

SHORT TALKS

Humpback whales removed from Australia's threatened species list but feeding grounds still at risk

NEW DELHI: Humpback whales have been removed from the threatened species list after a significant increase in numbers in the 60 years since they were first protected, but green groups warn populations could decline again as oceans warm.

Global heating is predicted to have a significant impact on krill populations in Antarctica, a major feeding ground for humpback whales.

A humpback whale in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Colombia Fast or slow? Study reveals differences in how humpback whales change tune

The Australian environment minister, Sussan Ley, said removing the humpback whale from the threatened species list was "a recognition of the success of the outstanding conservation efforts that are in place".

International protections against whaling and domestic protections to preserve the species remain in place, Ley said.

The number of humpback whales in Australian waters has grown from just 1,500 at the height of the commercial whaling industry to an estimated 40,000, Ley said.

"Australia is a world leader in whale conservation, and we will continue to work through the International Whaling Commission to promote whale conservation and maintain the global moratorium on commercial whaling," she said.

"Our removal of the humpback from the threatened species list is based on science and sends a clear signal about what can be achieved through coordinated action. It is a message of hope for the welfare of a number of species."

Commercial whaling in the southern ocean in the 19th and early 20th century pushed many whale species, particularly the humpback and southern right, to the brink of extinction.

More than 30,000 humpback whales were killed by whalers operating in Australia and New Zealand before local whaling operations ceased taking the species in 1963.

They received international protection in 1965 in recognition of a dramatic decline in global numbers.

The last commercial whaling station in Australia, the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company in Western Australia, closed in 1978 and Australia adopted an anti-whaling policy in 1979.

Alexia Wellbelove, a senior campaign manager for Humane Society International, said while whale numbers had shown a "remarkable recovery" in the 60 years they received worldwide protection, the decision to delist the marine mammals "may prove to be short-sighted in the face of looming climate impacts".

Make List Of 'Kauravas' In Congress: Rahul Gandhi To Party Leaders In Gujarat

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday asked his party leaders in Gujarat to prepare a list of "Kauravas" in the party, who just "sit in their AC offices, do nothing but talk and disturb others", adding that such people eventually cross over to the BJP.

He also hit out at the Modi government over the use of central agencies, saying it has "CBI, ED, media, police and goons", and said ultimately it is the truth that matters.

Alleging that Gujarat is suffering because of "BJP's politics", he said Congress has an opportunity to win the next Assembly polls in the state, but it fails to convey a clear vision to the people about what it intends to do after it comes to power.

Gandhi, who was in Gujarat as part of his day-long visit, was addressing the party leaders and office-bearers on the second day of the three-day Chintan Shivir, a brainstorming session, organised here by the state unit of the



party to chalk out the strategy for the Assembly elections due in December this year.

Before coming to the venue, he visited the Dwarkadhish temple dedicated to Lord Krishna, where he

good clothes, ED or CBI? No. Because the truth is always simple," he said.

"Congress workers must understand that they have already won the Gujarat Assembly election. You are just not accepting it. People of Gujarat are watching you with high hopes. The BJP has harmed the people of Gujarat more than it has harmed the Congress here," he said.

Sharing a bold vision for the revival of Congress and to win the upcoming election here, Gandhi suggested getting rid of leaders who "sit in air-conditioned rooms and disturb others".

"So why is there confusion (on conveying the vision to the people)? Because we have two types of leaders. One who remains on the ground and gives a fight. Another lot sits in their AC offices and does nothing except talking and giving speeches. Prepare a list of such leaders who disturb others. They are Kauravas. BJP will take them in their fold," he said.

Bengal Governor sticks to stand on assembly session at 2 am

NEW DELHI: West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar Saturday stuck to his stand that a cabinet recommendation is required for him to consider the change in the timing of the assembly session from 2 am to 2 pm on March 7. The recommendation will be promptly addressed and no one else can be a representative of the cabinet, a statement issued by the Raj Bhavan said.

Chief Secretary H K Dwivedi had written to the Governor, who convenes an assembly session, on February 24 stating that the state cabinet's recommendation letter mentioning 2 am as the time for summoning the assembly was an "inadvertent typographical error".

He had requested that the time of summoning of the House be changed to 2 pm on the same day. Ruling out the request, the statement said, "Cabinet decision is essential for the Governor to consider change of timing of the assembly session from presently 2 am to 2 pm on March 07. The issue will be addressed once there is such recommendation of the cabinet." In the matter of summoning of West Bengal Assembly the Governor acts only on the



recommendation of the State Cabinet and no other authority. In such matters none can be 'face' or 'representative' of the Cabinet," the statement signed by Dhankhar's OSD said.

Quoting Article 163 of the Constitution, it said that the council of ministers with the chief minister as the head aids and advises the Governor. "This comes into play when Governor is required to summon the assembly under article 174(1) of the Constitution. A recommendation of the Cabinet is liable to be varied or changed only by the Cabinet and no other authority. In view of this settled view, the Governor declined to entertain a request from Chief Secretary to change the assembly summoning time, and thereby vary the cabinet decision at his instance," it said.

Royale Estate Group to foray into development of a state-of-the-art Industrial Park

CHANDIGARH: After carving a niche for itself in the region's affordable, ethical and quality housing sector, Royale Estate Group (REG) has become a partner to ensure holistic economic development of the region. It is creating a state-of-the-art Integrated Industrial Park, the vision document cum blueprint of which has been made in consultation with industry experts.

"Our decision to foray into the Industrial sector is like giving back to society. Housing segment is more lucrative for the real estate players but not to us beyond a point. At REG, we wish to give back to society in a different and sustainable way. Our initiative for the industries will be a case in point, which will further improve the ease of doing business and generate employment opportunities," said Piyush Kansal, a young Director at REG.

The industrial park, which will be of an international level will be established soon. "There is a need to retain the migration of talent and capital from the region. This will be possible only when we create quality infrastructure for local,



domestic and foreign investors. It is an important task we have undertaken after realizing the fact that as a responsible, transparent and honest real estate player, we also have to become a partner in the economic development of the region,"

Aakash +BYJU'S has rolled out a vaccination drive in Kurukshetra

KURUKSHETRA : To minimize the effects of a possible third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, Aakash +BYJU'S has rolled out a vaccination drive in Kurukshetra for all its students who are eligible for inoculation. Over 100+ students received vaccination from the Aakash +BYJU'S centre at Kurukshetra. Firmly believing in the necessity of vaccination during this crucial time, the institute has been facilitating smooth vaccine shots for all its eligible students across the city. The health and well-being of students are of utmost priority for Aakash +BYJU'S. As a significant part of its response to COVID-19, Aakash +BYJU'S took the initiative to provide first shots of the vaccine to all its students. Aakash



+BYJU'S is committed to assisting citizens in every possible way to contain the spread of the highly contagious Omicron variant.

CLASSIFIED

I Manveer Kaur Sallan W/O Bahadar Singh VPO Sandaur, Teh. Malerkotla (Sangrur) have changed my name to Manveer Kaur.

63372

I, Ruby W/o Parmjeet Singh R/O Vill: Chak Vandal Teh-Nakodar (Jalandhar) changed my name from Ruby to Harjinder Kaur.

63372

I, Sukhmander Singh S/o Harbans Singh R/o Vpo. Panjgrin Khurd (Moga) changed my name to Sukhmander Singh Purba.

63372

I, Gurwinder Singh alias Inderjeet Singh S/o Shingara Singh alias Balwinder Singh R/o Balkhendi Teh-Dharamkot (Moga) have known by both names Gurwinder Singh alias Inderjeet Singh.

63372

I, Mohinder Lal S/O Chimgi Lal R/O Shanti Nagar, Ward No. 19 Kotkapura, Tehsil Kotkapura, District Faridkot Have Change My Minor Daughter's Name Bimla Devi To Simarn.

63372

I, Bahadur Singh Aulakh S/o Naranjan Singh R/o Ward No. 2, Garcha Colony Khamanon (Fatehgarh Sahib) have changed my name to Bahadur Singh.

63372

I, Pinki W/o Amit Kumar Aman R/o Bhisiana (Bathinda) Pb, changed my name to Pinki Jha.

63372

I, Manoj Kumar Tripathi R/o A.F. Station Bhisiana (Bathinda) changed my name from Manoj Kumar to Manoj Kumar Tripathi.

63372

I, Mandeep Kaur W/O Gurjant Singh Gill R/O Mehar Singh Wala (Ferozepur) Changed Name Mandeep Kaur Gill.

63372

I, Kuljeet Kaur W/O Tarsem Singh Brar R/O Dagru Patti Kamaal (Moga) Changed Name Kuljeet Kaur Brar.

63372

I, Vikramjit S/o Gurdial Singh R/o Vill: Kaleran Teh-Banga (SBS Nagar) Pb, India, changed my name to Vikramjit Banga.

63372

I, Pushpa Rani W/O Aseev Nagpal R/O Gidderbaha Teh. Gidderbaha Distt. Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name After Marriage From Pushpa Rani To Seema Rani.

63372

I, Swarnjeet Singh S/O Jangir Singh R/O Kotha Barde Wale, Kotli Ablu Tehsil Gidderbaha Distt. Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name Swarnjeet Singh To Raja Singh.

63372

I Vikas Kumar S/O sh. Dev Sharan Prasad R/O 126 Azad Nagar Colony Balongi Dissst S. A. S Nagar (Mohali) Have Changed My name To Vikas Kumar Gond

98765

I, Kulwinder Kaur W/O Kulveer Singh Brar R/O Hariewala (Moga) Have Changed My Name To Kulwinder Kaur Brar. (After Marriage)

63372

I, Ramandeep Kaur W/o Dalveer Singh Gill R/o Vill: Lasara Lakhows Teh-Payal (Ludhiana) changed my name to Ramandeep Kaur Gill.

63372

I, Pargat Singh Madahar S/o Hardev Singh R/o Vill: Gosal Teh-Payal (Ludhiana) Pb, changed my name to Pargat Singh.

63372

I Bhavna Singh W/o Harbir Singh Gulati R/o House No A1/26 GF,DLF Valley, Panchkula have changed my name from Bhavna Nandal to Bhavna Singh for all purposes

100014

I Kumbh Karan Kaushik S/o Sh. Dharam Dutt Kaushik R/o H.No.2187/12 gali no.5 Shanti nagar Tehsil Thanesar Kurukshetra have changed my wife name Santosh Devi to Santosh Kaushik. In future my wife should be known as Santosh Kaushik.

98702

I, Kulwant Kaur W/o Naib Singh R/o Village-Sukhdarshanpur, Tehsil & Distt.Panchkula (Haryana) declare that Kulwant Kaur & Balbant Kaur both are my name.

98702

I Kumbh Karan Kaushik S/o Sh. Dharam Dutt Kaushik R/o H.No.2187/12 gali no.5 Shanti nagar Tehsil Thanesar Kurukshetra have changed my father name Dharam Chand Kaushik to Dharam Dutt Kaushik. In future my father should be known as Dharam Dutt Kaushik.

98702

I, Basundhra D/o Devendra Kumar Mishra R/o #64B, Block B-1, New Model Town, Pinjore, Panchkula (Haryana) declare that Basundhra & Basundhra Mishra both are my name

98702

I, Chhinder Singh S/o Mohan Singh R/o Village Chakku Ladana Tehsil Guhla Distt. Kaithal Have Changed My Name From Chhinder Singh To Shinder Singh. Concerned Please Note.

84451

I Salwinder Kaur wife of Iqbal Kumar resident of VPO Sidhwan Dona, District Kapurthala, Punjab declare that I am also known with another name of Jaswinder, so Salwinder Kaur and Jaswinder are two names of one and the same person. All Concerned please note.

98706

I, Harvinder Kaur Alias Shahina Kanda W/o Harjinder Singh Kanda R/o Gali Bohar Wali, VPO Majitha District Amritsar have changed my name to Harvinder Kaur Kanda.

900020

I, Masa Singh S/o Bachan Singh R/o Baba Bakala District Amritsar have changed my name to Massa Singh.

900020

I Navdeep Singh S/o Late S. Rachpal Singh Resident of H NO. 177, Hussainpura, Near Kamal Tent House, Amritsar. That Mohna and Manmohan Kaur is one and the same person. All concerned please note.

900020

I, hitherto Known as CHANCHAL SINGH Son of KARNAIL SINGH R/o VPO Khara Tehsil and District Tarn Taran Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as CHANCHAL SINGH SANDHU.

900020

I, hitherto Known as RACHHPAL SINGH DHILLON Son of BUR SINGH residing at Village Mustapur, PO Wadala Banger, Tehsil & District Gurdaspur - 143505 Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as RACHHPAL SINGH.

900020

I Gurinder Singh S/o Sukhwant Singh R/o Vill. Bur Chand, Tehsil Patti Distt. Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name To Gurwinder Singh.

900020

I, hitherto Known as RENU BALA BAJAJ ALIAS RAMAN BALA ARORA Wife of SURINDER KUMAR BAJAJ residing at H.No. 129, Ward No. 14, Gandhi Nagar, Ferozepur Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as RENU BAJAJ.

900020

I, hitherto Known as RAVINDER KUMAR Son of MADAN LAL residing at H.No.15, Sultanwin G.T.Road, Tara Wala Phull, Gart Avenue, Near Gull Marag Avenue, Amritsar, Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as RAVINDER VIG.

900020

I, hitherto Known as EKTA ARORA D/o ASHOK KUMAR R/o AJAY VOHRA R/o VPO Chogawan, Tehsil Ajnala, District Amritsar Punjab have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as EKTA RANI.

900020

I, Gobinda S/o Mangat Ram R/o H.No.206-A, A-Block, Sandhu Colony, G.T.Road, Chheharta, Amritsar have changed my name to Harkirat Singh.

900020

I, Rajbir Kaur Alias Rajwinder Kaur W/o Gurnam Singh R/o VPO Jodhe Tehsil Baba Bakala District Amritsar have changed my name to Rajwinder Kaur.

50008

I, Kamaljit Kaur w/o Ranjit Singh r/o VPO Niwarsi, Tehsil Ladwa (Kurukshetra) have changed my name Kamaljit Kaur to Kamaljeet Kaur.

52724

I, Kishor Kumar S/o Bhagwan Dass R/o.498 Gali Tehniya Wali Katra Safaid Amritsar Have Changed my name to Kishore Kumar. Please note it

72737

I, hitherto Known as Satpal Singh s/o Kundan Singh R/o. Vill. Megha PO Dharamkot Randhawa Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak Gurdaspur in state of Punjab have changed the name of my minor Son TALWINDERJIT SINGH AGE 16 YEARS and he Shall hereafter be known as TALWINDER SINGH.

72737

I, Jyoti Bala D/o Narinder Singh W/o Angrej Singh R/o.VPO Mehar Singh Wala Tehsil Zira Distt Ferozepur (Pb) Have Changed my name to Amanpreet Kaur.

72737

I, Neelam Rani W/o Janak Singh R/o Vill. Udhipur PO. Dodwan Tehsil and Distt Gurdaspur Have Changed my name to Neelam

72737

I, Chandraprabha M/o Khupsare Vijay Dilip presently residing at ward No.1, Gondkhairi, Nagpur. Maharashtra-440023 India declare that I have Changed my name from Chandraprabha to Chandraprabha Dilip Khupsare vide affidavit no.AN 413543 dated on 28 Jan 2021

72737

I, Bhutekar Prabhakar Suresh presently residing at Isrul Buldhana Maharashtra pradesh-443201 India declare that in my army record my son name is mentioned as Gourav but his correct name is Sourabh Prabhakar Bhutekar . Vide affidavit No.AN 413533 dated on 28 Jan 2021

72778.

I, hitherto Known as Anju W/o KISHOR KUMAR R/o,Ward No.148/8, Gobind Nagar Batala Road VPO Gurdaspur Distt Gurdaspur Punjab. have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as ANJUBALA

72737

I, Hitherto Known As Rawel Singh S/o Joginder Singh R/O Village Akbarpur, Po Begowal, Distt. Kapurthala - 144621, Punjab, India Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Kewal Singh.

72778.

I, Hitherto Known As Manju Dixit W/O Ashok Dewan R/o A-3 Silver Residency, Near Tv Tower, Nakodar Road, Distt. Jalandhar - 144001, Punjab, India Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Ritu Dewan.

72778.

I Bikramjit S/O Jog Raj R/O Vp.o Kittna Tehsil Garshankar (Hoshiarpur) Have Changed My Name To Bikramjit Rattu

72778.

I Jagiri Lal, Hereby Declare (With Consent Of My Son Pardeep Kumar, That My Son, Mr. Pardeep Kumar, Is Pr In Canada R/o 26580-30a Ave, Aldergrove. Bc V4w 3c8 Canada Has Changed His Name As Pardeep Kumar Verma.

72778.

I Jagiri Lal Hereby Declare (With Consent Of My Daughter-in-law Mrs. Rajni) That My Daughter-in-law Mrs Rajni W/O Pardeep Kumar Is Pr In Canada Residing At 26580-30a Ave, Aldergrove. Bc V4w 3c8 Canada Has Name Changed Her Name A Rajni Verma.

72778.

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For any Circulation query

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CoinSwitch launches Recurring Buy Plan for Crypto purchases

CHANDIGARH : India's largest Crypto platform CoinSwitch has launched Recurring Buy Plan, a simple and planned way to purchase Crypto assets in India. With this launch, CoinSwitch aims to enable users to beat market volatility and avoid making impulsive buying or selling decisions. "At CoinSwitch, we want to help users across their Crypto journey. Crypto is an emerging but attractive asset class and has a higher degree of volatility in comparison to traditional assets. The CoinSwitch Recurring Buy Plan will allow users to purchase Cryptoin a planned manner and enable the user to avoid the impulse to time the market and make emotional trading decisions. It will also empower users to explore this new asset class in a more structured and disciplined manner," said AshishSinghal, Founder and CEO, CoinSwitch.Through Recurring Buy Plan (RBP), users can set aside a fixed amount of money to purchase a Crypto asset every month over a long period of time, allowing them to focus on a long-term strategy rather than timing the market.On CoinSwitch, users can deposit only Indian Rupees from their verified bank accounts. The company permits only resident Indian bank accounts on the platform and conducts screening (for Politically Exposed Person status, Sanctioned list, and negative news) and other KYC checks. Users can create an RBP in 3 simple steps: Click 'Recurring Buy' on the buy page, and choose the preferred amount. Select the preferred repeat date. Confirm the order.Users will also have to ensure there is enough balance in their CoinSwitch Account for future/repeat orders. The upper limit of buy orders on the platform is Rupees 2,50,000. Users can have a single or multiple RBP for a single Crypto.

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Shivya Pathania breaks down during the shoot of the Sati Dahan sequence

CHANDIGARH : &TV's Baal Shiv, positioned as Mahadev Ki Undekhi Gatha, continues to climb the popularity charts with engaging and captivating content and characters. The upcoming plot that has been around the story of Sati, essayed by ShivyaPathania, will have a high point focused on the tale of Sati Dahan. As Sati marries Mahadev (Siddharth Arora) against her father's will, Prapajati Daksh (TejSapru), he does not invite the couple to Yagna, despite Sati being his favourite daughter. Due to her parental bond, Sati ignores the social etiquette and her husband's suggestion not to attend the Yagna and goes to the ceremony alone. She gets humiliated and insulted by her father for marrying Shiva. Unable to bear Mahadev and her insults, Sati walks into the sacrificial fire and immolates herself, which leads to Mahadev's unstoppable anger, leading to destruction.

Talking about her character Sati, ShivyaPathania shares, "Sati is a very strong person. She is synonymous with devotion and is a lady of virtue. She is aware of what she wants in her life and always goes with it, irrespec-



tive of what others have to say. When I narrated the part, I was extremely excited and, at the same time, nervous about playing the character. But I am happy to people's encouraging response to the track, and I feel my hard work has paid off."

About her experience of shooting the heart-wrenching sequence of Sati Dahan, Shviya adds "Shooting the Sati Dahan scene has been emotionally exhausting as I could feel the pain

of the character. The tears that I shed while doing the scene were real. The moment the director said "action" and I walked towards the yagna, I felt every bit of pain and misery in it. This time, I acted through my body and my heart and emotions. The story of Sati Dahan holds great importance in our Hindu mythology, but in my opinion, just reading or listening to the story does not give justice to its true essence. The character is quite strong and, of course, close to my heart. It brought out the best in me. The experience was so heartfelt that sometimes I still get goosebumps. I am grateful to the show makers for believing in me and my ability to carry off Sati, Mahakali and Devi Parvati's characters so beautifully and at ease. It taught me a lot and helped me grow as an actor. One rarely gets to essay so many aspects of a single character in one show. I feel truly blessed to be given this opportunity. I keep getting a lot of compliments and appreciation from friends, family and fans that encourages and motivates me to do my best. The Sati track will always be very special to me."

Samsung Unveils Powerful Galaxy Tab S8 Series in India, its Biggest, Boldest, Most Versatile Tablet Ever

CHANDIGARH : Samsung recently launched Galaxy Tab S8 series in India, an inclusive portable productivity powerhouse, designed to be everyone's perfect companion in an always-on, video-first world. Galaxy Tab S8 series offers you the freedom and flexibility you deserve to work and play anywhere like never before. "At Samsung, our endeavour is to create great consumer experiences through meaningful innovations and deliver the best to our consumers. The Galaxy Tab S8 series offers revolutionary multitasking capabilities, powerful productivity and sophisticated hardware to provide you freedom and flexibility to work and play," said Sandeep Poswal, Business Head, New Computing Business, Samsung India.

Even before the Sa Re Ga Ma Pa season ends,contestant Sanjana bags the title track of Zee TV's

AGENCY CHANDIGARH, FENB 26

Zee TV recently returned with its most iconic, longest-running singing reality show that has stayed relevant to music lovers across the country - Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 2021. The show has successfully discovered some truly invaluable gems of the music fraternity, including Shreya Ghoshal, Kunal Ganjawala, Kamal Khan, and Amanat Ali, amongst many others. The show started off with a bang, and this season's talented contestants have already managed to impress the viewers. A hot audiencefavorite is Delhi's Sanjana Bhatt who often performs with her infant in her arms. The latest on Sanjana is that the talented contestant has bagged a project even before Sa Re Ga Ma Pa has reached its finale. Recently, host Aditya Narayan at the shoot of an upcoming

episode, mentioned how Sanjana has lent her beautiful voice to the heartwarming title track of Zee TV's upcoming fiction show 'Mithai'.

'Mithai' tells the story of a girl from Jatipura, UP who zealously wants to carry forth her father's legacy of making Aaloo Jalebis and wants to turn them into a worldwide phenomenon. While the catchy promo of this upcoming Zee TV show has grabbed eyeballs and got everyone discussing the novel concept of jalebis made from aaloo, it was also the title track that has caught on and impressed all the viewers. But not many know that its is none other than Sa Re Ga Ma Pa contestant Sanjana Bhatt who has lent her voice to this peppy, delightful title track. Sanjana is one of the popular contestants from the Top 7 of the singing reality show 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa', and she has al-

ready made her playback debut ontelevision. After her performance, Sanjana revealed how it has always been her dream to record a song in a studio and what it felt like while preparing to sing the Mithai title track. Talking about the achievement and the song, Sanjana Bhatt mentioned,"The Mithai title track is so catchy and has a joyous vibe to it. It was such an honour to mark my debut with the title track of the show.

I have recorded the song for the first time in my entire life, and that too for a fiction show. I was very excited yet nervous at the same time because I never knew what a studio even looked from the inside and how everything worked. To add to my nervousness, it was not an easy song to sing. I am glad my efforts are being appreciated by one and all. I would like to thank

Reliance General Insurance participates in the PMFBY's policy distribution drive - "Meri Policy Mere Hath"

CHANDIGARH : Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd (RGICL), India's 4th largest private general insurance company, has announced its participation in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana's nationwide Doorstep Crop Insurance Policy Distribution Mega Drive - 'Meri Policy Mere Hath' under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Campaign - India@75'. The Company fully supports the initiative and is committed towards playing its part in building a better financial ecosystem for the farmers. To drive the initiative effectively, Reliance General Insurance has set up special camps at gram panchayat/village level to educate farmers, who are enrolled with Reliance General Insurance under the PMFBY, about their existing crop insurance policies. Through this initiative, the farmer will receive first-hand information, and details of their crop insurance such as sum insured amount, types of crops insured and the premium amount. The Company will also distribute physical documents of the existing policies to the farmers. Having these documents handy will ensure hassle-free claim settlement for the farmers in the future. Furthermore, the initiative will also give the farmers a platform to share their feedback, queries and grievances directly with the insurance company. Commenting on this unique initiative, Rakesh Jain, CEO of Reliance General Insurance, said, "We welcome the initiative and give our extensive support to this exceptional drive. Agriculture provides livelihood to nearly 60% of our population. However, risks of natural calamities, large rain-fed areas, pests, and disease make agriculture a highly volatile sector. Thus, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana was introduced to provide financial protection to the farmers against any such unforeseen events. 'Meri Policy Mere Hath' initiative takes the Govt.'s effort one step ahead by empowering farmers through crop insurance awareness and by bringing insurance policy to the farmers' doorsteps.

Lord Vishnu in Swarna Swar Bharat, Vishal Karwal says, "Deity role sparks my interest in acting"

CHANDIGARH : Zee TV recently premiered a first-of-its-kind, devotional singing reality show - Swarna Swar Bharat. A humble contribution to the Honorable Prime Minister's noble initiative of 'Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence,' the show endeavors to celebrate our rich cultural heritage. In fact, viewers have



been having a gala time as the show takes them back to their roots through a unique blend of insightful and relatable stories narrated through some wonderful verses and soulful devotional music. While some of the incredible contestants have already impressed the audience, Vishal Karwal is bound to leave everyone speechless this weekend. After all, the actor will be seen in the divine avatar of Lord Vishnu for the upcoming episode. As a part of this Swarna Swar Bharat's special episode, makers will use storytelling and devotional music to celebrate Indian culture, and traditions. Vishal in his avatar as Lord Vishnu along with the host Ravi Kishan in the avatar of 'Narad Muni' will share a few words of wisdom pretending as the Indian gods. Speaking about the role of Lord Vishnu, Vishal Karwal said, "I have portrayed Lord Vishnu several times and now I play the mythological avatar in Swarna Swar Bharat. Such roles surely spark my interest in acting. In my experience, a lot of actors don't want to play mythological characters because playing the role of a deity is far more challenging than portraying a regular character.

I believe that it is in giving that we receive", says &TV's Baal Shiv actor Siddharth Arora

CHANDIGARH : It is said, 'The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.' Actor Siddharth Arora who essays the role of Mahadev in &TV's Baal Shiv, strongly believes in the saying and is doing wonders for the underprivileged through social work. On World NGO Day, which is observed on February 27th every year to recognize and honour people contributing to the society, actor Siddharth Arora shares work done by his NGO, Sahyog, for the underprivileged.

Talking about his NGO, Siddharth Arora aka Mahadev from &TV's Baal Shiv shares, "I hail from the land of Lord Shiva, Varanasi and spirituality has been the centre of my world since childhood. I believe that it is in giving that we receive. Giving is an act of spirituality, and if I can create even a little difference through my actions, I will surely do it. Therefore, this year's start was an extremely remarkable one for me. My friends at our NGO, Sahyog and I started our first blanket drive on the 1st day of the year. We Sahyogis drove around the roads to provide blankets to those sleeping on the roadside and shivering in the cold weather of Varanasi. It was ex-



tremely disheartening to see people trying to keep warm by covering themselves with just plastic sheets. It made my heart happy to be able to provide them with blankets and help them live through the cold, even if in the smallest way possible."

Sharing the reason behind starting an NGO, Siddharth says, "During the difficult times of Covid, everyone was trying to do their little bit and help each other. However, the situation was such that people's family members could not be on their side. With my friends, we started Sahyog to help people in need. As our first initiative, we provided meals to the relatives of Covid patients in government hospitals.

"Lata ji was always a phone call away from me", revealed Dharmendra on the sets of Zee TV's Sa Re Ga Ma Pa

BUREAU CHANDIGARH :

Zee TV recently returned with its most iconic, longest-running singing reality show Sa Re Ga Ma Pa, which has stayed relevant to music lovers. The show started with a bang, and this season's talented contestants have already managed to impress the audience. However, viewers are in for a treat this Saturday as Bollywood's He-Man Dharmendra will appear as a special guest on Sa Re Ga Ma Pa alongside the judges where he reveals about his emotional connect with the legendary singer, late Lata Mangeshkar.

While all the performances impressed the veteran actor during the shoot, the young contestant's soulful rendition of Agar MujhsMohabbat Hai and Chalo Sajna, Jahan TakGhataChale



left Dharmendra mesmerized and made him reminisce late Lata Mangeshkar's singing. As he recalled his memories with the great Lata Mangeshkar, Dharmendra was left emotional after the act and revealed how her evergreen songs will remain eternal. He also talked about how he and Lata ji have always shared an emotional connection and she was always a phone call away from him.

Haier reaffirms its commitment towards the 'Make in India' initiative; inaugurates Deep Freezer Factory at Pune Industrial Park

LUDHIANA : Haier, the global leader in Home Appliances & Consumer Electronics and the World's Number 1 brand in Major Appliances for 13 Consecutive Years today announced the inauguration of its new factory for Deep Freezer manufacturing at its first industrial park in Ranjangaon, Pune. With this development, Haier has strengthened its commitment towards the Central Government's 'Make in India' initiative to boost local manufacturing by manufacturing premium and high-quality products to suit the requirements of

Indian consumers.

Additionally, the investment will strengthen Haier's position in India and scale up the annual production capacity of deep freezer products with superior quality to 5 lakh units. Haier has been strengthening its focus to producing premium products through local manufacturing in India. The new Deep Freezer factory will enable the brand to manufacture products that cater to the evolving needs of the local market. The expansion will likewise serve as an open door for better business partner-

ships, bringing about an expanded growth with increased local production and lesser imports of products.

At the inaugural event, Haier also announced the launch of 4 new SKUs in the commercial freezer segment - HFC-350DM5, HFC-588DM5- Hard top models & HFC-300GM5, HFC-400GM5 - Flat Glass top models, which come equipped with a 5-star rating for up to 50% energy savings and 5 side freezing for enhanced cooling efficiency.

iQOO launches India's Most Advanced Flagship: iQOO 9 Series

CHANDIGARH : Bringing exceptional performance and revolutionary power, iQOO, to-day unveiled India's most advanced flagship series—iQOO 9 series. The iQOO 9 Pro, iQOO 9 and iQOO 9 SE are the latest 5G performance flagship smartphones by iQOO in India. These category-defining devices are infused with best-in-class hardware specifications and software capabilities and promise to bring extreme performance with ultra-mobile gaming, superior camera, and multi-media entertainment experiences to consumers in India. The iQOO 9 Pro is priced at INR 64,990 (8GB+256GB) and INR 69,990 (12GB+256GB) variant in two color options- Legend and Dark Cruise. The iQOO 9 is priced at INR 42,990 (8GB+128 GB) and INR 46,990 (12GB+256GB) available in two color options- Legend and Alpha. The iQOO 9 SE is priced at INR 33,990 (8GB+128 GB) and INR 37,990 (12GB+256GB) available in two color options- Sunset Sierra and Space Fusion. Pre-Order starts from 23rd Feb 2022 for iQOO 9 Pro & iQOO 9 and 2nd Mar 2022 for iQOO 9 SE on Amazon.in & iQOO.com.

Mahashivratri Ki ShubhKamanyein from &TV's Baal Shiv artists

CHANDIGARH : Mahashivratri is one of the largest and most significant sacred festivals of India. According to Hindu mythology, Mahashivratri translates to the Great Night of Shiva because it is the night when Mahadev performs his heavenly dance known as the Tandav. It is also said to be the day that marks the marriage of Mahadev and Devi Parvati. This year the festival will take place on March 1st. To commensurate Mahashivratri celebrations, &TV's Baal Shiv artists (Aan Tiwari (Baal Shiv), MouliGanguly (MahasatiAnusuya), and Siddharth Arora (Mahadev) talk about the significance and celebration of the festival.

Conveying his wisheson Mahashivratri, Aan Tiwari, essaying Baal Shiv's character, says, "Mahashivratri Ki ShubhKamanyein to everyone. Har Har Mahadev! Mahashivratri holds a very special place in my heart as I am an ardent devotee of Mahadev. His blessing has allowed me to portray Baal Shiv's character in the show, and I can never be more grateful. I always make it a point to visit the temple to give a sacred bath



to Shiva Linga with honey, milk, and water. The audience, too, has showered me with their immense love and affection. People often greet and chant 'Har Har Mahadev' whenever they meet me, which itself is so beautiful and powerful."

Talking about Mahashivratri celebrations viddhi, MouliGanguly, essaying MahasatiAnusuya's character, shares, "Mahashivratri is one of the most revered and sacred festivals, celebrated across the country. It is the darkest night

of the month to celebrate the grace of Lord Shiva. It is a night to self-realize introspect to overcome hurdles that hinder our success and achieve spiritual growth. It is an opportunity to disperse limitedness. In some regions, devotees celebrate MahaShivratri in the morning by observing a full day fast, eating the next day only after taking a bath. While in other regions, ardent devotees observe a fast, perform Shiva puja at Nishita Kaal (midnight), and remain awake throughout the night. Some people even perform puja during all four Parahars. Devotees visit the Shiva temple to offer tulsi, Kumkum, bhang, dhatura flower, and bael leaves to Shiv Linga. The fast is practised seeking the blessings of Lord Shiva and as a test of your determination. Havana Abhishek is also performed in temples where devotees gather and worship in huge numbers and take baths in the river Ganga. Mahashivratri Ki Sabhi Ko Hardik ShubhKamayein! I wish that Lord Shiva fills into everyone his divine blessings to help in achieving their goals with truth, purity, and divinity."

&TV artists cite their all-time favourite fairy tales on 'National Tell a Fairy Tale Day'

CHANDIGARH : Fairy tales play a significant role in our childhood as a mode of infotainment. Such magical stories entertain, enhance imagination, and strengthen learning abilities for a growing child. National Tell a Fairy Tale Day is celebrated every year on February 26 to encourage everyone to read, tell, and listen to fairy tales worldwide. To celebrate this day, &TV artists - Shivya Pathania (Devi Parvati, Baal Shiv), Akansha Sharma (Sakina Mirza, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai?), Kamna Pathak (Rajesh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan) and Shubhangi Atre (Angoori Bhabi, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai) cite their all-time favourite fairy tales.

Shivya Pathania (Devi Parvati) from &TV's Baal Shiv shares, "Fairy tales are so magical and fascinating that one cannot get enough of them. I have a huge fascination with Unicorns, and everything around my home, especially my bedroom, is filled with Unicorns. In most fairy tales, animals are one of my favourite characters. It is fascinating to see them speak like humans, sometimes be half-human and half animals with magical powers. My fascination with Unicorns started in childhood. Some-



thing so captivating and magnificent about this mystical creature attracted me. They are perceived to be good and pure creatures with magical powers. Their horns have abilities to heal wounds and sicknesses and to neutralize poison. My all-time favourite fairy tale is 'Swan Lake', which had a talking unicorn Lily in it. As a kid, I would imagine myself as Odette, the story's main character and the unicorn Lily's best friend (laughs). You name it, and I have it, and I still crave for more! Even today, I cannot get enough of Unicorns, and most of my accessories are unicorn-themed -

from my bag, t-shirt, key chains, mugs, bedsheets to soft toys and hair clips. The list is endless."

Akansha Sharma (Sakina Mirza) from &TV's Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? shares, "I had a ritual of listening to a fairy tale every day before going to sleep, as a kid. My mother would read it to me. And my all-time favourite fairy tale that I would insist on reading every day was the story of Rapunzel. I was so fascinated with the long and strong hair of Rapunzel that I never allowed anyone to even trim my hair for the longest time. I would rather ask my grandmother to give me champi for faster hair growth. After hair washes, I would stand in front of the mirror for hours measuring and gazing through the length (giggles) of my hair and imagining myself turning into Rapunzel. As I grew up, not just the hair, but I got inspired by the character of Rapunzel. I learnt to be brave and strong like her. Fairy tales take you into a magical world, portray real moral lessons through characters, instil virtues and creativity in children. Honestly, even at this age, I enjoy watching fairy tales."

Editorial

Blood on the hands

As missiles rain down on Ukrainian cities, the world is grappling with the key question of how to end a bloody new war launched by Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, that threatens to leave no nation untouched. The United States of America, the United Kingdom and the European Union have all imposed a series of tough sanctions against Russia in response to the invasion of Ukraine that Kiev said had left at least 137 people dead by Friday morning. But more than any economic punishment from Washington, Brussels and London, it is Mr Putin's own actions that could undermine Moscow's long-term strategic interests while crippling an image he has carefully cultivated among ordinary Russians. Western sanctions, so far, focus on Russia's financial system, cutting its biggest banks off from accessing the European and American markets as well as dollars. The measures also include blocking Moscow's access to Western technology that is critical for modernizing the Russian military and aerospace industries.

These are not the first Ukraine-related sanctions that Moscow has faced. Since 2014, when Russia annexed Crimea, the US has targeted oligarchs and other individuals close to Mr Putin with economic restrictions. While those steps did dent the Russian economy, the hurt was not enough to change the Kremlin's calculus. The new sanctions imposed this week are much tougher and will rock Russia's economy. The rouble has already fallen by 20 per cent against the dollar since earlier this month. Reports suggest Russians are desperately converting their money into dollars at banks. It is unclear if that pain will make Mr Putin reconsider his plans. In the meantime, the world will witness spikes in the prices of energy because of Russia's dominance in the sector; and food, because of Ukraine's status as a leading exporter of wheat and corn. Inflation will rise.

But the most lasting impact of this crisis might be on Russia, global politics and on Mr Putin himself. Over the past two decades, he has built a domestic image of a calm, cold, calculating leader who brought stability to Russia. His recklessness in Ukraine demolishes that. The large protests against the invasion that have erupted across major Russian cities despite the knowledge that participants will be arrested and blacklisted show that for many, the fear of Mr Putin is beginning to crumble. The Russian president's actions have united Moscow's previously divided opponents like NATO and the EU. European leaders who were his allies, like the Czech Republic's president, Milo Zeman, and Hungary's prime minister, Viktor Orbán, are now openly condemning Mr Putin.

Will RSS do a rethink over Modi if he takes hit in UP?

The February-March 2022 Assembly elections in five states Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur seem different from any other state polls since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office in 2014, and that can leave the RSS with a giant-sized headache. A big part of the RSS's expected concern is that these elections potentially cast a shadow on the BJP's chances in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

In the earlier Assembly polls on Mr Modi's watch, the expected results were usually a matter of guesswork, with clear bets hard to make. Else, they were thought to be weighted in the BJP's favour even if the outcome turned out an anti-climax. We saw the latter most vividly in Gujarat in 2017 when the Congress nearly snatched the state from the saffron party though its campaign was led all the way by Rahul Gandhi, who had been written off as a bumbling spectacle. In contrast with preceding elections, this year's polls seem to have a very different flavour. No matter what the end outcome in the Modi era this usually means the BJP buying up MLAs of other parties post-election and earning praise for this from the elite for showing chutzpah there is an emerging feeling that the ruling party is not looking dominant on the ground. In public perception, its stock is



down. In Uttar Pradesh in particular, there appears to be a wide measure of agreement among observers -- a shared belief almost -- on these lines. UP is always important, but is especially so this time around. Most BJP MPs, the PM included, won from this state. Hinduism's most vaunted pilgrim sites and religious symbols, which the BJP has sought to milk to buttress its communal appeal, lie here. The BJP won the state by a yard and more in the 2017 Assembly polls. In short, if there is a setback for the ruling party in UP, ominous signs for it are likely to be read nationally, affecting all-round political dynamics, casting gloom in the ruling party's top leadership as well as its rank and file, even if state polls aren't

necessarily a predictor of national results.

Ordinarily, after seven years in power, an electoral setback is deemed quite normal. Anti-incumbency is common in democracies. But Mr Modi has run the show in a highly personalised, super-dominant style, with a centralising, homogenising, focus. He has built a cult of personality. He lives in many avatars simultaneously. He has sought to create an aura of being unstoppable. If the voter administers a shock even to this carefully manicured personality despite its charms, then there's a question: Is the BJP's future safe with him? The RSS can hardly duck that question. The Sangh, which sets the BJP's ideological moorings and away from

the glare guides its political destiny, lives in the shadows. It is thought to be a careful tracker of the public mood. Without being conspicuous, and frequently shunning overt publicity, it manipulates the BJP's organisational strings. Its silent cadres work hard to shape opinion to advance the BJP's agenda, through calibrated media interventions and social media bold-facing.

In the months before the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, in pursuit of the Hindutva agenda, the RSS decided to hand the baton in the PM stakes to Mr Modi, then Gujarat's CM. This was accomplished by ensuring the sidelining of potential rivals like Lal Krishna Advani, Murlidhar Manohar Joshi, Nitin Gadkari, Rajnath

Singh, and from among the younger set Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj.

No one was left in any doubt that it was the Gujarat CM alone that the RSS was pitching for. Then everything fell into place in the BJP. The episode established yet again that only the RSS's writ runs in the BJP.

If anything prospered under Mr Modi's stewardship as PM, it was the Hindutva agenda. There is a question mark on nearly everything else -- most notably the economy, the employment and inflation situation; even the handling of national security; until six months ago the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic; and decidedly the mis-handling of the farmers' question and of their year-long agitation.

Also, Centre-state relations have nosedived. Social cohesiveness has taken a beating due to the attempt at deepening fissures as between religious as well as social communities. Official data cannot hide the fact that nearly every section of India, except the very rich, has been pushed down at least one step on the economic ladder. Impoverishment of the people is the motif of the Modi Raj.

On the plus side for Hindutva, Ayodhya was a low-hanging fruit but Kashmir was not. But it's now in the bag, thanks to the PM's manipulative cleverness. The RSS cannot but be very satis-

fied. For the foreseeable future, however, there is no clear objective of a similar order in view which needs to be worked at right away.

Indeed, Mr Modi himself appears to have moved on to other things -- such as perpetuating his agenda of continuance in office through the outsize use of relentless propaganda.

Is this in accord with the RSS's organisational ethos, that places primacy on the utility value of leaders in its constellation rather than their image or aspirations? Remember, Atal Behari Vajpayee -- whose persona had a spread outside the RSS's cloister system -- is not an automatic favourite of the Sangh Parivar due to his perceived catholic temperament.

Mr Modi has lived his politics and governance on his own terms so far. How does the RSS view him? The answer isn't evident, although we do know that its leader Mohan Bhagwat, in an address from New Delhi's Vignyan Bhavan, had made barely camouflaged critical observations on the government's handling of the pandemic last summer. On the year-long farmers' agitation too, the RSS had to intervene at various levels to get the government off its high horse.

It appears that in the RSS's reckoning, the Modi government has adopted a work agenda that hasn't brought dividends.

Literature & Health

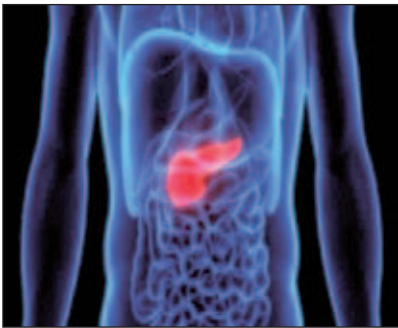
Early signs of pancreatic cancer that you must not ignore

Pancreatic cancer is a nasty, stubborn killer that has thus far defied medicine's best efforts at early diagnosis and curative treatment. In November, it claimed the life of my friend Peter Zimroth, a 78-year-old New York City, US, attorney who was devoted to public service.

Zimroth was fit and active and in otherwise good health before symptoms developed -- in his case, stomach pains and constipation. By that time, the cancer had spread and it was too late to operate.

Although pancreatic cancer is a relatively rare cancer, it is so deadly that it is now on track to become the country's [the US's] second leading cause of cancer-related deaths by 2040. Currently, it accounts for about 3 per cent of all cancers and 7 per cent of cancer deaths. Overall, only 1 in 10 people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer survives five years. A cure is almost always a lucky accident, when the cancer is detected at an early, symptom-free stage during an unrelated abdominal scan or surgery and the tumour can be surgically removed.

Dr Brian Wolpin, director of the gastrointestinal cancer centre at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, US, told me that this is such a hard cancer to find early because it is relatively uncommon in the population and the symptoms it causes, like weight loss, fatigue and abdominal discomfort, are nonspecific and more likely due to other conditions. As a result, he said, "When 80 per cent of patients walk through my door for the first time, I know that we are highly unlikely to cure their cancer."



Risk factors

Still, there are several major risk factors for developing pancreatic cancer. Smoking doubles the risk and accounts for about one-quarter of all cases. Being obese, gaining excess weight as an adult and carrying extra weight around the waist, even if not otherwise very overweight, also increase one's risk.

That may be why type 2 diabetes most often related to being overweight is an important risk factor as well. Other risks include chronic pancreatitis, a persistent inflammation of the pancreas often linked to heavy alcohol consumption and smoking, and workplace exposure to certain chemicals, including those used in dry cleaning and metal work industries.

Older age is also a risk factor and family history may play a role too, including inherited genetic conditions such as mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes that are most often associated with breast and ovarian cancers.

Activities that keep the brain fit

Neurobics is slowly finding relevance in the world of fitness. It is defined as activities designed to stimulate the brain, memory and cognitive function. Gone are the days of all brawn and no brain at the gym. Research is slowly unravelling the link between repetitive complex movements of the body and how it might help in cognitive restoration (in the senior population) and development (in the younger one).

Karate Katas

A Kata in classical Japanese Karate is a series of intricate movements conducted in a rhythm involving changes of stance while performing techniques. Although widely considered as ineffective in a real fight, Kata has far greater implications in terms of balance, focus, breath control and neurobics. Kata, once learnt, can be practised alone and without any other fitness aids. Memorising and synchronising complex movements and the focus that is needed to maintain balance, timing and rhythm, aid in improving concentration. To understand the benefits of Kata practice from a personal perspective, follow the link: <https://www.mikesmartials.in/post/tensho-the-ultimate-breathing-exercise>

Yoga flow:

Yoga flow has its origins in Vinyasa Yoga. It involves transitioning from one asana to the next in a smooth and harmonic pattern while paying close attention to one's breath. The flow is usually designed by experts and depends upon an individual's core strength, flexibility and physical ability. Much like Kata, the focus on a pose and transition to the next improves concentration, activates neural channels and improves cognitive and muscle memory. Suryanamskara is a classic example of one such flow. To understand Yoga Flow in more detail, follow the link: <https://www.mikesmartials.in/post/yoga-flow>



Balance exercises:

Balance exercises make your existing workout more neurobics-oriented. Balance requires great mind-body coordination (take learning to cycle as an example), thereby activating neural pathways. In the long term, better balance ensures higher mobility and safety. WHO categorises falls as the second leading cause of unintentional injury deaths worldwide. So, it makes sense to keep our balance intact. It also makes walking on those high heels that much safer.

Introducing neurobics into your workout is not very difficult. Activities involving balance, focus, motor control and use of both non-dominant and dominant hand.

POEMS

Leave This

Leave this chanting and singing and telling of beads! Whom dost thou worship in this lonely dark corner of a temple with doors all shut?

Open thine eyes and see thy God is not before thee!

He is there where the tiller is tilling the hard ground and where the pathmaker is breaking stones.

He is with them in sun and in shower, and his garment is covered with dust.

Put off thy holy mantle and even like him come down on the dusty soil!

Uncle Tom games: Can Gojo take on Czar's brigade as Uglii, Hedgie play?

Don't rage against the dying of the light
It's a waste of emotion and quite absurd
I think inevitable is the word
So, smile in the mirror and say goodnight
From Dylan to Dhillon, by Bachchoo

Without any intention, gentle reader, to seem immodest, I venture to tell you about my latest foray into fiction. I am engaged in writing a book with the mildly derivative title 'Uncle Tom's Cabinet'. No, it's not a book about an antique cupboard, it's a foray into the world of UK politics under the prime ministership of a character I have named Gojo.

In this yarn, in deference to modernity, Gojo has recruited ministers from the Asian, black and Middle Eastern stock of British citizens. Even though these are elected members of Parliament and, by definition, representative of the con-

stituencies that elected them, they are certainly as representative of the ethnic communities of Britain as Jeff Bezos or the electric car fellow Elon Musk is of the poor and starving of the world.

Readers may have noticed the similarity of my intended title to that of the famous nineteenth-century novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe called 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'. Ms Stowe subtitled her novel 'Life Among the Lowly'. I can't use that subtitle because the characters in it are almost all millionaires and as government ministers have power and influence.

No, the reason I have chosen this elegant title is because, over the decades, the central character of Ms Stowe's book, Uncle Tom, a suffering slave, has come to represent the most subservient of humans from an oppressed race. To be an 'Uncle Tom' has come to mean to be an arse-licker and someone whose cowardice and attitudes amount to a betrayal of his or

her own people. Take, for instance, the leading female character of my literary enterprise whom I have so far, in this first incomplete draft, called Uglii Clueless Motel. She is so called because her Asian parents inherited the surname by running a motel in Uganda before they were expelled from that country by Idi Amin. She is an extremely strong character -- one can't have weak women in novels these days without being pilloried and cancelled -- and as home secretary is the most virulent anti-immigrant minister Britain has had since Heinrich Himmler! (That was Germany, you idiot! Ed. Arrey, this is fiction, yaar -- sub koochh chalta -- fd)

Her daddy was an immigrant himself and stood as a candidate for the uniquely anti-immigrant party UKIP. Uglii follows his ideological stance but is a Tory who once held pro-hanging views and suggests that would-be immigrants who risk their lives crossing the English Channel to seek shelter

from persecution should be sent to concentration camps in St Helena, where Napoleon was once imprisoned.

Her boss Gojo gets into deep trouble in the plot by blatantly defying laws he himself initiates. Perhaps he should be under police investigation and should really resign, but then Uglii supports him down the line because if he goes under as a result of hitting this iceberg, she goes with him.

In our story, Uglii also runs a scheme whereby Russian oligarchs who bring £2 million or more into the country can get Tier 1 Golden Visas. Afghan refugees bring nothing and are meet with gunboats.

The main male character of Uncle Tom's Cabinet is called Hedgie Moonak. Gojo has given him the finance portfolio. Hedgie has made his money through speculation in the money markets rather than by any entrepreneurial acumen -- unlike Bezos or Musk.

Visuals of Indian students in bunkers disturbing: Rahul



NEW DELHI: Amid conflict between Ukraine and Russia, the government has stepped up the evacuation process of Indians stranded in the war-torn country, mostly students. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said, "Visuals of Indian students in bunkers are disturbing. Many are stuck in eastern Ukraine which is under heavy attack. My thoughts are with their worried family members. Again, I appeal to GOI to execute urgent evacuation."

Meanwhile, the MEA has issued advisory that, "All Indian Citizens in Ukraine are advised to not move to any of the border posts without prior coordination with Government of India officials at the border posts and the Emergency numbers of Embassy of India, Kiev." The Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday that the first batch of evacuees from the war-hit nation has reached Romania via the Suceava border crossing.

Bajrang Dal activist murder case: K'taka dist inching towards peace

SHIVAMOGGA: After witnessing large-scale violence following the murder of 28-year-old Bajrang Dal activist Harsha, the Shivamogga district is limping back to normalcy. All curfew curbs have been lifted. The district administration, however, will keep prohibitory orders in place till Sunday with all schools and colleges remaining closed till Monday. Meanwhile, the special teams formed to probe the case have made two more arrests taking the number of arrested persons to ten. The arrested have been identified as Abdul Roshan (24), a resident of Bhadravathi town and Jafar Sadiq (55) from Shivamogga city. Shops and commercial establishments in Shivamogga are allowed to operate between 6 a.m and 4 p.m on Saturday. However, heavy police presence will continue in the city to ensure absolute restoration of peace. Two cars and a bike used for the murder by the accused have been recovered. The police informed that the registration numbers of these vehicles do not belong to Karnataka. The special teams have zeroed in on the girls who allegedly made last calls to Harsha seeking help to trap him. However, during the preliminary inquiries, the police could not find any connection between the girls and the murderers, sources said. A search is on for the deceased Harsha's mobile which has gone missing. Youths who flashed weapons before the police have also been identified and will be taken into custody. Curfew was imposed from Monday, after murder of Harsha on Sunday night. According to police, the killers had made new weapons, including machetes, to hack Harsha to death in a furnace located in Bhadravathi town. The killers had followed Harsha in a car on last Sunday morning to night and observed all his movements.

NEWS

YUGMARG, CHANDIGARH, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022

Ponzi scheme: Guj woman held for duping around 700 for over Rs 4 cr

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, FEB 26

The Economic Offences Wing of Delhi Police has arrested a 48-year-old woman for misappropriating the funds of the people and cheating them to the tune of over Rs 4 crore, an official said on Saturday.

The accused was identified as Sunita Saini, a resident of Surat, Gujarat.

Furnishing details, Joint Commissioner of Police (Economic Offences Wing) Chhaya Sharma said the complainant had levelled allegations against one Vashundhara Group, allegedly a financial institution functioning in Azadpur, Delhi for misappropriating their funds on false representation of doubling invested money in 4 years.

"The accused Sunita Saini is Director and share holder in the alleged company," the Jt CP said.

According to the senior official, the alleged group and



its owner and directors Chandra Prakash Saini alias C.P. Saini, Sunita Saini & others, allured the general public to open daily saving account, fixed deposit account and other lucrative investment schemes and following the directions of the accused, the victims fell prey and opened the accounts (likewise banks).

They were issued certificates, pass books, etc

against investments and the deposits.

"Around 700 victims have been cheated to the tune of more than Rs 4 crore as on date. The amount and victims are increasing on day basis. Thereafter, C.P. Saini and his wife Sunita Saini ran away with the invested funds of the victims," Sharma said.

Accordingly, the police registered an FIR under

Indians in Ukraine advised not to move to border posts

NEW DELHI: In a latest advisory by the Indian Embassy in Ukraine, Indian citizens in the war-torn country were on Saturday advised not to move to any of the border posts without prior coordination with the Indian government. "All Indian Citizens in Ukraine are advised to not move to any of the border posts without prior coordination with Government of India officials at the border posts (helpline numbers established) and the Emergency numbers of Embassy of India, Kyiv," the advisory read. The armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine intensified in the early hours of Thursday after Russian forces launched a major assault on Ukraine, firing missiles on cities and military installations. The Indian Embassy further said that the situation at various checkpoints is sensitive and the Indian Embassy in Ukraine is working continuously with embassies in other countries for evacuation of Indian citizens. The advisory noted that the embassy is finding it very difficult to help the crossing of those Indian nationals who reach border checkpoints without prior intimation.

Maharashtra finances not robust, but salvageable with 'discipline'

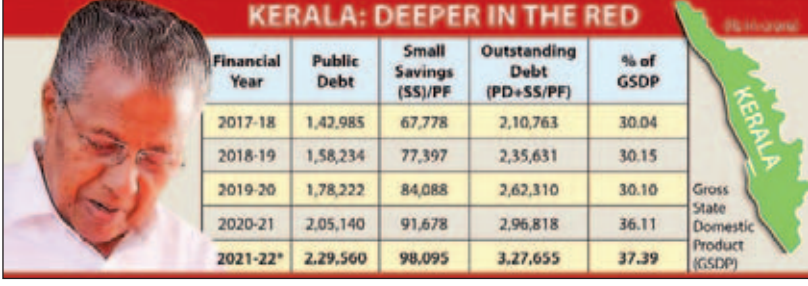
MUMBAI, FEB 26

As the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government readies for its third annual Budget (2022-2023) in early March, the focus is again on the state of the state's finances. The state has been grappling - ranking among the worst-hit - with the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and the series of lockdowns that have played havoc with the economy, revenues and expenditure, and diversion of most resources to the health sector for the masses reeling under the impact of Covid-19. Till the previous fiscal (2020-2021), the state had notched up a whopping debt of Rs 520,717 crore, mostly comprising unpaid loans and other liabilities. However, the fiscal deficit percentage vis-a-vis GSDP is 2.1 per cent and the debt stock to GSDP is 19.6 per cent - well within the prescribed limits of 25 per cent, as per the Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement of last year, according to the official data.

"Though appearing huge, the debt figures are an accumulation of the past several years owing to various factors.

The average annual addition is in the range of Rs 65,000 cr," said Dr Ratnakar Mahajan, well-known economic expert and former Executive Chairman, Maharashtra State Planning Board. Unlike many other states, there are no money-guzzling 'populist schemes' operating in Maharashtra - barring one important welfare measure started in Jan/2020 - the affordable meal of 'Shiv Bhojan Thali' - which was extended and heavily subsidised after the pandemic lockdowns were imposed in March 2020. A pet venture of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the 'Shiv Bhojan Thali' - on which the state government has spent less than Rs 500 crore in the past 24 months - proved to be a life-saver for the urban-rural poor and the lakhs of migrants on the move in the early days of the lockdown series. However, officials say the debt has to be serviced without fail every year - which is the expenditure part of the annual budget - but there is scope for being prudent, said an official of the state Finance Ministry, headed by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Kerala's outstanding debts cross Rs 3 lakh crore



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB 26

On the eve of Kerala's new State Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal preparing the text of his first full state budget on March 11, the biggest cause of concern is the state's mounting outstanding debts, which according to the budget for 2021-22 will be Rs 3.27 lakh crore by the end of this fiscal. Outstanding debts is the sum total of public debt which consists of internal debt, loans and advances from centre besides loans from financial institutions such as LIC and special securities and not to mention of borrowings from deposits in state PF, treasury, pension funds and insurance. Even when the overall picture of Kerala's finances was never rosy, it took a severe blow like the rest of the world with the Covid pandemic, leaving the cash crunched

state in an even piquant position. To get a clearer picture of the debt, it is best highlighted as a ratio of the size of the state economy/state gross state domestic product (GSDP). A comparison of the national picture of states and union territories with the highest debt GSDP ratio in 2022 are Arunachal Pradesh 57.4 per cent, Kashmir 56.6, Punjab 53.3, Nagaland 44.2, Himachal Pradesh 43.4, Rajasthan 39.8, Meghalaya 39.2, West Bengal 38.8, Kerala 38.3 and Andhra Pradesh 37.6. One thing what has to be noted is the present staggering figure of the outstanding debts of Kerala did not happen overnight and successive state governments to a certain extent can take credit for the achievements of the state in the fields of education and health, which leads the rest of the country and to reach here.

Telangana financially on a firm footing

HYDERABAD, FEB 26

Despite the dent in revenues during the last two years due to Covid pandemic and lack of help from the Centre, Telangana financially appears to be on a firm footing. With a higher growth rate and per capita income than many bigger states, India's youngest state has become the fourth largest contributor to national GDP in a short span of less than eight years and claims to be a model for the entire country in welfare and development.

According to 2020-21 budget estimates, Telangana's estimated outstanding public debt will be over Rs 2.86 lakh crore. However, the economists say the state has the capacity to manage debts.

According to a study paper released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last month, Telangana's debt-to-GSDP ratio is the lowest in the country, indicating the fiscal health of the state.

Based on the annual data



between 2014-15 and 2018-19, the study paper revealed that the State Performance Composite Index (SPCI) of Telangana has improved. SPCI measures both the fiscal performance and market development of states. The average debt to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Telangana from 2014-15 to 2018-19 was 16.1 per cent, which is the lowest among the states in the country.

According to state finance minister T. Harish Rao, Telangana is among the states having the lowest debt

burden in the country, dismissing the claim by the opposition parties that the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) government has pushed the state into a debt trap.

Harish Rao had told the state Assembly last year that Telangana's debt burden is only 22.8 per cent of GSDP, which is well within the permissible limits under the FRBM Act. Telangana was then at the third place from the bottom in the country.

"The Centre's debt burden is 62.2 per cent of GDP while Telangana's debt

burden is just 22.8 per cent of GSDP," he had stated. The RBI also revealed recently that Telangana is the fourth largest contributor to the country's economy. According to "Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy 2020-21" the Net State Value Added (NSVA) by Telangana at current prices to the country increased from Rs 4,16,930 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 8,10,503 crore in 2020-21.

Leaders of ruling TRS say this contribution is significant considering the fact that Telangana is the 11th largest state in terms of geographical area and 12th in terms of population.

According to Telangana State Statistical Abstract Report released this week, provisional estimates show the GSDP of Telangana at current prices in 2020-21 was Rs 9,80,407 crore. Between 2012-13 and 2020-21, the average annual GSDP growth of Telangana was 6.8 per cent and GDP of India was 5.1 per cent.

Pandemic to populist schemes: K'taka in fiscal soup

BENGALURU, FEB 26

Karnataka, which has vibrant automobile, agro, IT, aerospace, textile, biotech and heavy engineering industries, is showing a worrying trend due to impact of pandemic and natural calamities.

Despite being the cradle of startups and known as Silicon Valley of India, Karnataka took a huge hit on the financial resources from 2020-21 till date. The state's public debt rose to 31.38 per cent between 2019-20 and 2020-21, creating a precarious financial situation. The result of the pandemic has been such that, according to the 2020-21 finance and appropriation accounts report published by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the government recorded a drop of Rs 14,535 crore in tax collection. The total debt of the state went up from



Rs 3.19 lakh crore to Rs 3.97 lakh crore, an increase of Rs 78,000 crore, forcing the government to put some ambitious and populist programmes in abeyance. Losses incurred in SGST, state excise duty, sales tax, stamps and registration and vehicle taxes. However, the non-tax revenue increased marginally from Rs 7,681 crore to Rs 7,894 crore. According to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the growth of GSDP has decreased

by 9.28 per cent in 2019-20 and 2.23 per cent in 2021-22 from 10.71 per cent in 2017-18 and 11.50 per cent in 2018-19. The government had to deal with a severe drought situation when it assumed power in 2019, and then adding more woes, half of the state was affected by flood fury. Later, the Covid pandemic further complicated the financial situation of the state. During the tenure of Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, no major populist programmes could be doled out. Presently, his successor Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has a tough job in hand as he is to present an election year budget on March 4. The CAG report also shows that the government had to increase its borrowings. Effectively, the resultant impact has pushed the interest component to Rs 22,666 crore or 14.6 per cent of the state's

revenue receipts which is placed at Rs 1.56 lakh crore. The CAG has also noted that 13 projects of irrigation, 41 of roads, three of bridges and one in others category remained incomplete for over five years. Ashwathnarayan, state BJP General Secretary, told IANS that as political parties are in the race to woo voters with social welfare schemes and freebies on the lines of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, CM Bommai is inclined towards middle class and the upcoming budget is not going to be a fancy budget. When asked whether the BJP is not under pressure after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal delivered free essential services to people, he said that Delhi is a mini state, it does not include farmers, mass transport system, irrigation projects, law and order system and even medical education.

NEW DELHI, FEB 26

After India decided to abstain on the UNSC resolution against Russia, Congress leader Manish Tewari has criticized the move and said India should have voted for Ukraine. "There comes a time when nations need to stand-up and not stand aside. I sincerely wish India had voted in solidarity with people of Ukraine at UNSC who are facing an unprecedented and unjustified aggression. A 'Friends' need to be told when they are wrong." He added that a New Iron Curtain has descended over the world. India will have to pick sides. It no longer has the luxury of sitting on top of the



Iron Curtain because India gradually gutted Non-Alignment going all the way back to 1991." Tewari has said that India should unequivocally condemn Russian invasion of Ukraine in unambiguous terms. There comes a time when you need to tell 'friends' they can't indulge in Regime change. India's conduct of international relations should be characterised by calling a spade

a spade. He also criticized the past governments on the foreign policy stand. "Let us not make the same mistake qua Russia again when we did with erstwhile Soviet Union when we did not condemn Soviet invasion of Hungary - 1956, Czechoslovakia -1968, Afghanistan-1979. The principle being - In the 21st century can you change status quo by force?"

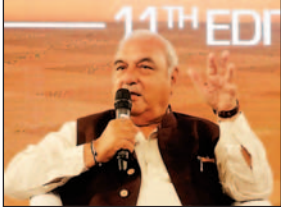
UP's total outstanding debt shot up by nearly 39% in five years

LUCKNOW, FEB 26

The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has been borrowing so heavily from the market that its total outstanding debt has shot up by almost 39 per cent in five years. However, spending on education declined while spending on health increased only marginally during this period. What is even more surprising is the fact that in four out of five years, the state government was unable to spend even the full budgeted amount, leading to a revenue surplus. The full support given to the Yogi Adityanath government by the Narendra Modi government -- the so-called 'double engine' advantage -- also does not seem to have helped, either in terms of finances or in planning. According to the latest data available with the Reserve Bank of India, which compiles state government finances, the UP

government has outstanding liabilities worth as much as Rs 6.5 lakh crore, as estimated in the state Budget for 2021-22. This is 38.3 per cent more than the Rs 4.7 lakh crore debt it inherited when it took over in 2017. The bulk of this debt mountain is owed to financial institutions, such as banks. These are called market borrowings and are taken at hefty rates of interest. According to sources in the state finance department, a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on UP government's finances, released last month, pointed out that of the total public debt at the end of 2019-20, Rs 1.99 lakh crore (or 47.7 per cent of the total) would be payable after seven years. The CAG report referred to earlier made a shocking revelation. The state government transferred a princely sum of Rs 71,000 crore from a sinking fund illegitimately to its "non-tax revenue" head in its books in March 2020.

Every child born in Haryana is saddled with a debt of Rs 1 lakh. This is true with the estimated total debt on the state increasing to over Rs 2.29 lakh crore. The main opposition Congress, which was at the helm for a decade till 2014, has been blaming the BJP-JJP government for pushing the state into debt and taking it towards bankruptcy. As per official figures, the state's debt was Rs 70,931 crore in 2014-15 when the BJP assumed power in the state for the first time. In the current fiscal, it is expected to touch a whopping Rs 229,976 crore by the end of this fiscal. As per budget



estimates of 2021-22, the debt to GSDP ratio is estimated at 23.27 per cent in 2020-21, while it was 16.23 per cent in 2014-15. For the next fiscal, it is estimated at 25.92 per cent. Leader of Opposition and two-time Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda told IANS that the BJP-JJP government is taking the state towards bankruptcy. "That is why the debt figures were not clearly

stated in the last budget speech. As per our estimations, the total debt has increased to Rs 2.25 lakh crore by March 2021," he said. Opposing the steep hike in development charges in areas falling under the civic bodies, Hooda said the Congress would question the government on issues of corruption, debt and unemployment in the upcoming Budget session of the Assembly. He said the state had a debt of about Rs 70,000 crore when the BJP took over the reins of the state after the 2014 Assembly elections. Before handing over the helm several projects of national importance were commissioned by the Congress

government. "In the past seven years, the debt has increased to Rs 2.5 lakh crore," said Hooda, adding no major project was established. "Where have these thousands of crores gone?" According to Hooda, under the Congress government Haryana had become number one in per capita income, investment and generating employment. "The neglect of 52,000 anganwadi workers is a living example of the negative thinking of the BJP-JJP government towards the daughters. Women workers say the government is not implementing the announcement made by the Prime Minister on September 10, 2018, to increase the honorarium of workers by Rs

1,500 and for helpers by Rs 750," he said. A revenue surplus state till 2008-09, Haryana has consistently been in deficit after that. In 2016-17, the debt burden was Rs 124,935 crore. In 2017-18, the interest payments were pegged at Rs 11,257 crore -- up from Rs 9,616 crore in 2016-17. In 2015-16, it was Rs 8,284 crore. CRISIL's last year study of the top 18 states, including Haryana and Punjab, says the aggregate indebtedness of states, measured by debt to gross state domestic product (GSDP), is expected to remain elevated at 33 per cent this fiscal, despite the post-pandemic recovery bolstering the shrinking revenue graph.

NEWS AT A
GLANCE

Free travel for
Keralaites from Delhi
for Ukraine returnees



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Kerala representative based in Delhi - Venu Rajamony - a former diplomat on Saturday announced that all those Keralites arriving from Ukraine would be given free travel facilities from Delhi to Kerala. Rajamony has also announced they will be making arrangements for Kerala students to stay on their arrival in Delhi till they are put on a connecting flight to Kerala. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said there are 2,320 Kerala students in Ukraine and are waiting to return. According to the Ministry of External Affairs there are two flights which are arriving from Bucharest - capital of Romania carrying Indians in Ukraine who have been asked to reach Bucharest. One flight lands at Delhi at 2.10 p.m. on Saturday and the other one at 4 p.m. at Mumbai.

Budget expands
efforts to reform,
transform healthcare
system: PM



NEW DELHI: The health budget expands the government's efforts to reform and transform the healthcare system over the past seven years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday. "We have adopted a holistic approach in our healthcare system. Today our focus is not only on health, but equally on wellness. When we talk about holistic and inclusiveness in the health sector, we are including three factors in it. The first is expansion of infrastructure and human resources related to modern medical science. "Second is promotion of research in traditional Indian system of medicine like AYUSH and its active engagement in healthcare system. And third is to provide better and affordable healthcare facilities to every person, every part of the country through modern and futuristic technology", said PM Modi while inaugurating the post Union Budget webinar of Health Ministry. He underlined that the critical healthcare facilities should be extended at the block level, at the district level and near the villages. This infrastructure needs to be maintained and upgraded from time to time. He called upon private and other sectors to come forward with more energy for this endeavour. To strengthen the primary healthcare network, construction of 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres are also on at a fast pace, he said, adding that till now, more than 85,000 centres are providing the facility of routine check-up, vaccination and tests. The mental healthcare has also been added in this year's health budget, he highlighted. "Therefore, the budget for health education and human resource development related to healthcare has made a considerable achievement compared to last year. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission provides an easy interface between consumer and healthcare provider. With this provision, both -- getting the treatment and giving the treatment -- in the country will become very easy", PM Modi said. He further said that it will also facilitate global access to India's quality and affordable healthcare system.

AGENCY
MUMBAI, FEB 26

An Air India flight carrying evacuees from the war-hit Ukraine is expected to land here later in the day, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), officials said. Union Minister for Textiles Piyush Goyal is likely to receive them at the airport, along with other officials. The CSMIA has geared itself to handle the evacuees reaching here by AI-1944 with a special corridor and all necessary facilities. As per Centre's guidelines, all the students shall undergo a mandatory temperature check and will be required to produce a Covid-19 vaccination certification or a negative RT-PCR report on landing. If they are unable to show these documents, they will be made to undergo a RT-PCR test. at the airport, free of cost, and permitted to leave only if they test negative. For those testing positive,



they shall be clinically managed as per the government protocols including quarantine or treatment. The CSMIA has also fenced a special area at the airport for them to sit, giving them free WiFi access, food, water and medical assistance if required. An estimated 1,200 students from Maharashtra, besides some

who had gone for business or tourism purposes, are stranded in Ukraine, as their concerned families await their news. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has directed the state officials to coordinate with the Centre for the evacuation process and extend all possible help to the evacuees. Congress President Nana

Vice-President, PM remember Veer Savarkar on his death anniversary

NEW DELHI: Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday paid tributes to Veer Savarkar on his death anniversary. Taking to Twitter, the Vice- President said: "My humble tributes to the great nationalist, freedom fighter & social reformer #VeerSavarkar on his Punya Tihi today. He was a crusader against social evils like caste discrimination & untouchability. His sacrifices for the freedom of our motherland will always be remembered. (Sic)." "I pay my heartfelt respects to the great freedom fighter and an epitome of sacrifice and penance, Veer Savarkar on his death anniversary. His life, dedicated to the service of motherland will always be an inspiration to the people of our country," PM Modi said in a tweet in Hindi. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla too paid his tributes in Hindi as he said: "Paying my emotional tributes on the death anniversary of a great freedom fighter, an immortal soldier in the freedom struggle, 'Veer' Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. He was a staunch nationalist, inspiring author, poet and a freedom fighter. His actions will always continue to guide the nation."



NEW DELHI, FEB 26

India on Saturday reported a further decline in Covid-19 cases with 11,499 infections in the past 24 hours against 13,166 cases registered in the previous day, the Union Health Ministry said. A total of 255 new Covid-related deaths have also been reported in the last 24 hours, taking the toll to 5,13,481. Meanwhile, the active Covid cases have reduced to 1,21,881 which constitute 0.28 per cent of the country's total positive cases. The recovery of 23,598 patients in the last 24 hours has increased the cumulative tally to 4,22,70,482. Consequently,

India's recovery rate stands at 98.52 per cent, the Ministry said. Also in the same period, a total of 11,36,133 tests were conducted across the country. India has, so far, conducted over 76.57 crore cumulative tests. Meanwhile, the weekly positivity rate currently stands at 1.36 per cent while daily positivity rate has risen to 1.01 per cent. With the administration of over 28.29 lakhs vaccine doses in the last 24 hours, India's Covid inoculation coverage has reached 177.17 crore as of this morning. This has been achieved through 2,02,74,848 sessions.

TN police hunt woman who extracted money from people using Cobra

CHENNAI, FEB 26

Tamil Nadu police have launched a hunt for a woman who scared the people with a cobra and extracted money from them. After a video of the woman with cobra went viral, the police registered a suo motu case against her. An officer with the Tambaram police station told IANS that the woman appeared to be a nomad and a snake charmer. She had told the residents that she belonged to Villupuram, he said. The police said that the woman would go from house to house at Meppadu in Tambaram asking for money and clothes. If refused, she took out a snake from a basket and scared the residents. Sukumaran Nair, a resident of Meppadu, told IANS: "One morning the woman came asking for money. At houses, when the people refused to give her money, she opened a basket and played an instrument at which a cobra slithered out. The horrified residents gave her money and clothes and sent her



away. Someone filmed the incident which went viral and was noticed by police." He said that the woman told the people that her son lived in Tambaram and that she used to carry the cobra whenever she visited her son by train. Forest officials have also joined the police in the hunt for the woman.

Tight finances: TN budget FY23 may be reformatory

CHENNAI, FEB 26

With the ruling DMK party trouncing the opposition in the local body polls, the Tamil Nadu government may get into a reform mode to beef up its revenues, prune down its expenses, debt, interest outgo and others. As a matter of fact, State Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan had earlier said the financial problems of the state can be corrected with "once in a generation" reforms and business as "usual approach" cannot continue. "The upcoming Tamil Nadu budget can be reformatory in some aspects. They can roll back petrol price reduction citing the international hike in crude oil



prices. The other welfare measures can be met comfortably as one time cash payments like the Covid-19 relief will not be there," Dr Gowri Ramachandran, an Economist told IANS. Last year, the government reduced the price of petrol by Rs 3/litre resulting in a revenue loss of Rs 1,160 crore per annum. Incidentally, Rajan had ruled out any reduction in the tax rates on the petrol/diesel as it would

reduce the state's revenue by about Rs 1,050 crore. A major share of the state government's revenue goes towards salaries and pensions of its current and past employees respectively. The interest burden is also high, she pointed out. As per the FY22 budget papers, the state's revenue receipts is estimated at Rs 2,02 lakh crore. The expenditure on account of Subsidies and Transfer for FY22 was estimated at Rs 1,14,632.71 crore. Tamil Nadu is one of the debt laden states with its borrowing as on March 31, 2022, standing at Rs 5,77,987 crore. The credit rating agency Care Ratings, in a recent report, said that Tamil Nadu has borrowed a sum of

Rs 62,400 crore between April 8, 2021 and February 22, 2022. In order to have a steady source of finance, the Tamil Nadu government wants the Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation regime to be extended till June 6, 2024 from June 30, 2022. In his maiden budget speech Rajan said the government has plans to borrow Rs 92,484.50 crore during FY22. The expense towards interest payment and servicing of debt for FY22 was estimated at about Rs 44,700 crore. During the past 10 years, instead of borrowing for capex, the state borrowed to pay the salaries of government employees and pay back old debt by fresh borrowings, Rajan had said.

Indian Air Force exits from Exercise Cobra Warrior in UK

NEW DELHI, FEB 26

Amidst ongoing Russia-Ukraine War, the Indian Air Force has decided not to deploy its aircraft for Exercise Cobra Warrior 2022 in the United Kingdom. Indian made Light Combat Aircraft Tejas was expected to participate in the military exercise, its debut in overseas war games. In a statement, Indian Air Force said: "In light of the recent events, IAF has decided not to deploy its aircraft for Exercise Cobra Warrior 2022 in UK." The multi nation air exercise 'Ex. Cobra Warrior 22' at Waddington, UK was planned from March 6 to



March 22. The exercise was aimed at providing operational exposure and to share best practices amongst the participating Air Forces, thereby enhancing combat capability and forging bonds of friendship. The exercise is one of the largest annual Royal

Air Force exercises and aims to train both pilots and other air specialists in planning and executing complex airborne missions. These exercises are, as per the RAF, "the most challenging training for aircrew and the final step for those seeking to

qualify as Qualified Weapons Instructors (QWI), Qualified Multi-engine Tactics Instructors, QWI Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance and [for the] Qualified Space Instructors Course". On on February 23, IAF had said that five Tejas fighters would fly out to the United Kingdom. It was also a platform for LCA Tejas to demonstrate its manoeuvrability and operational capability. Earlier this month, a 44 member contingent of Indian Air Force participated in the 'Singapore Air Show-2022' where the force showcased LCA Tejas capabilities.

S.Korea reports 166,209 new Covid cases

SEOUL, FEB 26

South Korea reported 166,209 more Covid cases as of midnight Friday compared to 24 hours ago, raising the total number of infections to 2,831,283, the health authorities said Saturday. The daily caseload was slightly up from 165,890 in the previous day, staying below 170,000 for two days, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA). The recent resurgence was driven by infections in the Seoul metropolitan area amid the Omicron variant spread, Xinhua news agency reported. Of the new cases, 36,773 were Seoul residents. The number of newly infected people living in Gyeonggi province and the western port city of Incheon was 48,147 and 12,113 respectively. The virus spread also raged in the non-metropolitan region. The number of new infections in the non-capital areas was 69,035, or 41.6 per cent of the total local transmission.

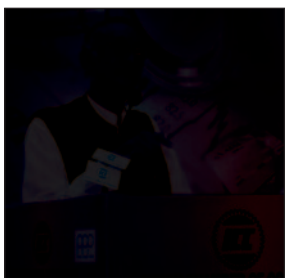


Among the new cases, 141 were imported from overseas, lifting the total to 29,006. The number of infected people who were in a serious condition stood at 643, down 12 from the previous day. A total of 112 more deaths were confirmed, leaving the death toll at 7,895. The total fatality rate was 0.28 per cent. The country has administered Covid vaccines to 44,846,725 people, or 87.4 per cent of the total population, and the number of fully inoculated people was 44,349,600, or 86.4 per cent of the population.

How W.Bengal put brakes on growing fiscal deficit

KOLKATA, FEB 26

With only a few days to go before the state budget, it would be interesting to watch how state financial advisor Amit Mitra put brakes on the growing fiscal deficit in the state. Experts are of the opinion that the state financial condition was showing signs of recovery despite the outstanding liabilities but the financial burden caused by the social schemes announced by the state is having a negative impact on the financial health of the state. The revenue deficit has been pegged at Rs 26,755.25 crore which is more than three per cent of the



Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) limit. Going by the past trend, the figure is likely to increase further. The fiscal deficit shot up from Rs 52,350.01 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 60,863.96 crore in 2021-22. The upswing in deficit is expected, considering that

both the state's tax and non-tax revenues have plummeted during the pandemic. The state's own tax revenue dropped from Rs 60,669.37 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 59,886.59 crore in 2020-21 and its share in central taxes plunged from Rs 48,048.40 crore to Rs 44,737.01 crore during the same period. The period also witnessed a fall in non-tax revenue from Rs 3,212.90 crore to Rs 2,466.31 crore. Given the pandemic-induced fall, the budget estimate of Rs 50,070.29 crore as state's share in central taxes, Rs 75,415.74 crore as its own tax revenue and Rs 4,611.72 as its non-tax revenue, appear

unrealistic, which means the current fiscal may end with a higher revenue deficit as well as an increased fiscal deficit. With an estimated fiscal deficit of 4.03 per cent of its GSDP, West Bengal is among those few states that have crossed the three per cent threshold limit. In 2020-21, the percentage was 3.86 as against 2.94 per cent in 2019-20. Not only that, the GSDP growth rate at 2011-12 constant prices went up from 4.17 per cent in 2012-13 to 6.13 per cent in 2015-16, 7.2 per cent in 2016-17, and 6.41 per cent in 2018-19 but again plunged to 5.6 per cent in 20-21.

Maharashtra finances not robust, but salvageable with 'discipline'

MUMBAI, FEB 26

As the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government readies for its third annual Budget (2022-2023) in early March, the focus is again on the state of the state's finances. The state has been grappling - ranking among the worst-hit - with the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and the series of lockdowns that have played havoc with the economy, revenues and expenditure, and diversion of most resources to the health sector for the masses reeling under the impact of Covid-19.

Till the previous fiscal (2020-2021), the state had notched up a whopping debt of Rs 520,717 crore, mostly comprising unpaid loans and other liabilities. However, the fiscal deficit percentage vis-a-vis GSDP is 2.1 per cent and the debt stock to GSDP is 19.6 per cent - well within the prescribed limits of 25 per cent, as per the Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement of last year, according to the official data. "Though appearing huge, the debt figures are an accumulation of the past several years owing to various factors.

The average annual addition is in the range of Rs 65,000 cr." said Dr Ratnakar Mahajan, well-known economic expert and former Executive Chairman, Maharashtra State Planning Board. Unlike many other states, there are no money-guzzling 'populist schemes' operating in Maharashtra - barring one important welfare measure started in Jan/2020 - the affordable meal of 'Shiv Bhojan Thali' - which was extended and heavily subsidised after the pandemic lockdowns were imposed in March 2020. A pet

venture of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the 'Shiv Bhojan Thali' - on which the state government has spent less than Rs 500 crore in the past 24 months - proved to be a life-saver for the urban-rural poor and the lakhs of migrants on the move in the early days of the lockdown series. However, officials say the debt has to be serviced without fail every year - which is the expenditure part of the annual budget - but there is scope for being prudent, said an official of the state Finance Ministry, headed by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Woman trainee pilot dies as private aviation academy aircraft crashes in Telangana; Scindia orders probe

NEW DELHI: A woman trainee pilot died when an aircraft belonging to a private aviation academy crashed in Nalgonda district of Telangana on Saturday, police said. Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said he was shocked and an investigation team is reaching the site of the accident. Citing preliminary information, a police official said the ill-fated aircraft, which came from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh side, crashed at a village in the district before noon. The woman trainee pilot died on the spot and further details were being ascertained, the official said. Scindia said on Twitter that he was shocked to hear about the tragic crash of a training aircraft in Nalgonda. "An investigation team has been rushed to the site. Unfortunately, we lost the student pilot," he noted. The minister expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and loved ones.

Huge decline in domestic gas subsidy borne by Centre in three years, reveals RTI

NAGPUR: The payment of gas subsidy by state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) has plummeted to Rs 2,706 crore for the first nine months of FY22, from Rs 37,585 crore in FY19, an RTI query has revealed.The query was filed by Nagpur resident Abhay Kolarkar, who sought information from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas pertaining to subsidy provided to domestic gas consumers in the last five years. The subsidy burden on the government has reduced as it kept on increasing the retail prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) which is used by over 39 crore homes for cooking, even as the global oil and gas prices showed a decline. This has been seen as an attempt at decontrolling prices of the fuel, in line with similar moves on petrol and diesel. The RTI reply revealed that in 2018-19, three state-run OMCs paid Rs 37,585 crore as subsidy, which came down to only Rs 2,706 crore in FY22 till December, Kolarkar told PTI. Kolarkar added that the price of a cylinder has increased by around 100 per cent in the last five years and the government has reduced the subsidy on gas.At present, the cost of a cylinder is around Rs 900, but subsidy paid is Rs 40.10 only. He sought immediate restoration of subsidies as a percentage of the total cost to help lessen the burden on the common man. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the largest of the OMCs, said its customers were given a subsidy of Rs 12,371 crore 2017-18, Rs 18,663 crore in 2018-19, Rs 13,048 crore in 2019-20, Rs 3,350 crore in 2020-21 and only Rs 1,369 crore in 2021-22 (April-Dec 2021).

SC asks Centre to clear its stand on legality of cryptocurrency trade in India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre to make its stand clear on whether cryptocurrency trade involving Bitcoin or any other such currencies is legal in India or not. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant, which was dealing with a case related to the quashing of multiple FIRs registered against one Ajay Bhardwaj and others for allegedly duping investors across India by inducing them to trade in Bitcoin and assuring them high returns, said that the accused were booked for their involvement in Bitcoin trade. The bench told Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for Centre and Enforcement Directorate, "We want you to tell us on affidavit whether cryptocurrency trade involving Bitcoin or any other such currencies is legal in India or not? What is the regime for Bitcoin trade at present?"

Indian schools invited to compete for new World's Best School Prizes

LONDON: High-achieving schools in India are being invited to enter the USD 2,50,000 inaugural World's Best School Prizes, launched by London-headquartered T4 Education in partnership with professional services major Accenture.The new prize, launched this month, has been conceptualised to celebrate schools worldwide for the important role they play and for their enormous contribution to society's progress, especially in the wake of the COVID pandemic.

It is aimed at creating a new platform to tell the stories of schools that are transforming the lives of their students and making a real difference to their communities.

"In India, where we have seen 650-odd days of disrupted education, and all around the world, schools and their teachers have been working tirelessly to keep students learning in the face of the greatest crisis global education has ever experienced," said Shaheen Mistri, CEO of non-profit organisation Teach For India, who is part of the Judging Academy for the new prize. "We must celebrate their achievements and learn from their innovative solutions to the challenges they've faced if we are to improve education in the wake of COVID. That's why I'm calling on schools all over India and across the globe to apply for the new World's Best School Prizes so their inspirational stories can be told," she said. The supporters of the prize believe it will enable inspirational schools from around the world to share best practices, help others replicate innovative ideas, and "democratise" school-based expertise to improve education.

"If there is one thing that the pandemic has taught us, it is that school has to be anywhere and everywhere," said Safeena Husain, Founder of Educate Girls and another member of the Judging Academy.



YUGMARG, CHANDIGARH, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022

India records 11,499 fresh Covid cases, 255 more deaths

NEW DELHI, FEB 26

With 11,499 people testing positive for coronavirus infection in a day, India's total tally of Covid cases rose to 4,29,05,844, while the active cases further declined to 1,21,881, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Saturday.

The death toll climbed to 5,13,481 with 255 daily fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

With this, the country recorded its daily Covid cases under one lakh for the 20th consecutive day.

The active cases comprised 0.28 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid recovery rate had further improved to 98.52 per cent, the health ministry said.

A reduction of 12,354 cases has been recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.01 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate was 1.36 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of recoveries surged to 4,22,70,482, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.2 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide Covid vaccina-



tion drive exceeded 177.13 crore.

The 255 new fatalities include 177 from Kerala and 15 from Karnataka. A total of

5,13,481 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 1,43,687 from Maharashtra, 64,980 from Kerala,

39,900 from Karnataka, 38,000 from Tamil Nadu, 26,117 from Delhi, 23,447 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,169 from West Bengal.

India, Japan to hold annual joint military drill in Karnataka from February 27 to March 10



NEW DELHI, FEB 26

India and Japan will conduct the annual joint military exercise "Dharma Guardian 2022" in Belgaum, Karnataka, from February 27 to March 10, the Defence Ministry said on Friday.

"In the series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries, this exercise with Japan is crucial and significant in terms of security challenges faced by both nations in the backdrop of current global situation," the ministry's statement said.

The Japanese forces arrived at Belgaum on Friday to take part in this exercise, it noted. India, Japan, the US and Australia are part of the Quad group that has been formed to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free from any malignant influence of China. The scope of Dharma Guardian exercise covers platoon-level joint training on operations in jungle and semi urban and urban terrain,

the statement said. Combat experienced troops of the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army and 30th Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces are participating in the exercise this year, it noted.

The 12-day-long exercise schedule includes house interventions drills, raid on terrorist hideouts in semi urban terrain, combat first aid, unarmed combat and close quarter combat firing where both sides will jointly train, plan and execute a series of well-developed tactical drills for neutralisation of likely threats, it mentioned. The joint field training exercises, joint combat discussions and joint demonstrations will culminate with a two day validation exercise scheduled on March 8 and March 9, it said. "Special emphasis is being laid on enhancing tactical skills to fight global terrorism and on enhancing inter-operability between the forces and to promote Army to Army relations," the statement read.

Law Secy among 4 appointed HC judges

NEW DELHI, FEB 26

Union Law Secretary Anoop Mendiratta was among the four Delhi judicial officers appointed judges of the Delhi High Court on Friday.

Mendiratta, who belongs to the Delhi Higher Judicial Service, has been working on deputation as Law Secretary of India since October 2019. This is the first time that a Union Law Secretary has been appointed as a high court judge.

Mendiratta was appointed as judge on the basis of his seniority as a judicial officer, sources said. The other three judicial officers appointed as judges of the Delhi High Court are: Neena Bansal Krishna, Dinesh Kumar Sharma and Sudhir Kumar Jain, the Department of Justice announced.

The names of six Del-



hi judicial officers, including these four, were recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana on Febru-

ary 1. The other two judicial officers whose appointment remained pending were Swarna Kanta Sharma and Poonam A Bamba.

WB Guv refuses to reschedule Assembly meet

NEW DELHI: West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has turned down the Chief Secretary's request to condone the typographical error in the Cabinet note regarding summoning of the Assembly session at 2 pm (instead of 2 am) on March 7.

Dhankhar yesterday summoned the Assembly at 2 am on March 7, acting on a typographical mistake in the state Cabinet's proposal note. He noted that the timing mentioned in the note had struck him as "somewhat odd", but added that when he asked the Chief Secretary for clarification, the latter refused to meet him.

He tweeted, "From constitutional perspective, no cognisance of the request of the Chief Secretary, seeking variation in the decision of the Cabinet, can be taken."

Ukraine crisis: Government to bear cost of evacuating Indians



NEW DELHI, FEB 26

Air India will operate two flights to Romanian capital Bucharest to evacuate Indians stranded in Ukraine due to the Russian military offensive against it, senior government officials said. The transportation cost, they said, would be borne by the government. One flight would leave tonight from Delhi at 9 pm and the other from Mumbai at 10.30 pm. Both the flights are expected to return to their starting points before noon tomorrow, the officials said.

The citizens who have reached the Ukraine-Romania border by road will be taken to Bucharest by Indian officials so that they could be evacuated in the two Air India flights, they said. The officials said the government was focusing on evac-

uating Indians through Ukraine's land borders with Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Romania as the Ukrainian government closed the country's airspace following the Russian military offensive. Nearly 20,000 Indians, mainly students, are currently stranded in the war-torn nation. The distance between the Ukrainian capital Kyiv and the Romanian border is approximately 600 km and it takes anywhere between 8.5 to 11 hours to cover the distance by road, the officials said. "The distance from the Ukraine-Romania border to Bucharest is 500 km and it takes seven to nine hours to cover the distance by road. The distance between Kyiv and the Hungarian border check point is around 820 km and it takes 12-13 hours to cover it by road," the official said.

Hijab row: After 11 days of marathon hearing, Karnataka High Court reserves verdict

NEW DELHI, FEB 26

After 11 days of marathon hearing, the Karnataka High Court on Friday resereed its verdict on petitions filed by some Muslim girls challenging ban on wearing hijab in educational institutions in the state on the ground that it's an essential practice of Islam.

"Heard. Order reserved," said a Full Bench led by Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, which heard several senior counsel for the petitioners and Karnataka Advocate General Prabhuling Navadgi, besides some advocates representing teachers and College Development Committees having local MLAs as their members.

The Bench asked the parties to file their written submissions, if any.

Set up on February 9, the Chief Justice Awasthi-led Bench also included Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice Jaibunnisa M Khazi. It heard on a day-to-day basis for 11 days petitions filed by some girl students challenging the ban on wearing hijab in educational institutions where a particular uniform has been prescribed.

The petitioners were allegedly denied entry into a pre-university college for girls in Udupi in December last for violating the dress code. The state government has insisted

that the state high court must decide if hijab was an essential practice of Islam, saying it's important to decide the issue as the petitioners have asserted it as a part of their right

to religion. Several Muslim girls have challenged the Karnataka government's February 5 order restricting students from wearing clothes that could disturb peace, harmony

and law and order.

The Karnataka High Court had on February 10 restrained students from going to educational institutions wearing religious dress.

JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG PRESS NOTICE				
The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Nurpur invites tender on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors /firms for the following through offline process.				
Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	
1	C/O 21 Nos Tube-well in Nurpur Constituency (C/O Tube-well Garthara) in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- C/O 1 No. Delivery tank, 10 Nos, Out let, & Laying Jointing, testing of HDPE Pipe in Distribution System etc).	373586	7480	
2.	Providing PLWSS to SC Community of census Village Kamnala Khas, Sukhar, Bhaleta Geora and Chattoli Khas in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- Dismantling, relaying laying and jointing of 80mm dia G.I. Pipe & repair of Rising main, gravity line and distribution line at various location to avoid leakages in JSV section Jassur	153200	3070	
3	Improvement of water Supply Scheme for providing House hold connection to village Jassur Khas, Jachh, Bodh, Machi Bhawan and Kandwal in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- Laying, Jointing and testing of G.I. Pipe of 32mm dia node 34 to 35, 20mm dia at node No.35 to 36, and 15mm dia for house connection and providing fixing of 66 Nos. House service connection for LWSS Jassur Jachh)	428608	8580	
4	Improvement of water supply Scheme for Providing House hold connection to Village Jassus Khas, Jachh Bodh, Machi Bhawan and Kandwal in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- Laying, Jointing and testing of G.I. pipe of 20mm dia node 93 to 94,94 to 95 & 105 to 106, 25mm dia at node nNo.49 to 50,75 to 76,81 to 105 32mm dia node 48 to 49,74 to 75, 50mm dia Node 26 to 27 for LWSS Jassur Jachh)	374682	7500	
5.	Aug. of LWSS Chakwan Bassa in Tehsil Nurpur Dist Kangra H.P. (SH:- Drilling, lowering of Assembly and development of 200-220mm dia Mini Tube-well in Village Maira)	499940	10000	
6	C/O 21 Nos. Tube-well in Nurpur Constituency (C/O Tube-well Pucka Tiala 3rd) in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- C/O Pucca field channel in Delivery tank Outlet No. 1,2)	386063	7730	
7.	Aug. of LWSS Rit Chowki, Agar Kathal Geora and Thora etc. in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- Dismantling relaying, laying and jointing of G.I. Pipe of various dia with necessary fitting in village Giora, Tareta, Lambar Mohalla, Megh Basti, Adhiya Mohalla)	191878	3840	
8	Running and maintenance of LWSS Nurpur Town in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- Providing and fixing of M.S flange, Bend and distribution line connection in scheme etc).	358100	7170	
9	Restoration of Rain Damages of LWSS Jachh in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- Providing and fixing of wire crate along to protect the pump house from Rd 15.00 to 30.00 mtr)	204563	4100	
10	Providing and installation of hoardings for awareness of drinking water under IEC (Information Education and Communication Activity in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- Manufacturing and installation of permanent painted hoardings of Specified size given by the Department in Sub Division Nurpur	369600	7400	
11	Providing and installation of hoardings for awareness of drinking water under IEC (Information Education and Communication) (Activity in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- Manufacturing and installation of permanent painted hoardings of specified size given by the Department in Sub Division Nurpur)	369600	7400	
12	Running and maintenance of LIS Tika Har in Tehsil Nurpur (SH:- C/O Submerged diversion weir)	497694	9960	
13	Augmentation & Extension of various LWSS in Drought Hit area in Nurpur Constituency in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- C/O retaining wall to protect the infiltration gallery and other structure of Source RD 23 to 48 mtr for LWSS Kalera Sangrela Pachan Phase-2nd)	429662	8600	
14	Running and maintenance of LIS Khanni in Nurpur Constituency in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- C/O retaining wall to protect the sedimentation Tank and boundary wall and steelbridge path to jack well)	194609	3900	
15	Augmentation & Extension of various LWSS in Drought hit area in Nurpur constituency in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- C/O retaining wall to protect the Pump House RD 33.50 to 70.50 mtr for LWSS Kalera Sangrela pachan phase-2nd)	458311	9970	
16	Running and maintenance of LIS Tikka Har in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- Re-C/O pucca field channel from RD 450/0 to 150 mtr)	414390	8290	
17	Running and maintenance of LIS Tikka Har in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- C/O retaining wall to protect the various pucca field channel from RD 180 to RD 195 and RD 345 to RD 360 mtr)	260609	5220	
18	Aug. of LWSS Kopra Aund in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- Laying jointing and testing of G.I. Pipe, Providing and fixing of sluice valve and connection of main tank to various distribution line)	204120	4090	
19	Augmentation of LWSS Kopra Aund in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- Fixing and carriage of sluice valve chamber, sluice valve, in various places in scheme	198651	3980	
20	C/O 21 Nos. Tube-well in Nurpur Constituency in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- Providing and fixing of wire crate along the nallah to protect the Pump house and head works in Tube-well Nagabari from RD 0.00 to 12.50 mtr in LHS and RD 32.50 to 42.50 RHS of pump house)	199594	4000	
21	C/O 21 Nos Tube-well in Nurpur constituency in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (SH:- Providing crate work to protect the rising main & pump house in tube-well Charuri from rd 0.00 to 45.00 mtr)	464066	9290	
Time limit Six Months Last date of sale tender form Division office upto 02-03-2022 to 4 PM and received in this office on 03-03-2022 at 11 AM and will be opened on the same day at 11:30 AM. Time limit 3 Months and six Months.				
Sd/- Executive Engineer,Jal Shakti Division Nurpur				
DPR-HP-7232/2021-2022				

Needed to stand up, not stand aside: Oppn leaders flay govt over stand on UNSC resolution on Ukraine

NEW DELHI: Several opposition leaders criticised the government on Saturday after India abstained from voting on a UN Security Council resolution on the Russian attack on Ukraine, saying it needed to stand up against the wrong and not stand aside. Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari said "there comes a time when nations need to stand up and not stand aside". "I sincerely wish India had voted in solidarity with the people of Ukraine at UNSC who are facing an unprecedented and unjustified aggression. 'Friends' need to be told when they are wrong," he said. Echoing his view, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said in an article: "Invasion is Invasion; we should tell our friend Russia." "If 'friends' can't speak honestly to each other, what is the friendship worth," Tharoor asked.

SHORT TALKS

Aakashian Dikshant Jakhar from Hisar eligible for scholarship

Hisar : In a stupendous result, 440 students from Aakash+BYJU'S, the national leader in test preparatory services, have qualified to be eligible for the NTSE 2021 scholarship, one of the most prestigious scholarships in the country. Aakashian Dikshant Jakhar from the city of Hisar has also cleared the examination and is now eligible for the NTSE 2021 scholarships. Commenting on the impressive results, Mr Aakash Chaudhry, Managing Director, Aakash+BYJU'S, said: "The result this year has been exceptional. Our students and teachers have toiled hard to achieve this feat. 440 selections in NTSE Stage-2 are our highest selection till date. Congratulations to all our students who have performed well in the NTSE (Stage II) 2021. It is the result of the hard work put by the students, the support of their parents and the quality test preparation imparted at Aakash+BYJU'S. I wish them all the best for the future."

The NTSE scholarship under the present scheme is awarded to candidates for pursuing courses in science and social science up to doctoral level and in professional courses like medicine and engineering up to second-degree level. As on date, approx. 2,000 scholarships are awarded every year in the country with reservation of 15 percent for SC, 7.5 percent for ST and 27 percent for other backward classes and 4 percent for a group of students with benchmark disabilities.

Punjab enforces follow-on, Haryana 149/4 in 2nd innings

CHANDIGARH: On the third day of the Group F league match of Ranji Trophy being played between PUNJAB and HARYANA at Arun Jaitley Stadium, New Delhi, Haryana were made to follow-on by Punjab. Having scored 444 runs in their first innings and riding on batsmen Mandeep Singh's unbeaten knock of 159 and Anmol Malhotra's 100, Punjab dismissed Haryana for 282 runs on the third day with an excellent performance by bowlers, Siddharth Kaul (3/63), Baltej Singh (4/57) & Arshdeep Singh (3/54). Earlier Haryana started from their overnight score of 204 runs for 3 wickets (57overs). Team lost 7 of their wickets in quick succession and batsmen contributed 78 runs to the scoreboard today. Captain HJ Rana, hit 19 boundaries in his 244-ball knock of 149 runs, but the team's lower order battled to give any support. Team Haryana was trailing by 162 runs in the first innings and was again put into bat. After being enforced follow-on, Haryana could not give a better account of themselves in the second innings too, as they lost wickets regularly. Opener Mayank Shandilya (13 runs of 22 balls) out in 8th over, he was trapped leg before to Arshdeep Singh, followed by the other opener SG Rohilla (19 runs of 25 balls) in the 9th over, he was also was trapped leg before to Siddharth Kaul.

Chandigarh bundled out Baroda for 517, fightback with 234/2 in his second inning

CHANDIGARH: Openers - Arslan Khan and debutant Hamoor Singh Pannu magnificent 164 runs partnership helped UT boys to fight back against the mighty Baroda at the third day of ongoing Ranji Trophy being played at Bhubaneswar on Saturday. In reply to Chandigarh's 168, Baroda scored a mammoth of 517. Chandigarh managed 234 for two in its second inning before the stumps were drawn. Earlier, Baroda, while resuming their overnight score of 398 for seven, lost their first wicket of the day in the form of Vishnu Solanki (104), who added just one run on his resumption and fell prey to Jagjit Singh Sandhu with 401 for eight on the board. Thereafter, Baroda's tailenders - Atit Sheth and Bhargav Bhatt stunned the Chandigarh bowlers to form a partnership of 116 runs in 136 balls for the ninth wicket. Atit Sheth (59), who completed his half-century, was dismissed by Gurinder Singh in the 132nd over. In the next over, Jagjit Singh Sandhu (5/119) took his fifth wicket and accounted for Bhargav Bhatt (75), which helps Baroda to bundle out for 517

India needs to remain vigilant as neighbouring countries not polio-free: Mandaviya

NEW DELHI: Since the neighbouring countries are still not polio-free, India needs to remain vigilant and continue with its vaccination programme against the disease, Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Saturday, highlighting that door-to-door inoculation campaigns will be conducted to ensure that no one is left behind.

The minister, who launched the National Polio Immunisation Drive for 2022 by administering polio drops to children below five years of age in the Ministry of Health, said over 15 crore children aged below five years will be vaccinated against the disease in the coming months.

"India's strategic fight against polio is a success story of the country's public health policy against vaccine-preventable diseases. We need to continue to be vigilant and ensure that every child under five years of age must get polio drops," he said.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Universal Immunisation Programme



is focussing to protect children from more diseases than ever before and has introduced several new vaccines like the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV), the Rotavirus vaccine and the Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine in the recent past, Mandaviya added.

Further, to provide additional protection to children, the government has also introduced the

injectable Inactivated Polio Vaccine into its routine immunisation programme, he pointed out.

"While we are making efforts to protect our children from more and more diseases, it is important that all vaccines under the programme reach every child of our country," the minister said.

Stressing the importance of observing the National Immunisation

Day, he said, "The aim of Swasth Bharat can only be achieved if our children are healthy. The objective of Mission Indradhanush or Polio Vaccination Drive is to protect our children against such deadly diseases. Since our neighbouring countries are still not polio-free, we should remain vigilant and continue the vaccination programme.

"Over 15 crore children of age less than five years will be vaccinated in the coming months. Door-to-door vaccination campaigns through robust micro-planning will be done to ensure that no one is left. I congratulate all the healthcare workers, stakeholders like WHO, UNICEF, Rotary Club and NGOs for making this immunisation programme a Lok Bhagidari Andolan as envisioned by our prime minister. I request all families to come forward to get their children vaccinated."

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan highlighted the achievements and the way forward to implement the National Immunisation Programme.

An awareness workshop for waste collectors



Amritsar : Punjab Plastic Waste Management Society (PPWMS) with Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA) has conducted an awareness workshop for waste collectors at Chabal Road, Near Ganda Nala, Amritsar, Punjab on 26th February 2022, Saturday. In the programme, the usage of safety kits was demonstrated and afterwards the kits were also distributed among waste collectors. More than 60 waste collectors participated in the event. "We are conducting these sanitation

and hygiene programmes for waste collectors at regular intervals, and every time we observe improvement in their understanding of the issues in waste management.

They now understand the significance of using safety kits and have started using them properly" says Mrs. Reena Chadha, General Manager, IPCA.

Punjab Plastic Waste Management Society (PPWMS), which is a consortium of 48 Multinational and Indian

Companies, signed MoU with IPCA in 2018 so as to fulfill their EPR liabilities for plastic waste management in the state of Punjab. PPWMS & IPCA have developed an action plan for effective plastic waste management in Punjab that includes education, training, capacity building and awareness of different stakeholders along with the collection, segregation and recycling/co-processing of plastic waste. As per the action plan, PPWMS and IPCA are organizing workshops for waste collectors, awareness for the residents, and capacity building for various stakeholders to strengthen the basic needs of plastic waste management in the state of Punjab at regular intervals. So far, IPCA has collected and processed over 20,000 Metric tons of plastic waste in Punjab and brought behavioral change with respect to waste management practices to more than 5000 stakeholders.

Nuvoco Launches Zero M Epoxy Tile Grout

NEW DELHI: Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., the fifth largest cement player in India and the largest cement company in East India, in terms of capacity launched Zero M Epoxy Tile Grout in the markets of Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, and West UP. Zero M Epoxy Tile Grout is solvent free 2 component epoxy grout that offers



unique features like high compression, flexural, shear adhesion strength, resistant to acids and corrosive agents. It is available in a wide range of colors for applications in residential and commercial spaces. Zero M Epoxy Tile Grout is made of epoxy resins combined with a filler powder. It is not only easy to apply but is completely water resistant and uniform in color. It also maintains an excellent resistance to a wide range of chemical acids, solvents and stains. The ready-to-use tile grout, consisting of cement, polymers, fillers and special additives provides high-quality joint filler for filling the tile joints up to 20mm creating long-lasting tile joints. It is available in a 5 kg can, recommended for kitchen, bathroom, swimming pool, terraces & balconies, food processing plants, dairies & laboratories and high trafficable areas.

SimpoloVitrified strengthens its presence in Mohali, Punjab

Showcasing the company's production and technological excellence at one place, Simpolo Vitrified Pvt Ltd- one of India's leading and innovative tiles brands has inaugurated its 76th exclusive showroom 'Simpolo Gallery' in Mohali, Punjab. Spread in the area of 2000 sq ft, the exclusive showroom in Mohali offers an exclusive and elegant range of tiles and sanitaryware including Simpolo's best selling products i.e., Dry Granula, Sintered Compact Surface among others. Hrithik Roshan is the brand ambassador of Simpolo Vitrified.

The exclusive showroom is opened in the franchisee model in association with M/s. Tiles Art Gallery and strategically located at Plot No 411, Sector 82, JLPL Industrial Area, Sas Nagar, Mohali (Punjab) - 160055. The showroom was inaugurated on 26 February 2022.

On the Grand opening of the showroom Mr. Bharat Aghara, CMO, Simpolo Vitrified, said, "Mohali has emerged as the next big real estate and

industrial destination in Punjab. Development of IT park, Aero City, and International airport have propel the growth of real estate and infrastructure activity in the city. Company's Mohali



showroom promises to take tile shopping to a different level of richness in design and visual experience that will make some of the premium brands rethink their strategies competing in the city. Trusted for reliability, adaptability, innovation, quality consciousness, Simpolo Vitrified has created a strong brand identity which is

recognised globally."

Mohali showroom is expected to meet all the tiling needs of every classy House Builder, Architect and is aimed at adding style statement & enriching the indoor space. An innovative collection of company's most exquisite designs and versatile range including company's bestselling range 1200x2400 Dry Granula first in class along with 1200x1800 Posh Surface, Sintered compact surfaces, 16 mm Rockdeck Series for outdoor applications, Kitchen top, Double Charge & Glazed Vitrified tiles, wall tiles etc. will be on the display at the showroom. The displays are designed to give customers a feel of how each tile will look in its actual use and inspire designers to go further from there.

Simpolo Vitrified is aiming to become among the top players in Punjab in the coming time, the company will be opening more showrooms and strengthening its dealer-distributor network in the state.

Afghan woman builds girls' school in far-flung district



SHIBERGHAN : An Afghan woman has helped construct a school for girls in the country's northern Jawzjan province, which has been welcomed by Afghans as an initiative towards developing education in the country. In Aqcha, a far-flung district of the Jawzjan province, Hajji Bibi Nazira has built a 12-classroom school on 650 square meters of land at a cost of \$65,000, largely solving the school shortage for girls in the district, Xinhua news agency reported.

She has become the first woman who built a girls' school from her own wealth since the

Taliban took over the power of Afghanistan in mid-August last year. Local officials said local female students, who used to attend classes under tents, now have finally found a place to study with roofs.

Provincial director of Education Department Mohammad Tahir Jawad told Xinhua recently that getting education is vital for everyone as well as for the whole society.

"The Islamic Emirate encourages education for girls and the new school has been built with the support of the government to promote education," Tahir Jawad said.

Apollo Hospitals Group to enter the metaverse using 8chili HintVR™ platform

AMRITSAR:- Apollo Hospitals Group has announced a unique collaboration with '8chili Inc' to enable engagement in the metaverse, in the first-of-its-kind initiative. Virtual reality will provide an immersive experience that has been proven to increase patient engagement and skill mastery for hands-on training. Patient counselling pre/post-operation in virtual reality will help increase patient outcomes by bringing generic environments filled with relaxing "narratives" that will induce control over one's own body and physiological response. It will also engage the users in virtual reality-mediated activities to empower their abilities to regulate emotion. This personalized approach to every patient will help result in higher patient satisfaction.

"At Apollo Hospitals we are constantly exploring ways to enrich and expedite the healthcare community, and the patient experience. Virtual Reality (VR) will change how both these things are done. 8chili is a leader in the VR space and we are excited to work with them to integrate VR solutions into our care continuum," said Dr. Prathap C Reddy, Chairman Apollo Hospitals on this collaboration. On this association Dr. Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals said, "People learn best by doing which is why healthcare is a natural fit for immersive VR training. Findings support the equivalence and superiority of VR training, the time to skill mastery, and the economic savings compared to traditional methods. Our need to train healthcare professionals to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of care effectively and efficiently just keeps growing. We strongly believe 8chili's platform helps us deliver VR immersive training at scale and efficiencies"

Mr. Aravind Upadhyaya, Founder, and CEO, 8chili said, "From the beginning, our focus has been to deliver a platform that makes it easier for organizations to tap into the full potential of the metaverse. HintVR™ is an end-to-end platform to manage your metaverse strategy helping in original 3D content creation, metaverse customization, and also delivery of this content across various metaverse real estates. We are very excited about working with Apollo Group Hospitals as this allows us to deliver the immersive experience to the millions of patients they serve."

Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit Amplifies Conversations on Making Quality Pharmaceuticals in India

SHIMLA : The two-day Global Pharmaceutical Quality Summit 2022 organised by the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) successfully concluded last night. The event saw industry captains and regulators in the ecosystem deliberate on achieving excellence and quality in operations, vaccine development and sustainability. We also witnessed leaders across industries sharing their views on innovation, technology and the potential learnings for the pharmaceutical industry.

The highlight of the day was the panel discussion on the 'Sustainable end-to-end



Operations and Quality Excellence – Path Forward' that brought together the CEOs of leading Indian Pharmaceutical companies such as Cipla, Dr Reddy's, Lupin, Sun Pharma, Torrent and Zydus. This session was moderated by Gautam Kumra, Senior Partner, McKinsey & Company.

Echoing his views on newer modalities such as biosimilars, Mr Umang Vohra, CEO, Cipla said, "We have developed our technologies internally for generics and now we have to collaborate with the ones who have already done it and then

leverage those. The talent required for some technologies is not present in India so collaboration with global partners will help address this issue." Speaking about challenges in the digitization journey, Mr G V Prasad, Co-Chairman, Dr Reddy's said, "While digitalisation is inevitable, there is still a challenge to digitise since underlying processes need to be mastered and understood to enhance efficacy of the digitisation process. Industry leaders will have to be more agile, make data-driven leadership decisions with science and common sense coming together."

Elaborating on crystalizing his vision on quality, Mr Nilesh Gupta, Managing Director, Lupin said, "Quality and compliance was a very company-specific issue, and it has changed due to forums such as this, which have allowed us to work towards a collective goal. Information sharing has been an enormous support system.

We are known to be Pharmacy of the World and we are fortunate to have achieved this position. In the next 5 years it will be great to be known as best in class with the help of forums such as this which promote open dialogue."