

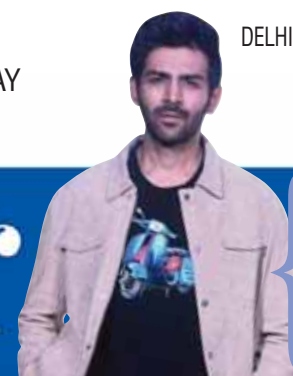
OPINION 6
POLITICS AND THE
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BHOPAL, TUESDAY AUGUST 3 2021; PAGES 12 ₹1.50



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**CRAVING
TO EXPLORE:
KARTIK ARYAN**
11 VIVACITY

Chak De India moment in Tokyo

Women's Hockey team scripts history with maiden entry in Olympic semis

PTI ■ TOKYO

They seemed courage and tenacity personified as India's women hockey players stunned three-time champions Australia to enter their maiden Olympic semifinals, while debutant discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur held her own against a world-class field to give the country a lot to be proud of on day 10 of the Games here on Monday.

Rani Rampal and her resolute team brought their 'A' game and lots of determination to the field and the Australians did not know what to do.

It was a case of real imitating the reel as blockbuster 'Chak De India', which told the tale of an underdog Indian women's hockey team guided by a discredited coach winning the World Cup, trended all across. The pinnacle is still some distance away for the real bunch but it has already surpassed all expectations and redeemed itself for the 12th place finish back in the 2016 Rio Games.

This was a day after the Indian men's team entered the Olympic semifinals following a 49-year gap, a phenomenally gritty run for both the teams.

Drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur



Indian players celebrate their victory against Australia during women's field hockey quarterfinal match at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo on Monday

PTI

rose to the occasion when it mattered and converted India's lone penalty corner in the 22nd minute to surprise the Australians on the day, who cried in disbelief even as the Indians shed tears of joy and let out ear-splitting screams to celebrate.

"I don't know what to say because emotions are too high at the moment, and we all are very happy because it was not an easy game to win from Australia," an elated skipper Rani Rampal said after the upset win.

India will play Argentina in the semifinal on Wednesday.

"I think that belief like we can work really hard throughout the game... And this is only 60 minutes, just focus on the 60 minutes. Don't think further what will happen, just focus on 60 minutes, and give everything that you have got. And I think everyone did that, so yeah, I am super proud," Rani said, a reminder of the "70 minute speech" that had galvanised the reel team in Chak De India.

SC orders inclusion of Paralympian shooter Naresh

New Delhi: In a major victory before firing a shot in the upcoming Tokyo Paralympics, the Supreme Court on Monday ordered the PCI immediately include Arjuna awardee and five-time Paralympian shooter Naresh Kumar Sharma as an additional participant for the sporting mega-event in Japan.

TOKYO 2020 MEDAL TALLY				
Country	G	S	B	
China	29	17	16	
USA	22	25	17	
Japan	17	6	10	
Australia	14	4	15	
ROC	12	21	17	
G Britain	11	12	12	
France	5	10	7	
India	0	1	1	

CAPSULE

PM LAUNCHES 'E-RUPI' NEW PAYMENT SYSTEM

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched e-RUPI, a person and purpose specific digital payment solution that is aimed at improving transparency and targeted delivery of benefits. Over the years, several programmes have been launched to ensure that the benefits reach its intended beneficiaries in a targeted and leakproof manner, with limited touch points between the Government and the beneficiary.

INDIA, CHINA AGREE TO RESOLVE LAC ISSUES

New Delhi: The Indian and Chinese Armies have agreed to resolve the remaining issues in eastern Ladakh in an "expeditious manner" and described their 12th round of military talks as "constructive", according to a joint statement on Monday.

DON'T DESERVE MEDIA TRIAL: SHILPA SHETTY

Mumbai: Actor Shilpa Shetty in a statement on Monday requested people to respect the family's privacy, especially that of her children, and let law take its course. "People have put their faith in me and I've never let anyone down. So, most importantly, I request you to respect my family's and 'my right' to privacy in these times. We don't deserve a media trial Satyamev Jayate," she added.

Rahul invites Opp leaders to plan strategy on Pegasus row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing stalemate in Parliament, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi has invited leaders of Opposition parties to a breakfast meeting at the Constitution Club on Tuesday to chalk out a joint strategy on the Pegasus snooping issue. All Opposition MPs and floor leaders of various parties have been invited for the meeting, sources said.

AICC sources added an invite has also been sent to the Trinamool Congress, which has been skipping all meetings convened by Rahul so far. Rahul met with TMC chief Mamata Banerjee when she called on Congress chief Sonia Gandhi last week.

After a meeting with the floor leaders of Opposition parties last week, Rahul said the Opposition has only one question: whether the Government had bought Israeli spyware Pegasus to use it as a "weapon against its own people".

While the Opposition has been insisting on a full-fledged debate on the Pegasus issue, the Government's stand has been that it is ready to discuss anything but the tapping scandal.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi leaves Parliament in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

Nitish backs Opp demand for probe into snoopgate

PNS ■ PATNA

In a major embarrassment to ally BJP, JD(U) supremo and Bihar Chief Minister Kumar has backed the Opposition's demand for a probe in the Pegasus snooping scandal.

"A probe should be done, indeed. We have been hearing about telephone tapping for so many days, the matter should

be discussed (in Parliament). People (Opposition) have been reiterating (for talks) for so many days, it should be done," Nitish said on Monday.

While Opposition parties have stalled Parliament for ten days over demand for a debate and probe, this is the first time that an ally of the BJP has backed their stand for a probe.

J&J takes back plea for vax nod in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bad news for those waiting for the US pharma giant Johnson & Johnson's single-shot Covid-19 vaccine 'Janssen' in India. The top drug regulator, Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), said on Monday that the pharma major had withdrawn its proposal seeking accelerated approval of its in the country. It didn't give additional details.

So far, four vaccines have been given Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) in India — Covishield, Covaxin, Sputnik V and Moderna.

In mid-July, Dr VK Paul, Niti Aayog member (health), had said, "We are in talks with Johnson & Johnson regarding their single-dose vaccine." He had added, "As per the plan, this vaccine will also be produced in Hyderabad's Bio E."

The US-based Johnson & Johnson had sought approval in April to conduct a bridging clinical study of its Janssen Covid-19 vaccine candidate in India.

It was reported earlier that a few thousand doses of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine could arrive in India in July. The US FDA authorised



Johnson & Johnson's viral vector Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use in February 2021.

However, weeks after its authorisation, the vaccine was linked to a rare but serious blood-clotting disorder.

Covaxin effective against Delta Plus

Hyderabad: Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin (BBV152) is effective against Delta Plus (AY.1) variant of the coronavirus, according to a study published in biorxiv by the Indian Council of Medical and Research (ICMR).

Choppers to airlift people of 3 villages trapped in MP flood

Chief Minister held talks with Defence Min over the matter

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that two helicopters will reach by this evening to rescue people trapped in three villages due to the floods of Parvati river in Shivpuri district. Talks have already been held with the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in this regard. Army and Air Force officers are in constant touch.

District administration and SDRF teams are active in relief and rescue operations. NDRF team is also reaching the spot. Chouhan took stock of five villages surrounded by water in Shivpuri district from the Situation Room at Mantralaya and also inquired about relief works from the local officials. Additional Chief Secretary Home Rajesh Rajoura and other officers were also present.

It is noteworthy that 6 villages Kupwara, Harrai, Akurni, Barkhedi, Chilapai and Raipur of Bairad tehsil of Shivpuri district are surrounded by the flood waters of Parvati river. Of these, villagers from Kupwara, Harrai and Akurni villages have been shifted to safer places. Villagers in Barkhedi, Chilapai and Raipur are surrounded by flood waters.

Chouhan spoke to the SDM, station in-charge, local sarpanch, panchayat secretary and Anganwadi workers on mobile from the Situation Room and inquired about the situation. Chouhan said that the villagers should be safely transported to a higher place in the village itself so that the villagers are not affected by the flood waters. The Chief Minister encouraging the villagers said that all possible relief efforts are being made. As soon as the helicopters reach, the work of shifting the villagers to a safe place will start. He urged the villagers not to worry the safety of all the people is the top priority of the state government.



Young women enjoy rain amid cool and pleasant weather in Bhopal on Monday

Pioneer photo

Rains likely to be normal in Aug, Sept: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday said monsoon rain is likely to be "normal" in August and September, between 95 per cent and 105 per cent of the long-period average (LPA).

According to the IMD, during August and September, "below normal" to "normal" rainfall is likely over many areas of the northwest, east and northeast India while "normal" to "above normal" rainfall is most likely over peninsular India and adjacent central India.

The monsoon halted its progress across central India in the third week of June, resulting in a three-week delay in the rain during the key sowing season.

The IMD said after witnessing uncharacteristically



A migrant family sells balloons on a roadside as monsoon clouds gather over Srinagar on Sunday

AP

heavy rain and an irregular weather pattern in July, Delhi is likely to receive normal rainfall in August. Normally, the national Capital receives 210.6

mm and 247.7 mm rainfall in July and August, respectively.

In another forecast for August, IMD Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said

monsoon is also likely to be normal in the month. West Madhya Pradesh and adjoining Rajasthan, some parts of interior Maharashtra, Jammu &

Kashmir, Ladakh, some parts of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh are likely to receive below-normal rainfall in August, Mohapatra said.

Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh, Konkan and Goa, central Maharashtra, south Gujarat, northeastern States, Bihar are likely to receive above-normal rainfall during the month, he added.

July recorded a 7 per cent deficiency in rain, with 26 per cent deficiency over east and northeast India; 27 per cent excess over south peninsula; 7 per cent deficiency over north-west India and 7 per cent deficiency over central India. June ended with 10 per cent excess rain but a monsoon break of around 12 days from June 19 to July 11 led to a long dry spell in many parts of the country.

ATMANIRBHAR MADHYA PRADESH Furniture, toy clusters to be developed in Indore

Govt to extend support to these small enterprises units, says CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the State Government will provide all possible support to the furniture and toy clusters to be developed in Indore. The employment opportunities in the State will increase with the units established in the cluster.

This is necessary for the creation of self-reliant Madhya Pradesh. Developing furniture and toy clusters in Indore is a commendable initiative of the industrialists. Chouhan was discussing in Mantralaya with industrialists who had come to



meet him regarding the Indore furniture cluster and toy cluster. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Omprakash Sakhelecha, Commissioner Industries and Secretary Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Shri Vivek Porwal were present.

A furniture cluster is being developed in Betma, Indore in an area of 154 hectares at a cost of ₹ 600 crores. 171 investors will set up their units in the cluster. This will provide

employment to about 5200 people. Chouhan agreed to the demand of the representatives for allotment on the basis of conversion, permission to develop the cluster in three phases, electricity sub-station, one M.L.D. water and construction 45 meter road.

There is a plan to set up 20 units with an investment of ₹70 crore in the toy cluster to be built in the industrial area of Rau Rangwasi in Indore. This will provide employment to about 4,000 people. The estimated production for the first year is about ₹250 crore. The delegation made a demand for the cluster to be developed by the government and allocated directly to the members at the departmental rate. Giving its consent, Chouhan also gave approval for two FARs for the construction of the building.

ILLICIT LIQUOR TRADE

‘Need to amend laws for stringent action’

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that deaths caused by spurious liquor is a very serious crime. While amending related laws, a provision will be made for stringent punishment for those engaged in the illicit liquor trade. Strict action should be taken against the persons involved in illicit liquor business with immediate effect. Delay in this will not be tolerated. All possible efforts should be made in a concerted manner to check illicit liquor being brought from neighboring states.

The issue must be discussed with concerned states. Chouhan directed that cent percent transportation of O.P. alcohol tankers from the distillery must be ensured with e-lock system. If any distillery of the state is found involved in illegal transportation of O.P. alcohol, it should be shut down immediately. Chouhan was



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan chairs a meeting with officials regarding illegal liquor, and law and order situation in the State at Mantralaya in Bhopal on Monday

addressing a meeting at Mantralaya regarding illegal liquor and law and order. Home Minister Narottam Mishra, Chief Secretary Iqbal

Singh Bains, Director General of Police Vivek Johri, Additional Chief Secretary Home Rajesh Rajoura and Principal Secretary

Commercial Tax Deepali Rastogi were present.

The Chief Minister said that investigation should be started by forming a special

team to reach the roots of illegal liquor business. It should be completely eliminated from the state. It was informed in the meeting that in order to ensure that the holograms on liquor bottles are not copied and misused, holograms will be made with QR code and track and trace system from Security Printing Corporation of India. This will have 20 to 25 features. Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra also stated the need for the arrangement of checking illegal and non-standard liquor in bars.

Chouhan expressed concern over the increasing habit of online gaming among children and the resulting suicide incidents and directed to develop necessary monitoring mechanism for the same. It was informed in the meeting that 938 missing children were recovered in the month of July under Operation Muskaan. Cybercrime, Naxal activities were also discussed in the meeting.

SISTec holds Alumni Meet

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Sagar Group's Sagar Institute of Science and Technology (SISTec) operating in Engineering, Pharmacy and Management virtually organized its Alumni meet with great zeal. On the occasion, Prof. Prachi Shrivastava - Head Corporate Relations welcomed the Alumni and Group Director Jyoti Deshmukh, Principal Keshvendra Chaudhury and Dr. Manish Billore addressed the old students.

Deshmukh expressed the old students to provide personalized advice to present students whereas Chaudhury and Billore said that it was a pleasure to meet the passed-out batch students as well as the existing students through this virtual meet. More than 600 alumnae connected across the globe in the virtual meet and recalled their affiliation with SISTec, its role in shaping their

careers with campus placements. Old students expressed their gratitude for the knowledge acquired at SISTec from their mentors and shared their experiences. On this occasion, the alumni website was also launched with help of old students. A sapling of each passed out batch was also planted as tree of growth to mark the meet.

SISTec is awarded with the prestigious National Assessment & Accreditation Council (NAAC) for five years in its very first cycle and has bagged the National Employability Award 2021. It is also been awarded by ASSOCHAM with the Excellence Award for Promoting Industry-Academic Interface. Siddharth Sudhir Agrawal, Managing Director, Sagar Group said, "SISTec Alumni meet is all about connecting back to institution, connecting and restart to new challenges ahead."

Sarjana Academy for Design & Fine Arts, Art Design Teachers Forum organise online portrait workshop

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Portrait is actually a drama of light and shadow", said senior artist Manjiri More at Sarjana's Portrait Workshop held online on Monday.

Although portrait is an essential part of fine art education, yet students are not able to grasp its nuances. For this, constant practice and knowledge of the correct use of the medium is necessary.

This was stated by Pune-based artist Manjiri More at the Portrait Workshop organized by Sarjana Academy for Design and Fine Arts and Art Design Teachers Forum.

Showing a photo of a tribal girl, she said that one thing has to be carried forward by the grip, only then the portrait can be made and light and colour make it attractive. She said that for me the portrait is actually a drama of light and shadow and which is played with colours.

She emphasized over the light and shadow, proper colour mixing and how bring out the best for the emotions over canvas.

She also gave a short demonstration of her paintings to the participants.

Manjiri More made the portrait with soft pastels and also explained the nuances of using the pastel medium while making the portrait.

She told that Pay Stell is a medium which is more than 300 years old which was used by many famous artists but in Madhya Pradesh there are few artists working in Pastel Medium.

The online workshop was attended by 50 participants, which included college professors, school art teachers, amateur artists and children. Senior artist Manjusha Ganguly introduced the artist and the session was conducted by Sunil Shukla. E-certificates were also given to all the participants.

IGRMS displays Odia waist cloth 'Kering'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under the Latest and popular online series of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya entitled 'Exhibit of the Week' the 'Kering / Kerang' Waist cloth made of bark string collected from 1995 was exhibited. The waist cloth relating Community of Porenga of Koraput, Odisha, it's Measurement Length - maximum 99 cm., Width - maximum 51 cm., was displayed in the audience as the First Exhibit of the month of August, 2021 through official website, Facebook, Instagram and twitter page of the IGRMS.

In this regard Praveen Kumar Mishra, Director, IGRMS said that Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (National Museum of Mankind), Initially this series will focus on the masterpieces from its collection which are considered as unique for their contribution to the cultural history of a particular ethnic

group or area. Kerang, is an inseparable cultural entity of Gadaba and Parenga women.

It is also a mark of origin of clothes among some tribes of Koraput and Malkangiri district of Odisha. It was compulsory for a woman to wear and to weave this skirt after achievement of her puberty. The fibre from Kerang (Calotropis gigantea), a deciduous shrub is used as a major element to weave Kerang. The cutting of shrub with the help of a small knife is done by the women. To make the fibre strong they bury the small branches under the stream or the mud for few days. It is then allowed to expose to the sunlight.

The soft branches thus collected are beaten against a stone with a wooden mallet to obtain fibre. The fibre is beautifully coloured by the different vegetable and natural dyes. The dried fibres are then polished and rolled to prepare yarn and weaving is done on their small indigenous loom.

Movie on Capt Mahendra Nath Mulla screened at Shaurya Smarak in Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A movie dedicated to Captain Mahendra Nath Mulla Homage 1971 was screened at Shaurya Smarak on Monday. It was directed by B. Khosla, the movie was made by Films Division of India.

During the 1971 War, Mulla was a part of the 14th anti-submarine squadron, a task force that formed part of the Western Fleet. The squadron consisted of the INS Kirpan (F144), INS Kuthar (F146), and INS Khukri (F149). The task of hunting and destroying enemy submarines in the North Arabian Sea was given to the task force.

On 9th December 1971, INS Khukri (his vessel), was hit by a torpedo fired by an enemy submarine. He issued orders for the ship to be deserted because it had started sinking.

Captain Mahendra chose to go down with the ship in the highest heritage of the Indian Navy. He was adorned with the second-highest gallantry award "The Maha Vir Chakra".

Captain Mahendra was counted among the superior seamen of the Navy and highly intelligent officer. The Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee released a commemorative postage stamp issued by India Post paying tribute to Captain Mahendra on January 28, 2000.

The Captain M. N. Mulla Auditorium, at Navy Nagar, Colaba in Mumbai, is named after him. A bust of Capt. Mulla stands in the foyer. The then Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Madhvendra Singh inaugurated the auditorium. An auditorium at the DSSC Wellington is also named after him.



A meeting of Rules Committee of Madhya Pradesh Assembly held on Monday under the chairmanship of State Assembly Speaker Girish Gautam

Tabla Vadan, Rajasthani Folk performed under 'Gamak' series

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under Gamak series Directorate of Culture-organized 'Tabla Vadan' by Salim Allawale and group, Bhopal and 'Rajasthani Folk Gayan' by Dilip Masoom and group, Bhopal.

The programme was broadcasted on the YouTube channel of the Department on Monday.

The presentation started with 'Tabla Vaadan' by Salim Allawale and group. He performed the songs of Peshkar, Quaid, Dukde, Paran and Farmaishi Chakradar were presented in the performance of Teen Taal.

In the presentation, Salim Allawale was accompanied on Harmonium by Saulat

The programme was broadcasted on the YouTube channel of the Department on Monday

Allawale.

Salim started learning tabla from his father Ustad Daddu Khan at the young age of five. Salim plays the bands of Delhi, Ajra, Farukhabad, Banaras, Punjab and Lucknow Gharanas in his tabla playing.

He is 'A' grade regular artist of Doordarshan All India Radio. In the year 2019, he participated on behalf of India in the Festival of India in Mexico

by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Mr. Salim has performed in about two hundred famous music festivals of the country.

The second presentation was done by Dilip Masoom and his group by 'Rajasthani Folk Singing'. Masoom started singing with Ganesh Vandana - Tum Ho Raja Ganpati Maharaj of the kings, after that he sang Rajasthani folk songs like Jhula Dalya, Moria Aadhyao Bolyo Re and Ho Ji Re Deewana Ho Ji Mastana in Bana Re Baga.

Dilip Masoom was accompanied on Chorus Hemlata Jimbo and Nirmala Bhat, on Tabla by Sanjeev Nagar, on Dholak by Anil Rao, on Octopad by Dilip Rao and on Dhol by Karan Bhat.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan employees demand seventh pay scale arrears

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Employees Union working with the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan for 26 consecutive years handed over memorandum to Collector and the Director, State Education Center to the District Project Coordinator, District Education Center demanding to remove the salary discrepancy of the contractual employees.

Working on contract in various posts these employees and demanded the arrears of the seventh pay scale from April 2017 onwards from Madhya Pradesh Government General Administration Department.

According to the policy of Ministry Bhopal's letter no. C/5-2/2018/1/3 dated June 5, 2018, regarding regularization by merger in vacant posts, Principal Secretary, School Education, M.P.

The memorandum was handed over to the Collector and the Director, State Education Center to the District Project Coordinator, District Education Center.

In district Bhopal Surendra Singh Raghuvanshi, State President of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Employees Union, Divisional President Girish Saxena, District President Bhopal Udai Singh Rawat, Secretary Ravi Shriwas, in giving the memorandum.

Vice President Lalita Jharia and Jitendra Dwivedi and all the contractual employees of the district and block were present.

Fragmented management key hurdle to blood banking system in country

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A well organised Blood Transfusion Service (BTS) is a vital component of any health care delivery system. An integrated strategy for Blood Safety is required for elimination of transfusion transmitted infections and for provision of safe and adequate blood transfusion services to the people.

The main component of an integrated strategy include collection of blood only from voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors, screening for all transfusion transmitted infections and reduction of unnecessary transfusion.

The Blood Transfusion Service in the country is high-

ly decentralised and lacks many vital resources like manpower, adequate infrastructure and financial base. The main issue, which plagues blood banking system in the country, is fragmented management. The standards vary from state to state, cities to cities and centre to centre in the same city.

The blood component production/availability and utilisation is extremely limited. There is shortage of trained health-care professionals in the field of transfusion medicine.

For quality, safety and efficacy of blood and blood products, well-equipped blood centres with adequate infrastructure and trained manpower is an essential requirement.

Vehicle lifter nabbed from complex area; 4 bikes worth ₹2.5L recovered

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The MP Nagar police have nabbed a vehicle-lifter from press complex area and recovered four two-wheelers worth ₹2.5 lakh from his possession on Sunday.

According to the police, acting on a tip off a youth was detained and when he was asked details regarding the vehicle he failed and confessed that the two-wheeler was stolen one. The nabbed accused was identified as Mahendra Sahu (51).

In the initial investigation police have recovered three other vehicles from his possession which were stolen from different areas of the city. Accused was trying to sell the



vehicle but was not able to find and convince customer to purchase vehicle and before he could sell the vehicle he was nabbed by the police. The miscreant is a resident of Rajeev Nagar. The friends and family members would be questioned in the investigation which could help in obtaining more details of earlier crimes and

involvement in other crimes.

Police said that the parking spaces were used to park the stolen bike and which were to be sold later. During the investigation police have not found any criminal record of the miscreant and told that search for the crime record would be done in the further investigation.

Police said that the four vehicles were stolen from different parts of Bhopal. The accused is a habitual criminal and watch list.criminal of MP Nagar. Details of recovered vehicles would be provided to the respect police stations. The police have started search for other accomplices who have helped the accused in stealing and disposing the vehicles.



Madhya Pradesh Panchayat and Rural Development department employees hold earthen pitchers during a demonstration demanding payment of their arrears, increment and promotion in their services, in Bhopal on Monday



Devotees offer prayer at a Shiving on the second Monday during the holy month of Shravan at Pashupatinath Nepali Samaj Temple in Bhopal on Monday
Pioneer photo

Eminent personalities from Punjab join BJP

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Amanjot Kaur Ramoowalia, a former member of Shiromani Akali Dal's women wing and daughter of former Union Minister Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, was among the five prominent leaders who joined the saffron party on Monday.

A former TV host also joined the BJP, which has all along been making efforts to strengthen its base in Punjab which is set to witness a multi-cornered contest in the ensuing assembly polls scheduled for early next year.

Besides Amanjot Ramoowalia, others who joined BJP are Gurpreet Singh Shahpur, Chand Singh Chatha,

Welcoming them, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that their joining the BJP showed which way the wind is blowing in Punjab before the elections and alleged that some parties, which have been "rejected" across the country, are misleading farmers in their quest for power

and Baljinder Singh Dakoha. A Dalit leader Pritam Singh, formerly associated with the SAD, and a former TV anchor Chetan Mohan Joshi also joined the party.

Welcoming them, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that their joining the BJP showed which way the wind is blowing in Punjab before the elections and alleged that some parties, which have

been "rejected" across the country, are misleading farmers in their quest for power.

People, however, are aware that the Modi Government is working in the national interest and for development of Punjab, he added, noting that the leaders who have joined the party are "well-known" and come from families with a long political background.

Revised guidelines for Covid management released in Punjab

Punjab CS urges people above 18 to get vaccinated

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In preparation for and in order to thwart a possible third wave, Punjab Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan on Monday released the revised COVID management guidelines for clinical guidance, robust management, and proper treatment of the patients in the State.

Mahajan, chairing the virtual event attended by more than 220 participants, urged all eligible persons aged 18 and above to get themselves vaccinated against COVID at the earliest to always follow COVID appropriate behaviour, maintain social distance to win the battle against the virus.

Lauding the services of medical experts, practitioners, and all medical and paramedical staffers during these trying times, the Chief Secretary said that the State Government salutes their dedication and selfless services in thwarting

the first two COVID waves successfully.

The team of experts comprising Dr GD Puri Professor and Head Anaesthesia PGIMER, Dr Vikas Suri, Dr Ashish Kakkar from PGIMER, Dr Bishav Mohan Professor Cardiology DMC Ludhiana, Dr Anup Singh and Dr Sandeep Kataria from USA, Dr Ajit Kayal from UK and Dr Vishal Chopra from GMC Patiala under the guidance of Dr KK Talwar, Health and Medical Education Adviser, and Principal Secretary Health and Medical Education Alok

Shekhar have revised the guidelines to tackle the third wave of the virus more effectively.

Dr Ashwani Sareen, Professor Paediatrics from GMC Amritsar, presented a talk on management of COVID among children in Punjab. Dr Meenu Singh, Professor Paediatrics, and Dr Jayashree, Professor Paediatrics, PGIMER, informed the participants about the latest management of COVID.

The expert group informed that the COVID management guidelines for paediatrics in Punjab will be finalised shortly.

Delhi Police files chargesheet against wrestler Sushil Kumar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Monday filed a thousand pages charge sheet against Olympic medalist wrestler Sushil Kumar and 12 others in connection with the alleged murder of a former junior national wrestling champion at Chhatrasal Stadium in the National Capital. The charge sheet names 13 accused persons, including Kumar as the main accused. A total of 15 accused have been arrested in the case and five are on the run. The charge sheet has been filed before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Satvir Singh Lamba by the Crime Branch. The judge will announce the date for hearing of the case at the point of taking cognisance of the 1,000-page charge sheet on Tuesday. Sushil Kumar and his associates had allegedly assaulted 23-year-old wrestler Sagar Dhankar and two of his friends Sonu and Amit Kumar on the intervening night of May 4 and 5.

Mani Naidu, Raj Rishi Pandey join AAP in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

R Mani Naidu, member of All India Congress Committee and Dr Raj Rishi Pandey joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday in the presence of party's national secretary Pankaj Gupta.

Chief Spokesperson of the AAP and Greater Kailash MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj said "Today is a very happy day for the AAP government. Many famous personalities from the Congress and BJP party are joining the party today after being influenced by the policies of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal."

Dr Pandey, a member of the All India Congress Committee, has been the observer of the 2019 Lok Sabha and Delhi Assembly elections.

Bhardwaj welcomed all the members and said "I welcome all the people who want to end corruption from MCDs and want to work under the leadership of Shri Arvind Kejriwal to the AAP family."

AAP blames flood-like situation on 'Govt's incompetence' in Punjab

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Blaming the ruling Congress directly for the heavy damages to the houses and livestock caused by heavy rains and breaking of seasonal rivulets and canals in several districts of Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday demanded 100 percent compensation for the losses.

AAP's Punjab Kisan wing state president and MLA Kulraj Singh Sandhwan said that despite the below normal rainfall so far, the rain had caused

damage only due to the incompetence of the Government.

"The Congress and SAD-BJP Government has never understood their responsibility to stop the devastation wrought by Ghaggar every year in the areas of SAS Nagar Mohali, Patiala, Sangrur, and Mansa districts, bordering Haryana, price of which the people and the poor have to pay every year," he said.

Sandhwan said that if the intentions of the Governments were clear and pro-people, the

Ghaggar would have been a boon for the entire region.

"But the corrupt system and the Ghaggar has today destroyed thousands of acres of crops as well as houses and livestock of the poor and common people, causing heavy losses," he said while demanding that the entire damage caused by the floods in Malwa and other parts of the state should be immediately cordoned off and the affected farmers, labourers and other victims should be immediately compensated for 100 percent of the losses.

Portal launched for allotment of houses to Govt employees in Hry

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday launched a portal to make the process of allotment of government accommodation to the employees more transparent.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the employees should get government accommodation on the basis of their seniority without any recommendation. There should be complete transparency in the allocation process, he said.

He said that such a system has been made so that the employees will be allotted accommodation on the basis of grade and seniority within the stipulated time

The record of government houses available for allotment will be available on the portal, on the basis of which the employees will be able to apply

after applying online.

The record of government houses available for allotment will be available on the portal, on the basis of which the employees will be able to apply. After com-

pleting the process of taking objections etc, once the applications are received, houses will be allotted to the employees within the stipulated period. With the launch of the portal, better tracking of allocation will be possible. All the formalities of house allotment, house change etc. will be done online, he said.

The Chief Minister further said that the availability of vacant houses on the portal will be updated continuously. The seniority list of online applications will also be available on the portal, he added.

It was informed that there are 1306 different types of houses in Panchkula and Chandigarh and there are 69 transit flats in Panchkula.

Fake FB profile of Chandigarh SSP asks for financial aid; investigation begins

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

In a major cybercrime case, a hacker created a fake Facebook account of Chandigarh Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kuldeep Chahal and asked for financial assistance through online payment platforms.

A cyber fraudster had reportedly sent friend requests to

group members via his fake account, seeking financial help and asking them to send money through online payment platforms.

Talking to 'The Pioneer' SSP Chahal confirmed that his fake Facebook account was discovered and it has been deleted now and senior cyber cell officers are investigating this matter.

Police sources said that the accused hacker who made a fake Facebook account of SSP, had asked for money from his acquaintances included in the friend list of the officer. People were asked for money in small amounts continuously by making different excuses, sources said. Meanwhile, the incidents of hacking or cloning of FB

accounts by cyber fraudsters have grown alarmingly in Chandigarh and the region. Facebook users have become soft targets for cyber criminals amid ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

When contacted, a senior cyber cell police officer, on the condition of anonymity, said that there has been a sharp spike in cybercrimes since the

outbreak of Covid-19 as cyber fraudsters are taking advantage of increasing dependence on the virtual world. Cybercrime cases including FB account hacking or cloning are being reported on a daily basis in Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana.

The users whose FB accounts have been hacked also

include senior cops, lawyers and senior politicians including the Mayor in the past. Many FB users are seeking monetary help in the name of job loss, unemployment, and hunger among other reasons from friends over the social media platform. The latest trend in cyber crime is that hackers on social media find influential profiles to impersonate

or even hack into, to lend credibility to their tactics, he added.

The Police officer further said that recently, Chandigarh's cybercrime cell had blocked at least eight Facebook pages promising free home delivery of alcohol to city residents, amid the Covid-19 outbreak and prohibitory orders.

AAP to convey Kejriwal's message on farmers' movement at every level in party

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A day after Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal asked Punjab unit leaders to leave aside the party's flag and agenda and support the ongoing farmers' movement at all levels, the state party unit on Monday said that the "message" will be conveyed to all leader and volunteers at various levels.

"This message of Arvind Kejriwal is being conveyed by the party to the leaders and volunteers at all levels," said Punjab

party affairs in-charge Jarnail Singh.

Reacting to the ongoing farmers' movement, Singh said that AAP was the first political party in the country opposing the anti-agriculture black laws at all levels since its drafting.

"AAP's national convener has given clear directions to the party leaders in Punjab and in all states that the farmers' movement is a pious and non-political movement for the survival of the 'annadatas' and the preservation of the land...So, for further strengthening and upliftment of this movement,

every leader and volunteer of the party should set aside the party's flag and agenda and continue to support this movement at all levels with body, heart, and money until the farmers return home waving the victory flag," he added.

Singh said that the Modi Government should give up its stubbornness and repeal all the three anti-agriculture black laws.

Notably, a day before, Kejriwal had met party leaders from Punjab, including the state unit president Bhagwant Mann, legislators led by Leader of Opposition Harpal Singh

Cheema, state affairs in-charge Jarnail Singh and co in-charge Raghav Chadha, among others.

Kejriwal, during a marathon meeting to chalk out the party's strategy on AAP's Mission-2022 that lasted for about three hours in New Delhi, discussed the ways to further strengthen the ongoing farmers' agitation, and sought detailed suggestions for the same.

During the meeting, Kejriwal had reiterated that the Central Government should immediately repeal the anti-agriculture black laws and

should not introduce the Electricity Amendment Bill, 2021, in the Parliament.

MANPREET BADAL'S ALLY JOINS AAP

In a major blow to the Congress in the Malwa region, Bathinda's prominent Congress leader and a close ally of Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal Jagroop Singh Gill joined AAP on Monday along with hundreds of his associates.

After Gurmeet Singh Khudian who was a close associate of Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, Gill's joining

has given much needed boost to the AAP and a setback to the ruling Congress party.

Gill, the former chairman of Bathinda Improvement Trust, said: "We will support AAP in Malwa and in the entire Punjab, as the State awaits AAP government...Instead of playing politics, I would work to strengthen the party so that corruption would be eradicated from Punjab and closed factories would be reopened."

Welcoming Gill and hundreds of his supporters, Cheema said that all those who want prosperity of Punjab are wel-

comed in the AAP. "The joining of Khudian and Gill in AAP has broke the back of the Congress party in Bathinda along with the entire Malwa region," he said.

Gill has also been the president of the District Bar Association as well as the president of the Municipal Council. Apart from this, Gill has been a councillor since 1979 and is now a councillor for the seventh time.

vice-president Harwinder Singh Malli from Gurdaspur and district general secretary Harbans Singh, besides vice-president of Panchayati Raj, Mangal Singh Sahur (Dera Baba Nanak) joining the party on Monday.

Malli has held a number of important posts, including Mission Modi's block president and Dera Baba Nanak constituency in-charge.

Police busts spurious pesticide plant in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of two men, the Delhi Police on Monday claimed to have busted a spurious pesticide manufacturing plant being operated in the national Capital's Mundka area.

The accused have been identified as Mohan Lal and Aman. Police said that the duo had rented two godowns at Hiran Kudna village two months ago for manufacturing the fake pesticides. They had made an initial investment of Rs nine lakh.

According to Parvinder Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police

(DCP), Outer district, a complaint was received from the representative of a pesticide manufacturing company alleging that someone was infringing the firm's trademark by producing spurious products in its name.

"A raid was conducted on July 30 and a large quantity of spurious material bearing the names of several companies was found stacked at the manufacturing plant in Mundka. Mohan Lal, Aman, Vijay and Rajender were engaged in manufacturing and selling spurious pesticides and fungicides with the branding of different companies. They also used to sell seeds of different crops treated

with these fake pesticides," said the DCP. "Fake raw material found at the plant and machinery used for manufacturing these spurious products was seized," said the DCP.

"During questioning, it was revealed that Mohan Lal's son-in-law Naveen runs a pesticide shop in Indra Market, Tis Hazari road. Aman also ran a pesticide shop in the same market," said the DCP.

"Vijay, who hails from Punjab's Bhatinda, is also a supplier of spurious pesticides. His associate Rajender is a resident of Rajasthan's Chittorgarh. The two are major stakeholders in this business,"

said the DCP.

"Vijay came in contact with Mohan Lal in Indra Market here. Lal's candle business was not going well so he started doing business with Vijay. Aman was also roped in by him as his pesticide shop was not doing much business," said the DCP.

According to the deal between the accused, Vijay was responsible for supply, Rajender was tasked with packaging and arranging infrastructure while Mohan Lal and Aman looked after production. Police said they are looking for Vijay and Rajender and further investigation into the case is underway.

104 Dengue, 39 Malaria cases reported in national capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

At least 104 cases of dengue and 39 cases of Malaria have been reported in the national capital so far this year, the data released by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) said on Monday.

According to the latest report released by all three Municipal Corporation, mosquito-breeding has been reported in at least 56310 households and 5627 prosecutions have been launched this year.

Concerned over the rising number of cases of vector borne diseases, the SDMC has

intensified information, education and communication (IEC) activities as well as legal prosecution against defaulters.

A senior SDMC official said that a special campaign was conducted on July 31 for the detection of mosquito breeding and control measures taken against the same in the parks and plant nurseries in the jurisdiction of SDMC.

"A total of 764 parks and nurseries were checked. Out of these 557 parks and 135 nurseries were found positive for mosquito breeding due to intermittent rains and high humidity.

Change of Name	
The general public is being informed that I, Abdullah, son of Mohammad Safwan Khan, a resident of 13, Masjid Shakoore Khan Road, Bhopal, MP, have changed my name to Abdullah Khan. From now onwards, I will be known as Abdullah Khan.	
Change of Name	
The general public is being informed that I, Fatima, daughter of Mohammad Safwan Khan, a resident of 13, Masjid Shakoore Khan Road, Bhopal, MP, have changed my name to Fatima Khan. From now onwards, I will be known as Fatima Khan.	

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ	
North Central Railway, Rail Spring Karkhana, Sithouli, Gwalior	
L. No.: M/RSK/ LPG Bullet Testing/ 2021-23RT1	Date: 28.07.2021
E-TENDER NOTICE	
Tender No.: 21-23_LPG Bullet Testing RT1, Description of Work: LPG Bullet Testing Inspection (Repair & service) of LPG Plant at RSK. Estimated Cost (In Rs.): ₹ 502300.98 (Five Lakh Two Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety Eight paise only), Earnest Money (In Rs.): NIL, Completion Period: 24 Month from the date of commencement of work. Note:-(1) E-Tender will be closed at 15.00 Hrs. on 30.08.2021. E-Tender Notice is also available on Indian Railway E-Tender website www.irps.gov.in . 2. For detailed information please visit Indian Railway E-Tender website www.irps.gov.in . (3) Eligibility condition- Only those firm can participate in the tender for the work, who have been approved under SMPV rule. (4) Tenderers using the tender document downloaded from the website should watch the website for the corrigendum / addendum to the NIT / E-Tender document, if any, as there will not be any separate communication for the same. 869/21(A)	
24 x 7 Passenger Helpline No. 139	

Navy fleet to set sail to ensure peace, order in high seas



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With China flexing its maritime muscle in the Indo-Pacific and South China Sea, a task force of the Indian Navy comprising warships will proceed for deployment in these zones. The duration of the overseas deployment will be for more than two months.

Besides, the Indian Navy will also take part in the Malabar series of exercise in the Western Pacific with the other Quad nations including the US, Japan and Australia. China is against the Quad and has repeatedly claimed that this grouping will lead to militarisation of the region.

Giving details of the deployment, the Navy said here on Monday in pursuit of India's 'Act East' policy and to enhance military cooperation

with friendly countries, a Task Force of Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet is scheduled to proceed on an Overseas Deployment to South East Asia, the South China Sea and Western Pacific from early August.

The deployment of the Indian Navy ships seeks to underscore the operational reach, peaceful presence and solidarity with friendly countries towards ensuring good order in the maritime domain and to strengthen existing bonds between India and countries of the Indo Pacific.

The Indian Naval task force comprises Guided Missile destroyer Ranvijay, Guided Missile Frigate Shivalik, Anti-Submarine Corvette Kadmat and Guided Missile Corvette Kora. The latter three ships are indigenously designed and are equipped with a versatile array of weapons and sensors, and

India, China agree to continue dialogue to ensure LAC disengagement

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and China have agreed to sustain the dialogue process to ensure disengagement of troops from the friction points at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh. The two sides also reiterated their resolve to maintain peace in the interim at the border.

These two main points emerged from the Corps Commander level talks between India and China on Saturday last and the two countries on Monday issued a joint statement.

The statement issued here said, "The 12th round of India-China Corps Commander Level Meeting was held at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Indian side.



This round of meeting was held following the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India and People's Republic of China on July 14 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan and the 22nd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) held

on June 25.

The two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on resolution of remaining areas related to disengagement along the LAC in the Western Sector of India-China border areas. The two sides noted that this round of meeting was constructive, which

further enhanced mutual understanding.

They agreed to resolve these remaining issues in an expeditious manner in accordance with the existing agreements and protocols and maintain the momentum of dialogue and negotiations.

The two sides also agreed that in the interim they will continue their effective efforts in ensuring stability along the LAC in the Western Sector and jointly maintain peace and tranquility."

The 12 rounds of talks were held nearly four months after the last round in early April. Stalemate persists at three friction points including Hot Springs, Gogra and the Depsang valley for the last more than a year.

A breakthrough was not

expected in the latest round as China wants the involvement of local military commanders of both the sides in the talks. However, the Indian security establishment is wary of the proposal.

Moreover, India has all along maintained that disengagement and withdrawal from all the stand-off sites is the prerequisite for restoring normal ties between the two countries. China is in favour of keeping this issue aside and get on relations. Also, India has insisted that status quo ante has to be restored at the LAC as was in April 2020.

The first stand-off began in the first week of May last year at the Pangong Tso(lake)and snowballed into face-offs at many other places at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh.

After several rounds of talks the military and diplomatic levels, armies of both the countries withdrew from the southern and northern banks of the Pangong Tso in February this year.

Since then, no progress took place in terms of disengagement from the three friction points despite military and diplomatic level talks in the last few months.

Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi held bilateral talks on the issue on July 14 on the sidelines of the foreign ministers' conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO). This interaction at the high political level saw both the sides reiterating their commitment to continue dialogue for early resolution of the disputes.

Indian missions' talks with States/UTs to secure border

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

To bolster better assessment of the security situation emerging from the neighbourhood, the Indian missions in the countries adjoining the frontiers will hold meetings on half yearly/yearly basis with officials of the bordering States/Union Territories and border guarding forces to have a better sensitisation and assessment of security concerns.

"The Union Home Ministry in coordination with the External Affairs Ministry, Research and Analysis Wing, Intelligence Bureau and Directors General of border guarding forces will initiate action for holding such meetings with officials of the concerned States and Union Territories on six monthly or yearly basis," a senior security official said.

In addition to this, the border guarding forces like the Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) have been directed to organise problem-specific hackathons in collaboration with premier educational institutions and start-ups in the country to evolve cost-effective indigenous solutions for border arrangement. The



Assam Rifles, deployed on the border with Myanmar, will also be in such an exercise, officials said.

They said all issues concerning construction of roads along the Indo-China border under the India-China Border Roads-II scheme are being resolved in top priority.

In order to keep the border population synced with the security apparatus, the police forces of the bordering States have been advised to hold "vikas utsavs" in their respective areas along the frontiers by involving the local community, public representatives, local administration and all stakeholder agencies.

The developments come in the backdrop of border row with China in eastern Ladakh and the continuing threats from the Pakistan army and its terror cohorts along the frontiers in Punjab and Jammu

and Kashmir.

Officials said these mechanisms will lead to a better assessment of the ground situation in the bordering areas and simultaneously tweaking the emerging threats by putting in place relevant counter-measures in relation to the challenges from inimical forces and agencies.

The comprehensive mechanisms in place on the ground are also expected to lead to better synergy between the stakeholder agencies for an effective counter to challenges emanating from dynamic security scenarios amid two major hostile neighbours.

While the ITBP secures the frontiers along China, the BSF is deployed on the border with Pakistan and Bangladesh. The SSB is the designated paramilitary force for the frontiers with Nepal and Bhutan.

BJP MPs from Northeast meet PM over Assam-Mizoram dispute

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP MPs from North East on Monday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and submitted a memorandum, apprising him of the developments in the region against the backdrop of the ongoing border dispute between Assam and Mizoram. The BJP MPs accused a section of politicians led by the Congress for politicizing the issue.

"Through 2018, they tried to make CAA and NRC political issues but the people of North East gave them a befitting reply. Now, they are stoking tempers between Assam and Mizoram," the BJP MPs said.

The memorandum also praised the Modi-led NDA Government's "development work in the Northeast", calling it "historic and unparalleled". In a related development, Mizoram Governor K Hari Babu met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday and said the Centre is trying to find a solution to the border issue.

In the memorandum, the BJP MPs highlighted various issues pertaining to the region, including the border row. "A series of confidence-building measures have (been) taken over last few days by both Assam and Mizoram governments, yet actions of Congress

The memorandum also praised the Modi-led NDA Government's "development work in the Northeast", calling it "historic and unparalleled"

remain devious and mischievous," they said.

The BJP MPs said that they want to convey to all those elements who view the Assam-Mizoram issue as a means of "spreading chaos in India that their shenanigans will not work". The MPs further alleged that during the tenure of the previous Congress governments, chief ministers of Northeastern states had to wait for hours before they could get an appointment from Congress leaders and if they managed to get the appointment "they would play with their pets".

"Today North-East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) is looking after the inclusive development of Northeastern states. Unable to digest this, Congress and its ecosystem is trying many dirty tricks. In 2018 they tried to make CAA and NRC a political issue but the people of the Northeast gave

them a befitting reply. Today they are trying to stoke tempers between Assam and Mizoram," said the BJP MPs in their memorandum to the Prime Minister.

Speaking to the media post the meeting, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju accused "elements from outside our country" of "fuelling violence by making inciting statements". "Former Prime Ministers Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi were not sensitive to the aspirations of Mizo and Naga communities," they said.

The MPs from Northeast further said, "The Naga-accord, Bodo accord, Bru Reang moved towards peaceful resolutions. Northeast is home to infrastructures like Bogibeel Bridge and Dhola Sadiya bridge. Insurgency and violence have been reduced. On the contrary, Congress has no regard for the culture of the Northeast."

Earlier, the PM met Mizoram Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati to discuss the border situation and ways to diffuse the tensions between two states, as per sources.

Meanwhile, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said he has directed state police to withdraw FIR against Rajya Sabha MP K Vanlalvena as a "goodwill gesture". However, he further said that cases against the other police officers will be pursued.

Crisis in Rajasthan Congress deepens once again

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The crisis within the Ashok Gehlot Government and the ruling Congress is getting murkier. With Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot seemingly not ready to give in to his political bete noire and former deputy Sachin Pilot's demands, sources said party chief Sonia Gandhi rushed senior Congress leader and Haryana Congress chief Kumari Selja to hold another and perhaps the last round of meeting with Gehlot.

Selja reached Jaipur on Sunday night and returned Delhi on Monday after a long meeting with Gehlot. Selja was sent after AICC General Secretaries K C Venugopal, Ajay Maken, Randeep Surjewala conducted a series of meeting with party members, legislators, rebels and the Chief Minister during the last one month.

AICC sources said that Selja returned with Gehlot's query for the central party leadership whether the party will keep repeating Punjab if there are differences within. "Should we repeat Punjab in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and then set a trend as this is the last resort to run a party and government," Gehlot is understood to have conveyed and asked, according to the sources.

The sudden trip has added to the speculation over the expected reshuffle, amid demands by Pilot that he and his loyalists should get a bigger share. Selja enjoys the confi-

dence of Congress president and is also considered close to Gehlot.

She was the chairperson of the screening committee formed to decide the Congress candidates in the last assembly elections in Rajasthan.

Selja's meeting with Gehlot comes just a day after Maken returned and briefed the high command about his three days of meeting with MLAs and CM last week. In a clear indication that some members of the Gehlot Cabinet may be dropped, Maken had told the media that a few ministers have expressed willingness to quit the state government to work for the organisation.

The Gehlot government, which came to power in December 2018, has completed half of its tenure. The demand for a cabinet reshuffle and political appointments to other posts gained momentum in June after some MLAs close to Pilot expressed resentment, saying promises made by the party high command to him last year had not been fulfilled but similar issues were met in Punjab within a few weeks of trouble there.

As of now there are 21 cabinet members including the CM in Rajasthan and after a reshuffle nine will be added taking the tally to 30 members in the Gehlot government. A three-member AICC committee too had been formed to look into the grievances of Pilot and his MLAs and both the time the central leadership took the step to pacify Pilot.

JD(U) delegation meets Shah, seeks caste-based census

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A delegation of Janata Dal (United) MPs, led by the new party president Lalan Singh, met Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday with the demand for a caste-based census.

Speaking to reporters, Singh said the Bihar assembly had passed unanimous resolutions in 2019 and 2020 for having census on the caste lines, and added that it is now for the central government to take a final decision. He said, Shah assured them that the matter will be discussed.

The JD(U) had also passed a resolution in support of the caste-based counting of population, a move with potentially wide political ramifications, in its national executive meeting on Saturday where Singh was elected its president. Its rival RJD too has been pressing for a caste-based census and even suggested that the State should do on its own, if the Centre isn't willing.

The Central government had recently again made it clear that it will not include caste wise data on population

other than Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the national Census. The Ministry of Home Affairs said this decision has been taken as a "matter of policy".

Responding in the Lok Sabha, the MHA noted that a request for the collection of caste data in the Census had been made by some state governments.

"The State governments of Maharashtra and Odisha have requested to collect caste details in the forthcoming Census. The Government of India decided as a matter of policy not to enumerate caste wise population other than SCs and STs in Census," the MHA said in the Lok Sabha.

In March this year too, the Government had informed Parliament that it was not planning to release the data on caste Census collected as part of the 2011 exercise.

To a question that some Bihar BJP leaders have expressed reservation against such a move, Singh claimed that he was unaware of their stand but noted that the saffron party had also backed the resolutions in the Assembly.

Covaxin effective against Delta Plus, says ICMR study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, India's first indigenous vaccine to fight Covid-19, is effective against the Delta Plus (AY.1) variant of SARS-CoV2 virus, a new study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has said. Despite a slight reduction in neutralisation of antibody titres, Covaxin is effective against Delta, AY.1 (Delta Plus) and B.1.617.3 variants, the study added.

Covaxin has been developed by the Hyderabad-based pharma major, in collaboration with ICMR. As per the website, when the vaccination was launched on January 16, just a little over 5 crore doses of Covaxin have been administered in the overall 45 crore immunisation so far. Majority has been contributed by Serum Institute of India, a Pune based vaccine manufacturer which is making Covi-shield.

So far 70 cases of the Delta Plus variant have been found by INSACOG, a group of 28 laboratories involved in genome sequencing. Delta Plus is a mutated form of the Delta variant, first discovered in India. It is characterised by increased transmissibility.

"Our research showed that Covaxin could still neutralise Delta, AY.1 and B.1.617.3 vari-



ants," Dr Samiran Panda, head of epidemiology and communicable diseases, ICMR, according to reports.

The new ICMR-National Institute of Virology study — "Comparable neutralization of SARS-CoV-2 Delta AY.1 and Delta in individuals sera vaccinated with BBV152" — published as a pre-print on bioRxiv, said that Sera of vaccines among Covid naïve, recovered cases with full vaccination and breakthrough cases demonstrated 1.3, 2.5 and 1.9-fold reduction against Delta variant in comparison to B.1 variant respectively.

Lead author of the study, Dr Pragya Yadav said a minor reduction was observed in the neutralising antibody titer in Covid-

individuals.

"However, with the observed high titers, the sera of individuals belonging to all the groups in the study would still neutralise the Delta, Delta AY.1 and B.1.617.3 variants effectively," Dr Yadav said.

In July, the Hyderabad-based company released data from the final analysis of Covaxin and said that it demonstrated overall efficacy of 77.8 per cent against symptomatic infection. It also said that Covaxin has now received emergency use authorisations (EUAs) in 16 countries including, India, Philippines, Iran, Mexico, with EUAs in process in 50 countries worldwide.

In another development, Bharat Biotech said that Rotavac 5D, a variant of its Rotavac vaccine, has received "Prequalification" from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Parl passes Inland Vessels Bill, 2021



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Monday passed the Inland Vessels Bill, 2021, with the Rajya Sabha passing it by voice vote amidst protests and sloganeering by the Opposition. The Lok Sabha had already passed the Bill on July 29, 2021.

Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal moved the Inland Vessels Bill, 2021 for consideration and passing. The Bill aims to bring uniformity in the application of the law relating to inland waterways and navigation within the country.

The Minister of Tribal Affairs also introduced the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in Rajya Sabha amid the din.

During the debate on the Inland Vessels Bill, certain Opposition members, who were in the well of the House, yet again tore papers and flung those in the air just like they did a couple of days ago.

Apex court nixes rape survivor's plea to marry accused

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the plea of a rape survivor from Kottiyoor, Kerala, who moved the Supreme Court seeking permission to marry her assailant — a defrocked Catholic priest who is undergoing 20-year imprisonment. The apex court also dismissed a separate plea of the defrocked Priest Robin Vadakkumchery seeking bail on the ground that he wanted to marry the survivor, who was a minor at the time of rape had given birth to a child.

A bench of Justices Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheshwari told the former priest, "The High Court has taken a decision consciously and we would not like to interfere with its finding."

The apex court told the victim that she may knock on the door of trial court with her plea to marry the former priest. During the hearing, advocate Amit George, appearing for the former priest, said the High

Court had passed sweeping directions in the case with regard to the marriage, which is a fundamental right. The bench asked George what is the age of the victim and the former priest to which he replied that his client is 49, while the rape survivor is around 25. The top court then told George, "You yourself have invited sweeping directions from the High Court and it would not like to interfere."

At the outset, senior advocate Kiran Suri, appearing for the woman, said that she has sought interim bail for the accused for two months, so that he can marry her and give some legitimacy to the four-year-old child. The bench said that both the victim and the former priest can take recourse of whatever remedy is available under law.

Meanwhile, the State prosecution said that it is up to the two adults to decide on the marriage and bail can't be given. Marriage can be conducted at jail premises but no bail can be allowed, said the Kerala State's prosecutor.

Breather in Kerala, Covid storm abates

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala, which has been reeling under unabated increase in the number of Covid-19 cases and fatalities, got a small relief on Monday as the cases came down slightly to the comfort of Health Minister Veena George, who is leading the operation to fight the pandemic from the front line.

The Minister's plea to the people of the State for the last one week to abide by the guidelines and not to crowd anywhere had its impact as the number of persons diagnosed with the pandemic came down to 13,984 on Monday from the daily average of more than 20,000 new cases.

The Test Positivity Rate too came down from the average figure of 13 to 10.93 per cent on Monday though the fatalities recorded during the last 24 hours showed 118 persons succumbing to the disease. The death toll till date reached 16,955 (excluding the 7,000+ under reported cases).

George said 1,27,903 samples were tested during the last 24 hours. Thrissur topped the table of districts with the highest number of positive cases (2350). Malappuram which was the district with the highest number of patients till Sunday (the district had 3,770 cases) diagnosed 1,925 new patients on Monday.

The Health Minister said

that as on Monday, the State had 1.65 lakh patients undergoing treatment for Covid-19. Idukki district diagnosed 196 new cases while Wayanadu (represented in the Lok Sabha by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi) had 263 patients.

Dr Rajiv B Pillai, senior Ayurvedic physician, was of the view that Idukki and Wayanadu were ideal districts to study about the immunity capability of the population. "Both these districts are known for people who work hard to earn their livelihood and have not changed their lifestyle to what we see in cities which are full of fast food joints and Arab foods," said Dr Rajiv while glancing through the day's figures.

TMC condemns attack on Abhishek's convoy in Tripura

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress has strongly condemned the Monday's attack on the convoy of its MP — and the party's second-in-command — Abhishek Banerjee.

Hours after his cavalcade was attacked by alleged BJP supporters the Bengal ruling outfit took to Twitters saying "Shocking display of absolute hooliganism by the Tripura (BJP) government! When it comes to BJP, ruthlessness and DISRESPECT FOR DEMOCRACY seems to be running the show. You can keep trying but you cannot erase us from the hearts of the people of Tripura! Shameful attempt!"

The car of Banerjee who was on a day-long visit of Tripura was attacked with a flag stick by some alleged BJP men while he was proceeding towards the Tripureshwari Kali Temple, party sources said.

Alleging that the Tripura BJP and its Chief Minister Biplab Deb was "taking the state to new heights," Banerjee later tweeted "Democracy in Tripura under BJP... Well done Biplab for taking the state to new heights." He further said "They (BJP) say



'Athithi Devo Bhawa' (guest is God) ... but now they are attacking (the visitors). The people of Tripura will judge."

The TMC also accused the BJP of damaging and tearing off posters of Banerjee. The plan of creating trouble for Banerjee was hatched in advance, the party claimed even as its Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien called upon Home Minister Amit Shah to look into the matter and act against the miscreants.

He wrote "Raised the issue in Rajya Sabha of Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee being attacked today in Tripura. Amit Shah

please come to Parliament and answers the hard questions. Democracy?"

While officials on duty at the Agartala police headquarters claimed "no information on any attack" on the Trinamool Congress leader who is also the nephew of Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Bengal BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said "the BJP does not such an act ... though it is peanuts in comparison to what they have been doing here in Bengal."

He said "I have heard there was a small commotion as people were spontaneously protesting against his party's attempt to vitiate Tripura's political atmosphere when Abhishek Banerjee's vehicle reached there ... the entire cavalcade had crossed the BJP procession and only at the tail end of the BJP rally some youth hurled a stick at his car which is not desirable."

The Bengal BJP later wrote in its social media handle, "While this has been a routine affair in Bengal for any opposition leader, seems you have now dispatched violent TMC cadres to Tripura... Wait till the people of Bengal do this to TMC leaders in West Bengal too."

Akhilesh remark on ropeway baseless: Min

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Responding to tweets posted by Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on the inauguration of a ropeway by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Vindhyachal Dham in Mirzapur on Sunday, UP Minister and Government spokesman Sidharth Nath Singh flayed the SP chief for making irresponsible statements.

In his tweet, Akhilesh had attributed the credit for conceptualising and planning the ropeway in Vindhyachal Dham to the previous Government headed by him.

"Akhilesh Yadav has no future left in 2022 UP Assembly elections and is perturbed over his party's predictable defeat. Samajwadi Party's defeat in the 2022 elections is a foregone conclusion. In fact, this time Akhilesh and his party will be wiped out of Uttar Pradesh. People are waiting for the elections to kick them out. Akhilesh knows this too well and for this reason, he is making baseless and non-sensical statements on every issue," Singh said in Lucknow on Monday.

Hitting out at the SP chief, the Government spokesman further said that the Samajwadi Party was just making false claims and taking the credit for whatever work the Bharatiya Janata Party had done in the state.

"In regard to the development work of Vindhyachal Dham, the SP chief is making fabricated statements. Akhilesh is a frustrated person, perpetually engaged in misleading the people of the state through fallacious claims. The SP chief is merely reaping the fruits of what he has sown during his chief ministership," he said.

IN SHORT

PMO ADVISER AMARJEET SINHA RESIGNS

New Delhi: Amarjeet Sinha, an Adviser in the PMO and handling projects related to the social sector, has resigned from his post. A Bihar-cadre IAS officer of 1983 batch, Sinha had superannuated as the Rural Development secretary in 2019 and was then appointed to the PMO. He is the second top officer to quit the PMO in recent months after former Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha, who worked there as Principal Advisor, resigned in March. In December 2019, PM's Principal Secretary Nripendra Misra resigned.

EAM TO PRESENT INDIA AT IRAN PREZ OATH TAKING

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is likely to represent India at the swearing-in ceremony of newly elected Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran on August 5, people. Raisi, a hardliner and known to be close to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, won the presidential election in June by a landslide.

SC SUGGESTS MEDIATION TO AP, T FOR KRISHNA WATER

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday suggested "mediation" to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for settling their dispute over sharing of Krishna river water, saying it did not want to interfere "unnecessarily". A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana was hearing the plea of Andhra Pradesh which has alleged that Telangana has deprived it of its legitimate share of drinking and irrigation water.

NIA RE-REGISTERS ISRAEL EMBASSY BLAST CASE

New Delhi: The NIA on Monday took over and re-registered the case pertaining to the blast that took place outside the Israel Embassy in Delhi on January 29 this year.

DELAY IN LAYING OF 378 NOTIFICATIONS

New Delhi: The Committee on Subordinate Legislation, headed by Partap Singh Bajwa, in its report tabled in the Rajya Sabha on Monday said that there had been a delay in laying of 378 notifications and 141 notifications (26.5 percent of total delayed Notifications) were delayed by more than 11 months while some others by more than four years.

BJP attacks Mamata Govt for identifying convicts by religion

PNS ■ KOLKATA

In a "bizarre presentation" of statistics for the number of ageing "life convicts" being released from Bengal jails the Trinamool Congress Government on Monday disclosed their caste and religious identities apart from mentioning their age and sex leading the BJP to come down heavily on the ruling Trinamool Congress saying "this list of convicts being released is the greatest example of the kind of 'secularism' being practiced by the TMC Government."

Speaking on the issue State BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya on Monday said that "we have always known that the criminals have no caste, creed or political affiliation ... they are only criminals ... but here the TMC

Government has prepared a list in which they have claimed that out of those being released 5 are SCs, 3 are STs, 2 are OBCs, 53 are General caste, 51 are Hindus and 12 are Muslims ..."

He added, "by classifying the convicts according to their religion the TMC is only pursuing its divide-and-rule politics ... based on communal and caste lines ... Nowhere in India the convicts have been released by identifying them by their castes or religion ... It is nothing but a way to show that 'look in Bengal more number of Hindus are criminals than the Muslims...' and when we will raise this issue they will call us names."

The Mamata Banerjee government on Monday said that it had ordered the release of 63 life

convicts from Bengal prisons so that the prisons could be decongested ahead of the third wave of the corona pandemic.

A senior official said that "there was a need to decongest the prisons because of the prevailing Covid-19 situation. Section 432 of the CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) empowers the state government to consider the premature release of life convicts who have already served 14 years in jail."

The release of the convicts serving life sentence was recommended on humanitarian grounds by the state sentence review board. Accordingly 61 male convicts above 60 years and two female convicts aged above 55 years would be released before the Independence Day.



Priests offer prayers at Kashi Vishwanath Temple during 'Sawan' in Varanasi on Monday

Cong to observe Dalit Swabhiman Diwas in UP today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To woo the Dalit community ahead of the 2022 Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, the Congress has decided to organise 'Dalit Swabhiman Diwas' on Tuesday.

Desperately trying to find its lost political foothold in the state, the Congress had earlier organised conferences of various castes which could play important role in the State politics, like Nishad-Kevat-Mallah conference, Maurya-Shakya-Saini-Kushwaha conference and Pal-Gaderia-Dhangar conference.

Formerly with Congress, Jitin Prasada too had started a Brahmin Sabha to woo the community, alleging harassment by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party across the State before recently switching allegiance to the saffron outfit. The Dalit cell of UP Congress will be celebrating 'Dalit Swabhiman Diwas' across the state on August 3 and will also take out a Dalit Swabhiman Yatra in all 75 districts of the state.

"After Independence in 1947, first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet had passed a resolution to make Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar the Law Minister on August 3 and the UP Dalit Congress will celebrate the day as Swabhiman Diwas," said state chief of Dalit cell of UP Congress, Alok Prasad, in Lucknow on Monday.

ATS arrests hawala trader funding terror module

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The sleuths of the Anti-Terrorism Squad claimed to have made a breakthrough in terror racket when they arrested a man from Gorakhpur district for his alleged involvement in sending money through the hawala route to Pakistani handlers, officials said on Monday.

The accused, Dinesh Kumar Singh alias Ajay Kumar Singh alias AK Singh (46) of Gorakhpur, was arrested on Sunday. He was evading arrest for the past three years and carried a reward of ₹50,000 on his arrest, the officials said.

In a statement issued here, the ATS said, "Information was received that on the instructions of Pakistani handlers, some people were using fake documents to open accounts in different banks, duping people to deposit money in those accounts, withdrawing the deposited money and sending it to the Pakistani handlers through the hawala route."

Pondy Min: Decision on reopening of schools only after Aug 15

Puducherry: Minister A Namassivayam on Monday said the Puducherry Government would decide on re-opening of schools and colleges in the Union Territory after consulting the Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and Chief Minister N Rangasamy after August 15. The Home and Education Minister, in a press statement, said he held a meeting with educational officials to discuss about Covid-19 and its third wave.

He said the government has decided not to re-open the schools and colleges for now. **PTI**

Kerala HC: A stray dog is made ferocious by its circumstances

Kochi: A dog is made ferocious by the circumstances and it is a myth that a stray canine is dangerous by nature, the Kerala High Court said on Monday while dealing with the issue of poisoning of street dogs in Thrikkakkara municipality area of Ernakulam district.

A Bench of Justices A K Jayasankaran Nambiar and P Gopinath said killing or maiming the street dogs was not the way to make people safer and the better option was to capture the canines and rehabilitate them at animal shelters. It also said, "This kind of dog catching using hammers cannot be done."

The court said a balance has to be maintained between the interests of the residents of the area who feel threatened by the street dogs and the welfare of the animals. It was also skeptical with regard to the municipality's claims that one of its junior health inspectors paid for the poisoning of the canines from his own pocket.

The court directed the municipality to identify in its area any animal shelters run by private organisations who would be able to capture the street dogs and shelter them in their premises. It issued the direction while

observing that it understands that presently the municipality would not be able to spend funds for setting up such shelters.

The Kerala Government was asked to give details of the animal shelters -- run by the state and private ones -- in all the districts.

With these directions the court listed the matter for hearing on August 6.

The court had taken up the issue of the poisoning of the dogs after a video on the same was brought to its attention. While seeking the stand of the municipality over its role in the entire matter, the bench had also directed the civic body to ensure no such incident takes place within its territorial limits in future and to put in place suitable machinery to ensure the same.

On Monday, the municipality told the court that it had no role in the matter.

Last week, the junior health inspector -- arrayed as an accused in the case with regard to killing of the canines -- moved the High Court, seeking anticipatory bail and claimed that he was being falsely implicated in the case to divert the probe from the Chairperson and of the municipality and the chairperson of its standing committee on health.

Sena workers damage 'Adani Airport' signboard in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

An irate group of Shiv Sainiks vandalised a brand new "Adani Airport" signboard erected by Adani Airport Holding Ltd. (AAHL) outside the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) here on Monday, in protest against the AAHL's move to rename the city airport christened after the Maratha warrior which they dubbed as "an insult" to the people of Maharashtra.

Still fresh from jubilation of taking over the management of CSMIA from the Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), the Adani group tasted anger of the Shiv Sainiks over the renaming of CSMIA, as the Shiv Sainiks went on a rampage and tore down a brand new "Adani Airport" signboard erected by the AAHL.

Raising slogans like 'Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj ki jai ho', Shiv Sainiks climbed up the landscaped garden outside the city airport where the controversial hoardings had been erected, uprooted AAHL sign boards in English and Marathi languages and planted saffron flags there.

Monday's protests by the Shiv Sainiks were in line with the serious reservations expressed by Sena MP and party spokesperson Sanjay Raut over the renaming of the CSMIA as Adani Airport Holding Ltd. (AAHL). "It is Chhatrapati Shivaji



Police officials inspect the site after Shiv Sena workers damaged an Adani group signboard near the Shivaji Maharaj statue in Mumbai on Monday

Maharaj International Airport. We had undertaken an agitation and had the city named as CSMIA. We do not accept if the airport is named after any industrialist. It will remain as CSMIA," Raut said.

"The AAHL employees have been given T-shirts with Adani Airport written on them. You have to use binoculars to see the name of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj written in such small letter. This is an insult to the great Maratha warrior. When the Adani group ignores our reservations about the renaming of the airport, you can expect the kind of angry reaction from the Shiv Sainiks as the one you witnessed in the afternoon," Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant said.

"The name of Chhatrapati Shivaji is not known just in Maharashtra but in the entire country. Earlier we had a big company GVK group that was managing the Airport. But, it did not name the airport after the group. Has Industrialist bought the entire Airport? Why is the industrialist trying to destabilise Mumbai and Maharashtra by resorting to this kind of acts? And for what?" Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar asked.

Meanwhile, reacting to the Shiv Sena's protests, an AAHL spokesperson said: "In light of the incidents around Adani Airports branding at the Mumbai International Airport, we firmly assure that Adani Airports Holding Limited (AAHL) has merely replaced the previous branding

with Adani Airports branding and that no change has been made to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport's branding or positioning at the terminal

"The branding at CSMIA is in compliance with the norms and guidelines of Airport Authority of India (AAI). AAHL will continue to adhere to all the guidelines laid out by the government in the interest of the aviation community at large," the spokesperson added.

The AAHL's move to erect a new sign board comes nearly three weeks after AAHL, a wholly owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd, took over the management control of Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) from the GVK Group. It may be recalled that on July 13, the AAHL had taken over the management control of Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) from the GVK Group. The development had followed approvals received from the Government of India, the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) of Maharashtra, and the Government of Maharashtra.

MIAL is India's second busiest airport by both passenger and cargo traffic. With eight airports in its management and development portfolio, AAHL is now India's largest airport infrastructure company, accounting for 25% airport footfalls.



Tourists visit the historic Taj Mahal during a cloudy day in Agra on Monday

PTI



FIRST COLUMN EDUCATION IS NEXT CALAMITY IN MAKING

The current learning gap and reduced social skills can lead to a widening knowledge gap



SHUBHANG RATHI

There is a calamity in the making in the field of education, especially school education, in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has affected every stake holder, be it the parents, teachers, students, and school administrators. Innovative ways and technical tools are being developed to make students come close to get the feel of classroom teaching. According to *Azim Premji Foundation*, more than 60 per cent of children cannot access online education and around 90 per cent of students with disabilities are unable to participate in online classes. Delhi-based NGO, Child Fund India, says as many as 64 per cent of children in rural India are facing the prospect of being dropped out of school. For students, the biggest challenge is the absence of physical interaction with peers and teachers. Primary school students cannot even comprehend what is happening to them. Not only are learning standards affected, physiological pressure on senior students is becoming immense. There



is little physical activity because local parks and school playgrounds are also shut. Students in X, XI and XII are irritated about the new methodology of exam evaluation. For parents, it is challenging to teach different concepts and methods to their children every day. Parents are juggling between house chores, office work, and handling the education needs of their children. One parent of my school said: "If this year it is online classes, I am shifting back to my village as I am here in the city only for my children's studies." Parents who have suffered financially due to COVID-19 are taking extreme steps to cut down on education expenses. Unfortunately, it is also their first response, resulting in a heavy blow to the child's future. For teachers, the biggest challenge is teaching by using technology and understanding students' body language. Old and experienced teachers face issues related to online teaching. Teachers are dissatisfied with learning outcomes after putting in extra effort.

I see a calamity coming: Many students have left any formal form of studying in 2020-21. Something needs to be done to rectify the situation. For instance, when we return to work after a gap of 10 days, we feel we have to start work from scratch even though we have been doing the same work for the past several years. Imagine how will a child in the 5-10 age group cope with a break of over 18 months and still attain previous academic levels? Even though we have the infrastructure to teach children, what we lack is continuity. It might become difficult for students to remember the past concepts and relate them to the new ones. It is a challenging task to bring the students back to their previous academic levels. There is already a fear of many small schools closing down because of the spiraling running costs. The administrators are bogged down by unpaid fees in spite of the Supreme Court's verdict. The current learning gap, reduced social skills, and poor handling by educators can lead to a widening knowledge gap of students when offline classes commence again. This can create an educated but unskilled and incapable workforce in the future. We are also looking at an education divide between the rich and the poor and urban and rural. We require the government's intervention to come up with a plan to allow students to visit their schools once or twice a week while continuing their online classes. A hybrid model to clear doubts and reduce the physiological pressure of the students will be most welcomed by schools.

(The writer is the owner of a private school in Morena, Madhya Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

Power reforms — a distant dream

Unshackling of discoms will take away the leverage parties enjoy to serve their populist goal of giving cheap/free power to people at election time



UTTAM GUPTA

Since last year, there have been several announcements regarding the reformation of power distribution companies (discoms). They include the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2020, Reforms-Linked, Result-Based Scheme for Distribution (RLRBS), and a special loan of ₹90,000 crore (subsequently raised to ₹130,000 crore) to discoms in 2020, and the new draft National Electricity Policy, 2021.

The key reform measures included (i) developing an efficient market for electricity distribution; (ii) de-license the distribution business, bring in competition, and give the consumer power to choose supplier (or "open access"); (iii) direct benefit transfer (DBT) of subsidy; (iv) putting a cap on the hike in power tariff; (v) linking payments by discoms to letter of credit (LoC); (vi) denying grants or loan to loss-making discoms, etc.

An overwhelming share of power generated by PSUs such as the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), etc., independent power producers (IPPs), besides generating stations of State electricity boards (SEBs) is procured by discoms (these are mostly owned and controlled by State governments) under power purchase agreements (PPA). Most of these PPAs are long-term contracts up to 25 years. A mere five per cent of the electricity is traded.

The State governments order discoms to sell electricity to some preferred consumers, viz., poor households and farmers, either at a fraction of the cost of purchase, transmission, and distribution, or even free. On the units sold to these groups, they incur colossal under-recovery. This is aggravated by aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses - most of it is plain theft. In flated tariff allowed to IPPs/PSUs under a cost-plus formula (under the PPAs) adds to the revenue shortfall.

A deadly cocktail of these three factors contributes to persistent and increasing losses of discoms. In 2015-16 it was ₹52,000 crore, Ts. 17,000 in 2017-18 (this reduction has to do with a massive bail-out given in November 2015 under Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana), ₹30,000 crore in 2019-20, and ₹58,000 crore in 2020-21.

In this backdrop, let us analyze the reform measures: (i) A pre-requisite for the development of an efficient market for electricity distribution is that a major chunk of power should be available for sale in the open market. But, with 95 per cent of electricity tied to PPAs, that too long-term, this is unthinkable.

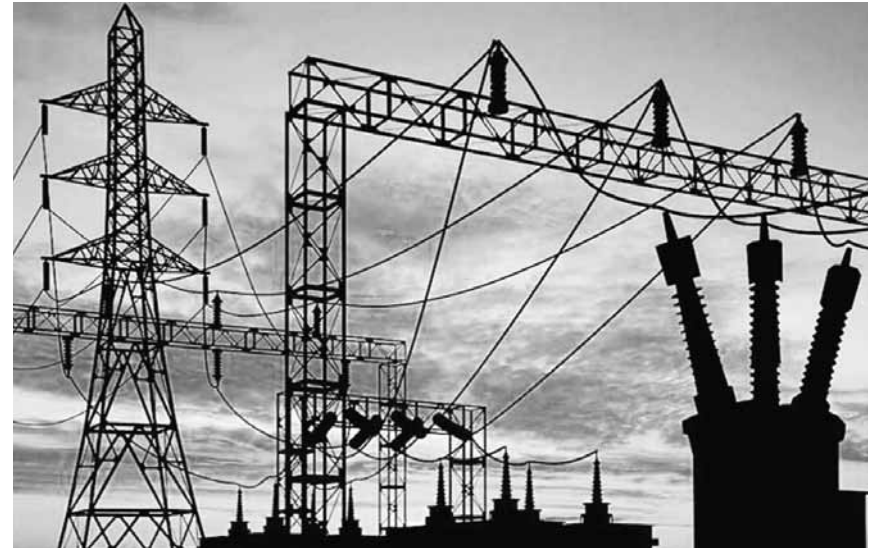
About (ii), considering that the entire distribution network — transmission lines, feeder lines, transformers (that caters to households), industries, etc. — is owned and controlled by discoms, any talk of letting in private entities is a misnomer.

As for 'open access', a provision was made even under the amended Electricity Act (2003). Under this policy, to be imple-



BY FIXING THE SURCHARGE AT A HIGH LEVEL AND NOT BOTHERING TO REDUCE IT (AS MANDATED UNDER THE ACT), THE STATE GOVERNMENTS ENSURED THAT POST-SWITCH, THE EFFECTIVE COST OF POWER TO THE CONSUMER — TARIFF CHARGED BY THE NEW SUPPLIER PLUS OAC — IS HIGHER THAN WHAT THEY PAY TO SEBs. THAT RENDERED THE SWITCH UNECONOMICAL

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)



mented within five years of its enactment, i.e., by 2008, the choice was given to the bulk consumers (having consumption more than 1 megawatt) to choose their supplier. But another provision in the Act required such customers to pay an 'open access surcharge (OAC)' to the concerned SEB they wanted to leave.

State governments used this lacuna to the hilt to shield the SEBs who are prone to charging exorbitant tariffs from industries. By fixing the surcharge at a high level and not bothering to reduce it (as mandated under the Act), they ensured that post-switch, the effective cost of power to the consumer — tariff charged by the new supplier plus OAC — is higher than what they pay to SEBs. That rendered the switch uneconomical.

They have not even spared the Railways which spends over ₹12,000 crore annually on the purchase of electricity. Under the Railways Act, it is allowed to distribute and supply power and is a "deemed" licensee as it is buying electricity for its consumption and is exempt from payment of the surcharge. Yet, it has to pay OAC as States will not give 'NOC' - a requirement for availing exemption.

Coming to (iii), under DBT, the State Government gives subsidies directly to the target beneficiaries, even as discoms fix tariff in a manner as to fully recover their cost of purchase, wheeling, and distribution, thereby avoiding any under-recovery on such sale. They also need not charge more from industries and businesses which they have

to do under the present regime to cross-subsidize supplies to preferred users. With direct cash transfer, discoms can be freed from state control which will help them reduce costs including by reining in theft. Under this regime, it will also be easier to implement "open access".

Despite these positive spin-offs, the Union Government has not shown the gumption to implement the DBT. In fact, following strong protests from farmers' leaders on its inclusion under the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2020, it has even promised that the status quo will continue. If the existing system of supplies at heavily subsidized tariff or even without charge to farmers has to continue, then, logically, the same should apply on supplies to households as you cannot have two different methods of delivering subsidy to different sections of the society. So, there is no hope of the DBT ever seeing light of the day.

As for (iv), discoms can recover only up to 15 per cent of under-recovered power supply cost from other consumers. Simply put, if their under-recovery from supplies to farmers/households is say, 'X', then they will be allowed to recover only 0.15X by hiking tariff on supplies to industries and businesses. This will end up further bloating the losses of discoms (though industries will face a modest hike in tariff vis-à-vis the existing scenario of no cap). But this will not prompt them to set their house in order all the more when they know that eventually, the Government will bail them out.

As for (v), under the LC

arrangement, the banks guarantee that a buyer's payment to a seller will be received on time and for the correct amount. If the buyer is unable to pay, the bank will be required to cover the full or remaining amount, which, in turn, it will recover from the buyer using all available legal means. Here, the buyer being the discom - owned by the State - it will be a daunting challenge for the bank. As for (vi), denial of loan to loss-making discoms will not make them feel the heat as experience shows that help reaches them by hook or crook.

To conclude, measures such as those mentioned under (iv), (v), and (vi) are merely cosmetic while the political brass does not have the gumption to act on other measures — as discussed under (i), (ii), and (iii) — which are real reforms. This is because it will require the unshackling of discoms and that will take away the leverage that all parties currently enjoy to serve their populist goal of giving cheap/free electricity to the people who matter at election time. No wonder that we hear proclamations about reforms only to justify mammoth capital infusion whenever discoms need salvaging.

Under UDAY (2015), discoms were given a package worth ₹400,000 crore but are still saddled with under-recovery of ₹0.42 on every unit of electricity sold and a debt of about ₹450,000 crore as on March 31, 2021. Under RLRBS, the government will be spending another ₹300,000 crore but with no hope of trimming under-recovery. The vicious cycle will continue.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THESE PEOPLE (CONGRESS) WERE THE JAMES BOND OF SPYING (WHEN IN POWER). THEY SPIN A WEB OF SPYING WHEN IN GOVERNMENT.

— UNION MINISTER
MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI



NO GOVERNMENT ALLOWS OTHERS TO SNOOP ON ITS PEOPLE, BUT THIS WAS ALLOWED TO AN ISRAELI COMPANY. IS SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY SAFE?

— CONGRESS LEADER
MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

Thirty years later, 'reform' yet to happen

Liberalisation was not voluntary but was egged on by global lenders who would not lend without a firm Indian commitment on 'reforms'

Thirty years and India is still waiting for the dream to become real. The liberalization of the economy in 1991 is erroneously taken as being limited to divesting government assets and holdings in industry.

Liberalisation was not a voluntary decision but was nudged by major lenders, the IMF and World Bank, who threatened to stop lending without a firm commitment to "reforms". The country went through a foreign exchange crisis in the late 1980s and 1990s and family jewels were pawned because forex reserves plunged to unexpected lows. In July 1991, the RBI pledged 46.91 tonnes of gold with the Bank of England and Bank of Japan to raise \$400 million to meet its international obligations. The



SHIVAJI SARKAR

reforms that meant losing government assets to the private sector started with a "bang" but did not bring the private sector to par with the government. The reforms initiated by the then finance minister, Manmohan Singh, were not a roaring success but a piece of confusing policy that has dumped subsequent governments into a policy quagmire.

While liberalizing the society from licence-permit raj was welcomed, the process of doing so gradually became complicated. Changes were made in industrial policy, monopolies law was annulled, import licensing was abolished, India joined WTO and TRIPS, quantitative restrictions on import of manufactured goods and farm products were removed, and current



account convertibility was introduced, business processes were eased, and the GST was introduced.

But disinvestment of public assets caught all attention. Every government took pride in selling assets or being seen doing that. Still, the private sector is suspect in the eyes of the bureaucracy.

It is still a mystery why a partial opening up was considered revolutionary. India is still not free of its socialist

mindset and a preference for government control on the pretext of "concern for people's welfare".

The "reforms" worked a bit. But the pandemic impoverished 80 crore people. Growing joblessness during the lockdown pushed the middle class to the edge of poverty. This is reflected in the slow growth of the GDP. In 2020-21, India's economic growth slowed and contracted by 7.3 per cent, the NCAER says.

Liberalisation in 1991 was followed by a series of ₹7 lakh crore scams - Harshad Mehta to Ketan Parekh, UTI, LIC (about ₹2 lakh crore), and a series of banks, leading to a JPC probe. The top scams are coal allocation (₹1.86 trillion), 2G spectrum (₹1.76

lakh crore), Waqf Board land (₹1.5 lakh crore), Games Commonwealth Games (₹70,000 crore), Telgi stamp (₹20,000 crore), Satyam (₹14,000 crore), and Hawala scandal (₹100 crore).

Scams of such magnitude had never happened since Independence. Every divestment deal was also questioned. While the large private houses acquired these assets with loans from public sector banks, it also opened up an era of high bank losses (NPAs) particularly after the Lehman meltdown in 2007-08. The RBI Financial Stability Report (FSR) says despite banks writing off ₹23,786 crore loans in 2019-20, enabling the PSU banks to show lower NPAs, banks could go into severe stress as it fears the NPAs may

escalate to 16.2 per cent by September 2021 as borrowers are saddled with unpaid dues.

Repeated reorganization and mergers of banks have not boosted confidence. The latest move to sell four major banks and LIC is not being seen as a happy event. Many buyers could be from the list of 50 major defaulters.

Since 1991, government assets worth ₹3.63 lakh crore were divested. During 2014-19, ₹2.79 lakh crore worth assets were divested. The target set for 2020-21 is ₹2.1 lakh crore. The money received is adjusted in budgetary expenditure and is not known to have been used for building assets.

In 2016, demonetization shook the economy. The cash flow was severely hit, affecting

sales of goods and commodities. People's purchasing power collapsed, delaying the post-pandemic industrial, real estate, and market recovery. It might lead to years of moderate to slow post-pandemic growth and that means a severe resource crunch. Thirty years since the reforms, the power sector is in a mess again and agriculture remains the mainstay of the economy.

Have we made progress? Prime Minister Narendra Modi says his government is working for a targeted \$5-trillion economy. But former PM Manmohan Singh says that the future economic path is tougher than in 1991. Either way, the country must bite the reforms bullet and recast its policies keeping in mind growth in the next 30 years.

Af Prez seeks defence of cities as Taliban advance

Kabul: The Afghan President on Monday blamed the American troops' speedy pull-out for the worsening violence in his country and said that his administration would now focus on protecting provincial capitals and major urban areas in the face of the rapidly advancing Taliban.

Ashraf Ghani also urged lawmakers to back a national mobilisation drive against the

Taliban amid an intensifying war between the Taliban and Afghan government forces over the past few months as US and NATO troops complete their pullout from the war-torn country. An imported, hasty peace process a reference to Washington's push for negotiations between Kabul and the Taliban not only failed to bring peace but created doubt and ambiguity among Afghans, Ghani said in his address to Parliament.

The Afghan President arrived by helicopter for the extraordinary session of the house, called because of the dire situation on the ground. Ghani touched down at the Darul Aman Palace in Kabul

and inspected an honor guard before heading inside.

The Taliban are now trying to seize provincial capitals after already taking large swaths of land and scores of districts in more rural areas, as well as several key border crossings with neighboring countries.

The Taliban do not believe in lasting or just peace," Ghani said. He predicted a sea change on the battlefield in the next six months" that would push the Taliban back, without elaborating. He claimed that Afghan forces are up to the task and have the capacity" to defeat the insurgents. But in past weeks, Afghan forces have struggled against the Taliban onslaught, and have often been left with-

out reinforcements and resupplies. On Sunday, the Afghan armed forces spokesman, Gen. Ajmal Omar Shinwari, told reporters that three provinces in southern and western Afghanistan face critical security situations.

Southern Kandahar the birthplace of the Taliban as well as Helmand and Herat provinces have witnessed several attacks.

Helmand provincial council chief Attaullah Afghan said the Taliban are also advancing in the provincial capital of Lashar Gah, and now have control of the city's seventh district. On Monday, elite Afghan commando units were dispatched to Lashar Gah to help

defend the city.

There has been relentless gunfire, air strikes and mortars in densely populated areas. Houses are being bombed, and many people are suffering severe injuries, said Sarah Leahy, Helmand coordinator for Doctors Without Borders.

The group, also known as Mdecins Sans Frontières or MSF, said in a statement Monday that life in Lashar Gah was at a standstill as residents hunker down inside their homes, afraid to venture out.

Some of our colleagues are staying overnight in the hospital as it's safer, but also so they can keep on treating patients," the organization said. The situation has been dire for

months but now it is even worse.

Faizullah, who like many other Afghans goes by one name, told The Associated Press over the phone that he fled Lashar Gah with his family and was now following the Helmand River to safety.

Clashes between the Taliban and Afghan forces have intensified, he said, and Afghan security forces are out of supplies and food in the city.

Back in Kabul, Ghani claimed his government has the financial and political support of the United States and the international community to turn the tide even as he urged the insurgents to reinjoin peace talks. **AP**

Millions under Covid lockdown; China battles Delta Variant outbreak

Beijing: Millions of people were confined to their homes in China on Monday as the country tried to contain its largest coronavirus outbreak in months, including seven positive tests found in Wuhan, where the virus first emerged in late 2019.

China reported 55 new locally transmitted cases on Monday as an outbreak of the fast-spreading Delta variant reached over 20 cities in more than a dozen provinces.

The Wuhan cluster came after the official daily tally was released, but it was confirmed by state media which said the infections had been traced to a train station.

"The seven were identified as migrant workers," Xinhua reported, citing Covid-19 prevention and control officials.

Major cities including Beijing have now tested millions of residents while cordoning off residential compounds and placing close contacts under quarantine.

Authorities in the capital

met and agreed on the need to "raise vigilance, take strict precautions and defend (the city) to the death, sparing no expense," in comments put out by the Beijing Government.

Elsewhere, over 1.2 million residents were placed under strict lockdown for the next three days in the central city of Zhuzhou in Hunan province Monday, as authorities roll out a citywide testing and vaccination campaign, according to an official statement.

"The situation is still grim and complicated," the Zhuzhou government said. China had previously boasted of its success in bringing domestic cases down to virtually zero after the coronavirus first emerged in Wuhan, allowing the economy to rebound. But the latest outbreak, linked to a cluster in the city of Nanjing where nine cleaners at an international airport tested positive on July 20, is threatening that success with more than 360 domestic cases reported in the past two weeks. **AFP**

Citing Taliban violence, US expands Afghan refugee program

Washington: The Biden administration on Monday expanded its efforts to evacuate at-risk Afghan citizens from Afghanistan as Taliban violence increases ahead of the US military pullout at the end of the month.

The State Department said it is widening the scope of Afghans eligible for refugee status in United States to include current and former employees of US-based news organizations, US-based aid and development agencies and other relief groups that receive US funding. Current and former employees of the US Government and the NATO military operation who don't meet the criteria for a dedicated program for such workers are also covered. **AP**

Malaysia lawmakers protest Parliament closure as ploy by PM

Kuala Lumpur:Police blocked Opposition lawmakers from marching on Monday to protest a two-week lockdown of Malaysia's Parliament, which they consider another ploy for the embattled Prime Minister to dodge a no-confidence vote.

With a crucial parliamentary session due, Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin instead postponed it and Parliament will be shut for two weeks. The health ministry said Parliament was deemed a high-risk venue because four of 11 COVID-19 cases detected among staff and others were

suspected to be the fast-spreading delta variant.

Lawmakers and activists questioned the timing of the announcement of Parliament's closure, which came after the king rebuked Muhyiddin's government on Thursday for misleading Parliament on the status of ordinances it issued during the seven-month coronavirus state of emergency. The opposition immediately filed a motion of no-confidence against Muhyiddin that was expected to have been raised Monday. **AP**

Florida breaks record for Covid hospitalisations

Orlando: A day after it recorded the most new daily cases since the start of the pandemic, Florida has broken a previous record for current hospitalisations set more than a year ago before vaccines were available.

The Sunshine State had 10,207 people hospitalised with confirmed Covid-19 cases, according to data reported to the US Department of Health & Human Services.

The previous record was from July 23, 2020, more than a half-year before vaccinations started becoming widespread, when Florida had 10,170 hospitalisations, according to the Florida Hospital Association.

Florida is now leading the

nation in per capita hospitalisations for Covid-19, as hospitals around the state report having to put emergency room visitors in beds in hallways and others document a noticeable drop in the age of patients.

In the past week, Florida has averaged 1,525 adult hospitalisations a day, and 35 daily pediatric hospitalisations. **AP**

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Australia city extends lockdown as clusters grow

Brisbane: A lockdown of Australia's third-largest city Brisbane was extended until Sunday because of a growing Covid outbreak.

Brisbane and several sur-

rounding municipalities in Queensland state were due to end a three-day lockdown on Tuesday. But the Queensland government on Monday announced the extension after 13 locally acquired infections of the highly contagious delta variant were detected in the latest 24-hour period. **AP**

UK eases travel curbs as industry lobbies for more

London: Britain opened its borders to vaccinated travellers from the US and European Union on Monday as travel industry leaders urged the Government to further ease restrictions and allow people to enjoy the benefits of a Covid inoculation programme.

The new rules came into effect amid reports that Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government may add a new category to Britain's traffic light system of travel restrictions, a move industry officials say would make many people decide to stay home. As of Monday, fully vaccinated travellers from destinations on Britain's "amber list" are allowed to enter the country without self-isolating for up to 10 days. **AP**

UK calls Iranian ambassador over oil tanker attack

London: Britain summoned Iran's ambassador to the Foreign Office on Monday after an attack on a merchant vessel off the coast of Oman.

James Cleverly, the minis-

ter for the Middle East, summoned Mohsen Baharvand in response to the attack on MV Mercer Street on Thursday, which killed a British national and a Romanian.

"Minister Cleverly reiterated that Iran must immediately cease actions that risk international peace and security, and reinforced that vessels must be allowed to navigate freely in accordance with international law," the Foreign Commonwealth & **AP**

Development Office said in a statement.

The United States, the UK and Israel have alleged that Iran carried out the fatal drone strike on the oil tanker, though Tehran denied involvement in the attack. **AP**

Skipper: Documents show no coverup in submarine sinking

Portland: The release of about 3,000 pages of documents delving into the deadliest submarine disaster in US history has not yielded any sinister effort to hide the truth, a retired Navy skipper says.

Instead, documents show the Navy's policies and procedures failed to keep pace with fast-moving technological advances during the Cold War, allowing a series of failures that led to the sinking of the USS Thresher on April 10, 1963, said retired Capt. James Bryant, who sued for release of the documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

"There's no coverup. No smoking gun," he said.

That doesn't make it any less tragic, though.

The loss of the nuclear-powered submarine and all 129 sailors and civilians aboard during a test dive in the Atlantic Ocean was both a tragedy for the families and a blow to national pride during the Cold War. **AP**

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Pelosi, Democrats call on Biden to extend eviction ban

AP ■ WASHINGTON

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the House Democratic leaders on Sunday called on the Biden administration to immediately extend the nation's eviction moratorium, calling it a "moral imperative" to prevent Americans from being put out of their homes during a COVID-19 surge.

An estimated 3.6 billion Americans are at risk of eviction, some as soon as Monday.

Congress was unable to pass legislation swiftly to extend the ban, which expired at midnight Saturday, and the Democratic leaders said in a statement that it was now up to President Joe Biden's administration to act.

Death toll from floods in China's Henan reach 302

Beijing: The death toll from floods triggered by torrential rains in China's Henan province has increased to 302 as of Monday, according to the information office of the local Government.

Another 50 people remain missing, Xinhua news agency quoted the office as saying.

A total of 292 people were confirmed dead and 47 missing in Zhengzhou, the provincial capital.

There were seven fatalities and three missing in Xinxiang city, while Pingdingshan and Luohe reported two and one death, respectively. **IANS**

RE-TENDER NOTICE

No.SSA/CW/KGBV-VI to X/254/2020/ 7042 Dated -26/07/2021

The Mission Director [I/C], SSA, Assam, invites fresh bids for the following work from registered contractors [Class- I (A, B & C)] under A.P.W.D.(Building) Assam, having experience of similar nature of work.

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 02/08/2021(04:30 PM) to 12/08/2021 (2:00 PM)

The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

Name of Work	Package No	Place	Approx. Value of Work	Time of completion	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	E.M.D. to be drawn in favour of	Tender Cost
CONSTRUCTION OF KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA (CLASS VI TO X) (ACADEMIC BLOCK ASSAM TYPE WITH RCC HOSTEL BUILDING (G+2) (KGBV-TYPE-II), SSA, ASSAM	1S	SOUTH SALMA RA, S.S. MANKA CHAR	Rs.1,91,28,90 0.00 [Per site]	12 (twelve months)	Rs.3,82,578.00 (for General) Rs.1,91,289.00 (for reserved Category) [PER SITE]	The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Guwahati-19	Rs.5,000.00

Janasanyog No. CF/813/21

Sd/- Mission Director I/c,
SSA, Assam, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW)-I
OVER HEAD TANK: OPP. BHARTI COLLEGE
JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-58.
e-mail: eesw1janakpuri@gmail.com**

"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
Press N.I.T. NO: 16 SW-I (2021-22)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost. (In Rs.)	Date of release of tender in E-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through E-procurement Solution
1.	Replacement of sewerage system by Providing Laying 250 mm dia sewer line from Taar Factory road to Solanki Chowk, Vishawas Park in Palam Constituency AC-37, under EE(SW)-I	25,09,237/-	2021_DJB_206464_1 31.07.2021	17.08.2021 up to 3.00 pm

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)

ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 238(2021-22)

Sd/-
(Munish Kumar)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW)-I

JASCH INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Regd. Off. : 502, Block C, NDM-2, NSP, Pitampura, Delhi 110034 CIN : L24302DL1985PLC383771

Website : www.jaschindustries.com, Email : accounts@jasch.biz

Extract of Unaudited Ind AS Financial Results for the Quarter ended on 30th June 2021 (Standalone & Consolidated Financial Results under Regulation 47(1)(B) Of Listing Regulations) (₹ in Lakh)									
Sl No	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated*			
		Quarter Ended		Year Ended		Quarter Ended		Year Ended*	
		30.06.21	31.03.21	30.06.20	31.03.21	30.06.21	31.03.21	30.06.20	31.03.21
		Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	N.A.
1	Total Income from Operations.	3704.21	4984.58	1488.66	13567.63	13077.64	3704.21	-	-
2	Profit before Interest, Depreciation & Taxes (EBITDA)	512.70	754.17	181.40	1909.27	1154.72	512.70	-	-
3	Net Profit for the Period (before Tax and Exceptional Items)	430.37	669.93	85.37	1561.97	620.02	430.37	-	-
4	Net Profit for the Period before Tax (after Exceptional Items)	430.37	669.93	85.37	1561.97	620.02	430.37	-	-
5	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional Items)	310.37	493.37	63.88	1135.20	453.72	310.37	-	-
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [(Comprising Profit) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	310.37	493.37	63.88	1135.20	453.72	310.37	-	-
7	Equity Share Capital	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	1133.00	-	-
8	Reserves	6129.21	5818.84	4720.45	5818.84	4656.57	6129.21	-	-
9	Earnings Per Share (of ₹10/- each)	2.74	4.35	0.56	10.02	4.00	2.74	-	-
	Basic & Diluted:								

Notes :

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the website of Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and also on Company's website at www.jaschindustries.com.
- The financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS).
- Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.
- *The Financial results of Jasch Industries Ltd ("JIL") have been consolidated with that of Jasch Gauging Technologies Ltd ("JGTL" - a wholly owned subsidiary of JIL) which was incorporated only on 25-05-2021 and received approval to commence business on 06-07-2021. Therefore, standalone and consolidated figures as at 30-06-2021 are the same. Since JGTL was not in existence on 31-03-2021, a dash ("-") appears in the relevant column of consolidated data as on 31-03-2021.

Sonipat, 24th July 2021 **sd/- (J. K. GARG) CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR**

PREMIUM MERCHANTS LIMITED

Registered office: Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025

CIN: L51909DL1985PLC021077.Tel: +91 11 61119658

Email Id: premiummerchants123@gmail.com, [website:www.pmltd.com](http://www.pmltd.com)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the meeting no. 03/2021-22 of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 12th August, 2021 (Thursday) at the registered office of the Company at Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025 at 3.30 P.M to discuss the following agenda items:

- To take on record the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter ended on 30th June, 2021 in terms of Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015.
- To discuss and approve the Director's Report along with Corporate Governance Report for the Financial Year ended on 31.03.2021.
- To fix the date of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company.
- To consider and decide the period of closure of register of members for record purpose.
- To avail services of Electronic Voting Platform from National Securities Depository Limited.
- To consider appointment of Scrutinizer for the purpose of e-voting at ensuing Annual General Meeting.
- To table and approve the draft of the Notice convening the next Annual General Meeting.
- To discuss any other business with the permission of Chair.

By Order of the Board
For **Premium Merchants Limited**
Sd/-
(Balbir Singh)
Director

Place: New Delhi
Date: 02.08.2021
DIN:00027438

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

Large scale riots occurred in **February-2020** in **North East District, Delhi**. The rioters had indulged in violence and arson to public and private properties and inflicted injuries upon a number of public persons and police personnel.

In this regard, criminal cases are being investigated in various police stations. General public is hereby requested to help identify the culprits who indulged in these riotous activities. Any information leading to arrest of rioters, the identity of the informant will be kept secret. Delhi Police reserves the right to decide actual informant and its decision will be final.

Following persons were seen in Video Footage during the riots which took place near Shamshan Ghat, Kabir Nagar, Delhi on 25.02.2020.







The information can be given in person to the SHO/IO of the respective police station or can be communicated on phone number **011-22822746, 011-22826808, 011-22829335** or on email ID: dcnpnortheast-dl@nic.in and adcp1-northeast-dl@nic.in

S.H.O.
P.S. Welcome, North East, Delhi

DP/939/NE/2021

PM Modi launches digital payment solution e-RUPI

Initiative starts with facility for health services

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched e-RUPI, a person and purpose specific digital payment solution that is aimed at improving transparency and targeted delivery of benefits. Over the years, several programmes have been launched to ensure that the benefits reach its intended beneficiaries in a targeted and leak proof manner, with limited touch points between the Government and the beneficiary. The concept of electronic voucher takes forward this vision of good governance. To begin with e-RUPI facility is available for health services and will be expanded to other segments.

"Today the country is giving a new dimension to digital governance. ERUPI voucher is going to play a huge role in making digital transactions, and DBT more effective. This will help everyone in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches e-RUPI in New Delhi

PTI

targeted, transparent and leakage free delivery," the Prime Minister said while launching e-RUPI.

Not only the government, if any general organisation or organisation wants to help someone in their treatment, in their education or for any other work, then they will be able to give eRUPI instead of cash, he said. This will ensure that the money given by him is used for the same work for which that amount has been given, he added.

e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for dig-

ital payment, an official statement said, adding, it is a QR code or SMS string-based e-voucher, which is delivered to the mobile of the beneficiaries. The users of this seamless one-time payment mechanism will be able to redeem the voucher without a card, payments app or internet banking access, at the service provider. e-RUPI is developed by the National Payments Corporation of India on its UPI platform, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority.

Markets march higher on strong earnings, global cues

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks opened the week with robust gains on Monday as strong corporate results, supportive macroeconomic data and a bullish trend overseas turbocharged sentiment.

Auto stocks were propelled by recovery in July sales numbers, while IT counters also saw brisk buying.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 363.79 points or 0.69 per cent to finish at 52,950.63, while the broader NSE Nifty surged 122.10 points or 0.77 per cent to 15,885.15.

Titan was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging 3.25 per cent, followed by M&M, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, TCS, Maruti and Infosys.

HDFC gained 0.88 per cent after the country's largest mortgage lender reported a 31 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit at Rs 5,311 crore for the June quarter.

On the other hand, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, Dr Reddy's and HDFC Bank were among the laggards, shedding up to 1.66 per cent.

Domestic equities re-

Rupee gains 8 paise to close at 74.34 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee gained 8 paise to close at 74.34 against the US dollar on Monday, supported by a firm trend in domestic equities and a weak American currency.

Forex traders said the rupee is trading in a narrow range as investors are awaiting the RBI's monetary policy meeting outcome for further cues.

erred sharply as positive cues from global equities and strong rebound in auto supported benchmarks, said Binod Modi, Head-Strategy at Reliance Securities.

Further, modest recovery in financials, IT and pharma also supported market, he said, adding that realty stocks were in focus after sharp improvement in property registrations in Mumbai for July.

Reliance slip 59 places on Fortune list, SBI jumps 16 notches

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd slipped 59 places to rank 155th on the 2021 Fortune Global 500 list released on Monday.

Reliance took a beating on the rankings as revenues dropped owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. This is its lowest ranking since 2017.

Walmart continues to top the Fortune list with a revenue of USD 524 billion, followed by China's State Grid at USD 384 billion.

With USD 280 billion revenue, Amazon came in at the third spot, replacing Chinese giant, China National Petroleum was ranked fourth and Sinopec Group fifth.

Reliance's revenue fell 25.3 per cent to USD 63 billion, mostly because oil prices plunged in the second quarter of 2020 when the global spread of the pandemic wiped away demand.

Other Indian oil companies on the list too slipped ranks as their revenues tumbled because of the fall in oil prices. State Bank of India (SBI)

moved up 16 places to rank 205 but Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) dropped 61 places to 212th rank.

This is the second straight year of SBI improving its ranking. It had moved up 15 places last year.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was ranked 243rd, 53 notches lower than last year's ranking.

Rajesh Exports was another firm that improved its ranking with a massive 114 positions jump to 348th rank.

Tata Motors slipped 20 places to rank 357 and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) fell to 394 from 309 last year.

Fortune said companies are ranked by total revenues for their respective fiscal years ended on or before March 31, 2021.

While SBI had a revenue of USD 52 billion, IOC had revenue of USD 50 billion. ONGC had revenue of USD 46 billion and Rajesh Exports USD 35 billion.

"Walmart claimed the top spot for the eighth consecutive year, and for the 16th time since 1995," Fortune said.

Exports up 47.91 pc in July to \$35.17 bn

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's exports grew by 47.19 per cent to USD 35.17 billion on account of healthy growth in the out-bound shipments of petroleum, engineering, and gems and jewellery, according to the provisional data of the commerce ministry.

Imports during the month also rose by 59.38 per cent to USD 46.40 billion, leaving a trade deficit of USD 11.23 billion. Exports of petroleum, engineering, and gems and jewellery in July increased to USD 3.82 billion, USD 2.82 billion and USD 1.95 billion respectively, the data showed.

However, exports of oilseeds, rice and meat, dairy and poultry products have recorded negative growth in the month under review.

Imports of petroleum, crude, and products rose by 97 per cent to USD 6.35 billion. Similarly, imports of gold were up by 135.5 per cent to USD 2.42 billion and pearls, precious and semi-precious stones inbound shipments stood at USD 1.68 billion in July.

However, imports of transport equipment, project goods and silver have recorded negative growth in July.

Net tax revenues rise 5 pc in FY21: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's net tax revenues grew 5 per cent in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday.

The net tax (sum of direct and indirect taxes) revenue in 2020-21 was over ₹14.24 lakh crore, a nearly 5 per cent growth from ₹13.56 lakh crore in the previous financial year. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman said the Government has taken many steps to boost both direct and indirect tax revenue collection, through curbing tax evasion, widening/deepening tax base, promoting voluntary compliance, reducing litigation and promoting digital transactions. However, non-tax revenue collection dipped 36 per cent to ₹2.08 lakh crore in 2020-21 from over ₹3.27 lakh crore in 2019-20. The government's net revenue (tax+non-tax) collection in the last financial year declined 3.09 per cent to ₹16.32 lakh crore.

Mini Ipe takes charge as Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India

Mini Ipe has taken charge as Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India on 2nd August, 2021. She was appointed as Managing Director vide Government of India notification dated 5th July, 2021.

Mini Ipe is a post graduate in Commerce from Andhra University and has joined LIC in 1986 as a Direct Recruit Officer.

She has rich and diverse experience in LIC having worked in various capacities. Prior to taking charge as Managing Director, she was Executive Director, Legal Department, LIC of India. Mini Ipe was the first woman Zonal Manager (In-charge) of LIC and headed SCZO, Hyderabad. She has also worked as Executive

Director (International operations), Director & CEO of LICHL Financial Services Ltd. and was instrumental in taking LICHL Financial Services Ltd. to new heights in business revenue and profits during her tenure. She has also worked as Regional Manager (P&IR) and Regional Manager (Estate) of Western Zone.

Govt sanctioned prosecution in 366 cases related to CSR norms violations: Sitharaman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prosecution proceedings have been sanctioned in 366 cases related to violation of CSR provisions under the companies law, the Government said on Monday. Under the Companies Act, 2013, certain class of profitable entities is required to shell out at least two per cent of their three-year average annual net profit towards CSR (Corporate Social

Responsibility) activities.

As part of amendments to the Act, non-compliance with CSR provisions has been made "civil wrong" with effect from January 22, 2021. "Whenever any violation of CSR provisions is reported, action against such non-compliant companies are initiated as per provisions of the Act after due examination of records and following due process of law. All CSR related defaults are compoundable.

LS passes Bill to amend general insurance law without debate

New Delhi: A bill to amend the general insurance law to allow the government to pare its stake in state-owned insurers was passed on Monday by Lok Sabha without a debate amid continuing protests by opposition parties on the Pegasus snooping and other issues.

The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021 is aimed at generating required resources from the Indian markets so that public sector general insurers can design innovative products.

PTI

17.94 lakh Covid related health insurance claims settled

New Delhi: As many as 17.94 lakh Covid-related health insurance claims amounting to ₹21,837 crore were settled in about last 15 months till July 15, 2021. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said health insurance claims are settled by insurers as

per terms and conditions of the health insurance policy contract. Since the onset of the pandemic, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has taken several steps for speedy settlement of Covid-related health insurance claims.

PTI

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Roshni, D/o Jai Narayan, R/o H.No. 2543 Gali No. 4, R.P. II, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi, Age: 17 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Round, ID Mark: Old scar mark on right eye, wearing Sky Blue colour Kurta, Black colour Pajama**, has been missing from

her house since 23.07.2021 at 13:30 Hrs. In this regard a FIR No. 332/21 U/s 363 IPC, dated 24.07.2021 has been registered at P.S. Gandhi Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/515/SHD/2021

Ph. No.: 011-22082235, 22072761

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No. SS/HRMIS/1383/2020/ 7147 Date : 02.08.2021
Mission Director, Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (Samagra Shiksha), Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19 invites tender through e-Tendering process from Reputed Registered Companies for Development of Human Resource Management Information System (Transfer & Posting of Teachers) and Implementation, Support and Maintenance.

To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves. The bidders who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/ Bankers Cheque in favour of Mission Director, Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/-Mission Director,
RMSA, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog No. CF/817/21

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (Through e-Tendering)

Name of work with its location	Provision of Automatic fire suppression for more than 400 route station of Delhi Division.
App. Cost of the work	Rs. 2.04.30.214/- only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender	Tender uploading/closing date & time- 25.08.2021 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.nreps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.
No.: 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-1364	Dated: 02.08.2021 1726/2021

Serving Customers with a Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that Mohd. Helaluddin S/o Mr. Mohd. Zahuruddin who had purchased the Residential House No. N-16, land area measuring 68 sq. yds. out of Khassa No. 1624, 1559 & 1563 Situated at Shalimar Housing Complex, Village Pasanda Pargana Loni, Tehsil & Dist. Ghaziabad, U.P. from Mrs. Kamla Sharma W/o Mr. Bhaskar Sharma through Sale Deed as Document No. 3686, registered on 19.03.2015 with SR-II/ Ghaziabad and same to be financed by Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited. That Original Sale Deed executed by Mrs. Mahalakshmi Land and Finance Co. Pvt. Ltd. in favour of Mrs. Sharda Gupta W/o Mr. Mahesh Chand Gupta in respect of House No. in type N-16, built Khassa No. 1624, 1560, 1563 has been lost or not available. If any Person having any type of claim/right interested over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below within a week, about his objections, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances. Ilen etc.

RAMPUR FERTILIZERS LTD.
CIN: L15138UP1988PLC010084
Email id: info@rampurfert.com
Regd. Off.: Judges Boreilly Road, Rampur-244901 U.P.

NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING
In pursuance of Regulation 47 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Monday, the 9th Day of August 2021, at 4.00 P.M. at its H.O., 319-A, Hemkunt Chambers, 93 Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019, inter alia, to consider, approve and adopt Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2021 pursuant to Regulation 32 of (LODR) 2015. The said information is also available on the Company's website at www.rampurfert.com and the same has been also sent to CSE to upload on its website i.e. www.cse-india.com and MSE on its website i.e. www.mse.in.

By order of Board
Sd/-
Anshuman Khatnani
(Managing Director)

N K Textile Industries Limited

Registered office: Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025
CIN: L17299DL1983PLC163230. Tel: +91 11 61119313
Email id: n.ktextiles123@gmail.com,
website: www.nktil.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the meeting no. 03/2021-22 of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 13th August, 2021 (Friday) at the registered office of the Company at Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025 at 4.00 P.M. to discuss following agenda items:

- To take on record the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter ended on 30th June, 2021 in terms of Regulation 32 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015.
- To discuss and approve the Director's Report for the Financial Year ended on 31.03.2021.
- To fix the date of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company.
- To consider and decide the period of closure of register of members for record purpose.
- To avail services of Electronic Voting Platform from National Securities Depository Limited.
- To consider appointment of Scrutinizer for the purpose of e-voting at ensuing Annual General Meeting.
- To table and approve the draft of the Notice convening the next Annual General Meeting.
- To discuss any other business with the permission of Chair.

By Order of the Board
For N K Textile Industries Limited
Sd/-
(Balbir Singh)
Director

Place: New Delhi
Date: 02.08.2021
DIN:00027438

UJVNL LIMITED

No. 545 Date : 02.08.2021
Tender Notice
The office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Maneri Bhali Stage-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders is given below:
Tender No: NIT-28/EE(M)/MB-II/21-22
Name of work: Providing and fixing of oil collection tray at Dharasur Power House.
Estimated cost: ₹ 692000 Only + Taxes extra
Date of availability of bid document on website: - 03.08.2021
Last date for submission of tender:- 25.08.2021 up to 11:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"
Executive Engineer (Maintenance)

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Tota Ram, S/o Naubat, R/o H.No. 29, Dharam Colony, Nangloi, Delhi, Age: 20 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Identification Mark: Mentally Disturb, Wearing: Black and Yellow Colour T-Shirt, Khaki Colour Pant and Hawaii Chappal** in his feet has been missing/kidnapped from the area or P.S. Nangloi since 23.06.2021. In this regard a case vide DD No. 38A, dated 26.06.2021 has been registered at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this boy please inform undersigned.
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/1019/OD/2021

Ph.: 011-25947225, 25949470

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Laxmi Yadav, W/o Ramnaresh Yadav R/o H.No. 3, Gali No. 22, B Block, Dass Garden, Ranholi, Delhi, Age: 26 years, Height: 5'1", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Unknown and Chappal** in her feet has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Ranholi since 05.07.2021. In this regard a case vide DD No. 83A, dated 06.07.2021 has been registered at P.S. Ranholi, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this lady please inform undersigned.
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/1035/OD/2021

Ph.: 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003

MODI RUBBER LIMITED

CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392
Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P.)
Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025; Website: www.modirubberlimited.com
Email: investors@modigroup.net; Phone: +91-11-47107398

NOTICE

Pursuant to regulation 29 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that a 29th Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Friday, 13th August, 2021 at 3.00 PM at Corporate Office : 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, 4th Floor, New Friends Colony, New Delhi - 110 025 to inter-alia approve the following:

- (1) Un-Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company for the period ended on June 30, 2021.
- (2) To fix the Date, Time and Venue for convening the 48th Annual General Meeting.
- (3) To consider and approve Directors Report, Corporate Governance Report, Management Discussion Analysis Report and Secretarial Audit Report for the financial year 2020-21.

For Modi Rubber Limited

Sd/-
(S K Bajpai)
Head - Legal & Co. Secretary

AXIS BANK

Retail Asset Centre: SME Center Delhi 1 III Floor, Red Fort Capital Parkway Tower, Bhai Veer Singh Marg, Near Gole Market, New Delhi - 110001. Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens White Town, Noida (U.P.) 201301

Corporate Office: 'Axis House', Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025. **Registered Office:** 'Triumph', 3rd floor, opposite Samartheesh Temple, Law Garden, Ellorabridge, Ahmedabad-380006

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.

The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Director/Guarantor)		Shahdara Delhi -110095	lakh forty Four
Also At. :- Mr. Narendra Barma		in the name of Mr.	Thousand Six
S/O Sri Hanuman Mal Jain, R/o- D-15, Ashoka		Hanuman Mal Jain S/o	Hundred Nineten
Niketan Delhi-110092		Late Sri Sohan Lal Jain	And Sixty Eight
3.M/s. Sanjay Lata Barma W/O Mr.		and Smt. Sanjay Lata	Paisa Only)
Narendra Barma Director M/S Ganga Jeans		Barma W/o- Mr.	
Pvt. Ltd. 10, Abadi Mahila Colony Gandhi		Narendra Barma.	
Nagar, South Chiragah Illaga Shahdara, Delhi-		East - Property No -12	
110092 (Director/Guarantor/Mortgage)		West - Property No -08	
Also At. :- M/s. Sanjay Lata Barma,		North - Road	
W/O Mr. Narendra Barma R/o- D-15,		South - Property No - 09	
Ashoka Niketan Delhi -110092			
4. Mr. Siddharth Barma			
S/O Mr. Narendra Barma Director M/S			
Ganga Jeans Pvt. Ltd. 10, Abadi Mahila Colony			
Gandhi Nagar, South Chiragah Illaga			
Shahdara, Delhi-110092 (Director/Guarantor)			
Also At. :- Mr. Siddharth Barma S/O Mr.			
Narendra Barma, R/o- D-15, Ashoka			
Niketan Delhi-110092			
5.Mr. Hanuman Mal Jain S/O Mr. Narendra			
Barma 10 , Abadi Mahila Colony Gandhi			
Nagar, South Chiragah Illaga Shahdara , Delhi-			
110092 (Mortgage/Guarantor)			
Also At. :- Mr. Hanuman Mal Jain S/O Mr.			
Narendra Barma, R/o -142, Pusthpanjli,			
Vikas Marg, Delhi- 110092			

DOCYARD
DR SHAILESH JAIN

Principal Consultant,
Neurosciences

NEW DELHI



It's complicated



COVID in the last 18 months has shown a devastating effect on human life. Apart from affecting the lung, it also affected different parts of the body. However, it mainly affects the lung and increases level of ferritin, D-Dimer, CRP and cytokines eg IL-6. High levels of all these chemicals may have catastrophic effect on vital organs.

Neurological involvement is a spectrum of loss of olfactory senses to necrotising encephalitis and involving almost every aspect of central (CNS) and peripheral nervous system (PNS). Prevalence is around 0.1-1 per cent of COVID infections. Most complications are seen by second to fourth week of COVID infection. CNS-related events were more common than PNS manifestations. Common CNS manifestations are headache, disturbance in consciousness, dizziness, acute cerebrovascular disease, ataxia, and seizures. PNS symptoms are impairment in taste, smell, and vision. Musculoskeletal symptoms were observed in form of myalgias and nonspecific pain.

Stroke comprises of 60-70 per cent, encephalopathy 30-40 per cent and neuropathy around 6 per cent and all other neurological complications in 0.1 per cent cases of neurological cases related to COVID.

Neurological involvement is mainly categorised into CNS and PNS involvement. CNS involvements are in form of stroke, encephalopathy, delirium, psychoses, necrotising encephalitis and fungal infections eg. Fungal abscess or rhinocerebral mucormycoses. PNS involvements are facial palsy, acute inflammatory demyelinating neuropathy (AIDP) and paraesthesia in all limbs and myalgia.

Strokes are ischemic type usually due to large vessel occlusion with high degree of morbidity or mortality and it is more prevalent with diabetic, hypertensive and Coronary artery disease. It is also associated with large coronary occlusion or sudden cardiac death upto six-eight weeks after COVID. Most patients were found to have hypercoagulable state.

Encephalopathy or delirium or psychoses were seen by third to fourth week of COVID. It is a non-specific term used to describe the acute impairment of brain function which presents clinically as alteration in the level of consciousness and triggered by viral infections. It is completely reversible with appropriate medications.

Neuropathy may be in form of facial palsy or severe weakness of all limbs in form of G B Syndrome. Both are completely reversible with medications. Headache, myalgia and paresthesia and fatigue are minor symptoms

and it disturbs sleep but didn't cause any disability. These recover with time and medications.

Some unusual complications are necrotising encephalitis and myelitis. They have high level of morbidity and mortality. Encephalitis is a serious condition with significant impact and burden. About 20-50 per cent of encephalitis cases are caused by viruses, and half of the cases have no known etiology. The disease causes a variety of neurological abnormalities, such as altered consciousness, hallucination, confusion, abnormal movement, and aphasia.

Smoking accelerate the process of atherosclerosis all over body and leads to endothelial dysfunction, thrombus formation and hypercoagulable state. It also aggravates dyslipidemia. It increases chances of cardiovascular disease in all forms eg CAD, CVA, PVD. It locally affects the lung parenchyma and make it vulnerable to COVID related lung damage and oxygenation of body. Coexistence of smoking related atherosclerosis and COVID induced hypercoagulable state increases chances of large vessel stroke.

COVIDCARE

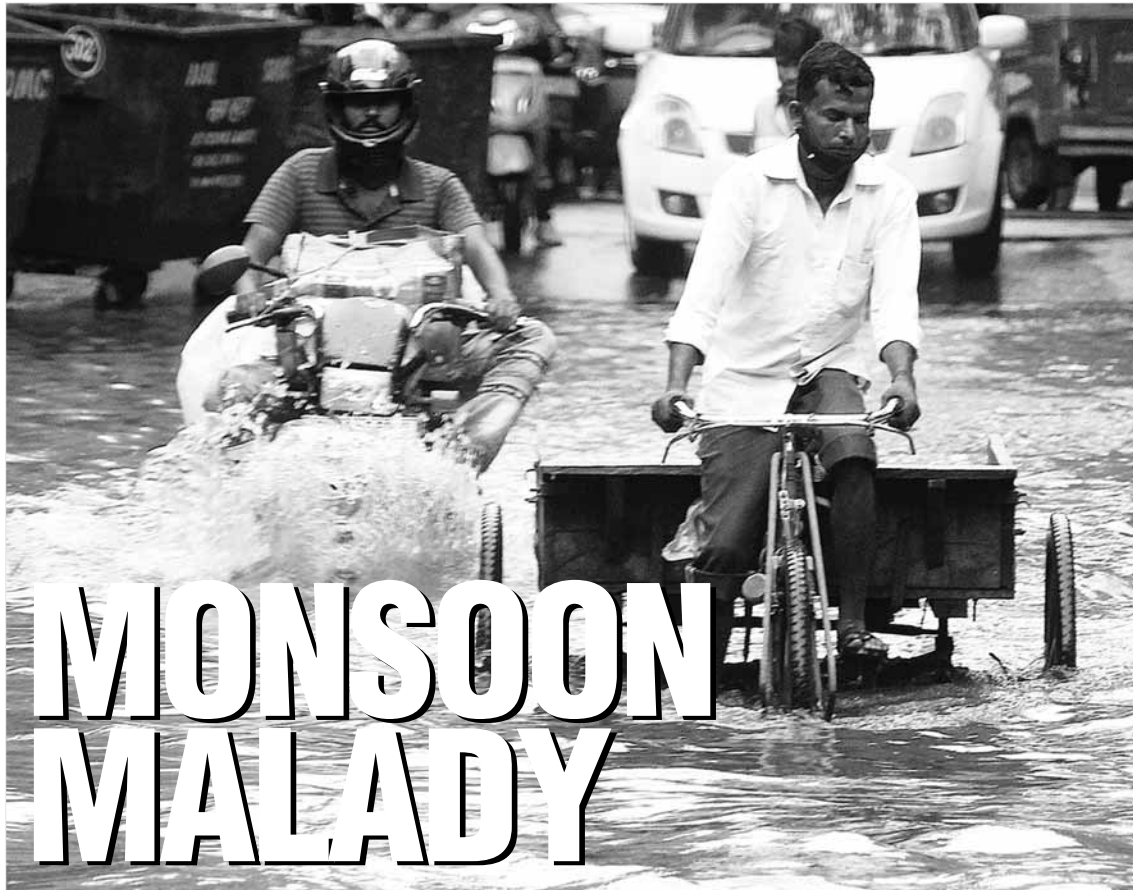
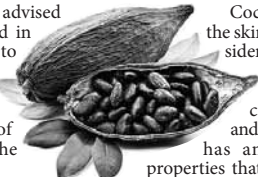
COCOA: Cocoa is considered to be one of the best medicinal foods. It is full of flavonoids. It helps control diabetes and cocoa based products are advised

to be included in the daily diet to improve the insulin resistance and level of glucose in the body.

Cocoa powder is good for the heart and prevents fatal blood clots. Hence, avoiding severe cardiac problems.

The flavonoid and anti-oxidants in cocoa beans lowers blood pressure and improves the elasticity of veins and blood vessels.

Cocoa is great for the skin. It is also considered to cure cancer - used particularly in the cure of prostate and colon cancer. It has anti-depressant properties that can help prevent mental exertion and facilitate certain physiological processes and elevate the mood.



With rains come plethora of diseases including leptospirosis, DR TRUPTI GILADA tells SHALINI SAKSENA

Even though the monsoon brings with it the much-needed relief from the scorching heat, it does have a down side as well. Dengue and malaria are some of the diseases that are common during this season. Then there are diseases that come due to flooding and water-logging of low-lying areas. One such disease is leptospirosis.

WHAT IS IT

It is mainly a monsoon associated infection associated with exposure to water, soil or mud contaminated with the urine from infected animals. It is caused by a bacteria called Leptospira. It is carried by many animals. It lives in their kidneys and is found in the urine and faeces.

WHO IS AT RISK?

Anyone who wades through flooded water is at risk. When there is water-logging, the water gets contaminated by bacteria because of the mixing of the stool or urine. The bacteria then enters the body through skin cuts or abrasions when a person wades through this contaminated water, and occasionally through the lining of the mouth, nose and eyes. Farmers are also at high risk as they may get exposed to the urine and excreta of field rats while working.

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms usually develop after five to 14 days following exposure. The most common initial symptoms of this disease include either fever or all of these symptoms: Fever, severe headache, sore muscles, chills, vomiting, and red eyes. Since these mimic other monsoon-related illnesses like malaria and dengue, clinical diagnosis can sometimes be difficult.

Few people with leptospirosis can develop severe disease and may need hospitalisation.

This can include kidney failure, jaundice, liver failure, bleeding and respiratory complications. Lesser common complications include meningitis



ANYONE WHO WADES THROUGH FLOODED WATER IS AT RISK. WHEN THERE IS WATER-LOGGING, THE WATER GETS CONTAMINATED BY BACTERIA BECAUSE OF THE MIXING OF THE STOOL OR URINE. THE BACTERIA THEN ENTERS THE BODY THROUGH SKIN CUTS OR ABRASIONS

gitis where the lining of the brain and spinal cord gets involved and causes altered sensorium.

TREATMENT

This disease is commonly treated with antibiotics. Treatment is thought to be most effective when detected early. The testing can take some time and the disease may be severe in some patients. A doctor may therefore sometimes choose to start antibiotics prior to confirming the diagnosis with tests. However, some people recover spontaneously without antibiotics.

LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Most individuals recover from leptospirosis without further sequelae. But in some individuals who went undiagnosed and untreated in the early and or acute illness, there can be long-term effects. People can have a chronic-fatigue-like illness that lasts for months. Others can have persistent headaches, depression or other neurological complaints. Occasionally the bacteria can persist in the eyes and cause chronic eye complaints.

PREVENTION

As far as possible, avoid wading through puddles and water-logged areas. Wear well covered footwear in monsoon. Cover any cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings. Wash hands and legs with soap, as leptospira bacteria are quickly killed by soap, disinfectants, and drying. Rodent control is of paramount importance and requires efforts both at individual and government level. Prompt cleaning up of garbage dumps and removing food sources that are close to housing is essential. Appropriate personal protective gear for those who work with animals or on the farms (like waterproof boots)

Those who may have been exposed to the bacteria because they waded through floods must contact their doctor immediately. The doctor may prescribe certain antibiotics (like Doxycycline) that can be taken to prevent the disease.

Photo: Ranjan Dixit

A DOSE FOR YOUR CLOTHES

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with SASHA BOSE, Director & CEO of Nanochemiqs Pvt Ltd, about the nano tech application that allows garments to not only be protective in nature but also makes it long lasting

■What was the idea behind the inception of Faibr-x?

Faibr-x was conceptualised on the idea of safespace for every human and child. Clothes are the biggest carrier of virus and bacteria and we strongly believe that clothes can also be the biggest protector against both. Faibr-x was conceptualised to add an element of protection, certified protection in this case, to our daily wear clothes to protect us against virus, bacteria and insects including mosquitoes. And to be honest, this was called for by the situation caused by the COVID pandemic. Now we may have started to move out of our houses but it is still not safe, the pandemic isn't entirely over yet and we do need an extra line of defence against this virus.

■How is it different from already treated antiviral clothes?

Faibr-x uses nanotechnology to impart protective nature to garments against virus and bacteria. The protective finish as added to garments is done on a nano level (1nanometre is 10⁻⁹ metre) wherein the protective finish is applied on the fibre of the cloth. This nano level application allows the garment to not only be completely protective in nature but also makes it long lasting. A once treated garment would remain protective even after 10 washes. Here we are not just fighting a specific virus, we are taking down all kinds of viruses and disease causing bacteria. Along with the bacteria that cause odour. This is what sets the clothes treated with Faibr-x apart from already treated antiviral clothes.

■What are the challenges that you face?

Biggest challenge is to make the end consumer understand and acknowledge our solution. We realise Faibr-x is a first of its kind solution and therefore many people may not be aware of our vision and the impact of our solution. With that said, we are making a constant stride forward, towards brand awareness and making people realise how significant can Faibr-x prove to be during this pandemic.

■How safe are Faibr-x treatments for various individuals?

Faibr-x nanotechnology and its ingredients are certified by OekoTex Class 1 and have been evaluated by CDSO, ISO, and NABL labs human and environment safety. Non metal, non silver, non itching technology is safest not only for various individuals but even for newborn and young toddlers.

■How can one get their clothes Faibr-x treated?

As mentioned above, we have tied up with grocery stores, medical stores, dry cleaners, and departmental stores that act as collection points for us. People can drop their clothes with these stores, from where they would be picked up and sent for Faibr-x treatment. And then returned.

■What has been the people's response to such treated clothes?

People's response to the treated clothes has been positive so far. Our services have been perceived by our customer base as a unique concept of protection. People do feel donning Faibr-x treated clothes acts as a defence mechanism against virus and bacteria. Customers have been happy with the affordability and the accessibility of our services, given we have collaborated with local grocery stores and dry cleaners, we are easily accessible.

Only 0.01 per cent Indians consent to donate

Organ donation in India is only just beginning to take off — reason for the delay being lack of awareness, spiritual belief of life after death, and generally negative attitudes towards organ donation, says RAGHAV KHANNA

Thousands of lives can be improved through organ and tissue transplants, enabling people to live better, and in many cases, survive. So, why are only 0.01 per cent of Indians consenting to donate their organs after their death?

Organ donation is the process of retrieving or procuring an organ legally with the intention of being able to medically help someone in need. Consent is given either by the donor while they're still alive, or after death by their Next of Kin. First the organ is recovered, or harvested, before being transplanted into the recipient in need. Organ donation in India is regulated by the 1994 Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act. The act aims to control the removal, storage, and transplantation of organs and prevents any commercial dealings, while the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation facilitates procurement, allotment, and distribution of organs within India. With a budget of ₹149.5 crore, the Government implemented the

National Organ Transplant Programme for promoting organ donation.

Despite the Government identifying the need for organ donation, there is a disparity between huge demand and low supply. Organ donation in India is only just beginning to take off — reason for the delay being lack of awareness, spiritual belief of life after death, and generally negative attitudes towards organ donation. Donation is encouraged as a charitable act that saves or enhances life; therefore, it requires no action on the part of the religious group.

India's Statistical Data as of 2015 shows that in response to the demand for 1.75 lakhs of kidney transplants, only 5000 transplants were completed. With 50,000 people dying of terminal liver disease, only 1000 got transplants. These statistics are even more distressing in organs like hearts and lungs. About 0.5 million people in India die every year from causes that could have been prevented by organ transplants that were not available to them.

Government should undertake the responsibility for establishing proper infrastructure to facilitate speedy transport and harvesting of organs

Organ donation rates in India sit at 0.01 percent, a miniscule figure in comparison to countries like Croatia's which sits at 36.5 per cent and Spain's at 35.3 per cent.

One donation from a deceased whose brain gave way before their heart can save lives of up to eight people who are suffering from end stage organ failures. If India's donation rates were to be improved to one donation per million deaths, it would satisfy the country's organ requirement completely.

The process of pledging is simple. A donor card is provided to a person who is willing to donate the organs after death. Donor cards are not a legally binding document - it is only an expression of a person's willingness to be a donor. At the time of organ donation, the family of the patient will make the final decision on whether to donate organs or not. Any person willing to donate his/her organs can do so by filling out the donor consent form available on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India website.

Government of India should undertake the responsibility for establishing proper infrastructure all over India to facilitate speedy transport and harvesting of organs. The official paperwork should be more donor-friendly and convenient. The NGOs along with healthcare providers should run their awareness campaigns in a more intensive way, involving print/social and electronic media.

The writer is a final year student of Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi

INBRIEF

SIGN OF ENDOMETRIOSIS

Endometriosis is an often painful disorder in which tissue similar to the tissue that normally lines the inside of your uterus — the endometrial — grows outside your uterus. Endometriosis most commonly involves your ovaries, fallopian tubes and the tissue lining your pelvis. Rarely, endometrial tissue may spread beyond pelvic organs.

Dr Neerja Goel, professor and HOD of Obstetrics and gynaecology department, Sharda Hospital, said at the time of endometriosis "complaints of painful menstruation, cramping, painful sex, constipation, back pain, leg pain, pain while urinating, and rectal bleeding. It can affect women of any age. It's a long-term condition that can have a significant impact on any woman's life and also the main cause of ovarian cancer."

Foods rich in Omega-3 fatty acids, fresh fruits and vegetables, avoiding intake of alcohol and caffeine, avoid stress and fatty foods add regular exercise and yoga in your routine that helps in to resolve the problem and if it is not treated on time it leads to infertility or heavy bleeding during the time of menstruation and having pregnancy at an older age. "Primary treatment of this disease and if it is not diagnosed at an early stage then surgical treatment is the option. Usually, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs are used to relieve pain. If symptoms are mild and women do not plan to become pregnant, for most women with moderate to severe endometriosis, the most effective treatment is removing endometrial tissue and endometriosis," says Dr. Goel.



PRATIK SUD advises caution against exerting yourself too much after recovering from COVID-19



Exercise is an important part of recovery after falling prey to COVID-19. As the number of COVID-positive cases is on the rise, remember that irrespective of how restless you may feel after being restricted to your home, if you were stricken by the disease, you should take it easy and remember that it is only natural to take some time to achieve the fitness level you possessed before you got infected.

Generally, doctors recommend a break of three-six months, even after the symptoms subside, depending on the severity of the infection in the patient. Provided below are some guidelines to ease your transition to the active lifestyle you once led.

- Always warm up before and cool down after exercising. Begin with breathing exercises and mild walking. You will be shocked to see how you gasp for breath even after walking for 100 metres.
- Wear comfortable clothes that



circulate air to help you breathe normally. Also, wear comfortable shoes for free movement.

■ Eat healthy and nutritious food in sufficient quantities an hour before the exercise. Forget about dieting post-COVID-19 illness.

■ Staying hydrated while recovering from the illness is imperative. Ensure that you drink ample water before and after exercising.

■ Don't exhaust yourself by exercising in hot weather. Try working out early in the morning or in the evening. If by chance you can't work out in the morning, then meditate during the afternoon, but don't indulge in rough workout sessions.

■ At the same time, avoid exercising indoors with the air conditioner on. Extreme cold weather can leave you breathless which can lead to an uneven flow of blood in the vessels and stressed muscles.

Doctors claim that weakness can last up to six months after recovering, depending on a person's immune system and energy levels. If your friend can run 20-25 laps of the field post-recovery, doesn't mean that your body can also tolerate the same.

Immediately stop working out if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- Nausea
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Breathlessness is common while exercising. However, stop if the breathlessness worsens and doesn't subside even after resting
- Excessive sweating

- Tightness in the chest area
- Increased pain especially in the arms and jaw

The moment you experience any uncommon symptoms, you should stop exercising and contact your doctor immediately. There is no harm in discussing the symptoms with your fitness expert as well. Remember, medical staff and doctors are there for our assistance.

The best way to start exercising is by warming up. Mild exercises can loosen the muscles and increase blood flow. This will help in exercising properly without any room for injuries, soreness or uneasiness in the body.

Few exercising tips that can loosen muscle and increase strength

■ Warm-up exercise

Roll your shoulders slowly to loosen the muscles and increase blood flow. You need to roll them clockwise and anti-clockwise five times consecutively. Continue this motion for five minutes.

■ Fitness exercise

We all have marched during the school graduation ceremony, so, it will not be difficult to march on one spot for 10 minutes. You can also walk/run up and down the staircase for 10 minutes. It helps in improving breathlessness.

■ Strength exercise

Stand facing the wall and raise both hands and place your palms on it. Now push yourself towards the wall, against the force and then return to your position. This exercise helps in building strength in arms and joints.

Start with mild exercises. Gradually, increase the frequency, intensity and duration of your workout at your ease. This is the best way of challenging yourself by increasing one level further. Breathlessness is normal while exercising, but too much of it can be harmful and should be addressed immediately. Increase the intensity of your workouts according to your tolerance. Fatigue and extreme pain can be signs of over-exertion. It is advised to work out with a fitness expert so that if you feel breathless or are in extreme pain, s/he can provide you with emergency assistance.

(The author is co-founder of Synqfit, a one-stop solution for your home workouts.)

Back in the game

Actor KARTIK AARYAN is all set to star in the forthcoming romantic thriller, *Freddy*. By TEAM VIVA

Who is Freddy, you might ask? This introduction needs a drum roll or rather some suspenseful staccato played at a steadily increasing pace.

Producer Ekta Kapoor, in collaboration with Jay Shewakramani, is all set to kickstart their next production, *Freddy*. The film, directed by Shashanka Ghosh, is a romantic thriller starring Kartik Aaryan in the titular role.

Incidentally, Shashanka's last outing *Veere Di Wedding* with Balaji Telefilms was a super-hit and now they're teaming up again. Full of unpredictable twists and sharp turns, characters in this movie are set to take us on a dark and chilling roller coaster ride, where the lines between love and obsession blur! *Freddy* is jointly produced by Balaji Telefilms and Northern Lights Films.

Ekta, who's known for genre-bending content is excited as the movie is all set to go on floors. "I'm thrilled to have Kartik on board. His choices of the subject have always been unique and this one is no different and collaborating with Jay makes it even more special," she says.

Jay adds, "It is the first time I am collaborating with Ekta and Kartik on a film and for it to be on a script like this, makes it all the more exciting! *Freddy* is a script we worked on incessantly and we can't wait for Shashanka to bring to life these crazy characters!"

Speaking about the movie, an ecstatic Kartik shares, "As an actor, I crave to explore different facades of entertainment and with *Freddy*, I'm venturing into an uncharted territory which is both exciting and intriguing in equal measures. I look forward to marking my presence in Freddy's world and bring alive this dark romantic thriller. This will be my first collaboration with a visionary like Ekta Kapoor and creative forces such as Jay and Shashanka. Couldn't have asked for a better team on this new journey."

The director, Shashanka, further adds, "As a filmmaker, there is a lot to play with the genre, like a thriller. I am more than excited to work with an incredible team on a project as inspiring as *Freddy*. I am sure that the film is going to be one of the best thrilling cinematic experiences for the audience across the nation."



The fight for inclusion

SONU SOOD joins Special Olympics Bharat as brand ambassador

Bollywood actor Sonu Sood has joined Special Olympics Bharat as its brand ambassador. At a virtual event attended by over 500 athletes, coaches, families, officials and volunteers, Sonu interacted with the special athletes responding to their queries while admiring and appreciating their sporting achievements.

The inaugural session introduced him to the #WalkForInclusion, an initiative of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Region, demonstrated by the athletes, marking his entry into the Inclusion Revolution of the Special Olympics movement.

Speaking about his role as the ambassador, Sonu said, "Today is a very special day for me and I am delighted to join this journey of inclusion with Special Olympics Bharat. Through their sporting achievements, each athlete redefines the human spirit that stands tall in the face of every challenge. I wish luck to all of them to do their best and showcase their abilities with confidence which in itself would send a strong message to the world that they deserve to be mainstreamed. I feel privileged to join the Special Olympics Bharat family and vouch to make this platform even bigger and resonate with people all over the country."

Not to be confused with the Paralympics, the Special Olympics is for individuals with intellectual disabilities, whereas the Paralympics is

generally for athletes with any disability, including physical, and only at an elite level. Sonu will lead the team of Special Olympics Bharat Athletes who will travel to Kazan to participate in the Special Olympics World Winter Games in January 2022.

He went on to express his gratitude, "I feel honoured to have this opportunity to be with our team in Russia for the Special Olympics World Winter Games. We will together encourage our athletes to give their best and cheer them on with such enthusiasm that the roar of support will echo back home in India as well."

Speaking on the occasion, Mallika Nadda, chairperson of Special Olympics Bharat, remarked, "I wish to convey my gratitude to Sonu Sood for accepting our invitation to join the Special Olympics family. We are certain that he will play a major role in giving a new direction to the Special Olympics movement in India and help the cause of persons with intellectual disabilities all over the world. Sonu Sood has offered his support to Special Olympics Bharat on several occasions in the past, and we are thrilled that he is now going to lead the Special Olympics movement. We look forward to working together with Sonu Sood in our effort to provide an equal opportunity and the dignity of life for persons with intellectual disabilities."

—IANS



Gauhar Khan has managed to find her fan base in every section of the audience.

From featuring in TV reality shows like *Bigg Boss*, *Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa*, *Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi*, to sharing screen space with Bollywood stars like Ranbir Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan and Vidya Balan in films like *Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year*, *Begum Jaan* and recently in the web series *Tandav* and her latest film *14 Phere*, Gauhar has done it all.

Even though she is mostly grabbing headlines for her social and personal life on social media, in a recent interview, the actress shares that with time, her parameters on choosing projects, especially films, has changed because she is looking to explore her acting skills now.

"Honestly speaking, I do not look at anything with regret. I do not regret why I could not have the role of the female protagonist opposite Ranbir in a Bollywood film or why directors, producers are not considering me for lead roles. For films, the footage did not mat-

Basking in the glory

Model-turned-actress GAUHAH KHAN looks back on how she has thrived in the entertainment industry for 19 years



ter to me, the character did. If you look at my character in *Ishaqzaade* and *Begum Jaan*, those scenes and moments in the story were important. For me, it is always about creating something on-screen that resonates with the audience, and it did," expresses Gauhar.

"Initially, for me, I would try to use every opportunity to the best of my ability because I started from zero. It has been around 19 years for me in the entertainment business and I have seen so much change... Especially with OTT platforms, actors like myself are getting the opportunity to showcase their skills, earlier in

cinema chances were limited," she adds.

Gauhar started her journey as a model and was one of the participants in 2002 for the Femina Miss India beauty pageant. She went on gaining popularity with many non-fiction TV shows like *The Khan Sisters*, *Ticket to Bollywood*, *India's Raw Star*, *I Can Do That* and different seasons of *Bigg Boss*. She was the winner of *Bigg Boss 7*.

"The web-series space is interesting for me and I am getting good offers from OTT platforms. *Tandav* was an important show for me that was released on Amazon Prime Video. I have a couple of things lined up for OTT and again, all of them are very versatile and interesting. Now my parameter of choosing a project is to collaborate with directors and storytellers who will use my potential; I want to be challenged with new and exciting roles," shares Gauhar who also appeared in the Hotstar special sitcom show *The Office*.

—IANS

No to negativity

MARC KAPLAN shares how new-age social media platforms are providing users with a revamped experience



Currently, most of the prominent social media platforms have become vehicles that proliferate negativity, drive divisiveness, and enable cyberbullying. While they each have standards for behaviour outlined for all to see, they are at best inconsistently applied, and at worst completely ignored. The sites have become so toxic that not a day goes by where many regular users are not exposed to some level of negativity. People regularly report the loss of interactions with friends, family and colleagues online.

The call for reform has been side-stepped by these companies. The likes of key social media platforms have held up the freedom of expression flag in their defense, though many believe this is just a way to justify a business model that is lucrative to them and their shareholders. There is little doubt that extreme societal damage has been done from these platforms' unwillingness to make meaningful changes to address these issues. To date, the conversation has largely been about the issues with these platforms. However, now is the time for solutions. It is time to bring about a more positive way to interact online where members can connect in a safe and secure environment openly and freely.

Various new-age networking

platforms are focussing on improving online forums while making concerted efforts to mitigate negativity and cyberbullying. Their sole

aim is to bring about a social revolution that counterbalances the online negativity and toxicity that is perpetuated, enabled and perhaps

unknowingly supported by major social media platforms today.

These modern social networking platforms enable people to give and receive guidance for free and the members help each other in achieving their respective goals. These targets could be related to fitness, career, health, parenting, hobbies, personality development, or any other topic.

These platforms are a community where like-minded people and those who share common interests and goals come together to support each other and render a helping hand to each other. The members in such a scenario can interact and engage one-on-one amongst like-minded individuals or other communities across the globe instantly and seamlessly. They are devoid of ads, negativity, fake news, trolling, and cyberbullying and work beyond the popularity contest approach of garnering maximum likes and shares.

New-age networking platforms leverage the power of content moderation, identity verification, and technology mix to come up with state-of-the-art community-enabled solutions that help resolve all the associated issues. People with real identities facilitate an increased level of trust, credibility, and safety amongst the members and prefer

platforms that provide a safe and protected environment where their privacy is secured.

Trust, respect and genuine connections form the core of these social networking platforms and they are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that their community is free from negativity and toxicity. All they want is to leave a positive impact on the members' lives.

These new-age networking platforms don't function as the usual social media platforms but rather lend a helping hand to solve the problems faced by people in the social space. They aim to come up with a new social contract so that people can interact quickly, easily, and instantly with each other. They are aware that negativity, divisiveness, polarisation and fake news rule the social media space today. However, they wish to take a bold stance and bet on the goodness of the people. They desire to uplift each other rather than tearing each other down. The broader vision of these new-age platforms is to normalise a different online experience and provide an alternative way to spend your time online which is positive, interactive, engaging, and fosters connections!

(The author is co-founder & CEO of ChekMarc, a social platform that enables impactful one-on-one connections.)

TRENDBLAZER

fairtalk

TIGER SHROFF



"From the time my first film was released people said 'ye ladka hai ya ladki', people commented on my face and said I look like a girl. When it comes to trolling, it is at times scary how a nameless, faceless individual could say anything about anybody without getting caught! As long as love is coming in for me from my fans, I am okay."

dailytalk

ONIR



"I think modern-day slavery is one of the themes prevalent in our society that we do not address as much as we should. It is one of the worst forms of human depravity and since cinema is a powerful medium, we need to take the opportunity to address the matter and provoke the thought in the minds of people."

WHAT A BIG JOB: KIT HARINGTON

Game Of Thrones star KIT HARINGTON and his wife Rose Leslie welcomed their first child, a baby boy, five months ago. The actor admits he wasn't prepared for just how 'big' a job raising a family is.

"Everyone goes, 'look, it's big what you're about to go through.' You have no way of knowing that until it happens. What surprises you is that you go, 'Oh, this goes on forever.' Like, you don't get a break from it," Harington told Access Hollywood.



'WE DON'T DESERVE A MEDIA TRIAL'

Actor SHILPA SHETTY KUNDRRA took to social media on Monday to issue a statement, saying she and her family do not deserve a media trial.

"All I will say is, as it's an ongoing investigation, I have full faith in the Mumbai Police and the Indian judiciary. I request everyone to respect my family's and 'my right' to privacy in these times. We don't deserve a media trial. Please let the law take its course. *Satyamev Jayate!*" she said via a post on Instagram.

TOKYO TIMELINE
MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Hockey:** India beat Australia 1-0 in women's quarterfinal.
- **Athletics:** Dutee Chand 7th and last in women's 200m Heat 4; fails to qualify for semifinals.
- **Shooting:** Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar 21st and Sanjeev Rajput 32nd in men's 50m rifle 3 positions qualification; fail to qualify for final.
- **Equestrian:** Fouaad Mirza 25th in eventing jumping individual qualification; 23rd in final.

IN ACTION TODAY

- **Athletics:** Annu Rani in women's javelin throw Qualification Group A. (5:50am)
- **Shooting:** Tajinderpal Singh Toor in men's shot put Qualification Group A. (3:45am)
- **Hockey:** India vs Belgium in men's semifinal. (7:00am)
- **Wrestling:** Sonam Malik vs Bolortuya Khurelkhuu (Mongolia) in women's 62kg. (8:30am onwards)

Live on SONY TEN & SIX Network

PTI ■ TOKYO

A brave and determined Indian women's hockey team etched its name in the history books by entering the Olympic Games semifinals for the first time, stunning three-time champions and world No 2 Australia 1-0 in an intense last-eight tie here on Monday.

A day after the Indian men's team entered the Olympic semifinals following a 49-year gap, the world No 9 women's side also produced a phenomenally gritty performance to make it way into the last four.

Drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur rose to the occasion when it mattered and converted India's lone penalty corner in the 22nd minute to surprise the Australians.

"We are so happy, it is the result of hard work that we put in for several, several days. In 1980, we qualified for the Games but this time, we made the semifinals. It is a proud moment for us," Gurjit said after the match.

"This team is like a family, we have supported each other and found support from the country as well. We are very happy," she added.

But the Indians, determined to prove a point, produced a strong and brave performance to eke out the narrow win over the Hockeyroos.

How much it meant for the team and Indian hockey in general could be gauged from the

HISTORYMAKERS

In a first, Indian women's hockey team enter Olympic semifinals with a stunning 1-0 win over Hockeyroos



Indian players celebrate after Gurjit Kaur (jersey No 2) scores India's only goal against Australia during women's hockey quarterfinal match

©Tokyo2020hi

A movie on self-belief & staying in the moment did trick: Marijne

Tokyo: Watching a movie on self belief after three consecutive losses rebuilt the Indian women's hockey team's shattered morale and helped it to 'aim for the clouds', the side's Dutch coach Sjoerd Marijne revealed on Monday after Rani Rampal and Co entered their maiden Olympic semifinals here.

The Indian team bounced back tremendously in the tournament after successive losses and Marijne said the movie helped psychologically ahead of the must-win pool game against Ireland but did not reveal its name.

"The difference is believing in ourselves and believing in their dreams and then it's about going back to reality focussing on your past. I think that is the main thing and that's what we did," Marijne said after upsetting Australia in the quarterfinals.

"If you lose you don't stop

believing and that's what I told the girls. The most important thing is to stay in the moment. I showed them a movie and that movie is about being in the moment and I think that was really helpful. Against Ireland we kept on referring to that movie," he said.

He said all he asked the team to do was to aim for the highest.

"In India you must think big and that's what I said to the girls. If you aim for the highest, for the clouds, you will fall on the highest mountain. If you aim for the mountain you will fall on the ground," he explained.

"We went for the clouds and I said whatever happens after it doesn't matter, but that's where we have to aim for."

India captain Rani Rampal too credited the movie for the turnaround of fortunes.

PTI

emotions that were on display after the final hooter went off. The players screamed, hugged each other, and got into a huddle with their Dutch coach Sjoerd Marijne with tears of joy rolling down their faces.

India's best performance in the Olympics came way back in

the 1980 Moscow Games where they finished fourth out of six teams. In that edition, women's hockey made its debut in the Olympics and the sport was played in a round-robin format.

The Rani Rampal-led side will play Argentina in the semifinal on Wednesday.

Kamalpreet finishes 6th in discus final

Tokyo: Discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur finished a creditable sixth in her first Olympics in a rain-interrupted final while sprinter Dutee Chand ended her campaign on a disappointing note by failing to qualify for the 200m semifinals here on Monday.

The 25-year-old Kaur, who has qualified for the final as second best on Saturday, was never in the running for a medal in the eight rounds of competition which was interrupted by rain for more than an hour.

Her best throw of 63.70m in the third round saw her finished at sixth and equal 2010 Commonwealth Games Gold medallist Krishna Poonia's performance in the 2012 London Olympics.

Throughout the competition, Kaur looked nervous and short of confidence as she lacked international exposure. She has taken part in World University Games in 2017, her lone international competition.

It was a tough competition for all the participants as rain started pouring down towards the end of the second round and a few throwers taking their attempts in spite of slippery circle.

Rain stopped after an hour but the humidity seemed to have affected the throwers' performance and they have to be cautious as the approach area to the circle was wet.

With her right

shoulder heavily strapped, Kaur began with a 61.62m effort before fouling her next attempt. That put her under pressure and on the verge of being eliminated as she was ninth just before her third throw.

But she gave her best and came up with a 63.70m, that saved her and put her in the sixth position as the bottom four out of the 12 finalists were eliminated after three rounds.

Not much changed in the position of the throwers in the final three rounds. Kaur fouled the fourth throw and then had a 61.37m in her penultimate attempt before sending the discus out of sector in the final one.

American Valerie Allman took the Gold with a first round throw of 68.98m while Kristin Pudenz (66.86m) of Germany and reigning world champion Yaime Perez (65.72m) of Cuba won the Silver and Bronze respectively.

In the morning session, sprinter Dutee ran her season's best in 200m but that was not enough for a semifinals berth as she made a disappointing exit from the Olympics after finishing last in her heat race. The 25-year-old clocked 23.85 seconds to finish seventh and last in Heat 4 and 38th overall out of 41 competitors.

Tokyo: Handling the immense burden of expectations would perhaps be the key when the Indian men's hockey team takes on world champion Belgium, aiming to secure a place in the Olympic finals and with it, a medal for the first time in 41 years here on Tuesday.

With 11 Olympic medals, eight of them Gold, in its kitty, India has a rich history in the Games and the Manpreet Singh-led side seems on course to resurrect that glorious past.

The Indians achieved the semifinal slot by beating Great Britain 3-1 in the quarterfinals on Sunday, and are now in touching distance of a medal.

The Graham Reid-coached current side knows very well that another good outing against Belgium on Tuesday would etch its name in the history books in golden words no matter the colour of the medal.

The Indians are on a four-match winning streak after the 1-7 drubbing against Australia

Belgium stand b/w India & final



in their second pool match and come Tuesday, Manpreet and his teammates would look to continue the momentum.

But it would be easier said than done as in Belgium, India face a tough opponent, which has improved leaps and bounds in the last few years.

Besides being current world champions and world No 2 side, Belgium are also the reigning European champions.

Going by rankings, however, there is hardly anything to

separate between the two sides as India are currently ranked third in the world.

The recent head-to-head record also favours India.

India and the Red Lions played each other three times in 2019 during their tour of the European nation and the Asian side came out victorious in all the matches. India defeated Belgium 2-0, 3-1 and 5-1 in the three games during that tour.

In the most recent outing in March this year, India beat Belgium 3-2 during their Europe tour. In fact, in their last five matches against Belgium, the Indians have registered four wins.

However, the last time both the sides met each other in the Olympics, Belgium came out 3-1 winners in Rio.

Keep emotions in check: India men's hockey team chief coach Graham Reid has told his players to keep their emotions in check and avoid cards against a strong opponent like Belgium in semifinals.

"The things we can learn from last night (Sunday) is that there is a difference between passion and emotion. Sometimes, we let our emotions take over."

"We need to keep 11 players on the pitch. The problem is that we played a lot of our game against Great Britain with 10 men on the pitch. We can't do that against Belgium and think that we can be victorious," asserted Reid.

Sonam to begin India's wrestling campaign



Tokyo: Young Indian wrestler Sonam Malik was on Monday placed in the challenging bottom half of the women's 62kg draw, where she will open her Olympics campaign against Asian Silver medallist Bolortuya Khurelkhuu from Mongolia.

The 19-year-old will be the sole Indian wrestler in action on Tuesday. Relatively new to the big stage, every single bout will be a test of character for Sonam, who qualified for the Tokyo Games by making the final at the Asian Qualifier in April in Almaty.

Khurelkhuu is more experienced than Sonam and has stood on the podium on both the occasions she took the mat this season but the Indian is not intimidated.

Sonam came into Olympics after recovering from a right knee injury that did not let her fly to Russia for training in build-up to the Games.

"I am fine. There is no pain in my knee. It's neither tough nor easy draw for me," Sonam, who earned a name for herself by defeating Rio Bronze-medallist Sakshi Malik four times, said after the draw ceremony.

If Sonam manages to cross the first hurdle, she will most likely find 2018 world champion Taybe Mustafa Yusein from Bulgaria in the quarterfinals.

The draw is such that the repechage route may open up for Sonam if she does not go deep on her own.

PTI

'I was blank, my coach was in tears'

Tokyo: Reigning world champion P V Sindhu on Monday said she was completely blank after winning a second successive Olympic medal and it took her a while to realise the enormity of her historic achievement in the ongoing Games.

The 26-year-old Indian on Sunday etched her name among the all-time greats after winning badminton's women's singles Bronze medal to add to the Silver she won at Rio de Janeiro five years back.

"...I was blank, my coach was literally in tears, it was a big moment. I hugged him and said 'Thank you'. I didn't know what to do for 5-6 seconds, I shouted, so all emotions came together at that moment," she said during a virtual press conference.

In the third-place play-off, Sindhu beat China's He Bing Jiao. The win came after a painful loss in the semifinals to world No 1 Tai Tzu Ying.

Sindhu said coach Park Tae-sang's encouragement helped her to recover from the semifinal loss and claim the



Bronze for the country.

"After semis, I was really sad, I was in tears but my coach said it is not over yet. There were mixed emotions, if I should be sad or happy but Park told one thing. He said 'there is a lot of difference between a fourth position and a Bronze' and that really hit me," she said.

"I went with the mindset that I have to give my 100 percent and get that medal."

A lot of questions were raised when Sindhu decided to

move out of the Pullela Gopichand Academy and train at the Gachibowli indoor stadium which had bigger halls similar to the venue in Tokyo.

Sindhu said it was one of the best decisions, especially since drift played a role during the Games at the Musashino Forest Plaza.

"Yeah, from the beginning there was no controversy, I mean, we had this opportunity to play in conditions similar to Olympics, so from

February we have been playing there, it has really helped us because drift played a big role and I learnt a lot in Gachibowli, I learnt to control the shuttle better."

"It had international standard courts with air conditioners, which was important. So I feel it was the best decision..."

GOPI SIR CONGRATULATED, SAINA 'NO'

P V Sindhu said she received congratulatory message from chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand but she has not got any such gesture yet from senior shuttler Saina Nehwal.

Asked if she received any communication from Gopichand and Saina after her win, Sindhu said: "Of course, Gopi sir wished me congrats. That's all. I haven't seen the social medal. I am slowly replying to everybody."

When further probed, Sindhu said: "Gopi sir messaged me, Saina no. We don't talk much, so..."

माँ का दूध, अमृत है ये बूंद

नवजात शिशु के लिए माँ का दूध अमृत समान है। यह नवजात का पहला टीका है, जो उसे रोगों से लड़ने में और जीवनभर उसके उत्तम स्वास्थ्य तथा सही शारीरिक एवं मानसिक विकास में सहायक होता है।

विश्व स्तनपान सप्ताह 2021 पर हम हर माँ का साथ देने और शिशु को जन्म के तुरंत बाद स्तनपान कराने हेतु प्रोत्साहित करने का संकल्प लें।

आइए! अपनाएं स्तनपान के 3 मंत्र

<p>1 घंटे</p> <p>शिशु जन्म के पहले घंटे में ही स्तनपान करना चाहिए।</p>	<p>6 महीने</p> <p>पहले 6 महीने दिन रात शिशु को केवल स्तनपान कराएँ, ऊपर से दूध, घुट्टी या पानी बिल्कुल न दें।</p>	<p>2 साल</p> <p>6 माह पूरे होने पर ऊपरी आहार की शुरुआत करें। 2 साल या अधिक उम्र तक शिशु की मांग अनुसार स्तनपान जारी रखें।</p>
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किसी भी प्रकार का ऊपरी दूध, माँ के दूध की जगह नहीं ले सकता। विशेषकर बीमार, कम वजन या समय से पहले पैदा हुए कमजोर नवजात के लिए डिब्बा बंद दूध हानिकारक हो सकता है। माता के स्तनपान कराने में असमर्थ होने पर स्तन से निकाला हुआ दूध या अन्य स्वस्थ माता का दान किया दूध शिशु को पिलाएँ। स्तनपान कमजोर शिशुओं को बीमारियों से बचाता है और उन्हें जल्दी स्वस्थ होने में मदद करता है।

माँ अथवा शिशु के बीमार होने की दशा में भी स्तनपान जारी रखें तथा इन 3 बातों का ध्यान रखें।

- संक्रमण से बचाव करें।
- साफ-सफाई का ध्यान रखें।
- डॉक्टर से सम्पर्क करें और डॉक्टर की बताई गई बातों का पालन करें।

अधिक जानकारी के लिए स्वण्ड चिकित्सा अधिकारी/मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी से सम्पर्क करें

लोक स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, मध्य प्रदेश शासन द्वारा जनहित में जारी

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