**WORLD 5** 

CRISIS-HIT LANKA LIFTS

STATE OF EMERGENCY

MONEY 6

INDIA SUPPLIES 40K METRIC

TONNES OF DIESEL TO LANKA

SERIES: MALIK, MOHSIN, DK

sunday pioneer

**VIJAYWADA** 



\*Late City Vol. 32 Issue 140

\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

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

# **Centre slashes** fuel, LPG prices

After excise duty cut, petrol price drops by ₹9.5/litre, diesel ₹7/l; ₹200 LPG subsidy for Ujjwala beneficiaries

PNS NEW DELHI

In a move to give relief to consumers suffering from high fuel prices, the Centre on Saturday announced to cut excise duty on petrol by a record ₹8 per litre and on diesel by ₹6 per litre. This will, effectively, reduce the price of petrol by ₹9.5 and that of diesel by ₹7. The Government also announced a subsidy of ₹200 per cylinder for the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries, for 12 cylinders in a year. But the Opposition isn't impressed.

From Sunday, petrol will thus cost ₹95.91 a litre in Delhi as against ₹105.41 a litre currently while diesel will cost ₹89.67 a litre as against ₹96.67 a litre. A 14.2-kg LPG cylinder presently costing ₹1,003 in Delhi will now cost ₹803 for the

Ujjwala beneficiaries. "It is always people first for us. Today's decisions, especially the one relating to a signifi-cant drop in petrol and diesel



prices will positively impact various sectors, provide relief to our citizens and further 'Ease of Living," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted after Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the decisions.

"Ujjwala Yojana has helped crores of Indians, especially women. Today's decision on Ujjwala subsidy will greatly ease family budgets," Modi said. Announcing the duty cut "despite the challenging international situation" through a series of tweets, Sitharaman said, "It will have a revenue implication of around ₹1 lakh crore/year for Government." She exhorted all State Governments to also cut local sales tax or VAT. "I wish exhort all State Governments, especially the States where reduction wasn't done during the last round (November 2021), to also implement a similar cut and give relief to the common

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said, "I want to highlight the fact despite this 2nd reduction in Central excise, price of petrol & diesel in States like Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand & Kerala remain around ₹10-15 higher than in BIP-ruled States'

BJP president JP Nadda also said in a statement that the Opposition too should reduce petrol and diesel rates in the States governed by them so that common people can get some more relief amid inflation.

Kerala's Left Government responded with its Finance Minister KN Balagopal announcing a cut in tax on petrol and diesel by ₹2.41 and ₹1.36 respectively.

But Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala termed the decisions "jumlas". He demanded the restoration of Central excise duty to May 2014 levels of ₹9.48 per litre on petrol and ₹3.56 per litre on diesel. "U increased Excise on Petrol by ₹18.42/litre and now reduced it by ₹8/litre. It is still ₹19.90 V/S ₹9.48 during Congress," he said in one of his tweets

addressing Sitharaman.

Continued on Page 2

# At Cambridge, Rahul attacks Govt, calls Indian diplomats 'arrogant'

#### Cong leader says BJP has sprinkled kerosene on the country

PNS NEW DELHI

Pormer Congress chief Rahul Gandhi has attacked the Government and the BJP claiming "India is not in a good place" as the ruling party has sprinkled kerosene all over the country. He even went on to target the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers saying he has been told by the European bureaucrats that they have "changed" and are "arrogant".

Speaking at an event titled 'Ideas for India' at Cambridge University to mark the occasion of 75th year of India's Independence, Rahul said: "I was talking to some bureaucrats from Europe and they were saying that the Indian Foreign Service has completely changed. They don't listen to anything; they are arrogant. Now, they are just telling us what orders they are getting. There is no conversation. You can't, you can't do that."

He alleged there is a systematic attack on institutions



that allow conversation, and in an apparent reference to the Adanis and the Ambanis — his regular targets — he said the prevalent private sector monopoly is very dangerous but it never existed in this form, with such a massive concentration of power and capital.

"India is not in a good place as the BJP has spread kerosene all over the country," he alleged, adding India is witnessing an attack on the institutions that built the country which is now occupied by the

Deep State. Leaders of the Opposition, including Sitaram Yechury, Salman Khurshid, Tejashwi Yadav, Mahua Moitra and Manoj Jha, were among the invitees. "We believe India is its people. But the BJP and the RSS believe it is geography. We are not just fighting the BJP; it's no longer a pure political fight. The BJP has 100 per cent control of the media," Rahul said in conversation with author Ashis Ray

#### confidence: Jaishankar **Rahul maligns India's image** abroad: BJP

PNS NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Government and the}}_{\text{BJP on Saturday took}}$  exception to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks in London and came out with a strong counterattack.

Yes, the Indian Foreign Service has changed. Yes, they follow the orders of the Government. Yes, they counter the arguments of others. No, it is not called arrogance. It is called confidence. And it is called defending national interest," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar tweeted with a 19second video clip of Rahul Gandhi's statement.

BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia launched a sharp attack on the Congress leader for his remarks at a conference in Continued on Page 2 London where Gandhi accused



It's not arrogance, but

the ruling party of spreading "kerosene all over the country, you need one spark and we will be in big trouble".

It is the Congress that has been carrying kerosene oil to incite riots since the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, the BJP spokesman alleged, dubbing Rahul Gandhi a "part-time, immature, unsuccessful leader of a hopeless Congress" who has often spoken negatively about the country in foreign places like the US, the UK and Singapore.

With the Government coming out with a strong attack on his IFS remarks, Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said "Yes, it is also called being subservient to the

political masters in face of for eign policy bloopers. Yes, it is called not being able to stand up to China in face of illegal occupation of our territory. Yes, it is called furthering the agenda of a party rather than the nation".

and a "habitual offender" and he and his family is "working overtime to destroy India". The BJP leader said it seems that Rahul was speaking

Bhatia said the Congress

at a seminar titled "Ideas for destroying India" rather than "Ideas for India". "Whenever Rahul Gandhi

goes abroad, he portrays a negative picture of India," the spokesperson said. Bhatia referred to the con-

troversy over Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's purported tweet where he quoted former PM Rajiv Ġandhi's remark "when a big tree falls, the ground shakes" in the aftermath of the assassination of Indira Gandhi and the subsequent anti-Sikh riots.

Continued on Page 2

#### Out on bail, Chautala convicted in DA case



STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Just about a year since his release from jail in the teachers' recruitment case, a city court on Saturday convicted 87-year-old former Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala in a case related to disproportionate assets.

Special judge Vikas Dhull of the Rouse Avenue court passed the order and posted the matter for May 26, when the court will hear the arguments on the quantum of sentence.

The Chautala family had slammed the case as "political vendetta". Chautala served as the State's Chief Minister four times - from July 24, 1999 to March 5, 2005; from March 22, 1991 to April 6, 1991; from July 12, 1990 to July 17, 1990; and from December 2, 1989 to May 22, 1990.

Continued on Page 2

## DU Professor held for shivling post gets bail

Refrain from posts on Gyanvapi, asks court

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

ADelhi University's Hindu College, Ratan Lal, who was arrested on Friday night over a social media post that appeared to question claims of a shivling found inside Varanasi's Gyanvapi mosque complex, was granted bail on Saturday.

The court has asked to furnish a bond of ₹50,000 and surety on the like amount. It ordered Lal to "strictly refrain from posting any social media posts or interviews" regarding

the controversy.

Meanwhile, left-affiliated All India Students Association (AISA) activists staged a protest outside Delhi University's Arts Faculty against the arrest of Lal. The student activists held placards that read: "Stop attack on our teachers", "Stop curbing democratic voices" and "Release professor Lal".



Delhi University Professor Ratan Lal, who was arrested for his social media post related to Gyanvapi case, being produced at Tis Hazari Court in New

Granting bail to Lal, Tis Hazari court Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Sdihartha Malik said, "It is true that the accused did an act which was avoidable considering the sensibilities of persons around the accused and the public at large."

Continued on Page 2

#### Man beaten to death over suspicion of being Muslim

PNS NEEMUCH

 $I_{\mathrm{year-old}}^{\mathrm{n}}$  a shocking incident, 65-year-old man Bhanwarlal Jain was found dead in Neemuch district. He was tionary over suspicion of being a Muslim.

The family members of a mentally-challenged person, whose body was found in Neemuch district days after he went missing, complained to the police saying that a video has come to light in which the victim can be seen being slapped repeatedly by a man who is asking him to reveal his

identity. The MP unit of the Congress claimed that the man seen slapping the victim in the video is a local BJP leader, and demanded action against him. The video purportedly shows the accused asking the victim whether his name is Mohammed, besides demanding his Aadhaar card before

repeatedly slapping him.

Continued on Page 2

# Kesh Kanti **Herbal Hair Expert Oil**



Corona, stress and unhealthy lifestyle has caused hair problems for millions of Indians

Patanjali has created a scientific & effective solution that stops hair fall and promotes growth of new hair







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is a CRPF Jawan who lost most of the hair on his head. He applied Kesh Kanti Herbal Hair Expert Oil for two months to grow new hair on the bald patch.

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#### **CAPSULE**

9 BODIES RECOVERED FROM CAVED-IN TUNNEL Jammu: The fears of the rescue workers, looking for survivors under the debris of an underconstruction tunnel in Ramban turned out to be true as nine

dead bodies were recovered from the accident site along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on Saturday. According to official sources a total number of 9 labourers were trapped under the debris after a front portion of an 'adit

SP CHIEF MEETS KCR; DISCUSSES ISSUES New Delhi: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on

tunnel' caved-in late Thursday

Saturday met Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao in the national capital and discussed various issues concerning the country. Rao is in Delhi as part of his week-long tour to attend national-level nolitical and social programmes Yaday met the chief minister at the latter's official residence

#### **Australian PM Scott concedes** election defeat

Canberra: Australia's Prime Minister conceded defeat after an election on Saturday that could deliver a minority government. Scott Morrison acted quickly despite millions of votes yet to be counted because an Australian Prime Minister must attend a Tokyo summit on Tuesday with US, Japanese and Índian leaders.

"I believe it's very important that this country has certainty. I think it's very important this country can move forward," Morrison said. "And particularly over the course of this

week with the important meetings that are being held, I think it's vitally important there's a very clear understanding about the government of this country," he added. Opposition leader Anthony Albanese will be sworn in as Prime Minister after his Labour

party clenched its first electoral win since 2007. Labour has promised more financial assistance and a robust social safety net as Australia grapples with the highest inflation since 2001

and soaring housing prices. The party also plans to increase minimal wages, and on the foreign policy front, it proposed to establish a Pacific defence school to train neighbouring armies in response to China's potential military presence on the Solomon Islands on Australia's doorstep.

Detailed report on Page 5

#### Indian chess prodigy claims another win over world champion Magnus Carlsen

second win of the season over Magnus Carlsen in the fifth round of the Chessable Masters online rapid chess tournament, exactly three months after stunning the world champion for the first time. The 16-year-old from Chennai capitalised on a late blunder from Carlsen on Friday to pocket three crucial points to keep himself in the hunt for a knockout berth.

"I did not want to win that way," said Praggnanandhaa when asked about his second

move when he misplaced a black knight during the final seconds and resigned immediately in the next move as Praggnanandhaa emerged winner. The Indian drew with Harikrishna in the next round, defeated Gawain Jones before losing to David Anton Guijarro to finish the day. The victory took Praggnanandhaa to 12 points, while Carlsen was at the second spot behind China's Wei Yi on the second day of the USD 150,000 tournament.

Detailed report on Page 7

**NewDelhi:** Indian Grandmaster Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu notched up his

triumph against the world champion. The match was headed for a draw before the Norwegian committed a blunder in the 40th

# **FM lists out Govt's initiatives** to give relief to common people

nnouncing the fuel-related Adecisions, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sithraman on Saturday also listed out in detail the Government initiatives in different sectors against the backdrop of the "challenging international situation"

"Today, the world is passing through difficult times. Even as the world is recovering from Covid-19 pandemic, the Ukraine conflict has brought in supply chain problems and shortages of various goods. This is resulting in inflation & economic distress in a lot of countries," Sitharaman said.

WPI or wholesale price inflation touched a record high of 15.08 per cent in April on price rise across all items.



near eight-year high of 7.79 per cent in that month, remaining above the RBI's inflation target for the fourth straight month.

during the pandemic, our Government set a paradigm of welfare, especially with PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. This is now acknowledged and appreciated the world over," she said, referring to a scheme to provide free foodgrains to poor to help them tide over nationwide pandemic related

Despite the challenging international situation, we've ensured that there are no shortages/scarcity of essential goods. Even a few developed countries couldn't escape some shortages/disruptions. We are committed to ensure that prices of essential items are kept under control," she said.

The Finance Minister said despite rising fertilizer prices globally, the Government has protected farmers from such price hikes. "In addition to the fertilizer subsidy of Rs 1.05 lakh crore in the budget (for current fiscal), an additional amount of Rs 1.10 lakh crore is being provided to further cushion our farmers."

She said the Prime Minister "has specifically asked

work with sensitivity and give relief to the common man," she said, adding the steps announced on Saturday were in

line with that. "We are also reducing the customs duty on raw materials & intermediaries for plastic products where our import dependence is high. This will result in reduction of cost of final products," she said. "Similarly we are

calibrating customs duty on raw materials & intermediaries for iron & steel to reduce their prices. Import duty on some raw materials of steel will be reduced. Export duty on some steel products will be levied." "Measures are being taken up to improve the availability of #Cement and through better logistics to reduce the cost of cement," she added.

#### J&K tunnel accident: 9 more bodies recovered from caved-in tunnel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The worst fears of the rescue workers, looking for survivors under the debris of an under-construction tunnel in Ramban, turned out to be true as nine more dead bodies were recovered from the accident site along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on Saturday.

According to official sources a total number of 9 labourers were trapped under the debris after a front portion of an 'adit tunnel' caved-in late Thursday night.Three labourers were safely rescued as they miraculously escaped the boulders falling over their

During the day-long rescue operations jointly conducted by the NDRF, SDRF, civil, police, ITBP and army personnel only

one dead body was recovered on Friday. The rescue operations were hampered due inclement weather conditions and were suspended on Friday evening. On Saturday the rescue operations were launched with the first light to look for survivors. As the day progressed the rescue teams cleared the debris and recovered eight more dead bodies.

"So far nine bodies have been recovered from the spot. Out of these nine deceased, five were from West Bengal, one from Assam, two from Nepal, and two were local. FIR has been registered for negligence," Ramban district police superintendent Mohita Sharma told reporters at the accident site. Late Saturday evening another dead body was recovered by the rescue

## More than 8 lakh devotees have so far visited Char Dham

About eight lakh pilgrims from across the country and abroad have so far undertaken the Char Dham yatra, visiting the shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri in Uttarakhand, while lakhs more have registered for the pilgrimage, officials said on Saturday.

They said there are no slots for registration left for the month of May. People who intend to undertake the pilgrimage are required to register themselves prior to

The doors of the Hemkund Sahib Gurdwara are opening from May 22, the officials said. To ensure seamless and proper

authorities have put a limit on the number of people who can undertake the yatra at a time, they added.

The number of pilgrims who can visit Badrinath has been fixed at 16,000 per day, Kedarnath 13,000, Gangotri 8,000, and Yamunotri and Hemkund Sahib 5,000 each.

Uttarakhand Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said his government's top priority was to ensure safety of the pilgrims. Harish Gaur, media in-charge of the Shri Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee, said the total number of pilgrims who have reached the Char Dham till Friday night stood at 7,75,842, and that the figure would cross

eight lakh by Saturday.

## Mob torches Assam police station after 'custodial death'

A police station in Assam's Nagaon district was set afire by a mob on Saturday following an alleged case of custodial death of a local resident at an police official resident, a top police official

Three of those involved in the arson were arrested and operations are on to nab the others, the official said.

The mob had set ablaze the Batadrava Police Station and several two-wheelers in the afternoon following the death of a fish trader who was allegedly detained by the police late on Friday evening when he was going to take a bus for Sivsagar. It was not clear why he was detained.

Nagaon Superintendent of Police Leena Doley said, "Some miscreants had attacked the Batadrava Police Station in the afternoon and set it ablaze."

The family members of the fish trader of Salonabori village claimed that the police had demanded Rs 10,000 and a duck as a bribe for his

release, and his wife visited the police station with a duck in returned with the money later, she learnt that her husband had been taken to Nagaon Civil Hospital. After reaching there, she found him dead,

they claimed. Alleging that the man died because of torture, villagers gheraoed the police station, allegedly assaulted on-duty police personnel and then torched the police station. Videos of the incident showed a woman sprinkling some inflammable liquid on

two-wheelers parked in front of the police station and setting them on fire.

The blaze engulfed the police station soon after and fire tenders later brought the flames under control. The SP, who visited the spot

after the incident, said the police are analysing all video footage available.

On the allegations that the police demanded a bribe to release the man, Doley said all charges will be investigated and if anyone is found guilty, steps will be

#### **Govt not done justice to Bhat's** widow, says unhappy family

**MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU** 

Unhappy family members of Kashmiri pandit employee Rahul Bhat, killed by terrorists inside his office in Chadoora, Budgam, Saturday claimed the Union Territory administration has not done justice with his wife by offering Class-IV job in the school education department.

The family members accompanied by close relatives performed special prayers in Jammu on Saturday in the memory of Rahul Bhat. Sharing his angst, Bittu jee Bhat, father of Rahul Bhat Saturday said, "my son has sacrificed his life and the government has offered a class IV job to his wife". He said she is qualified enough to take up other jobs. I am not going to allow her to go to the school education department and serve tea and clean utensils there as a class IV employee. I would rather not accept it and tell her to stay at home".

On Wednesday, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, alongwith

Additional Director General of Police Jammu, Mukesh Singh had handed over appointment letter and ex gratia amount to the family of Rahul Bhat.

The Government had sanctioned the compassionate appointment of Meenakshi Raina W/o Late Rahul Bhat R/o Sangrampora Beerwah Budgam, under SRO-43 of 1994. She was appointed as Class-IV in the Pay level of SL 1(14800-47100) in the Government Higher Secondary School Nowabad, Jammu (School education department) on compassionate grounds under SRO-43 of 1994,read with SRO-199 of 2008 dated 04.07.2008.

A financial assistance of Rs 5 Lakh as ex-gratia relief was also handed over to the family.

On the other hand, a large number of Kashmiri pandit migrant employees also shaved off their heads during special prayers organised in the Kashmir valley to mark the 10 th day of his supreme sacrifice.

Protest marches were taken out by the employees across Kashmir valley. A sit in

Government increased price of

petrol and diesel by ₹10

recently. TMC MP Saugata

Roy said, "The Central

Government still has the

flexibility to reduce excise duty

more instead of pressuring the

States (to reduce VAT) as State's

finances are mostly in

dharna was also organised in the Lal Chowk area where Kashmiri migrant employees raised the one point demand of safe evacuation from Kashmir

Agitated employees who shaved off their heads claimed they decided to do so in solidarity with the aggrieved family of Rahul Bhat. "We wanted to convey to the family and especially to the young daughter of Rahul, She is not alone. We are all standing by her side at this hour. We will continue to fight for justice for Rahul Bhat".

The employees claimed, the targeted killings of Kashmiri pandits have not stopped in Kashmir valley. "We are being made cannon fodder. We will not become scapegoats.People are playing dirty politics and the blood of Kashmiri pandits is being bartered for vested interests". The employees thundered, "we want to convey to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to deliver justice to

Yojana beneficiaries is aimed at

easing some of the burden

arising from cooking gas rates

rising to record levels. "This

will help our mothers and

sisters," tweeted Sitharaman.

with ₹5 cut on petrol and ₹10

reduction on diesel effected

from November 4, 2021, rolls

This excise duty cuts along

#### Bees to scare away elephants! Kerala farmers' innovation to save crops

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Elephants could be "honey trapped" to safety from all kinds of dangers, according to three leading honey bee cultivators in Kerala's Ernakulam district. A Christian priest, who has returned to his native village after nearly four decades of spiritual doctoring in the US and two of his friends in the village have found that honey bees could be used to keep elephants confined to deep

Father George Varghese, the shepherd who led thousands of sheep to the way of Jesus Christ, Baby Thottathil and Reji Cherian, who took to apiculture in a big way was in for a surprise when they noted that elephants from the Western Ghats stopped attacking the farm lands in the periphery of the forests where sugar cane and plantains were cultivated. "Earlier, herds of pachyderms were regular visitors to these farm lands to steal the entire crops. But once we started honey cultivation in the farm lands, the elephants stopped

however, said, "It's better than per litre increase in taxes on a litre and that on diesel to

2020 to avoid passing on to

consumers the sharp fall in

international oil prices at that

time. The excise duty hikes of

2020 had taken central taxes on

petrol to their highest level of

₹32.9 per ltire and that on

the incidence of central tax on

petrol will come down to ₹ 19.9

After the latest excise cut,

diesel to ₹31.8 a litre.

petrol and diesel effected ₹15.8 per litre.

trespassing into the farms," said

According to Reji, the elephants were scared away by the buzz of the bees. "The wild elephants are frightened of the bees and the physical properties of their humming," said Reji. Now farmers in Kuttampuzha and Malayatoor Ranges where they have installed honey bee colonies can breath easy because of the security provided by the honey bees.

This has been taken note by the authorities of Indian Railways who are getting ready to launch "operation honey bee" along the railway track beteen Coimbatore and Palakkad where many elephants have been run over by trains despite taking all precautions. "The elephants crossing the tracks in search of water and food are the victims. Since the tracks run close to the forest zones, it is routine for the elephants to get hit by the trains. The dense forest growth block the sight of the approaching trains and the elephants get caught between the tracks," said a senior official of Southern Railway based at Palakkad.

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No.

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Estimated Cost:-

No of Work:-

Procurement

Officer

Chief Construction Engineer Engineer, Rura Works Circle, Balasore

#### After Meghalaya, Arunachal's border dispute with Assam to be resolved: Shah

PTI DEOMALI/WAKRO

fter solving 60 per cent of After solving ou per cent.

Assam's border problems with Meghalaya amicably, similar disputes between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam are likely to be settled by this year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday.

The governments of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam are working for an amicable and permanent resolution of the border issue, Shah said while addressing the golden jubilee celebration of the Ramakrishna Mission School at Narottam Nagar in Tirap district. Arunachal, which was carved out of Assam, was initially a Union territory. It became a full-fledged state in 1987. The two states share an 804.1 km long border. The boundary issue which originated during the reorganisation of the North-

eastern states is now pending in

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE

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the Supreme Court.

"Almost 60 per cent border dispute between Assam and Meghalaya was resolved amicably and I am confident that the dispute between Arunachal and Assam will be settled before 2023," said Shah who is on a two-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh from

Assam and Meghalaya in March decided to end their five-decade-old border dispute in six of the 12 contested locations that often raised tensions between the two states.

Asserting that efforts are underway to make Northeast insurgency-free, he claimed that 9,000 militants of the region have surrendered during the last eight years of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre.

The Centre is committed to bringing peace and development to the region. Youths of the Northeast no

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Technical

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at 9.00 AM.

Rural Works Circle, Balasore

S/d:-Er.S.K. Mishra

longer carry guns and petrol bombs. They are now carrying laptops and are launching start-ups. This is the path of development that the Centre has envisaged for the region,'

"Manipur, which was earlier known for bandhs and blockades for more than 200 days a year, is now witnessing a sea of change without any bandh during the last five years of BJP rule in the state, he said.

Shah said that the insurgency in the Bodoland region of Assam was resolved through the signing of the Bodo Peace Accord.

"Surrender of militant groups in Tripura and resolving of the Bru refugee issue was undertaken by the Modi government. The Union Home Ministry has taken initiatives to bring peace to Assam's Karbi Anglong (district)," he said.

#### back the ₹13 per litre and ₹16 NCP chief Sharad Pawar,

**Centre slashes fuel...** 

The TMC also said it's not nothing,"

It's not arrogance, but...

From Page 1 "This is the state of the party and a failed, part-time politician of the party talks about BJP sprinkling kerosene all over the country," he asserted.

The BJP leader said it is the Babu. Congress which is "carrying kerosene since 1984 riots".

On Rahul drawing a parallel between the Russia-Ukraine crisis and India-China face-off in Ladakh, the BJP spokesperson said, "Rahul Gandhi's situation in politics is like someone who wants to appear in the PhD exam but does not like books and has not even passed nursery."

"Rahul Gandhi does not even know the A, B, C, D of foreign affairs. But he

comment comparing Ukraine's situation with Ladakh proves that he is not aware of either India's strength or foreign affairs," the spokesperson said remembering the sacrifice of Galwan hero Colonel Santosh

Bhatia said it is Indian army that pushed back Chinese army that considers itself "most powerful". "Rahul also said Îndia's situation is like Pakistan. We know that you are not fond of reading. But I warn you Rahul, do not compare India with terror-country Pakistan," Bhatia said.

The BJP also countered the Congress leader by recalling the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi and gagging of media, the fourth pillar of

#### Out on bail, Chautala convicted...

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had lodged the case in 2005, and a charge sheet was filed in March 26, 2010, accusing Chautala of amassing assets worth Rs 6.09 crore, much disproportionate to his legitimate income, between 1993 and 2006.

In January 2021, a Delhi court framed money laundering charges against Chautala in connection with the disproportionate assets case. Chautala and his son Ajay were also sentenced to ten years' imprisonment after they were found guilty of corruption in a teacher recruitment scam in 2013. Chautala, now 87 years old, was released from jail in July 2021.

#### DU Professor...

From Page 1

However, the post, though reprehensible, does not indicate an attempt to promote hatred between communities.

The court observed that the

police's anxiety to maintain peace and order leading to Lal's arrest could be understood, but "the court has to employ higher standards while considering the need to send a person to custody." It rejected the Delhi Police request for 14 days for judicial custody to further investigate the matter as it has received six complaints against him so far. Calling the post a failed attempt at satire, the court said, "The feeling of hurt felt by an individual cannot represent the entire group or community and any such complaint regarding hurt feelings has to be seen in its context considering the entire spectrum of facts/circumstances."

Lal was arrested under Indian Penal Code sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 295A (deliberate act to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion) by the Delhi Police.

## Man beaten...

reduction in excise duty on

petrol by ₹5 per litre and that

on diesel by ₹10 a litre, 25 States

and UTs had cut VAT to give

further reprieve to consumers

battered by record-high retail

prices. However, States ruled by

non-NDA parties like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh

and Tamil Nadu had not

reduced VAT.

From Page 1 Bhawarlal Jain, a resident of Sarsi village of Ratlam district, had gone missing on May 15 after visiting a religious programme in Chittorgarh in Raiasthan, and was found dead on Friday morning on Rampura Road under the jurisdiction of Manasa police station, some 38 km from the district headquarters, police said.

"But after performing the last rites of the deceased, his family members came to know about the purported video and informed the police about it," KL Dangi, in-charge of Manasa police station, said.

After the video surfaced, the police registered a case under İndian Penal Code (IPC) sections 302 (murder) and 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and launched a probe.

As per the preliminary investigation, the man seen in the video assaulting the mentally-challenged was identified as Dinesh Kushwaha, a resident of Manasa, he said. The man who assaulted the victim and the one who shot the video are absconding, he said. 'The video was probably shot on May 19, but further investigation is underway," Dangi added.

#### 15 (Nine) Calender Months including rainy season much like what happened in comments non-stop. His 1 (One) Nos Pakistan," he said. He said the BJP, despite a Last Date 8

From Page 1 "The Congress is fighting to

regain India. It's an ideological battle now -- a national ideological battle. The Deep State is chewing the Indian State,

At Cambridge...

sharp drop in employment, continues to be in power in India because of "polarisation and the total domination of the media".

He also spoke about private sector monopoly saying it's very dangerous for one company to control all airports, all ports, all the infrastructure. "Private sector monopoly never existed in this form. It has never existed with such a massive concentration of power and capital," he said.

From Page 1

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# Will take Delhi school model | Delhiites demand more reduction in fuel prices to Telangana, says CM Rao



**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday said his Government will set up model schools in the southern State on the lines of Delhi, and will soon send a team of officers for coordina-

Rao, along with his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal, visited a Delhi Government school in the national Capital where officials briefed the Telangana Chief Minister on the change in the education system in the city under the

AAP Government. Last month, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin had visited Government schools in Delhi. Rao and his party leaders were welcomed by Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia, at the Sarvodaya Vidyalaya Senior Secondary School in Moti Bagh area and given a tour of the school. The delegation visited classrooms, labs and students' playing area among other facilities. Praising

tem, Rao said, "The process of turning into job providers rather than job seekers is very good. This is very necessary for our country with such a large population.

"We will implement Delhi model of schools in Telangana as well. We will soon send a team of officers from our state to coordinate," he told reporters.

Briefing Rao about the Delhi Government's "remarkable improvements" in education, Kejriwal said many private school students were taking admission in Government schools because of quality of education being imparted. "We have around 1,100 schools and nearly 18 lakh students studying in them.

Earlier, this number was 16 lakh, but now, due to remark-"Merchants talk about business when they meet. able improvements in education sector, many students of private schools are joining our government schools," Kejriwal told Rao. "Visiting world-

Government along with CM of Telangana K Chandrashekhar Rao," Kejriwal tweeted along with a short live broadcast where he can be seen briefing Rao on number of schools and total student enrollment num-

Officials of Delhi education department also gave a pre-sentation regarding improvements being done in the sector

by the AAP Government.

The Telangana Chief Minister said he also discussed political developments with Kejriwal, as well as with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav earlier in day. On May 20, the Chief Minister met different political party leaders, and economic experts in Delhi to discuss country's economic

Politicians talk about politics when they meet. It is natural to ital city," she said. talk politics with Akhilesh Yadav and Kejriwal," he added.

# after Centre cuts excise duty on petrol, diesel

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Welcoming Centre's decision to reduce excise duty on petrol and diesel, Delhiites on Saturday asked the Modi Government to do more to reduce fuel prices to give relief from the increasing petrol and diesel prices amid high inflation on all commodities.

"This is a good move to give relief to aam admi from skyrocketing of petrol and diesel prices. But prices are still very high and common man can not afford this," said Rajan Sharma, a resident of Kashmeri Gate. Sanjana Arora, a resident of Jal Vihar, said this has been a great relief, as earlier it was very difficult to maintain the budget of the family due to the increased fuel prices and cylinder prices. "With this step, a person will be able to maintain their basic living. The Government should further take actions to fight against the increasing inflation in the cap-

According to Mohit Arya, an employee in a private com-

pany, petrol is one of the basic amenities for a person who is commuting from one city to another to earn living on a daily basis. "The prices of petrol and diesel in the past few months have risen briskly.

A person who is the sole earner in the family, and has a salary of Rs 20,000 cannot afford to travel by their own vehicle. The increased petrol prices have forced me to travel by metro to my office," he said. Anup Verma, another resident of the Patel Nagar, said the State Government should also take such necessary steps to ease the pressure on the people living in Delhi.

Amid soaring fuel prices, the centre on Saturday announced an Rs 8 per liter cut in excise duty on petrol and Rs 6 a litre on diesel to avoid an increase in fuel prices that were necessitated due to surge in international oil prices. The Government also decided to give Rs 200 per cylinder subsidy to Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries for 12 cylinders in a year to help ease some of the bur-

den arising from cooking gas rates rising to record levels.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharam also took it to Twitter and wrote, "We are reducing the Central excise duty on petrol by Rs 8 per litre and on diesel by Rs 6 per litre. This will reduce price of petrol by Rs 9.5 per litre and of diesel by Rs 7

per litre. It will have revenue implication of around Rs 1 lakh crore or year for Government. I wish to exhort all state governments, especially states where reduction wasn't done during last round (November 2021), to also implement a similar cut and give relief to

#### Water supply will be hit in some parts of Capital: DJB

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Amid scorching heatwave and high humidity level, Delhiites would have to face water crisis as the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on Saturday issued an advisory stating that the water supply in some parts of the national Capital will be affected due to the depletion of pond level at Wazirabad.

According to the DJB advisory, the affected areas are North Delhi, North West Delhi, West Delhi, and Part of South Delhi, including Delhi Cantonment areas and the command area of Deer Park. The water level at the Wazirabad pond dropped to 668. 30 ft, while the normal level is 674.50 ft.

The reason behind the affected water supply, the advisory stated, is "due to depletion of pond level at Wazirabad and maximum possible diversion from Carrier Lined Channel (CLC) and Delhi Sub-Branch

(DSB) towards Wazirabad and also fluctuation in them, the clear water production has been affected from water treatment plants at Haiderpur Phase-1, Phase-II, Bawana.

"However, the situation is being reviewed constantly. Delhi Jal Board is endeavoring to rationalise the water supply, however, water will be available at low pressure till the situation improves," it said in a statement.

The DJB has also requested the public to make judicious use of water to avoid any inconvenience and said the water tankers will be made available at the time of any water-related problem. Following affected water

supply in Delhi, the private water tanker rates increased by 10-20 per cent, according to reports. Water supply from Wazirabad, Chandrawal, and Okhla WTPs, which lift raw water from the Wazirabad pond, has reduced by up to 30 per cent. The Chandrawal,

Wazirabad, and Okhla WTPs have a capacity of 90 MGD, 135 MGD, and 20 MGD, respectively. Delhi requires around 1,200 MGD of water, while the DJB supplies around 950 MGD.

The water supply has been further reduced by around 65 MGD due to the depleted water level in the Wazirabad pond.

The DJB had on Tuesday written another letter to the Haryana Irrigation Department, asking it to urgently release 150 cusecs of additional water in the "almost dry" Yamuna.

This was fourth time in less than three weeks that utility has written to Haryana Irrigation Department. Lambasting Delhi Government, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday asked the Delhi's AAP Government not to indulge in "petty politics" over water sharing issue, saying if it wants more water then it should ask Puniab to release his state's "legitimate share".

#### Stop attack on teachers, says AISA after DU Prof arrest; Prof gets bail



Delhi University Professor Ratan Lal, who was earlier arrested by Delhi Police for his social media post related to Gyanvapi Mosque case, being produced at Tis Hazari Court in New Delhi, Saturday.

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

eft-oriented student wing, LAll India Students Association, (AISA) on Saturday staged a protest outside Delhi University's Arts Faculty against the arrest of Hindu College associate pro-fessor Ratan Lal on Friday night. Following the protest, there was a heavy deployment of police. Apart from the district police, four companies from an outside force, including women personnel, were put

activists held placards that read Stop attack on our teachers", "Stop curbing democratic voices" and "Release professor Ratan Lal". Lal was arrested on Friday night and granted bail on Saturday by a Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Tis Hazari court. An First Information

Report (FIR) was lodged against Lal on Tuesday night based on a complaint filed by a Delhi-based lawyer.

In his complaint, advocate Vineet Jindal said Lal had police said. The student inciting and provoking tweets ling was broken or cut.

on the Shivling". "The statement made by Lal on his Twitter account is instigating and pro-The statement (of Lal) was

posted on the issue of shivling found at the Gyanvapi mosque complex which is very sensitive in nature and the matter is pending before the court, he said in his complaint. According to Delhi police,

the accused had allegedly posted a photo of the structure and made objectionable comments

Lal was arrested on Friday night under sections 153Å (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) and 295A (deliberate act to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Lal, associate professor at Delhi University's Hindu College, had earlier said he had simply posed a question as a student of history. "People can be hurt by anything. Academic discourse cannot be sidelined on account of perceived hurt. I had asked a simple question

#### **NCR PULSE**

JAI KISHAN PAYS HOMAGE TO RAJEEV GANDHI

New Delhi: Senior Delhi Congress leader and dalit face of State politics. former MLA Jai Kishan on Saturday paid homage to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 31st death anniversary at Vir Bhumi in the national Capital and distributed fruits, clothes, sarees and sweets to patient in Sanjay Gandhi hospital, Bhagwan Mahavir hospital and Ambedkar hospital Speaking with his party workers on the occasion, Jai Kishan said Rajiv was a visionary leader whose policies helped shape modern India and he brought computer revolution in the country. Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar, along with senior party leaders, paid floral tributes to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary at the Delhi Congress office Besides Anil Kumar, Rajya Sabha MP Shaktisinh Gohil, former Union minister Jagdish Tytler, former MP Ramesh Kumar, former MLA Anil Bharadwaj and several other leaders also paid tributes to Rajiv Gandhi

#### CM RELEASES BOOK ON 'RIGHT ANGLE OF GOVERNANCE New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Delhi Assembly Spea

Ram Niwas Goel on Saturday released the book 'Right Angle of Governance' authored by Lavkesh Chandra, at the Chief Minister's residence. According to a statement issued by Delhi Assembly, the rule of various



parties in independent India over the last 75 years has been discussed in this book, with the common public as the central figure. In the book 'Right Angle of Governance', the author has highlighted the flaws of current governance in detail using facts, leaving a legacy of good governance for

#### 479 FRESH COVID CASES REPORTED IN CAPITAL New Delhi: Delhi reported 479 new Covid cases and one death due to the

disease on Saturday while the positivity rate was 2.06 per cent, according to data shared by the city health department. With the new cases. Delhi's COVID-19 caseload increased to 19.03.189 and the death toll rose to department said in its latest bulletin.

## 42 dead in 2K fire-related incidents till May 19 in city: Delhi Fire Services data

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Three fire incidents were **⊥** reported in the national Capital on Saturday. A minor fire was also reported in the new Parliament building in central Delhi on Saturday afternoon. According to Delhi Fire Services data, amid scorching temperatures and heatwave conditions, the national Capital has witnessed till May 19 over 2,000 firerelated incidents which has claimed the lives of 42 people and injured 117 others.

A fire broke out at a factorv in north Delhi's Bawana area while fire was also reported at a shop in east Delhi's Pandav Nagar area on Saturday morn-

However, no casualties have been reported in the incident. Fire department said a minor

Their life tragically cut short,

I no doubt they have left a

huge hole in their family that

will never be filled. But amid devastating grief their families have ensured that their loved

ones, who are no more, give a

Rolly Prajapati, a six-year-old girl from Noida who died

due to a gunshot wound on

April 27, has become the youngest organ donor at the All

India Institute of Medical

Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi. The

doctors feel there should be

some memorial or monument

in her name to raise awareness

about organ donation.

PNS NEW DELHI

life to the needy.

fire broke out in the new Parliament building in central Delhi on Saturday afternoon. The safety net of the building caught fire, they said. Information regarding the blaze was received at 12.35 pm and five fire tenders were rushed to the spot, the fire department officials said.

It was a minor fire, and the fire staff present inside the Parliament complex doused it even before the fire tenders reached the spot, they said. In another fire incident at a

factory in north Delhi's Bawana area, the fire department received the call regarding the fire at 11.05 am following which seven to eight fire tenders were sent at the spot to douse the blaze, said a senior Delhi Fire Service (DFS) official.

shop in east Delhi's Pandav

Six-year-old gunshot victim becomes

"Her heart valves have been

stored... We didn't have a recipient that day, so we took out the valves, which will be

The children who received

the organs are doing well, said Dr Deepak Gupta, professor of neurosurgery and in-charge of

organ procurement services at the AIIMS Trauma Centre.

The allotments of the donated

used for two children.

youngest organs' donor at AIIMS

Nagar area. The fire depart ment received information about it at 11.05 am. "Seven fire tenders have been pressed into service. No casualty has been reported in either of the incidents so far," said the senior DFS official. On Monday, a fire broke out in three temporary shelters for workers engaged in the Central Vista project near the Parliament House.

The fire department said the figure of 2,145 incidents is the highest in May so far as compared to the same period in the last three years.

In the entire month of May in 2021, the city witnessed 2,174 fire-related incidents, while 2,325 such incidents were reported in the same month in 2020.

In May 2019, 3,297 fire A fire also broke out at a incidents were reported, the data showed

hours apart, but she was found

to be brain dead. We spoke to

the family and suggested the

option of organ donation, to which they consented," Dr Gupta said. "She's the youngest

girl in Delhi-NCR and at

AIIMS whose organs have been

transplanted. There is a huge

waiting list for children and

many children die waiting for

a road mishap in Gurgaon who was later declared brain

dead at AIIMS Trauma Centre

recently agreed for organ donation on May 17. Dr Gupta said

that the deceased's heart was

transplants," he added. Similarly, the family of a 37-year-old man who met with

# **POWERGRID Transmitting Power, Transforming Lives**



Extract of the Financial Results for the Quarter and Year

Extract of the finalitial nesults for the quality and fear efficiency i watch 2022 (7 in Crore)											
		Standalone					Consolidated				
S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended		Quarter ended			Year ended	
			31.12.2021 (Un-audited)	31.03.2021 (Un-audited)	31.03.2022 (Audited)	31.03.2021 (Audited)	31.03.2022 (Un-audited)			31.03.2022 (Audited)	31.03.2021 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	10,941.93	10,636.56	10,705.49	42,335.87	40,527.11	11,067.94	10,723.61	10,816.33	42,697.90	40,823.53
2	Net Profit before Exceptional Items and Tax (including Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (net of tax))	3,671.31	4,211.85	4,142.12	16,045.31	16,103.56	3,764.78	4,178.22	4,258.51	16,289.31	16,579.35
3	Net Profit before Tax (after exceptional items)(including Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (net of tax))	4,261.24	4,211.85	4,142.12	19,804.82	15,024.92	4,071.14	4,178.22	4,258.51	19,609.64	15,500.71
4	Net Profit after Tax for the period	4,320.64	3,349.44	3,515.61	17,093.76	11,935.78	4,156.44	3,292.97	3,526.23	16,824.07	12,036.46
5	Total Comprehensive Income comprising net Profit after Tax and Other Comprehensive Income	4,313.21	3,335.58	3,529.28	17,384.69	11,961.14	4,149.51	3,278.81	3,539.96	17,115.21	12,061.95
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of share : ₹ 10/- each)	6,975.45	6,975.45	5,231.59	6,975.45	5,231.59	6,975.45	6,975.45	5,231.59	6,975.45	5,231.59
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Balance sheet	69,176.12	68,699.41	64,347.25	69,176.12	64,347.25	69,271.68	68,995.34	64,704.48	69,271.68	64,704.48
8	Securities Premium Account	7,834.43	7,834.43	9,578.29	7,834.43	9,578.29	7,834.43	7,834.43	9,578.29	7,834.43	9,578.29
9	Net worth	76,151.57	75,674.86	69,578.84	76,151.57	69,578.84	76,247.13	75,970.79	69,936.07	76,247.13	69,936.07
10	Total Borrowings	1,34,665.27	1,34,356.45	1,43,051.48	1,34,665.27	1,43,051.48	1,34,665.27	1,34,356.45	1,43,210.33	1,34,665.27	1,43,210.33
11	Debt Equity Ratio	1.77	1.78	2.06	1.77	2.06	1.77	1.77	2.05	1.77	2.05
12	Earnings per equity share including movement in Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (Face value of ₹10/-each): Basic and Diluted (in ₹)	6.20	4.80	5.04	24.51	17.11	5.96	4.72	5.06	24.12	17.26
13	Earnings per equity share excluding movement in Regulatory Deferral Account Balances (Face value of ₹10/-each): Basic and Diluted (in ₹)	7.10	4.90	5.57	25.25	16.54	6.87	4.82	5.64	24.88	16.74
14	Bonds Redemption Reserve	5,532.80	5,881.58	7,387.97	5,532.80	7,387.97	5,532.80	5,881.58	7,387.97	5,532.80	7,387.97
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	2.15	1.31	1.97	1.61	1.66	2.14	1.32	2.00	1.61	1.67
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	4.58	4.54	4.23	4.61	3.79	4.57	4.57	4.45	4.70	3.97
Me	too:										

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly and Year ended Consolidated and Standalone Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly and Year ended Consolidated and Standalone Financial Results is available on the Investor Relations section of our website https://www.powergrid.in and under Corporates Section of BSÉ Limited & National Stock Exchange of India Limited at https://www.bseindia.com and https://www.nseindia.com respectively For and on behalf of POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.

Previous periods figures have been regrouped/rearranged wherever considered necessary Place: Gurugram

M. Taj Mukarrum Director (Finance)





Date : 21 May, 2022

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Hailing from Uttar Pradesh, Rolly's liver went to a 7-year-old child from Lucknow Transplant Organisation and her kidneys to a 12-year-(NOTTO), he said. transplant on three other "Rolly was brought to us old. Her corneas were harvestpatients — two male and one ed and given to two adults. with a head injury. Various tests

#### organs were done by the National Organ and Tissue used for transplant in a 17year-old, while his liver and two kidneys were used to conduct

# **Eye on national role, TRS chief** KCR meets Akhilesh, Kejriwal

Renewing his aspirations for a prominent role in national politics and in view of the impending Presidential elections, Telangana Rashriti (TRS) chief and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday met Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal here as part of his hectic itinerary that also includes visits to Chandigarh, Bengaluru and Kolkata for meeting former Minister Devegowda besides Galwan martyrs and famers.

The term of incumbent President Ram Nath Kovind ends on July and election is expected to be held next month. Sources said the fresh galvanisation seems to focus

and a long discussion for about two hours and later in the evening he met his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal. Both the CMs visited a mohalla clinic and a government school in Delhi's South Moti Bagh. Rao, who reached Delhi on

Friday, will over the next two weeks meet Opposition leaders and travel across the country. The TRS, which so far had been supporting the government, has belatedly joined the Opposition space after the BJP made deep political inroads in

Rao is apparently clear about the formation of an anti-BJP front but without the Congress with the first litmus test being the presidential election. Almost six months ago, the TRS chief made his first move by talking to his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee and Tamil Nadu CM



MK Stalin followed by a meeting with Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray at a time when Banerjee had asserted that there was no existence of a Congress-led UPA.

Political experts, however, remarked that the non-BJP or non-Congress front may have difficulties to become a reality as besides KCR, TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee and Kejriwal after their big wins in assembly elections have been making attempts to position themselves on the national stage as

On Sunday, KCR will reach

China's Indo-Pacific posturing, LCA face-off to come up in Quad summit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

China's aggressive posturing in the Indo-Pacific and the ongoing stand-offs at the border in Ladakh will come up in the Quad summit in Tokyo on May 24. Besides attending this high-profile event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also hold bilateral talks with US President Joe Biden and Japanese and Australian Prime Ministers. The summit takes place in the backdrop of the ongoing Ukraine conflict.

Giving details of the Prime Minister's programme in Tokyo, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said here on Saturday "Indo-Pacific has challenges and opportunities. When Quad leaders speak, both challenges and opportunities will be talked about." This was in response to queries about China's stance and it building the second bridge across the Pangong Tso(lake)in Eastern Ladakh.

It will be the second Quad summit in person with Biden hosting the first meet in Washington last year. Modi is travelling to Tokyo to attend the Quad conclave at the invitation of his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida.

As regards bilateral meeting between India and Japanese prime ministers, Kwatra said the strategic and global relations between the two countries have seen great momentum. In Tokyo, two Prime Ministers will continue their discussion on deepening bilateral economic cooperation including trade and investment, clean energy, and cooperation in northeast.

On meeting with the Australian Prime Minister, he said elections are being held there on Saturday. The next Australian Prime Minister is likely to attend the Quad

Summit. It is expected that

Modi will meet the new

In their interaction, the two leaders will review India-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership and exchange views on regional and global developments of mutual interest. The last bilat-

the Foreign Secretary said.

eral meeting was held virtualin March this year, he said.

Australian leader in Tokyo, Modi will have a bilateral meeting with Biden on May 24. The India-US relationship is multi-faceted, has acquired momentum, depth and is diversified, Kwatra said. Modi will also address Indian community there and will meet

# Dominican Govt drops illegal entry charges against Choksi

In a setback to Indian agen-cies seeking repatriation of Mehul Choksi, the Dominican Government on Saturday dropped charges of illegal entry against the fugitive diamantaire. Reports said the prosecution of Dominica decided to withdraw/discontinue the legal proceedings in the illegal entry case against Choksi.

"Čhoksi is pleased that the Dominican Government has today dropped all charges against him for unlawful entry in May 2021. By doing so they now recognise that there was never any case against him. Choksi was forcibly removed from Antigua against his will by agents of the Indian State, viciously assaulted, and taken to Dominica by boat, where he was again unlawfully handed over to authorities for an offence he never committed. Choksi's legal team continue to pursue all avenues for justice to redress the human rights vio-



lations committed against him. responsible for his kidnapping will be brought to justice,' according to a statement by Choksi's spokesperson.

On May 17, Director of Public Prosecutions (AG) in a reply filed before the Magistrate Court informed that 'Mehul Chinubhai Choksi' was charged, for that he, on the 24th day of May 2021 at Toucarie Bay, Toucarie in the Parish of St John, in the Commonwealth of Dominica, did enter illegally into the Commonwealth of Dominica at a place not approved as a point of entry."

The Director of 2018 aft Prosecutions further stated to light.

dance with the provisions of Section 72(2) (c) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Dominica, I do hereby discontinue the above-mentioned proceedings against the said, Mehul Chinubhai Choksi." The move comes as a setback for Indian agencies that were seeking his repatriation to face trial in the PNB loan fraud case.

Fugitive businessman Mehul Choksi who had gone missing from Antigua on 23 May, 2021, was soon caught in Dominica. He was charged with illegal entry by the police in Dominica.

The 62-year-old fugitive diamond businessman is wanted in India in connection with the Rs 13,500-crore loan fraud in the Punjab National Bank (PNB). Choksi had taken citizenship in Antigua and Barbuda in 2017 and fled India in the first week of January 2018 after the PNB scam came

#### Pradhan confers degrees at XXVIIth convocation at NEHU



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

lakh to the family of each of the

600 farmers who lost their

lives during the farmers' agita-

tion against the now-repealed

Minister Bhagwant Mann will be present at the ceremony. On

May 26, Rao will meet former Prime Minister H.D. Deve

Gowda in Bengaluru, and then

will also visit Ralegan Siddhi in

Maharashtra to meet activist

KCR will visit West Bengal and

Bihar to meet the families of

the soldiers who died in the

Galwan Valley clashes. He will

extend assistance to those fam-

ilies, a release by the state gov-

ernment said. Sources, howev-

er, added that the Telangana

CM could also line up meetings

with Bihar Chief Minister

Nitish Kumar and RJD leaders

During the month end

Kejriwal and Punjab Chief

Central agri laws.

Anna Hazare.

Union Minister Education, Development Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday attended the XXVII Convocation of the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Meghalaya as the chief guest and conferred degrees to the passing out students for 2020 and 2021 at the ceremony held in the Shillong

passing out students and extended his best wishes for their bright future ahead. He urged them to change in the society by participating in the knowledge-based revolution to become

Pradhan con-

gratulated all the

Our universities are melting pot of ideas, innovation and aspirations and universities should be a breeding ground for research—research for welfare of society & mankind and for furthering ease-of-living, he added. Pradhan complimented Chief Minister Conrad Sangma for giving special focus on early childhood care and education in the state of Meghalaya in line with the NEP 2020. This will ensure that our children live up to their full potential.

## Centre announces fresh composition of standing committee of Inter-State Council

PNS NEW DELHI/AGENCIES

The Central Government has announced the fresh composition of the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council that includes 13 members, including its Chairman Amit Shah.

Ministry of Home mentions the move in its gazette noification issued on Friday pointing out that the step was taken in supersession of the Inter-State Secretariat's notification dated August 9, 2019, and with the approval of the Prime Minister.

Besides Shah, the committee comprises four other Ministers of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet and eight Chief Ministers.

Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra



Singh Shekhawat are among the Union Cabinet Ministers as members of the committee.

Chief Minister Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister Bihar Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister Gujarat Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray, Chief Minister Odisha Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister Punjab Bhagwant Mann, Chief Minister Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath are other members of the committee. The Standing

Committee will have continuous consultation on consideration of the Council. It ters pertaining to Centre-State Relations before 🐧 they are taken up for consideration

in the Inter-State Council. The committee also mon-

itor the implementation of decisions taken on the recommendations of the Council and considers any other matter referred to it by the Chairman or Council.

The Standing Committee may, if necessary, invite experts and persons eminent in specific fields to have the benefit of their views while deliberating upon the related

# CBI raids over 10 locations in multiple cities in NSE co-location scam case

PNS NEW DELHI

¬he CBI on Saturday con-1 ducted a coordinated search operation at over 10 locations in multiple cities in connection with the NSE co-location scam

The searches were conducted at more than 12 premises in Mumbai, Gandhinagar, Delhi, Noida, Gurugram and Kolkata, among other cities, officials said. The agency has filed a

chargesheet against former National Stock Exchange (NSE) CEO and MD Chitra Ramkrishna and Group Operating Officer Anand Subramanian in the case.

The probe has so far established that from 2010 to 2015, when Ramkrishna was managing the affairs of the NSE, OPG

Securities, one of the accused in the FIR, had connected to the secondary POP server on 670 trading days in the "Futures and Options" segment, officials said. The CBI is probing allega-

tions of preferential access granted to certain brokers by NSE officials and undue gains made out of it during the tenure Ramkrishna Subramanian. Ramkrishna, who suc-

ceeded former CEO Ravi Narain in 2013, had appointed Subramanian as her advisor, who was later elevated as the Group Operating Officer (GOO) with a hefty salary of Rs 4.21 crore annually. Subramanian's controver-

sial appointment and subsequent elevation, besides crucial decisions, were guided by an unidentified personnel, who



Ramkrishna claimed was a formless mysterious "yogi" (mystic) dwelling in the Himalayas, a probe into her email exchanges during a SEBIordered audit had revealed.

The CBI had booked stock broker Sanjay Gupta, the owner and promoter of Delhi-based OPG Securities Private Limited, in 2018 for allegedly making gains by getting early access to the stock market trading sys-

The agency is also probing unidentified officials of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), NSE, Mumbai and other unidentified persons in connection with the case. "It was alleged that the owner and promoter of the said private company abused the server architecture of the NSE in a conspiracy with unidentified officials of the NSE," the CBI has alleged in the FIR.

The FIR also alleged that unidentified officials of NSE, Mumbai had provided unfair access to the said accused company using the co-location facility during the period 2010-2012 that enabled it to log in first to the exchange server of the stock exchange that helped to get the data before any other broker in the market.

#### Cong's leader Adhir says his twitter account hacked, files complaint

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Senior Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Saturday claimed that his Twitter account was hacked and filed a police complaint with South Avenue Police Station, New Delhi.

On the occasion of the death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, Chowdhury quoted the former PM 's remark "when a big tree falls, the ground shakes" in the aftermath of the assassination of Indira Gandhi and the subsequent anti-Sikh riots. The Congress leader later

deleted his tweet. Chowdhury said, "The tweet against my name has nothing to do with my own observation. A malicious campaign is propagated by those forces inimical to me," he

"With all my conviction, with humilities at my command, I'm firmly stating that the tweet being quoted against my name is nothing but a malicious campaign being propagated by some unscrupulous elements, by some heinous forces who are inimical to me and my party," Chowdhury, who is also Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha stated in anoth-

He posted another tweet with a quote from Rajiv Gandhi, "Development is not about factories, dams and roads. Development is about the people. The goal is material culture and fulfilment for the people. The human factor is of supreme value in development"

er tweet.

The party did not react to the controversy till late evening.

#### 12 nations report 150 monkeypox cases. India on wait and watch

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

With at least 12 countries across the world reporting 150 Monkeypox cases so far, the Government has decided to adopt a wait and watch policy besides sounding alert on the airports and seaports.

Sources said that the decision will also be firmed up once the WHO issues a guideline in the matter which will give a clear picture about the severity of the situation.

The Centre has already issued an alert to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and asked them to keep a close watch on the situation evolving in relation to the monkeypox cases abroad.

Doctors said that one should not let their guard down as there is no need to

panic. We need to keep a surveillance on how it is evolving, and how many people are getting affected. Fortunately, it is not as severe as smallpox," said Dr Jugal Kishore, head of the Community Department,

Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi.

He said that the WHO may issue guidelines in this regard soon on how fast the monkeypox is spreading. There is a need to keep a watch on borders and international travelers and ensure that those having rash-like symptoms or reporting fever are kept in quarantine as per protocol.

Dr Kishore said that the virus can spread through touching or using clothes or towels of someone who is infected; touching monkeypox skin blisters; coughs or sneezing. Hence, health hygiene is a must. Also, those venturing in wildlife should stop doing so for some time, he added.

#### Telangana, TN confirm cases of BA.4 Omicron variant, Centre asks to share details regularly

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With two States—Telangana and now Tamil Nadu—indicating reports of confirmed cases of the BA.4 Omicron variant, the Centre is keeping a constant watch on their status and asked the States to share the details of the patients regu-

larly to it.

Sources in the Union Health Ministry said that a team will soon be sent to the two States if required to investigate into their history as well as to consult the authorities for further steps to be taken.

On Saturday, Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian had said that initial reports from a whole genome sequencing lab have indicated the possibility of a similar variant among one of the patients in the state.

The patient, a 19-year-old resident of gated community in Navalur in Chennai who tested positive on May 9, has recovered from the viral infection. But her mother who was also positive for

he was carrying the BA. 2 variant. Neither of them had a travel history.

Earlier this month, scientists said two Omicron sub-lineages -- BA.4 and BA.5 - were threatening to trigger a new wave of Covid-19 infections in South Africa, but there is no evidence to show that these variants can trigger more complications and death.

The BA.4 variant was first detected in a specimen collected in Limpopo, South Africa, on January 10 and has since been detected in all South African

On May 4, the teenager and her 45-year-old mother who had a flu-like illness gave their samples for testing at a private lab. They tested positive for the viral infection. "The patients self-isolated themselves at home and recovered in three days. They resumed work in a said health secretary J

Radhakrishnan. Two other family members -- the

teen's father and grandmother -- did not have symptoms. While the grandmother has taken one dose of the vaccine, others have taken two doses of the vaccine.

'We are awaiting confirmation at the national level by NČDC. Two members of a family usually carry the same variant if they are affected at the same time. In this case we think the source of infection for mother and daughter could be different," Radhakrishnan said.

According to reports, Telangana has reported India's first case of Omicron subvariant BA.4, detected through a genomic surveillance program. "The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) has confirmed the first case of the BA.4 Omicron variant in India has been reported from

Hyderabad," according to a news agency.
The BA.4 and BA.5 variants of Omicron have been detected during the fifth Covid-19 wave in South Africa and have also been reported in the US and

# 8th Int Day of Yoga led by Modi to be held at Mysuru on June 21

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the eighth International Day of Yoga (IDY) will be held on June 21 this year at Mysuru in Karnataka. This year, as the nation celebrates Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to mark 75th year of Independence, the Union Ministry of Ayush has plans to observe IDY at 75 iconic sites also across the

This year, the IDY will be focused on Branding India on the global stage, said sources adding that Union Ayush Ministry has already started propagating the benefits of using WHO mYoga

App, besides hosting photo contests, quiz contests, discussions on the MyGov plat-

The sources said that the Ministry has written to Chief Secretary of Karnataka P Ravikumar regarding the decision to hold the D-Day at Mysuru and directed him to ensure arrangements for successful organisation of the main event of IDY-2022. So far, the IDY has been held at Dehradun, Lucknow among

Various stakeholders, including prominent sports

celebrities, foreign diplomats, and Yoga gurus will participate at the D-Day, the sources said. The Centre has already

launched the Yoga Mahotsav 2022-- a 100-day countdown for the 8th International Day of Yoga. The 100-day campaign is presently being organised in 100 cities and 100 organizations till June 21 across the globe.

For instance, a large yoga programme was held in Singapore on May 18, organized by Pragya Yoga and Wellness with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, under Ayush Ministry. As a countdown programme, 75th countdown day and 50th countdown day were observed at the Red Fort, Delhi, and Sivadol, Assam.

Other programmes in the 100-day celebrations include yoga programmes, yoga

seminars not only in India but across the globe. Sarbananda Sonowal,

Union Minister of Ayush had recently pointed out that "the worldwide acceptance of Yoga is a matter of pride for our country, as yoga is an integral part of our cultural and spiritual heritage? IDY, at the initiative of PM

Modi, the United Nations General Assembly took a historical decision in 2014 to declare June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. The ministry of Ayush is the nodal ministry for observation and is focused on a Mass Yoga demonstration based on Common Yoga Protocol

# Crisis-hit Lanka lifts state of emergency



The Sri Lankan government lifted the state of emergency from Saturday, nearly two weeks after it was imposed across the island nation as it faced unprecedented economic and anti-government protests. Embattled Sri Lankan . President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

gency with effect from May 6 midnight, the second time in just over a month amidst growing countrywide anti-government protests over the economic crisis. The Presidential Secretariat stated that state of emergency has been lifted with effect from Friday midnight, Hiru News reported. The move was taken with improvement of

island nation. The state of emergency gave police and security forces sweeping power to arbitrarily arrest and detain people. The president's decision to declare emergency had come amidst weeks of protests demanding his resignation and the government, blaming powerful Rajapaksa clan for mishandling the island nation's

economy, already hit by pan-

and over 200 injured in clashes between pro- and anti-government protesters. Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from Britain in 1948.

The crisis is caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices.

An inflation rate spiralling towards 40 per cent, shortages of food, fuel and medicines and rolling power blackouts have led to nationwide protests and a plunging currency, with government short of foreign currency reserves it needed to pay for imports.

New York-based ratings agency Fitch has downgraded debt-ridden Sri Lanka's sovereign rating to "restricted default" after country defaulted on making international sovereign bond payments. On April 12, Fitch had downgraded Sri Lanka to 'C'.

## Lanka's CID interrogates top police officer in connection with violence on May 9

A top Sri Lankan police offi-cer was interrogated by the Criminal Investigation Department on Saturday over his alleged actions that triggered violent clashes between anti- and pro-government protesters in the country earlier this month that killed at least 10 people and injured over 200

On May 9, violence erupted in Sri Lanka after supporters of former prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa attacked peaceful anti-government protesters demanding his ouster over the country's worst economic crisis that led to acute shortages of staple food, fuel and power.

Earlier this week, Galle district MP Ramesh Pathirana informed the Parliament that Senior Police DIG in-charge of the Western Province Deshabandu Tennakoon had informed President Gotabava Rajapaksa that Inspector General of Police Chandana D.

Wickramaratne had instructed him not to block the mob heading to Galle Face to disrupt the anti-government protesters, online portal Colombo Gazette reported.

Pathirana added that the President demanded action be taken to prevent the situation from spiralling out of control.

Following the President's orders, police rushed to the spot and fired tear gas and water cannons on the mob, by which time scores were injured and at least 10 people were dead, according to Colombo interrogated Wickremaratna on Saturday, officials said. Last week, Sri Lanka's CID quizzed three members of the ruling SLPP parliamentary group over their alleged involvement in the clashes.

Two of their colleagues who were arrested previously have been remanded in custody till May 25. On Friday, Namal Rajapaksa, a former minister and the son of former Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa was also summoned and his statement has been recorded.

Members of the ruling coalition government blamed Opposition party Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna for instigating the violence on May 9, which was vehemently denied by the Marxist party. The mob destroyed several tents and other structures erected at Galle Face and also attacked some of the demonstrators. The violence saw arson attacks on homes of several politicians, including ancestral home of Rajapaksas in Hambantota.

Video footage showed the entire house of Mahinda Rajapaksa and his younger brother and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Medamulana in Hambantota city was burning. The properties of some 78 government parliamentarians faced arson in the ensuing attacks.

Sri Lanka has been witnessing large-scale protests against the government's handling of the debt-ridden economy - the worst-ever economic crisis in the country's history.

## Russia attacks **Ukraine's** eastern cities



 $R^{ussian}$  forces on Friday continued attacking the cities of Lysychansk and Severodonetsk in Ukraine's eastern region of Luhansk to try to cut the area off from the rest of Ukraine, the region's governor said.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai told The Associated Press Russian forces were focused on the Lysychansk-Bakhmut highway, which he said is the only road for evacuating people and delivering humanitarian supplies. "The road is extremely important because it's the only connection

to other regions of the country," he said via email. "The Russians are trying to cut us off from it, to encircle the Luhansk region." Russian forces are constantly shelling the road from multiple directions, but Ukrainian armoured transports are still able to get through, Haidai

One of Friday's attacks was on a school in Severodonetsk sheltering more than 200 people, many of them children. Three adults were killed, Haidai said on Telegram. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Friday, "the liberation of the Luhansk People's Republic is nearing completion."(AP)

# to capture Mariupol

**AP** ■ POKROVSK (UKRAINE)

**▼**n what would be its biggest Livictory yet in the war with Ukraine, Russia claimed to have captured Mariupol after a nearly three-month siege that reduced much of the strategic port city to a smoking ruin, with over 20,000 civilians feared dead.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu reported to President Vladimir Putin the "complete liberation" of the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol - the last stronghold of Ukrainian resistance — and the city as a whole, spokesman Igor

Konashenkov said Friday. There was no immediate confirmation from Ukraine. Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti quoted the ministry as saying a total of 2,439 Ukrainian fighters who had been holed up at the steelworks had surrendered since Monday, including over 500 on Friday.

As they surrendered, the troops were taken prisoner by the Russians, and at least some were taken to a former penal

# Russia claims | Oz PM Scott Morrison concedes election defeat

**AP** ■ CANBERRA (AUSTRALIA)

Australia's prime minister conceded defeat after an election on Saturday that could deliver a minority government.

Scott Morrison acted quickly despite millions of votes yet to be counted because an Australian prime minister must attend a Tokyo summit on Tuesday with US, Japanese and Indian leaders.

"I believe it's very important that this country has certainty. I think it's very important this country can move forward," Morrison said.

"And particularly over the course of this week with the important meetings that are being held, I think it's vitally important there's a very clear understanding about the gov-ernment of this country," he

leader Opposition Anthony Albanese will be sworn in as prime minister after his Labour party clenched its first electoral win since 2007. Labour has promised more financial assistance and a robust social safety net as Australia grapples with the highest inflation since 2001 and soaring housing prices. The party also plans to increase minimal wages, and on the foreign policy front, it proposed to establish a Pacific defence school to train neighbouring armies in response to China's potential military presence on the Solomon Islands on Australia's doorstep. It also wants to tackle cli-

mate change with a more ambitious 43 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Morrison's Liberal partyled coalition was seeking a fourth three-year term. It holds the narrowest of

majorities — 76 seats in the 151-member House of Representatives, where parties need a majority to form a government. In early counting on

Saturday, the coalition was on track to win 38 seats, Labour 71, seven were unaligned lawmakers and 23 were too close

Minor parties and independents appeared to be taking votes from the major parties, which increases the likelihood of a hung parliament and a minority government. Australia most recent hung parliaments



were from 2010-13, and during World War II. A record proportion of postal votes because of the pandemic, which won't be added to the count until Sunday, adds to the uncertainty in early counting.

As well as campaigning against Labour, Morrison's conservative Liberals fought off a new challenge from socalled teal independent candidates to key government law-makers' reelection in party strongholds.

At least four Liberal lawmakers appeared to have lost who was considered Morrison's most likely successor.

their seats to teal independents including Liberal Party deputy leader Josh Frydenberg,

That decision may be

## US sees risk of Covid supply rationing without more funds

The White House is planning for "dire" contingencies that could include rationing supplies of vaccines and treatments this fall if Congress doesn't approve more money for fighting COVID-19.

In public comments and private meetings on Capitol Hill, Dr Ashish Jha, the White House coronavirus coordinator, has painted a dark picture in which the US could be forced to cede many of the advances made against the coronavirus over the last two years and even the most vulnerable could face supply shortages. Biden administration offi-

cials have been warning for weeks that the country has spent nearly all the money in the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan that was dedicated directly to COVID-19 response. A small pool of money

remains, and the administration faces critical decisions about how to spend it. That means tough decisions, like weighing whether to use it to secure the next generation of vaccines to protect the highest ority to a supply of highly effective therapies that dramatically reduce the risks of severe illness and death.

made in the coming week, according to the administration, as the White House faces



and treatments before other nations jump ahead of the US in accessing supply.

Jha has warned that without more money, vaccines will be harder to come by, tests will once again be scarce, and the therapeutics that are helping the country weather the current omicron-driven surge in cases without a commensurate increase in deaths could be overseas before Americans can access them.

"I think we would see a lot of unnecessary loss of life if that were to happen," Jha said this past week. "But we're looking at all the scenarios and planning for all of them."

He said the administration was "getting much more into the scenario-planning business to make sure that we know what may be ahead of us so we can plan for it and obviously also lay those out in front

Jha, who declined to put a pecific projection on potential loss of life, has become the face of the Biden administration's efforts to persuade Congress to approve an additional \$22.5 billion for COVID-19 response.

#### Biden signs \$40B for Ukraine assistance during Asia trip

President Biden on Saturday signed legislation to support Ukraine with another USD 40 billion in U.S. Assistance as the Russian invasion approaches its fourth month.

The legislation, which was passed by Congress with bipartisan support, deepens the U.S. Commitment to Ukraine at a time of uncertainty about the war's future. Ukraine has successfully defended Kyiv, and Russia has refocused its offensive on the country's east, but American officials warn of the potential for a prolonged conflict. The funding is intended to



support Ukraine through September, and it dwarfs an earlier emergency measure that provided UŠD13.6 billion.The new legislation will provide USD20 billion in military assistance, ensuring a steady stream of advanced weapons that have been used to blunt Russia's

advances. There's also USD8 billion in general economic support, USD5 billion to address global food shortages that could result from the collapse of Ukrainian agriculture and more than USD1 billion to help refugees.

Biden signed measure under unusual circumstances. Because he's in middle of a trip to Asia, a U.S. Official brought a copy of bill on a commercial flight so president could sign it, according to a White House official. The logistics reflect a sense of urgency around continuing U.S. Support for Ukraine, but also overlapping international challenges

#### US Prez, South Korean leader to consult on how to check NKorea

**AP** ■ SEOUL

 $P^{\text{resident Joe Biden is devoting his Saturday to cement-}}$ ing ties with South Korea and its new leader Yoon Suk Yeol as the two sides consult on how best to check the nuclear threat from North Korea at a time when there's little hope of real diplomacy on the matter.

The division of the Korean peninsula after World War II has led to two radically different nations. In South Korea, Biden is touring factories for computer chips and next-generation autos in a democracy and engaging in talks for greater cooperation. But in the North, there is a deadly coro-

navirus outbreak in a largely unvaccinated autocracy that can best command the world's attention by flexing its nuclear

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One as Biden made his way to South Korea, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the Ú.S. Has coordinated with Seoul and Tokyo on how they'll respond should the North conduct a nuclear test or missile strike while Biden is in region or soon after. Sullivan also spoke with his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi earlier in the week and urged Beijing to use its influence to persuade the North to cease the tests

#### Ex-Pakistan Minister Shireen beaten in police custody

Islamabad/Lahore: Pakistan's ex-human rights minister Shireen Mazari, who has been criticising the powerful Army after Imran Khan was ousted as prime minister last month, was "beaten" and taken away by the police, her daughter said on Saturday.

Mazari's arrest by anticorruption officials triggered a political storm but it was quickdoused with intervention of Pakistan's Punjab province CM Hamza Shehbaz who ordered her release from police custody. Hamza also ordered an inquiry against those police officials involved in 59-year-old Mazari's arrest.

#### Pennsylvania's Senate GOP primary too close to call, recount likely

**AP** ■ HARRISBURG (US)

Pennsylvania's Republican primary for an open US Senate seat is too close to call and is likely headed for a statewide recount to decide the winner of the contest between heart surgeon-turned-TV celebrity Dr. Mehmet Oz and former hedge fund CEO David McCormick A recount would mean

that the outcome of the race might not be known until June 8, the deadline for counties to report their results to the

Oz, who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump, led McCormick by 1,079 votes, or 0.08 percentage points, out of 1,340,248 ballots counted as of 5 pm Friday. The race is close enough to

trigger Pennsylvania's automatic recount law, with the separation between the candidates inside the law's 0.5 per cent margin. The Associated Press will not declare a winner in the race until the likely recount is complete.

Both campaigns have hired Washington-based lawyers to lead their recount efforts, and both have hired Philadelphia-based campaign strategists who helped lead the operation to observe votecounting on Election Day for Donald Trump's presidential campaign in 2020. The two campaigns combined already had hundreds of lawyers and volunteers fanned out around the presidential battleground state as election workers and election boards toiled through the remaining ballots.

McCormick's lead recount lawyer is Chuck Cooper, a veteran Washington lawyer and a go-to attorney for prominent conservative figures. He represented then-

Attorney General Jeff Sessions in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe and former national security adviser John Bolton in a dispute over the publication of his book. He recently successfully argued a campaign finance case on behalf of Texas Sen. Ted Cruz before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Oz's lead recount lawyer is Megan Newton, who was general counsel for Jeb Bush's unsuccessful 2016 presidential campaign and National Republican Senatorial Committee, and has represented Trump's campaign and Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign. The winner will face

Democratic Lt. Gov. John Fetterman in November's midterm elections in what Democrats see as their best opportunity to pick up a seat in the closely divided Senate.

#### Poles need EU funds as they help Ukrainians: Ambassador

AP WARSAW (POLAND)

Ukraine's ambassador to neighbouring Poland says his nation is grateful for the welcome that Poles have given to millions of Ukrainian refugees, but he hopes the European Union will soon release billions of euros to Poland so that the assistance does not come "at the cost of the Polish people".

Andrii Ambassador Deshchytsia said that while there have been no real social tensions in the three months since Ukrainians began crossing into Poland seeking safety, he worries they could appear in the future given the large extent of Polish help.

The government has extended free medical care, education and other social services to the Ukrainians, while more than 80 per cent of them are being housed in private

Deshchytsia noted that Russian disinformation efforts online have included spreading the message that Ukrainians are getting better treatment than Poles themselves, and that while these efforts have not found fertile ground yet, he is concerned that problems could

"I'm worried because I don't know where the limits of this hospitality, of the hospitality of Polish people, are," he said in an interview with The Associated Press on Friday.

"It's a warm and healthy welcome. But how long they can keep them? And it's understandable for me, and it's also understandable for my com-

They understand that there are some limits." The solution, as he sees it, is for the EU to release billions of euros of a pandemic recovery package. | reported that clashes erupted

#### Palestinian teen shot in Israeli raid in occupied West Bank

**AP** ■ JERUSALEM

Tsraeli troops shot and killed a **1**17-year-old Palestinian militant as fighting erupted when soldiers entered a volatile town in the occupied West Bank early Saturday, the Palestinian health ministry and local media said.

The shooting, which Israel said came during a gunbattle with local militants, came at a time of intensified Israeli military activity in the northern West Bank town of Jenin in recent months. The ministry identified the

It said another Palestinian — an 18-year-old — was in critical condition after being wounded by Israeli gunfire. Later Saturday, the militant group Islamic Jihad said al-Fayyed was a member of its

armed wing. Local media

dead teen as Amjad al-Fayyed.

outside Jenin's refugee camp when Israeli forces stormed the area. In a statement, the army said that soldiers opened fire after gunmen shot at them from a passing vehicle. It said the suspects also threw explosives toward the soldiers. Israel has stepped up its mil-

itary activity in Jenin in recent weeks in response to a series of deadly attacks inside Israel. Several attackers were from the Jenin area, which is known as a stronghold of Palestinian mili-

On May 11, a veteran Palestinian journalist for Al Jazeera satellite channel was killed while covering an Israeli military operation in Jenin refugee camp. Shireen Abu Akleh's family, broadcaster, Palestinian Authority and witnesses accused Israel of shooting correspondent for Qatari

#### 70.8mn to scammers this year, says police **PTI** ■ SINGAPORE

Singaporians lose SGD

People in Singapore have lost at least SGD 70.8 million this year to scammers impersonating business partners or employees via spoofed emails, the Singapore Police Force said on Saturday.

At least 149 victims have fallen prey since January to such scams where scammers used hacked or spoofed email accounts to pose as colleagues, business partners or suppliers. In a press release, it said

that Singaporians have lost at least SGD 70.8 million (USD 51.3 million) this year to scammers impersonating business partners or employees via spoofed emails. The spoofed email addresses often included slight misspellings or replacement of letters, which may

#### not be obvious at first glance, said the police. email would inform the victims that there was a change in their

payments to another bank

account, Channel News Asia

companies' bank account number and ask them to transfer

cited the police as saying.

The victims would believe that they had received a genuine email and transfer money to the new bank account. In some cases, the victims were asked to assist their super-

The victims would only find out that they had fallen prey to the scam when they clarified with their supplier or supervisor and realised that they did not make any request or receive any payment, said

visor to purchase gift cards and

provide the activation keys.

# India, Japan to provide relief as India supplies another 40K extreme food shortage looms

provide food relief supplies worth millions of dollars to Sri Lanka which is grappling with its worst economic crisis, leading to nationwide protests over the government's mismanage-

The Indian High Commission said here on Friday that an Indian ship laden with urgent relief supplies like rice, medicines and milk powder for the people of crisishit Sri Lanka is scheduled to reach Colombo on Sunday.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin flagged off the ship laden with relief supplies, the first to be dispatched to Sri Lanka, from Chennai on Wednesday.

The first consignment comprises 9,000 metric tonne (MT) of rice, 200 MT milk powder and 24 MT life-saving medicines with a combined value of Rs 45 crore.

"People of #India, standing by their brethren in #SriLanka. Rice, milk powder and medicines worth more than SLR 2 billion (USD 5.6 million) is scheduled to reach #Colombo on Sunday," the Indian mission

Chief Minister Stalin flagged off the cargo carrying the relief, from the Chennai



Port, in the presence of his cabinet colleagues and senior offi-

Japan has also announced to provide USD 1.5 million through a World Food Programme (WFP) programme for essential food rations and school meal pro-

"We are pleased to announce that the Government of Japan will grant 1.5 million dollars emergency assistance through WFP to provide three months' essential food supplies, including fortified rice, dhal and oil, for approximately 15,000 urban and rural people and 380,000 school children across the island," Charge d' Affaires ad interim of Japan to Sri Lanka Katsuki Kotaro

"We hope that this humanitarian assistance will help improve food access and nutrition for the people of Sri Lanka amidst the economic crisis," Kotaro added.

Using the contribution, the WFP will procure rice for the daily free school meals and also distribute ration packs comprising essential commodities to vulnerable households.

"Getting the right nutrition to those who need it the most effects of today's economic downturn," said Abdur Rahim Siddiqui, WFP Representative and Country Director in Sri

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe announced this week that Sri Lanka would be facing a severe food short-

He advocated the use of unused state land for cultivation as a mitigation measure. Sri Lanka is

LANKA going through the worst economic crisis since independence in 1948. A

crippling shortage of foreign reserves has led to long queues for fuel, cooking gas and other essentials while power cuts and soaring food prices heaped misery on the people.

The economic crisis has also triggered a political crisis in Sri Lanka and a demand for the resignation of the powerful Rajapaksas.

India has said that as an eternal and reliable friend of Sri Lanka, New Delhi is fully supportive of the island nation's democracy, stability and economic recovery.

# metric tonnes of diesel

Colombo: India on Saturday provided another 40,000 metric tonnes of diesel to Sri Lanka under the credit line facility to the island nation which is grappling with its worst economic crisis.

Last month, India extended an additional USD 500 million credit line to help Sri Lanka import fuel as the country has been struggling to pay for imports

after its foreign exchange reserves plummeted sharply in recent times, causing devaluation of its currency

and spiralling

**CRISIS HIT** 

"Pumping diesel into #SriLanka!!! Another 40,000 MT consignment of diesel under the credit line from #India reached #Colombo India's High Commission said on Twitter.

On Friday, the mission here said that an Indian ship laden with urgent relief supplies like rice, medicines and milk powder for the people of crisishit Sri Lanka is scheduled to reach Colombo on Sunday.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin flagged off the ship laden with relief sup-



brethren in Sri Lanka, the High

Commission said in a press

ments. This outpouring of sup-

the economic assistance by

Government of India which

has been to the tune of around

USD 3.5 billion since January

this year. In addition, medi-

cines, dry rations etc have also

been sent by Government of

India on grant basis, the state-

release on Friday.

plies, the first to be dispatched to Sri Lanka, from Chennai on Wednesday. The first consignment comprises 9,000 metric tonnes (MT) of rice, 200 MT milk powder and 24 MT lifesaving medicines with a combined value of Rs 45 crore.

People of #India, standing by their brethren in #SriLanka. Rice, milk powder and medicines worth more than SLR 2 billion (USD 5.6 million) is scheduled to reach #Colombo on Sunday," the Indian mission tweeted.

Chief Minister Stalin flagged off the cargo carrying the relief, from the Chennai Port, in the presence of his cabinet colleagues and senior offi-

The assistance from peo-

#### **Paytm forms** joint venture general insurance firm



services firm One97 Communications, which operates under Paytm brand, on Saturday said it has formed a joint venture general insurance company in which it has committed to invest Rs 950 crore over a period of 10 years.

Several private and social The proposal to set up organisations from India have joint venture firm Paytm sent assistance to Sri Lanka to General Insurance Limited meet various urgent require-(PGIL) was approved by the board on May 20, the company said in a regulatory filing. Initially, One97 port for Sri Lanka among common Indians is apart from

Communications (OCL) will hold a 49 per cent stake in PGIL while the rest of the 51 per cent stake is to be owned by OCL's managing director Vijay Shekhar Sharma owned and controlled company VSS Holding Private Limited (VHPL). PTI

# Min for making India a leading global supplier of quality tea

Anupriya Patel on Saturday exhorted the planters about the need to make India a global supplier of quality tea with assistance from the Tea Board.

Speaking at an event jointly organised by the Tea Board and Indian Tea Association (ITA) to mark the occasion of the third International Tea Day, Patel said the Tea Board has taken an initiative to embark upon a special tea plucking and plantation exercise by dint of which it will help the gardens' workers to improve the quality of green leaves plucked from the bush-

The Union Minister of

#### PUBLIC NOTICE It is known to all that the owner/allottee of Residential Property No.C-9, Sector-20, NOIDA, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. SH. G.S. MAKHNI son of LATE SH. HUKUM SINGH MAKHNI, R/o B-5/29, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi, has sold

 A G.P.A. was executed in favour of Smt. Sheetal W/o Sh. Udayvir Singh Bhati, R/o C-1/41, Mangal Apartment, Vasundhara Enclave, New Delhi, which is regd, in the office of S.R. NOIDA on dt.08.04.2022, and the Agreement to Se Because the Agreement to Sell written in para 1

above is not regd., so with the help of this notice, it is aboves noting a. So with the leaf of the induce, it is informed that the transfer of the abovesaid property on the basis of GPA goes in favour of SH. UDAYVIR SINGH BHATI S/o SH. GAJRAJ SINGH BHATI, R/o H.No.35, Village-Yakoobpur, Phase-II,, Sector-85, NOIDA. If anyone has any objection, he/she will submit his/her objection with documentary evidence in the Residential (Plot) Section of Noida Authority within 30 days of the publication of this

#### SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER FOR REPAIR & OVERHAULING WORK

Tender Notice No.: Sr.DEE(RS&

G) BSP/OTP/2022-23-03, Dated: 18.05.2022. Name of Work: "Repair and Annual overhauling contract for Tower AC, Cassette AC, Water Cooler and Fridge of different make at various service building over Bilaspur Railway Settlement and out station of Bilaspur Division for a period of Two Years" Tender Value (Approx): ₹ 73,94,877.76. Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 1,47,900/-. Tender Closing Date & Time:

For further details, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps

10.06.2022 , 15.00 hours.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engg.

PICICI Bank Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

State for Commerce and Industry said these fine quality teas will be sold through a special auction this month and expected to fetch remunerative

"There is a need to make India a leading supplier of quality tea in the global market", she said, adding that there is also a need to promote the beverage among the younger generation who are more inclined towards aerated drinks and coffee.

had recommended to mark May 21 as International Tea Day which was accepted by the UN General Assembly. She also called for promo-

tion and more collective action

The minister said India

for sustainable production of Chairman of Tea Board Saurav Pahari said the tea industry is going through chal-

had not foreseen these challenges in the past and also

#### PUBLIC NOTICE We, **RESHAM LAL** S/o Late NAZAR RAM and **JAGPAL KAUR** W/o RESHAM LAL

R/O B-6, G-2, CHANDER NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, U.P. PIN Code-201011, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under: (1) That the deponents have their only son namely Dr RAJNEESH KLER age 40 years has gone astray and is not in our say. (2) We hereby disown/ disinherit our son namely Dr RAJNEESH KLER from our all self acquired movable and immovable properties respectively. We sever our relations from him. (3. Everybody is informed, that if, anybody will deal with our son, he will do so on his own responsibility and we will not be responsible for any misdemeanor/act done by our above said son in future.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General public that by Mohd. Hanif S/o Mr. Imamuddin, is come of A Residential Property Area Measuring 10 Sq. Yrds. Out of Khasra No. 3531, Situated A Village Loni, in The Abadi of Azad Naga argana Loni, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, U.P. vicie Notarized GPA dated 11.01.2005. A persons are bereby informed that Mr. Mehbool vide Notarized GPA dated 11.01.2005. Al persons are hereby informed that Mr. Mehbook Ali s/o Mr. Maksood Ali, is purchasing the above-mentioned property from Mohd. Hall S/o Mr. Imamuddin by way of registered Sale Deed. General public hereby informed that is anybody has any charge/interest/title in the saic property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Mrs. Prasoon Lata, Advocate.

SG Associates /I aw Firm!

SG Associates (Law Firm Unit No 7, Basement, Plot No C 78 Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of

Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under

section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon

the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that

the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers

conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the

Description

of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession

House No. 116, Minjumla Khasra No. 514, Global City,

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ quarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the

mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the

property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited

Vijeta Rani/ Revenue Village Abdullapur, Pargana Tehsil and District LBMRT00002440050 Meerut, Uttar Pradesh/ May 20, 2022

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road,

going through massive structural changes at the moment. "We are trying to target the

younger generation who have not grown up on tea. We also need to think of tea as a total value chain from the producer to the consumer", he

Pahari said the industry and the other stakeholders need to reinvent tea and it should be made trendy which is the need of the day.

During the pandemic, the industry supported the workers, adding that they should be the focal point. The industry had also shown resilience which is hard to see in these trying times.

Chairman of ITA Nayantara Pal Chowdhury said India is among the top tea consuming countries where 80 per cent of the production is consumed domestically

industry is not just about profits, but well being of all the stakeholders. But the declining tea prices is a nagging problem for which equilibrium of

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Axis Bank Ltd that Mr. Ashok Kumar intende Block-C, admeasuring 320 Sq. Yds., Situated at New Market Scheme, Old DLF Colony, Vill- Gurgaon, Tehsil & Distt. Gurgaon Haryana, with our client against the financial assistance. Whereas Mr. Diwakar Kesho Mandleker had acquired the said property by way of Sal Deed dt. 17-10-1973 and after his death his legal heirs namely, Mrs. Vima Mandleker, Ms. Vandana Hari & Ms Naina Mandelker (as per SMC becomes the owners of said property Now, Mrs. Vimal Mandleker, Ms Vandana Hari & Ms. Naina Mandelke intend to sell the same to Mr. Asho

If any person(s) having objection wi regard to ownership/mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address. In the event no information our Client i.e. Axis Bank Ltd will procee

> ADVOCATE A-13, LGF, South Extn.-II, New Dehi-110049

#### FPIs dump Indian equities worth over ₹35K crore in May so far and the market is very liquid to

**New Delhi:** Exodus of foreign money from the Indian equity markets continues unabated with FPIs pulling out over ₹35,000 crore so far this month on concerns over the prospects of more aggressive rate hike by US Fed and appreciation of the

With this, net outflow by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) from equities reached ₹1.63 lakh crore so far in 2022. Going ahead, FPIs flow in

India is to remain volatile in the near term, given the headwinds in terms of elevated crude prices, inflation, tight monetary policy, among others, said Shrikant Chouhan, Head - Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities.

"Since the mother market, US, is weak and dollar is strengthening, FPIs are likely to continue selling in the near term," V K Vijayakumar, Cheif Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

net sellers for seven months to April 2022, withdrawing a massive net amount of over ₹1.65 lakh crore from equities.

spree, FPIs turned net investors

in the first week of April due to

After six months of selling

correction in the markets and invested ₹7,707 crore in equi-However, after a short breather, once again they turned net sellers during the holiday-shortened April 11-13

week, and the sell-off continued in the succeeding weeks as FPI flows continue to remain negative in the month of May till date and have dumped equities worth ₹35,137

crore during May 2-20, data with depositories showed. The major factor behind the relentless FPI selling is the appreciation of the dollar which has taken the dollar index above 103. Also, India is the major emerging market where

absorb FPI Vijayakumar said. Himanshu Srivastava,

Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India, said that foreign investors continue to have concerns over the prospects of more aggressive rate hike by US Fed going US Fed has hiked rates

twice this year to battle surging

inflation caused by the disruption in supply chain due to the war between Russia and Ukraine. "Because of the war, the geopolitical tension has also enhanced, which has prompted investors to turn risk-averse

perceived to be relatively riski-And in the current riskaverse environment, foreign investors would have found profit booking a better option,"

and stay away from emerging

markets like India which are

## Power Grid announces ₹4,156 PAT for Q4FY22

Gurugram: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POW-ERGRID), a 'Maharatna' Company under Ministry of Power, Government of India, has announced a PAT of ₹4,156 crore for Q4FY22 on a consolidated basis which is 18% increase over Q4FY21. The total income for Q4FY22 was ₹11,068 crore compared to ₹10,816 crore in the Q4 of the previous year.

On consolidated basis, company posted PAT of ₹16,824 crore and total income of ₹42,698 crore for FY22 registering a YoY growth of 40% and 5% respectively.

The Company has proposed a final dividend of 22.5% (₹2.25 per share on a face value of ₹10/- each) in addition to first & second interim and special dividends aggregating to 125% (₹12.5/per share on a face value of ₹10/- each) already paid for the FY22. The total dividend for the year thus amounts to ₹14.75 per share compared to ₹9.75 per share (adjusted for Bonus Share) for the previous year. During the year, the Company completed the first asset monetization by a CPSE through the Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) route. PGInvIT, sponsored by the Company, got listed on BSE & NSE on May 14, 2021. Total monetization done by the Company during FY22 is ₹8,370 crore.

The Company incurred a Capital Expenditure of ₹9,060 crore and capitalized assets worth ₹20,695 crore (excluding FERV) on consolidated basis during the financial year. The Compa-ny's Gross Fixed Assets on a consolidated basis stood at ₹2,62,726 crore as on March 31, 2022 as against ₹2,41,498 crore as on March 31, 2021.In FY22, the Company along with its subsidiaries added 43,500 MVA transformation capacity, 7 sub-stations and 5,450 ckm transmission lines. Indian portion of additional cross border links with neighbouring

# (Bhutan and Bangladesh) have be

## demand and supply is required. PTI to invest ₹155 cr in FY23: MD

Chennai: Auto component manufacturer Wheels India has drawn up plans to invest about ₹155 crore towards expansion of construction equipment and aluminum wheels business during the current financial year, according to a company official.

The Chennai-headquartered manufacturer of wheels to trucks and buses, would make an additional ₹25 crore investments to the ₹75 crore it already made at its in new plant in Thervoy Kandigai in neighbouring Tiruvallur district for machining of large wind turbine castings.

According to company managing director Srivats Ram, Wheels India reported a nine per cent rise on its net profit during the quarter ending March 31, 2022 at ₹27.8 crore as compared to ₹25.5 crore recorded corresponding period last year.

Revenues during the quarter under review grew to ₹1,101.3 crore from ₹852 crore registered same period last Net profit for the year end-

ing March 31, 2022 grew to ₹79.8 crore from ₹6.7 crore registered last year. Revenues for the year ending March 31, 2022 went up to ₹3,686.7 crore, as compared to ₹2,211.7 crore registered year ago. The Board which met here on Friday recommended a dividend of ₹8.30 per share. The company, in a statement, said it surpassed milestone of ₹1,000 crore in exports during the year ending March 31, 2022.

#### Wheels India | Hyundai announces \$ 5.5B EV plant in Georgia Ellabell: Hyundai Motor assemble electric vehicles as Group confirmed Friday the company will spend USD 5.5 billion on a huge electric vehicle plant near Savannah that will employ thousands - a deal

Hyundai Motor Group CEO Jaehoon Chang made the announcement with Governor Brian Kemp at the site of the future factory in Bryan County, where state and local officials purchased a flat, sprawling tract for USD 61 million last year in hopes of luring a major

project in the state's history.

manufacturer. "Hard-working Georgians are going to have the opportunity to have a really high-paying, advanced manufacturing job with a great company,' Governor Brian Kemp said in an interview.

Hyundai said it will employ at least 8,100 workers at the plant "near the unincorporated town of Ellabell, where it will well as vehicle batteries. The company and state officials said they expect suppliers to invest an additional USD 1 bil-

Georgia's governor called the "It's going to "continue to bring wealth and opportunity largest economic development to the region," said Kemp, who predicted a ripple effect that will boost businesses from Savannah's already booming seaport to restaurants and convenience stores. The announcement came

as President Joe Biden is visiting South Korea. He was scheduled to meet with Hyundai's CEO in Seoul on Sunday. Jake Sullivan, the president's national security adviser, told reporters Biden "will have the opportunity to say thank you for this significant investment that will occur in the United

The timing was fortunate for Kemp, who is being challenged by former US Senator David Perdue in a Republican

primary election that will be decided Tuesday.

It's the second huge electric vehicle plant announced in Georgia in less than a year. Rivian Automotive announced in December plans for a USD 5 billion electric truck plant east of Atlanta that's expected to employ about 7,500 workers.

Kemp declined to discuss details of what incentives and tax breaks the company was offered for locating in Georgia. Rivian received and package worth USD 1.5 billion.

Hyundai said plans to move quickly with construction and hopes to begin producing vehicles in 2025.

The company will build the plant on 2,200 acres (890 hectares) that the state and partner local governments bought a year ago about 40 kilometers inland from Savannah. Bryan County and neighbouring Chatham County, which includes Savannah, each chipped in USD 9 million toward the USD 61 million purchase price.

The land sits adjacent to Interstate 16 that links Savannah and Macon, not far from its intersection with Interstate 95 that spans the Eastern Seaboard. It's also near to the Port of Savannah, the

fourth-busiest US seaport. Kemp predicted the Hyundai plant will become one of the biggest customers for Savannah's port, which has already seen explosive growth in recent years.

Hyundai Motor Group sells cars under the Hyundai and Kia brands. The South Korean automaker already operates two American assembly plants in Montgomery, Alabama, and in West Point,

Georgia. Perdue planned a camoaign stop in Savannah on Friday afternoon with Sarah Palin, the former Alaska governor and GOP vice presidential candidate.

#### Uttam Galva Steels Q4 net | Power Mech Projects posts loss narrows to ₹26 crore

New Delhi: Uttam Galva Steels Ltd on Saturday said its consolidated net loss has narrowed to ₹25.83 crore during the quarter ended March 31,

The company had posted ₹68.04-crore net loss in the year-ago period, it said in a regulatory filing.
During the January-March

period, the company's total consolidated income increased to ₹252.30 crore, from ₹196.75 crore in the corresponding quarter of 2020-21 fiscal. western region.

Its expenses during the quarter were at ₹278.13 crore, undergoing NCLT proceed as against ₹264.23 crore a year



The company is presently

one of the largest manufacturers of cold-rolled steel and galvanised steel in the country's

higher income.

The expenses were at ₹841

#### ₹47 cr net profit in Jan-Mar New Delhi: Power Mech Projects Ltd on Saturday posted a 31 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at ₹47.2 crore during the quarter ended March 31, 2022, helped by

January-March quarter of the 2020-21 financial year, Power Mech Projects said in a regulatory filing.
Its total income during the

₹36 crore net profit in the

The company had clocked

said period rose to ₹905.4 crore, from ₹759.9 crore a year

among the leading infrastructure-construction companies based in Hyderabad with a global presence.

# the year-ago period. Mech Projects Limited, is one

crore, as against ₹711 crore in

Name of the

Borrower/ Loan Account Number

Sarvesh Prasad/

provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 Date: May 21, 2022

**Authorized Officer** ICICI Bank Limited

Date of Demand Name

Notice/ Amount

in Demand Notice (Rs.)

December

31, 2021 Rs.22,11,915/-



# Sunrisers Hyderabad, Punjab Kings look to end season on a high

**PTI** MUMBAI

Their play-off hopes dashed, both Sunrisers Hyderabad and Punjab Kings will be keen to end their IPL season on a winning note when the two teams clash in a dead rubber here on Sunday.

Both teams were knocked out of the play-off race when RCB defeated table-toppers Gujarat Titans on Thursday.

The Sunrisers will be without the services of their skipper Kane Williamson, who has returned to New Zealand for the birth of his second child.

In his absence, either Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who has led the side previously, or Nicholas Pooran are are likely to captain the Sunrisers in their last game this season.

While Sunrisers managed to snap their five-match losing streak by eking out a narrow three-run win over Mumbai Indians, Punjab succumbed to a 17-run loss to Delhi Capitals.

The fact that Mayank Agarwal and Co. Could not win two games in a row sums up their inconsistent run all season. High on spirits after thrashing RCB by 54 runs, PBKS suffered an inexplicable batting collapse in their must-

win against Delhi.

The Punjab bating unit has been plagued by inconsistencies and will need to fire in unison to build or defend a huge total.

If not for the star batters —
Jonny Baitsow and Liam
Livingstone, Shikhar Dhawan Punjab Kings have reliable Jitesh Sharma, one of the finds of this IPL, to finish the match or take them to a good total.

On the bowling front, lead pacer Kagiso Rabada (22) continues to be the highest wicket taker among fast bowlers this season. The South African has bowled at an average of 16.72 with an economy of 8.36.

Arshdeep Singh (10) has impressed many with his ability to land yorkers at will and has done especially well in the death overs.

The Sunrisers, on the other hand, won five back-to-back matches and looked on course for a top 2 finish but injuries to their frontline bowlers Washington Sundar and T Natarjan deflated their campaign as they slumped to a fivematch losing streak.

# MI win by 5 wickets, DC out of IPL

oyal Challengers Bangalore sneeked into the play-offs after Mumbai Indians broke Delhi Capitals' heart with a five-wicket win in their last IPL match here on Saturday. Already out of contention, MI played partypoopers as they first restricted DC to 159 for 7 with Jasprit Bumrah snapping three wickets and then returned to overhaul the target in 19.1 overs to knock the 2020 finalists out of the tournament.

While Ishan Kishan (48) and Dewald Brevis (37) kept MI in the hunt, it was Tim David's 11ball 34-run cameo that brought the five-time champions back into the chase.

Tilak Varma also chipped in with a crucial 17ball 21. With MI at 95 for 3 in 14.3 overs, DC skipper Rishabh Pant made a strategic blunder as ĥe refused to go for DRS after David nicked the first ball of his innings but the onfield umpire didn't give him out. It came back to haunt DC as David slammed fours and sixes at will to bring down the equation to 15 off 14 balls. Ramandeep then provided the finishing touch with a six-ball 13. DC finished with 14 points to remain in the fifth spot, while RCB joined Gujarat Titans, Rajasthan Royals and Lucknow Super Giants into the play-offs with 16 points. Defending the total, left-arm seamer Khaleel Ahmed looked in good rhythm as he bowled a sensational first two overs, conceding just 2. He bowled full outside off-stump to trouble the openers, mainly Rohit Sharma (2). Anrich Nortje finally put an end to Rohit's struggle with the MI skipper chipping one to mid-on. Ishan and Brevis then added 51 runs off 37 balls but Kuldeep Yadav (1/33) broke the partnership with David Warner taking a fine catch to get rid of the former.

Brevis took on the attack to the opposition and smashed two sixes and a four off Kuldeep, who could have had him but skipper Pant dropped a sitter in the 12th over to add to the agony of the bowler. owever, Brevis dragged one on to his stumps as MI



pointstable

POINTSIGNIC										
Po. TEAM	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR				
1. GT	14	10	4	0	20	0.316				
2. RR	14	9	5	0	18	0.298				
3. LSG	14	9	5	0	18	0.251				
4. RCB	14	8	6	0	16	-0.253				
5. DC	13	7	7	0	14	0.204				
6. KKR	14	6	8	0	12	0.146				
7. PBKS	13	6	7	0	12	-0.043				
8. SRH	13	6	7	0	12	-0.230				
9. CSK	14	4	10	0	8	-0.203				
10. MI	13	4	10	0	8	-0.506				

<u>boundarymeter</u>

1882 986

slipped to 95 for 3 in the 15th over. After that it was a David show as hit a six over deep midwicket off Shardul Thakur. David and Varma hit a four a six to accumulate 13 runs off the 16th over. Khaleel then conceded 17 with David smashing a four and a six. Needing 29 from 18 balls, David clobbered Shardul for two maximums and also completed the fifty run stand to reduce the equation to 15 off 13 balls.

Thakur finally removed David, who hit a full toss to Prithvi Shaw at extra cover but by then it was too late. Earlier, opting to field, MI bowlers, led by Bumrah (3/25) left DC tottering at 50 for 4 in 8.4 overs but Rovman Powell and skipper Pant (39 off 33 balls) shared 75 off 44 balls to ressurect the innings and take

#### On selection radar for South Africa series: Malik, Mohsin, DK skipper K L Rahul said left-arm pac-Verma showed a lot of promise in his

Emerging stars like Umran Malik and Mohsin Khan could be rewarded for their IPL performances while old-horses Shikhar Dhawan and Dinesh Karthik are likely to return to the T20 set up when the India squad is picked for the home series against South Africa on Sunday. All-rounder Hardik Pandya, who has not played for India since the T20 World Cup last year, has shown form and fitness in the IPL and is set to be included in the squad for the five-game series beginning June 9.

He is finally back to bowling regularly, which was critical in his national comeback bid. After a two-month long IPL and with the Test team due to depart for England on June 15, some of the all-format players including Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant and Jasprit Bumrah could be rested for the home series. A similar squad is also expected to be picked for the two

T20s in Ireland later in June. If that is the case, the captaincy responsibility could go to either Dhawan, who led in Sri Lanka last year, or Hardik who has impressed as a leader in his debut season for Gujarat Titans.

The IPL continues to unearth

future stars and this season has been no different. While Umran impressed with his raw pace for the Sunrisers, leftarm pacer Mohsin, has stood out both for his speed and accuracy.

As his Lucknow Super Giants

ers are always in demand at the highest level, Mohsin could get his big break

Another left-arm pacer in the reckoning is Arshdeep Singh, who once again had a good season for Punjab. He had one of the best economy rates in the death overs and displayed the ability of landing yorkers at will, which is always welcome in an unforgiving format like the T20.

In the batting department, Tilak

maiden IPL season and might get a look in for the South Africa series, considering his Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma, who is also the India captain, had reserved high praise for the left-hander. The likes of Deepak Hooda and Venkatesh Iyer were tried in the middle-order over the West Indies and Sri Lanka series and it remains to be seen, if either of them retains his place or selectors give preference to IPL form.

#### Praggnanandhaa claims another win over world champion Magnus Carlsen

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Grandmaster Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu notched up his second win of the season over Magnus Carlsen in the fifth round of the Chessable Masters online rapid chess tournament, exactly three months after stunning the world champion for the first time. The 16year-old from Chennai

capitalised on a late blunder from Carlsen on Friday to pocket three crucial points to keep himself in the hunt for aa knockout berth.

"I did not want to win that way," said Praggnanandhaa when asked about his second triumph against the world champion. The match was headed for a draw before the Norwegian committed a blunder in the 40th move when he misplaced a black knight during the final seconds and resigned immediately in the next move as Praggnanandhaa emerged winner.

The Indian drew with Harikrishna



in the next round, defeated Gawain Jones before losing to David Anton Guijarro to finish the day. The victory took Praggnanandhaa to 12 points, while Carlsen was at the second spot behind China's Wei Yi on the second day of the USD 150,000 tournament.

Praggnanandhaa is currently sharing the fifth place with Ding Liren. In February, Praggnanandhaa had

stunned Carlsen in the eighth round of the Airthings Masters online rapid chess tournament, becoming only the third Indian to clinch a victory over the Norwegian superstar.

#### Superbet Poland tourney: Indian **GM** Anand wins Rapid event with a round to spare PTI WARSAW

 $F^{
m ormer}$  world champion Viswanathan Anand won the rapid event of the Superbet Rapid and Blitz Poland chess tournament here on Saturday with a round to spare.

Anand scored six wins and two draws to seal the Rapid title in style. The Indian GM, who had five wins and a draw after the conclusion of six rounds, won his seventh round game against David Gavrilescu of Romania in 25 moves. In the next round, the veteran GM settled for a draw against American ace Fabiano Caruana in 27 moves in a Petroff Classical attack game.

# **Modi hosts Deaflympics contingent**



PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi interacted with the Indian contingent for the recently held 'Deaflympics' as he hosted them at his residence on Saturday.In the best-ever performance, the Indian team won 16 medals including 8 Gold medals in the Deaflympics, held in Brazil, according to the Prime Minister's Office.

Union Ministers Anurag Singh Thakur and Nisith Pramanik were also present on the

BAHRAIN PARA BADMINTON

Bhagat, Dhillon bag golds as India set for rich medal haul

occasion.Interacting with Rohit Bhaker, senior member of the contingent, the Prime Minister discussed his way of dealing with the challenges and his way of assessing his opponents.

Rohit also told the Prime Minister about his background and inspiration for getting into sports and staying for so long at the highest level.The Prime Minister told the ace badminton player that his life as an individual and sportsperson is an inspiration. He also complimented him for his perseverance and not yielding to the obstacles of life.Wrestler Virender Singh told about the legacy of his family in wrestling and also narrated his satisfaction in finding opportunities and competition in the deaf community. The Prime Minister noted his medal winning consistent performance in Deaflympics since 2005 and complimented him for his desire to excel. The Prime Minister appreciated his position as a veteran and also as a keen learner of the sport.



#### Chopra says he is not losing sleep over his international rivals' 90m-plus throws

PTI NEW DELHI

tar javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is Snot losing sleep over some of his top international rivals producing big early season performances but made it clear that he would want to join the 90m club this year. Reigning world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada and Tokyo Olympics silver winner Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic had come up with 93.07m and 90.88m throws respectively in the Doha Diamond League on May 13.

But Chopra is not the one to take pressure, thinking about somebody's performance. "I don't take pressure of distance. Peters and Valdech must be working hard and so doing well.

#### India names team for FIH Women's Pro League, Savita remains captain

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India on Saturday named a 24-member women's hockey team, to be led by Savita Punia, for the European leg of the the FIH Pro League matches in Belgium and Netherlands in June.

The team will play six matches from June 11 to 22 ahead of the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup to be held in Spain and the Netherlands from July 1-17.

India play hosts Belgium on June 11 and 12 in Antwerp before shifting base to Rotterdam, the Netherlands, to face Argentina (June 18 and 19) and USA (June 21 and 22).

Savita will continue to lead the team though star striker Rani Rampal is likely to return to action after she made her last appearance at last year's Tokyo

Rani was under rehabilitation after recovering from a prolonged hamstring injury. She was named in the Indian squad for the last two matches of the FIH Pro League in Bhubaneswar against the Netherlands last

month but did not play.
Experienced defender Deep Grace Ekka will be the vice captain of the team which also has junior World Cup stars like Bichu Devi Kharibam, Ishika Chaudhary, Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Baljeet Kaur, Sangita Kumari and Deepika.

Rajini Etimarpu and Mahima Chaudhary — who will be the captain and vice captain respectively of the Indian team for the June 4-5 FIH Women's Hockey 5s in Switzerland -- as well as Rajwinder Kaur have been named as standbys.

Paralympic champion Pramod Bhagat secured two golds to lead the Indian badminton team's medal rush at the Bahrain Para Badminton International in Manama on Saturday.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bhagat received a walkover from arch-rival Daniel Bethell of England in the men's singles SL3 final, while he paired up with Manisha Ramdass to outwit Thailand's Siripong Teamarrom and Saensupa Nipada 21-14 21-11 in the summit clash of mixed doubles SL3-SU5 class.

World number one Bhagat, who had settled for two bronze medals in the Brazil Para Badminton International recently, registered a convincing 21-16 21-14 win over compatriot and Paralympic bronze medallist Manoj Sarkar in the SL3 semi-



finals. "I am excited on winning the double gold. This will boost my preparation for Dubai International. I hope Bethell feels fine soon and comes back to court quickly. My partnership with Manisha Ramdass also semifinals. began very well, we gelled well together and she played really

well," Bhagat said. Tarun Dhillon also secured

a gold after beating Korea's Shin Kyung Hwan 21-9 21-9 in the men's singles SL4 final. The Indian had notched up a 21-14 21-15 win over Thailand's Siripong Teamarrom in the

In women's singles, Mandeep Kaur (SL3) lost 5-21 17-21 to Halime Yildiz to sign off with a silver medal. She had

14 win over top seed and compatriot Manasi Joshi in the

Among others, Dhillon and Nitesh Kumar also registered a win in the men's doubles SL3-SH4 semifinals, defeating Korean Hwan and Joo Dongjae in straight games 21-18 21-18 and will take on Thailand's Mongjon Bunsun and Siripong Teamarrom in final.

In women's events, Ramdass (SU5) and Mandeep Kaur (SL3) reached the final of women's doubles SL3-SU5 class.

The second seeded pair of Kaur and Ramdass, who has a gold together from the Brazil Para Badminton International, will face the Paralympic duo of Palak Kohli and Parul Parmar in the final. Parmar, however, lost to Turkey's Halime Yildiz 21-5 21-18 in her women's singles SL3

#### PV Sindhu loses in Thailand Open semis

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Star India shuttler P V Sindhu made an exit from Thailand Open after going down in straight games to Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei in the semifinals here on Saturday.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, lost 17-21 16-21 to third seeded Chen in 43 minutes to end an impressive run in the

Super 500 tournament. Sindhu, seeded sixth, enjoyed a 6-4 head-to-head count coming into the match but she was not at her usual self against the Chinese, who dished out an aggressive badminton to come up trumps against the

Indian. The 26-year-old from Hyderabad had lost to Chen the last time they faced off at the 2019 BWF World Tour Finals. After an initial 3-3 battle, Sindhu



in the first game.
Things didn't change much

as Chen continued to dominate the rallies and eventually held five game points.

Sinhu saved two before handing the opening game to her Chinese rival.



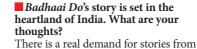
# talktime

#### RAJKUMMAR RAO

The actor, who is known for his role in films like Kai Po Che!, Queen, Stree, among others, speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH on his reasons to say yes to his character in Badhaai Do, his transformation and his co-stars. The movie is set to have its world television premiere on Zee Cinema on May 28, 2022, at 2:30 pm

# 'PURITY & EMPATHY

TWO THINGS THE WORLD REALLY NEEDS MORE OF'



the heartland. Audience today want to see real stories and characters on screen; the reason why we have more relatable and realistic cinema nowa-

days. It gives us the chance, as actors, to play a range of characters and get to tell stories from the small towns.

What I loved about *Badhaai* 

Do are the everyday conversations a typical family would have, presented smartly with a touch of humour around it. Right from the constant nok jhok at home to the pressure of getting married at the right age and how everyone gets involved in it. Most Indian families and couples, I think, would relate to it when they watch it. The relatability factor is what makes this film a perfect family watch.

■ Shardul on the surface seems like your regular next-door guy, what sets him apart? What qualities would you retain from his character?

Raised in a conventional Indian household, Shardul is trying to fit the stencils of the society. It

With climate change physically

CHANGING

to clinical disorders

impacting a large part of the population

has been impacting mental health from

minimal stress and distress symptoms

in various geographical areas, it also

I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN DOING JUSTICE TO THE CRAFT WITH ABSOLUTE AUTHENTICITY. SO, I VERY DILIGENTLY FOLLOWED MY ROUTINE AND KEPT A CHECK ON WHAT I ATE. APART FROM THE PHYSICAL TRANSFORMATION, THE IDEA TO PLAY A ROLE LIKE SHARDUL IS TO BRING IN A GREAT DEAL OF EMPATHY, UNDERSTAND AND

really takes great strength to be someone like Shardul and I took back a lot from this role. In my character, I think, I would love to retain the purity and empathy that my character profusely

**IMAGINE YOURSELF IN** 

AND TRY LIVING AND

THE CHARACTER SKETCH

BREATHING IN HIS SHOES

had. I feel these are the two things that the world really needs more of.

Your look in this film is different from the usual characters you have played. How did you get into the

It's a more distinctive look than what I have donned before. The film required me to don a chiselled physique, I do play a police officer after all. I have always believed in doing justice to the craft, with absolute authenticity. So, I very diligently followed my routine and kept a check on what I ate. Apart from the physical transformation, the idea to play a role like Shardul is to bring in a great deal of empathy, understand and imagine yourself in the character sketch and try living and breathing in his shoes. It was something different and challenging to play.

■ Tell us about your experience working with Bhumi Pednekar?

Bhumi is one of the most hard-working co-stars I have worked with. She would always come fully prepared, she'd keep taking notes, was always open to new ideas and would always support me whenever I would want to improvise

Apart from her professional side, she's also fun to be around. I remember that on the set, we were constantly joking and pulling her leg and yet she was always such a sport.

#### Plan Your Day

#### A TALE OF TWO

Select CITYWALK presents a witty, and original romantic comedy — A Tale of Two. A play that brings a light-hearted and satiric look at the tangled web of emotions that define modern-day relationships.

This 75-minute play is a romantic comedy-drama with live music performances about modern relationships!
Tale of Two is an original

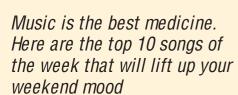
piece of work by Theatricalls, written by the in-house team of scriptwriters. The play touches upon love & complicated human emotions. It is an attempt to reflect on how society reacts to people who are single in their 30s.

What: Drama Where: Select CITYWALK, Saket When: May 22, 2022 Time: 6:30 pm



A Tale of Two

# Sound of.



Bollywood vibes
Pasoori (Shae Gill, Ali Sethi)
Kuch Baatein (Payal Dev, Jubin Nautiyal)
Buhe Bariyan (Kanika Kapoor)
Ek Tu Hi To Hai (Stebin Ben)
Dhokha (Arijit Singh)

English Vinglish
Butter (BTS)
Bones (Imagine Dragons)
The Drum (Alan Walker)
High (The Chainsmokers)
Heat Waves (Glass Animals)

# limate change effects causing rising temperatures, heat waves, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, droughts, wildfires, deforestation, melting of glaciers, disappearance of rivers and desertification, can directly and indirectly cause human pathologies that are physical and mental.

With climate change physically impacting a large part of the population in various geographical areas, it also has been impacting mental health from minimal stress and distress symptoms to clinical disorders. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), sleep disturbances, depression, anxiety, increased substance use or misuse, and suicidal tendencies are the mental health issues usually related to the after effects of such climatic events which disrupt human life due to death, relocation, lack of resources and support.

The onset of PTSD is generally due to the massive stress and anxiety one has during, immediately after or even sometimes days after the traumatic experience. Forecasts of disasters also make people uncertain, stressed and depressed. The concrete impact of those changes in life causes different types of psychopathological reaction to these events. These factors may lead to inborn defects, may hinder neurodevelopment, be a reason for mental disability and besides cause psychosomatic and neurological disorders.

#### HEAT WAVES

Heat weaves are high temperatures lasting some days that are way more than the normal temperatures for a particular place or season. This is one of the effects of climate change caused mainly due to increase in carbon emissions. Physical health, mental health, human well-being, and heat waves appear to be interconnected and the worse is that its intensity and frequency is on the rise.

Extreme heat wave conditions cause deep stress levels, anxiety and various disorders. Heatwaves increase the death rates of people already sick mentally and hence raise the mortality rate. Exposure to such extreme heat waves during pregnancy is prohibited as it causes lower average birth weight and increases the probability of preterm birth. Besides, being exposed to extreme heat can lead to physical and psychological fatigue.

#### WILDFIRES

Wildfires' effect on the ecosystem is devastating, as a forest's carbon dioxide storage capacity is forever lost after

such a wildfire. It also results in emissions of more carbon dioxide which leads to extreme cases of heatwaves as the temperature rises sharply and also the smoke pollutes the air.

Wildfires cause direct damages to mental health, life and property. Such damages lead to grave symptoms like depression, PTSD, anxiety disorders and panic attacks, sleep disturbances, acute stress disorder, sometimes compulsively repetitive flashbacks, and psychotic disorders.

#### DEFORESTATION

There has been an enormous loss of forests due to human activity and climate change events. For indigenous populations, deforestation has a deep impact, leading to profound maladaptive disorders and depression. In general, people believe that forests are a source of health and protection from various types of stress disorders. The decrease in forests leads to unhealthier air quality, pollution and deprives humans from natural pro-



tection provided by the greenery in forests. A greener and healthy environment leads to better physical and mental health not only for children and working class but also for the vulnerable class that undergoes mental dis-

Floods, Tornadoes, Hurricanes & Cyclones

Global warming leads to an increase in both intensity and occurrence of tropical cyclones, hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding. These events take a severe toll on one's mental health mainly due to an increase in anxiety and depression. Some storm survivors develop PTSD or other long-term



disorders. There might be a relapse for those recovering from disorders of substance-use. These events sometimes destroy power grids and communications networks, halting medical care for vulnerable populations. Besides, there consequences can be feelings of displacement, mourning and psychological stress.

Due to extreme temperatures, there is less or no rainfall for a longer duration and also results in sudden heavy rainfall which causes loss of home, loss of lives of many people, loss of agricultural yield which indirectly causes a pernicious effect on mental health.

TALE

#### DROUGHT

A combination of high temperatures and low precipitation increases the frequency of droughts over the world. The population living in these areas, particularly the farming community, is most exposed to the mental health risks carried by drought or

Long-term droughts and erratic rainfall have been associated with deterioration of economic conditions, reduced social functioning, and psychological distress.

The challenges of climate change will be protracted in the upcoming years. With its grave impact on the mental health of a large part of the population, there is a dire need for psychiatric studies to be conducted,

perhaps termed as 'ecopsychiatry'.

Only recently few terms like ecopsychology, eco guilt, ecological grief, ecoanxiety, etc., have been

— Dr Mukesh Kwatra, Founder, Smiling Tree

#### Masterstroke



here's no better way to be summer ready than to have nourished, soft hair — right from the beaches to the parties! Whether you're trying to tame that stubborn frizz or repairing the heat damage of the scorching sun, it has got you covered with the all-new Nourishing Hair Food Range including shampoo, conditioner, and hair mask in four exciting variants — banana, papaya, aloe vera, and macadamia for all your dry, damaged, or frizzy needs. Moreover, if you have your summer plans jam-packed, fret not because this hair mask can be used in not one, not two, but three ways — a conditioner, mask, or leave-in. So, get your hands on this silicone and paraben free range made up of 98 per cent natural origin ingredients to soak in the sun and flaunt your hair!

# Getting Aashram was more of a gift from the universe: Esha Gupta

MX Player is geared up to launch the third season of its most anticipated original series Aashram. With the web series being a whopping success in the first two seasons, it is the most anticipated series today as it combines politics, crime, and drama to enhance viewer entertainment. The lead cast of Bobby Deol, Aaditi Pohankar, Chandan Roy Sanyal, and Darshan Kumaar is joined by actress Esha Gupta.

"Getting Aashram was more of a gift from the universe," says Gupta.



#### Shop, eat, work, repeat



Reach 3 Roads presents a remarkable Commercial & Retail office tower-My Tower, offering an organisational environment for entrepreneurs and start-ups to work, meet and flourish besides enjoying the breathtaking view of Aravali Hills. It is a mixed-use

development offering high street retail and commercial office space for rent, blending commercial, cultural, institutional, and entertainment uses into one space. It has been built to extend a modernist, minimal, casual and smart experience towards food, fashion, beauty, fitness, pet store, pharmacy, home decor and essentials for the residential catchment areas of Sector 69, 70A and Sohna Road, Gurugram.

## Kalyaani Singh bags the World Book of Records, London's Certficate of Excellence

Kalyaani Singh started her career as a journalist in Mumbai. As a journalist, she contributed proactively as sge wrote various articles on Bollywood films for the top publication houses of India and conducted interviews of multiple toprated superstars of the Indian film industry.

Over the course of her career as a journalist, Singh learnt from scratch each and every minute detail about Bollywood filmmaking and production and finally decided to become a Bollywood film producer and director. She ahs also completed a

MasterClass certified course on filmmaking, taught by legendary Hollywood director Martin Scorsese. Together with her husband, renowned ex-journalist Maann Singh, Singh went on to produce several hit and commercially successful films like *Gunehgar*, *Jurmana*, *Raja Bhaiya*, *Krishan Avtaar*, *Kranti Kshetra*, *Chess The Trap of Death* and recently the highly controversial film, *Why I Killed Gandhi?* Her upcoming film is *Nanak Naam Jahaz Hai*, which is considered the biggest and greatest name in the Punjabi film industry and the Sikh community.

Singh was appointed to the jury in the 13th Global International Film Festival and was felicitated by the 7th Khajuraho International Film Festival for her contribution to the Indian film industry. She is actively involved in philanthropy and humanitarian work as she is the Chairperson of Maharashtra Citizen Group, an NGO.

# "Turn your passion into a profession and no one can stop you from attaining success," says *Nidhi Chaudhary*

coined.

We have heard of many success stories of people who have turned their liking into their primary source of income. Such individuals never fail as their hearts are into their work which gives optimum results, catapulting their career graph skywards. Nidhi Chaudhary is one example of someone who pursued a career which int



who pursued a career which interested her and is today amongst the best in her field of work.

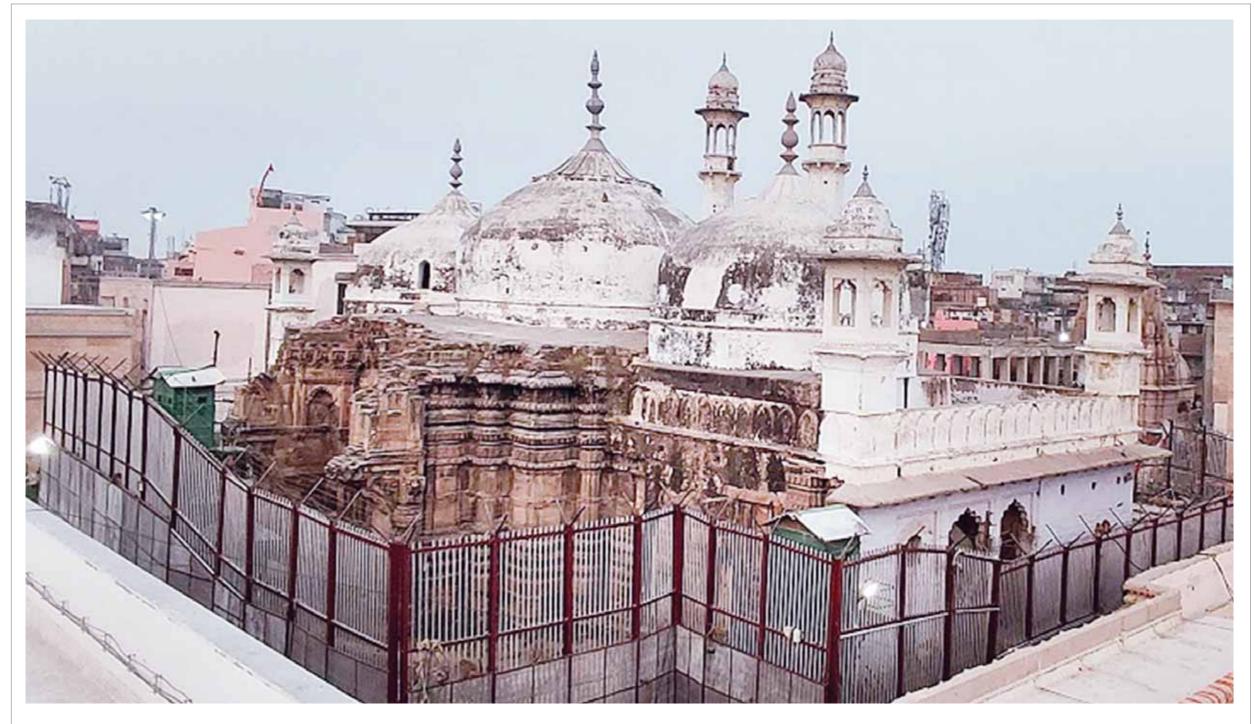
Chaudhary holds a law degree and started her career as a lawyer for a while but eventually, she decided to call it quits and pursue her passion in the fashion industry. Social media like YouTube and Instagram became a major platform for her which garnered enough followers who supported and admired her work. Her growing popularity helped her transition into a well-known fashion and beauty influencer whose work could be found on her YouTube platform. Her growing subscriber base is proof of her popularity, which is on a constant rise.

She strongly believes in upgrading skills in different areas, as you never know which one would work well. During the pandemic, with a lot of free time in her hands, she started learning about spirituality, even practising it for hours. Her identity as a popular fashion and beauty influencer is well established today as her YouTube channel www.youtube.com/c/NidhiChaudhary is going great guns for its informative and engaging content related to beauty, fashion, relationships and spirituality.

# a Common the pioneer of the pioneer

My theory is that if you look confident, you can pull off anything--even if you have no clue what you're doing





# GYANVAPITO SETTHE NEW COURSE OF INDIAN POLITICS

It may be the beginning of a prolonged judicial process that could unravel the murky medieval Indian history marked by demolitions of temples, atrocities, and killings, writes SHIVJI SARKAR

he surprise discovery of Shivalinga, supposedly the symbol of the Lord of creation and destruction, at the old temple of Lord Vishwanath or Gyanvapi mosque can have major political ramifications and help the saffron outfit in keeping the Hindutava pot boiling in the next round of assembly polls and 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Would it make the Congress effort at Udaipur's Chintan Shivir futile and boost up the votary of Hindutva for a new stretch of political success? Much will depend on how Congress responded to the row and how it convinced the nation that BJP was raking up religious issues to divert attention from the burning issues of price rise and unemployment. In any case, Gyanvapi controversy would firm up the religious thrust of Indian politics

For millions of devout believers, Varanasi is the city of Lord Shiva. Mythology is full of tales about Shiva visiting this city from his Himalayan home every year. Still, no one possibly expected that Lord Shiva would emerge from a grimy 'vaju' tank to energize his devo-

It may be the beginning of a prolonged judicial process that could unravel the murky medieval Indian history marked by demolitions of temples, atrocities, and killings. The Gyanvapi can have an impact on at least ten different places, where the medieval rulers had taken recourse to the extreme brutality of converting religious structures killing thousands. These are – Kashi Vishvanath-Gyan Vapi in the oldest living city of Varanasi; Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah -5000-year-old; Rudra Mahalay in Patan, Gujarat; Bhojshala Saraswati Mandir

Kamal Maula mosque at Bhoshala in MP; Adinath Temple – Adina mosque at Pandua, West Bengal; Bhadra Kali Temple – Jama Masjid in Ahmedabad, Gujarat; Vijay Temple – Bijamandal mosque, Vidisha, MP; 27 Hindu and Jain Temples – Quawwatal- ul- Islam Qutb Minar complex; Somnath and

Ramjanmabhoomi Temple – now restored.

The Gyanvapi controversy re-ignites the issue that was supposed to have been settled with the judgment of the Ramjanmabhoomi temple by the Supreme Court. The five Supreme Court judges took note of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991 that laid down that all shrines will be preserved as inherited by independent India on 15 August 1947. The law made an exception for Ayodhya as it was already an ongoing dispute. Nothing else was deserving of an exception, nor was it legally or constitutionally possible, the judges wrote

The quick scenario change in the Gyan Vapi incident may raise the question of the validity of the enactment of the Places of Worship law by the Narasimha Rao government. Sentiments are high not only in Varanasi but all over. Seeming non-partisan people like PK Roy, former executive director, Airports Authority of India in Kolkata; Lalima Aneja Dang, a senior radio producer; Priyadarshi Dutt, author, commentator; former editor of Doordarshan Prabhat Dabral are all charged and advising that it is prudent to settle and not react on this emotive issue. Former Vice-Chancellor of Nagpur University SN Pathan and another Vice Chancellor Firoz Bakht Ahmed have appealed to the minorities to correct the steps and maintain harmony. Left-leaning Dabral says minori-

THE GYANVAPI CONTROVERSY RE-IGNITES THE ISSUE THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN SETTLED WITH THE JUDGMENT OF THE RAMJANMABHOOMI TEMPLE BY THE SUPREME COURT. THE FIVE SUPREME COURT JUDGES TOOK NOTE OF THE PLACES OF WORSHIP (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) ACT OF 1991 THAT LAID DOWN THAT ALL SHRINES WILL BE PRESERVED AS INHERITED BY INDEPENDENT INDIA ON 15 AUGUST 1947. THE LAW MADE AN EXCEPTION FOR AYODHYA AS IT WAS ALREADY AN ONGOING DISPUTE. NOTHING ELSE WAS DESERVING OF AN EXCEPTION, NOR WAS IT LEGALLY OR CONSTITUTIONALLY POSSIBLE, THE JUDGES **WROTE** 

ties must dispassionately judge the acts of despots like Aurangzeb and peacefully sort it out the issue in the best interest of the nation.

The one common question the non-political elite ask is how could someone treat the revered Shivlinga with such contempt that they established the wash-tank above that. It is difficult to say whether it would have the same manifestation and feelings till elections or not. The sentiments expressed speak in volumes of the hurt feelings.

The nation may recall that since 1949, the Babri structure in all purposes was the Ram temple. Emotive issues are not forgotten. That led to the demolition of the structure in 1992. The way now the GyanVapi is flaring up indicates that the issue of demolition by Aurangzeb on Sept 2, 1669, can widely impact the course of Indian politics. The Hindutva-oriented parties would find it easy to exploit the sentiments to woo the voters. The rest could go on screaming about price rise and divisive politics, or take up other equally emotive issues to remain relevant and vibrant.

It may start with Hyderabad's Bhagyalakshmi temple. The TRS of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao may have to take a stand on the crucial Bhagyalakshmi temple in the Charminar complex. Rao facing a pincer attack by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Home Minister Amit Shah, KCR may have to stir with deftness. The others and even MIM may pitch in to make the Telangana assembly elections interesting.

It has to be interesting to see whether Gujarat rakes up the Bhadrakali and Rudra Mahalaya issues and Madhya Pradesh ignites Vidisha and Bojshala. If the BJp raised these issues in MP and Gujarat, the opposition may have to wait and watch silently fearing backlash from Hindus.

Alok Kumar, president of VHP, an eminent lawyer, is categorical, "There has been no change in the status of the religious structure since 1947, and Hindus have always performed puja at the site."

Calling it GyanVapi Mandir. VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal said the faces of those who were trying to "hide the truth" have been "pointed black" with the "finding"

been "painted black" with the "finding".

In the BJP only Sangeet Som has threatened a replay of the 1992 'Babri demolition. But the BJP is happy with the Varanasi court developments giving it time, to extend the restrictions at the Gyan Vapi. They being the rulers in UP are acting with caution so that the gains are long-term.. Chief Minister Yogi Aditynath is personally observing each of the develop-

The Gyan Vapi will decide the religious fervor of Indian politics. The parties not aligned with BJP's view have the challenge to tailor new strategies. The minorities are in dilemma. They are not keen on sailing with it or giving up but the voices within are advising not to get into another confrontation and solve it prudently.

Howsoever, it develops it would keep the Indian politics warm and parties would have to stir cautiously to chart their way to 2024 Lok Sabha and many assembly elections before that. The churning continues and the nation hopes that solution would emerge for a prosperous, peaceful nation.

Tthe writer is a senior journalist and views expressed are personal.



"When I was 19-21, the Babri Masjid was snatched away from me. But we will never lose a Masjid again in front of the 19-20-year-olds. Do you take an oath that we will not lose any more mosques?"

MIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi "Now, they will create a new drama in Varanasi. It has started yesterday on news channels, and on social media too. There will be some 100 such places where they keep creating controversy, so how long will you keep Hindu-Muslim fighting in the country? They have lived together for centuries and they have to live together for centuries."

-Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot





The faces of those who were trying to "hide the truth" have been "painted black" with the "finding" of the 'Shivling' on

the mosque premises.
—VHP national spokesperson
Vinod Bansal

BJP is raising religious issues to divert public attention from issues of price rise and unemployment.
—Samajwadi party president Akhilesh Yadav





# A nursery of military leadership

Valour & Wisdom is a well researched chronicle of contribution made by the Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun in producing some of the bravest war heroes of India.

#### **BOOK REVIEW**

AMITABH SHUKLA

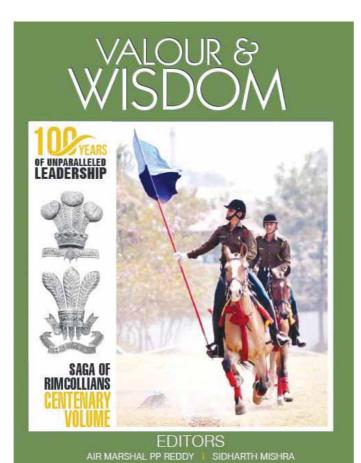
was there to defend Srinagar when tribal marauders came in 1947, it was again there to defend borders in Punjab in 1965, in 1971 it was there fighting on both the eastern and the western front. In 1974, when the first nuclear device was tested in Pokhran it was there, so was it in Maldives, in Sri Lanka and it stood face-to-face with China in 1987. It drove the Pakistani army out from Kargil in 1999, in 2008 it defended Bombay and lastly it destroyed the enemy base in Balakot.

Seldom has the alumni of a school contributed so much in the defence of a nation as that of the Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun. Founded in 1922, the school is celebrating its centenary this year. Air Marshal PP Reddy (Retired), one of the two editors of the Book along with Sidharth Mishra describes it as the "nursery of military leadership" and says that it was the Rimcollians, as an alumnus of RIMC is known, who were in the higher echelons of the military at the time of

Independence, who built and guided the Indian armed forces into a formidable foe to reckon with

Sidharth Mishra, an alumnus of the Institute and well-known journalist, who has co-authored the nearly 500-page book, says that whenever an educational institution reaches a milestone of its existence, the practice has been to bring out self-congratulatory volumes in the genre of coffee-table books. He says that unlike that practice, objectivity has been the main plank of the book.

The book comprises essays by the alumni from various fields, tracing the origin of its establishment through its training methodology and grooming, puts on record the contributions of the alumni, school and nation building and sifts hearsay from documented facts. There are 26 contributors, most of them senior officers of the armed forces, who have sort of drawn a complete picture of the Indian armed forces from the First World War period onwards and how Indianisation of the Officer Corps began in the Great War. Lt Gen NS Brar writes the first chapter tracing how Indians were gradually inducted for training and then commissioned as officers. When the need



THE BOOK HAS A
CHAPTER ON THE
HEROES OF THE
SECOND WORLD WAR
AND THE RIMCOLLIANS
WHO WERE AWARDED
VICTORIA CROSS, BAR
TO DISTINGUISHED
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CROSS AND LISTS THE
BATTLES FOR WHICH
THEY ARE AWARDED

was felt for Indianisation of the Officer Corps, the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College (as it was known then) was opened on March 13, 1922.

The book has a chapter on the heroes of the Second World War and the Rimcollians who were awarded Victoria Cross, Bar to Distinguished Service Order, Distinguished Flying Cross and Military Cross and lists the battles for which they are awarded. In the Battle of Abyssinia (now Ethiopia)

Africa, PS Bhagat was given the Victoria Cross, highest gallantry award of the pre-Independence era. Despite close enemy fire, without food or rest for four days, he cleared 15 minefields over a distance of 55 miles and was evacuated after punctured eardrums.

Then, there is a chapter on integrating J&K and the role of Rimcollians. In the Battle of Badgam, Major Somnath Sharma, at the age of 25 was martyred and due to his bravery became the first recipient of the highest gallantry award of Independent India--Param Vir Chakra. His efforts had significantly slowed down the advance of the enemy raiders and bought valuable time for the Indian troops to fly into Srinagar.

In the 1961 Liberation of Goa, called Operation Vijay, Lt Gen KP Candeth played a pivotal role in retaking the colony from the Portuguese.

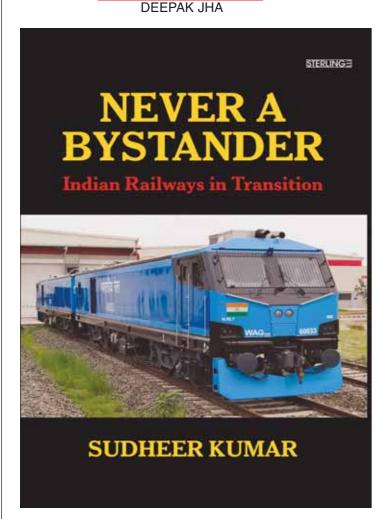
In the 1965 Indo-Pak War, three Rimcollians, Major GC Verma, Major MS Bal and Major JC Pandey made the supreme sacrifice. Similarly in the 1971 war, the entire western border with Pakistan was under the command of Rimcollians and the book lists the contributions of the

alumni in the liberation of Bangladesh. IPKF operation in Sri Lanka in 1987, Operation Cactus in Maldives in 1988, Kargil Conflict in 1999--all had the presence of Rimcollians, the book lists. There are thrilling chapters on the Rimcollian Infanteers, the Tankmen from Rajwada, the Gunners, flying wings and other branches.

Interestingly, it is not only about the armed forces that the book talks about. But also, about those Rimcollians who have cracked JEE, CAT, NEET, GRE, GMAT and other exams and their success in different walks of life. Be it chronicling military history of Independent India and successes through individual and team efforts, Valour and Wisdom makes an effort to project the need to preserve institutions, which have kept alive the values and traditions, which the founders of our national struggle nursed. The writer says that the book is an attempt to set right the historical perspective, analyse qualities which made the school alumni leaders extraordinaire and visionaries in their own right. "This effort would probably aid those who seek to learn from the lessons of the past for a better future," says

# **Never a bystander: Indian Railways in Transition**

**BOOK REVIEW** 



This book is a collection of actual stories of change and transformation that give the reader an insider's view of the incredible world of the Indian Railways. Driving successful change in government organisations is a Herculean task; many efforts fail, in any case. Grit, resilience and hardiness, along with a humane approach and the benign influence of critical stakeholders can often move mountains. The failures along the way are just the lead indicators of success.

The story author Sudheer Kumar read in his childhood, 'Haar ki Jeet' by Sudarshan, and the prayer, 'Woh shakti hamein do dayanidhe kartavya marg par dat jaayen' by Murarilal Sh arma left a deep impression on his mind.

deep impression on his mind..

The biggest-ever Make-in-India
PPP project, an initiative of the
Prime Minister Narendra Modi
led government, to set up a locomotive factory at Madhepura,
Bihar, forms a part of the book. ISB
Hyderabad has written a case study
on this project, and Harvard
Business Publishing has published
it in June 2020.

The book has lessons in leadership which go beyond the rulebook to create a guiding coalition and collaborate actively; embrace empathy, and always put people first; challenge the status-quo and dysfunctional legacy systems but in an inclusive, humane way; cultivate inner emotional stability and focus; operate always from a tranquil mind for the greater good; optimism and idealism with superior people-skills achieve miracles; cultivate an environment of empowered and empowering leadership, and finally; bring differentiated technical and functional mastery to everything you do.

#### About the author

(Sudheer Kumar is a graduate in Electrical Engineering with a gold medal in 1981 from GB Pant University, Pantnagar. He studied at IIT Delhi; Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago; Tepper School of Business, Pittsburgh; and HEC Business School, Paris). He joined Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers in 1983. He superannuated in 2020 as Additional Member Transformation, Planning and Railway Electrification after a career spanning 37 years.

# Short stories with big messages

**The Anthology of New Writing** is a collection of well-crafted short stories by some of the finest women story tellers from across the world. The stories resonate with the cultural moorings of the places they are set in.

#### BOOK REVIEW NAVIN UPADHYAY

new anthology of short stories brings together women writers from India, the US, the UK, and Canada. The Punch Magazine's edited and introduced by its founder and publisher Shireen Quadri, features 18 stories by both emerging and established writers. It has been published by Niyogi Books. Founded in January 2017, The Punch Magazine has been publishing short stories — along with poetry, creative nonfiction, interviews, and reviews - by writers around the world every month. The anthology was conceived to celebrate the short fiction genre. While the form's origin is as old as human civilization, the genre flourished during the nineteenth century, with several modernist writers showcasing its subtle power through their landmark sto-

The stories in this anthology resonate with the cultural moorings of the places they are set in and are often laced with the writer's lived experiences. They throb with the rhythm of the daily life of their protagonists - their inner struggles, existential angst, and anxieties.

There are stories that centre around the memories of early crushes, adolescent romance, and others that dwell on the passage of time with all its attendant ravages. Stories rooted in family traditions are also a part of this anthology.

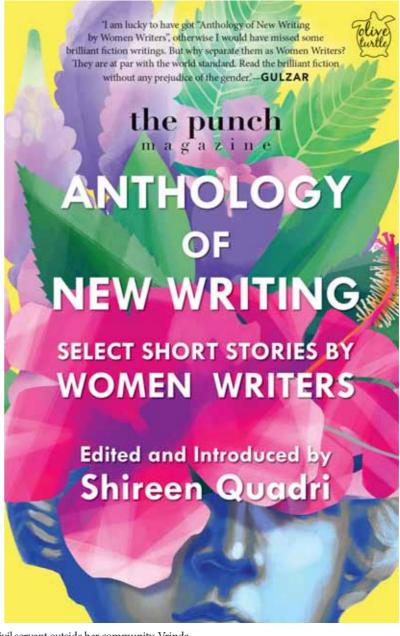
The writers of these stories are Ameta Bal, Anila SK, Anjali Doney, Camilla Chester, Geetha Nair G., Helen Harris, Humra Quraishi, Jayshree Misra Tripathi, Latha Anantharaman, Meena Menon, Meher Pestonji, Rinita Banerjee, Rochelle Potkar, Sarah Robertson, Shilpa Raina, Tammy Armstrong, Vineetha Mokkil and Vrinda Baliga.

Short fiction condenses the human experience and yet is able to capture its depth. These short stories show us how they compress the composites of life as well as expand its complexities and contradictions.

Ameta Bal's 'Static A.D', has a first-person narrator that tells the tale of isolation and loneliness. The story was written much before the pandemic, but it has an uncanny resemblance to the lockdown situation. Anila S.K's 'A Tale of Disconnect' is about a dysfunctional marriage and the gods who never answer. Anjali Doney's 'Pandemonium', is about an unfulfilled college romance, full of emotions and mush. In Camilla Chester's 'Terms and Conditions', the protagonist Laura Pimpleback, discovers her childhood dreams and her wishes coming true.

coming true.

Vineetha Mokkil's 'Sunday, Bloody
Sunday', the narrator, Tara Bakshi finds all
hell breaking loose as she disclosed to her
family her intentions of marrying a fellow



civil servant outside her community. Vrinda Baliga in her story 'Crossing', delves into the issue of illegal immigrants who risk their lives for a prosperous future.

Geetha Nair's 'Falls' is a tale of love and betrayal. The story goes back from the present into the past, revealing the sequence of events.

London-based prolific author Helen Harris writes a story about food and family bonding. Her story, 'Olya's Kitchen,' is set in the nineties. The narrator, Nicholas, recalls his Russian grandmother and her penchant for cooking and feeding her grandchildren. He chooses a career in the food business cooking authentic Russian dishes to pay homage to his beloved grandmother after she passes away.

er Three stories are set in Kashmir. w Humra Qureshi's 'Kashmir Valley's Soofiya THE PUNCH MAGAZINE HAS PUBLISHED SEVERAL SHORT STORIES IN THE DIGITAL FORMAT SINCE ITS INCEPTION TO BRING A TANGIBLE COLLECTION WHERE MANY HIGH-CALIBER WRITERS' WORKS HAVE BEEN SHOWCASED. THE STORIES TAKE US ALONG THE WEARS AND TEARS OF LIFE, DWELLING ON THE CHARACTERS' EXPERIENCES AND MEMORIES OF THEIR MANY PLEASURES AND PAINS SUSPENDED IN THE CONTINUUM OF TIME

Bano' draws on the flood fury of 2014, in which the water brings the son back to his mother from police custody. Independent journalist Meena Menon's story 'The Closed Cinema' is about Firdaus Cinema, located on Srinagar's busy Lal Chowk road, which has been closed for several years. 'The Vacation' by Shilpa Raina, is about a Kashmiri Pandit couple, and their struggles after they were forced to leave their house in Srinagar during the militancy. The wife steers her family through depravity and loss as they live in a state of permanent exile. Rochelle Potkar's story 'Honour' is about a young washerwoman Purna who works at Mumbai's dhobi ghat. Her family responsibilities is what she lives

Latha Anantharaman's 'delicately structured 'The Very Narrow House', set in Palakkad(Kerala), is about the reclusive family of a sub-priest at the temple. The story is woven beautifully and has a dash of suspense and drama

Jayshree Misra Triparthi's 'Indigo Blue' employs the device of 'story within a story to explore both parallels between past and present.

In Meher Pestonji's dark yet funny tale 'Ghost', young Kaizad who loves to play ghost and scare his little sister, unwittingly invites trouble for the family. Tammy Armstrong's 'Artichoke', set in Rome, foregrounds the flawed approach to a researcher's quest to understand the painter as opposed to his co-traveller.

In Rinita Banerjee's 'The Dance of the

Happy Muse, a young man seeks temporary solace in art when family responsibility feels heavy to bear.

Sarah Robertson's lyrical 'Marietta's Song,' is about the magic notes of a magical song - 'enough to lift the dead along into a world of passionate flight, with pre-dinner martinis every night' - played on piano by a miracle man.

The Punch Magazine has published several short stories in the digital format since its inception to bring a tangible collection where many high-caliber writers' works have been showcased. The stories take us along the wears and tears of life, dwelling on the characters' experiences and memories of their many pleasures and pains suspended in the continuum of time. The anthology's editor Shireen Quadri is the founder and director of Punch Art and Cultural Foundation, which endeavours to chronicle the proliferation of arts, literature, and culture in India and globally. She writes, "The short stories by contemporary women writers show us how they compress the composites of life as well as expand its complexities and contradictions?

The Punch Magazine promotes the best of literary and cultural traditions around the world. For this anthology, they were looking at good storytelling, the quality of its narration, language, and stories that reflected the human condition in general and had a deep resonance with the times we are living in.

# Concerns over Finland, Sweden joining NATO

The crisis in Ukraine is rebalancing the power calculus in Europe and in the rest of the world. It's the first major devastating war that Europe is experiencing after the Second World War. Currently, what seems to be more disturbing is the determination of two Nordic nations — Finland and Sweden — to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). After years of neutrality in Scandinavian countries, the sudden decision of the two neighbours of the Russian Federation to join the NATO is heightening tension between Moscow and the rest of the West. Despite threats from Moscow, Helsinki and Stockholm have moved their applications to be a part of the world's largest security alliance. The time chosen by the two nations to be part of the NATO security orbit is creating ripples across Europe.

After the Second World War, the world was turned into two rival ideological camps of power: the capitalist bloc led by the US and the socialist bloc by the USSR. For more than four decades, there were years of high and low, with tipping points like the Cuban Missile Crisis. The period saw the emergence of the Cold War between the West and the USSR and its allies. But then the fall of the USSR leading to the dissolution of the Communist regimes in Eastern Europe formally hinted at an end of the Cold War. During the Cold War period, Finland and Sweden maintained their neutral stance. They neither went to the NATO nor signed the Warsaw Pact (Warsaw Treaty Organization or officially, the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance founded on 14 May, 1955 in Warsaw). But once the Warsaw Pact terminated on 1 July, 1991, the security alliance of European nations, particularly in Eastern Europe, underwent massive changes. For the first time in the post-Warsaw Pact scenario, on March 12, 1999, Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland joined the NATO; the second wave countries such as Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia and

Slovenia joined in March 2004. Interestingly, out of the five Nordic nations — Iceland,



Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson walks outside the US Capitol to speak with journalists following her joint meetings with Finnish President Sauli Niinisto and leaders in Congress in Washington on May 19

Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland — the first three joined the NATO as its founding members in 1949. Therefore, Sweden and Finland maintained their distance from the NATO for a long time so as not to attract the ire of the then USSR and now the Russian Enderstion.

However, what then has drastically changed the security scenario in Europe, except the Ukraine war, which caused Finland and Sweden to join the NATO so abruptly? The Ukraine war which began on February 24 has dragged on close to three months without producing any clear winner. Putin's military aggression has alerted the world especially

Russia's neighbours. This has finally caused Finland and Sweden to join the NATO alliance.

The Social Democrats of Sweden has jettisoned their previous opposition to NATO membership with Putin's onslaught in Ukraine in the current scenario. Magdalena Andersson, the Swedish Prime Minister, said, "The best thing for the security of Sweden and the Swedish people is to join NATO. We believe Sweden needs the formal security guarantees that come with membership in NATO."

Why is Putin scared of NATO expansion? In the past, the USSR had bitter experience of the expansion of the West, particularly after the dissolution of the USSR. The way the US-led NATO has encircled Russia, it has become a cause of concern for Moscow. In fact, the NATO has violated its basic understanding with Russia. And the NATO has not addressed the security concerns raised by the Putin regime till now. Therefore, Moscow cannot trust the NATO.

While, powerful nations such as France and the US are welcoming the decision of Finland and Sweden to join the NATO, why is Turkey — NATO's oldest member — objecting to it? Turkey possesses the second largest armed forces after the US in the

NATO. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is determined to stop Finland and Sweden's bid for the NATO membership. He has said he won't allow terror havens becoming part of the NATO. Turkey's objection stems from its security concerns and grievances with Sweden and to a lesser degree Finland's perceived support to the banned Kurdistan Worker's Party or PKK. Turkey's long war with the PKK has taken tens of thousands of lives since 1984. Therefore, Erdogan has branded the two prospective NATO members, especially Sweden as a "focus of terror, home to terror". He accused the two

financial and armed support to the PKK. However, the NATO officials are ready to address all the concerns of Turkey and making the road smoother for Finland and Sweden to join the NATO.

NATO.

Initially, Putin was airing warning signals to both Finland and Sweden. But gradually, he is changing his mind and strategy towards NATO's two probable members. Now Moscow says that it has no problem in Finland and Sweden joining the US-led military alliance. But Putin has made it clear that Moscow would take action if the NATO moves more troops or hardware into the territory of

NATO expansion itself is not a threat for Russia. Putin, however, has clarified, "The expansion of military infrastructure into this territory (i.e. in Finland and Sweden) would certainly provoke our response. What that response will be, we will see what threats are created for us." This all makes it clear from Putin that in case the West tries to provoke Russia, he will not sit back. And for all of us, the latest war in Ukraine should be a lesson.

Mikhail Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin and Vladimir Putin, the three leaders had overseen the transformation of the Russian Federation from the last days of the USSR to the emergence of the Russian Federation. Both Gorbachev and Yeltsin initiated changes that clearly broke with the communist ideology and Soviet political system of the past. But Putin came to Russian politics when the massive and tumultuous transition from communism had already made its way all over the fallen super-power. Since 1999 when he took over as the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation under the leadership of Yeltsin, many brand him as an agent of the restoration of the old order. Also, Putin, a former spy guy, has made it known to people that he shares with many Russians a great nostalgia for the greatness created, established and heralded by the Soviet Union.

Unlike Yeltsin, Putin did not have extreme distaste for the Communist Party of those days. Equally, Putin aims to enhance the power of the Russian State and wants to expand as far as possible beyond its borders. But the problem is that Putin has combined his ambition with realism and wants to achieve the same with force. Therefore, the raising concern in Finland and Sweden is well-understood.

(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)

Finland and Sweden's bid to enter NATO has met with roadblocks. Initially, Russian **President Vladimir Putin warned them** against their efforts, but now he has changed his strategy towards NATO's two probable entrants. Now, Moscow has no problem in Finland and Sweden joining the US-led military alliance as long as the NATO doesn't move more troops or hardware into the territory of Finland and Sweden. But the real challenge is from Turkey which is hell-bent on preventing the two **Nordic nations from** joining the NATO as it considers them "focus of terror, home to terror"



MAKHAN SAIKIA

#### PERSPECTIVE -

# Regional parties, Hindi & Hindutva

**Regional parties** have not yet done enough to counter northern India's control over Indian politics. Many regional parties in the south have associated or supported the NDA or the UPA Governments in the past. If they complain about Hindi imposition each time it crops up, it begs the question: What were they doing all along to break the north's hold over national politics?



RAHUL JAYARAM

 $A^{\mathrm{t}}$  a time when Hindutva spears further into the social fabric of Indian society, Union Home Minister Amit Shah pitched his support yet again for the use of Hindi as India's common language. In the wake of recent events, a series of queries emerge: How did India come to such a pass where the issue of Hindi keeps surfacing at regular intervals? Is our Constitution not clear over the uses of English, Hindi and other languages? Why is India wasting time running around in circles? Doesn't India owe her growth, in large part, to English? Does English not merit further promotion?

However, the place of Hindi in the national consciousness, how it asserts the supremacy of north India, and the overwhelming current hold of Hindutva merit a deeper and longer contemporary scrutiny. In my view, Hindutva and Hindi have come together to set the tone of north India's political and cultural domination.

Collectively, the South has driven a lot of India's growth, and despite Constitutionally-mandated federalism, has suffered at the hands of the Centre and complained about it often. Can we assume a binary where the Centre is the "victimiser" and the States the "victim"? How have States used their agency? We must examine

regional parties' behaviour. Some context first.

A major but under explored takeaway from the recent Assembly polls is the future of regional parties. They are caught between a take-noprisoners BJP-ruled Centre and the fast-fading Congress. For parties that haven't broken bread with the single largest party, these have been hard times. In Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party's loss despite high vote share and the Bahujan Samaj Party's decimation for a consecutive second time prove how the BJP has knifed into their core constituencies. Yet, the Aam Aadmi Party's win in Punjab where it beat entrenched rivals demonstrates there is room for a credible alternative. But it's only at the State level.

Even for the strongest regional parties in other States, the BJP's wins are a jolt. Inured to a more accommodating Centre in the UPA and the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA eras, how do they square with an ideologically overdriven current BJP?

Yes, Hindutva imbued previous BJP-led Governments, but there is stark difference between then and now. Now, the BJP wants to swamp India. Hindi is one of the arrows in its quiver

How have States used their agency? We must examine first read the signs. TMC chief

Mamata Banerjee sized up the situation after the BJP's strong showing in the Lok Sabha polls in West Bengal in 2014 and 2019. She put everything into the bruising election she won last year. During the frenzied 2020 Delhi Assembly election, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal kept away from the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act-National Register for Citizens protests to ensure the AAP didn't appear anti-Hindu. In West Bengal, Mamata postured her Hindu identity in rallies. Mamata and Kejriwal nuanced their stance towards Hindutva. The BJP controls current public discourse and it has pushed opponents to mould their messaging, and display their Hindu cred to avoid appearing "secular". As a counter to that, the TMC and the AAP have tried expanding their footprint. In a way, both are unlike older regional players. They understand how power at the Centre was handed away on a platter to the Congress once, and now to the BJP. So, what's the nature and

So, what's the nature and intent of most regional parties? They win their States, but still need support from the Centre. Why haven't they gone pan-India? Over decades they but tressed Congress-led and BJP-led Governments. But by doing so, they paved the way for the supremacy of the Hindi belt and UP as the most powerful

State in the Lok Sabha. The Shiv Sena, the Biju Janata Dal, the SP, the BSP, the Nationalist Congress Party, the DMK, the AIADMK, the Janata Dal (Secular), and the Left parties, all collectively failed our federal aspirations by sticking to their regions. This approach is harming them now, and will even more in the coming years. In 2012-2013, JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar was positioned as a rival to Narendra Modi. Now he struggles to retain Bihar. The regional matrix scotched him. Even a small party like Asaduddin Owaisiled AIMIM has fought elections outside its home base. These three parties — AAP, TMC, AIMIM — realise the importance of breaking the two party hold at the Centre.

In such a milieu with no threat at the Centre, and no State-level players able to take it on, proven wedge-like issues like the role of Hindi are invoked by the north-dominated Centre, and precious political time wasted on distracting the republic from pressing matters.

The Centre acts like the puppeteer, and the non-Hindi States react like puppets. The States are in a funk. The BJP-led NDA knows this, and is seizing the momentum to push through its nativist and hardline agendas to the extent it can. Such conducive conditions

may not be there in the future. We have to see the issue of Hindi in this light. And, what are the States doing?

Notwithstanding its past alliance with a BJP-led Central Government, among the older regional parties, the DMK represents the staunchest opposition to Hindutva and Hindi in ideological terms. In most ways, even its arch rival in Tamil Nadu, the AIADMK, is not an ideological opponent, but an extension. The United Democratic Front and the Left Democratic Front in Kerala are not dissimilar to the DMK and the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu — they are regional rivals and not ideological nemeses to one another. All four rage against Hindi and Hindutva. Almost all the major States away from north India have bipolar rivalries, and are without a strong BJP or Congress presence at the moment, excepting Karnataka. These include Andhra Pradesh and Telangana as well. Why have they not challenged the BJP or the Congress at the Centre? Why have they not made concerted efforts to dismantle the hold of the Hindi heartland, the Hindi language and the might of UP over the last several decades? Why are the States not taking concerted proactive action to smash, break, mould, the north's over-

bearingness?

With its genuine distinctiveness vis-à-vis Hindutva, the Dravidian parties of Tamil Nadu only prove their individuation and mettle effortlessly. But one of the inbuilt problems for Dravidianism is that it has always been perceived and imagined as centred

on Tamil identity. Its critiques over caste, and other contributions are known, but haven't spread from the south to the north, while Hindutva has reached many corners of India. Dravidianism is too closely tied with Tamilness, which is a natural strength inside the state, and a weakness outside it. Has its association and synonymy with Tamil identity and politics and language, made Dravidian parties parochial? Make no mistake, it is the case with every other regional party, outside of

north India. However the Tamil parties have a special quality in being the antithesis of Hindutva that needs to reach and percolate to the rest of India. Here, newer parties like the AAP and slightly older parties (but much younger than other regional parties) like the TMC are not burdened with the past. And yet they aren't ideological like the Dravidian parties. They may have shown their dynamism and can-do in countering and defeating entrenched rivals like the BJP

or the Congress or the oncestrong CPM. But due to their proximity to the Hindi heartland, where Hindutva discourse is the only currency these days, they cannot take it on full throttle. If the BJP has appropriated and parlayed Ambedkar, then the BJP's opponents have had to modify their stance towards Hindutva. As have parts of the north-east of India, where the BJP has stamped its presence over the last seven years. So, the full counter to Hindutya can only come from the deep south and not via strategic accommodation, but ideological con-

The truth has to be faced. Many regional parties in the south and elsewhere have associated or supported the NDA or the UPA Governments in the past. If they complain about Hindi imposition each time it crops up, it begs the question: What were they doing all along to break the north's hold over national politics? It's a loop: the Centre acts, the States react. Why should that be so? In a democracy, why should Hindi majoritarianism assert its power over the rest of India? Why can't the States of the south or the east, take the lead? Is it too late?

(The writer teaches at Vidyashilp University, Bangalore. Views are personal.)

























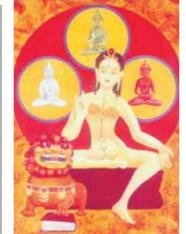




#### ARIES March 21-April 19

This week excessive fear, phobia, and worrying about a situation are on the card. Mental tension will remain, and this may reflect on your health. Headache, insomnia, and sleeplessness might be felt throughout the week. Be careful of cold, cough and seasonal ailments too. This is the time to meditate, join yoga and take a break from the hectic schedule. On the career front, a little indiscretion may put your reputation in the firing line so be careful. In the work area, you may feel unnoticed and neglected. This may cause tension and hamper your growth. Do not run away from responsibilities and commitments. Don't disclose your working plans till you accomplish them. On the personal front, your partner will be filled with an abundance of energy and enthusiasm and you feel demoralized, or with low self-esteem.

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Friday



#### **LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week your satisfaction and contentment will play an important role to be in good health. You will spend time enioving worldly pleasures, sayouring delicious meals. appreciating the arts, and relaxing as well. All is well feeling gives you a cool mind, enjoyment, a positive aura and a glow on the face. On the work front, there is generosity in your temperament and ability to convince others with your communication. You care for the emotional well-being of others and respect your colleagues and juniors. They follow you, admire you, and respect your generosity. On the relationship front, there is love, fun and entertainment. You spend time together and present an expensive gift to your beloved partner. The time is right to bring your romantic relationships out in the open, the family will accept your choice.

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Blue Lucky day Thursday



#### **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you will possess a new-found power and energy to create a fresh lifecycle for yourself. You have control over your desires like excess food, drinks and any other addiction which is harmful to your health. You realize the importance of balancing factors in life and your body is in tune with the five elements of nature. On the career front, you may have experienced setbacks that now you feel suspicious of others. The turning point will come when you can leave the past behind you and develop a more open mind about the future. This is the time to think positive and move ahead. On the personal front, confrontation is likely between love couples. Do not let emotion get in the way, rather, use fact and logic to make

Lucky number 9 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Friday



#### **TAURUS** April 20-May 20

You have become a very active and vibrant person. Selfknowledge and mastery are the keys to success. You have inner light and consciousness, sheer faith and experience of the past making you a self-reliant person who is ready to teach others. Through meditation, you are on the path of a high level of spiritual attainment, and to share this light with others. On the professional front, with your wisdom and leadership, you can establish a niche for yourself. People will admire you and follow you. Your plans are now well underway and you are starting to consider even more opportunities to expand your current plans. On the personal front, you will find your relationships are growing and developing to a satisfactory level. There is faith, and understanding with each other.

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Tuesday



#### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Weakness may take a toll this week. Issues of domestic or professional are haunting you and you feel disturbed. Restlessness or BP problem may trigger you and make your visit to the doctor. You may require proper sleep and the support of near and dear ones. A positive approach will serve the purpose and put life into you. On the career front, there is nothing much new, the things are moving as usual. Though the fear of stagnating your career or profession will trouble you, this is a temporary phase as the week progresses you will find positive results. With your wisdom and experience, you keep on moving ahead and achieve the desired results. On the relationship front, you will enjoy the quiet powers inherent in you. You will be able to influence your partner through diplomatic conversation.

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Wednesday



#### CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you are taking a moderated approach to life right now, and are true to your commitments. You have understood that you need a routine and a careful regime if you want to achieve your goals. It may not necessarily be a very interesting or exciting period. You are not hesitant in spending money in a gym, meditation, following nutritive diets etc to be in good health and fitness. These efforts will pay you well. On the work front, you will feel stability in your profession. Experience and skills will be the forte to achieve your desired goals. Advice from a senior person in a job/business will be very helpful. On the personal front, you may get too emotional and possessive in your relationship which may be the cause of irritation and separation. Care and compassion for near and are indicated.

Lucky number 4 Lucky colour Red Lucky day Wednesdau



#### **GEMINI** May 21-June 20

You are filled with enthusiasm and new jest for life. You will feel healthy and free and may experience a change of perspective. Negativity replaces optimism. New possibilities are foreseen. You get to know the importance of solving your problems with rational and thorough thinking. This is also a time to utilize your creative energies. Professionally, you feel successful in your career. Promotion or hike is very likely which will make you confident, secure and well-established. You are self-disciplined and energetic. Those in business, your ideas and views are being respected and followed. This is the time when your intelligence, wisdom and experience will pay you rich dividends. On the personal front, your relationship area is good too. You are romantic and love is in the air. Othe relationships too are nurturing, and meaningful in your life.

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Monday



#### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week your card foresees healing and rejuvenation. Those suffering from an injury or other physical ailments will find quick recovery. There are times in our lives when we must accept inevitable change and allow things to come to a natural end. Every negative note has its positive end too. On the career front, there is a good message on the card. A comeback of your old and trusted employee who was supposed to be the backbone of your profession is indicated. Venues are open for those too who want to expand their business or start a new venture. Time spent on academic pursuits will pay good results now. On the relationship front, love is difficult and confusing this week. Sticking to old beliefs may spoil your relations. Avoid third-party intervention.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Golden Lucky day Sunday



#### **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

Those putting on weight may need to get health-conscious. You will understand the value of money, and health and have your plans to be in harmony with nature to maintain good health. Walking, breathing and prayers for mental and physical healing are on the card. On the career front, some other issues than career will take priority this week. You either have little time or feel lethargic in your profession. Hard work and efforts put in the last week are not so rewarding. This is a temporary phase. On the personal front, something special is likely to be celebrated this week. You feel emotionally contended and find a healthy relationship. You have full faith in your partner. This is the time when mutual understanding between the two is great and the strengthening of the relationship is indicated.

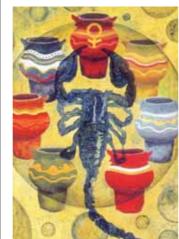
Lucky number 18 Lucky colour Orange Lucky day Saturday



#### **CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week you may enjoy nature's bounty and the blessings of the Almighty. A cure for a very old or prolonged illness is on the card. Those in urgent need of motivation and inspiration to lead a healthy and meaningful life will find a mentor this week. You feel empowered and embark on a new journey that is better and progressive and makes you feel comfortable. On the work front, this is the time to keep counting the blessings You may be busy organizing an auspicious ceremony at home/office. The career will boom and so will your interaction with the outside world. On the personal front, confusion, and misunderstanding with the partner is likely. You need to guard yourself against selfish motives, aggression and any haste decisions in this period. Patience is the key. Midweek the

Lucky number 21 Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Wednesday



#### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week your inner and outer conflicts may bring negative effects on your healthy lifestyle and routine work. You have different opinions of your own like how you should approach your current circumstances. Your caree life seems challenging this week. This is a perfect time to clear away the fog. This is also a good time to set your goals and targets and work on the system. The win will come after a struggle. Your great insight may work in your favour. A breakthrough success is on the card. On the relationship front, you will follow tradition instead of your heart. The conventions and traditions are overpowering you and you seek the answer from a guru or senior person. This week you may be spiritually more inclined and worldly pleasures, love and emotions take a back seat.

Lucky number 2 Lucky colour Indigo Lucky day Tuesday



#### PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you have the command over your body. There is a balance between mind, body and soul. You are putting a solid foundation for the health regime and plan to follow it strictly. You are very energetic, enthusiastic and full of life. Your farsightedness will pay you rich dividends. This is the time to enjoy good food and live a healthy life both mentally and physically. On the career front, new job offers and opportunities in business will broaden your horizon. If expansion in the business is the plan, this is the right time. Good finances, income and gains through the ancestral property are indicated. On the relationship front, those contemplating marriage may start browsing the market for a suitable bride or groom. Be guard of your temptations and addiction. A step to spiritualism may prove to be the saviour

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour White Lucky day Monday

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couple of years back, someone came seeking guidance on what Adiscipline his son should pursue: "Sir, my son is insistent on pursuing Engineering. But given his score card at school, it looks difficult. I suggested him easier option of Commerce as with less efforts he could excel. But he won't listen. What is there in store of his destiny? How far he will study? Will he be able to have a good job in hand? Please guide as to what should be his career preference."

At the outset, let me assure you that your son is a potential guy and is expected to eventually do well in life. Don't underestimate him. He carries the potential to pursue higher studies. 4th cusp sub-lord, identified with college education happens to be Venus. It is tenanted in the nakshatra owned by Rahu occupying the 9th house, marked with higher studies. 9th sub-lord Mars is conjunct Rahu in the 9th house, and is tenanted in the nakshatra owned by 9th lord Sun posited in the 6th house identified with success in efforts. Such a close connect of the 4th, 9th and 6th houses promises higher education.

Benevolent Jupiter is beautifully aligned with the Sun marked with his

identify. The obvious implication is that he is a responsible guy, who may carry a value system. He enjoys good executive ability and is capable of holding a position of trust. All the more because Karmic Saturn extends its benefic aspect on the Sun, which grants him with excellent organising skill having his eyes even on finer details. Intelligence signifying Mercury is well aligned to intellectually ordained Uranus. That offers him a scientific bent of mind, and is highly intelligent. Mercury being well disposed of towards Mars grants him analytical abilities worth pursuing Engineering. He could do well particularly in Computer Science, as would Saturn and Ketu, together placed in the 3rd house marked with his basal instincts. All the more because 3rd cusp sub-lord Venus is posited in a Mercury owned sign Mercury and is tenanted in the nakshatra owned by Rahu in the 9th house, again in a Mercury owned sign Virgo. He does also carry the potential to do well in commerce as 10th lord Venus has benefic association with mind signifying Moon. Now it is up to him to take the final call. How well your son utilises these virtues will define his future course of destiny.

# Shape your destiny through conscious efforts



"I feel good to hear about my son's indwelling potential. Why then they do not reflect in his performance as on date?" Countered the man. Well, if he carries positive qualities, there are enough of inherent weaknesses also that stand in way of his potential side blooming out in full. Mind signifying Moon, incidentally the 8th lord makes him

habitually suspicious even of his own worth. All the more because Saturn is illdisposed off to Moon, which further creates self-doubt. Moon is placed adverse to Mercury, which means that he lacs focus, would be engaged in conflicting thoughts, and has a worrisome mind. Jupiter placed adverse to Venus makes him comfort loving. If that would not be

enough, Saturn and Ketu together does also bring in an escapist tendency, who may not take timely initiatives. Mars and Rahu together in a Mercury owned sign makes him dissipate his energies towards varied unproductive ends.

"Sir, is it possible to change his habit tendencies, as they die hard?" Asked the man. Don't forget that human beings

enjoy the exclusive privilege to guide their action by choice and discrimination. It is, however, equally true that choice option carries equal probability of use and misuse. That's the premise on which destiny stands. But here again, the choice option also enjoins upon a being to self-reflect, identify one's own weaknesses, acknowledge them, and then address them by making conscientious choice. One more good thing about your son is that his spiritual quotient is quite high. For, the lagna sub-lord Mars happens to be the 9th sub-lord as well, which is conjunct Rahu, the 5th sub-lord. When guided properly, he will be keen to pursue meditative technique suggested. If he does that especially before he sits for studies, he will be able to remain focused for long. Over a period of time, his mind will stabilise and will be able to overcome his inherent weaknesses. His indwelling potential will then play out unhindered to his full advantage. He may then be able to do justice to whatever discipline he opts for.

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