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PAK'S JUDICIAL IMBROGLIO INTENSIFIES

MONEY 6
'GLOBAL WINDS MAY HIT GDP, BUT INDIA RESILIENT'

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Apex court gave shock to Opp: PM

Modi slams dynastic netas; kicks off dev works, blames KCR Govt for delay in Central projects in State

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Taking a dig at political parties who approached the Supreme Court alleging arbitrary use of central probe agencies against Opposition leaders, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the court gave them a "jolt" by refusing to entertain their plea. Modi, who addressed a public meeting here after laying the foundation stone and inaugurating several development projects, also said the lack of cooperation from the State Government is leading to delay in the completion of several central projects in Telangana. Earlier in the day, PM Modi flagged off the Vande Bharat Express train between Secunderabad and Tirupati at the Secunderabad Railway station here. Secunderabad is the headquarters of South Central Railway zone. The Vande Bharat train will reduce the travel time



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the flagging off ceremony of Vande Bharat Express, in Hyderabad on Saturday. PTI Photo

between Secunderabad and Tirupati in the neighbouring State by almost three-and-half hours and will be particularly beneficial to pilgrims. Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu did not attend the inauguration of the Vande Bharat train between Secunderabad and Tirupati, and also Modi's event dedicating to the nation and laying the foundation stone of several development projects in Telangana. Rao has stayed away from the events of Modi during the latter's visits to the State for more than a year now. Observing that it is the people of Telangana who are at a loss, Modi urged the State Government to not allow any

hindrance in the works related to the development. "The non-cooperation of the State Government in Centre's projects is affecting the dreams of the people of Telangana," he said, while stressing on the State's progress as being important for overall national growth. Modi, who slammed dynastic politics, said his Government has attacked the real root of corruption of dynastic forces who want to keep their control over every system. "Should we fight against corruption or not? Should we fight against the corrupt or not? Should the country be liberated from corruption or not?" he asked the crowd. Continued on Page 2

PM Modi, Stalin camaraderie on show in Chennai



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the New Integrated Terminal Building of Chennai Airport on Saturday as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, State Governor RN Ravi, Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia and Union Minister L Murugan look on. PTI Photo

Warmth amid DMK-BJP strife in TN, Stalin batting for Opp unity

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Bonhomie between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin was on full display on Saturday during the former's visit here, as it came in the backdrop of persistent political face-offs between the ruling DMK in the State and the BJP. Incidentally, BJP State chief K Annamalai, who has already levelled allegations of irregularities against the ruling dispensation, has said he will soon release what he described as a "corruption list" involving the DMK Ministers. Despite everything, Modi was received by Stalin on Saturday at the airport here. After a warm reception at the Chennai Airport, the Chief Minister, also the DMK president, briefly held the PM's hand and patted it, while walking through the displays exhibited at the new Chennai airport terminal. The display of camaraderie comes at a time when the DMK is politically opposed to the BJP at the Centre and Stalin is battling for a Congress-led Opposition unity against the NDA Government. The State leaders of the two parties have been sparring over a number of issues. Tamil Nadu has been witnessing a war of words between the DMK and the Opposition BJP apart from the ruling dispensation's issues with the State Governor, RN Ravi. Continued on Page 2

'SC panel will be more effective than JPC'

But not opposed to JPC, says Pawar as he tries to soothe Opp feathers after his 'Adani being targeted' comment a day before

PNS ■ MUMBAI

In a bid to assuage the bruised feelings of Opposition leaders who are vehemently campaigning against the Adani Group, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Saturday made it clear that he was not opposed to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the allegations against the groups. He, however, added that a Supreme Court committee will be more effective. On Friday, Pawar had said that he believed the Adani Group was being "targeted" by unknown entities. "The issues that were raised, who raised them, we had never heard of these people (Hindenburg) who gave the statement, what is their background? When they raise issues that cause a ruckus across the country, the cost is borne by the country's economy. We cannot disregard these things. It seems this (group) was targeted," he said in television intervention. These remarks did not go down well with the Opposition parties which are targeting the Government over the Adani issue. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh responded to Pawar's remarks, saying that the NCP may have its view but the 19 like-minded Opposition



parties are convinced that the "PM-linked Adani Group" issue is real and very serious. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday said Pawar's stand will not lead to cracks in the Opposition unity in Maharashtra and in the country. Continued on Page 2

SC committee on Adani issue will have limited terms of reference: Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday said the Supreme Court committee to look into the Hindenburg research report on the Adani group has limited terms of reference and "cannot bring out the deep nexus between the Prime

Minister and the billionaire businessman". The remarks came soon after their major alliance partner NCP supremo Sharad Pawar said this panel will be more useful and effective than a Joint Parliamentary Committee to probe the Adani issue. Continued on Page 2

'Rahul raising Adani issue for political gain'

Jammu: Taking a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday slammed him for "deliberately" raking up the Adani issue. It is "deliberately" being made into an issue, the Minister said, adding that



Gandhi, who has "failed politically," is trying to "brighten his political career." "The Congress is in frustration and attacking the judiciary but the Government will not stay silent," Rijiju said. Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

- ANGRY CHINA FLIES JETS NEAR TAIWAN**
Beijing: China sent warships and dozens of fighter jets toward Taiwan on Saturday, the Taiwanese Government said, in retaliation for a meeting between the US House of Representatives Speaker and the President of the self-ruled island democracy claimed by Beijing as part of its territory.
- GUJ POLICE TO PROBE CONMAN'S BACKGROUND**
Ahmedabad: The Ahmedabad Crime Branch will probe the educational qualifications of alleged conman Kiran Patel who was arrested in Jammu and Kashmir last month for posing as a PMO official and was brought to Gujarat in the early hours of Saturday.
- WANTED CRIMINAL ARRESTED IN BIHAR**
New Delhi: A member of the infamous Ravi Gangwal-Rohit Choudhary gang, who is among the 10 most-wanted criminals of Delhi, has been arrested from Bihar in connection with a murder case, Delhi Police officials said on Saturday. The accused has been identified as Manish Sahu.

Exodus of leaders from Cong continues; Kesavan joins BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Exodus of leaders from the Congress continued this week as the great-grandson of C Rajagopalachari, CR Kesavan joined the BJP here on Saturday. Congress leaders from South — former CM Andhra Pradesh Kiran Reddy, Anil Antony from Kerala — have already crossed-over to the BJP in the last two days. Kesavan, hailing from Tamil Nadu and a Congress media panelist and more famously the grandson of first Indian Governor-General C Rajagopalachari, joined the BJP at the party headquarters in presence of party leader and Union Minister (Gen ret'd) V K Singh. Kesavan announced his decision to resign from the party's membership in February this year saying he had not seen any "vestige of the value that made him work for the party for over two decades". He said he had recently



CR Kesavan, great-grandson of India's first Indian Governor-General C Rajagopalachari, being welcomed as he joins BJP in the presence of Union Minister VK Singh and party leader Anil Baluni, at BJP HQ in New Delhi. (PTI)

declined an organisational responsibility at the national level and also refrained from participating in the "Bharat Jodo Yatra" recently undertaken by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Kesavan cited Tamil poet Tiruvallur saying "when crisis comes the best way to face it is with a smile" and maintained that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "faced Covid-19 crisis in a similar way". He effusively praised Modi's leadership. Continued on Page 2

"I know people in my house who got 'pucca' houses through PM Awas Yojana. 3 crore houses have been built... Amit Shah once said DBT was earlier 'Dealer Broker Transfer', but now it has become 'Direct Benefit Transfer'," said Kesavan. "I want to thank you for inducting me into the world's largest political party - BJP, especially on a day when our PM is in Tamil Nadu," he said upon joining the party. Continued on Page 2

China accuses WHO of smear on 'late response' charge

AP ■ BEIJING

Chinese health officials defended their search for the source of the COVID-19 virus and lashed out on Saturday at the World Health Organisation after its leader said Beijing should have shared genetic information earlier. The WHO comments were "offensive and disrespectful," said the director of the China Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Shen Hongbing. He accused the WHO of "attempting to smear China" and said it should avoid helping others "politicise COVID-19". The global health body's Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said on March 17 that newly-disclosed genetic material gathered in Wuhan in central China, where the first cases were detected in late 2019, "should

have been shared three years ago." "As a responsible country and as scientists, we have always actively shared research results with scientists from around the world," Shen said at a news conference. Continued on Page 2

Covid cases surge to 6,155

New Delhi: From 6,050 cases a day ago, the Covid infections surged to 6,155 on Saturday in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of active cases to 31,194. The daily positivity rate crossed five per cent on a national average and stood at 5.63 per cent. The weekly positivity rate stood at 3.47 per cent, said the Health Ministry. (Detailed story on P4)

CNG, piped cooking gas price cut by up to ₹6 in Delhi-NCR

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The prices of CNG and cooking gas piped to household kitchens in the national Capital on Saturday were cut by up to ₹6 — the first reduction in two years — after the Government changed the pricing formula of natural gas. The revised retail price of CNG in Delhi would be ₹73.59 per kg, ₹77.20 in Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad and ₹82.62 per kg in Gurugram. Piped natural gas (PNG) price has been reduced to ₹48.59 per standard cubic metre (SCM) in Delhi from ₹53.59 per SCM. The new prices will be effective from Sunday. The Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) which retails CNG and piped cooking gas in the city, shared this information on Twitter and said CNG in the national Capital territory of



Delhi will now cost ₹73.59 per kg, down from ₹79.56. Simultaneously, the rates of gas piped to household kitchens, called piped natural gas (PNG), has been cut to ₹48.59 per SCM in Delhi from ₹53.59 per SCM, according to IGL. The IGL's announcement follows Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MGL), which reduced the price of compressed natural gas by ₹8 per kg and domestic piped natural gas by ₹5 per SCM in Mumbai and adjoining areas on Friday. Domestic gas price has fallen to ₹6.5 per MMBTU from \$8.57 in March. Continued on Page 2

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Beauty is only skin deep. I think what's really important is finding a balance of mind, body and spirit — Jennifer Lopez



Striving for happiness could be making you unhappy – here's how to find your own path writes LOWRI DOWTHWAITE-WALSH

PATH OF HAPPINESS

Happiness is big business, with sales of self-help books in the UK reaching record levels in the past year. Perhaps that's because happiness is no longer the birthright of the elite. Just half a century ago, psychologist Warner Wilson seemed to suggest that you are less likely to be happy if you're uneducated and poor when he stated that a happy person generally is "young, healthy, well educated, well paid, extroverted, optimistic, worry free, religious, married, with high self-esteem, high job morale, modest aspirations, of either sex and of a wide range of intelligence".

Today happiness is something we can all aspire to. But, as many of us try out gratitude journals, meditation and positive affirmations, we often discover that they don't make us substantially happier. The same often goes for reaching the goals that society values – such as marriage, an interesting job or physical fitness. So is happiness just a myth? Research suggests no. The problem, however, is finding a recipe that works for everyone.

Wherever we turn, we are encouraged to strive for happiness. We're told it will make us better at parenting, work and life in general. So it's no wonder most of us seek happiness goals to which to aspire, whether they are based on cultural norms, self-help books or scientific research. However this pursuit of happiness can be stressful – and research suggests that it actually makes many people unhappy.

What's more, much of the research on happiness uses quantitative methodologies that report on what works for most people, for example by working out average results. Therefore, while insightful, studies about what makes people happy are not representative of us all. After all, people value fundamentally different things in life, from material possessions to intellectual growth.

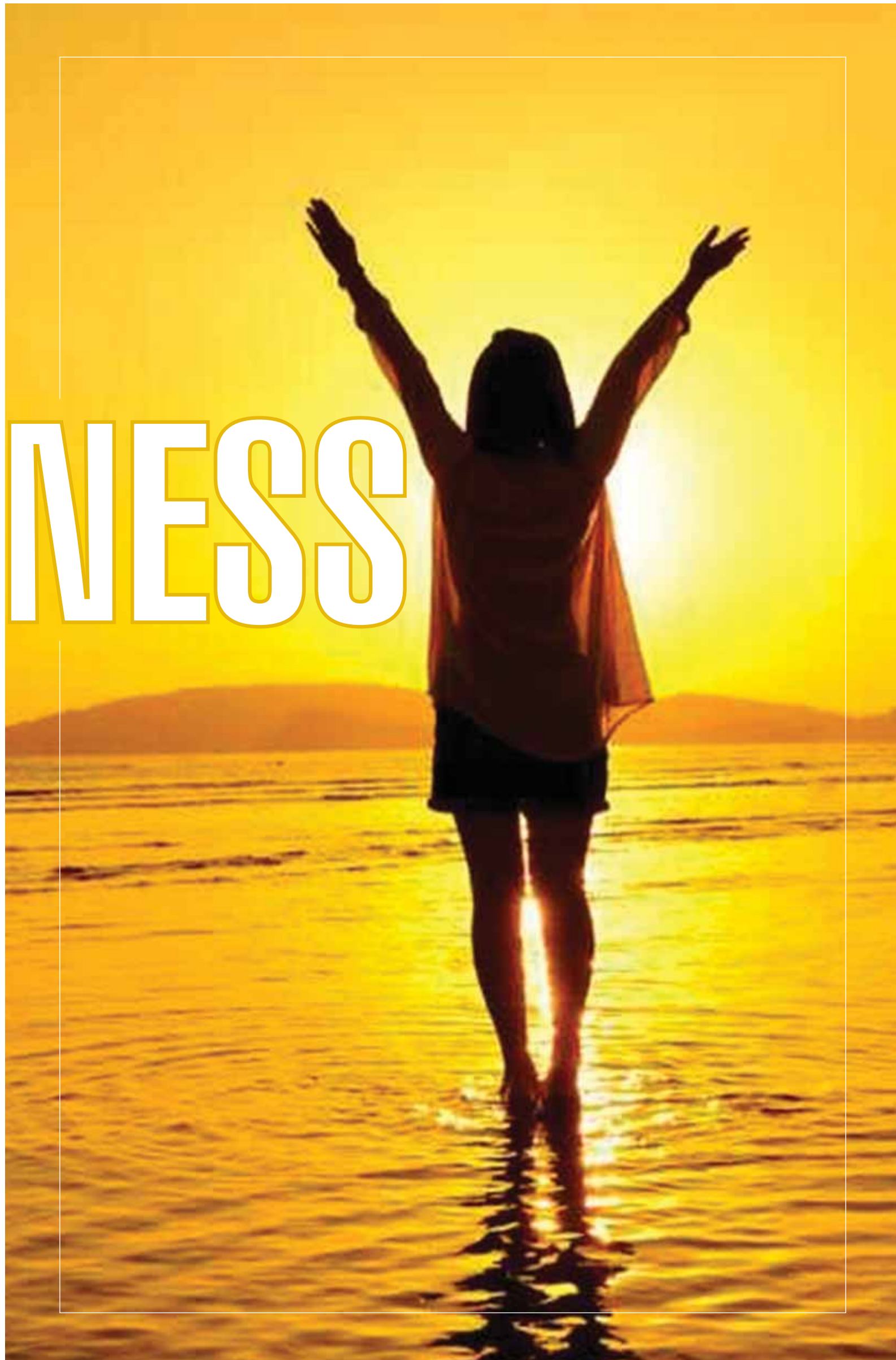
Originally, the branch of science most devoted to happiness studies – positive psychology – stated that well-being is all about maximising positive emotions and minimising negative emotions. But this approach has recently been found to be too simplistic. Recent research instead suggests that individual differences play a great role in our psychological fit for happiness.

MEANING VERSUS POSITIVITY

The view of many researchers today actually ties in with the ancient philosopher Aristotle's view of the "good life". Aristotle argued that happiness is not just about feeling good but about feeling "right". He suggested that a happy life involves experiencing the right emotions based on your values and beliefs.

Therefore, happiness is not simply about a hedonistic pursuit of pleasure, but a meaningful

“ORIGINALLY, THE BRANCH OF SCIENCE MOST DEVOTED TO HAPPINESS STUDIES – POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY – STATED THAT WELL-BEING IS ALL ABOUT MAXIMISING POSITIVE EMOTIONS AND MINIMISING NEGATIVE EMOTIONS”



engagement with life. At times it may be appropriate to be sad or angry as well as being optimistic and hopeful that things can change.

Meaning is a close relative of happiness. They often go hand in hand, but are two entirely separate constructs. It is possible to lead a pleasurable life, but without much meaning. It is also possible to experience a meaningful life dedicated passionately to a cause, but experience very little positive emotion. My own forthcoming study has found that meaning is more predictive of happiness in the long run – over and above positive emotions.

PERSONALITY AND MATURITY

But meaning and pleasure can be subjective. For one person, raising children in a stable and homely family house may be the best way to achieve meaning, while for someone else it may be travelling the world and learning as much as possible about it – with or without children. Research has indeed found that

people with different personalities differ in their experience of happiness. For example, people who are extroverted are more likely to feel fulfilled by a hedonistic approach to happiness. But for other people, this approach is not linked to a happy life. So if you are introverted, you may be more likely to find happiness by developing a meaningful purpose in life – whether that's charity work, art or family.

Studies have found that people who are "open to experiences" – meaning they like to explore new and unconventional things and ideas – are also more likely to report having a happy life. For these people, experiencing negative emotions from time to time does not significantly reduce happiness overall. They also report less fear than others of being "too happy", which naturally allows happiness to flow more easily. Perhaps another factor is that people who are open to new experiences are less likely than many others to conform to society's norms – including those about happiness. What's more, our personalities change over time – we tend to get

more emotionally stable and conscientious as we age. That means our approach to happiness may change. One qualitative study exploring the way individuals talk about happiness and personal growth found that people experience well-being differently based on what stage they are in of their conscious development, as determined by the researchers.

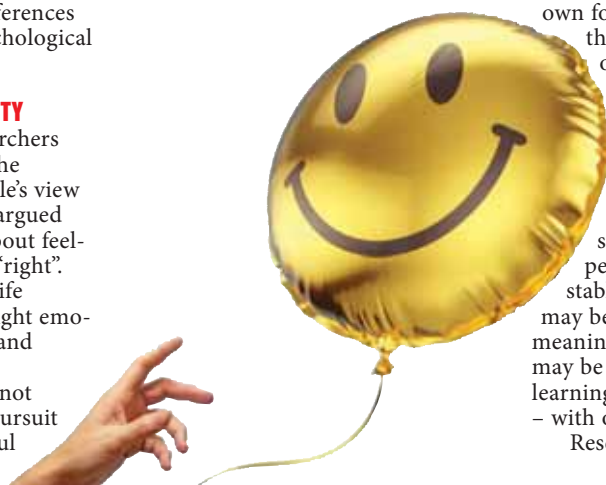
In the stages of early development, our happiness is mostly dependant on social norms – being loved and accepted by others. As we mature, we can differentiate between our own and other people's emotions in order to pursue meaningful goals. Even higher stages of development are associated with a self-transformation which involves a shift of awareness from pursuing goals to the process of living. For example, when it comes to family time, it may be more important to just be together than doing certain things as a group – such as going to Legoland because everyone else is. The researchers found that mature individuals exercised more control, choice and flexibility over their well-being, and that this opened up more opportunities

for happiness.

So it's unlikely that a few simple rules could make everyone happy. Even the "rule" that money can't make you happy is now questionable. More recent research shows that this isn't necessarily true, but depends more on how we spend money and whether this fits with our personality and what we value.

So the next time a well-meaning relative tells you that renovating your house will boost your life satisfaction, don't panic. We all have different ways of being happy and do not need to conform to a universal formula. As much as it is tempting at times to find happiness through learning from others – and being accepted by them – if it's someone else's version of happiness, it might not fit with you.

In fact, it is very possible that the social norms about what constitutes happiness make many of us miserable. Perhaps the key to happiness is truly getting to know yourself and having the guts to do what makes your life worth living at a certain point – regardless of what others say. (The Conversation)



ULTIMATE GOAL



The World Health Day celebrated on April 7 aims to promote awareness among people towards the importance of good health. **ARCHANA JYOTI** talks to people from various walks of life about the challenges and issues that need to be sorted out in the sector to achieve the goal of Health for All, which happens to be the theme for this year's D-Day too



strong and valuable inputs from the medical fraternity. As healthcare professionals, we are committed to ensuring that every individual has access to quality healthcare. We believe that the government should first focus on strengthening their own healthcare systems for the general public to realize that their interests are the primary focus and not just as a vote bank. However, after the recent protests, we are pleased to see that changes have been made to exempt small private setups from the ambit of the bill. Despite this, we feel that the remaining provisions still require better implementation and forethought.

This inner rhythm becomes the guiding force or the guiding light for our daily living, and helps us bring balance into the daily routine, bring focus and awareness to our diet, lifestyle and fitness regimen. It empowers us to transform our health. Further, learning about our own Ayurvedic body-mind constitution empowers us to make better decisions with respect to everything in life.

SANDEEP CHACHRA
Executive Director
ActionAid Association

"The Covid-19 pandemic showed that our current policies left no country prepared to handle such a health emergency. Since variants keep threatening the world, and new pandemics may also happen, it is time for all countries to scale up investment in public health services and ensure everyone has access to medical support. Making healthcare a fundamental right for all may be the desirable and much-needed way forward. And in doing so, we need to ensure that the right to health is to a free, good quality, universal, gender-responsive public service that remains sensitive to the diversities of populations it serves."

JR GUPTA
President

Senior Citizens Council of Delhi
The Health For All Day gives us an opportunity to create awareness about the problems faced by our senior citizens. I would request the Government that senior citizens should be issued health cards and allowed health insurance policy without any extra premium while health mobile vans should be deployed in remote areas across India. To ensure less medical burden on the patients, Health budget should be doubled and the health budget should be doubled. Also, the Delhi Government should implement National Ayushman Health Scheme.

Dr POONAM KHETRAPAL SINGH
WHO Regional Director
South-East Asia

Today, in the shadow of the Covid-19 crisis, around 40 per cent of people in the Region are unable to access essential health services. In 2017, around 299 million people in the Region faced catastrophic health spending, and an estimated 117 million people in the Region were pushed or further pushed below the purchasing power parity poverty line of US\$ 1.90 a day – a figure that has since been exacerbated.

As highlighted by the Region's 2021 Strategy for Primary Health Care, as well as the Region's vision to build back better from the Covid-19 pandemic, whole-of-government, whole-of-society action is needed to drive rapid and sustained progress towards UHC and Health for All. We must all contribute.

The Covid-19 crisis has shown that investments in UHC and health system resilience underpin not just health, but social and economic security, as well as the

achievement of an array of Sustainable Development Goals.

Policy makers and programme managers must continue to implement the Region's Strategy for PHC. A specific focus should be strengthening public health infrastructure, workforce and financing, while at the same time increasing equity for those at risk of or who are already being left behind. Shared learning must continue to be a core priority, leveraging the full power of the Region's new Forum for PHC-Oriented Health Systems.

Dr RAJESH KUMAR
Senior Consultant
Internal Medicine, Paras Health
Gurugram

Due to its huge population, India faces unique challenges and issues regarding public health. Poverty, illiteracy, language barrier, quality, accessibility and last-mile delivery of healthcare services are some of the major challenges our country faces in improving public health outcomes of the masses.

However, it is heart-warming to note that India has made positive strides in public health in the last several decades. But there is still a long way to go. For example,

India spends less than two per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) on healthcare and our out-of-pocket expense is one of the highest. The road ahead would be increasing our health expenditure considerably, improving public health surveillance and diagnostic and improving last-mile delivery of healthcare services through proper governance and a robust public healthcare infrastructure.

Dr GS GREWAL
Former President (Punjab Medical Council), SAS Grewal Multispecialty Hospital, Ludhiana

Successive governments have ignored Health and education despite the fact these two are the assets for the development of any society. There has been a meagre allocation of budget in these two sectors. Therefore we have witnessed corporatisation of health in the last few decades. No doubt every doctor is duty bound morally and ethically to give medical aid in case of emergency but their genuine grievances should be sorted out through dialogue. It

would be wrong to paint all the doctors with the same brush. Several corporate hospitals however have been allotted land at throw away prices but they have failed to comply with the clause of giving free medical aid in return. This is because there is complete failure of the regulatory bodies. Medical treatment has become very expensive and causes exorbitant burden on the out of pocket expenditure by the patients. It is time that regulatory mechanism should be strengthened. The institutions which have been given charitable status and have received benefits from the government should put up a board highlighting their charitable status and also mention the obligations due to them.

Dr SARVESH PANDEY
Orthopedician, Vice president
RDA, RML Hospital, Delhi
General Secretary, FORDA

As we talk about Health for All, it is important to introspect the Right to Health bill brought by Rajasthan Government in its original form. We believe it was a poorly thought misadventure without

Dr MANISH JANGRA
Founder FAIMA, MD Dermatologist

As you know Health is one of the fundamental rights according to article 21 of constitution of India. Being Fundamental right every citizen of India deserves a better & affordable healthcare that to be ensured by Government of India. Medical professionals born in India are providing quality health not just in India but as well as abroad making us proud but at the same time of recession economy slowing down the government of the day needs to support citizens of the country to get affordable and quality healthcare irrespective of socio-economic status. On this World Health Day We choose Health For All for this year for the same reason. Hopefully we will be able to achieve it.

AKSHI KHANDELWAL
Founder & CEO
Butterfly Ayurveda

The age-old Indian life science of Ayurveda refers to health as 'Swasthya', or 'Swastha' which essentially means to be rooted in self. It lays stress on practicing and learning activities that bring together the mind and body, such as 'Yoga', and the practice of 'Dhyana' meditation, to find the inner rhythm of your own.

HEALTH BRIEFS

GIMS, GREATER NOIDA CELEBRATES WORLD HEALTH DAY

NOIDA: On the occasion of the World Health Day on April 7, Government Institute Of Medical Sciences (GIMS), Greater Noida, UP organized a CME based on "Universal Health Coverage: Health for All". It was attended by Dr (Brig) Rakesh Gupta, Director, GIMS, Dr Suneela Garg, Professor of Excellence, Chair Program Advisory Committee, NIFHW, Dr Manish Chaturvedi, Professor, Planning and Evaluation, NIFHW, New Delhi among others.

Dr Gupta talked about the importance of celebrating World Health Day while Dr Suneela Garg highlighted the importance of strengthening the health system for achieving health for all. Dr Manish Chaturvedi dwelled in detail on measures needed for tackling the increasing number of non-communicable diseases. Dr Rambha Pathak, Dean, Professor & Head, elaborated about the steps taken by policy makers towards achieving health for all. Dr Anurag Srivastava, Professor, highlighted the role of Ayushman Bharat Yojana in improving health care for deprived sections of the population. A poster competition and a quiz competition were also organised for MBBS students and the winners were awarded certificates of appreciation.

WALKATHON HELD TO MARK WORLD HEALTH DAY

New Delhi: Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya led 'Health for All' walkathon on the occasion of World Health Day with an aim to spread awareness about healthy habits in order to keep away non-communicable diseases and to promote mental well-being.

Along with Mandaviya, Minister of State for Health Bharti Pravin Pawar also took part in the walkathon. The participants of the walkathon took a pledge to adopt healthy habits to prevent lifestyle-related health problems such as cancer, diabetes, hypertension, and other mental illnesses.

Ashim Sanyal, from Consumer VOICE, an NGO working in the field of consumer awareness said that such initiatives should be a regular features to create awareness among public regarding ill-health impact of the NCDs like hypertension and heart related ailments among others which currently account for more than 63 per cent of all deaths in the country and are huge burden on the economy as well as households.

Medical devices imports galore, what about Atmanirbharta?

India imported medical devices worth Rs 63,200 crore in 2021-22, up 41 per cent from Rs 44,708 crore in 2020-21 and this is not a good sign for Indian manufacturers. Even Budget 2023 didn't provide much relief to the sector. There seems to be a stalemate in this regard. Whereas, globally, other countries are doing better with their own consortiums/ groups in the MedTech sector.

With the majority of the devices being imported, the way out for Indian manufacturers is very limited. We are seeking policy clarity because if the government really has no wish to provide tariff protection or to make it profitable for manufacturing of medical devices in the country then the people who are importing will keep on importing then there is no point in trying to invest money in putting up factories.

What we noticed is that post Covid the imports have come down for the covid critical medical devices as demand fell, not for all but quite a few of them, at the same time there's been a steep increase of the import of non-covid medical devices.

There have been many cases where the imports have gone up from 25% to 152% which is extremely alarming and the government needs to seriously consider tariff and non-tariff barriers to address this particular issue as a tit for tat policy otherwise India will always be 80% import dependent. We've seen the gains done in the toy industry using non-tariff barriers, we've seen the gains done in the mobile phone industry and consumer electronics for using tariff barriers, a mix of both I would say are required in case of medical devices.

The Indian medical devices factories are audited by the Indian Certification bodies and then inspected by SLA but there is no Indian Regulators or Certification Body doing inspection or audit of the companies in China or the other countries and it's easier and faster to get an import License than a manufacturing License from CDSCO. That is not a level playing field, the domestic manufacturers do need a level playing field.

However, if the government starts implementing what parliament health



RAJEEV NATH,
Managing Director,
Hindustan Syringes &
Medical Device Ltd and
forum coordinator, The
Association of Indian
Medical Device Industry
(AiMeD), while speaking
to Health Pioneer, rues
that the domestic
medical devices sector is
being given step-
motherly treatment and
suggests ways to boost
the segment which
played a pivotal role
during Covid pandemic

committee has suggested and that's what AiMeD has also been recommending then there is definitely hope that what is 80% import dependency can convert into 60% market share for Indian manufacturers with even 70% of the recommendations of Parliament being implemented. The most important strategic recommendations made by the Parliamentary committee on Health are:

- To have a separate law for Medical Devices separate from Drugs Act
- Have a separate medical devices department considering these are engineering products not chemicals like in the case of pharmaceuticals
- The third area is the issue of review of tariff structure
- The area of review of the trade margins and the price control mechanisms to protect consumers and to support ethical marketing
- Another area which the parliament has recommended is the case of having a research linked incentive scheme and they've also recommended widening the scope of PLI scheme to cover more medical devices, lower investments as well as to cover critical components and raw materials which are key to manufacturing certain medical devices in the country

The Medical Device policy by itself has been on the anvil under discussion since 2014, multiple drafts have been made but the strong imports lobby manages to get the announcement delayed.

In the area of public procurement also it's important that the government needs to incentivize procurement by quality-based selection criteria rather than just the lowest price criteria, so to have an objective quality certification like ICMD (Indian Certification for



Medical Devices by QCI) as a criteria or Design India certification from DPIIT as a criteria to promote R&D and indigenisation.

We are unaware of the reasons why the government is shying away from providing the much-needed nominal custom duty protection to support investments in the medical devices sector to address the 80% import dependency. While it is understandable that the government seeks to protect consumers and would like to ensure that they access medical devices at a low nominal cost then capping of MRP over the imports landed price is more impactful for consumers, also equally important is the issue of healthcare security of the country which was shown when Covid came and the government had to resort to lockdowns so that manufacturing of medical devices could be done to provide support to the healthcare infrastructure and the healthcare facilities in the country as supply chains internationally got disrupted.

We request kind consideration of the government for encouraging domestic manufacturing to be sustainable and as an attractive proposition in long term for becoming Atmanirbharta to address national healthcare security needs exposed at the onset of Covid and for Ease of Doing business.



West's follies sowing dragon's teeth

China is on the move. The objective is to dethrone the US from the seat of global leadership. And some say, China is trying to create its own global order. Seen in this perspective, China's rapid advances in major fields are becoming a potential threat to the US and American friends in the dragon's neighbourhood like India.

Beijing's renaming of places in Arunachal Pradesh is an indication how Chinese President Xi Jinping is hell-bent on disturbing the sovereignty of India. However, China coming out with invented names for the Indian territory is not a one-off case. China does it purposefully just to flex its muscles. It is another matter altogether that a formidable Delhi under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi retorts in the same measure.

Second, China's recent war games in and around Taiwan have bearing on the peace across the straits and in the region. And precisely, China has been targeting Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen's regime since the visit of the US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the island in August last year. In fact, China showcased its biggest military might in decades near the self-ruled island. For long, trade, travel and communication between the island nation and mainland China were cut off, offering opportune moments for Washington to support regimes in Taipei.

One might say that China can display its might today just because of its sheer economic heft. It is fast expanding its weapon of economic imperialism all across the world, especially in Africa, Latin America and in island nations of the Asia-Pacific region. Decades-long animosity between Taipei and Beijing has reached a tipping point. And this regional conflict is feeding a big power rivalry between the US and the People's Republic of China (PRC).



US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., second from right, welcomes Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen as she arrives at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California on April 5, 2023. AP

Now the moot question is why the US is interested in protecting the island of Taiwan? Some argue that there are enough military, diplomatic and political reasons for the US to safeguard the interests of Taiwan as long as China represents a direct threat to the former locally and globally. For Taiwan, it is a sovereign state, but for China, it is a breakaway province.

For Xi, reunification of Taiwan in mainland China must be fulfilled. He said the reunification must happen peacefully, but also warned that the people of China had a glorious tradition of fighting

separatism tooth and nail. It is plain and simple that Beijing will not allow Taiwan to retain its independent status for long. Also, it is certain that China's growing economic and military might will allow neither the US nor any other power to aid Taiwan sufficiently to become a full-fledged independent state, leading to the membership of the UN in future.

While assuming the third presidential term last year, Xi warned that China will not renounce the use of force to unify Taiwan with the mainland. He also vowed to modernise the country's military to world-class standards to safe-

guard national sovereignty, security and developmental interests. Xi's intervention comes after China sent a record number of military jets to Taiwan's air defence zone.

When Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen visited the US and met US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy this week, China strongly protested against both Taiwan and the US. Xi said that it was wishful thinking to expect Beijing to compromise on Taiwan. The real threat to the US comes from two critical points in East Asia — the Senkaku Islands and Taiwan. Both these areas indicate a particular threat to geographic

advantage that the US and its allies enjoy.

The arduous task is to decipher what Xi wants from these covert and overt war games in the region. Is he directly challenging the US and its allies in East Asia or trying to send a signal to the rest of the powerful nations like India that they must not dare to cross the Red Line he has drawn? Xi is a megalomaniac who wants to grab every opportunity to cling onto power and prove that China can do whatever it wants to. And these issues keep the pot boiling.

It must be admitted here

that isolating Vladimir Putin and his Russia would be counterproductive for the West. This would offer China one more golden opportunity to bolster ties with Moscow and capitalise on the economic and military opportunities brought in by over year-long war in Ukraine.

The West led by the US should have been adequately guided by the talisman once Napoleon gave in the year 1817: "Let China sleep, when she wakes, she will shake the world." It is a reality now. China is absolutely shaking the globe by entering into every corner of the world.

Again, master statesman and founder of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew, who died in the year 2015, once said: "The size of China's displacement of the world balance is such that the world must find a new balance. It is not possible to pretend that this is just another big player. This is the biggest player in the history of the world." It is a fact. Time has come now to rethink and pose this dilemma in the West and in India.

China's biggest gambling is fast turning into real power games all over the world. America's declining power, disintegration in Europe, Russia's resurgence under Putin and the current military threat he is posing to the rest of his neighbours, disturbances in West Asia and in Africa, all are directly contributing to the backsliding of the global order.

Soon, the US will become number two. It would be really difficult for Washington to accept the reality and listen to the new global narratives set by Beijing. The process seems to have started. Within a decade or so, Beijing will take the centre stage.

Countries like India, Australia, Japan, South Korea, etc, would find it too difficult to challenge China unless they stand united. The AUKUS, QUAD and all other bilateral and multilateral alliances should put their efforts together to stop China's aggression. China will not be able to help itself indeed. It is not the time for war, it's time for global interdependence and partnership to advance one's goals and promote others as well. No one will listen to China's dictatorial terms and conditions simply set forth by the Communists in Beijing if nations understand the ulterior motive of the dragon. History could guide China better than the US or any other entity in the world.

(The writer is the Head of the Department of Arts and Humanities at Geeta University, Panipat)

Isolating Vladimir Putin and his Russia would be counterproductive for the West ultimately. This would offer China one more golden opportunity to bolster ties with Moscow and capitalise on the economic and military opportunities brought in by over year-long war in Ukraine



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Can't trust Language AIs for rational decisions

Until researchers figure out how to endow large language models with a general sense of rationality, the AI models should be treated with caution, especially in applications requiring high-stakes decision-making, writes Mayank Kejriwal of the University of Southern California

The past few years have seen an explosion of progress in large language model artificial intelligence systems that can do things like write poetry, conduct humanlike conversations and pass medical school exams. This progress has yielded models like ChatGPT that could have major social and economic ramifications ranging from job displacements and increased misinformation to massive productivity boosts.

Despite their impressive abilities, large language models don't actually think. They tend to make elementary mistakes and even make things up. However, because they generate fluent language, people tend to them as. This has led researchers to study the models' "cognitive" abilities and biases, work that has grown in importance now that large language models are widely accessible.

This line of research dates back to early large language models such as Google's BERT, which is integrated into its search engine and so has been coined BERTology. This research has already revealed a lot about what such models can do and where they go wrong.

For instance, cleverly designed experiments have shown that many language models have trouble dealing with negation — for example, a question phrased as "what is not" — and doing simple cal-

culations. They can be overly confident in their answers, even when wrong. Like other modern machine learning algorithms, they have trouble explaining themselves when asked why they answered a certain way.

Words and thoughts

Inspired by the growing body of research in BERTology and related fields like cognitive science, my student Zhisheng Tang and I set out to answer a seemingly simple question about large language models: Are they rational?

Although the word rational is often used as a synonym for sane or reasonable in everyday English, it has a specific meaning in the field of decision-making. A decision-making system — whether an individual human or a complex entity like an organisation — is rational if, given a set of choices, it chooses to maximise expected gain.

The qualifier "expected" is important because it indicates that decisions are made under conditions of significant uncertainty. If I toss a fair coin, I know that it will come up heads half of the time on average. However, I can't make a prediction about the outcome of any given coin toss. This is why casinos are able to afford the occasional big payout: Even narrow house odds yield enormous profits on average.



Furwee — The World's First ChatGPT Conversational Character for Kids from Animatic Media

On the surface, it seems odd to assume that a model designed to make accurate predictions about words and sentences without actually understanding their meanings can

understand expected gain. But there is an enormous body of research showing that language and cognition are intertwined. An excellent example is seminal research done by scientists Edward Sapir and Benjamin

Lee Whorf in the early 20th century. Their work suggested that one's native language and vocabulary can shape the way a person thinks.

The extent to which this is true is controversial, but there

is supporting anthropological evidence from the study of Native American cultures. For instance, speakers of the Zuñi language spoken by the Zuñi people in the American southwest, which does not have sep-

arate words for orange and yellow, are not able to distinguish between these colours as effectively as speakers of languages that do have separate words for the colours.

Making a bet

So are language models rational? Can they understand expected gain? We conducted a detailed set of experiments to show that, in their original form, models like BERT behave randomly when presented with betlike choices. This is the case even when we give it a tricky question like: If you toss a coin and it comes up heads, you win a diamond; if it comes up tails, you lose a car. Which would you take? The correct answer is heads, but the AI models chose tails about half the time.

Intriguingly, we found that the model can be taught to make relatively rational decisions using only a small set of example questions and answers. At first blush, this would seem to suggest that the models can indeed do more than just "play" with language. Further experiments, however, showed that the situation is actually much more complex. For instance, when we used cards or dice instead of coins to frame our bet questions, we found that performance dropped significantly, by over 25 per cent, although it stayed

above random selection.

So the idea that the model can be taught general principles of rational decision-making remains unresolved, at best. More recent case studies that we conducted using ChatGPT confirm that decision-making remains a non-trivial and unsolved problem even for much bigger and more advanced large language models.

Getting the decision right

This line of study is important because rational decision-making under conditions of uncertainty is critical to building systems that understand costs and benefits. By balancing expected costs and benefits, an intelligent system might have been able to do better than humans at planning around the supply chain disruptions the world experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic, managing inventory or serving as a financial adviser.

Our work ultimately shows that if large language models are used for these kinds of purposes, humans need to guide, review and edit their work. And until researchers figure out how to endow large language models with a general sense of rationality, the models should be treated with caution, especially in applications requiring high-stakes decision-making. AP

THE DEGREE OF FREEDOM FROM UNWANTED THOUGHTS AND THE DEGREE OF CONCENTRATION ON A SINGLE THOUGHT ARE THE MEASURES TO GAUGE SPIRITUAL PROGRESS
—RAMANA MAHARSHI



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

Among the family, there is peace, balance, mirth, and a good vibe. Yet, this week you must prioritize your health and finances. Pay attention to your intuition. A disciplined and methodical way of living will help you. Students and children are instructed to concentrate on their academics. Love affairs, movies, and romance will be distractions. There is also a probability of experiencing a fresh surge of emotions or vivid dreams. They might be the source of disagreement with your mother or have a negative impact on your academic career. Spending money on physical and mental issues will put you in debt. The week's theme is moderation and control. If you maintain this, you will have an easy week.

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

You are attempting to escape the situation and wish to relocate to leave the challenges behind. You lack the patience and courage required to restore balance, so you seek assistance. Your anxieties will originate from your underestimation of your own ability. There will be a wonderful message for you by mid-week. There is a communication, potentially from far away, regarding a vacation or professional change, or about a leadership position. Your children will also provide joy to the family. There will be a burst of new energy and perspective. By the end of the week, you're daydreaming and living in a fantasy world. You will feel too optimistic, wanting to get out and enjoy the world. You get a youthful and energizing feeling.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you are generous and kind. You give your friends and family your undivided attention. Financial assistance in the form of money and presents to others who are less fortunate can bring you joy. There are other signs that someone in your life wants to help you financially or emotionally by giving you advice that will put you on the correct road. There is a possibility of winning a legal case against you. It is because of your religious efforts in a past incarnation that you are receiving accolades and having nice things happen to you. A new connection or friendship may begin, or you may experience a new level of happiness and pleasure in an existing relationship, or any event related to an emotional beginning.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, your self-assurance and vitality are limitless. The stakes are high, and you are suddenly under pressure. This is when others get envious of what you have accomplished. Yet you stay on the ground and refuse to let your opponent's take control. This mentality is what helps you to succeed. There is joy in the family. There may be an opportunity to begin home construction or to lay a strong and stable foundation for a house. Married couples will maintain cordial relations and make key decisions for their children. Children are also a source of joy. Singles will find love by the end of the week. There is an elation of emotions too which may inspire you to pen down your feelings on the paper.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Navy Blue
Lucky day Tuesday



VirGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You are charming and want to be the leader everywhere you go. You try your hand at everything, picking up new friends along the way. You are well-liked and the focus of attention. You lead the squad and demonstrate your abilities. You may play a bully who is inconsiderate to other people's sentiments. Mid-week is a good time to rest. It is time to restore harmony to the mind, heart, and soul. You will find relief in a calm and tranquil setting. Towards the end of the week, you may experience emotional tension, misunderstanding, or an argument with a female supervisor at work or a senior lady at home. There will very certainly be conflict between parents and children.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Life has taken a sharp turn. There is a transition to the next stage of life. Every change has a purpose. Significant changes are coming your way, maybe in your lifestyle. An old attitude or notion is no longer useful to you, and you intend to let it go. For some, it's as if one door is closing while another is opening. You are effective at work during the week. You are the leader, and you will empower and enable others to assist in your absence. The mind and heart are in harmony. You will not be ruled by your emotions, but you will consider every decision you make. By the end of the week, your motto should be to broaden your mind, acquire new skills, and have fun while doing it.

Lucky number 39
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

There is an abundance of energy saved for you, which inspires you to give your all to your career/work. Individuals seeking promotions are only one step away from their objectives. Your confidential report will be reviewed by your seniors at the start of the week. You may receive notification of your promotion or increased income. Your consistent efforts and perseverance have been recognized. A retreat and a celebration in a picturesque location are also planned. Be wary of thieves since they may steal from you. Someone may try to steal your honour, ideas, or time, or create rumours about you to win a race or bring you down.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, you will be eager to enhance your talents, particularly your mental skills. As the week continues, so does my mental hunger. And you notice that your thinking is becoming sharper and clearer. Several misunderstandings will be cleared. You will be so preoccupied with your mental pursuits that you will overlook other aspects of your life. There is emotional unrest. There is a potential that your spouse will challenge you to file for divorce or will leave you. Take caution in this aspect. Establish a balance and set your goals accordingly. At the end of the week, you are lively and put out your best efforts at work. Your income will be increased, or you will be promoted. You will have a high social status or be given a significant responsibility.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Pastel Green
Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You are efficient and skilled in your profession. You understand not only what you must do, but also how and why you must accomplish it. You have excellent communication skills and are comfortable interacting with the public. You are confident in your abilities to create the desired consequences. It is your personality's aura, which illuminates your path to glory. The week is also favourable for financial dealings. There will be fresh prospects that will lead to greater success and prosperity. Money in the form of a gift, inheritance, wedding rings, and a marriage proposal are also indicated. Your previous efforts have been recognized. You also devote time to achieving your spiritual objectives. You must keep your feet firmly on the ground and trust on your common sense to guide you to success.

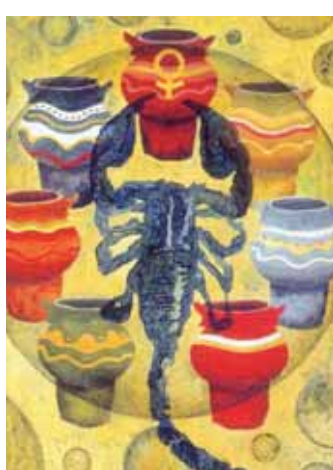
Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You are highly intuitive and work as a counsellor or psychic. You have the perfect solution to the difficulties of home, friends, and love. Hormone issues, depression, moodiness, and other similar addictions may stop you from living a normal life. Yet by the middle of the week, you'll be a completely different person. There is a shift in both your views and your actions. You are self-assured and in command of your emotions. You may feel sad, empty, or down, yet this will provide a means for you to rise again. There is loyalty, faith, determination, and a conviction that will lead to success regardless of the circumstances. A trip is also planned. Your horses keep the wheel turning, but it is your control and direction that gets you to your destination.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You alternate between nightmares and illusions. You are scared, dreamy, and on an emotional and mental roller coaster this week. There are concerns about the future, and family and friends are refusing to cooperate. The financial position is not good. Costs exceed income. There is loneliness, despair, and mental stress. Now is the moment to reflect on your mistakes and learn from them. Recall how you received more job, money, luck, and health, but you didn't share any of the benefits with anyone. You are always afraid, unable to enjoy what you have. At the end of the week, you will discover that you are in a position of good health, money, and comfort, but you are frightened of losing all of this.

Lucky number 29
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

The week begins with a pleasant surprise at work. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment of time and money have all paid off handsomely. You have a sense of strength and pride. You were not distracted by initial hardship and difficulty in achieving your goals. Collaboration and teamwork are already bearing fruit. Your compassion for one another and selfless efforts will be a bonus. You are the captain of your team because you have learnt to control your emotions. You may overindulge in wine, food, and romance towards the end of the week. There is a caution not to spend lengthy hours on online conversation; instead, cherish what you have. Meditation, prayers, and a wish to live in peace will overtake you. There is a need for balance, relationships, and other matters of the heart.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Make conscientious choice and redefine destiny



end up the way they are born. They can't evolve further to go beyond their sensory limitations, as they do not have a choice. Human beings, on the contrary, enjoy exclusive privilege to guide their actions by choice and discrimination.

But whenever choice option is there, the probability of its use and misuse becomes equal. And there is nothing like a free lunch in this world. You have to own up the responsibility of the choices made and bear with the consequences thereto.

The quality and content of the choices made and the actions thereto will decide the quality of life, good or bad, you become due for. This is the premise on which law of causation (destiny) stands. We, thus, become subject to a cause-effect chain. And it acts in self-automated mode. No assumed extraneous authority sits on judgment. The quality and intent of our work gets imprinted in mind. It not simply affects us in immediate terms, but its impressions get carried over to the next life in the form of thought-seeds parked in our memory. As and when these memory imprints get a congenial ground, they come into play. They, thus, keep guiding our life pattern unless otherwise consciously amended. Here again, if there is choice option in hand, it also enjoins upon us with the capability to self-reflect upon our inner frame of mind, identify its inherent traits - weaknesses as well as potential. Following which, we can make necessary amend through fresh educative inputs, transcend our mental and emotional limitations, expand our

vision and evolve. Also, hone indwelling potential to come out with one's best. We, thus, could make a conscientious choice to redefine our course of destiny. A befitting example is the concept underlying Lord Jagannath. He is shown without arms. The belief is that Lord lent his hands to human beings, for them to perform and accordingly, enjoy the fruits of actions, good or bad. Through good deeds you prepare the ground for a better tomorrow. You could also expand your reach beyond the known limits, and improve your striking power to improve the quality of life. Following this spirit only, science and technology have been evolving. Not simply that, you could raise even your level of consciousness (awareness) and evolve to return back and be one with the divine. Otherwise, you will remain stuck to the labyrinth (chakravayuha) of Maya (illusory living world). The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

Someone following my articles for long, came with loaded questions about the laws of causation driving the living world: "Sir, so far as I have understood from Indian scriptures is that it is through God's will that the manifest world with all its diversity and enormity has come into place. It is again divine power that holds the key to our dynamic existence with all our functionalities going on. So long as divine power is available to us, we are alive. The moment it becomes unavailable, one becomes dead. Here again, God decides our destiny - rewarding for good deeds and painful for all undesirable acts. Truth remains that it is divine power that drives all actions on our part, but our ahankara makes us believe that we make choices and are doers. Yet you confidently keep writing that we can make conscientious choice to turn life into a beautiful experience through self-efforts. Would it not mean questioning scriptural authority?" Well, it is usual human tendency to look at all happenings even at the invisible higher dimensions of the universe, the way it works for human

beings. That tempts them to believe that God (Creative Matrix) would act human like, who willed and the manifest world came into being. Exposure to Advaita Vedanta as explained by Shankaracharya, the summum bonum of Indian philosophy, however, suggests that the Primal-Source wherefrom creation began is formless and attribute-less. Kashmir Shaivism further elaborates that it is in nature of the Creative Matrix to expand and manifest into the world of names and forms, and it happens spontaneously. In the process a well-orchestrated system came into place, which works in self-automated mode. And that system works on different dimensions of existence and species varied ways. Much before the theory of relativity got discovered, there is a story in Mahabharata, which suggests that time scale operative at different dimensions of the Universe are relative. All species other than human beings are bound by the nature driven design parameters underlying their existence. They instinctively carry on their cyclic functions. The trees, plants, and the animal world begin and