



## 5 State Elections

The Election Commission of India on Saturday announced the dates for Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur. The polls will be scheduled over seven phases between February 10 and March 7, and will conclude with the counting of votes on March 10. The political parties and candidates have been advised to conduct their campaign as much as possible virtually to ensure strict compliance of Covid safety norms. However, the significance of the polls goes beyond how they are conducted. The elections are not just crucial for the ruling BJP in UP, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur but also for its challenger Samajwadi party in UP and the ruling Congress in Punjab. More so in Uttar Pradesh where polls are of profound significance not only for the future of the state but also for India as a whole.

## Editorial

The polls in the country's most populous state are a high-stakes contest between an invincible BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the opposition comprising Samajwadi Party, Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party and Congress. At stake is not only the mundane question of who rules UP over the next five years but where India is headed as a country. A win for a party other than BJP will go some way to arrest the disarray among secular forces and give them confidence to stand up to Modi. But a victory for BJP will yet again reinforce the political dominance of Modi and further power his political cult. A Modi victory will be an emphatic endorsement of his seven years of rule.

After winning India in a landslide victory in 2019 general election, the BJP's battle to recast the idea of India has now come down to state after state. BJP as a party has now got complete sway over India. True, the spectacular loss in Bengal went a long way to hold back the rampaging march of the saffron across the country. But a UP victory could change that. And also the victory in Punjab and the three other states Manipur, Goa and Uttarakhand. State victories will give the Hindutva party the necessary political to further remould India in its own image.

So UP elections matter a lot. So do the Punjab polls. An unlikely loss in the UP on the pattern of that in New Delhi, and Bengal could be a big setback for the BJP in the run up to 2024 national polls. But as things stand, the odds seem to be stacked in favour of the BJP.

## Jaipur Foot could be seen in the African nation

**Jaipur:** The footprints of the world famous Jaipur Foot could be seen in the African nation, Djibouti now. An eight-member team of Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) comprising technicians led by S P bahunaga has so far fitted 190 persons with the artificial limb.

The camp is being held in the military hospital of Djibouti, the Capital of Djibouti.

India's ambassador to Djibouti R Chandramouli said under this camp 500 Djiboutians would be provided artificial limbs.

Djibouti is a multi-ethnic nation with a population of over 921,804 inhabitants and is the smallest nation in the mainland Africa.

The camp in Djibouti has been organised by the ministry of external affairs under the "India For Humanity" programme. This programme was launched to mark the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and it is being continued.

The founder and the chief patron of BMVSS, D R Mehta said that the ministry of external affairs under the "India For Humanity" programme has so far organised artificial limb fitments camps in Malawi, Vietnam, Myanmar, Iraq, Syria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Tanzania, Namibia and Uganda and over 6000 handicapped persons were provided with the artificial limbs and other aids and appliances. He said India earned enormous goodwill by holding such camps and the disabled of the various countries not only got mobility, but also dignity.

Mehta said similar camps would be organised in other countries also under the "India For Humanity" programme.

## How actress Heena was bitten by a scorpion



Telugu actress Heena braved scorpion bites filming in the jungles of Telangana for the music video Kala. "There were snakes in the jungle and I was trying to avoid them but was bitten by a scorpion. I was rushed to the hospital and given an antidote and taken back to the shoot. The makers wanted to give me

a break, but I preferred to shoot and virtually gave my blood for the video," chuckled the actress. The only difference on that day was I was bitten by a scorpion, while my favourite actor Salman Khan was bitten by a snake," he avers.

### No wonder the music video has a sting to it.

"Life's journey is all about dreaming and doing something to achieve that dream. The ability to imagine something larger than life forms the essence of living." 'Kala' is a musical attempt to depict the dream of many," says Seshu KMR about his dream music video called Kala in Telugu. Seshu has been working with many filmmakers including his mentor Ram Gopal Varma who launched the music video on his Twitter handle. 'Kala' is a musical video song, shot in picturesque locations of Goa and Hyderabad by DOP Bhargav Ravada. Featuring the promising and beautiful actress Heena S, the song is rendered by the well-known singer Neha Karode.

A KMR Corp Presentation and a Playback Entertainment Production, the music video stars Heena S and has lyrics by Kavi Siddhartha with music, concept and direction by Seshu KMR. The editing and Vfx has been done by Surya Reddy SS with Raj Kumar Reddy as the executive producer.

# JAIPUR is creating history of CINEMA through JIFF – Javed Siddiqi

**Jaipur:** "It's 4:30 P.M. at Maharana Pratap Auditorium, Jaipur and the ambience is surrounded by the worries of rapidly spreading MICRON [third wave of COVID19] and chilling cold of the Pink City. Preparations for 14th Jaipur International Film Festival are taking place here. Hopes were high, preparations were huge and the auditorium was supposed to be filled with cinema lovers from every corner of the world, but everything had to be limited because of the dangers of the approaching pandemic. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot was about to come for the Opening Ceremony and to honour Javed Siddiqi with JIFF Lifetime Achievement Award, but unfortunately he himself caught COVID and could not make it. Though he conveyed his heart felt wishes through a congratulatory note to JIFF and welcomed all cine lovers to the beautiful city of Jaipur. Despite all the challenges, all were applauding and the Film Festival started with a great enthusiasm saying loudly 'SHOW MUST GO ON'."

Noted Hindi – Urdu Film Writer Shri Javed Siddiqi is awarded JIFF LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Shri Javed Siddiqi, a widely known Film Writer was honoured with this very prestigious JIFF LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. JIFF founder director Hanu Ruj and spokesperson Rajendra Boda

honoured Javed Siddiqi by giving him a shawl and memento, as a symbol of his great contribution to cinema.

Film lovers expressed their reverence by giving a standing ovation to Siddiqi, and he said, "My whole life, I've been playing with words and creating magic with words, but today I'm falling short of words. Since childhood, I've heard about art, culture and sculpture of Jaipur, but now I feel that Jaipur is creating a new history of cinema through Jaipur International Film Festival". Next to it, Padma Shri Gulabo Sapera and her fellow dancers presented the beautiful dance.

Born in 1942, in Rampur, Javed Siddiqi has earned great name and fame by writing screenplays and dialogues for more than 60 super hit films in his career. He's been honoured with prestigious Film Fare Award twice, in 1994 for super hit film Baazigar and in 1996 for blockbuster Dil Wali Dulhaniya Le Jayenge. Besides, he has been awarded with Star Screenplay Award for writing screenplay of super successful film Raja Hindustani in 1996.

129 AWARDS under 14 Categories

A total of 129 awards under 14 categories were given, in the Opening Ceremony. Directors, producers, actors and writers of approximately 50 winning films participated in the Opening Ceremony and



received the awards from dignitaries of the town. At this special occasion, prominent artists, social activists and renowned guests including Padma Shri Shakir Ali, Padma Shri Tilak Geethai, Padma Shri Gulabo, Bollywood singer Ravindra Upadhyay, singer Veena Modani, Kathak Guru Manjari Kiran Mahajani, and popular painter Sanjeev Sharma awarded the winners. Among foreign guests, Mr. Robert Eugen Popa, film director from Romania and Ms. Maryam Pirband, film director from USA added grace to the opening ceremony by their esteemed presence.

"From the bottom of my heart, I thank all the dignitaries for taking time to make this evening special and audiences despite such tough times. We would make 14th edition of JIFF successful being together as a family and follow all COVID protocols and guidelines," says

delighted Hanu Ruj, Founder - Director of JIFF.

FILMS won the AWARDS

Under Feature Film Category, Golden Camel Award ~ Leader, directed by Katia Priwieziencew, Green Rose Award ~ Nani, directed by Samvid Anand from India, Yellow Rose Award [Upcoming Film with World Premiere] Award ~ Dandelion Season, directed by Maryam Pirband from USA, Yellow Rose Award ~ Zorilo's Secret [World Premiere Film], directed by Robert Eugen Popa from Romania. Best Actress Award ~ Matilda De Angelis from Atlas, Best Actor Award ~ Yashwant Anand Gupta to 4sum, Best Original Screenplay Award ~ Leader directed by Katia Priwieziencew, Best Short Documentary Award ~ Unseen Meghalaya directed by Sapan Narula from India, Best Documentary Feature Award ~ Sadan Hanim directed by

Goksel Gulensoy from Turkey, Best Short Film Award [Mobile Film] ~ Garden Party directed by Didier Muller from France, Best Song Award ~ Copper Lines directed by Mayuri Joshi from United States. Brother Troll directed by Gudmund Helmsdal from Faroe Islands won Best Short Film Award, Best Script Award and Best Cinematographer Award.

These FILMS from RAJASTHAN get AWARDS

Best Short Fiction Film Award ~ Washing Machine directed by Anand Singh Choudhary, Lathi directed by Gajendra Shetriya, The Makeup Artist directed by Raghav Tiwari. Special Jury Mention: Short Fiction Film Award ~ The Last Call directed by RJ Mohit, Best Song Award ~ Roshaniyan directed by Gaurav Bhatt, Special Jury Mention Award for SONG ~ Tanmay Singh directed Holding Me Back, Best Feature Fiction

Award ~ Aditya Patwardhan directed A Nomad River, Sanjay Nirwan directed Veerangna, and Aata directed by Hemant Sirvi.

Awarded Films would be screened at INOX

From 8th to 11th January, screening would continue from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. At INOX, GT Central, Jaipur ~ screening of films would continue from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. Out of 108 films, 90 films are going to be awarded this time. On 8th January ~ 31 Films from 10 countries, On 9th January ~ 23 Films from 13 countries, On 10th January ~ 32 Films from 15 countries, On 11th January ~ 22 Films from 8 countries would be screened.

279 FILMS from 52 COUNTRIES would be screened at INOX, GT Central

JIFF spokesperson Rajendra Boda informed that during the festival, selected 279 films from 52 countries would be screened in hybrid mode [Offline-Online mode]. On 8th January ~ 70 Films from 26 countries, On 9th January ~ 24 Films from 68 countries, On 10th January ~ 66 Films from 21 countries, On 11th January ~ 69 Films from 22 countries would be screened.

Online scheduled films would stay LIVE till next 24 hours; which can be watched on the official website of JIFF - jiffindia.org.

# HDFC Bank inaugurates Smart Classrooms in Govt Schools in Rajasthan

**Udaipur:** HDFC Bank Parivartan inaugurated 29 smart classrooms in the state of Rajasthan. Under this initiative, HDFC Bank is working with the State Education Board to create digital classrooms in government schools. IT infrastructure such as desktops and projectors has been installed in classrooms to deliver the syllabus-based e-learning content. Further, the Bank has also trained teachers to use the digital infrastructure.

Smart Classrooms enable technology-in-education to provide an interactive learning environment in the school. At

the core of it is a multimedia device which acts like an educator's tool making learning engaging and interactive; designed on a teacher-centric approach to support blended and participatory teaching methodologies. Hon. Minister of Education for the state Mr BD Kalla presided as the chief guest at a virtual function organised to inaugurate HDFC Bank's Parivartan projects. More than 12,000 students from class VI to XII are expected to benefit from the digital classrooms with subjects like Mathematics, Science, and English being taught in an



interesting manner.

"Through this initiative we are supporting the state government of Rajasthan in its efforts to digitise schools, spread education and empow-

er students," said Ms Ashima Bhat, Group Head - Corporate Social Responsibility, HDFC Bank. "Education is one of the key focus areas for the Bank under

Parivartan. Digital classrooms make learning fun for children and also help teachers acquire modern techniques. Going forward, we plan to digitise more such classrooms in the state

in partnership with state education board and make a difference to the lives of people in the state." Under Parivartan, the Bank has brought about a positive change in the lives of more than 37.50+ Lakh people in Rajasthan. The Bank's ongoing educational initiatives at over 1,000 schools have impacted more than 78,000 students in the state. Through the Holistic Rural Development Programme (HRDP), the Bank is working to create sustainable communities in over 132 villages across 14 districts, thereby reaching 49,650+ households.

## AirAsia India extends free rescheduling offer on all flights

**Mumbai:** AirAsia India has announced a free rescheduling offer for all flights on their network for bookings made till 31st January 2022 for travel until 31st March 2022. AirAsia India's 'Plan The Change' campaign offer will enable guests of AirAsia India the flexibility to change their travel dates. All guests flying with AirAsia India will be able to reschedule to another AirAsia India flight without any change fees. The airline has extended this offer for all bookings made on its website www.airasia.co.in, AirAsia India mobile apps and other major booking channels. To maximise convenience and flexibility, guests can also book AirAsia India's 'Premium Flex' fares, which include a host of complimentary services including unlimited rescheduling of flight bookings, discounted cancellation fees of only ₹500 for cancellations beyond 72 hours, against the standard cancellation fees of ₹3,000, free standard seats, 50% off premium hot seats in Rows 1-5, 12 and 14, and a free selection of pre-booked meals from its new in-flight dining menu Gourmair. In addition to the website, flights can also be rescheduled seamlessly in less than a minute by AirAsia India's AI-powered chatbot, Tia, available on airasia.co.in and on WhatsApp at +91 63600 12345. In addition to modifying bookings, Tia can also assist guests with travel advisories, policies and FAQs, terminal info, advise flight status, get a copy of the itinerary and take feedback.

## "Blockchain Technology in Accounting: Risks and Prospects" organised

**Udaipur:** An Online International Conference on "Blockchain Technology in

Accounting: Risks and Prospects" is being organised by the Department of Accountancy and Business Statistics.

In Mohanlal Sukhadia University under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Professor Amerika Singhji on 8th January 2022 an Online International Conference on "Blockchain Technology in Accounting: Risks and Prospects" is being organised by the Department of Accountancy and Business Statistics.

Professor Singh has sent congratulatory message for the department and has hoped that this department through its research in blockchain accounting will enhance International participation in accounting research and bring revolutionary changes in the field of accounting.

The Head of Department of Accountancy and Business Statistics, the Director of the Conference and currently the Principal Investigator of the RUSA Project on Blockchain Accounting in the Department, Professor Shurveer Singh Bhanawat has informed that the Chief Guest for the inaugural session would be Prof. B.P. Sharma, Group President, Planning and Control, Pacific Group of Universities, Udaipur, Rajasthan and Former Vice-Chancellor of Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

The Chairman for the Technical Session would be Dr. Arindam Gupta, Professor, Department of Commerce, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal.

The keynote speakers for the technical session would be Dr. Omkar Nath, Consultant at strategic level for information security, risk management, cyber security, digital forensics and IS audits., and Mr. Raj A. Kapoor, Founder of India Blockchain Alliance and Advisory Board Member at several blockchain companies.

The Dean and Faculty Chairman of the University College of Commerce and Management Studies, Prof. PK Singh will attend the conference as a mentor.

The Organising Secretary of the conference Dr. Shilpa Vardia, Assistant Professor, Department of Accountancy and Business

Statistics told that in this conference about 92 participants from many countries like Russia, Malaysia, Egypt and Bahrain will participate and many of them will present their research papers

## World Braille Day Celebration



**Kota:** World Braille Day was celebrated in the Government Public Board Library Kota, in which Amit Jain, a visually impaired reader of the Kota Public library, was honored with the "BEST BRAILLE BOOK READER OF THE YEAR" to Amit Jain, a visually impaired reader who studied the maximum Braille book. And on this occasion, visually impaired reader Sulekha Jain was honored for "ISSUING MAXIMUM BRAILLE BOOKS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR". Dr Deepak Kumar Shrivastava said that this day is very special for the visually impaired across the world. Braille Day is celebrated on the occasion of the birthday of a person named Lewis Braille. Lewis Braille is an inventor who invented the Braille script.

On this occasion, the visually impaired reader Amit told that Braille script is a language which is used by visually impaired people to write and read. For those who lose their eyesight due to birth or any reason, for them to stand equal to other people in the society, they should not be deprived of studies and they can become self-reliant even after their physical deficiency. For this, by inventing the Braille script, Lewis Braille became the messiah of the visually impaired around the world. Although his work was not recognized when he was alive,

Lewis Braille was later honored by introducing World Braille Day on his own birthday.

For this, by inventing the Braille script, Lewis Braille became the messiah of the visually impaired around the world. Although his work was not recognized when he was alive, Lewis Braille was later honored by introducing World Braille Day on his own birthday.

Sulekha, a visually impaired reader, said that "Braille script became a boon for those who could not see with their eyes. Braille script is a tactile code for the visually impaired to read and write. In this, a special type of raised paper is used, which can be read by touching the raised dots. Braille script can be written by means of a machine 'braillewriter', similar to typewriter. Apart from this, you can also write through stylus and Braille slate. Raised dots in Braille are called 'cells'."

## Axis Mutual Fund launches 'Axis Nifty Next 50 Index Fund'

**Udaipur:** Axis Mutual Fund, one of the leading asset management companies in India announced the launch of Axis Nifty Next 50 Index Fund (An Open Ended Index Fund tracking the NIFTY NEXT 50 Index), today. The NFO will be open for subscription on January 7, 2022 and close on January 21, 2022. The new fund will be managed by Jinesh Gopani, Head-Equity. The minimum application amount is INR 5,000 and investors can invest in multiples of INR 1, thereafter. The new fund will allow investors to participate in the growth story of companies that come after the top 50. The Nifty Next 50 index is designed to measure the performance of 50 companies from the constituents of Nifty 100 Index after excluding the constituents of Nifty 50 Index (essentially 51-100), spread across 13 distinct industries. Based on free-float market capitalisation, the Nifty Next 50 index is structured in a manner to leverage the potential of the companies that will form the next generation of market leaders.