonal imbalance. When people dive headfirst into lifestyle changes without first understanding how their body will react and whether the said change will even work for them or not, they might be doing more harm than good.

This is where predictive healthcare is a game-changer. By studying and analysing a person's genetic data pool, it helps in identifying those key areas where the problem actually exists. Accordingly, lifestyle and habit changes can be suggested that the individual can then easily incorporate into their lifestyle and achieve better results sustainably in a shorter time.

In fact, bringing about lifestyle changes to help people lead healthier lives is one of the biggest advantages that genetic analysis can offer on an individual level. The promise this field holds is immense. Its ability to provide indepth analysis of a person's health from multiple sources is second to none. From identifying lifestyle trigger points that prompt certain genes in our body to react in a particular manner to predicting how they might impact one's health in the future, predictive healthcare has a huge potential in shaping healthier lifestyles that are specifically tailored to our individual needs

Other uses of genetic testing include carrier testing which helps in identifying people that carry one copy of a gene mutation which, when

present in two copies, can cause a genetic disorder. This type of testing is being offered to individuals who have a family history of a genetic disorder and to people in certain ethnic groups where consanguineous marriages are prevalent, giving rise to millions of individuals from the same ancestral line suffering from single-gene

In every case, such tests can provide a sense of relief from uncertainty and help people make informed decisions about managing their health. Take, for example, one negative result that can eliminate the constant need for unnecessary checkups and screening tests in some cases. And a positive result, in contrast, can direct a person toward available prevention, monitoring, and treatment options.

monitoring, and treatment options.

Apart from individual betterment, genetic data is also enabling law enforcement agencies to function more optimally. Forensic testing, which uses DNA sequences to identify an individual for legal purposes, has developed into a sophisticated tool for solving crimes or helping catastrophe victims, for ruling out or implicating a crime suspect, or establishing biological relationships between people in case of disputes, among other things.

putes, among other things. Since the industry is still in its nascent stages in India, there are of course challenges that still must be dealt with. For instance, scores of people who can be helped by genetic analysis are unable to avail it, either due to lack of awareness or owing to the expenses involved. Further to this, the tests generally available are modelled on the European or American populations, hence, limiting their accuracy for the Indian population. This problem can only be solved by increasing the amount of genetic testing in the population to create an India specific database of genetic markers and their implications. This would also unlock precision medicine for our population where medications for a range of disorders are provided basis an individuals genetic profiles so as to maximise the efficacy and minimise the side-effects of a drug.

The increased accessibility and affordability of genetic analysis and preventive healthcare are slowly showing the possibility of how the healthcare system in the country can evolve to not only provide early diagnosis to patients but also better prognosis along with curative or preventive treatment. In the years to come, this could help people increase life expectancy, find better treatment options, and live overall healthier lives.

The writer CEO & Co-Founder of Nugenomics, a wellness start-up that marries genetic testing & artificial intelligence

GUIDE TO THE TIMES

In *The Hindu Manifesto For India's Democracy*, though Subramanian Swamy is economical in words, he has articulated his points with sharpness & clarity, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

nly a seasoned physician with thorough knowledge of medicine and human anatomy would be able to diagnose the real ailments. Only a lawyer who could think and analyse issues from different angles stands to win arguments. Subramanian Swamy is neither a doctor nor a lawyer. But he has argued his cases before the Supreme Court and won hands down thanks to his intelligence and common sense. He has been telling the governments of the day from time to time the reforms they have to make in the social, economic, political, security and cultural perspective since early 1970s. But what he got in return was brickbats from his own party leaders. In 1977, many persons had expected that Morarji Desai would nominate Swamy as the finance minister of the country when the Janata Party swept the General Election. But strangely enough, H M Patel, a former civil servant was the one who walked away with the coveted posi-Swamy was either overlooked or kept

away from the corridors of power in 1998 as well as in 2014. He has been demanding far reaching reforms and restructuring in the economic sphere of India when the Congress Party was obsessed with the License Permit Raj and pro-Soviet Non Aligned Movement. Swamy had exposed time and again the hollowness of India's obsession with the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) and its development style. Swamy had forecast the disintegration of USSR way back in 1977 and also about the faulty Soviet model of economy and Five-Year Plans. Only a select group of contractors and business barons were benefited by the License Permit Raj and crony Capitalism which was presented before the people under the fake trade mark of socialism. Swamy was the first economist-turned politician who alerted the government about the futility of command economy and presented an alternative development agenda. He also wanted the Government to do away with the income tax system and also to reform and simplify the entire tax system which would address the menace of Black Money. But our politicians have this inherent quality of not listening to words of wisdom spoken by scholars! That could be the reason behind a Prime Minister himself has to volunteer and plead with the people to con-

struct *shauchalay* (toilets) in their homes.

The callous attitude of the policy makers and politicians to the advice ren-



dered by Swamy has made India remain a poor country despite our scientists succeeding in deploying communication and earth orbiting satellites in the space and the nuclear scientists conducting nuclear explosions. Swamy who has authored many scholarly books on the state of affairs of the country in the past has done it again. His latest work "The Hindu Manifesto For India's Democracy" (published by Har-Anand Publications) is packed with a series of guidelines to revive, rejuvenate and reboot the great country from the abyss which it has fallen. Instead of dividing the book into chapters, Swamy has selected five Fundamentals and explained with erudition what the rulers and people of India should do to take the country back to its golden days. Remember, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had commissioned British economist Angus Madison to write the economic history of the world. In his work World Economy, Historical Statistics, Madison had disclosed that India was an economic super power accounting for 33 per cent of Global GDP in the First Common Era. The incessant attacks from western borders and the arrival of European colonial masters who subjugated India and made it a market for their products resulted in the traditional expertise enjoyed by our artisans and metallurgists getting finished once and forever. The sub continent is yet to recover from the great fall it suffered.

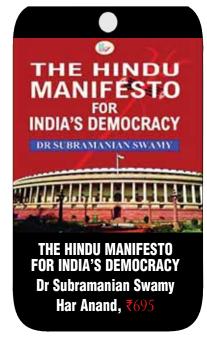
Swamy lists a series of reasons for the downfall of the country from the top position it had enjoyed initially. We failed to understand who we are and what we are. Because of the distorted and mutilated history taught by the colonial masters, the Indians are in a state of confused minds, he writes. The foreign rulers, as part of their vested and secret missions, portrayed India as a country divided by caste, creed and religion and it stuck to the psyche of the countrymen. Indians are facing an identity crisis because of the distorted and misinterpreted facts the Britishers taught to us and this is being recycled and repeated by the radical Left who have hijacked the national narrative, writes Swamy in the introduction itself. He has suggested a complete de-falsification of Indian history, rejecting that portion that has been deliberately contrived by British imperialists and their Indian compradors, to snap the linkages to our real past.

He may be one of the rare breed of public figures who put to the society some uncomfortable questions and point out facts which may not be to the liking of the pseudo-intellectuals. Their uneasiness originates from helplessness and their fear of losing the support of minorities if they tell the truth. While explaining the need to detoxify the distorted version of Indian history, the author explains that Hindus are facing an identity crisis because of the lies churned out and propagated by the former colonial masters and the Left radicals about the great Indian civilisation.

"Christianity and Islam, the two major religions in the world, do not tolerate pluralism. In a document titled *Declaration of Lord Jesus*, the Vatican proclaims non-Christians to be in a gravely deficient situation and that non-Catholic churches have defects because they do not acknowledge the primacy of the Pope", Dr Swamy

writes. "This means that the Vatican refuses to acknowledge the spiritual right of the Hindus to their beliefs and practices. Christianity consigns non-Christians to hell, and the only way they can save themselves is by becoming Christians . Thus even if a Hindu lives a life of virtue, he is still consigned to hell by Christianity because he refuses to acknowledge Jesus as the only savior.. The same is true of Islam.. Even one who believes in God but does not accept Jesus or Mohammed as an intermediary is considered a non-believer, and therefore a sinner or a kafir. This is what makes both Christianity and Islam exclusive, what makes Hinduism pluralistic and tolerant and therefore Hindutva inclusive," Swamy writes in the introduction to the book.

In 128 pages, Swamy has explained five fundamentals which should reach the more than 130 crore population in the country. Starting from the Concept of India, the author takes the readers through the real world of secularism (a term which has been made nauseating by our politicians), Hindutva Principles of Economics, National Security doctrine and



Sanskrit as Link Language. What makes Swamy different from politicians and run-of-the-mill economists is his consistent stance on these issues. He had authored Building a New India: An Agenda for National Renaissance published by UBSPD in 1992. Swamy's stance remains the same in that work as well as the latest work, a rare feature among Indian politicians and Left economists. His arguments are not mere verbosity but data powered with scientific proof that could never be disproved unless an alternate doctrine or principle is evolved. This could be the reason for his failure as a politician but he walks over the Indian landscape like a colossus. Our politicians are known for the speed with which they change their ideologies akin to their kurta-pyjama on a daily basis. Here is a scholar who has been evangelising for making Sanskrit our national language. He has reasons for making a demand like that. Sanskrit is the most computer compatible language which would soon replace English from the cyberworld altogether.

It's a refreshing and enlightening experience to go through the book. Though Swamy is economical in words, he has articulated his points with sharpness and clarity. Remember, he was the favourite student of Paul Samuelson, the Nobel laureate. A must read for those who care for India.

NEW ARRIVALS

SCENOGRAPHY: AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

Satyabrata Rout Niyogi, ₹3,000

Scenography is the art of 'writing the stage space'— a visual journey of unmaking and remaking the text on a theatre space, a language of the spectatorial senses

spectatorial senses.
However, this dialect of
space and props, though prevalent in the
West from the early days of the Greek
plays, unfortunately has never been
groomed and appropriated in the long
theatre tradition of the Orient — until a
bunch of new practitioners and scholars
decided to explore the field of design and
change the narrative of space in recent
times. Yet with hardly any documentation
available in the backdrop of indigenous
theatre, there was a need of a practical
treatise for quite a long time.

LIMITLESS: THE POWER OF UNLOCKING YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL

Radhika Gupta Hachette , ₹399

In Limitless, Radhika Gupta,

one of the youngest CEOs in

your best life.

India's financial services sector and creator of the viral YouTube video 'The Girl with a Broken Neck', offers straight-talking advice on how you can multiply your chances at achieving success. It begins, she says, by investing in the most valuable asset you possess: YOURSELF. Drawing on personal experiences of overcoming adversity and attaining success — her own and those of other achievers — Radhika's deeply inspiring stories and sharp, practical counsel will provide you with all the motivation you need to discover self-confidence and live

The emergency ward

The Tree with a Thousand Apples is a story of cultures, belongingness, revenge & atonement. The story reveals injustices committed in Kashmir & wounds that remain unhealed.... An edited excerpt:

alik Chacha walks to the backyard and removes the Hus of the four charcoal drums. Babhi is unconscious, Ma feels sick. Deewan is numb and shocked. He had witnessed the firing with his own eyes, yet he couldn't find the courage to step out of the stifling container. He had seen the Major restrain Safeena's hands, yet he sat there quietly, like a coward, like a rat afraid of his own life more than that of his friend. And even if he had, what could he have done? What could he ever do? He feels weak and vain, like a selfish pig that trembles and squeals in the face of adversity. Words find it difficult to come out of his mouth. He grabs hold of Safeena's arms, and wipes the tears streaming down her cheeks.

Ma walks over to Saira and sits beside her body. 'We should take her to the graveyard.'

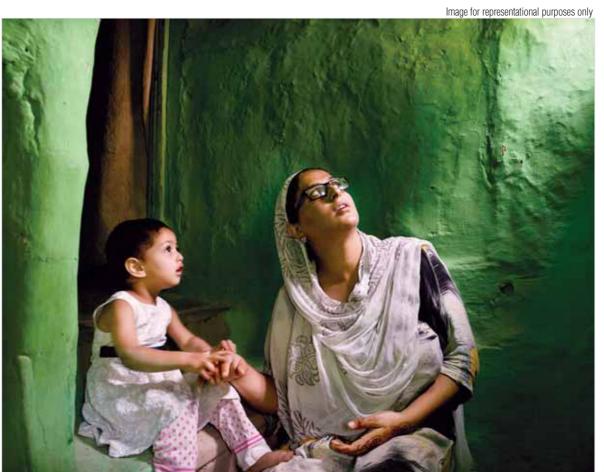
'Bhabhiji, Major Choudhary had come from the army camp,' says Chacha. 'I am sorry, but Ravi is no more.'

Tears gush down Ma's cheeks. 'I am sorry bhaisaab,' she says, 'I am sorry we couldn't protect Saira. I am sorry we dragged you into this. They had come for us. What had she done?'

'Malikji,' Papa says to him, 'we can't put you in any more trouble. We can't stay here anymore either. We owe our lives to you. If not for you, we would have been dead tonight. Today,' he decides, 'we will leave Kashmir for good.'

They lift Saira's body and take her to the nearest graveyard. In the dead of night, she is buried under the open sky. A taxi is hired the nearby stand. 'To Jammu, four people and some luggage,' says Papa. The driver makes a killing. In times of trouble, business tends to be good. Memories and belongings of 132 years are packed in one hour and two suitcases.

Safeena, Tariq and Malik Chacha stand at the gate as the luggage is packed. The dim eyes of Ravi's Yamaha gaze at the locked house. The apple tree still has a thousand apples, maybe some more. The driver revs the engine. Deewan sits in the back, between Ma and Babhi. Papa sits



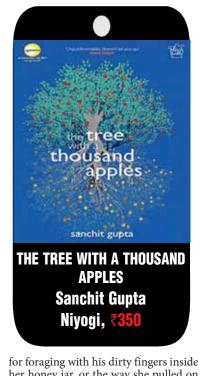
in the front with the driver. There is no place for Ravi in the crowded car. It rides through the boulevard, past the Chashme Shahi, Dal Lake, Shalimar Garden, the cricket ground, Lal Chowk, the bloodstained marks on the road where Ravi's bike had blazed the 100-metre dash; here comes the Zero bridge-the Jhelum gushes beneath like a furious storm. The rusted screws of the wooden bridge creak under the stuttering car, they might soon come off. The Shankaracharya temple atop the hill in the backdrop is shroud-

ed by dark, black clouds.
And as the wheels bur

And as the wheels bump through the potholes, Deewan remembers, 'Oh! He has forgotten, he has forgotten to carry his bat. It's perched against the wall in the backyard, near the red leather ball that hangs from the roof. Yet, without a stroke from the sweet spot, the ball swings like a pendulum in the sinister wind. On the left now is Bilal's house. The lights are switched off. Was he too among the many that had thronged the streets tonight? Or his Abba? Like Hanif Sir, who swung his

naked sword at Siddharth's mother? Or was he asleep, oblivious of the night when Chachi was no more? When Ravi had not come home. Or is this just a nightmare, just like the one a few nights before, and he would soon wake up, with sweaty hands and shivering limbs, to find himself in Ma's arms.'

The valley is now left behind as the car struggles to trudge through the deep snow, and clambers up the steep slope. And it haunts him, the silken touch of Safeena's hands, when she smacked him



her honey jar, or the way she pulled on her two plaits of hair, when she couldn't memorise her speech. Would he ever meet her again? Was this ride in a bumpy car just a vacation? To a relative somewhere he had never been before? Or was he now one amongst those rats in the saffron fields, who had been scooted out of their homes and whacked outside the boundary, because he too, just like them, would destroy the crops and must be gotten rid of? No, Bilal would come, anytime now, in front of this moving car, and stand with Safeena at his side, and then these rumbling wheels would have to stop. He would then walk out and drape his arms around their shoulders, which would support him home, and they would say, 'For us, Deewan bhai, whatever it takes.'

Excerpted with permission from The Tree with a Thousand Apples by Sanchit Gupta; Published by Niyogi

Possible fallout of Ukraine invasion

Russia has added a new Chapter in the post-Cold War Europe under the leadership of Vladimir Putin. His decision to invade Ukraine on February 24 has altered the USled global liberal power calculus. The quiet "Spy Guy" Putin, who took over as the Prime Minister in ailing Boris Yeltsin's Government in 1999, was largely unnoticed by the West. Probably, the policymakers in the Western capitals could not visualise how this man would pose a serious threat to both the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the days to come. Putin's was a solo journey laced with a hidden agenda of reclaiming the lost Soviet empire. Thus, he quickly took up the reins as the second President of the newly created Russian Federation in the year 2000, immediately after Yeltsin left the scene as he was seriously unwell.

However, Putin miscalculated his strategy while attacking neighbouring Ukraine. Strategic experts who are constantly observing the war say that the situation on the ground is rapidly changing. It is getting more difficult every next day to gauge what shape the invasion of Ukraine will take. And the primary reason is the unpredictability of the next move of both Moscow and the West. After over a month of attacks, it is now dawning on the world the Ukrainian resolve against the brutal Russian forces. The Ukrainian forces along with civilian volunteers have resisted the advancing Russian onslaught with awesome courage. In this process, the people of Ukraine, its army and its indomitable President Volodymyr Zelenskyy have surprised both their enemies and the Western allies. Initially, Putin thought he could take over Ukraine with a small fraction of his huge army and artillery. Putin has underestimated the decades of Ukrainian commitment to their sovereignty and the ethos of liberal democracy. This miscalculation helped Ukraine impose heavy losses on the

Two days after Putin started his offensive against he is doing this simply to pres-Ukraine, the Russian State surise Zelenskyy to surrender

Russian army.



A man plays with a child before she boards a Lviv bound train, in Kyiv

news agency RIA Novosti published an article predicting immediate victory of the country in the ongoing war. It was so hopeful that it started celebrating a new era wherein western domination would come to an end. Also, it highlighted that the bond between the US and the continental Europe would be severed; and finally prophesying the return of Russia to its rightful space and place in the world. But as the war rages on, at best what seems premature to conclude is probably a single Russian world to bring Ukraine in Russian clutches. This seems a distant dream as for now.

Now a desperate Putin and his army are adopting all kinds of brutal tactics to attack civilian targets, directly inviting the war crimes charges against him and his regime. Currently

faster. But it is not happening. Meanwhile, there is a loud chorus of calls for the International Criminal Court (ICC) to prosecute Putin for employing absolute terror tactics in Ukraine against civilians. The top war crimes prosecutor for ICC has already travelled to Ukraine to get the firsthand experience. The US Government has formally declared that the Russian forces are committing war crimes in Ukraine. Interestingly, both Russia and the US are not members of the ICC, but they are signatories to the treaty (Rome Statute) that created the august court. And the ICC has been fully functioning since July 1, 2002.

Putin may have flipflopped on economic issues facing his country, but he has largely consolidated his power, position and authority not only within Russia but also abroad.

Today the whole world must remember that the days before Putin took over as the President in 2000, he told the BBC news that Russia was "part of European culture" and that he "would not rule out" the possibility of his country joining the NATO. On the New Year's eve of 1999, when he was functioning as the acting President of the Russian Federation as Yeltsin suddenly resigned, he said, "I cannot imagine my country in isolation from Europe and what we

But by 2014, when Putin annexed Crimea, he changed the geo-political state of Russia inherited by Yeltsin as deeply divided and chaotic. Russia after the Crimean annexation was largely isolated by the West accompanied by severe sanctions and encountering possibly a new Cold War. And since then, Putin has been

often called the civilised world".

marshalling his forces, allies and partners both at home and abroad to take on the Western allies in Europe.

Putin's aggressive war moves in Ukraine are pointers to how NATO has consistently ignored the strategic concerns of Russia for a long time. As the year 2021 came to a close, Moscow presented a list of demands to Washington. The aim was to stave off a large-scale armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine then. It was a formal demand placed in front of an American diplomat serving in Moscow, in the form of a draft treaty. As the West absolutely ignored the concerns of Moscow, Putin decided to push them through his military might.

The US-led West continued its efforts to isolate Russia since the breakdown of the erstwhile USSR in 1991. And the West is experiencing the pain now. Putin is crafting an unusual role in the post-Ukraine War. It's widely accepted with dismay that Russia has the power to both reset and destabilise the world order. The Crimean annexation of 2014 was the first instance when Putin's Russia started asserting its rights in its former backyard, popularly known in Russia as its "near abroad". But the West and its policymakers who were surprised by the Crimean occupation and sponsoring of Russian-backed separatists in Eastern Ukraine by Moscow should have learnt a lesson when he set right the narratives of "Putin Thesis" in Georgia in the year 2008. Certainly, either the West was ignoring Putin, or it was simply thinking that the coalition of the NATO and the EU would be enough to tame the new Russian czar. But it was a big mistake on the part of the

It is very clear from Putin's side that he is desperate to install a pro-Russian regime in Kviv like the one of Viktor Fedorovych Yanukovych who ruled Ukraine from 2010-2014. In fact, Yanukovych was forcibly unseated by a pro-Western movement called Maidan Revolution or Dignity Revolution in 2014. This happened after his refusal to sign the Association Agreement with the EU in November 2013. He clearly indicated his pro-Russian tilt. In the beginning of the next year, Russia responded by occupying Crimea. Coincidentally, the two East Ukrainian border oblasts called Donetsk and Luhansk declared their independence from the mainland Ukraine. But Putin, the great Spymaster and a democratic dictator" waited for long 8 years to invade Ukraine. To Russia, Putin's patience was running out. So, he took the plunge finally.

For now, the Ukraine war seems to be unwinnable. Neither Russia nor Ukraine (with the indirect support of the West) would be able to win the war. It may be heading for a tough negotiation. Most probably, Russia will have a greater say in the post-war agreement. Moscow might demand greater guarantee of

security including Ukraine not joining the NATO in the future. In fact, Putin would go to the extent of annexing the whole territories of Donbass region beyond the current oblasts under the control of the Moscow-backed separatists. But then the already floated demand for Kyiv to recognise Crimea as legitimate part of the Russian Federation could be troublesome.

Finally, Putin's effort to divide the EU and the NATO or broadly the Western allies in Europe is fast failing. On the contrary, all of them are coming closer to punish Moscow. They all have become a single unit now. US President latest tour to Europe to address the EU, the NATO and the G-20 would largely damage the Russian economy with a new set of sanctions. This would badly break the back of the country's economy.

What is written on the wall is that the outcome of the Ukraine war is not clear. Putin is gradually becoming impatient. He may not be able to carry on with a costly war. The Ukrainians are gathering more sympathy, support and arms from the West to fight the Russian onslaught. It is prolonging Putin's bloody war. Even there are possibilities of more countries joining the war such as Belarus and Poland. Then it could be devastating for both Europe and the rest of the world. At the receiving end is the unarmed and hapless Ukrainian civilians who are either not prepared to leave their war-torn zones or are not allowed to use the humanitarian corridors to escape into the neighbouring nations. It's a complete mess and a rare human tragedy which the continent is witnessing for the first time after the end of the Second World War.

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

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MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Kashmir Files: Elusive idea of justice

Genocide is a particularly complex subject to delve into when you churn out a movie for plural society of unequal among equals. However, fortunately for the makers, this 'truth, not fiction' tag has gagged the mouths of India-baiters and sheepish folks that flocked the pujaris of falsehood and brute power of political office



PAMARTY VENKATARAMANA

 \mathbf{I}^{f} viewed with thematic act as a deterrent to repetition apperception and in a criti- of the criminal offence? cal way, the much-publicised latest Hindi film titled "The Kashmir Files" makes an effort to pose the question: What is

"Genocide" is a particularly complex subject to delve into when you churn out a movie for plural society of "unequal among equals". However, fortunately for the makers, this "truth, not fiction" tag has gagged the mouths of Indiabaiters and sheep-like folks that flocked the pujaris of falsehood and brute power of political office.

We examine that nagging message and poser: "What is justice"?

Is it revenge? Is it retribution? Is it capital punishment? Is it a mob going on a rampage? Is it ousting a political party in power through the ballot-box or EVMs?

Is it an eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth philosophy? Or, is the doctrine of silent subjugation and mass surrender a wiser solution to end perennial conflicts?

It is wrong to kill. A killed B. So, let us kill A, albeit through due "process of law". Would this theory of criminal jurisprudence hold good and of the criminal offence?

What is justice?

Law must prevail. Justice must not only be done but seem to be done. Justice must not be delayed nor denied to even the worst criminal accused of a most heinous crime. So, says our book of Constitution as do those of many other democratic soci-

Instances galore where judgments are fixed or managed and there are rulings which are mere assertions of existing law contained in black and white legislations.

However, just as there are several theories of jurisprudence, there is also a mighty legal doorway open for all humans called the dimension of justice which prescribes "principles of natural justice, fair play and good conscience" to be the over-riding consideration. The balance of convenience, the pith and substance rule of interpretation of laws as well as test of colourable legislation ensure that justice is dispensed. Ultimate finding by jurists in particular is that even those that may be let off by the courts on grounds of lack of evidence, insufficient



Where man fails, the universe deals It is with such an exalted state of thinking that India's time-tested ancient Sanatana

evidence and improper justifi-

cation of charges levelled with

an inability to "prove beyond

any iota of doubt" do get to be

eventually punished, more than

adequately - which is dubbed

as "poetic justice" or "natural

of karma and dharma.

Justice is fallible. No amount of retribution by way of compensation or damages and no amount of energies Dharma propounded and spent in laborious exercise of pointed out to the world about film-making such as the present "The Kashmir Files" story the prevalence of twin concepts

can equate nor make good the irreparable losses incurred of precious human lives, leave

aside the properties.

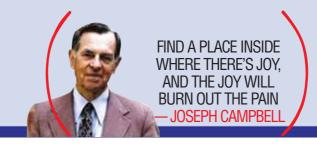
The move is counter-productive unless the abrogation of a devilish provision such as Article 370 is met with as enthusiastic and prompt a move by the Government of India to rehabilitate the displaced Kashmir Pandits community and allow all Indian citizens from rest of India to carry on business, to migrate or to purchase property in that good old State of scenic beauty and

cultural splendour. Justice is thus the act of ending all wars by peaceful, honest efforts. This, of course, does not include exhuming buried ghosts of villainous deeds of the past decades and centuries. Or else, there would be nobody left living to count the number of dead, the extent of injustice done as well as to more importantly, assess whether the miscarriage of Justice continues, even today.

A huge responsibility thus rests on our shoulders today as we march ahead under the able leadership of two brave men called Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, ably assisted by the band of experienced, wise patriots, never visible to the mass media or the general. So, "justice" is not a conundrum: it is the drum-beat of "peace".

(The writer is an eminent jurist, based in New Delhi)





























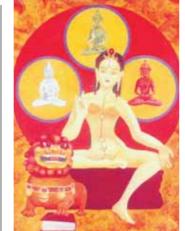




ARIES March 21-April 19

Those seeking fitness may need to make efforts by following a regimen. Negativity around and within is melting. This will make you a more comfortable and confident person. You feel strong both physically and mentally. Professionally, you will be working hard but results are still awaited. You find it difficult to earn applause for a job well done. Be careful on the financial front. Reschedule your investment tasks. Restrict your expenditure as this will help you to maintain balance. On the relationship front, a fresh start is indicated. You were not ready for a commitment yet, even though others might be pressing you for one. But now you feel this is the time to make it. This is a positive period for your love life.

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you need to be strict and draw a line in certain matters. No compromise should be made on the health front. Direct or indirect spiritual influence is needed to bring balance in life. Your casual attitude in health matters may result in seasonal ailments. Be cautious of cold, cough, constipation, bowel syndrome and weight related problems. On the professional front, the situation is getting better. You are ready to take any challenge. You are creative and enterprising. If you have applied for a job, you may get an interview call this week. Change of office or home is likely. In love, a better understanding between you and your partner is indicated. Allow your partner to have his or her space.

Lucky number 18 Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Wednesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

In terms of health, you need to be practical. Listen to the body, and not the heart. Take care of yourself. You must change your food habits or craving for sweet food. Eat healthy and fresh and avoid intake of junk food. You need more exercise, nutritional education to improve your health. At work, something that you had planned meticulously is likely to take off smoothly, if you go with the flow. Be cautious in your verbal communication. Face the challenges with a cool mind. Your ability to logic and reasoning will give you full benefits in this week. On the personal front, feel free to express your feelings to those you care. If you have some loving words to say, say them now before it is

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

You need to think about improving your health conditions. This is a great time to take some time off and go for an improved lifestyle, nutrition and balancing your work. A need for balance in body, mind and soul is required. You need to have patience in the workplace. Make strategies to get more outputs and productive results but try to keep it to yourself. You may need some assistance to find a better approach to work and don't hesitate to ask. If you're looking for work, you may need to look in a different way or a different field than the one you've been pursuing. On the relationship front, warmth, care, and concern for each other at home and in a loving relationship are indicated

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Green **Lucky day** Saturday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Value your health and give it a priority. Count your blessings. Your health may not be all as good as you would like it to be, but it is better than that of many other people. Be grateful for what you have. Careerwise, you must not impose restrictions on yourself. Be careful in your communication. If you bent upon thrusting your suggestions down somebody's throat, don't get surprised if she or he rebels. Arguments and conflicts are on the cards which will go against you. On the personal front, make peace with someone, who seems to be against you. There is a need for liberating the mind and reconnecting with the heart. You need to reintroduce trust and find a way of freeing yourself from suspicion, and jealousy.

Lucky number 6 Lucky colour Purple Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

A good news in terms of your health is on the cards. Those who are waiting for test results need to know that nothing serious is indicated. You need a small course of medication to free yourself from the health problem you are suffering from. Increase intake of liquids, juices, and fibrous food in your diet. On the work front, new opportunities will be on the horizon making you hopeful about the future. Money inflow looks good this week. A prestigious assignment is yours if you play your cards right. On the relationship front, something may be troubling. Serious differences with spouse may take place. You can be stubborn when the circumstances demand but make an exception when your near and dear ones are involved.

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



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week health will be good. you will manage in balancing challenges and blessings with ease. You will be full of life this week. The negativity in the past is dissolved. Spending money on medical tests, good health and better living is on the cards. On the career front, you have some plans in your mind that you wish to work on. It could be a change of job or starting a new venture or any other thing that enhance your liability. Even if things have been lousy at your work place for the last few months, there is reason for hope and positive anticipation. In terms of love, you are ready to start something new. For those of you who are in a committed or a serious relationship, there's something positive is on the cards.

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Pink **Lucky day** Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you need a break. Have some time of your own to come out of the monotonous schedule. If you're waiting on results from a test, you are likely to be celebrating favourable news. You may take spirituality as a stress buster and lead a healthy life. This is the right time to get involved in Yoga and meditation. Good news awaits this week on the career front. Someone's advice will come in handy in tackling a complicated issue. You may be tempted to take on more duties and responsibilities. On the personal front, you might be having some doubts about the issues regarding the ancestral property. Discuss them with someone you trust in the family. Getting worried about children's future, their studies, marriage, and expenses are on the cards.

Lucky number 15 Lucky colour Sky Blue **Lucky day** Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week health is good. You feel enthusiastic and adventurous to take life challenges with full spirit. You are on the right path on the health front. Your health concern is paying you rich dividends now. You feel very chirpy, vibrant, energetic, and full of life. Your positive mindset and cheerfulness will add charm to your personality. Work-wise, you take life easy with a positive mindset and stay focused on your work. Your mind and thoughts are in harmony. There are chances that others might take advantage of your efforts. Use your judgment, instead of blindly following orders to remain on the right track. On the personal front, great fun is in store. Your goodwill and reputation will pay you rich dividends.

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week you will feel lost due to work overload. You should be alert physically and mentally. Listen to your body. Nurture it, care for it and feed it with natural food. Avoid junk and oily food. This is a good time to give up all the bad habits. On the work front, you may be moving to a new position or taking on a new set of responsibilities. Promotion, hike in salary or profit in business is on the cards. You feel at ease on the financial level. Expansion plans in business could materialise this week. This is a good week for students. On the personal front, something undesirable may occur on an emotional level. You may lose your cool of mind in a strenuous

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week you will feel hale and hearty with an abundance of energy and vitality. You are focused and know what you want from life. You are smart enough to bring balance between your professional and personal commitments too. On the work front, leaving nothing pending at work will be in your favour. If you have started a new business or job recently, this may cause some worry in your mind. Ask questions and practice active listening to make sure that you and your coworkers understand each other perfectly. Relationship wise, expect to harmonise your bonding with someone who had offended you in the past. Love blooms and so will you. Happiness, contentment in all relations is on

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour White Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week balance is needed in all areas of life. Manage your professional commitments while taking care of health. Take care of your diet, exercise, and relaxation. Taking a small nap in between the busy hours not only makes you relaxed but makes you refresh to face the challenges. On the career front, the financial part is looked after well this week. Those who are in media, finance, and artwork is likely to do better. Use your inner power, communication skills and wisdom. Time is favourable, crack your full potential. New contacts in this period will prove fruitful for you. On the relationship front, stop being too formal with your partner, it may keep you away from expressing your true feelings. Your loved ones need your attention too.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Beige Lucky day Sunday

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ASTROTURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Relationship calls for living for each other

¬he world is a unified organism, where no existence has a reality independent of the whole. This Indian Philosophic perception now stands vindicated by even scientific finding, as would statement of Australian Physicist Paul Davies mean: "For a naïve realist, the world is a collection of objects. For, a quantum physicist, it is an inseparable web of vibrating energy patterns, where no individual component has a reality independent of the entirety; included in the entirety is the observer." In nature's scheme of things, the world is framed into an interdependent framework where all and sundry have to complement and supplement each other's efforts to carry on the cycle of life. We, thus, have a shared destiny. It applies both at macro and micro levels. It is on this premise that even the institution of marriage is premised.

The paradox, however, is that all human beings are born unique, each reflecting varying desire trends and mind traits, more often than not in conflict with others, coming as it may as Karmic carryover from the past. That makes the world a natural breeding ground for conflict of thoughts, desires, and interests. What adds fuel to the fire is our individualistic ego, which tempts one to conduct in a demanding mode. Therefore, there remains no scope for having a perfect situation in life. In fact, life is paradoxical — full of contradictions. Amidst all this, we have to learn how to relate with each other, overriding individualistic limitations. What we often forget that if a being has certain fault lines, the positives would be much more. The usual human tendency, however, is that it gets stuck to few infirmities in others. In the process, their positives get ignored. That remains the cause of all human conflicts. What we often forget that before expecting from others to prove true to our perceptions and beliefs, better work upon your own fault lines. Therefore, a lesson in "The Art of Living" is called for to ensure a smooth

The other day, a lady worried about her marital stability came asking: "Sir, my first marriage proved disastrous. I don't wish my second marriage to meet the same fate. Please tell me what lies in store of my future? I can't fall back upon my parents if this relationship goes bad, as I broke off my first marriage against



their wishes." "What makes you apprehensive?" I countered. "Sir, I believe that my present husband is into an out of marriage relationship. I have seen unpalatable exchange of messages in his phone, which makes me think so. I have been true to him and can't digest if he cheats me." She answered.

At the outset, let me assure you that astrological pointers clearly state that your marriage is stable. So, don't carry any sense of fear. Seeing is not necessarily believing. Some fun statements doesn't necessarily mean that he would be into a physical relationship with another lady. Mars conjunct Mercury in your chart suggests that you have a restive mind and habitually suspicious by nature. You carry the tendency to take things on its face value and react impulsively on instinctive judgment, without applying proper forethought. Your lagna lord Venus placed adverse to Uranus means that in the heat of moment, you may react erratically. Your ego seems quite high, as would fiery Mars placed adverse to expansive Jupiter mean. That limits the scope of your vision, not open to go beyond for a reality check. Also, it makes you live in a demanding mode. It

becomes difficult for you to digest anything that doesn't suit your instinctive

judgment. Your husband may be having lot of weaknesses, as nobody could be ever born a perfect. But his value system seems quite strong, as would Jupiter's benevolent aspect on the Sun mean. That is enough to marginalise his negatives. The obvious implication is that he will be true to his commitments. His lagna sign indicates that he would be impulsive and aggressive. His Moon sign suggests that he would be tactless and undiplomatic. His lagna lord Mars placed adverse to Neptune implies that he carries some unpleasant memories of early childhood that may keep him unnerved. Given the situation in hand, what is called for is to relate to him with a sense of love. That alone would let him get over his limitations. Remember, life is an expression of the harmony of opposites. We need to learn to live for each other rather than in a demanding

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