

**WORLD 5**  
RUSSIANS BLOCKED AT US  
BORDER, UKRAINIANS ADMITTED

**MONEY 6**  
REFORMS IN I-T DEPT LED TO  
RECORD TAX COLLECTIONS: CBDT

**SPORT 7**  
SWIATEK IN INDIAN  
WELLS FINAL

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## Japan to invest ₹3.2L cr to boost ties with India

Japan PM picks India for his 1st foreign visit; Modi promises all help to investors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a major boost to the economic ties between the two countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said Japan will invest nearly ₹3.2 lakh crore or five trillion Yen (42 billion dollars) in the next five years in India.

He said Japan is one of the largest investors in India and assured all cooperation to Japanese companies willing to invest in the country.

Modi said the economic partnership between the two countries has seen progress and the two countries are working as "One team-One project" on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor.

The announcement of the 42 billion dollar investment package came after his summit level talks with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

The two countries reiterated their commitment to further strengthen economic, strategic and cultural ties, besides the Quad grouping to ensure rule of law in the Indo-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida during their meeting as part of the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit, at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Saturday

Pacific region. The Russia-Ukraine war also featured in their talks. It was the 14th annual summit between the Prime Ministers of the two countries. Moreover, it is the first visit of the Japanese Prime Minister abroad since assuming charge in October last year.

With China adopting an offensive posture in the Indo-Pacific, South China Sea and continuing tension for the last two years at the border in Ladakh, both the Prime

Ministers discussed China. Japan was apprised of the situation in Ladakh, the attempts of amassing the troops, and talks with China on border-related issues. Japanese Prime Minister briefed Modi on his own perspective vis-a-vis East and South China Sea.

"We made it clear that unless we have a resolution of the border issues with peace and tranquility, we could not consider the relationship (with

China) to be business as usual; normalcy would depend on the progress in issues we're discussing," Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla later said.

Incidentally, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is likely to visit India on March 24 or 25 and hold talks on early resolution of the tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC). He may also flag his country's concerns over the Quad combine.

Addressing the India-Japan Economic Forum along with Kishida, Prime Minister Modi said prosperity and partnership are the basis of India-Japan relations. "We are committed to providing all possible support to Japanese companies in India," he added.

The two sides inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of cyber security, capacity building, information sharing and co-operation after the talks. Japan is currently supporting India's urban infrastructure development as well as a high-speed railway based on Japan's Shinkansen bullet train technology.

Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had in 2014 announced 3.5 trillion yen in investment and financing over five years during a visit to India.

## Mann OK's 25,000 jobs in first Cabinet meeting

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In his first Cabinet meeting on Saturday, Punjab Chief Minister Mann approved filling up 25,000 vacant posts in various State Departments, including 10,000 in the police force. The process of advertisement and notification for these jobs would be initiated within a month, he said.

"In the coming days, we will also fulfil our rest of the guarantees (poll promises)," he added. The Chief Minister said 10,000 jobs will be given in the Punjab Police and the rest in various other departments, boards and corporations. He said the jobs will be given on merit.

Unemployment has been one of the major issues that his Aam Aadmi Party had raised during the just-concluded State Assembly polls. The party had promised to take the first Cabinet decision of offering jobs after it came to power.

The Mann Cabinet expanded to 11 on Saturday with ten MLAs being inducted in the Cabinet as Governor Banwarilal Purohit administered the oath of office and secrecy to them at Punjab Bhawan here.

All of them took the oath in Punjabi. Barring Harpal Singh Cheema and Gurmeet Singh Hayer, eight others are first-time MLAs.

Cheema, a legislator from Dirba, was the first to take oath followed by Dr Baljit Kaur, the



lone woman in the Cabinet and MLA from Malout. Next to take the oath was Harbhajan Singh from Jandiala, followed by Dr Vijay Singla from Mansa, Lal Chand from Bhoja, Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer from Barnala, Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal from Ajnala, Laljit Singh Bhullar from Patti, Bram Shanker Jimpa from Hoshiarpur and Harjot Singh Bains from Anandpur Sahib.

There are 18 berths in the Cabinet, including the Chief Minister, but Bhagwant Mann has gone for a lean Cabinet. Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann were among those present at the event.

Punjab Governor Purohit had on Wednesday administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mann in a swearing-in ceremony at Khatkar Kalan, the village of Bhagat Singh.

## Court charges separatists with terror funding

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A designated National Investigation Agency (NIA) special court has ordered framing of charges against Kashmiri separatist leaders Shabir Shah, Yasin Malik, former MLA Rashid Engineer, Altaf Fantoosh, Masrat Alam, Hurriyat and Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Sayeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin among others in a terror funding case.

Others charged include businessman Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, Bitta Karate, Aftab Ahmad Shah, Avatar Ahmad Shah, Naeem Khan, Bashir Ahmed Bhat, alias Peer Saifullah, and the like for criminal conspiracy, waging war against the country and other unlawful activities.

In an order dated March 16, NIA special Judge Praveen Singh said, "The above analysis reflects that the statements of witnesses and documentary evidence have connected almost all the accused with each other and to a common object of secession, to the commonality of means they were to use, their close association to terrorist/terrorist organisations under the guiding hand and funding of Pakistani establishment."

Notably, the court has discharged three namely Kamran Yusuf, Javed Ahmad Bhatt and Syedah Aasiya Firdous Andrabi. The case related to the various terrorist outfits LeT, HM, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) backed by Islamic State that perpetrated terrorist and secessionist activities disturbing security in Jammu and Kashmir.



The court further noted that money for terror funding was channelised by Pakistan and its instrumentalities, including the diplomatic mission which was used to fulfil the nefarious design. It also said money for terror funding was sent by proclaimed international terrorist and an accused Hafiz Sayeed wanted in India for various terrorist acts.

### CAPSULE

#### 5 DIE IN BUS ACCIDENT IN KARNATAKA

**Tumakuru:** At least five people died and over 45 others were injured in an accident involving a private bus near Pavagada here, police said on Saturday.

#### MERCURY RISES TO 36.6 DEG C IN DELHI

**New Delhi:** The national Capital reeled under early summer heat with the maximum temperature settling at 36.6 degrees Celsius on Saturday, making it the warmest day of the season, according to the India Meteorological Department.

#### CRPF JAWAN HURT IN SHOPIAN ATTACK

**Srinagar:** A CRPF personnel was injured in a grenade attack by terrorists in Shopian district of Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday, police said.

#### CHINA WARNS NATO MUSTN'T EXPAND EAST

**Beijing:** A Chinese diplomat says NATO should stick to what he claimed was a promise not to expand eastward. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng criticised the far-reaching Western sanctions imposed on Russia.

## Man accidentally stabs himself, dies

PNS ■ INDORE

In a bizarre incident, a 38-year-old man accidentally stabbed himself multiple times while dancing under the influence of alcohol in the Banganga area of Indore on Thursday.

The incident was reported in Kushwaha Nagar on Thursday night when Gopal Solanki (38), a tailor, along with his friends, was dancing following Holika Dahan ritual. Armed with a knife, Solanki allegedly stabbed himself as many as four times and started bleeding. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to his injuries, media reported.

Solanki and his friends were drunk at the time of the incident, police said.

The whole incident was caught on camera. A video of the incident has gone viral on social media.

Banganga police said that the deceased's body has been sent for post-mortem and further investigation is underway.

## One killed in bloody clash in Raisen

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

One man succumbed to bullet wounds and some people were injured in a clash between two groups in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district on Saturday morning.

The incident, in which people from both sides used sticks and stones and also resorted to arson and firing, took place in Khamaria Pauri village, some 115 kilometres from the district headquarters.

"Two shops and three two-wheelers were burnt in the violence. A man aged 25-26 succumbed to bullet injuries on Saturday morning. The injured have been admitted in Raisen district hospital and Bhopal's Hamidia hospital," Silwani Sub Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) PN Goyal told.

He said 17 people have been arrested so far, adding that the violence started after a man from one community slapped a boy from another community during an argument.

"We have recovered two 12 bore rifles and vehicles linked to the violence. Both groups have accused the other of firing," the SDOP said.

## Prolonged mask use can lead to dry eyes

Taping upper edge of mask can prevent harm, say researchers

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

In Covid times, the prolonged use of face masks, particularly N95 by health workers, is leading to the problem of dry eyes, a condition when tears aren't able to provide adequate lubrication for the eyes and if not treated in time can become a serious health concern.

With masks being one of the most important safeguards against Covid-19, ophthalmologists are seeing an increase in the number of patients coming in with complaints of dry eyes. Against this backdrop, a team of doctors, led by Dr JS Titiyal, chief of Dr RP Centre, AIIMS, conducted a study on the eyes of 50 healthcare workers regularly using the N95 masks.



mask can somewhat solve the problem of dry eye condition and other ocular surface issues in some individuals.

Pre-intervention, ocular surface parameters, subjective dry eye score and visual acuity were assessed at the end of an 8-hour shift when the subjects used an N95 face mask without taping the upper edge.

Next day, the upper edge of the N95 mask was taped to the nasal bridge in all subjects at the beginning of the 8-hour

shift, and post-intervention assessment was performed after the shift, said the study published in the American Journal of Ophthalmology.

"Symptom improvement was reported by 68 per cent of healthcare workers after an eight-hour shift wearing an N95. Mask taping may help reduce ocular surface issues during wear that occurs in some individuals," the study found.

The authors explained that

the primary mechanism behind the mask-associated dry eye was the mechanical desiccation of the ocular surface caused by inadvertent airflow, resulting from the reversal of the normal direction of exhaled air within the face mask.

The steady flow of warm exhaled air adversely affected the tear film homeostasis by causing increased tear evaporation, they added. Besides Dr Titiyal, the other authors were AIIMS doctors S Nair, M Kaur and Sah R.

Additionally, said the study, the outermost lipid layer plays a key role in maintaining tear film stability and preventing its evaporation and is directly affected by the exhaled air.

"Treatment targeting the augmentation of the tear film lipid layer should be considered in mask-associated dry eye patients, as it may play a key role in altering ocular surface stability."

### Has Feasting on Holi Delicacies Affected Your Digestion? Now Get Treated With Ayurved

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# Common University Entrance Test DU academic council to discuss changes in admission policy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Admission to Delhi University colleges from the next academic year could be solely based on Common University Entrance Test (CUET) scores, if a proposal in this regard is cleared by the varsity's decision-making bodies. The university's academic council will meet on Tuesday to discuss changes in the admission process to colleges in view of the varsity adopting the entrance test system.

With the implementation of CUET and based on decisions taken in the meeting, the Delhi University (DU) will be doing away with the earlier system of admission under which it used to announce cut-offs based on Class 12 board results. Moreover, the minimum Class 12 board exam marks to take CUET, will be the passing marks. The DU's academic



council will meet on March 22 to discuss changes in the admission criterion since the varsity has decided to opt for CUET from the 2022-23 academic year. The decisions taken in the academic council meeting are likely to be taken up in the university's executive council meeting, scheduled for March 25. The executive council is the highest decision-making body of the varsity.

The Standing Committee of the Academic Council in its meeting on March 17 had recommended that admissions to the varsity be solely based on CUET scores.

According to the minutes of the meeting, the members said that it will not be feasible to include any other criterion based on marks obtained in board examinations. The minutes stated that the members

felt that the eligibility criterion must be inclusive to invite a large number of candidates from across the country. "Minimum criteria should be rephrased as the candidates must have passed the Class XII examination or equivalent thereto from a single recognised board," read the minutes of the meeting. The members have suggested that candidates must appear in CUET in only those subjects in which they have cleared Class 12.

In case, the subject studied in Class 12 is not mentioned in CUET, members proposed that candidates must appear in the subject that is similar or closely related to the subject they have studied in Class 12.

"Merit will be calculated on the basis of combination of subjects in which a candidate has appeared in CUET as mentioned in the programme-spe-

cific eligibility," the minutes read.

The standing committee was also of the view that admission to all supernumerary seats, excluding foreign students, be done through CUET. It proposed that for admission to courses under the faculty of music and fine arts, and B.Sc in physical education and sports, combined CUET score and performance based test, with 50 per cent weightage to both, will be given.

It was also decided that admission to minority colleges like St Stephen's and Jesus and Mary, will also be done through CUET. During centralised counselling, separate merit lists will be generated for unreserved and minority candidates as per the reservation policy, for these colleges.

Under the cut-off system, these colleges released separate cut-offs and candidates willing to

get admission to these colleges had to fill two forms -- a college specific form and the university common form.

However, members have decided to recommend that admissions in the School of Open Learning (SOL) and the Non-Collegiate Women Education Board (NCWEB) will be according to the past practice. For the NCWEB, cut-offs are released, while for SOL, different subjects have separate eligibility criterion and different marks requirement.

The committee also recommended that the National Testing Agency (NTA) may be requested to add geology, environmental studies, languages in section-II (domain specific subjects) of CUET. If these subjects get included, appropriate modification will be made in the programme specific eligibility. According to the

tentative structure of CUET, there will be three sections. Section-I will have questions on reading comprehension, verbal ability, synonyms and antonyms. Candidates can opt one out of 13 languages for this section. Section-II will be subject specific and 27 subjects have been listed so far under it.

Section-III will have two sub-sections -- general tests for vocational and open eligibility programmes. Meanwhile, the members have suggested holding admission to post graduate and Ph.D programmes for the academic session 2022-2023 through the Delhi University Entrance Test (DUET), which will be conducted by the NTA according to past practice. However, they are likely to table certain relaxations in the eligibility condition in the light of the new National Education Policy (NEP), with due approval from statutory bodies.

It was decided that in the post graduate registration form, additional fields should be made to capture data related to CGPA, GPA and percentage.

The issue of admission for the College of Art, which was not being undertaken by the University of Delhi for the last few academic Sessions, was taken up for discussions in the standing committee meeting.

The Delhi University was informed that the Office of the Lieutenant Governor has in-principle approved the merger of the College of Art (COA) with the city-government run Ambedkar University, subject to its de-affiliation from DU. "The standing committee recommended that admission of the College of Art may be taken up by the university, in case it is not de-affiliated with the University of Delhi," the minutes read. DU has not yet approved the de-affiliation.

## 13-year-old boy, mother killed as speeding SUV hits their autorickshaw

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a tragic incident, a 13-year-old boy and his mother were killed while three others injured after a speeding mid size compact SUV, Tata Nexon hit an auto-rickshaw they were travelling in on the Barapullah flyover in southeast Delhi. Police said that they have nabbed the driver of the car, a college student.

According to a senior police official, the auto-rickshaw driver Wakar Alam (25), a resident Malviya Nagar, and the four passengers -- Janak Janadhan Bhatt (45), his wife Geeta Bhatt (38) and two sons Kartik (18) and Karan (13) -- residents of Vinod Nagar, were injured.

"They were rushed to the AIIMS Trauma Centre. Karan was declared brought dead while Geeta, who was on ventilator support, died during the course of the treatment.

Janak has been discharged from the hospital after the treatment. One of his sons and the auto-rickshaw driver are being treated at the hospital," said the senior police official adding, they were on their way back home after celebrating Holi at Janak's brother's house. "After ramming into the auto-rickshaw, the car also hit a taxi. The accused driver soon fled the spot.

The police identified the accused as Mukul Tomar (21), a resident of Noida Sector-78. He was driving rashly from Dwarka here to Noida with his two friends," said the official.

"A case under Section 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way) and Section 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Indian Penal Code was registered. Later, IPC Section 304A (causing death by negligence) was added," said police.

## 2,450 people penalised for traffic violations

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

More than 2,450 people, including over 190 for drunken driving, were penalised by the Delhi Police for traffic violations in the national Capital on Holi and Shab-e-Barat. According to data shared by police, a total of 2,456 challans were issued for various traffic violations and a majority of these were issued to motorists without helmets. The data further stated that a total of 196 challans were for drunken driving this year. The numbers were 100 during the last year and 647 in 2020.

A fatal accident took place on Friday evening in which a 13-year-old boy and his mother died and three others were injured after a speeding car hit an auto-rickshaw on Barapullah flyover. According to data shared by police, out of total, 1,921 people were fined for riding without helmets, 314 for triple-riding, 196 for drunken driving and 25 for dangerous driving. The Delhi Traffic

Police had made elaborate arrangements to check incidents of drunken driving and over-speeding among others, and ensure safety of motorists on the roads on Friday, the officials said. "The Delhi Traffic Police has made elaborate arrangements. Traffic police personnel will be deployed at major roads and intersections. Traffic teams will be deployed in different areas. We request you all to follow traffic rules. Do not indulge in drunken driving and triple-riding on two-wheelers and riding without helmets," Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Vivek Kishore had earlier said. Last year, Delhi Police fined 3,282 people for traffic violations on Holi. Out of total 3,282 challans issued, 1,255 challans were issued to those found riding without helmets, 170 challans for triple riding, 100 challans for drunken driving, 121 challans for dangerous driving and 1,636 challans were issued for other traffic-related violations.

## Suggestions invited from citizens

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Public participation has been ensured in making various schemes and programmes run by the state government more effective and beneficial for the welfare of the people. Various Groups of Ministers (GoMs) have been constituted for the purpose of improving the schemes and programmes.

Suggestions have been invited from the general public on mp.mygov.in portal to give suggestions to the GoMs. These suggestions can be given till March 25, 2022. Culture and Tourism Minister Usha Thakur, Higher Education Minister Mohan Yadav, Revenue and Transport Minister Govind Singh Rajput and Minister of State for Horticulture and Food Processing (Independent Charge) Bharat Singh Kushwaha have been included in the Group of Ministers constituted to effectively restart Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana. Kanya Vivah

Yojana : Water Resources Minister Tulsiram Silavat, Farmers- Welfare and Agriculture Minister Kamal Patel and Animal Husbandry Minister Prem Singh Patel have been included in the Group of Ministers constituted to prepare the detailed process and framework of the Kanya-Vivah Yojana.

Ladli Lakshmi Yojana: Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, Tribal Welfare and Scheduled Caste Welfare Minister Meena Singh Mandve, Farmers- Welfare and Agriculture Development Minister Kamal Patel and Tourism and Culture Minister Thakur have been included in the Group of Ministers for making the plan for the beneficiaries of the Ladli Lakshmi Yojana. Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Minister Bisahul Singh, Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar, Cooperatives and Public Service Management Minister Arvind Singh Bhaduria and Minister of State (Independent Charge)

for Horticulture and Food Processing Bharat Singh Kushwaha has been included in the Group of Ministers constituted to effectively keep the system of distribution of ration to the citizens of the state in front of the public.

Minister of Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion, Rajvardhan Singh, Minister of State for School Education (Independent Charge) and Minister of State for General Administration Inder Singh Parmar, Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) and Minister of State for Water Resources Ram Kishore Kawre and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Horticulture and Food Processing Bharat Singh Kushwaha have been included in the Group of Ministers constituted for effective promotion and implementation of CM Rise Yojana. Water Resources Minister Tulsiram Silavat, Medical Education Minister Shri Vishwas Sarang, Public Health and Family Welfare Minister Prabhuram

Choudhary, Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Minister Ramkhelawan Patel and Minister of State for Public Works Suresh Dhakad have been included in the Group of Ministers constituted to effectively implement the schemes of Public Health and Family Welfare Department.

Public Works Minister Gopal Bhargava, Finance and Commercial Taxes Minister Jagdish Deora, Minister of State for Public Health Engineering Brijendra Singh Yadav and New and Renewable Energy Minister Hardeep Singh Dang have been included in the Group of Ministers constituted to publicize the Jal Jeevan Mission. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Minister Bisahul Singh and Tribal Welfare and Scheduled Caste Welfare Minister Meena Mandve have been included in the Group of Ministers constituted for the scheme on the subject of Scheduled Tribes.

## DL-BJP-PROTEST BJP leaders, Kishan Morcha to protest near CM's residence demanding subsidies today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Delhi BJP leaders, Salong with party MPs, legislators and farmers, will stage a protest near Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence on Sunday morning to press their demands related to subsidies on agricultural equipment and fertilisers among others.

According to a statement by the Delhi BJP, the protest march will begin from Chandgi Ram Akhara at 11.15 am under the banner of Kisan Morcha, affiliated to Delhi BJP, and will culminate at chief minister's residence on Flagstaff Road. State BJP president Adesh Gupta, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, MPs

and MLAs, along with thousands of farmers, will participate in the protest march, the statement said.

Delhi BJP's Kisan Morcha president Vinod Sherawat said farmers have been sitting on an indefinite dharna since 40 days but neither Kejriwal nor any of the officials have met them yet. "Despite Delhi being nation's capital, the farmers are not getting their rightful due.

They get no subsidy on tractors, fertilisers or other farm-related items and end up paying commercial rate for power use for irrigation. This is gross injustice to them and shows Kejriwal's inhuman attitude towards farmers," Sherawat said in the statement.

## Man killed during Holi celebration

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM



The Gurugram police have arrested 3 persons for allegedly beating to death a 45-year-old man after a dispute arose during Holi celebrations in Kanhai village of Gurugram.

In connection with the incident, the police had booked five persons on charges of murder. Those arrested have been identified as Mithun, 29, Vivek, 21 and Asif alias Ashu, 19 all residents of Mathura in Uttar Pradesh.

During questioning the accused disclosed before the police that the victim, Rajender, and the accused are relatives and during the Holi celebration on Friday a verbal spat between them turned and they killed Rajender with sticks and bricks on his face and head and fled

the spot. They all work as sweepers. "A team of Sector-40 police station led by assistant sub-inspector with the help of police techniques nabbed the culprits on Saturday from Gurugram. The remaining two accused will be arrested soon," Subhash Boken, the spokesperson of the Gurugram police said.

Earlier, Based on a complaint filed by the victim's brother Aman, a case of murder and other relevant sections of the IPC had been registered against the culprits at the Sector-40 police station, police said.



Police personnel celebrate festival of colours Holi at Nehru Nagar Police line in Bhopal on Friday.

Pioneer Photo

## DELHI-HERITAGE-PARK

### New 'Heritage Park': Story of urban landscape transformation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mughal-era Red Fort on one side, are happy about this "urban landscape transformation" that they plan to replicate in neighbouring areas. "Today it is a beautiful park, but those who are not aware, may not believe that the plot of land was in a total mess, filled with dirt and encroached upon from various sides. Drug addicts from neighbouring areas would assemble here often and one can still find such anti-social elements across the fence of this park," said architect Kapil Aggarwal, who designed the park.

Conceived in 2017, the park has been built with civic body funds and contributions

from various MPs and former Union minister Vijay Goel who has been "striving hard for the development of this 'Heritage Park' in the Walled City area," officials had earlier said.

Goel, who is known for his penchant for heritage preservation and is the owner of the Dharampura ki Haveli, a heritage hotel in old Delhi, said this park has been developed in an area that earlier was messy and in a shambles. "Now, it has been transformed into a beautiful, vibrant recreational space that celebrates the heritage of Delhi," he said. "If you want to see, what this looked like earlier, go to the other side of the boundary wall which has been earmarked

for the second phase, towards the Jama Masjid side, and you will be able to appreciate the transformation. Once the second phase gets ready, the glory of this park will be further enhanced.

It will soon become a major tourist attraction in Delhi," Goel said. The new 'Heritage Park' near the iconic Jama Masjid has been developed using rich stocks of flowers and has structures built with traditional craftsmanship.

A white marble-made 'baradari' (pavilion) is the centrepiece of this garden. In the first phase, an area of about 1.75 acres has been developed at an estimated cost of Rs 7.65 crore.

In the second phase, the remaining 2.25 acres is to be developed at an estimated cost of Rs 10.03 crore. For the first phase, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) arranged Rs 4.70 crore from its resources, officials said. The second phase also envisages reviving the old water stream (referred to as 'nahar' by locals) that existed in a stretch located adjacent to the current boundary wall of the park, they said.

The park is also endowed with Mughal-style 'chattris', stone railings and lamp posts, borrowing design elements from the Red Fort's ramparts, ornate gates, a sunken open-air theatre, and also has toilet facilities.

## 24-year-old driver for fake claim of ₹20 lakh robbery

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 24-year-old driver for allegedly fabricating a fake robbery of Rs 20 lakh in north Delhi's Civil Lines area. The accused has been identified as Pawan Kumar, a resident of Rohini and native of Jharkhand. According to Sagar Singh Kalsi, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district, on Thursday, complainant Sushil Aggarwal, who has a business of grains, reported in his complaint that on Wednesday, he sent his driver Kumar to drop Rs 20 lakh at the office of his nephew in Netaji Subhash Place.

## Capital records 61 Covid cases, 1 death; positivity rate 0.68%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Saturday reported 61 fresh COVID-19 cases and one death, while the positivity rate stood at 0.68 per cent, according to data shared by the city health department.

The relatively lower number of cases came out of the lesser number of tests -- 9,011 -- conducted a day ago, which was a holiday in view of Holi festival.

With 61 fresh cases, the national capital's case count increased to 18,63,694 while the death toll rose to 26,146, the

latest health bulletin stated. Delhi on Friday had reported 140 new cases with a positivity rate of 0.43 per cent, and zero death. The city on Thursday had logged 148 cases with a positivity rate of 0.47 per cent, and one death. On March 5, 6, 10, 11, 13 and 14 also, the city had recorded zero fatality count. The number of daily cases in Delhi has been on decline after touching record high of 28,867 on January 13. The city had recorded a positivity rate of 30.6 per cent on January 14, the highest during ongoing wave of pandemic.



# CM inquires about the health of injured

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan visited Hamidia Hospital on Friday and met the injured of the incident near Khamaria village in Raisen district. Chief Minister Chouhan personally met each of the injured. Chouhan said that this incident is sad. Shooting is not a simple crime. The criminals will not be released under any circumstances. Chouhan has given instructions for the best treatment of the injured.



The Chief Minister said that Rs 5 lakh would be given to the family of Late Raju Adivasi, who died in the incident. An amount of Rs. 2 lakh will be given to the seriously injured Hari Singh and Ramji Bhai. The injured Narendra has an eye injury, and will also be given an assistance of Rs.2 lakh. Other injured will also be given an assistance amount of Rs 50,000 each.

Chouhan has given instructions for health check-up and complete treatment of all the injured. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the treatment would be completely free of all the injured. If additional arrangements have to be made, that too will be done.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that he would leave no stone unturned in the treatment of the injured.

Chouhan also met the kin of the injured persons present at Hamidia Hospital and assured them that all those injured in the incident are getting best treatment. Strictest action would be taken against the guilty also. No need to be scared. The local administration and governance stands with you.

The Chief Minister discussed with the Dean of GMC Bhopal Dr. Arvind Rai, Chairman of Orthopedic Department Dr. Sunil Tandon and other medical experts regarding the treatment of the injured.

The Chief Minister inquired about the well being of Kamlesh Kushwaha, Hari Singh, Ramji Bhai, Anand Sahu, Rajkumar, Ravindra, Mahesh, Narendra, Halke Ram, Ramesh and other injured by visiting their beds. Chief Minister Chouhan has also directed the Raisen district administration to provide necessary assistance to the affected families.

Commissioner Bhopal Gulshan Bamra, Commissioner of Police Bhopal Makrand Deuskar, Additional Commissioner of Police Sachin Atulkar, Collector Bhopal Avinash Lavania and senior officers were present.



Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with his party leaders and workers, playing Holi festival at his residence in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo



A Holi procession was taken out at Bhawani Chowk, Somwara in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

## Strong will power, yoga give energy

**Bhopal:** Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Gulmohar and Cassia saplings along with Shubham and Vedanta of Sankalp Sanstha in Smart Garden located at Shyamla Hills on Saturday.

The youths informed the Chief Minister Chouhan about cleanliness, environment-protection and other activities conducted by the organisation.

On World Environment Day, saplings were distributed to the citizens in association with the Municipal Corporation Bhopal. The organisation also organises Braille script workshops and provides other skill training. Most of the students are studying in Bhopal. All of them are active in creative works along with studies.

## With 40 cr customers, it is difficult to serve safely and securely through all channels: SBI

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

S Setty, MD (Retail & Digital Banking) said that with over 40 crore of customers it is difficult to serve safely and securely through all channels. Customers are responsible for fraud committed as they share personal bank accounts details, he added.

While talking to media persons, here on Saturday, Shetty said, "Being the bank with the largest customer base of digital banking with the help of cyber-crime and police safety measures are enhanced to meet the increasing number of fraud cases with the bank."



To retract money from the bank account of fraudsters is not possible as bank accounts are with different banks and conditions are different, still in

some cases money is safeguarded, he added.

Replying to a query, Setty said that there is provision of insuring the accounts but with

it comes with conditions and could not be generalised for each and every product which is targeted by the cyber criminals.

The expansion of systems and security is an ongoing process and maintaining continuity in services is tough.

Setty told that a helpline number for customers who face cyber fraud has been in operation and appealed to the media and other partners to publicize the same.

In the rural area the same means of spreading awareness are used which are used in urban areas, said Setty answering a question on spreading digital banking literacy.

## Vaccination drive for 12 to 14 yrs old children from March 23

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The vaccination drive against coronavirus for the children in the age group of 12 to 14 years will begin in Madhya Pradesh on March 23 for which 30 lakh doses of Corbevax vaccine have been received.

The national vaccination drive for the children in the 12-14 age group began on March 16. The health official had then said that the drive will begin in MP after March 22 once necessary training is given to the front-line staff.

"We have been sent 30 lakh doses of Biological E's intramuscular vaccine Corbevax to districts across the state," Madhya Pradesh

Immunisation Director Dr Santosh Shukla told.

The training of staffers concluded on March 17 and we are ready to roll out the vaccination drive. We believe in quality and that is why we are top in vaccination, he added.

Dr Shukla said that those born in 2008-2009 would be covered in the inoculation drive. Besides, children born on March 22, 2010, will be also eligible for receiving shots on March 23 on completion of 12 years, he added.

The MP immunisation director also said that 11.43 core doses of anti-COVID-19 vaccines have been administered so far in the state. On preparations for the

March 23 drive, he said ORS packets and water would be kept at the vaccination centres and would be given to children, if needed, in view of the hot weather.

Dr Shukla said that parents of 12-14-year-olds should give them breakfast before sending them to the inoculation centres.

He said that the children will be jabbed on the right or left shoulder.

Amid the declining trend of new COVID-19 cases in MP and the rest of the country, Dr Shukla cautioned against lowering the guard and cited a recent surge in infections in China.

"It does not take time for the new variant to cross over to other countries," he added.

## Programmes to mark 43rd foundation day of museum

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya under the celebrations of its 46th Foundation Day is organising various programmes and activities at its premises from March 21 to 23, 2022.

Rakesh Bhatt, Assistant Curator of the museum informed that the inauguration ceremony of the program will be held on March 21, 2022, at 6:00 pm by the Principal Secretary Culture and Tourism, Sheo Shekhar Shukla, in the veethi sankul premises. The exhibition of the 'Manav Sangrahalaya Journey from the Intangible to the Tangible' will be inaugurated, After that, the foundation day will be started

by lighting the traditional 1001 lighted lamp 'Al-Vilakku' of Kerala, at Veethi Sankul premises of the Manav Sangrahalaya on March 21.

After this, in the festival of regional cultures, the residents of the states of Kerala, West Bengal, Uttarakhanda, Chhattisgarh, who are residing in Bhopal, will be given cultural presentations of their respective states by the members of those communities. On this occasion, the traditional dishes of Bhil tribe of Madhya Pradesh will be available for the visitors at a reasonable price on 21st March in the Vithi Sankul premises of the museum.

On March 23, at 4 pm, the exhibition 'ajadi ke matwale' will be inaugurated in the Rock Art Bhawan of the museum.

## Day temperature dips in Bhopal, Khargone records highest of State 43 degree Celsius

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Day temperature dipped little in state capital on Saturday while five regions recorded heat wave conditions, day temperature reached 43 degree Celsius.

Narmadapuram, Ujjain, Dhar, Khargone and Ratlam districts witnessed heat wave conditions. Gwalior, Sagar and Narmadapuram divisions recorded high day temperatures. Mandla, Dhar and Betul recorded lowest night temperature at 17 degree Celsius.

Met department issued warning of heat wave conditions in Narmadapuram, Ujjain, Dhar, Khargone and Ratlam districts.

Khargone, which recorded the highest day temperature at 43 degrees Celsius in the state.

Met said that heatwave conditions are likely to be witnessed for next 2 days in western MP.



MP is expected to witness more heatwaves this summer. The maximum temperature is expected to be mostly above normal during this season.

The day temp of Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior was recorded at 38.3 degrees Celsius, four degrees above normal temperature; 38.7 degrees Celsius, three degrees above normal temperature; 36.6 degrees Celsius, two above normal temperature; and 36.4 degrees Celsius, three degree above nor-

mal temperature, respectively.

The night temperature of Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior were 21, 20.8, 21.5 and 19.6 degree Celsius respectively. It shows maximum and minimum temperature remained above normal and nights too were getting hot. Dry westerly winds blowing into MP from Rajasthan are expected to decline a bit on Saturday, which may bring down temperatures by around 1 degree Celsius in western parts of the state.

## 2 Nigerian nationals nabbed for cheating Mandideep youth to tune of Rs 60 lakh

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

State cyber cell arrested two Nigerian nationals who had duped a Mandideep based youth to the tune of Rs 60.9 lakh fraud were arrested.

The victim, identified as Manish Patel, who deals in Medical equipments in Mandideep, lodged a complaint with police that Rs 60.9 lakhs were duped by fraudsters in the name of facilitating job in United Kingdom.

Police who were investigating the case and found that the accused were operating from Delhi and narrowed down on the two Nigerian

nationals identified as Nzubechi Promise (28) and Godwin Favour (31).

From the two police have recovered 19 mobile phones, 21 SIM cards, 1 International ATM card, 1 Allahabad Bank ATM card, 1 laptop, 3 mobile boxes with IMEI other than the seized mobile and 4 mobile bill, copy of passport were seized from the accused.

In the complaint, a total of Rs 60,90,335 was deposited in the accounts of the accused from the bank account of the victim in the name of providing job in UK. The accused used WhatsApp call and chat from the numbers of UK, Nigeria and Indian. Interviews were also

conducted 4 to 5 times to gain confidence of victim.

The victim was cheated in the name of job and also posing as an officer of the Aadhar Exchange Company, received a gift packet from UK containing 65000 pounds cash, an iPhone, a laptop, a watch, a jewellery, a pair of shoes and a tee and above gift courier was also confirmed of the victim from UK number.

A total of Rs 60,90,335 were deposited in 18 bank accounts in the name of Aadhar Exchange Company Courier Charge Cash Charge, Registry Charge, Foreign Exchange Charge, Anti Terrorist and Antidrug Department Charge.

**VIPPY SPINPRO LTD.**  
 CIN : L01710MP1992PLC007043  
 Regd. Office : 414, City Center, 570, M.G. Road, Indore-452 001 (M.P.)  
 Works Office : 14-A, Industrial Area, A.B. Road, Dewas-465 001 (M.P.)  
 Phone : 91-7272-258251, 52, 405352, Fax : 91-7272-400121  
 Email: admin@vippspinpro.com, Website : www.vippspinpro.com

**NOTICE**  
 Notice is hereby given that the following share certificate(s) issued by the Company are informed to have been lost or misplaced and the registered holder thereof claimant has applied to the Company for issue of Duplicate Share Certificate.

S. No.	Name of Share Holder	No. of Shares	Folio No.	Share Certificate No.	Distinctive No.
1.	Kusum Lunia	500	31427	35597 35598 35599 355901-3559900 41750	3559601-3559700 3559701-3559800 3559801-3559900 3559901-3560000 4174901-4175000

Any person(s) who has / have any claim(s) in respect of the said Share Certificate(s) should lodge such claim with the Company's Share Transfer Agent at the Registered Office, at the address given below:

**ANKIT CONSULTANCY PVT. LTD.**  
 60, Electronic Complex, Pardeshipura, Indore-452010 (M.P.)  
 Within 15 days of publication of this notice, after which no claims will be entertained and the Company will proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificate.

For Vippy Spinpro Ltd.  
 Sd/-  
**Ayushi Solanki**  
 CS & Compliance Officer

Place : Indore  
 Date : 19.03.2022

**Bank of India, Kolar Road Branch**

**NOTICE FOR PUBLIC AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD JEWELLERY**

It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, persons engaged in business of gold jewellery/ornaments/coins and general public that in spite of repeated reminders / notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank.

Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including up-to-date interest and all costs charges / expenses) by **13-04-2022, then from 3.30 P.M. of 18-04-2022**, their pledged gold jewellery/ornaments/ coins will be put up for public auction in the branch premises. For this, Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard.

Persons interested to take part in the bidding should deposit Rs.500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only) with the Branch Manager before the scheduled time / date towards earnest money. Persons having taken part in final bidding must be able to deposit full amount to the Bank within 48 hours, failing which their earnest money, deposited with the Bank will be forfeited. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reasons in case, the bidding price so arrived at, is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if need be, Bank reserves the right to change the date, time or place of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon.

Account No.	Name of the Borrower	Address	Gross weight of the Gold
903177610000134	Jayant Shrivastava	A-19, Block No. 2, Bheemkunj, Kolar Road, Bhopal, M.P.	54.150
903177610000140	S/o Bhushan Shrivastava		21.110
903177610000149			49.800

Branch Manager

## 20-year-old prisoner ends life by consuming some substance

PNS ■ MANDSAUR

A 20-year-old prisoner committed suicide at district jail on Saturday; deceased was serving jail for sexual assault, suicide note was found from deceased claiming that Rs 7 lakh were demanded from victim's family members.

He had come to the district jail in January. In the morning he was found unconscious in the jail and was brought to the district hospital, where the prisoner died during treatment.

A suicide note was also found from his pocket in which he had written that he was falsely implicated. The people of the victim's side are demanding Rs 7 lakh to withdraw the case.

District Jail Superintendent PK Rana said that 20-year-old Dharmendra son Laxminarayan of Ajaypur Tehsil Suwasra, who was serving a sentence in jail, committed suicide.

A suicide note was also found from his pocket. The deceased was sentenced to ten years in the rape case registered at Bhanpura police station, when he was in Garoth jail. Apart from this, there is also a case of rape and POCSO Act in Jhalawar. Dharmendra was sentenced to 10 years in the rape case registered at Bhanpura police station.

He was sent from Garoth Jail to Mandasaur Jail on January 29. On Saturday morning at 9.30, it was reported that Dharmendra had a seizure of epilepsy and was taken to hospital.

## Annual general meet of SPS

**Bhopal:** Annual General Meet of Sagar Public School was conducted today as its Rohit Nagar branch in festive fervour. The meet witnessed presence of 600+ strong faculties of school along with presence of Principals from its branches of Saket Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Rohit Nagar, Ratibad, Katara Extension and Dwarka Dham. The AGM also witnessed presence of Manoj Shrivastava Retd, IAS as Chief Guest with presence of Founder & Chairman Sudhir Kumar Agrawal, Director Jaishree Kanwar and KK Dubey for the occasion. Addressing the gathering of teachers, Chief Guest Shrivastava said, "I congratulate Sagar Public School for mentoring the students by providing qualitative education."

G-24033/21

**ROHA HOUSING FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED**  
 Corporate Office : Unit No. 1117 & 1118, 11th Floor, World Trade Tower, Sector 16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh - 201 301.

### POSSESSION NOTICE (Under Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of Roha Housing Finance Private Limited (hereinafter referred to as "RHFPL"), Having its registered office at JJT House, A 44/45, Road No.2, MIDC, Andheri East, Mumbai - 400 093 under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated mentioned below under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names and addresses mentioned below) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower mentioned herein below having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein below and to the public in general that undersigned has taken Physical Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with the Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrowers mentioned here in above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the Charge of Roha Housing Finance Private Limited for an amount as mentioned herein under and interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower (s)/ Loan A/c No./Branch	Schedule of The Properties	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1.	LAN-HLBHPLSCPC000005001068/ Branch: Bhopal Cluster 1. Manoj Dubey, 2. Varsha Dubey Add : Ward No 04 Collectrate Colony Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh 464551	All that part and parcel of Property bearing: Plot No.232 Shriji City Ward No. 09 Haika No. 21/47 Khasra No 364/2 Talab Mohalla Raisen Madhya Pradesh 464551	21/07/2021 & ₹ 5,20,532/-	15-03-2022

Place : Bhopal  
 Date : 20.03.2022  
 Sd/- Authorised Officer  
**Roha Housing Finance Private Limited**



RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

India urges restraint, 'no biological arsenal'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As war rages in Ukraine and allegations of stockpiling of biological weapons there surfaced, India has urged restraint by all sides and strict adherence to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC). New Delhi also welcomed the ongoing talks between Russia and Ukraine.

Putting across India's viewpoint at a special session of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Deputy Special Representative to UN R Ravindra called upon nations to ensure the implementation of Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

This caution came in the backdrop of Russia claiming US funding to laboratories in Ukraine for developing biological weapons. The US has all along denied the charge and termed the Russian allegation 'internet-spurred conspiracy theories'.

Presenting his country's case, Ravindra said on late Friday India attaches high importance to BTWC as a key global and non-discriminatory disarmament convention, prohibiting an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.

He also said "We also believe that any matter relating to obligations under the BTWC

should be addressed as per the provisions of the convention and through consultations and cooperation between the parties concerned."

Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention is a disarmament treaty that effectively bans biological and toxin weapons. Earlier, Russia had claimed that the US was funding "military biological activities" in Ukraine. Both the US and Ukrainian governments have denied the same.

India also noted the remarks made by the UN Under-Secretary-General of Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu regarding biological activities relating to Ukraine and said "India attaches high importance to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) as a key global and non-discriminatory disarmament Convention, prohibiting an entire category of weapons of mass destruction."

"As outlined yesterday, India remains deeply concerned at the progressively deteriorating situation in Ukraine. We welcome the latest round of diplomatic talks between the Russian Federation and Ukraine," the Indian diplomat said.

Earlier this month, the Russian Defense Ministry unveiled new findings after analyzing documents obtained from experts from Ukrainian

laboratories.

Igor Kirillov, the chief of the Russian armed forces' radiation, chemical, and biological defence, said the Pentagon created a network of over 30 biological laboratories in Ukrainian territory.

According to Kirillov, the United States removed all materials necessary for further research from Ukraine after the beginning of Russia's special military operation. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Moscow may launch a consultation mechanism under the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) to discuss Washington's non-compliance with the document.

However, a US Defense Department official denied the accusations saying the United States is not assisting Ukraine with biological weapons in its war with Russia and there are no indications that biological weapons are being used by Ukraine.

Meanwhile, India also welcomed the fresh round of talks between Russia and Ukraine to reach a solution to end the war.

"We welcome the latest round of diplomatic talks between Russia and Ukraine. We believe that an immediate cessation of hostilities and diligent pursuit of a path of dialogue and diplomacy are the only ways forward," Ravindra said.

Azad meeting Sonia a welcome move: Kharage

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after accusing the G-23 leaders of attempting to break the Congress, senior leader Mallikarjun Kharage on Saturday said Ghulam Nabi Azad meeting Sonia Gandhi is a welcome move as the latter said he wants to strengthen the party.

In the meantime, a separate meeting of the G-23 and its now expanded form is being planned before the proposed CWC followed by a Chintan Shivir later next month.

Sources also said, party's former chief Rahul Gandhi, who has been in the line of fire over the party's successive defeats, is also scheduled to meet Azad in a day or two to take forward the agenda of change. Rahul has already met another G-23 member Bhopinder Singh Hooda.

Azad met Sonia on the occasion of Holi festivities after which he said leadership change is not an issue as the Congress Working Committee unanimously decided that she should continue as party chief till internal polls. Azad told reporters that he gave her suggestions to strengthen the party and held a discussion on how to take on rivals "unitedly" in the forthcoming assembly polls.

For his part, Kharage said: "We have always wanted that everyone should come together to strengthen the party. We are all responsible. Only taking the

name of the Gandhi family is not right. Many people said that at the Congress Working Committee meet."

Kharage had earlier criticised sections of leaders including Azad who have been blaming the Gandhi family for the Congress' electoral debacle.

"Ghulam Nabi Azad has been in the party for years. He knows everything, so he talked to signatories there. He met Sonia Gandhi. He has spoken about keeping the party together. It's a good sign. He said that he wants to strengthen the party. It is a welcome stand," he said.

Azad meeting Sonia came days after the Group of 23 pitched for an "inclusive and collective leadership" in the Congress. Former Union Minister and one of the G-23 members, Kapil Sibal had said recently that the Gandhis should step aside and pave the way for someone else to take over the reins of the party.

The G-23 has been persistently seeking a restructuring of the organisation since it first wrote to Sonia in 2020 after a string of electoral losses.

The grouping had, in a statement on Wednesday, said, "The only way forward for the Congress was to adopt a model of inclusive and collective leadership and decision-making at all levels." The group insisted they want to strengthen the Congress and "not to undermine it in any way".

Arbitration best dispute resolution mechanism for globalised world: CJI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India NV Ramana on Saturday opined that arbitration was the best suited dispute resolution mechanism for the globalised world.

He was speaking at the fourth edition of the International Conference on Arbitration in the Era of Globalization in Dubai along with his colleagues Justices DY Chandrachud, L Nageswara Rao and Hima Kohli.

Justice Ramana began his

address by underscoring the transformation of the world from when he first started in the profession and need of arbitration forums.

"Countries across the world have moved from being protectionist states to open economies," said, adding that there are so many different rules in each country on intellectual property rights, taxation, and even cryptocurrency.

"Harmonizing diverse interests while trying to achieve a common goal is a huge challenge," the CJI underscored,

opining that a globalised world demanded a dispute resolution mechanism that was acceptable and fair to everyone, where both parties got an equal say in the resolution of the dispute. In this context, he opined that arbitration was best suited as dispute resolution mechanism.

While listing the merits of the method, the CJI pointed out that international arbitration was party-driven, had procedural flexibility and involved domain experts. Further, it was a time-bound mechanism, structured to deliver immediate relief.

Parl panel asks MHA to 'fix timeline' to expedite operationalisation of NATGRID

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, headed by Anand Sharma, has advised the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to "fix a timeline" to expedite the evaluation, and delivery of products for the full operationalization of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID).

The NATGRID was the brainchild of former Home Minister P Chidambaram who proposed a united intelligence grid in which banking and income tax details were integrated with the intelligence network. But the Finance Ministry objected to providing banking and income data with the Home Ministry's network. Ironically, Chidambaram,

who later again became the Finance Minister in 2012, also himself objected to sharing banking and income tax data with NATGRID. The 238th report, tabled in Parliament on Monday, stressed the need for expediting operationalisation of NATGRID, saying "the Committee understands the importance of NATGRID for creation of a comprehensive network for intelligence inputs and access for intelligence and security agencies".

"The Committee observes that administrative approval and procedural delays are hampering the progress of NATGRID and leading to under-utilization of funds," noted the report. According to the first phase plan, 10 user agencies and 21 service providers will be connected with the NATGRID, while in later phases, about 950

additional organisations will be brought on board. In the following years, more than 1,000 organisations will be further integrated into the NATGRID.

They are the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, the Enforcement Directorate, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (for the Income Tax Department), the Cabinet Secretariat, the Intelligence Bureau, the Directorate General of GST Intelligence, the Narcotics Control Bureau, the Financial Intelligence Unit, and the National Investigation Agency. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) had given approval to the Rs 3,400 crore NATGRID project back in 2010 but its work slowed down after 2012.



It was Jashn-e-Holi for people with and without disabilities, organised by NGOs 'Yes, We Can' (YWC) and 'National Platform for the Right of Disabled' (NPRD) in Delhi

BJP announces one more candidate for Rajya Sabha polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday announced one more candidate for Rajya Sabha polls totalling five Upper House nominees from the party since Friday.

The BJP high command approved the names of Pabitra Bharherita from Assam, Sikandar Kumar from Himachal Pradesh, Manik Saha from Tripura and S Phangnon Konyak from Nagaland.

On Saturday, Rungwra Narzary, working president of UPPL United People's Party - Liberal (UPPL) was named as the other candidate from Assam. The voting for 13 Rajya Sabha seats across six states is scheduled to be held on March 31. These include three seats from Kerala, two from Assam, one from Himachal Pradesh,

Nagaland and Tripura each.

The scrutiny of nominations will take place on March 22, 2022. The counting of votes will take place on the day of polling on March 31, from 5 pm

Pramod Boro, President of UPPL expressed happiness over the selection of Rungwra Narzary, Working President of UPPL as the candidate for the ensuing Rajya Sabha election from Assam. "We extend our heartfelt thanks to our coalition partner BJP & AGP for giving us one seat of Rajya Sabha to contest", he said.

Around 63 RS seats are expected to fall vacant about four-months time from different states and need to be filled-up before middle of July when new president of India is to be elected by an electoral college comprising elected members of Parliament and state MLAs.

BSF to hold Seema Prahari Marathon on March 27

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force (BSF) is organising a Seema Prahari Marathon on March 27. It is open for both male and female candidates.

The Marathon has been divided into three categories—full marathon, half marathon and a five-km run. These are open for participation male and female candidates in two age groups—above 40 years and below 40 years.

All these races are open for participation to Indian citizens in addition to the Force personnel. All the races will be held at Amritsar in Punjab and will terminate at integrated check post (ICP) Attari, under Amritsar sector. These races will be held on the Amritsar-Attari road and will terminate at the Attari ICP.

There are cash prizes for all in these categories up to an amount of Rs 50,000 to the winner and down up to the fifth position for both the age groups.

The BSF has also provided a web link for registration of the civilian participants styled as <https://evantik.runizen.com/e/seema-prahari-marathon>.

Entry for the Force personnel is free of cost and the contact person for the marathon is Deputy Inspector General (DIG) (Operations, Punjab Frontier BSF.

BSF Director General Pankaj Kumar Singh has also invited his counterparts in other paramilitary forces like the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for enlisting participation in their ranks in order to make the event successful.

Rahul cautions Govt against inflation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Cautioned that inflation will rise further, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Saturday urged the Government to act now to protect the people of the country.

Asserting that inflation is a tax on all Indians, Gandhi said record price rise had crushed the poor and the middle class even before the Russia-Ukraine war began.

"It (inflation) will increase further as: - Crude > \$100/barrel - Food prices expected to rise 22% -

COVID disrupts Global Supply Chain," he said in a tweet. "Government Of India must act NOW. Protect people," the Congress leader said.

Retail inflation hit an eight-month high of 6.07 per cent in February and wholesale price-based inflation soared to 13.11 per cent on

account of hardening of crude oil and non-food item prices, according to government data released on Monday.

The rise in crude oil and natural gas prices after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which began on February 24, has put pressure on the wholesale price index.

Cyclone in Andaman & Nicobar; heat wave in T, Guj, Maha, MP, Andhra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

On the one hand, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands stare at the year's first Cyclone Asani on March 21, on the other, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are experiencing heat wave to severe heat wave conditions. Still more, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday said some states are likely to witness very heavy rainfall for the next couple of days. It forecasted that the heat wave condition is likely to abate from Sunday.

According to the IMD, a well-marked low pressure area over South East Bay of Bengal and adjoining South Andaman Sea is likely to intensify into a depression on March 20 and a cyclonic storm around March 21. The IMD said the weather system is likely to move nearly northwards along and off the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and intensify into a depression by the morning of March 20 and into a cyclonic storm on March 21.

Thereafter, it is likely to move nearly north-north-eastwards and reach near the Bangladesh-north Myanmar

coasts around the morning of March 22, 2022.

It has warned of light to moderate rainfall and thundershower on March 20 at most places with heavy to very heavy rainfall in a few places and extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places in the union territory. On March 21, light to moderate rainfall and thundershower is likely to occur at most places with isolated heavy rainfalls very likely over Andaman Islands.

Advisories have also been issued to all fishermen urging them not to venture into Andaman Sea and adjoining South East Bay of Bengal. On Thursday, the Union Home Secretary reviewed the preparedness of central ministries and agencies and the administration of Andaman and Nicobar

On the other hand, temperatures are soaring, leading to intense heat wave over many parts of the country. "An anti-cyclone has formed over western parts of Rajasthan. Hot and dry westerly and West North westerly winds are flowing across Rajasthan and western parts of Madhya Pradesh as well as parts of North India. Impact of these dry and hot winds is being felt over

Vidarbha, Gujarat, Konkan as well as over Telangana," the Skymet weather forecast said.

Jammu region, parts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are also under the tight grip of heat wave. While heatwave had made an appearance over Gujarat as well as Rajasthan, scorching heatwave conditions are now spreading their wings towards the states of Maharashtra and Telangana, resulting in maximum temperatures settling above the 40 degree mark in many parts.

Temperatures are above normal by 7 to 8 degrees over parts of Rajasthan, 3 to 5 degrees above normal over Delhi, Haryana and Punjab, 7 to 6 degrees above normal over parts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and 8 to 10 degrees above normal over Jammu division. Several regions of Maharashtra witnessed temperatures 40 to 42 degrees Celsius. The IMD said it had forecasted normal to above normal minimum temperatures in March in its seasonal outlook for March-April-May—especially over many parts of north-west India, west and some parts of central India, the east coastal region and some areas along the foothills of the Himalayas.

'Fish export earnings to reach ₹1 trillion by '24-25'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Coopexcil, cooperative sector exports promotion council under the National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC), held a workshop on Saturday to discuss measures to meet fisheries production and export targets under the central flagship Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

The Government has kept the goal of achieving fish production of 22 million metric tonnes and export earnings of Rs 1 trillion by 2024-25 under the flagship scheme.

"The flagship PMMSY has earmarked an investment of more than Rs.20,000 crore as part of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' Package.

"It is estimated that fish production in India would increase to 22 million metric tonnes and fisheries export earnings to reach Rs.1,00,000 crore by 2024-25," Sundeep Nayak, Managing Director of the NCDC said at the workshop held at Mangaluru, as per a statement here.

NCDC, the apex development finance institution of the newly created Union Cooperation Ministry has steered Coopexcil to realize the goal of cooperatives contributing a major share to GDP of India.



Stakeholders from a wide spectrum representing the fishers, cooperative institutions, fish processors, fish exporters, government bodies, academic and research institutions participated in the workshop which was held in partnership with Sahakar Bharati, the statement added.

Ramesh Vaidya, former National President of Sahakar Bharati lauded the efforts of NCDC in mainstreaming the potential of fisheries cooperatives of the region.

The workshop is the part of a series of fisheries exports workshops being organised by COOPEXCIL-NCDC with an aim to chalk out a road map for fisheries exports enhancement.

Officers from the Union Department of Fisheries highlighted the supportive ecosystem created in fisheries exports with discussion covering areas like seafood exports, infrastructure support for export promotion, deep sea fishing for

exports and quality standardization issues for exports. Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, former Union Secretary (Fisheries) and currently senior adviser in NCDC delivered a keynote address.

Bottlenecks in the region were identified and interventions required at various levels were drawn up. Other issues, like brand development, leveraging networks, market intelligence, joint ventures, vertical & horizontal expansion in aquaculture, introduction of new technologies, exchange of best practices, etc. were also highlighted, said the statement.

Experts from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa and Karnataka and from central organizations like NFDB, CMFRI besides experts from the College of Fisheries, Mangaluru also participated.

On the occasion, a pact was also inked between the NCDC and the College of Fisheries, Mangaluru.

Maa Vaishno Devi Yatra to be more hassle-free: Shrine Board member KK Sharma



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

KK Sharma, Chairman of KAIMIL Pharma, one of the leading Ayurvedic companies in India, along with seven other prominent personalities from various walks of life such as medical, judicial, civil society and civil services have been nominated as members of prestigious Shree Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the Chairman of Shrine Board, recently issued a notification for re-constitution of the board, nominating eight members for three years.

The other members of the Board are Mahamandeshwar Swami Vishveshvaranand Giri Maharaj of Mumbai, Dr Neelam Sareen, Dr Ashok Bhan, Suresh Kumar Sharma, Raghu K Mehta, all from

Jammu and Baleshwar Rai from Gurugram in Haryana and Delhi-based Kul Bushan Ahuja.

"We will initiate steps to make Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage more hassle-free to ensure satisfaction of the devotees over the board arrangements," Sharma said after being re-nominated for the member post. Sharma said he will specially emphasise on the construction of ropeway from Katra to Ardhquary and from Ardhquary to Bhawan and alternate routes for the pilgrims. "A large number of pilgrims take the yatra to Maa Vaishno Devi and on the lines of safe crowd management being adopted in Tirupati Balaji Temple where devotees are asked to wait at waiting halls at various places in case of heavy rush, can be implemented in Vaishno Devi temple."



# Fighting rages on multiple fronts

## Russia-Ukraine war

AP ■ KYIV

Fighting raged on multiple fronts in Ukraine on Saturday, with intense combat in the besieged port city of Mariupol — site of some of the war's greatest suffering. Ukrainian officials say their forces there are battling the Russians over the Azovstal steel plant, one of the biggest in Europe.

The war is now in its fourth week. Overnight, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused the Kremlin of deliberately creating "a humanitarian catastrophe, but also appealed for Russian President Vladimir Putin to meet him for direct talks.

The U.N. Migration agency says the fighting has displaced nearly 6.5 million people inside Ukraine, on top of the 3.2 million refugees who have already fled the country. Ukraine says thousands have been killed.

In city after city around Ukraine, hospitals, schools and buildings where people sought safety have been attacked.

In Mariupol, Ukrainian

troops were losing control of the key Azovstal steel plant, now damaged and heavily contested, according to comments from an adviser to Ukraine's interior minister.

"Now there is a fight for Azovstal," Vadym Denysenko said in televised remarks on Saturday. "I can say that we have lost this economic giant. In fact, one of the largest metallurgical plants in Europe is actually being destroyed."

Zelenskyy said in his Friday nighttime video address to the nation that more than 9,000 people were able to leave Mariupol in the past day, and in all more than 180,000 people have been able to flee through humanitarian corridors.

The Russian military reported on Saturday that it has used its latest hypersonic missile for the first time in combat. A spokesman for the Russian Defense Ministry, Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, said Kinzhal missiles destroyed an underground warehouse storing Ukrainian missiles and aviation ammunition in the western Ivano-Frankivsk region of Ukraine.

A 38-hour curfew was announced in the southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia, to last from 4 p.m. Local time on Saturday until 6 a.m. On Monday. Officials said two missile strikes on the city's suburbs a day earlier killed nine people. Local authorities there say they continue to evacuate people from areas occupied by Russian troops.

Meanwhile, the head of the Russian delegation in talks with Ukrainian officials says the parties have come closer to an agreement on a neutral status for Ukraine — one of the key Russian demands as its offensive continues. Vladimir Medinsky said Friday that the sides also have narrowed their differences on the issue of Ukraine dropping its bid to join NATO. But Mikhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Zelenskyy, tweeted: "Our



positions are unchanged. Ceasefire, withdrawal of troops & strong security guarantees with concrete formulas." The U.N. Human rights office says that it has recorded a total of 816 civilians killed and 1,333 injured since the Russian invasion began on Feb. 24, though it only reports counts that it can verify. It believes the figures vastly understate the actual toll. Ukrainian officials say thousands have been killed.

The office of the country's Prosecutor General reported Saturday that a total of 112 chil-

dren have been killed since the start of the fighting. More than 140 children have been wounded. Since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, AP journalists are relaying images of destruction, distress, and defiance from across the country. A soldier standing guard near the site of the strike in Lviv said he heard three blasts in quick succession around 6 a.m. A nearby resident described his building vibrating from the explosions and people panicking. Smoke continued to rise from the site hours later.

# 4 US troops die in Osprey crash in Norway during NATO drill

AP ■ HELSINKI

Four US soldiers were killed when their Osprey aircraft crashed in a Norwegian town in the Arctic Circle during a NATO exercise unrelated to the Ukraine war, Norway's prime minister and defense officials said Saturday.

Jonas Gahr Støre tweeted that they were killed in the crash on Friday night. The cause was under investigation, but Norwegian police reported bad weather in the area.

"The soldiers participated in the NATO exercise Cold Response," Gahr Støre said. "Our deepest sympathies go to the soldiers' families, relatives and fellow soldiers in their unit."

The aircraft was a V-22B Osprey that belongs to the U.S. Marine Corps, Norway's armed forces said. It "had a crew of four and was out on a training mission in Nordland County" in northern Norway, according to a statement.

It was on its way north to Bodø, where it was scheduled to land just before 6 p.m. Friday. The Osprey crashed in Graetaaldalen in Beirarn, south of Bodø. Police said a search and rescue mission was

launched immediately. At 1:30 a.m. Saturday, the police arrived at the scene and confirmed that the crew of four had died.

"We can confirm an incident has occurred involving a Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey aircraft," the US Marines said in a tweet. "The cause of the incident is under investigation, and additional details will be provided as available."

The annual NATO drills in Norway are unrelated to the war in Ukraine. This year they include around 30,000 troops, 220 aircraft and 50 vessels from 27 countries. Non-NATO members Finland and Sweden are also participating.

The exercises began on March 14 and end on April 1. No cause was given for the crash, but the Norwegian armed forces said that Cold Response "will carry on as planned, with the measures we have to take due to the weather."

A Norwegian rescue helicopter spotted the crash site late Friday and local Red Cross crews were assigned to assist police on the ground, Norwegian media said.

Norwegian newspaper VG said Red Cross members drove

close to the crash site with scooters and marked the trail with GPS for police in what they described as extremely difficult weather conditions early Saturday.

"It was a special night, it was a real storm. There were five of us driving towards the scene of the accident. There was one meter of visibility, snow and storm in the mountains," Red Cross team leader Oerjan Kristensen told VG. "I guess it was a wind gust of 30-40 metres per second. When it blows like that, it is difficult to stand upright."

Kristensen added that the rescue operation is being hampered by the risk of landslides in the mountains, and the remoteness of the crash site.

Police launched an investigation into the crash and accident commission members and police representatives were due to arrive at the crash site on Saturday.

"The weather is very bad in the area to complete work at the scene, but police will take it up again as soon as the weather conditions allow it," operations manager Ivar Bo Nilsson from the Norland police district told reporters.

# Biden warns Xi of 'implications & consequences' if China provides material support to Russia: White House

PTI ■ WASHINGTON/BEIJING

US President Joe Biden warned his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping that there would be "implications and consequences" for Beijing if it chose to provide direct "material support" to Russia amid its invasion of Ukraine and increasing attacks on civilians, the White House said.

The 110-minute secure video call on Friday was the first conversation between the two leaders since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The talks between Biden and Xi largely focused on Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the implications for the US-China relationship and international order, a senior White House official told reporters.

"He (President Biden) described the implications and consequences if China provides material support to Russia as it conducts brutal attacks against Ukrainian cities and civilians," the White House said in a readout of the lengthy conversation between the two presidents. Later, a senior Biden administration official refused to publicly detail what those consequences might be for Beijing, a close ally of Moscow.

"I'm not going to, sort of, publicly lay out our options from here," the senior official said. Ever since Russia launched a "special military operation" in Ukraine on February 24, China

has been treading a fine line, declining to condemn it as an invasion. The call between the two presidents was about making sure there is a "direct, candid and detailed and very substantive conversation at the leader level," the senior administration official said.

"President Biden detailed our efforts to prevent and then respond to the invasion, including by imposing costs on Russia," the White House readout of the meeting said.

Biden underscored his support for a diplomatic resolution to the crisis. The two leaders also agreed on the importance of maintaining open lines of communication, to manage the competition between our two countries, it said. Biden and Xi also tasked their teams to follow up on their conversation in the critical period ahead, the White House said.

At the same time, President Xi underscored that there have been and will continue to be differences between China and the US. What matters is to keep such differences under control. A steadily growing relationship is in the interest of both sides, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement in Beijing. On the situation in Ukraine, President Biden expounded on the US position, and expressed readiness for communication with China to prevent the situation from exacerbating, it said.

# Ukraine says 10 corridors agreed with Russians

AP ■ LVIV

Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk announced Saturday that 10 humanitarian corridors have been agreed on with the Russians.

They include a corridor from the besieged port city of Mariupol, several in the Kyiv region and several in the Luhansk region.

She also announced plans to deliver humanitarian aid to the city of Kherson, which is currently under control of the Russian forces.

In his nightly video address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russian forces are blockading the largest cities with the goal of creating such miserable conditions that Ukrainians will cooperate.

He said the Russians are preventing supplies from reaching surrounded cities in central and southeastern Ukraine.

Satellite images on Friday from Maxar Technologies showed a long line of cars leaving Mariupol as people tried to evacuate. Zelenskyy said more than 9,000 people were able to leave the city in the past day.

# Russians are blocked at US border, Ukrainians are admitted

AP ■ MEXICO

About three dozen would-be asylum seekers from Russia found themselves blocked from entering the U.S. On Friday while a group of Ukrainians flashed passports and were escorted across the border.

The scene reflected a quiet but unmistakable shift in the differing treatment of Russians and Ukrainians who enter Mexico as tourists and fly to Tijuana, hoping to enter the U.S. For a chance at asylum.

The Russians — 34 as of Friday — had been camped several days at the busiest U.S. border crossing with Mexico, two days after city of Tijuana officials gently urged them to leave.

They sat on mats and blankets, checking smartphones, chatting and snacking, with sleeping bags and strollers nearby as a stream of pedestrian border crossers filed past them. Five young girls sat and talked in a circle, some with stuffed animals.

Days earlier, some Russians were being admitted to the U.S. At the San Ysidro crossing, while some Ukrainians were blocked. But by Friday, Russians were denied while Ukrainians were admitted after short waits.

"It's very hard to understand how they make decisions," said Iirina Zolinka, a 40-

year-old Russian woman who camped overnight with her family of seven after arriving in Tijuana on Thursday.

Erika Pinheiro, litigation and policy director for advocacy group Al Otro Lado, said the U.S. Began admitting all Ukrainians on humanitarian parole for one year around Tuesday, while at the same time blocking all Russians. There was no official announcement.

A Homeland Security Department memo dated March 11 but not publicly released until Thursday told border officials that Ukrainians may be exempt from sweeping asylum limits designed to prevent spread of COVID-19. It says decisions are to be made case-by-case for Ukrainians but makes no mention of Russians.

"The Department of Homeland Security recognizes that the unjustified Russian war of aggression in Ukraine has created a humanitarian crisis," the memo states. Russian migrants in Tijuana sat off to the side of a line of hundreds of border residents waiting to walk across the border to San Diego on Friday. The line was unimpeded.

A 32-year-old Russian migrant who hadn't left the border crossing since arriving in Tijuana with his wife about five days earlier had no plans

# Minister: Clearing live ordnance in Ukraine will take years

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian Interior Minister Denys Monastyrsky says it will take years to defuse the unexploded ordnance once the Russian invasion is over.

Monastyrsky told The Associated Press in an interview on Friday that the country will need Western assistance to carry out the massive undertaking after the war.

"A huge number of shells and mines have been fired at Ukraine, and a large part haven't exploded. They remain under the rubble and pose a real threat," Monastyrsky said in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv.

"It will take years, months, to defuse them." In addition to the unex-

ploded Russian ordnance, Ukrainian troops have planted land mines at bridges, airports and other key locations to prevent the Russians from using them.

"We won't be able to remove the mines from all that territory, so I asked our international partners and colleagues from the European Union and the United States to prepare groups of experts to demine the areas of combat and facilities that came under shelling," Monastyrsky told the AP.

He noted that his ministry's demining equipment was left in Mariupol, a besieged port city of 430,000 people that has been subjected to relentless shelling for much of the war.

# Colombo opening doors for Indian investors

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ COLOMBO

As a shining metropolis soars out of the water along the Sri Lanka seashore, officials describe this newly developed Colombo Port City as an "economic gamechanger" that would even give Indian entrepreneurs an opportunity to invest in the global market.

Colombo Port City Economic Commission director-general Saliya Wickramasuriya said in an interview that the project will offer opportunities to Indian players because for us the Indian subcontinent is our largest target market.

Port City, is the huge expanse of sand reclaimed from the sea and is being transformed into a high-tech city. It will host an offshore international financial centre, residential areas and a marina - prompting comparisons with Dubai and Singapore.

"We do not want that comparison with Dubai and Singapore as they are well-entrenched global markets. We are the beginners and this Port City is an attempt to provide a global market," says Wickramasuriya.

Strategically located at the epicentre of South Asia, Port City, Colombo offers access to a thriving region poised for future growth and development as a key link between Asia and the West. Building on the foun-



dations of the rapidly growing Sri Lankan economy, this project will be a vibrant city; a financial centre that fosters a living, working and learning environment unmatched in the region.

"Port City is being envisioned to enhance Colombo Port's status globally through the addition of financial and economic resources, with the final goal to transform the management of Sri Lanka in the long-term," he said.

Being a planned integrated urban development and the first of its kind in Sri Lanka, the Master Plan was developed in consultation with SWECO of Sweden, Atkins of UK, and Suburna Jurong of Singapore.

A Master Plan and Development Control Regulations (DCR) have been set out for all the 269 Ha of reclaimed land to provide development regulations on urban design, utilities, landscaping and sustainability.

Wickramasuriya said: "Port City would be a modern metropolis with state-of-the-art infrastructure, blessed with Sri Lanka's tropical beauty supported by world-class administrative efficiencies provided at globally competitive process. Sri Lanka already enjoys a 70-80% cost advantage in the cost of doing business in comparison with Singapore and Dubai; this would be further enhanced within Port City."

He said: Port City offers access to a thriving region poised for future growth and development as a key link between Asia and the West. The legacy of intellectual, cultural, religious, and trade relationships between India and Sri Lanka is more than 2500 years old, and we hope to continue the same. We invite Indian and global businesses to leverage the many investment incentives we have created to enable enterprises to thrive and benefit from the state-of-the-art modern infrastructure embracing principle of sustainable developments."

He said that there's a lot of potentials for Indian businesses to move one step closer to

the world by coming to Sri Lanka because a lot of Indian goods get trans-shipped through Sri Lanka...So, this is why we are offering an international financial centre concept in a convenient physical location for businesses that are in the goods and services movement business.

Laying emphasis that this is a Sri Lankan government project Yamuna Jayaratne, Director Sales and Marketing, Port City Colombo said that the entire 269 hectares of land is owned and by the Government of Sri Lanka - a sovereign project of national importance, governed by the Port City Economic Commission, a direct arm of the government of Sri Lanka.

"The commission act as the direct arm of the government. Port City is envisioned to be a modern metropolis city to be built on a master plan built by global experts providing residential, hospitality, financial and entertainment assets to be built within the Port City," she said.

"Furthermore, Port City is Sri Lanka's first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to help Sri Lanka positioned as South Asia's largest multi-services hub including ICT, Financial Services, Logistics and other allied services based global organization invest in this extremely exciting investment proposition taking South Asia to the world," she said.

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Be it known to all that my client Sh Sunil Kumar S/o Late Sh Laxman Singh & Smt Sarawati W/o Sh Sunil Kumar both are residing at A-16, Samal Pur, Delhi-42, has severed his all the relations with his son Sh Sahil Kumar S/o Sh Sunil Kumar and Smt Priya W/o Sh Sahil Kumar R/o House No. 154, Gali No.7, Village Samay Pur, Delhi - 110042. My client has further disowned them from his all movable/immovable properties with immediate effect due to their misbehavior and misconduct. Any body dealing with them may do so at his own risk."

**ANIL KUMAR NIGAM ADVOCATE**  
Office: 64, Gajanan Block  
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that Vipin Vashistha and Paras Sharma are the owners of Property No. E/60, admeasuring 175 Sq. Yds., part of Kharsa No. 430 Vin having its old No. 466, 467 & 468, situated in the area of Village Mandawali Fazalpur, in the abadi of Jawahar Park, Block-E, Laxmi Nagar, Shakarpur, Main Road Vikas Marg, Ilaqua Shahdara, Delhi-110092 by virtue of Sale Deed dated 17.02.2003 (document no. 1022), whereas they have lost the following Documents:  
Original GPA, AT&S and Will dated 10.12.2002 executed by Surinder Paul Gupta in favour of Dr (Mrs.) Durga S. Gupta, FIR has already lodged in lieu of that dated 15/3/22  
All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.  
Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)  
Shop No. 5 & 6, Pt-E, CSC, Mayapuri Vihar-II, Delhi-91, 011-43052822, 9910063351

**Sale Notice**  
The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

S. No.	Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD
1.	ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. Glamour Advertising, O.A No. 154 of 2019	Vehicle No-UK17-0004, Make & Model - MERCEDES BENZ GL 350 CDI, Manu. Year-2014	14,00,000/-	1,40,000/-
2.	ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Zapdoor Engineering Private Limited, O.A No. 556 of 2019	Vehicle No-DL14CD7139, Make & Model - HONDA CITY ZX CVT I-VTEC, Manu Year-2017	5,00,000/-	50,000/-

**DD/PO of EMD has to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Ltd, payable at Delhi**  
**Auction Date: April 05, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.**  
**Place of Auction:** Godara Yard, Khatwal No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurgaon-122022.  
**Contact Person -** Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

**Terms of Sale**  
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at site with original KYC proofs to participate in the auction and also original DD of EMD. Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount) within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/ RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited wherein you have submitted EMD. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot No-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi-110085, for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**Whereas**  
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 receipt of the said notice.  
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 property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Yakshi Singh/ Sourabh Singh/ LBNOD00002160246	Flat No 2023 19th Floor, Block-C, Gaur Atulyam Plot No.-GH-01A, Sector- Omicron-I, Greater Noida/ March 14, 2022	July 06, 2021/ Rs. 26,30,922/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Aditya Mehra / Gopal Mehra / LBDLE00005053751	Flat No-F-304, 3rd Floor, Tower-F, Ninex City, Sector-76, Gurgaon-122001 Haryana / March 15, 2022	August 16, 2021/ Rs. 1,01,73,613/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Kumar Prashant / Kumari Bandana / LBGUR00004132131	Unit No 101, 1st Floor, IT Complex, IRIS Tech Park, Village Tikri, Sohna Road, Sector 48, Gurgaon, Haryana / March 15, 2022	July 23, 2021/ Rs. 81,48,151/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(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 provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.  
**Date: March 19, 2022**  
**Place: Delhi/ NCR**  
**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**



# Reforms in I-T dept led to record tax collections: CBDT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reforms undertaken by the Government within the Income Tax department and the "strengthening" of the Indian economy are among the major factors that led to the highest-ever direct tax collections in the country, which stand at over ₹13.63 lakh crore, CBDT Chairperson J B Mohapatra has said.

He said apprehensions about the state of the economy, battered by the COVID-19 spread, were belied as it "did so well and the corporates came out so well (in paying taxes)" during the current financial year 2021-22.

Mohapatra exuded confidence that the direct tax mop up, which primarily includes personal income tax and corporation tax revenue receipts, will continue its present streak and the department will be able to successfully chase the target of collecting ₹14.20 lakh crore in taxes in the next fiscal.

"It will be very difficult to say how things will pan out the next year but there is no room to say that good times only last



of time, in the budget or outside the budget, and are now giving the "rebound effect" or dividends, Mohapatra said. "The third reason, I would say, will be the reforms within the department... Which have been continuous in the last four years.

"Probably, we have changed more than ever in the history of this department and these reforms take a while to gather steam and create results," he said.

Mohapatra said after three-four years of working on the reforms, both the taxpayer and the department are getting acquainted with the new processes and procedures and they are "slowly bearing fruit."

"So, the point is that the reforms, once triggered, do not yield result right away but it takes time to sink in the mind, consciousness and also in the operational culture of the department. So, now probably the time has come in which we are seeing the results of the reforms in the department," he said.

The fourth factor, Mohapatra said, was "small but important" and is related to the technology induction in the I-T department. "For example, the annual information system (AIS) in which more and more information about the financial transactions they would have done in the year is now being delivered to the taxpayer.

This is taking them towards voluntary compliance. "Out of the over ₹13.63 lakh crore collection (as on March 16), only about ₹54,000-55,000 crore has come from regular assessment tax (under which tax is paid by the assessee after department issues notice to them).

"The rest of the collection is coming by way of voluntary compliance. This is happening because taxpayers are getting empowered with the financial information which is available to them," he said. Earlier, taxpayers used to "struggle" to get this information but now they have it at their fingertips, the CBDT chief said.

"So, this has also helped the taxpayer to pay right amount of taxes," he said. Mohapatra said that by the end of this fiscal on March 31, the net or actual tax

collections, after issuance of due refunds, should settle "upwards of ₹13.5 lakh crore." The I-T department was given a target to collect ₹11.08 lakh crore (budget estimates) this fiscal and it was later revised to ₹12.50 lakh crore. Mohapatra said collections under all heads have been the highest this time. He gave a breakup to substantiate his point.

This year till March 16, the collection under the advance tax category was ₹6.62 lakh crore, which is 40.7 per cent more than 2020-21, 50.6 per cent more than 2019-20 and 30.8 per cent more than 2018-19, he said.

Similarly, the collection under the tax deducted at source (TDS) category stands at ₹6.79 lakh crore, which is 37.7 per cent more than 2020-21, 40.5 per cent more than 2019-20 and 51.9 per cent more than 2018-19, he added.

The collection under the self assessment tax (SAT) category, Mohapatra said, stands at ₹1,34,318 crore, which is 34.9 per cent higher than 2020-21, 36.1 per cent higher than 2019-

20, and 42.9 per cent more than 2018-19. Under the regular tax category, he said, the collection is ₹55,238 crore -- 46.5 per cent more than 2020-21 and 8.9 per cent more than 2019-20. For STT (securities transaction tax for shares) category, the government had set a target of ₹12,500 crore at the beginning of the year and in the revised estimates, it was hiked to ₹20,000 crore, the CBDT chief said.

"We are more than ₹22,000 crore (by March 16). So, all components, sub-components, gross and net numbers are the highest thus far in the history of the department." These are very big numbers and this has come at most opportune time in history of department," he said.

Mohapatra said department has not completed a "sectoral analysis" yet to be able to say how various sections of economy fared. "Sectors which did well will be those that are doing well in current time like banking. However, we are yet to complete sectoral analysis. I will come back later to say which sectors have done well.

The contribution of affordable housing, priced up to ₹45 lakh, in total housing sales during 2021 declined to 43 per cent from 48 per cent in previous year, while share of units above ₹75 lakh increased to 31 per cent from 25 per cent, according to real estate consultant PropTiger.

In a report titled "Real Insight Residential - Annual Round-up 2021", PropTiger said that housing sales in eight prime housing markets increased 13 per cent in 2021 to 2,05,936 units from 1,82,639 units in previous year. As per data, 43 per cent of total housing sales in India's eight leading housing markets was within price bracket of ₹45 lakh. Share of units in price bracket of ₹ 45 lakh-₹75 lakh increased to 27 per cent in 2021 from 26 per cent in previous year, while share of apartments in range of ₹75 lakh to ₹1 crore rose to 11 per cent from 9 per cent. The share of units costing above ₹1 crore hiked to 20 per cent from 16 per cent. The eight major cities are--Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Delhi-NCR (Gurgaon, Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad and Faridabad), MMR (Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Thane) and Pune. PropTiger said that policy support from government is seen fuelling attraction for affordable homes in India in 2021.

Under Section 80EEA of Income Tax law, India offers its first-time homebuyers an additional tax deduction of ₹1.50 lakh if unit is worth up to ₹45 lakh. Such a borrower can also claim subsidy under PMAY. "In addition to government subsidies, record low home loan interest rates too, have been a great driver of home sales in country in 2021 even as economy slowly recovered from shock of second wave of pandemic during year," said Dhruv Agarwala, Group CEO, Housing.Com, PropTiger.Com and Makaan.Com.

# Affordable segment's share in total housing sales falls to 43 pc in 2021: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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# BIS to intensify activities related to promotion of quality standards

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) will increase its activities to promote its various quality norms through engagement organisations and NGOs. As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav 'Iconic Week' celebrations, a webinar was organized at BIS headquarters on 'Engagement of Consumer Organization & NGOs in Standards Promotion Activities of BIS', an official statement said.

While inaugurating webinar, Pramod Kumar Tiwari, Director General, BIS, explained about the genesis of consumer movement in different parts of world and important role it played in improving quality ecosystem.

He also highlighted role of consumer organisations and NGOs in development of standards and how they act as a bridge between government, regulators and common consumers. "Tiwari also explained need for intensifying Standards Promotion activities of BIS,"

statement said. During webinar, the participants were informed about recent guidelines of BIS for engagement of Consumer Organizations and NGOs in work of standards promotion activities including formation and operation of Standards Clubs, awareness programmes, door-to-door campaigns.

Consumer Engagement Portal, recently developed by BIS was also demonstrated to participants. The features included easy registration of Consumer Organizations and NGOs with BIS using their unique NGO Darpan ID and PAN Card Number.

The processes related to viewing guidelines issued by BIS, programmes offered by BIS for collaboration and submission of proposals by COs / NGOs were also demonstrated. The consumer organizations and NGOs actively participated and welcomed this initiative of BIS. They also expressed that they are looking forward to collaborating with BIS to spread message of standards and quality country-wide.

# 181 new companies, 10,400 jobs created in IT sector despite Covid: Kerala CM

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Despite COVID-19, the information-technology industry in Kerala has showcased growth with the opening of 181 new companies in IT parks and creating over 10,000 new jobs, Chief Minister of State Pinarayi Vijayan said on Friday. Developmental activities, focus on IT parks, and various concessions granted by government have helped not only to retain existing entrepreneurs but also attract new groups, he said in Malayalam in social media. During the pandemic, the 181 companies - 41 in Technopark here, 100 in Kochi-based Infopark and 40 in Cyber Park in Kozhikode-came into being, he said. "As many as 10,400 job openings have been created in IT parks alone during period," Vijayan said. In addition to infrastructural expansion to improve business environment, the government introduced better marketing mechanisms to attract national and international IT companies.

# India is in final talks to start wheat export to Egypt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: India is in final talks to start wheat export to Egypt while discussions are going on with countries like China, Turkey, China and Iran to begin outbound shipments of commodity, the commerce ministry said on Saturday. It said that India's wheat exports increased to \$1.74 billion during April-January 2021-22 as against \$340.17 million in same period last year. In 2019-20, wheat exports were worth \$61.84 million, which rose to \$549.67 million in 2020-21, it said. It also said that Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has recently organized a meeting of key stakeholders in value chain for promoting exports to those countries which have a huge shipment potential in the wake of global supply chain disruptions due to Russia-Ukraine conflict. "At the meeting, the Railways assured to make available sufficient rakes to meet any immediate demand for additional wheat transport. PTI

# Asian shares retreat as oil climbs back above \$100

## World shares mixed after oil climbs back

AP ■ NEW YORK

Shares have opened lower in Europe after gains for most Asian benchmarks as oil prices hovered above USD100 per barrel. Stocks rose in Tokyo and Shanghai but fell in Paris, Frankfurt and London. U.S. Futures were lower. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called for more help for his country after days of bombardment of civilian sites in multiple cities over the past few days. The war, and plans for President Joe Biden to speak with Chinese President Xi Jinping later Friday were among uncertainties overhanging markets. The White House said conversation will center on "managing the competition between our two countries as well as Russia's war against Ukraine and other issues of mutual concern." Germany's DAX slipped 0.3 per cent to 14,357.48 and CAC 40 in Paris lost 0.5 per cent to 6,583.42. Britain's FTSE 100 lost 0.2 per cent to 7,368.02. The futures for S&P 500 and Dow industrials were 0.4 per cent lower. Wrapping up a two-day meeting, the Bank of Japan opted to keep its monetary policy unchanged, with its benchmark interest rate at minus 0.1 per cent. Japan's central bank has been keeping interest rates ultra low and pumping tens of billions of dollars into world's third largest economy for years, trying to spur faster growth.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index rose 0.7 per cent to 26,827.43 and S&P 500 rose 0.2 per cent to 2,794.40. Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 0.4 per cent to 21,412.40 after barreling higher for two days after Chinese leaders promised to provide more support for economy and markets, suggesting Beijing might temper its crackdowns on technology and real estate companies.

AP ■ BANGKOK

Shares were mostly lower in Asia on Friday after Wall Street extended a rally into a third day and oil prices pushed higher, surpassing USD 105 per barrel. Tokyo and Sydney advanced while Hong Kong, Shanghai and Seoul declined. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called for more help for his country after days of bombardment of civilian sites in multiple cities over the past few days. The war, and plans for President Joe Biden to speak with Chinese President Xi Jinping later Friday were among the uncertainties overhanging markets.

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**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BAREILLY CIRCLE, P.W.D., BAREILLY**  
Letter no: 1012 /142C(E-Tender)-3/21-22 Date 21.02.2022  
**Online Tender Inviting Notice**

1- On behalf of His Excellency the governor of Uttar Pradesh, under the Superintending engineer, Bareilly Circle, P.W.D., Bareilly, online E-Tenders have been invited from 22.03.2022 to 30.03.2022 Till 12.00 Noon, the technical bids will be proposed opened online on same Date 30.03.2022 at 03:00 PM.-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated cost (Rs in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Tender Fee Stationary Charges+ GST	Category
1	New Construction with 5 year maintenance of Jalalabad Dhaighat Road (ODR) to Anhidai Road Km-17 to Kubarpur Jhakreli Link Road in Distt. Shahjahanpur (Including Five Year Maintenance Cost)	C.D.-1 P.W.D. Shahjahanpur	232.00	13.60	2725.00	A (For Road Work Only)
2	New Construction of R.C.C. Minor Bridge, approach road and protection work on Muradabad Farukhabad road (SH-43) Km- 176 Emannagar Mebar Road in Distt. Shahjahanpur	C.D.-1 P.W.D. Shahjahanpur	195.00	11.75	2725.00	A & B (For Road Work Only)
3	Special Repair of Pahara Salempur Link Road in Distt. Shahjahanpur (F.Y.-2021-2022)	C.D.-1 P.W.D. Shahjahanpur	42.00	4.10	2725.00	A, B & C (For Road Work Only)

2- All information and documents are available on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> in (RAJESH CHAUDHARY) EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION DIVISION-1, P.W.D, SHAHJAHANPUR (ABHINESH KUMAR) SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BAREILLY CIRCLE, P.W.D, BAREILLY UP- 174204 Date- 17.03.2022 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

# Forex reserves decline \$9.65 bn to \$622.27 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The country's foreign exchange reserves declined USD 9.646 billion to USD 622.275 billion in the week ended March 11, according to the latest data from the RBI. In the previous week ended March 4, the reserves rose USD 394 million to USD 631.92 billion. It touched a lifetime high of USD 642.453 billion in the week ended September 3, 2021. During the reporting week, the decline in the reserves was due to a fall in the foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly data released on Friday showed. FCA decreased by USD 11.108 billion to USD 554.359 billion in the week ended March 11. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves increased USD 1.522 billion to USD 43.842 billion in the reporting week, the data showed. The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) dipped by USD 53 million to USD 18.928 billion, the RBI said. The country's reserve position with the IMF decreased by USD 7 million to USD 5.146 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

# AIEA: 10 steps would save 2.7 million barrels of oil a day

AP ■ BERLIN

The International Energy Agency (AIEA) says the world could quickly reduce global oil demand by 2.7 million barrels a day by cutting down on car and plane travel, helping ease the supply crunch caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Paris-based agency said in a report released Friday that "practical actions by governments and citizens" could significantly reduce oil demand, make fuel cheaper for consumers, shrink Russia's hydrocarbon revenue and boost efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The AIEA said its 10-point plan could, if fully implemented in advanced economies, cut oil demand by same amount as all cars in China within four months. It urged countries to adopt measures in time for annual peak demand season of July and August. "As a result of Russia's appalling aggression

against Ukraine, the world may well be facing its biggest oil supply shock in decades, with huge implications for our economies and societies," said the IEA's executive director, Fatih Birol. The organisation's plan includes: - Reducing speed limits on highways by at least 10 kilometers per hour (6 mph) - Working from home up to three days a week where possible - Introducing car-free Sundays in cities - Making the use of public transport cheaper and encouraging people to walk or cycle - Alternating private car access to roads in large cities - Boosting car sharing and another practices to reduce fuel use - Promoting efficient freight and delivery driving - Opting for high-speed and night trains instead of planes where possible - Avoiding business air travel where alternative options exist, such as economy travel or video conferencing - Encouraging adoption of electric and more efficient vehicles.

# Smatr Logistics plans to enter 3rd-party logistics biz, to set up 15 fulfillment centres

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Smatr Logistics is looking to enter into the fast-growing third-party logistics (3PL) business from next year and plans to set up 15 fulfillment centres as well as some big warehousing facilities at select locations, company's MD and CEO, Yogesh Dhingra has said. Launched last year, the logistics tech-startup also plans to expand its presence to over 250 cities and 6,000 PIN codes by this year-end. It currently has presence across 50 cities in country along with 75 service centres. "Early next year we will be entering into 3PL business with warehousing facilities and fulfilment centres among others to provide end-to-end service to end-customer," Dhingra told PTI. He said under 3PL business, company will be doing storage, billing, packaging and delivery to customer, adding, "we are trying to figure out various kinds of business where we

can get into and fulfill the logistics needs of the customers." Dhingra said that the company will set up close 15 fulfillment centres and some big warehouses at different locations in the country to cater to the third-party logistics requirements. "By June-end, we are looking to have more than 3,500 PIN codes and close to about 100 cities and by December this year about 250 cities with more than 6,000 pin-codes," he said, adding that Smatr Logistics will be launching its Ground Express product from second quarter of forthcoming fiscal year. Dhingra said that company is looking at business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce, direct-to-consumer (D2C), which is growing very fast, B2C BFSI and Business-to-business (B2B) Express movement for critical shipments as segments are driving growth going forward. Dhingra said as much as 50 per cent of market is premium, while remaining half is semi-premium/low cost.

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas 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 receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Pirtha Singh/ Neelam Devi/ LBMAT00003853754/ LBMAT00004945049	Plot No.17, Manvendra Nagar Colony Mauza Charora, Khnara No. 249, Tehsil And District Mathura Uttar Pradesh / March 14, 2022	June 25, 2021 Rs. 28,87,322/-	Mathura/ Gurgaon

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(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 provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : March 19, 2022 Place: Gurgaon Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

# Microfinance firm's MD held for ₹109-crore fraud

PTI ■ ROURKELA

The managing director of a private microfinance firm has been arrested in Odisha's Sundargarh district for allegedly embezzling over Rs 100 crore on the pretext of giving loans, police said on Friday. The Economic Offences Wing of the Odisha Police arrested Deepak Kindo, who was absconding for over a year and a lookout circular was issued, from his native Lulkidih village in Talasara block of Sundargarh district on

Thursday. Kindo is the managing director of the Sambandh Finserve Pvt Ltd, which is registered with the Reserve Bank of India as a Non-Banking Finance Company-Microfinance Institution (NBFC-MFI). The firm's function was to raise funds from different sources to offer customised lending and financing solutions to the self-help groups and the weaker sections of the society who have little access to formal financial avenues, an officer said. From 2015-2020, Kindo's company had raised

funds of more than Rs 109 crore from different investors or lenders on the basis of forged documents, the police officer said at a press conference. Instead of giving loans to the desired group, he misappropriated the amount by diverting it to the personal accounts of him and his relatives, and Sambandh's subsidiaries, the officer said. Kindo's wife, Amrita, has been arrested earlier for her alleged complicity in the case and is now in judicial custody, police added.

# Britannia aims to have 50% women in factory workforce by 2024

Kolkata: FMCG major Britannia Industries Limited (BIL) has said it aims to achieve a diversity ratio of 50 per cent by 2024 by increasing participation of women in its factory workforce. BIL Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) Amit Doshi said that at present 38 per cent of company's factory workforce is women. "We aim to achieve a diversity ratio of 50 per cent by 2024 from current national average of 38 per cent across our factories," he said. At Britannia's Guwahati factory, the proportion of women in the workforce is 60 per cent and it will be increased to 65 per cent, he said.

"We are proud to have a women workforce in areas typically dominated by men like engineering, tapping and grinding as well as packing, housekeeping, pantry, lab testing, canteen and security," he said. For empowering women, the company has already launched a start-up challenge among woman entrepreneurs, Doshi said. So far, the company has provided seed capital of ₹10 lakh each to 30 woman entrepreneurs for start-ups in areas like e-commerce, digital services, ophthalmological care through mobile vans and child education, among others, he said. PTI



# Southern Stars reach Women's WC last 4

PTI ■ AUCKLAND

Australia made light work of the highest chase in Women's ODI World Cup history to beat an erring India by six wickets and seal their semifinal berth here on Saturday.

Half-centuries from skipper Mithali Raj (68 off 96, Yastika Bhatia (59 off 83) and Harmanpreet Kaur (57 not out off 47) steered India to 277 for seven.

The total had never been chased before in tournament history but considering Australia's ominous form and batting friendly conditions at Eden Park, the Meg Lanning-led side cruised to their fifth win in as many games.

Openers Alyssa Healy (72 off 65) and Rachael Haynes (43 off 52) got Australia off to a flier with a 121-run stand before skipper Lanning (97 off 107) took the team on the cusp on victory.

Jhulan Goswami needed to defend 8 off the final over but Beth Mooney (30 not out of 20) got the job done in the first three balls.

The path to semifinals has become tougher for India after their third loss in five games. The 2017 edition runners-up play their remaining games against South Africa and Bangladesh.



If batting was a concern for India before the game, Australia getting to a stiff target with ease has given the bowlers plenty to ponder over. Healy was the aggressor alongside the in-form Haynes and toyed with the Indian attack — be it pacers or spinners.

The likes of Jhulan Goswami and Meghna Singh were either too full or too short early on and Healy was quick to

punish them with a flurry of cover drives, cut shots and pulls.

When India's best spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad came into the attack, Alyssa used the sweep shot brilliantly to put more pressure on the opposition. India playing a bowler less in the absence of Deepti Sharma also did not help their cause.

With Australia marching to victory at 225 for two, a passing shower stopped proceedings

at Eden Park but play resumed shortly and Australia completed the job with little fuss.

Earlier, Mithali and Yastika steadied the Indian innings with a 130-run stand for the third wicket after Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma fell cheaply.

With India slipping to 213 for six from 158 for two, Harmanpreet came up with a much-needed counter attack to take the team well past 250.

## How can Team India qualify for semi-finals?

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After a narrow 6-wicket defeat against Meg Lanning's Australia in the ICC Women's World Cup match in Auckland on Saturday, India's chances of reaching the semifinals are on the knife's edge now. With each team playing seven matches against each other, India now has to win the remaining two league stage matches against Bangladesh on March 22 and against South Africa on March 27 to stand any chance of making it to the last four of the multi-nation tournament.

And not just win, but India also has to make sure that they edge the hosts New Zealand, defending champions England, and Asian rivals Bangladesh on net run rate, which can come into play later, as these three teams, along-

side India, can reach the maximum number of eight points.

In such a scenario, the team with the better net run rate will progress to the knockout stage of the tournament.

India currently sits fourth in the league table, one spot ahead of the White Ferns despite having the same number of points from five games due to their superior net run rate.

The England women's team that opened its World Cup account against India on Wednesday after losing the first three matches can leapfrog Mithali Raj's side and jump to the upper half of the table if they manage to beat the hosts New Zealand on Sunday.

But a defeat tomorrow could also close the doors for the 2017 winners, as England then won't be able to reach the 8-point mark.

Australia, with five wins from five matches, became the first team to reach the semifinals on Saturday. In all likelihood, South Africa, with four wins in as many games, will also reach the last four. The West Indies, which currently sits third with six points from five games, will also be optimistic about their chances, as they have to play bottom-placed Pakistan in one of the two remaining matches.

So, India, which started the tournament on a high after crushing arch-rivals Pakistan by 107 runs in the opening encounter and later romped West Indies in the third league game by 155 runs, have to punch above its weight and earn a positive result against Bangladesh first and then defeat in-form South Africa as well to stay alive in the tournament.

Pooja Vastrakar once again provided the late flourish with 34 off 28 balls.

Pooja and Harmanpreet blasted 64 runs off 47 balls in their seventh wicket stand with India picking 52 runs in the last five overs.

India decided to strengthen the batting by bringing back opener Shafali at the expense of all-rounder Deepti Sharma, who had batted at four in the previous two games.

Yastika, who batted at three

with Shafali joining Smriti at the top, scored her first half century of the tournament batting alongside veteran Mithali, who dropped herself a place down to number four.

The skipper also got back amongst the runs after a lean run by her lofty standards in the first four games.

Both Mithali and Yastika found it tough to rotate the strike early on in their innings before they found their rhythm. They used the late cut to good effect

against spinners Alana King and Ashleigh Gardner, who were not at their best on the day.

The captain also hit a straight six off left-arm spinner Jess Jonassen enroute to her first half-century of the competition.

After both Yastika and Mithali perished trying to accelerate, Harmanpreet rose to the occasion and ensured her team set up a competitive total.

The T20 skipper, who was even dropped from the playing

eleven before the World Cup due to prolonged lean patch, reached her third 50 plus score in the tournament proving that she is a big tournament player.

Harmanpreet used her trademark sweep shot off both spinners and pacers to put pressure on the opposition. She was helped by Pooja who smashed couple of sixes and a boundary to end the innings on a high.

A usually disciplined Australia bowled as many as 24 wides to help India's cause.

## Bangladesh beat SA in 1<sup>st</sup> ODI



AP ■ CENTURION

Bangladesh beat South Africa in a one-day international in South Africa for the first time and did it convincingly by taking the series-opener by 38 runs. Bangladesh's batters set

up the history-making victory with Shakib Al Hasan (77), Litton Das (50) and Yasir Ali (50) all hitting half-centuries in a strong total of 314-7.

It was Bangladesh's best total in South Africa and came after South Africa won the

toss and put the visitors in to bat at SuperSport Park in Centurion.

Spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz undid South Africa with 4-61 in nine overs as the Proteas were all out for 276 in 48.5 overs.

The result was obvious well before the final wicket of Keshav Maharaj.

The key moment came in the 46th over when Miraz had David Miller stumped for 79 off 57 for his fourth wicket, getting rid of South Africa's last hope and putting Bangladesh on the brink of a first victory 20 years after first touring South Africa.

Miraz was backed up by pacers Taskin Ahmed (3-36) and Shoriful Islam (2-47), whose early strikes put South Africa in trouble at 36-3.

## SL to host Asia Cup T20 from Aug 27 to Sept 11

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka will host the Asia Cup T20 tournament from August 27 to September 11, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) announced on Saturday after its annual general meeting here.

All five Test teams of the continent -- India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and hosts Sri Lanka -- will feature in the tournament, along with one more Asian side that will be decided after a qualifier tournament which will be held from August 20.

"The Asia Cup 2022 (T20 Format) will be held in Sri Lanka from 27 August - 11 September later this year. The Qualifiers for the

same will be played 20 August 2022 onwards," the ACC tweeted after its AGM. The tournament, that usually alternates between ODI and T20I formats, was last played in 2018 and won by India.

Sri Lanka were supposed to host the 2020 edition, but the pandemic first pushed the event to 2021 before finally being moved to 2022.

The sixth team to join the tournament will be one of UAE, Kuwait, Singapore and Hong Kong. UAE and Kuwait had made it to the qualifiers after finishing first and second in the ACC Western region event in 2020 while Singapore and Hong Kong did the same from the eastern region.

## Braithwaite, Blackwood frustrate Eng



AP ■ BRIDGETOWN

Centuries by captain Kraigg Braithwaite and Jermaine Blackwood delivered a brilliant West Indies reply to England's declaration as their series looked headed for another test draw on Friday.

After three days of the second test, only 13 wickets have tumbled on the flat pitch at Kensington Oval.

Braithwaite and Blackwood showed acute patience to frustrate England in a stand of 183

that started before lunch and ended only five overs from stumps.

They led West Indies' resistance to 288-4 at the close in reply to England's 507-9 declared. They trail by 219 runs.

Braithwaite was 109 not out after batting the whole day, and nightwatchman Alzarri Joseph on 4.

Blackwood made a chancy 102, coming in after England prised out a couple of wickets in the morning.

Shamarh Brooks, resuming with Braithwaite, was edged against England spinner Jack Leach and beat himself with a poor shot off Leach straight to point. Brooks added only eight runs and was out for 39 off 105 balls.

Nkrumah Bonner, the centurion in the first test in Antigua, was trapped by Ben Stokes on 9 and wasted a review, and the West Indies was 101-3.

Blackwood was almost the fourth wicket for an England attack with two new bowlers and the confirmed loss of spearhead Mark Wood. He was returning home with a right elbow injured in the first test.

## Swiatek beats Halep to reach Indian Wells final



AP ■ INDIAN WELLS

Iga Swiatek rallied from a break down in each set to beat Simona Halep 7-6 (6), 3-6, 6-1 and reach the final of the BNP Paribas Open.

Swiatek saved two set points in the first-set tiebreaker when she overcame deficits of 3-1 and 5-3. She won the final four points, with Halep committing errors on three of those points, before Swiatek cracked a forehand winner off Halep's second serve. Halep received a racket abuse warning for smashing her racket on the court. Swiatek took a 2-1 lead in the second set that featured five service breaks. Halep took a medical timeout and had a trainer wrap her upper left thigh.

Halep then broke Swiatek twice while taking the next three games for a 4-2 lead. But Swiatek took over from there. She won the last four games in a row, with Halep winning just four points total on her serve while getting broken twice. Defending champion Paula Badosa played Maria Sakkari in the other semifinal later Friday night.

On the men's side, Taylor Fritz defeated Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia, 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-1 to reach the semifinals for the second time in five months.

The 24-year-old American is in the midst of the best stretch of his young career, and it all began in the desert in October. That's when the tournament was held last

year, pushed out of its traditional March spot because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, Fritz came into Indian Wells ranked 39th in the world. He beat top-10 players Matteo Berrettini and Alexander Zverev before losing in the semis to Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia.

He's now No. 20 - having reached a career-high 16th in February - and is 24-8 since last year's tournament. He's made the quarterfinals in five tournaments and reached the fourth round of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time in January at the Australian Open.

"Things are starting to come together," he said. "I feel like my level as a player has gone up a ton."

Fritz has recorded many milestones at Indian Wells, where he's always a crowd favorite. He first began coming to the event as a kid, having grown up near San Diego as the son of former WTA Tour player Kathy May. "I didn't watch any matches," said Fritz, who instead chased players for autographs, including Andy Murray and Bernard Tomic.

Fritz made his debut in a Masters 1000 main draw at Indian Wells and notched his first top-10 win here in 2017. His father, Guy Fritz, is a former ATP Tour pro who coaches the men's tennis team at the nearby College of the Desert.

"It feels like a second home," he said. "Just the energy is completely different."

Fritz is the first American to reach consecutive semifinals at Indian Wells since Andy Roddick in 2009-10. The last American to win the tournament was Andre Agassi in 2001; Fritz was 3 years old at the time.

"There's no place I'd rather have these results than here," Fritz said.

After he and Kecmanovic split sets, Fritz dominated the third. He raced to a 5-0 lead before the Serb held Fritz then served a love game to close out the match. Fritz next plays No. 7 seed Andrey Rublev of Russia, who beat Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria, 7-5 6-2.

Rublev has won 13 consecutive matches and is coming off back-to-back titles in Marseille and Dubai. He never trailed against Dimitrov and dropped serve just once in the 1 1/2-hour match that paired former world No 1 junior players.

## Treesa-Gayatri join Sen in All England semifinals

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Indian women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand on Friday progressed to the semifinals of the All England Championships by registering a shocking win over Korean second seeds Lee Sohee and Shin Seungchan here.

Treesa and Gayatri, world no 46, notched up a stunning 14-21 22-20 21-15 win over Lee and Shin in hour and seven minutes to join men's singles shuttler Lakshya Sen in the semifinals of the prestigious tournament.

World Championships bronze medalist Sen had earlier advanced to the men's singles semifinals after his opponent Lu Guang Zu of China gave a walkover.

The 20-year-old from Almora, who had secured his maiden Super 500 title at India Open in January and then claimed a runners-up finish at the German Open last week, will face the winner of the match between Malaysia's sixth seed Lee Zii Jia and Japan's second seed Kento Momota in the last four round.

Fifth seeded Indian pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, however, failed to cross the quarterfinal hurdle losing 22-24 17-21 to Indonesian top seed Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo in 47 minutes.

Sen had stunned world no 3 and two-time medalist at World Championships Anders Antonsen of Denmark 21-16 21-18 on Thursday to reach the quarterfinals.

The Indian had defeated world no 1 and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark on his way to his maiden Super 300 final last week.



## We have got a title winning squad: PBKS captain Mayank

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Newly appointed Punjab Kings skipper Mayank Agarwal believes that the franchise has built a title-winning squad for the IPL beginning March 26.

After four seasons with the team, Agarwal has been given the leadership responsibility after the shift of his opening partner K L Rahul to the Lucknow franchise.

Agarwal amassed 400-plus runs in the last two seasons and formed one of the strongest opening pairings in the IPL alongside Rahul but the team failed to make the play-offs.

Punjab were praised for getting the likes of Shikhar Dhawan, Kagiso Rabada, Liam Livingstone, Jonny Bairstow and Odean Smith at the IPL auction. Apart from the other retained player in Arshdeep Singh, Punjab also bought back uncapped power-hitter Shahrukh Khan.

The team has underperformed for years and their only final appearance came way back in 2014. The management has pinned hopes on its latest recruits to change the team's fortunes.

"We like to believe that we do have a title winning squad and now it is upon us as players to execute our skills

under pressure and see what we can make out of it," Agarwal told PTI on Saturday.

"As a team we have done a good job at the auction. We were looking at few skill sets knowing that the tournament will be played in Mumbai and we have covered those bases. We are happy with the balance we have in the side."

As captain, his role in the side increases massively but as a batter, he feels nothing changes.

"When I am batting I am just a batsman. We have a lot of leaders and experience in the team and that makes it easier for me. I want to excel as a batsman and do the things I have been doing. (On the captaincy front) we have made our plans to take the team forward," said the India Test opener.

Agarwal is expected to open the batting alongside Dhawan but he did not reveal much on the combination. "I can't talk about the batting order as of now but I can definitely say that we are excited to have Shikhar on board. He is an absolute livewire, a great entertainer, a massive performer and a lot of the guys will feed off his energy. He is also in a great mind space."

## Kerala take on Hyderabad in ISL final today

PTI ■ FATORDA

The Indian Super League will have a new winner after Kerala Blasters go up against a resurgent Hyderabad FC in the final here on Sunday.

While it would be Hyderabad's maiden final appearance, Kerala Blasters will be competing in the final for the third time.

In 2014 and 2016, Kerala Blasters had made it to the finals, but on both occasions, they had lost to erstwhile ATK, and thus their dream of winning the coveted ISL Trophy remained unfulfilled.

Hyderabad FC qualified after a



3-2 win on aggregate over ATK Mohun Bagan despite losing the second leg of the semi-final 0-1.

Hyderabad had won the first leg 3-1 through goals from Bartholomew Ogbeche, Yasir Mohammad, and

Javier Siverio.

On the other hand, Kerala Blasters FC entered the ISL final for the first time since 2016 after playing out a 1-1 draw with Jamsheer FC and pipped the League Shield winners 2-1 on aggregate over double leg semi-finals. In the first leg, Sahal Abdul Samad scored the only goal in a 1-0 win for Kerala.

For Hyderabad, a lot would depend on how their star striker Bartholomew Ogbeche fares against the Kerala defence.

The 37-year-old Nigerian forward, who is the season's leading goal-scorer with 18 goals to his name from 19 matches, and is the

highest goal-scorer in ISL history with 53 goals.

Meanwhile, for Kerala their top goalscorer this season has been their star striker Jorge Pereyra Diaz (8 goals). And for them, the 31-year-old Argentine will have to be at his best and need to fire on all cylinders.

Also, Diaz coupled with Alvaro Vazquez form a lethal pair and the Hyderabad defence would indeed be very of them. Also, this would be the first occasion since the outbreak of COVID-19, the fans would be in the stands cheering for favorite teams and a 100% crowd has been allowed, so a 'sea of yellow' is expected to turn up at the venue.



talktime

JAAVED JAAFERI

The actor, whose latest film Sooryavanshi premiered on Zee Cinema, speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about his character in the movie, how he prepared for it, his experience working with Akshay Kumar among other things

'NO TASK IS BIG OR SMALL'



**Tell us about your character in Sooryavanshi.**  
In the film, I am a police officer, who considers the police as his duty, who has given his life for the police. He has no family. His work is everything to him. He only thinks of himself as a police officer. He is a very disciplined and honest person.

**How was your experience working with Akshay Kumar?**  
I have done many films with Akshay. He is a much disciplined actor. The passion to work with full vigour is evident in him. Akshay has a sense of humour, which is amazing. Being grounded, it matches very quickly. That's what makes him so special.

**How did you prepare for the role?**  
I have never ventured far from my action-days. It's my favourite genre and it's always fun to work on such exciting projects. Though, this time, it was one unique experience.

**According to you, what is the most important factor for any film to be successful?**  
I think for a film to be successful, the audience needs to connect with your story and personality. Whether you are doing comedy, action romance or horror,

GIVE 100 PER CENT OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING, NO POWER IN THE WORLD CAN STOP YOU FROM SUCCEEDING. AN EXAMPLE IS THE STORY OF THE AFTERMATH OF A WAR THAT BUILDS A WARRIOR'S SWORD. IF THE SWORD ALONE IS NOT GOOD, THINK OF HOW THE WAR WILL BE FOUGHT. DON'T ALWAYS POLISH YOUR ART, NEVER PUT IT ON. DON'T GIVE UP, KEEP PRACTICING

you need to engage the audience. In addition, factors such as screenplay, story or narrative, dialogue, cast acting have a big impact on the success of the film. The point is, storytelling is very important to your audience.

**What is your mantra of success for the younger generation?**  
No task is big or small, so give 100 per cent of what you are doing, no power in the world can stop you from succeeding. An example is the story of the aftermath of a war that builds a warrior's sword. If the sword alone is not good, think of how the war will be fought. Don't always polish your art, never put it on. Don't give up, keep practicing.

**Sooryavanshi is now premiering on Zee Cinema, how do you feel?**  
Nothing can beat the experience of watching a film with a room full of your family and friends with non-stop banter and fun. TV is a medium that brings everyone together, and I am more than glad that Sooryavanshi, a project so close to my heart, will reach my fans through Zee Cinema, a channel with a strong legacy and wide audience reach.

Plan Your Day

3 SHADES OF LAUGHTER



Westside Comedy Hub presents to you a crazy show with one of the best lineups!! Get ready for a joy ride!  
♦ Line up is subject to change depending on artist availability.  
♦ Each artist represents their own opinions. Please be prepared that they may not align with your views.  
♦ Recording any part of the show would be a violation of the intellectual property agreements of the artist.  
**What:** Comedy Show  
**Where:** Westside Comedy Hub, Dwarka, Delhi  
**When:** March 20, 2022  
**Time:** 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Sound of music



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

Bollywood vibes

- Srivalli (Javed Ali)
- Jugnu (Badshah, Nikhita Gandhi)
- Shukar (Andra)
- Pardesi (Arko, Asees Kaur)
- Joganiya (Shivi)

English Vinglish

- Oh My God (Adele)
- Life (Ree)
- It'll Be Okay (Shawn Mendes)
- Whole Life (Slick Naim)
- LOUD (Sofia Carson)

STRONG IS THE NEW PRETTY

It is no discovery that our lives are deeply intertwined with the undeniable force of numbers. DR NAVNEDHI WADDHWA, who is a revelation in the field of numerology talks about how she recently decoded Shark Tank India's shark, Aman Gupta's birth date

The most interesting and inspiring stories in the world have several twists and turns, and ultimately, the triumph of the human spirit. And if there is anyone who embodies this story too, it is Dr Navnedhi Waddhwa, who is born and brought up from a small town of Rajasthan, Sadul Shahr. Dr Waddhwa is a NLP certified Mind Performance and Transformational Coach, celebrity numerologist and graphologist, vastu consultant, and energy healer.

Recently, Dr Waddhwa decoded the number of shark tank India's most exuberant shark, Aman Gupta, Co-Founder of boAt Lifestyle, with numerology. With Gupta's birth date, she predicted that he is an introverted man who takes time to warm up to others. Numbers suggest that his personality is a mix of emotions and intelligence.

On the other hand, Gupta's name totals up to the number 6, which though it is missing from his lo shu grid, is made up from here. The total of his business venture, boAt, totals up to the number 5, which is a very active number and is even associated with children. This shows that the universe smiles upon him and has invariably inclined a lot of things in his favour.

Moreover, he enjoys dressing up, and with the number 2 ruling his life, he has an inclination towards movies. Any number that isn't present in his grid has been reimbursed for by the universe in some way. His personal number will be 3 after his birthday this year. It will open doors for him to expand his business.

Dr Waddhwa believes in the limitless potential of each and every human being. However, to access this potential and make the highest use of it, one has to become aware, and

alert to life's offerings. And therein lies the crux of her work and indeed her life's journey too. Her story is every bit as inspirational as the work she does. It is a story of sheer grit and courage. As a child, she fell victim to body-shaming, and endured constant judgements for her appearance through her adult life too. Additionally, she was ridiculed due to language barriers. Opening up about her troubles.

Dr Waddhwa says, "As a child I was always under so much pressure to live up to others' expectations. I was self-conscious and I didn't feel very good about myself. I tried very hard to tune out the judgements. But the fact is that I had internalised the negativity. The judgments had become my inner voice."

Her trauma, however, went deeper, being borderline dyslexic. The prevalent lack of awareness regarding this condition, meant that she had to face stigma and struggle through her academics too. "Since I had already faced so much judgement, I was not happy with myself. No matter what I did, it did not give me any happiness or satisfaction," she says.

She was caught up in the drama of all the negativity surrounding her, that she could not notice her own capabilities and gifts. One of such gifts was her sharp intuition. Even as a child, she was attuned to the spiritual realm, as tarot cards flashed in her dreams often. But she never knew what it meant until much later in life. After marriage, when she completed her fashion studies, she became an extremely successful professional.

Dr Waddhwa tells us how her life was impacted as an adult. "I had my fashion studio and all my clients, acquaintances and near and dear ones, loved and respected me and my



**With Gupta's birth date, she predicted that he is an introverted man, who takes time to warm up to others**

work. But no matter how many achievements came my way, I was still struggling from within. Nothing made me happy."

She decided to look within and finally started asking herself the right questions. Was she really happy? And more importantly, what if her rock-bottom could be the very base to build her life from ground-up. Thus began her healing journey that eventually resulted in the radical transformation

of her life. Embracing diverse spiritual and healing modalities, she began to gain an in-depth awareness of her real-self.

Dr Waddhwa gained expertise in NLP, meditation and manifestation techniques, numerology, graphology, vastu, tarot reading and energy healing. Not only did she revive her health, strength and well-being, but also became an established meditation and transformation coach, guiding numerous people all over the world through their life's journeys. She has trained with world renowned experts such as celebrated author and celebrity coach Tony Robbins and renowned American author and co-founder of Neuro-linguistic programming (NLP), Richard Bandler.

On her path to self-realisation, she has won several accolades and made exemplary achievements in her field of work. In 2019, she was crowned Mrs Universe Asia Queen 2019. She received the Times Power Woman award and is among the forty most influential women. Last year, she was featured in Forbes in an article that elucidated her journey of transformation. She is the recipient of India Today Excellence in Healthcare award for her work. That is not all. Last year, she received the Lokmat Lifestyle Award, 2020, for fortune-telling and her work as a meditation guru. This year she was named the Femina Power Brand, 2021. This year she is also honoured by Governor of Maharashtra award.

Dr Waddhwa continues to lead by example and inspire people to achieve their highest potential. Through her expertise in NLP, meditation and manifestation techniques, she has helped people across the globe to access the power of their unconscious, make conscious choices and manifest the biggest achievements of their lives.

TELLYTALE

THERE IS A STORM BREWING

Sony SAB's latest slice of life offering Sab Satrangi has already started gaining popularity with Maurya family's heart-warming quirks and dynamics striking a chord with the audiences. Since the inception of Jai Mata Di Tent House, Mannu (Mohit Kumar) has been facing a constant wave of troubles and is striving to solve those with conviction because of his soft-spoken nature.

But this doesn't sit well with Vishwas (Pulkit Bangia) who is extremely jealous of Mannu and Gargi's growing friendship. His insecurity leads him to enter the Maurya household under the pretence of Gajraj, Gargi's long lost cousin. Being the most warm-hearted people, the Mauryas welcome him with open arms.



300 EPISODES DOWN

Some occasions are worth celebrating, especially when Indian television's most endearing family completes 300 episodes. Throughout this journey, Waggle ki Duniya has been consistent with capturing thoughtful storylines which revolve around the everyday life of a common man, his family and how they navigate through the challenges in the most unique ways. Launched as a modern-day rendition of the 80's sitcom created by RK Laxman; the show has managed to resonate with audiences.



ME MINDFUL, HAVE FUN

Gulki Joshi essaying the role of Haseena Malik in Sony SAB's Maddam Sir, says, "Holi is the festival of colours, and it brings with it a lot of fun and excitement. Every year, I throw a fantastic Holi party and have a great time. Throughout my childhood, I participated in various activities during Holi, such as throwing eggs or coloured balloons at strangers. Without Kheer Poori, Aloo Ki Sabzi, and Achaar, my Holi meal is incomplete. This year, we should use organic colours because they are gentle on the skin. Have fun, but be mindful."



MISFORTUNE FINALLY ENDS

Sony SAB's Shubh Laabh - Aapke Ghar Mein had the audience on edge with Vaibhav dying and Shreya (Tanisha Mehta) almost getting married to Rishabh (Krip Suri). But both of these situations turned around Savita's (Geetanjali Tikekar) belief and with Maa Laxmi's blessings. No matter how hard Alaxmi (Chhavi Pandey) tried, Savita and Shreya's faith saved their family from this ominous change of events. Shreya's forceful marriage not going through has set Alaxmi back on her evil plans which also means that she is losing against Laxmi. After the Laxmi Narayan pooja at the Toshniwal house, Savita and Shreya meet a little girl who hands them a book. When they read into it, they realise that it's the Padma Purana which describes traits of Alaxmi. Shreya starts connecting the dots to every mishap that they have been facing.

HOLI KE ANOKHE RANG & TV KE SANG



Vidisha Srivastava, who will enter as Anita Bhabhi in &TV's Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, shares, "On the occasion of Holi, Vibhuti (Aasif Sheikh) and Tiwari (Rohitashv Gaur) dream about playing Holi with Bhabijis, Angoori (Shubhangi Atre) and Anita. But Amma suggests Angoori play chichchoro wali Holi to get a child. Angoori seeks Vibhuti's help, but he is unaware of its real reason. On the other hand, Anita and Tiwari run a campaign against playing chichchoro wali Holi. Anita tells Vibhuti that she is going to Lakhimpur, and he gets excited about playing dirtier Holi with Angoori. Who will they target next, and what will Vibhuti's reaction be to Angoori's desire to play dirty Holi?" Shiviya Pathania (Devi Parvati) from &TV's Baal Shiv shares, "Parvati is upset with Mahadev, and therefore she leaves everything behind and reaches Amarnath guffa to perform antardhyaan. When Baal Shiv finds our Parvati is upset, he promises her to help her find Mahadev. Nandi is happy to see them together and invites them to Kashi to celebrate Holi. Parvati believes Baal Shiv's memory will recover after Holi, but something else is in store. You have to wait and watch to know more!" Pawan Singh (Mirza) from &TV's Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? shares, "Being a part of the Adhyaksh as Sanchalaks, Mishra (Ambrish Bobby) and Mirza (Pawan Singh) are assigned to plan out Holi celebrations."

Masterstroke

Your jewellery says a lot about you. Whether you seek adventure, or a Sunday spent on a couch. Whether you're laidback and relaxed, or living life in the fast lane. Whether you're sociable or love comfortable silences. Whether you wear pyjamas to work from home or dress up with nowhere to go. There's something at Klissaa for every woman with a mind of her own.

A newly launched homegrown jewellery label, Klissaa uses responsibly sourced materials to create unique pieces of jewellery. Each piece created by the label is 18-carat gold-plated, nickel-free, hypoallergenic and affordable, with the love and craftsmanship of individuals who love style as much as they love sustainability. The brand features elements like the ever-popular 'Evil Eye' with subtle tones and hues that make Klissaa accessories iconic and ethereal, at the same time—reiterating its love for cultural and traditional symbolism with contemporary design and aesthetic. Klissaa's jewellery pieces are simple, light and can be accessorised with any outfit—be it your pyjamas, or your party dress; for a lazy morning spent in bed, or a day spent in the boardroom. The handcrafted pieces boast of a unique simplicity that blends comfort and glamour for everyday wear. Each of the jewellery items are a beautiful blend of Indian cultural elements and contemporary designs that create accessories that never go out of style.





# the pioneer agenda

There's nothing more touching than putting a smile on a kid's face when you can —Emma Roberts



FROM THE INSIDE

### Beat the Guilt Trip

The more guilty we feel, the more we create a negative *karmic* balance as a result of accepting ourselves as the 'doer'

10



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### Work upon your unique character

Every being is born unique, coming as they may as *karmic* carryover from the past. You can't draw parallel with anybody else



# TECH INTENSIVE DAIRY SECTOR CAN BECOME MORE SUSTAINABLE

The current start-up and technology revolution will need to transform the resolution to adapt modernisation thus pushing nano-steps towards achieving the Second White Revolution in the country, writes KISHORE INDUKURI

**D**airy sector in the post Covid time is just about limping back to life after facing challenges like demand degeneration, high cost of cattle maintenance and changing demand patterns. Even though it has been a difficult time for farmers, especially the small and marginal ones, who own limited number of milch animals, the pandemic also forced action on the much required digitisation of the dairy sector.

As the initial hardships subsided, the Indian dairy sector actually faced an unprecedented boost of demand, given the importance of milk in building up stamina and immunity. Also, as supply chain was impacted due to Covid, the dairy sector actually saw a boost in the demand of the small farmers who could supply locally without any hindrances. Growing demand and long range transport issues brought forward the importance of local dairies.

#### TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE DAIRY SECTOR 'SMART'

For the sector to grow sustainably from the grass root level, while maintaining the quality of milk, will need more than change in pattern of consumer demand of milk and milk products. It will need interventions like micro-finance, health tracking devices for cattle, cattle monitoring drones for larger farm and free range cattle, product traceability for customers through technology and many such technology interventions. Dairy farming need to become 'Smart' to sustain the changes in demand and other parameters.

An economic survey estimated that in the last six to seven years, India's milk production capacity has escalated by 35.61 per cent to 198.4 million tonnes in 2019-2020, nearly a 6 per cent increase over 2018-19. Meanwhile, dairy and animal husbandry are estimated to contribute 4.2 per cent to India's GDP. But still when demand is increasing at a rate of 6 per cent, supply is only increasing at a rate of 4 per cent. The difference in supply is what is leading to additives and milk adulteration. And it has been proven that the technology interventions coupled with better supply chain management and traceability of milk freshness will help to build up the trust on the product.

The pandemic has turned the crisis into an opportunity for dairy farmers and right intervention can help the sector overcome its drawbacks like limited export market, being a part

of unstructured market and production along with more human interaction with the products. However, as indicated earlier, most of the dairy farmers are marginal — hence to boost the technology introduction, the sector also need structural changes like strengthening the cooperatives beyond supply points and making their shared technology sources as well,

#### DAIRY CO-OPS SHOULD BECOME 'TECH HUBS'

The capacity created by private dairies in the last 20 years is more than the capacity set up by the cooperatives in over 30 years. However, given the micro nature of most of the farmers, Indian hinterland and rural farmers are still unorganised and in desperate need for technological intervention. The proliferation of dairy-tech start-ups, is transforming the face of the Indian dairy sector slowly but steadily.

The risk of technology adaptations and training to use these technologies is best to be dealt through collaborations — in this case co-operatives, which can be used like hub and spoke model to enable the technology training. Even in the supply side, as online ordering is more prevalent, registering supply through common platform is more rewarding than trying to create independent micro platforms.

Artificial Intelligence and machine learning in supply chain management will essentially take away the issues of sharing a common selling point through co-operatives. The shared cost of technology, order management and supply chain will help the rural economy immensely. It is always easier to look after the well-being of the cattle through a unified source, rather than trying to face challenges alone. The co-operatives can adopt biotechnology advancements for disease management among cattle or utilise Internet of Things for tracking livestock, breeding programmes and wellbeing of the cattle from one point of management.

Technology can be utilised seamlessly only when it can have used for a sizeable population. Not only it helps to transform the price of these technologies to a much reduced and affordable cost, but also minimises human intervention in management of the cattle, or the milk supply chain.

#### HOW WILL A TECH LED DAIRY ECONOMY LOOK LIKE

The advanced high-tech setups in private farms or the modern cooperatives will essentially pave the way for an export led growth of



AS COOPERATIVES AND FINTECH STARTUPS EASE OUT THE FINANCIAL CRUNCH, IT WILL TAKE EFFORT TO HELP FARMERS ADOPT THE AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGIES AND BECOME 'SMART'. INDIA'S MEGA PLAN TO PRODUCE ABOUT 300 MILLION TONNES OF MILK BY 2024, WILL NEED MARKET CONNECTIVITY, FINANCIAL PLANNING AND POLICY PUSH TO BE ACHIEVED



Indian dairy market. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) forecast, world trade in dairy products in 2021 stood at 88 million tonnes in which India had a minuscule share with annual dairy products exports of just about 1.18 lakh tonnes in 2020-21. Apart from the growth of export market, according to the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), the demand for milk and milk products in India will surge up to 266.5 million metric tonnes by 2030.

Through common platforms, technology providers will have direct access to farmers and provide customised services. The farmers will be able to focus on the quality and variations of the products. As technology drives in, it will become much easier to set standards for dairy products, thus slowly weeding away the problem of adulteration. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) along with National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has already issued a unified system for quality and safety of milk and dairy products across the country. The integrated logo of Kamdhenu Cow — a seal of certified quality, is the first ever move by India to bring uniformity in milk quality and certify end-to-end milk value-chain. The move will not only benefit dairy consumers, but also milk producers who aims to achieve greater access to international markets. Quality will also bring in better price realisations in both domestic and export markets.

The pandemic has established that development is proportionate to tech-adoption for every sector, and the story isn't going to be any different for the dairy sector. Already, there are technology interventions in the market like AI enabled collar to study the pregnancy cycle of bovines; a smart cloud based solution which digitises cattle health, milk production, milk procurement, milk testing, and cold chain management; and direct payment platforms for dairy processors and cooperatives.

Add to these, mechanisms like cattle monitoring drones, well refrigerated supply chain and methods to check out milk freshness at realtime that enables quality assurance, and India can become a powerhouse for milk production and export. The Indian dairy supply chain is a complex geography given the amount of transportation required to reach from plant to consumers. As it is a function of a lot of factors like right packaging, storage temperatures during passage, cold chain availability, weather, perishability quotient of the product, the last mile coverage — it is a daunt-

ing task to digitalise milk supply chain, especially with the challenging geography that India has. However, numerous supply chain startups have actually taken up the challenge to bridge the gap, thus opening up huge possibilities for the dairy farmers and their profitability.

Another part of dairy management is feeding the bovine proper nutrition. There are technology breakthroughs that are able to provide quality check and manage the feeding as well. There are a number of feed technologies that today produce formulated feed additives and supplements, that enables optimal milk production throughout the year. The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has also developed bypass protein technology to produce specially treated protein supplements that help to increase milk yield and quality.

#### CONNECTING THE FARMERS — HOW TO REPLACE TRADITION

According India Brand Equity Foundation, despite technologies making its presence felt in dairy sector, only around 20 per cent dairy farmers are involved in organised production of milk. Given this unorganised status of the industry, the scale of production is still lacking and most of the dairy farmers still lack financial means, accessibility and expertise to deploy the technology. As cooperatives and fintech startups ease out the financial crunch, it will take effort to help farmers adopt the available technologies and become 'smart'. India's mega plan to produce about 300 million tonnes of milk by 2024, will need market connectivity, financial planning and policy push to be achieved.

B2B marketplaces have started mentoring the farmers and making modern equipment and advisory services available at the doorstep to farmers through smartphones. B2C platforms on the other hand have also emerged at a rapid pace, offering services to pick up fresh produce from farms and deliver them at the doorstep of retail customers, hotels, restaurants and cafes.

Technology intervention and help to access them has had a positive enough influence on dairy farmers in India. The current start-up and technology revolution will need to transform the resolution to adapt modernisation thus pushing the nano-steps towards achieving the "Second White Revolution" in the country.

The writer is an IITian & alumni of the University of Massachusetts. He is founder Sid's Farm Private Ltd





IT IS DIVINITY THAT SHAPES, NOT ONLY YOUR ENDS, BUT ALSO YOUR ACTS, YOUR WORDS AND THOUGHTS — SWAMI SIVANANDA

# BEAT THE GUILT TRIP

The more guilty we feel, the more we create a negative *karmic* balance as a result of accepting ourselves as the 'doer' of the action, shares HINGORI

Guilt has a big role to play on the spiritual path. A role that can interestingly be classified as a 'non-role'. Simply put, the more guilty we feel, the more we create a negative karmic balance as a result of accepting ourselves as the 'doer' of the action. This ownership of the action of guilt results in the adding of one more leaf in the book of our *samskaras* waiting to play out at some point in time in this life or beyond.

When I discussed this with a friend, he was delighted. While otherwise being someone sitting on the proverbial 'spiritual fence' the concept of being guilt-free sparked a glint in his eye and he asked me — "so I can really do whatever I want and remain guilt-free with no consequences?" His reaction made me laugh as I realised that he was imagining himself committing all sorts of moral and ethical misdeeds and getting away scot-free by surmounting his guilt.

Before I proceed with correcting the delusions in my friend's head, I would like to share the story of Rabia of Basra, a saint who died in 801CE.

Rabia was sold as a slave when she was young. When a famine hit Basra, her master forced her into prostitution to make extra money. She had a great love for the divine and prayed long and hard when she could and entered a state of *dhyana* (intense spiritual meditation). One day, Rabia's master saw her with an ethereal lantern suspended over her head, radiating light. Awestruck, he freed the young girl. Rabia went on to become a great Sufi saint. Could she have reached such an evolved state by feeling guilty about being a prostitute? I doubt it! Despite the odds, she had confidence in herself and faith in the power she worshipped and was devoid of guilt as she did not associate her identity with that of the body she was in.

Now coming to my friend's situation. His statement has two big and erroneous assumptions. The first being the belief that if I tell myself that I am not guilty, I will overcome guilt. If we look at the psychological three mind model proposed by Sigmund Freud, there is the conscious, subconscious and unconscious mind. The conscious mind is said to be in the vicinity of 10% of the total and this is where my friend would first tell himself at a superficial level that he doesn't feel the guilt. Little realising that the guilt has already seeped deep into his subconscious. Therefore escape is not as easy as it appears. The other problem can be illustrated by a somewhat ludicrous situation of a person walking up to a police station and stating that while he has murdered a few people and feels no guilt so they should let him run free.

Simply put, the burden that the



spirit or '*Jivaatma*' carries, the *Jivaatma* will need to bear and the burden the physical being carries, the being will need to bear — both the rewards and the consequences.

How then, does one surmount guilt. A suggested approach is a function of three aspects. These can also be considered as three levels:

- **Balancing the negative with the positive:** When we experience a sense of wrongdoing on our part a great way to limit the impact of the guilt is to overwhelm this with performing good deeds or *seva*. We will then view ourselves as performing positive action or karma that far outweighs the negative, thus keeping our sense of self-worth and self-belief intact - two elements that are crucial for spiritual evolution.
- **Acceptance:** Belief in the philosophy of destiny creates a sense of acceptance. Acceptance that the deed was meant to happen and acceptance that you were meant to be the 'instrument' through which it would be implemented.
- **Non-doership:** This draws from the ability to accept as stated above and takes it another step forward. It is the ability to truly realise that we are not the 'doers' and nothing is done

THE BURDEN THAT THE SPIRIT OR '*JIVAATMA*' CARRIES, THE *JIVAATMA* WILL NEED TO BEAR AND THE BURDEN THE PHYSICAL BEING CARRIES, THE BEING WILL NEED TO BEAR - BOTH THE REWARDS & THE CONSEQUENCES

through us — perceived positives or negatives. This realisation is a function of the realisation of '*maya*' or the illusionary perception of reality.

Reflect for a moment, on this story from the *Ramayana* about the fight between Rama and Vali or Bali (the brother of Sugriva and father of Angada). Bali had the boon of being able to seize half the strength of those who fought him face-to-face. Rama was aware of this boon, and in order to be victorious in combat with Bali, hid behind a tree and shot an arrow into Bali's back thereby killing him and ending his reign. Now, why would the mighty, just, and revered Rama not experience any guilt about what appears to be an act of cowardice.

To understand this, you will need to lean on the teachings of Guru Vasishtha. Rama had been schooled by him in the belief that this world appearance is nothing but a delusion created by the mind. All that is considered real is but a thought in the supreme consciousness. A dream which appears real to the dreamer but when one awakens they see it for what it is — nothing. Good, bad, right, wrong, 'you' and 'I' are all just words that are used to realise this journey.

Thus surmounting his own identity, duality, the world appearance, the mind and the senses had helped Rama realise non-doership and therefore there was no element of guilt, just a Role Play that was being performed.

Needless to say, while this can be 'academically comprehended' it isn't something that can be realised without significant spiritual evolution and practice.

So, in conclusion, guilt is not a great thing for personal as well as spiritual progress. Looking down upon ourselves is not a very good route to realising the divinity within. To overcome guilt there is no shortcut. Just step after step of doing the right things in the form of *seva* that will help the '*guna mix*' through the creation of more '*satva*'. Over time acceptance and eventually non-doership will eliminate this entirely. My advice would be two-fold — *seva* is a low hanging fruit so easy to perform. Go ahead and go overboard with it. On the other hand are acceptance and the somewhat more difficult aspects of non-doership — in this case 'fake it till you make it'. And make it you surely will.

The writer is the author of Hingori Sutras series of spiritual books



HIDDENSOULS PRAMOD PATHAK



## The Goal of Education

As the Russia Ukraine war continues to cause death and devastation of enormous proportions and the so-called global community appears helpless, a basic question crops up. Why are we still ruled by animal instincts with hostility, aggression and propensity to kill continuing with the spirit that was seen in the prehistoric ages. Have all those attempts to make human beings humans through education, religion and other agencies of socialisation failed to make an impact? One more question arises: Who are the soldiers fighting for? Are the Russians fighting for their country or for a person named Putin. All those ideological alibis make little sense. The fact remains that it is one man's ego, and his paranoid assumptions that has brought this world to the brink. Advocacies of Social Darwinism could not have led to anything better. Survival of the fittest is a jargon that justifies violence and aggression to approve pouncing of the strong on the weak. The law of the jungle is prevailing in human societies, too. Man has proved to be worse than animals. Animals only kill when there is need. Human beings, on the other hand, kill even when they don't have any pressing reason to do so. And this is not the first time. Animal instincts have had the better of human reason in the past also. And it has always been just one cause. One man's ego and many peoples' acquiescence. The way out is application of righteous reason by all those who don't say no when they want to say no. It is against this backdrop that we need to discuss education. Education, that is supposed to refine human nature and transform the animal in us to human beings. According to a social media post, a letter addressed to teachers was found in a Nazi concentration camp at the end of 2nd World War. It says something very relevant. Even if the authenticity is doubtful the contents need a serious thought. It is quoted below. 'I am survivor of a concentration camp. My eyes saw what no one should witness. Chambers built by learned engineers. Children poisoned by educated physicians, infants killed by trained nurses, women and babies shot and burnt by high school and college graduates. So, I am suspicious of education. My request is to help your students become human. Your efforts must never produce learned monsters, skilled psychopaths and educated illiterates. Reading, writing and arithmetic are important only if they serve towards making our children humane'. Interestingly, Madan Mohan Malviya, the founder of BHU said something similar some four decades earlier. He said that a teaching university would half perform its function if it does not seek to develop the heart power of its scholars with the same solicitude with which it develops the brain power. He placed formation of character as one of the principal objects of creating the university. It should not turn out engineers, doctors, managers, etc., but also men of high character, probity and honour. It is time to try and reinvent education so that it creates decent human beings rather than cold blooded professionals. It is going to be a daunting task as designing a curriculum to make good human beings is a tall order. But attempts can be made so that the unreasonable and undeserving are not followed by the unwilling. Education must awaken the conscience.

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## Mental health & work

Employers must acknowledge anxiety and make adjustments to accommodate those suffering from it, writes ANAMIKA YADUVANSHI

Mental health wellness and productive performance go hand in hand. Therefore, it makes sense that employee well being has become a primary concern of several organisations and performance discussions.

Employees need unwavering support and faith from their employers if they are to perform at their best, and this is especially true for employees who may be dealing with mental health challenges like anxiety or depression. Employers need to make it clear to their employees that they can count on your encouragement and understanding without fear of losing their jobs or a promotion. With this in mind let's discuss anxiety, a disorder that can seriously affect performance, quality of work and employee motivation. Anxiety disorders sufferers can be affected physically, psychologically, emotionally and even spiritually. Even though there may not be any outward signs of illness, anxiety disorder can be fraught with distressing and debilitating symptoms. It can also cause severe lifestyle impairment and what seems like insurmountable physical and mental health challenges. These challenges often leave sufferers frightened, confused, frustrated, and at their wit's end. The five major forms of anxiety are: Panic disorder, Post traumatic stress disorder, Obsessive compulsive disorder, Social anxiety disorder and



Generalised anxiety disorder

Someone with anxiety might always feel on edge, have difficulty concentrating for long spans of time or worry excessively. They might also be easily irritable and indecisive, and may experience elevated levels of stress and nervousness.

People often assume anxiety and stress to be essentially the same. Almost every professional working person experiences stress, particularly when deadlines loom or a company is facing difficulties, but not every employee experiences anxiety.

Here are a few ways employees can support:

- **Be open to discussion:** Everyone experiences a different intensity and frequency of anxiety. No two employees will have the same

trigger nor will they express their anxiety in the same way. Despite the stigma around mental health, employers should initiate an honest dialogue and take the initiative to let employees know that their mental wellness is being taken seriously. Once the employees start feeling more confident confiding in the management you can collaboratively create a motivating work environment.

- **Be flexible:** Sometimes simply knowing the possibility of working flexibly can help reduce an employee's anxiety. For people with anxiety some days are worse than others thus, they might need additional time for certain assignments. Making small adjustments, offering telecommuting or flex-time can do a world of good.
- **Frequent and transparent**

**communication:** A one time honest discussion isn't enough. Once you've established healthy dialogue with an employee you must maintain regular contact. Communication is a key factor in employee motivation. Arranging a meeting with employees every month to ask them how they are coping with their workload, assisting them by providing positive feedback, discussing achievements and progress, appreciating and recognising their work is crucial.

It is important to remember that not all disabilities are externally visible. Individuals with anxiety want to give their all and as employers its your responsibility to provide them the tools and support they need to do so.

The writer is a life coach and motivational speaker

## Live for others

Those, who live for others, benefit in many ways. They meet God's approval, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We should, because this is the cosmic arrangement. The world cannot exist without majority of us doing this. Several examples will substantiate this reality. The first and the best example is that of a mother. We survive in our childhood because our mothers choose to live for us. Even before a child is born, she is already in the mood of sacrifice. This goes on till the child is not so dependent on her. This is our requirement but a mother does this without complaint or seeking a favour. A father sacrifices his needs for his child; tries to spend time with his child even though it maybe tough.

The third example is of social workers, the genuine ones. They keep the world going by their selfless activities for benefit of others. Sometimes, their families also suffer or are deprived of what they should be getting both materially and time wise. But not many complain if they can see the big picture. The last example is of spiritualists. In this case, I will cite an example, that is of Adi Shankaracharya, because he was so outstanding. His entire life after he left home at a young age was spent in welfare activities of the spiritual kind, which are still benefiting the humanity after many centuries.

Those, who live for others, benefit in many ways for their efforts. They meet God's approval, which is all important. Why? Because God is the controller of this creation; His will is supreme. God rewards such people in many ways. Mothers get pure love from their children, which is rare in this selfish world. Fathers get recognition from their children and also from the society, even though tacit. Spiritualists, the genuine ones, are given lots of respect, even veneration. Similarly, social work-



ers are given special places in societies. All such attention is highly satisfying, which enriches one's life; makes it worth living. One knows that there is a higher purpose for one's existence. This is very different from the average person's life of just existing. For those living for others, their satisfaction combined with God's grace really feels good. They benefit in many other ways as well. Their tolerance power is much greater than that of an average person, who is likely to blow his fuse quite readily. Such persons have another rare quality, i.e. of patience, which enriches their lives. The mode of goodness, which thrives on goodness of all kinds, goes higher in proportion in them. This helps them in countering the modes of passion and darkness effectively. And, most importantly, their '*jeevani-shakti*' (living force) multiplies, which makes living that much easier, compared to an average person who mostly struggles. Opposite is the fate of those who

have a narrowly selfish existence. One loses in the mind when the going is tough. Some even commit suicide. Living for others gives a meaning to life. Going can be tough for anyone, but they keep going, because there are so many reasons to want to live. One can never be complete in oneself; one needs others to exist well. How does one do that? He or she lives for others. The cosmic design calls for us complementing one another. A common example is of a husband and wife team; they mostly provide what they mutually need. The world shuns those who are not useful to others. The only exceptions are those spiritualists, who are engaged in '*tapasya*'. Even these return to serve the humanity. And it is not one-sided. Normally selfish persons do not get help or cooperation from others. The spiritualism starts from here, i.e. when one serves others.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com



# Endgame: Putin resetting world world

While keeping the channel for truce open with rounds of talks with Ukraine, it seems Russian President Vladimir Putin is in no mood to stop attacks on Ukraine till he attains his objectives, which include resetting the US-led liberal world order. Embattled Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is begging for help from the international community, particularly from America, but except supplying weapons and slapping severe economic sanctions on Putin and his cronies, the West has, so far, miserably failed to stop the Russian strongman. The whole world is a mute spectator to the crisis.

The magnitude of Russia's multi-pronged invasion is unparalleled after the Second World War. The attacks on Ukraine are not just about teaching Zelenskyy a lesson for choosing to get away from the Russian sphere of influence, but the invasion is a tell-tale sign that Russia and Communist China are trying to redefine the global liberal world order dominated by the US-led West since the end of the devastating war in 1945-46.

Succinctly, the West could not grasp grim signals emerging from many corners of the globe, especially from an emerging Russian Federation that has grown by leaps and bounds under the leadership of Putin since 1999. In fact, the breakdown of the USSR should have been a stern warning for the US as it opened the stage for resetting the Cold War-infested world order by the resurgent Russia.

Putin has always been an enigma for the US. The "grand spy master", Putin has an inner desire to bring back the glory of the old Russian Empire. And therefore the Russian invasion and Putin's war moves were foretold. By the end of 2021, Moscow presented a list of demands to Washington, saying these need to be met urgently to stave off an immediate conflagration in neighbouring Ukraine.

His message to the West was straight and unmistakable - if these demands are not met or considered immediately, Russia will have to resort to military action to settle it. And



People cover the windows Museum of Ethnography with metal plates in Lviv, western Ukraine

AP file photo

finally, Putin did the same on February 24 by heralding the spectre of the Third World War to Europe.

This week Putin said Russia would achieve its goals in Ukraine. He also underlined that his country would not surrender to what he termed as "Western attempt" to achieve global dominance and dismember Russia. He also advanced his opinion that Russia is ready to discuss neutral status for Ukraine.

Putin declared, "Russia would never break down or back down, they don't know our history or our people." This makes absolutely clear

what Putin wants from the West and out of the debris of Ukraine.

As America's image has taken a severe beating for its inability to save Ukraine from Russian assault, US President Joe Biden tried to weave a favourable narrative by branding Putin "war criminal". While retorting to Washington's "unforgettable rhetoric", Moscow has threatened that it has all the wherewithal to cut the world's superpower down to size. It also accused the US-led West of stoking a "Wild Russophobic Plot" to tear the modern Russian Federation apart.

The moot point is whether the "war crimes" threat of the US is deliverable? Can Putin and his forces be booked by the UN body under war crimes? As a matter of fact, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is regarded as the most brazen illegal war ever launched by a sovereign state against another since the end of the Second World War. This aggression of Moscow has clearly violated the principles of the UN Charter that prohibits the "use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state". The western media claim there is an avalanche of evidence that the Russian army

is committing war crimes across Ukraine simply by targeting non-combatants i.e. civilians.

Today, Ukraine's 44 million people are facing the continued onslaught of the Russian Army from all sides. And more than three million Ukrainians have left for the neighbouring countries. Paul Dillon, spokesperson of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), said: "We have now reached three million marks in terms of movements of people out of Ukraine to neighbouring countries. And among these people there are 157,000 third-country nationals."

Further, some 1.5 million children have now joined the exodus from Ukraine.

The view of the Mariupol Drama Theatre indicates that it was a shelter for 1,000 people in the war-torn zone. The saddest part of the tragedy is that the theatre in the front and back was earmarked in white colour as "Deti" meaning children in the Russian language. Despite such labelling, the bombing was carried out on the shelter. Hundreds of civilians were hiding there in the columned theatre in central Mariupol after their homes were devastated by the Russian forces. These facts are sufficient

evidence of war crimes.

The facts, however, are not always taken into account in geopolitics, especially when the accused is a mighty power. With veto-power-building China openly backing Russia, the efforts to try Putin and his men as war criminals would prove futile.

Seen in that perspective, Putin warned that if the Ukrainians continue to resist, they "risk the future of Ukrainian statehood". It is a clear indication that Putin wants Ukraine to surrender unconditionally.

It is an all-out conflict. If Putin is claiming that he has an upper hand in this stand-off, he really has. Putin has consolidated his power and vanquished all his enemies over the years.

Initially, it seemed that Russia was only concerned about NATO expansion in Eastern Europe. Putin is trying to bring a permanent freeze on the further advancement of the alliance's military infrastructure like massive bases and weapon systems in the territories of erstwhile Soviet Union, an immediate end to western military assistance to Ukraine, and a ban on intermediate range missiles in Europe.

The Ukraine invasion has unveiled Putin's plan: he not only wants to stop NATO's advance in the vicinity of Russia, but also has a grand plan to help Russia gain its lost glory. In the path to that goal hinges on the new post Cold War global order. Putin has delivered a massive setback to the US-led world order. And, China under the leadership of Xi Jinping has offered its shoulder to Putin. It shows a new world order is in the making. Its only aim is to prevent the democratic liberal order once ruled by the West.

(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)

**The Ukraine invasion has unveiled Putin's plan: He not only wants to stop NATO's advance in the vicinity of Russia, but also has a grand plan to help Russia gain its lost glory. And the path to that goal hinges on the new post Cold War global order he is trying to make**



MAKHAN SAIKIA

## PERSPECTIVE

# American pivot in Indo-Pacific

The vision of an Indian global leadership was initially flagged off by former US President Donald Trump which has been further defined in the context of President Biden's foreign policy thought and proclivities, which is there to be observed by all and sundry and not to be scathingly relegated to the backburner

Asia-Pacific is on the boil as far as the context of the largest international system is concerned. The initiation of the American pivot to the Orient and the Asiatic space is also a well-written and much too often deliberated upon phenomenon. The rise of the People's Republic of China is an omniscient and an ominous development but the surge in the Asian economic markets and the change in the American pivot since the times of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2011 served as defining moments of the international system. The Asian pivot of the United States of America was orchestrated through its much-famed Asia-Pacific fleet operating from near the vicinity of its military bases such as Guam. With China being expansionist, hegemonic and quintessentially overarching, its military modernisation and the Han predominance over the supply chains warranted a novae approach to balance the Chinese, "peaceful rise", as the Chinese observers designate the nomenclature, to the economic and geo-strategic pelf and influence of Beijing.

The Asia-Pacific was historically buttressed since the

heady days of World War II and was identified with lore like instances, such as the battles of the INA under the leadership of Subhash Chandra Bose, the utilitarian treatment of the Navajo ethnic fraternity in the Indo-China region with the use of the Navajo soldiers as radio men and signal decoders with the American forces, along with the high flown bravery and valour of the Chindit contingents of the British forces pitted against an invading Japanese military dispensation.

The United States study centre writes, "The Biden Administration sees the United States as being in a 'systems competition' between democracy and autocracy. By making ideological competition with China an organising principle for US foreign policy, Washington risks undermining its attractiveness as a partner and key actor in the Indo-Pacific."

Thus, the Manichaeism involved in the Indo-Pacific narrative, along with the Bushism of "Us versus Them" initiated during the hurly burly days of the Gulf war era, still echoes in the foreign policy utterances of President Joe Biden.

The American pivot in consonance with earlier analysis and deliberations pointed towards the quintessential standpoint policy of encircling and containment 2.0 aimed to belittle the strength and the rise of People's Republic of China. It was pointed out that the sole Chinese tilt, the au courant text of the Quad narrative and the attendant US foreign policy might not be an effective and instrumental weapon to utilise in order to achieve the larger objective of strangulating Beijing.

Still, the Quad approach of nations comprising India, the United States, Australia and Japan needs to broaden the broadside beyond China. What it means is that the new Quad grouping which has been recently reinvigorated needs to dabble into the contemporary contexts of cyber threats, drone warfare, good governance, accountability, innovation and the miasma of dual use technologies. This is something which has been already included in the larger and broader agenda and the mandate of the Quad, which is more than a bland grouping of the liberal democratic nations, their ideology and doctrine amount to a significant but not a com-

prehensive figment by any stretch of imagination. The US in Asia and the Pacific have a larger mandate to fulfil which tethers the democracies with pluralistic demeanour to a much larger operational frame of reference.

The other burning and pedestalled quests such as the universalisation of digital infrastructure and an adherence to open, resilient and trustworthy technologies, are also some of the mainframe ventures of the US in the tested seas and the attendant maritime space which takes the American interest and stakes in the Indo-Pacific much beyond the pallor of Chinese security and strategic transgressions. The Quad narrative also includes the concerns of freedom of speech, freedom of expression and to spawn a free, open and objective space for the journalists who can operate sans threats and coercive environs.

This initiative rings true about the Chinese scheming in Hong Kong in the name of supporting and promoting human rights and all significant freedoms without getting axiomatized and holier-than-thou, about the all favourite dictum of "Values" in the American domestic firmament.

Still, it needs not be underscored that the USA is an Indo-Pacific power. So the concomitant poser posits itself on the situation that how does one comprehend the Indo-Pacific? Ideally and academically, the conceptualisation of the Indo-Pacific includes a large regional footprint stretching from the America's West coast to the north coastline of Africa where in the extent of the Indo-Pacific expanse extends from the penguins to the polar bears. German geo-strategic thinker and strategist Karl Haushofer introduced the nomenclature of "Indo-Pacific" in the 1920s while the Indian historian Kalidas Nag mentioned the Indo-Pacific denomination in his work in the 1940s.

The White House's official release sheds pertinent and significant light on the theme of America's Indo-Pacific policy. The White House's white paper contends boldly that, "The United States has long recognised the Indo-Pacific as vital to our security and prosperity. Our ties were forged two centuries ago, when Americans came to the region seeking commercial opportunities, and grew with the arrival of Asian immigrants to the United

States. The Second World War reminded the United States that our country could only be secure if Asia was, too. And so in the post-war era, the United States solidified our ties with the region, through ironclad treaty alliances with Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, and Thailand."

In a way it was the American debacle at Pearl Harbour and the US espousal of the state of Philippines in the initial epoch of the 20th century which flagged off the region's situation in the context of the larger international system. Apart from the value laden approach which has become the foundational theme of US foreign policy, the regional organisations such as ASEAN, TPP and RCEP, too, appear in the foreground as forming the key mandate of the American foreign policy.

Thus, a primal substratum of Indo-Pacific security is the projected order of the day, wherein, the larger tracts of liberal democracy and America's avowed inclusiveness concerning the tenet of values comes tidily and effectively to the fore. Nations of the order of Philippines, ROK and Thailand have been traditional and all weather allies of

Washington, which has launched forth a new rebalancing in the Asia-Pacific beyond the dark shows and antecedents of World War II.

The recently observed support and succour being envisaged by Washington to the geo-economic and geo-strategic rise of India is a strategic and diplomatic theme, which posits New Delhi as the upfront cynosure of all global eyes. The vision of an Indian global leadership was initially flagged off by former US President Donald Trump, which has been further defined in the context of President Biden's foreign policy thought and proclivities which is there to be observed by all and sundry and not to be scathingly relegated to the backburner.

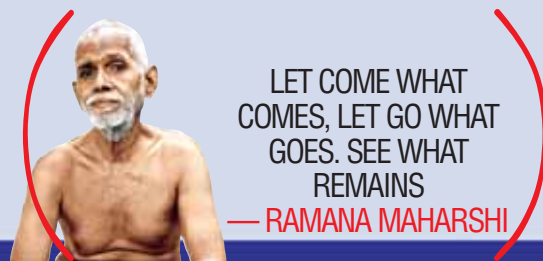
The Indian Covid-19 diplomacy also gels with the American and the Quad's take on the mitigation mechanisms of the Covid containment which further underscores the Quad's and the American concern for India's rise in the Asiatic and the global geopolitical space.

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



MANAN DWIVEDI





**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

This week your health needs immediate attention. You feel low energy. Physical and mental blocks could make life slow. Due to health issues, you may miss the most important and enjoyable events in life. Take preventive measures. This week your career zooms. Promotion, recognition, and acknowledgement are on the cards. Goodwill of those in business will increase as they come out with some brilliant ideas. On the personal front, your irritation and frustration is reflected in the relationships as well. The week will bring mixed emotions in relationships. You are not in the mood to compromise and want to living on your conditions. Initially, your loved ones may be offensive but gradually they will realise the depth of your ideas.

**Lucky number 11**  
**Lucky colour** Pastel Blue  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

Take care as this week water-borne diseases could trouble you. A need for moderate changes in your lifestyle is required. Take care of the food you are eating as gastric problems are likely. Professionally, you will be a little impulsive at work which is not good. Push yourself to the limit. Mix your theoretical thinking with a practical approach. If things are not working, then do not criticise others and find faults in them. Work sincerely and intelligently. On the personal front, domestic issues will draw your attention. Reschedule your timings so that you can pay attention to the people who matter. Do not mix your personal life with your professional life. Avoid any emotional trauma in your relationships.

**Lucky number 20**  
**Lucky colour** Off-White  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

Re-inventing your old traditions will work for you. You may connect with your childhood friend and share experiences accumulated over time. You are inspired to go ahead in life with some creative ideas. On the career front, with your determination and will power, you can now achieve what seemed to be unattainable earlier. An outburst of creative spark comes to you unexpectedly and it will commence the journey of a new creative vision. However, it could be premature to discuss the details of your plans today. On your relationship front, you are high-spirited and chirpy and could win the heart of your loved one. If you're currently in a romantic relationship you may need to be refocused toward the future.

**Lucky number 9**  
**Lucky colour** Red  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week you must take some actions to improve your health condition. Even if you are bedridden, think of actions that you can do. Every action makes a difference. Read more spiritual based books and interact with those who come from belief systems other than your own. On the career front, you are likely to get in a situation to choose work. Before taking any decision, analyse all the available information. It's possible that what you initially considered as bad may work in your favour. Be cautious about mixing business with personal life. A committed relationship will get strengthened and balanced. Give some space to your partner and make sure you do fair share of giving to the relationship.

**Lucky number 1**  
**Lucky colour** Indigo  
**Lucky day** Friday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

You are playful and full of energy this week. Use your creativity and imagination to envision a new future and make it a reality. Your health will be good. Spend some time and money to maintain your health and to lead a quality life. On the career front, you work with a belief in yourself, and this confidence will win the favour of your superiors. Luckily, you are in tune with your values and traditions. Positive results may delay but you need to have patience. Your calm and positive approach will fetch you stability and make a mark for yourself. Relationship-wise, you are outspoken and very straightforward in expression. Give some space to your partner and avoid any kind of conflicting perspective in a close relationship.

**Lucky number 12**  
**Lucky colour** Yellow  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you will enjoy good health. You contribute your share of happiness, wealth or information for the benefit of others. You will be involved in your community. You have a strong desire to contribute to give back or help others and to make the world a better place. On the career front, you have energy and want to show the world your talents. Written communication needs attention. Be gentle and soft in your approach and expression. This week you will reflect sharpness in your mental abilities. You participate in various activities. On the personal front, action and discussion are necessary to elevate your love life. The company of innovative people will fill you with positive thoughts. Go ahead and connect with the person you have been thinking about.

**Lucky number 17**  
**Lucky colour** Silver  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

A need to bring change in your diet and exercise routine is important. You are bound to join some sort of group or institution. Take the advice of some nutritionist and do exercise under the guidance of a gym trainer. On the career front, work with your mind rather than your heart. You are likely to get sentimental on small issues and this won't be for your benefit. You are flexible and casual in professional matters, there is a need for a firm stand. You are likely to be more inclined to pursue creative projects that act as a form of self-expression like art, music, drama and poetry. Those in the literary world will achieve excellence. On the relationship front, you need to work together to get through any rough spots and to work on the bonding.

**Lucky number 16**  
**Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

You are a carefree and enthusiastic. Physically and mentally, you are very active. The abundance of energy will not allow you to sit idly, no matter how busy you are both professionally and personally. This is the right time to utilise this energy in creative pursuits for your benefit. Career-wise, not everything is smooth in your professional and financial prospects in life. Disappointment with the job is likely. You may plan to change your job. It is advised not to take a hasty decision. Personal life is peaceful. You constructively use your authority and power. In a love relationship, your partner may likely experience boredom in your company or vice versa. Find ways to smooth your relationship by bringing moderate change in your style.

**Lucky number 7**  
**Lucky colour** Brown  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

To be fit, ensure you are eating at regular intervals and doing physical exercises. Money, career is important to you now. However, in the fast pace of life, health is left behind. Amidst all these people forget that all works and no play make Jack a dull boy. If you are not serious then you could invite many health issues and make a big hole in the pocket. Professionally, sudden reversals can happen now. The energy of this time will take you towards arguments. You may feel humiliated, undervalued in the hands of your colleagues and superiors. If you feel your job is unrewarding, give serious thought to make a change. You deserve to be happy. Those in a relationship will have greater moments of life in the company of each other.

**Lucky number 13**  
**Lucky colour** Rose Gold  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week you will be enthusiastic. You will feel as if you are in the spotlight and people are waiting to hear your views. Your health remains good. You may plan to step out for a long drive to experience some change. It is also possible that you contact people from different places. On the career front, you will get the opportunity to kick start your career. Students need to prepare well in advance to stay in tune with their curriculum. You have the skills, intelligence but need the correct guidance to improve them and prepare for a brighter future. Research related work is on the card. You will have the ability to influence your near and dear ones. Relationships may suffer if you don't have control over your verbal communication.

**Lucky number 19**  
**Lucky colour** Golden  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

Your health & creativity is good, and it is a period of great insight. You may feel a breakthrough moment where conscious understanding reaches its peak. This is a perfect time to clear away the haze that has kept you from seeing the inner truth. Avoid anger, aggression, and rush as these can affect your health. Money inflow will be good. Investments done in past will pay rich dividends now. You appreciate what is now available to you, knowing that the difficulties are over. You also know that with confidence, self-discipline, and patience, you can complete any task. On the personal front, your intuitive sense is providing you with useful and helpful information and is helping you to get in touch with your subconscious mind.

**Lucky number 8**  
**Lucky colour** Camel Brown  
**Lucky day** Friday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

This week tension on small issues is on the cards. You are in an unusual mood, worldly pleasures and activities are no more your agenda. You want isolation and relaxation. You need privacy to deal with your current situation. However, coming back to life and facing the challenges with more enthusiasm and creativity is also indicated. On the work front, work seems to be complicated, but you are determined to achieve the set targets. You may have to make a tough choice with regards to money or love. Don't sacrifice your integrity for money. Money can't buy your self-esteem and your spiritual well-being. Your dreams and the desire to manifest those dreams in the material world will come true this week. You are full of hopes and enthusiasm.

**Lucky number 3**  
**Lucky colour** Peach  
**Lucky day** Saturday

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# Work upon your unique character

Caught up in a long drawn civil litigation, a young man came asking: "Sir, will I be able to win the ongoing legal tussle, and if so, by when? The ongoing trends do not look favourable." "It will take some time, but eventually it will get adjudicated in your favour," I answered. When he finally won around the timeline indicated, having developed faith, he opened up one day.

"I dream making it big in life. I draw inspiration from the life of first generation big wigs, and enjoy reading their stories. Will my dream get fulfilled, and if so, by when? I have great faith in Lord Krishna and keep making offerings in the temples every now and then. Will my prayers be ever heard?"

Well, there is nothing wrong in dreaming as it helps reaching heights one is capable of, as they serve as focus to reach an objective. But everybody's dream doesn't get fulfilled. It is good that you have faith in Lord Krishna. If Lord Krishna grants boons against offering made in his temple, a large majority would not meet failure. More important is developing Krishna's consciousness — the faculty of discriminate intelligence.

That will help you discern between 'what you want' and 'what is worth doing', and accordingly pick up right lead. The probability of success then becomes stronger. The people of your imagination you adore, would have attained success, as with full faith they would have made optimum use of their discriminating intelligence. Rather than stuck to their dream destination, they would have been focussed in their present, which laid down the ground for their success ahead.

Here, it also needs to be appreciated that every being is born unique — each with one's own indwelling potential and weaknesses — coming as they may as Karmic carryover from the past. You can't draw parallel with anybody else.

Even twins are not similar, in so far as their traits are concerned. So, it is important to figure out one's own unique character before trying to replicate others. "Can you explain my uniqueness?" he asked.

Born in Scorpio *lagna*, it brings in a good commercial instinct. *Lagna* sub-lord Moon, incidentally the 9th lord identified with destiny, occupies the 11th house, which signifies fulfilment of



desires. 5th sub-lord identified with merits accrued during the past birth happens to be Mercury. It is tenanted in the constellation owned by benevolent Jupiter, the 5th lord, posited in the 3rd house marked with self-efforts. Uranus, if ever in dignity, is marked with something extraordinary, and that occupies the *lagna* sign. It is beautifully aligned with both Jupiter and Moon. Such a good connection of the *lagna*, 5th and 9th, implies that merits acquired from the past is immense. This, read together with placement of Uranus in *lagna* implies that given the right effort, you carry the potential to make it big in life.

When the question of right effort comes, it becomes important to figure out negative habit tendencies as well. For, that too, forms part of one's unique character, which may play spoil sport with your potential. The first to make note of is that the Sun is opposite mischievous Neptune, which makes you stuck to fanciful dream perceptions, often distanced from ground realities. You may not realise truth on its first appearance, and may continue to move on hope against hope till pushed to the wall. *Lagna* lord Mars aspects Moon

posited in the Virgo sign. It brings in the sense of 'I am the only right person syndrome', as if others were not appreciative of his intelligence. If ever his view point is not appreciated, he may go wild. If that would not be enough, Mars extends its 8th aspect on Jupiter, which points to his inflated ego. That further binds him to his self-defined beliefs and perceptions, and not open to look beyond for a reality check. It becomes difficult for him to digest any contrarian advisory.

Many a times he was advised not to behave as a young man in a hurry. He should act with restraint, if ever time was not conducive. If he handles things patiently, success will come with time. He then stopped taking counsel from elders. But when put to a difficult situation, his indwelling seeds of fear and insecurity comes into play as would Sun placed adverse to Saturn mean. Only then he starts looking for guidance.

To sum up, he can make it to his dream destination, if he tries to address his inherent weaknesses.

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