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NOT REALLY A GAME OF SPORTSMANSHIP

WORLD 8
PAK HAS OTHER 'OPTIONS', PM IMRAN'S AIDE TELLS US

SPORT 12
ANDERSON LEADS ENGLAND FIGHT BACK

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START A CONVERSATION:
ABHAY DEOL TO VIVACITY

Hockey Oly Bronze relieves 4 decades of pain

Dahiya wins debut Silver

PTI ■ TOKYO

India's newest wrestling star Ravi Dahiya picked up an impressive Silver on his Olympic debut but the country was left emotionally stirred by its lionhearted men's hockey team players who secured a Bronze that washed away four decades of pain and disappointment that the sport and its followers have endured.

Thirteen years after failing to even qualify for the Games, an Indian hockey team stood at the podium, something that had become a mythical tale of a bygone era for an entire generation.

It was India's 12th Olympic hockey medal but the one that came after a gap of 41 years. It was India's fifth medal of the ongoing Games and perhaps the one which evoked the most emotional response.

To put it in context, the last time India won a hockey medal at the Olympics, the USSR still existed.

On Thursday morning, Manpreet Singh and his men outran, outwitted, outpaced and to an extent outplayed an aggressive German team 5-4 to shed the baggage of failures and announce the "rebirth" of Indian hockey as the generation before this one knew it.

"We didn't give up. We kept fighting back," said an



Silver medalist Ravi Dahiya celebrates on the podium for the men's 57kg Freestyle wrestling at the 2020 Olympics on Thursday in Tokyo

overwhelmed Manpreet after the win which ensured that his and the rest of his teammates' names would be written in golden words in the history of Indian hockey.

In a cricket-mad India, hockey has always been a sentimental sport, making the layman nostalgic about a glorious past, which is dotted with eight Olympic Gold medals.

And having ruefully seen its decline in the past several years, it was only fair that the nation celebrated with gusto.

Dahiya added to this celebratory mood with a silver medal in the quarterfinals. Her medal hopes were dashed when Kaladzinskaya failed to make the finals.

The 19-year-old Deepak Punia (86kg) came close to a

Silver, which was only the second ever by an Indian wrestler.

There was also plenty of good news coming in from the golf course where Aditi Ashok put herself in contention for a podium finish with a flawless five-under 66 in the second round but left her tied second at the end of the day's play.

But there were plenty of disappointments too, the biggest one being star wrestler Vishu Phogat.

After a good win in the opening round, she lost to Belarus' Yanesa Kaladzinskaya in the quarterfinals. Her medal hopes were dashed when Kaladzinskaya failed to make the finals.

The 19-year-old Deepak Punia (86kg) came close to a



Indian players pose for photographs as they celebrate their victory in the men's field hockey bronze medal match at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo on Thursday

bronze medal but conceded the winning lead to San Marinos' Myles Nazem Amine with just a few seconds left in the bout.

But nothing could dampen the euphoria of a hockey medal, the sentimental favourite of a cricket-mad country.

Simranjeet Singh (17th, 34th minutes) scored a brace, while Hardik Singh (27th), Harmanpreet Singh (29th) and

Rupinder Pal Singh (31st) also sounded the board to immortalise themselves and the team.

"Today when we won it, this gives a boost and gives energy to the youngsters to pick up hockey, play this game," said 35-year-old veteran custodian PR Sheesh, quite literally the wall that protected India's citadel.

This is a beautiful game. Now we are giving a reason for

them to pick up hockey, play the game.

Away from the spotlight, the India's race walkers endured an expectedly ordinary outing. National record holder Sandeep Kumar was going strong at second position till near the halfway mark but he faded to finish 23rd with a below-par timing.

The 35-year-old Kumar crossed the finish line in 1 hour

25 minute and 7 seconds, well outside his national record time of 1:20:16 which he had clocked in February to qualify for the Olympics during the

National Open Race Walk Championships in Ranchi.

His two other compatriots, Rahul Rohilla (1:32:06) and K T Irfan (1:34:41) brought up the rear at 47th and 51st with disappointing performances under hot and humid condi-

TOKYO 2020 MEDAL TALLY			
Country	G	S	B
China	34	24	16
USA	29	35	27
Japan	22	10	14
Australia	17	5	19
RIOC	16	22	20
GB Britain	16	18	17
Germany	9	9	16
France	7	11	9
Italy	7	10	18
Netherlands	7	9	10
India	0	2	3

tions. On Friday, the Indian women's hockey team would look to emulate their men counterparts when it takes on Great Britain in the bronze medal play-off.

Rani Rampal and her gutsy teammates have already exceeded all expectations by getting this far but within touching distance of their own maiden Olympic medal, they would hope to raise the bar one last time at the Games.

On the wrestling mat, all eyes will be on Bajrang Punia when he opens his campaign in the 65kg category. The celebrated grappler is a top medal contender for the country.

Among the women, Seema Bisla (50kg) will stake her claim for a podium finish.

CAPSULE

MIZORAM, ASSAM AGREE TO FIND SOLUTION
Aizawl: The Mizoram and Assam Governments on Thursday agreed to find a lasting solution to the century-old boundary dispute and take measures, including resuming inter-State vehicular movement and keeping respective police forces off the conflict areas, to de-escalate tension.

MOB ATTACKS TEMPLE IN PAK, DESTROYS IDOLS
Lahore: A Muslim mob attacked a Hindu temple in Punjab province of Pakistan, burning down parts of it and damaging idols. After the failure of police, the Pakistan Rangers and army were called to control the situation.

140 ULTRAS WAITING AT LAUNCH PADS: OFFICIAL
Srinagar: Around 140 terrorists are waiting at launch pads to infiltrate into Jammu & Kashmir and the terror infrastructure across the LoC remains in place even though India and Pakistan agreed in February to a ceasefire, a senior security official said.

3 SUDANESE HELD FOR SMUGGLING GOLD
New Delhi: Three Sudanese nationals, including a woman, have been arrested for trying to smuggle into the country gold worth ₹1.82 crore at the Indira Gandhi International airport.

Centre buries retro taxes, Bill to nix demand on Cairn, Vodafone

LS proceedings adjourned five times on Thur amid Opp stir

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After setbacks in Cairn and Vodafone cases, the Government on Thursday introduced a new Tax Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha to scrap the nine-year-old controversial retrospective taxation.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced "The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021" in the Lok Sabha that seeks to withdraw tax demands made using a 2012 retrospective legislation to tax the indirect transfer of Indian assets. The Bill said the money will be refunded in these cases without any interest.

The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 provides for the withdrawal of tax demand made on "indirect



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Lok Sabha in New Delhi on Thursday

transfer of Indian assets if the transaction was undertaken before May 28, 2012, the day the retrospective tax legislation came into force." It is also proposed to refund the amount paid in these cases without any interest thereon," it said.

The Bill has a direct bearing on long-running tax disputes with British firms Cairn Energy Plc and Vodafone Group. India has lost two separate arbitrations brought by the two companies against the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 were amended by the

Finance Act, 2012 with retrospective effect, to clarify that gains arising from the sale of shares of a foreign company is taxable in India if such shares, directly or indirectly, derive their value substantially from assets located in India.

"Pursuant thereto, income-tax demand had been raised in 17 cases. In two cases assessments are pending due to stay granted by High Court," the objects of the Bill said.

Meanwhile, Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned five times on Thursday amid continuous protests by Opposition members over the Pegasus spying issue and three farm laws.

Out of the 17 cases, arbitration under Bilateral Investment Protection Treaty with the United Kingdom and the Netherlands had been invoked in four cases.

Serve copies of pleas to Govt, SC tells Pegasus petitioners

Somebody from Govt must respond on next hearing, says apex court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the petitioners in the Pegasus case to serve copies of their pleas to the Centre "so that somebody from the Government is present" on next hearing August 10 to respond.

"Let them serve copies of the petition to the Government. Somebody should appear for the Government to take notice," said the bench headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, while asking series of questions to petitioners and observing the seriousness of the matter.

"Let the matters be listed on Tuesday, the August 10, 2021. In the meantime, Advocate-on-Record appearing for the petitioners are directed to serve copies of the writ petitions upon the Union of

India well in advance," the bench said in its order.



is purchased by the Government or its agencies and the Centre has to answer why they have not taken any action or lodged FIR in the matter of alleged snooping.

Interception records regularly destroyed as per law: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Pegasus row threatening to derail the Monsoon Session of Parliament as the Opposition is determined not to allow proceedings of both the Houses, the Centre on Thursday told the Rajya Sabha that the records of interception are destroyed regularly as such they have no record of persons whose phones were intercepted.

In a written reply to CPI(M) MP John Brittas, Union Minister of State for Communications, Devusinh Chauhan said that "such records are not maintained" by

the Government as they are "destroyed regularly" as required by law.

"As informed by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the records pertaining to lawful interception are destroyed regularly as per provisions contained in Sub-rule 18 of Rule 419A of the Indian Telegraph (1st Amendment of 2014) Rules, 2014 and Sub-rule 23 of Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Interception, Monitoring and Decryption of Information) Rules, 2009. Such records are not being maintained by MHA," Chauhan said.

Chouhan congratulates men's hockey team for winning Bronze medal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivrani Singh Chouhan has congratulated the Indian men's hockey team for winning the bronze medal in the Tokyo Olympics. Chouhan announced an award of one crore rupees each for the young players of the state, Vivek Sagar of Itarsi and Nikanta Sharma of Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy, who were part of the team. Chief Minister Chouhan made this announcement in a message issued to the media from his residence.

The Chief Minister said that this is not only a bronze medal but it is the reawakening of Indian hockey. The Indian hockey team has won this hon-

our best of the world's best teams from New Zealand, Spain, Argentina, Great Britain, Germany, Japan. It is a matter of pride especially for Madhya Pradesh because the young player of Itarsi district of our state Vivek Sagar has been a part of this team.

He played an important role in the Indian team's victory against many top teams by his excellent performance in the Olympic competition. Nikanta Sharma also got selected from Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy.

Chouhan said that the Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Indian men's hockey team would also be honoured and welcomed by the State Government.

ED slaps ₹10,600 cr notice on Flipkart

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a show-cause notice of nearly ₹10,600 crore to Walmart-owned e-commerce major Flipkart and its promoters for alleged violation of the foreign exchange law.

The notice under various sections of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) was issued last month by a special director-rank officer of the agency based in Chennai, they said.

Proceedings under the FEMA are civil in nature and the final penalty, post adjudication, can be at least three times the amount contravened under the law.



India. The company and its executives will now face adjudication that will be conducted by a special director-rank officer of the agency based in Chennai, they said.

The Ratangarh Basai bridge that got washed away was built in 2010 at a cost of Rs

Questions raised over construction of bridges

Six bridges wash away in 3 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Questions have been raised over the construction quality, after the washing away of six bridges in three days in rain-hit Gwalior-Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh. These bridges were constructed by the State Government over the past decades.

Official sources said that four of the six bridges that got washed away were constructed in the past 12 years at a whopping cost of Rs 33.55 crore. They further mentioned that there is no record of cost incurred on the bridges built on Datia's Sewda in 1982 and Sheopur's Manpur in 1985.

The Ratangarh Basai bridge that got washed away was built in 2010 at a cost of Rs

5.9 crore; the Indragarh-Pichore bridge was completed in 2013, at a cost of Rs 10 crore; the Sheopur Baroda bridge was completed in 2013 at a cost of Rs 3.94 crore; while the Gorai bridge in Bind was completed in 2017 at a cost of Rs 13.71 crore.

The Government has formed a three-member committee to investigate a possible design flaw in the bridges that got washed away.

PWD Minister Gopal Bhargava said that the Government has formed a three-member committee to investigate a possible design flaw in the bridges that got washed away due to heavy rains in the Gwalior-Chambal division in the past three days. The committee will also investigate the quality of construction.

Besides, Madhya Pradesh Congress has demanded a high level enquiry to fix account-



A view of damaged road during the rainy season, at Bharati Talks in Bhopal on Thursday

ability. "Built just a few years back these bridges got washed away like cards? Crores were spent. There should be a high level enquiry and accountability should be fixed," former Chief Minister Kamal Nath said in a tweet. In Sheopur, according to preliminary assessment, about 19,000 people of 89

villages have been affected. So far, five casualties have been reported. Efforts are on to shift 200 people to a safe place in Shivpur. In Datia, 12 thousand families of 36 villages have been affected. There are 8 relief camps operating in the district. A total of 1,165 people have been shifted to safer places.

Online Sham-e-Ghazal held under Gamak series

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under the Gamak series of performances, Sham-e-Ghazal programme was held online on Thursday.

The event was conducted by Madhya Pradesh Urdu Academy. Renowned Ghazal singers Neelima Sharma, Gwalior and Javed Usmani, Bhopal, gave spontaneous and tranquil performances.

Nusrat Mehdi, Director of the Academy informed about the programme. The event began with the wondrous performance by Neelima Sharma.

Dekha.. Faiz- Raaz-e-Ulfat Kuch Jala Ke Dekh Liya and Gopal Das Neeraj's Ghazal-Jab Chale Jayenge Hum Laut Ke Sawan. Neelima Sharma is a well-known name in the world of Ghazal and Light Music. She is an 'A' grade artist of Doordarshan All India Radio. Neelima took self singing lessons at the age of 9. Apart from India, He has presented musical programs in many countries, among them Dubai, Sharjah, Qatar, Abu Dhabi. He is an All India Approved Artist and also known as a Music Composer.

At the end of the programme Nusrat Mehdi, Director of the Academy expressed gratitude to all the listeners.

stagna hai, Meri Guftgu, Meri Justju Mera, Ghaliib's composition Har EK Baat Par KehTe Ho Tum and many more.

Javed is a well known Ghazal singer from Bhopal. You started taking singing lessons from the young age of six. He was taught singing by his father Waleed Usmani. He also gave first stage performances of Gwalior Gharana. He has performed in All India Music Conference - Dehradun, Habitat Center - Delhi, Kullu International Festival, Taj Mahotsav, Lata Mangeshkar Alankaran - Indore, Keshav Jayanti Celebrations, Barkha Mahotsav etc.

The second performance was by Javed Usmani. He performed compositions by Nisar Akhtar Lu is qadar apne qarqar



Women pose for a group photograph as they celebrate Hariyali Teej festival in Bhopal on Thursday

Pioneer Photo

Symposium organised on 'indignity and towards a new social contract'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal is celebrating International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples to mark this forthcoming grand event; today on the 5th August, 2021 a symposium was organised on the topic 'Indignity and Towards A New Social Contract'.

The symposium was jointly organised by International Centre for Inclusive Cultural Leadership, Anant National University; International Institute for the Inclusive Museum; UNESCO chair on Inclusive Museum and Sustainable Heritage Development and IGRMS Bhopal. The program was

coordinated by Prof. Amreswar Galla, UNESCO Chair on Inclusive Museums and Sustainable heritage development.

Four panellists from different backgrounds presented their voices and opinion on the topic. The inclusive approach to safeguard the Indignity was the prime concern of the discussion. N. Shaktimachha Singh, Museum Associate, IGRMS one among the panellist explained the role of the museum in reflecting Indignity in its functioning such as in reach and outreach activities, collection, auxiliary etc. During the Q & A session, various discussions were made with the panellists and the attendees.

Traditional house type of Saora tribe of Odisha at IGRMS' online exhibition

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under the 60th series of its online exhibition by Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, today presented the 'Traditional House type of Saora Tribe of Odisha' situated in the Tribal Habitat Open Air Exhibition of Manav Sangrahalaya has been presented online with its basic information and photographs and videos.

About this exhibition, Preeten Kumar Mishra, Director, IGRMS said that - The Saoras are known as one of the oldest tribes in Odisha. Bulk of their population lives in Ganapati district and Gumpru sub-division of Rayagada district. They are also found in all the districts of the state. They are known from various names such as saora, saura, sabara, savara, saur, saora etc.

They find mention in the Sanskrit literature, the epics, the puranas and other religious texts. Especially in Odisha, they have been very intimately connected with the worship

of Lord Jagannath who according to a legendary tradition originated as a Sabara deity and was later brought to Puri under royal patronage. They live in the hilly and mountainous region of Eastern India. They are mainly divided into two classes Hill Saoras or Lanja Saoras and low land Saoras or Sucha Saoras.

Their scattered housing pattern in hill slopes, installation of village deities (Wooden posts) at the entrance of the village, ingeniously prepared stone bounded terrace fields with inbuilt water management system, lineage organization called Birinda, attractive wall paintings called 'litani' and peculiar socio-religious customs are the most significant aspects of their cultural life. Their language belongs to the Kol-Munda group of the Austro-Asiatic linguistic family.

Saoras are of medium height, women being shorter than men, light yellowish to dark-brown in complexion and having wavy hair, thick on the head and scanty on the face.

State Govt is with people affected by flood: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that we will take a sigh of relief only after normalcy is restored in the areas affected by excessive rainfall and flood situation. The state government is with every flood affected in this hour of crisis. In the villages, till the situation of preparing food in the homes is not created, effective arrangement of food supply should be ensured.

Total 50 kg wheat should be provided to each affected family immediately. Top priority should be given to restoration of power system and re-establishment of mobile networks. Providing staff facilities to the families whose houses have collapsed is the top priority of the state government.

Chief Minister Chouhan was discussing with the minister in-charge of Gwalior-Chambal division, local ministers, commissioners and collectors regarding relief from the residence through VC.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that Vice President M.

Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar are continuously taking information about the situation. All possible cooperation is being received from the Centre. Rapid help is being received in the form of mobile networks and rail routes. The Chief Minister said that arrangements should be made for food, drinking water, adequate medicines, testing and treatment of sick persons in relief camps. It is necessary to ensure that the disease does not spread in the relief camps.

Chouhan said that all the collectors and administrative staff should implement relief and rescue operations with full efficiency and tact. It is the testing time. Home Minister Naroottam Mishra, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains and other officers were present in the meeting.

Chouhan virtually obtained information about the status of Datia, Guna,

Gwalior, Morena, Bhind, Shivpuri and Sheopur. Energy Minister Shri Pradyuman Singh Tomar from Gwalior, Cooperation Minister Arvind Singh Bhaduria from Bhind, Minister of State for Horticulture and Food Processing (Independent Charge) from Morena Bharat Singh Kushwaha and Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Yashodhara Raju Scindia from Shivpuri virtually joined Video Conference. Water Resources Minister Tulsiaram Silawat and Minister of State for Urban Development and Housing O.P.S. Bhaduria also participated in the conference.

It was informed in the video conference that 3 teams each of NDRF are engaged in rescue and relief works in Shivpuri, Morena and Bhind respectively. 5 helicopters of the Air Force are also operational. Rescue operations are on from the boats. In the rescue work that started at 5.30 am today, 221 people were evacuated to a safe place. NDRF, SDRF, BSF are also engaged in continuous rescue work in the districts.

'Heroes of the Skies' screened

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under regular film screenings at Shaurya Smarak, a movie depicting the valour of air force soldiers during 1971 war with Pakistan 'Heroes of the Skies' was screened on Thursday.

The film is produced by the Films Division of India and is directed by GP Asthana. The film portrays the valour displayed by our Air Force in lending support to our Jawans during the Indo Pak War in 1971.

During the war, the air force played a vital role. The sudden strikes by Pakistan forces from the skies, were hammered by Indian Air Force. The soldiers showcased brave and intelligent moves during the war. Under the leadership of soldiers like Nirmaljeet Singh Sekhoo the air force brought down the enemies on foot. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is the air arm of the Indian armed forces. Its complement of personnel and aircraft assets ranks fourth amongst the air forces of the world.

Its primary mission is to secure Indian airspace and to conduct aerial warfare during armed conflict. It was officially established on 8 October 1932 as an auxiliary air force of the British Empire which honored India's aviation service during World War II with the prefix Royal. It is to be noted that every day movies based on the bravery of the Indian army air force, navy and police are being screened at Shaurya Smarak. The regular film screening is being organised as a tribute to their contributions and their sacrifices.

65-year-old killed in accident

PNS ■ BHOPAL

A 65-year-old man died while riding his scooter when he was hit by a speeding bike near New Market.

The deceased was identified as Ramesh Chandra Gaud of Karond. He sustained severe head injuries which caused his death. After the preliminary investigation body was sent for the post mortem. The police have registered a case under section 304 A of the IPC and started further investigation.

Market; TT Nagar police have started investigation. Police said that injured person was rushed to nearby hospital after their bicycle was hit by a speeding bike near Jain Mandir. The deceased was identified as Ramesh Chandra Gaud of Karond. He sustained severe head injuries which caused his death. After the preliminary investigation body was sent for the post mortem. The police have registered a case under section 304 A of the IPC and started further investigation.

Meanwhile, a 65-year-old man died after his bicycle was hit by a speeding bike near New Market; TT Nagar police have started investigation. Police said that injured person was rushed to nearby hospital after their bicycle was hit by a speeding bike near Jain Mandir. The deceased was identified as Ramesh Chandra Gaud of Karond. He sustained severe head injuries which caused his death. After the preliminary investigation body was sent for the post mortem. The police have registered a case under section 304 A of the IPC and started further investigation.

Vedanta Aluminium becomes India's largest green power purchaser

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Vedanta Aluminium Business, India's largest producer of aluminium and value-added products, became India's largest green power purchaser on the Green Market at the Indian Energy Exchange Limited (IEX) platform on Q1 FY 21-22. For its largest carbon-grated aluminium production facility at Jharsuguda, in Odisha, Vedanta procured 354 million units of solar and non-solar renewable energy primarily from GreenTerm Ahead Market (GTAM) at IEX. IEX is premiere energy marketplace and is the largest

power exchange in the country. GTAM, introduced last year by IEX, supports buyers in procuring green energy in the most competitive and flexible manner.

The purchase of green power from the exchange has enabled organisations like Vedanta and the industry at large to achieve their carbon-mitigation targets while producing 'green' value-added products. Vedanta Aluminium's purchase of green power units is more than 35% of the green power traded on IEX in Q1 FY22.

Vedanta Aluminium's energy stewardship manifests itself

through a two-pronged strategy - a sharp focus on attaining highest efficiency of assets and processes for excellent energy management, and a road map towards carbon neutrality that includes adopting the right mix of feasible avenues for increasing consumption share of green energy.

Case in point, Vedanta Aluminium bagged three Gold Awards at the Society of Energy Engineers and Managers (SEEM) National Energy Management Awards 2020 for outstanding energy performance by its Aluminium Smelters I & II and Captive Power Plant at Jharsuguda.

Heavy rains disrupt normal lives in Gwalior

PNS ■ Gwalior

Heavy rains have been battering the Gwalior-Chambal region for the past few days, throwing normal life out of gear. Several parts of the region have been facing flood like situation and people have been feeling helpless. More than a few areas have been severely damaged and extensive loss to crops and other property have been reported from many places.

In view of the grim situation, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Civil Aviation Minister

Jyodiraditya Scindia have requested the army to deploy rescue teams to the affected areas. In this connection the two leaders held extensive talks with the Union Defense Minister, Rajnath Singh and the chief of the Indian army, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also apprised the Prime Minister about the grim situation and the latter has promised all assistance to the state.

Talking to media persons, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyodiraditya Scindia said that the Indian army has mobilized flood relief and rescue teams to

assist the local administration in most of the flood affected areas of the state. He added that he has been constantly monitoring the situation and assured that all necessary assistance will be provided to the region.

In the meantime Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Naroottam Mishra was airlifted when he got stranded in his home district, Datia where he had gone to take stock of the flood situation. He was rescued by an Air Force helicopter. Many parts of Datia district are under water and the army is assisting the local administration in rescue operations.

Poetry, story writing competition held to mark World Breastfeeding Week 2021

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A poetry and story writing competition is being organised in the city to commemorate World Breastfeeding Week 2021.

The competition is being organised by the Women and Child Development Department, Madhya Pradesh. The last date for submission is August 6. The aspirants can submit their poem or story on the website of Amrut Pan. Besides, the best poem and stories will be awarded during a virtual Live ceremony on August 7.

Notably, World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated to encourage breast-feeding and improve the health

of babies around the world.

Breastfeeding is the best way to provide infants with the essential nutrients required for growth and development. According to the World Health Organisation, breast milk is the ideal food for infants. It is safe, clean and acts as the babies' first vaccine, protecting them against many common childhood illnesses.

Besides, the topic for the competition is all about breastfeeding and its benefits on the child and mother. The topics can be seen in detail on www.amrutpan.com.

World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated every August 1 to 7 in commemoration of the 1990 Innocenti Declaration.

Anahita Naidu secures 99.2% in Class 10th

PNS ■ INDORE

Student of emerald heights Higher school Indore Anahita Naidu secured 99.2 percent in class 10th result declared by CBSE board two days ago. Anahita secured 98 percent marks in English and

Kotwali police, crime branch nab thieves, seize valuables

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Kotwali police teamed with crime branch arrested an accused of committing theft and eight people with stolen goods, a total of valuables worth Rs 21 lakh have been seized by the police.

On July 22, complainant Akhilesh Aggarwal lodged complaint to his house at Gopal Vihar was targeted and valuables worth lakhs of rupees were burgled.

Victim went to Allahabad with his family and returned home main door of the house was broken. Two gold bracelets, two bangles, two necklaces, one chain, one bracelet, four rings, four pairs of ear-tops, gold chain 10

pairs of clothes, five boxes of ghee, five boxes of dry fruits and cash etc.

The police team on the basis of CCTV footage and inputs from the informer, searched for Premnath alias Pappu Mallah of Dalpatpur, Sanjay Sharma alias Golu and Durgesh Patel and during the raid, it was found that the absconding accused Premnath, along with his son Mohit, friends Sanjay Sharma and Durgesh Patel, committed burglary and Premnath carried absconding accused son Mohit Mallah, wife Basanti Mallah, second wife Diksha Mallah, son-in-law Chandra Mallah.

After arresting the kin of

the accused and interrogating them intensively, they confessed to having stolen goods with them.

On the behest of the relatives, the police team has seized cash worth Rs. 21 lakh in the crime, rods, cutters, screwdrivers, pinches, saws have also been confiscated by the police.

The search is on for the absconding Nakabjan Premnath alias Pappu Mallah, Sanjay Sharma and Durgesh Patel. Absconding accused Premnath alias Pappu Mallah is a notorious burglar and has been booked for 23 offenses in Jabalpur and 16 in Bhopal are registered and are pending in the court.



Commuters drive vehicles during rain in Bhopal on Thursday

Pioneer Photo

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Aahwahan Foundation to plant 1 million trees

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Aahwahan Foundation, a Bengaluru-based NGO working with PAN India presence has taken the initiative to plant 1 million trees from Kashmir to Kanyakumari by the end of 2021.

While going green is the need of the hour, we all know it can be tough or time-consuming even if we want to make this world a better place especially due to global warming and the present COVID-19 situation. This is where initiatives like 'Go Green Bharat Challenge' & the existing Go Green Revolution campaign comes in.

Aahwahan Foundation plants trees on your behalf to conserve the environment and work towards sustainable development. The foundation and its volunteers will not only plant trees but will also maintain them. All you need to do is log on to the website or Paytm (7795065657), and the volunteers of Aahwahan will take care of the rest. You even get an acknowledgment for planting a tree with Aahwahan Foundation.

As we all know, our country was hit hard by the deadly virus during the second wave of COVID, and the entire country was in a panic. There was an oxygen shortage all



around the nation, and as a result of this many innocent people lost their lives.

As a response to this, Aahwahan Foundation has initiated this plantation drive. Commenting on this initiative, Braja Kishore Pradhan, Founder, Aahwahan

Foundation said that "We have launched this plantation drive primarily intending to rejuvenate the oxygen levels in this atmosphere. Along with that this campaign also serves the purpose of restoration of lakes and its surrounding areas.

Scope of service to humanity very vast: says Governor Patel

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Governor Mangubhai Patel said that the scope of service to humanity is very vast. It is necessary that work should be done with heart while applying mind. The work done with this spirit always gives good results. He said that all the medical facilities should be available to the deprived sections in the Red Cross.

It should be ensured that they do not have to go far away for treatment. Shri Patel was reviewing the activities of the State Branch Unit of Indian Red Cross Society, Madhya Pradesh at Raj Bhavan today. Principal Secretary to Governor D.P. Ahuja, Secretary and Commissioner Health Shri Akash Tripathi, Commissioner Medical Education Shri Nishant K. Warwade, Commissioner Bhopal Division, Kavindra Kiyawat and other senior officers were present.

Patel said that there is no greater religion than serving the suffering humanity. In this task, work should be done with the cooperation of everyone. He said that along with the aim of helping the poor and deprived sections, it is also necessary to have modern medical and treatment facilities. Besides, it is also necessary to keep updating them according to time. He said that work

should be done with the thinking of providing better facilities to the poor backward classes.

Efforts can be made for the availability of state-of-the-art resources for medical and treatment by liaising and coordinating with private and public institutions. He said that all the arrangements of Seva Sansthan are for the service of the suffering humanity. Negligence in the work of this service should not be tolerated. In case of irregularity, immediate action should be taken. In the case of apathy in taking action against the guilty, punitive action should be taken while investigating the responsibility seriously.

The Governor was informed that the Red Cross Hospital was operated as a Covid Dedicated Hospital from April 19 to May 19, 2021. During this period, 119 Covid patients were treated. From June 1 onwards, Red Cross Hospital has been converted into a non-covid hospital and operated as a general hospital. OPD and check-up facilities are being provided to the citizens on concessional rates. It was informed that JP Hospital branch of State Bank of India has provided Phaco Machine, ENT Microscope, Cautery Machine, Hydraulic O.T. Table and Suction Machines under corporate responsibility.

Hanumanganj police reveal fake robbery

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Hanumanganj police have revealed fake robbery fabricated by a youth to settle loan of Rs 1 lakh, accused is employee with a trader in Lalghati and with the help of a woman fabricated the robbery.

The victim Deepak Hirwani lodged complaint that his employee Narendra Panthi had fabricated fake robbery and duped him of Rs 1.5 lakh.

The accused Narendra Panthi and his woman friend were arrested.

The fake case was revealed after the police team quizzed and visited the scene and continuously interrogated the people living in area during which the incident was revealed.

In the evening on Narendra reported that he was on his way to Hamidia road branch bank to deposit money and was robbed after being attacked with sharp edged weapon. The accused informed Deepak who reached spot and found that Narendra was not providing correct incident.

During investigation it was

found that he was never robbed and along with his female partner Mohani, to repay the loan of Rs 1 he planned fake robbery.

The friend of accused Mohani Panthi of Mata Mandir area was questioned in connection with the incident, who accepted the crime and gave information about the bag full of cash by Narendra Panthi in dicky of scooter.

Police have registered a case under section 406, 409 and 120 B of the IPC and arrested the two.

Police nab two miscreants, recover burgled valuables

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Shahpura police has nabbed two miscreants and recovered burgled valuables worth over Rs 1 lakh from their possession at Ashoka Garden and Sehore on Wednesday.

Police said that acting on a tip off two miscreants were nabbed and when they were quizzed they confessed burglary at Gulmohar area.

On the receipt of the information police team rushed to the spot and raided the spot where the two were planning.

After spotting police the two tried to escape but were chased and nabbed by the police.

In the initial investigation the nabbed accused were identified as Raghavendra Tomar of Ashoka Garden and Pushpendra alias Monya Piplodia of Dohara Sehore. The crime record of the two were involved in crimes in different parts of the city.

The accused confessed that they targeted Bharat Khare's house on August 2 near Nirvana Hospital in Gulmohar

and went inside the hospital by asking the hospital staff to repair the lift and Motherboard, relay, two LOP cards and other machinery installed in the lift cost over Rs 96,000.

Police have recovered a motherboard, relay, two LOP cards and other machinery and the tools used for theft, screwdriver, cutter, shouldering, tester, electrode have been confiscated. Police said that during the interrogation more crimes would be confessed by the nabbed accused.



Madhya Pradesh Congress party activists stage a demonstration against hike in the tariff of electricity bills demanding for waiver of power bills in the Coronavirus pandemic in Bhopal on Thursday

DELHI CANTT RAPE OF 9 YR OLD GIRL CASE

Delhi Police clears one carriage way of road after notice by Indian Army

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Indian Army established at Delhi Cantt served a notice asking the Delhi Police to vacate the area citing security concerns, the police on Thursday cleared one carriage way of the road at Old Nangal village where people are protesting the alleged rape and murder of a nine-year-old girl.

A senior police official said that the carriage way was cleared on late Wednesday evening and efforts are being made to clear the other portion of the road as well. The Army had served a notice to the people and marked a copy of the letter to the Delhi Police asking it to remove the protesters from the close vicinity of military units' establishments to avoid any security hazard.

The girl had died under suspicious circumstances, with her parents alleging that she was raped and her body was forcibly cremated by a crematorium's priest.

The girl's parents along with hundreds of locals have been staging a sit-in at the Old Nangal village in southwest Delhi, demanding capital punishment for the culprits.

In its communication to the police, the army said the protest might lead to any untoward incident or unwanted security hazard keeping in mind the forthcoming Independence Day.

DISHA RAVI CASE

Did not leak any info on probe to media: Police to HC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Thursday told the Delhi High Court that it has not leaked any information to the media in relation to its probe in the FIR against climate activist Disha Ravi for her alleged involvement in sharing a toolkit backing the ongoing farmers' protest.

The Court was hearing Ravi's plea to restrain police from leaking to the media any probe material in relation to the FIR lodged against her. Justice Rekha Palli said keeping in view that the petition raises an important question of public importance, it is listed for arguments on September 27.

Advocate Rajat Nair, representing the Delhi Police, submitted that the leak has not happened from the end.

The police, in its response filed through advocate Amit



Mahajan, said the allegation that the information of chats of Ravi has been leaked by the police is "false and factually incorrect".

The affidavit, filed by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Cell Unit) of Special Cell Anshu Roy, said no information or document forming part of the case file including the subject chats have been shared by the police with any media house or individual except the information communicated officially through press briefing or broadcast, which is a matter of record.

The court was informed by the senior advocate Akhil Sibal, appearing for Ravi, that the pleadings in the case are complete.

He said while Ravi was in custody, her private chats were leaked to the media.

While the police claim it has not leaked it, the media clearly says they got it from the police, he argued, adding that some protection or guidelines need to be considered in this regard.

Ravi was arrested by Delhi Police on February 13 for allegedly being involved in sharing on social media a "toolkit" related to the ongoing farmers' protest against the Centre's three new agril laws, and was granted bail by a trial court here on February 23.

Construct DSU keeping in mind routine of sports persons: Mins tell PWD

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Satyendra Jain chaired a review meeting regarding the construction of the Delhi Sports University (DSU) on Thursday and instructed the officials to construct it visualising the day-to-day routine of a sports person's life.

Sisodia stressed upon the fact that the objective of the DSU is to nurture and encourage the best sporting talent in the country so that the university can make the nation proud by producing medal winning athletes.

The Minister also asked officials to provide state of the art equipment and facilities for the highest level of training. The meeting was held to review the design layout for the university and was attended by Secretary (higher education), Vice-Chancellor, DSU and concerned senior officers.

Reviewing and deciding the priorities for construction of the DSU campus, Sisodia said, "The University should be constructed keeping in mind the daily-life routine of the ten topmost sportspersons of the world. For a sportsperson the stadium is their world and they thoroughly relish the training facilities for performance enhancement. They lead a highly disciplined ascetic life. Such a routine is essential for any sportsperson to win medals at the highest levels of competition including the Olympics".

"Our objective is to create a university which makes the nation proud by producing medal-winning athletes, by providing advanced training facilities and sports infrastructure", he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Jain said, "The DSU will be a world class institution at par with other world class sports universities. It will leave no stone unturned in accomplishing this feat. The university will be replete with the latest technology and equipment for enhancing the performance and overall well-being of athletes".

The DSU would offer trained-in almost all major sports including but not limited to weightlifting, boxing, wrestling, badminton, hockey, athletics; and would be built while maintaining the standards of the International Sports Federations of different sports.

19-year-old girl drowned in water filled Kanchan quarry

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 19-year-old girl drowned at a water filled Kanchan quarry under Ayodhya Nagar police station area on Thursday.

Police said that a married girl drowned at a water filled quarry and police were informed after spotting the body. With the help of the divers body was fished out and later in the investigation the deceased was identified as Akansha Saket of Kesar Basti.

Police found that the deceased had gone outside but later she drowned.

After the preliminary investigation the body was sent for the post mortem and a case under section 174 of the CrPC was registered. The police have started further investigation.

The post mortem report it

awaited which could help in revealing details behind the death. The cause of the killing of the deceased could be ruled out and all possibilities would be investigated in the further investigation.

Meanwhile a 32-year-old man died on Thursday who sustained injuries in an accident on Wednesday; man died while undergoing treatment.

According to the police the deceased was identified as Akansha Saket of Kesar Basti and was rushed to a nearby hospital where he died during treatment.

The body was sent for the post mortem after the preliminary investigation. The police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and have started further investigation.

VIPPY SPINPRO LIMITED
 CIN: L01710MP1992PLC007043
 Regd. Office: 414, City Centre, 570, M.G. Road, Indore-462 001 (M.P.)
 Phone: 0731 217110, E-mail: admin@www.vippyspinpro.com
 Website: www.vippyspinpro.com

Notice to the Shareholders for 29th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Notice is hereby given that the 29th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company will be held on Monday, 30th August, 2021 at 11.30 A.M. (IST) Through two-way Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") at the Registered Office of the Company. The Notice, in accordance with applicable provisions of Companies Act, 2013 and in compliance with the procedure prescribed in MCA Circular No. 14/2020 dated 8th April, 2020, Circular No. 17/2020 dated 12th April, 2020 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs followed by Circular No. 20/2020 dated 5th May, 2020, General Circular No. 02/2021 dated 13th January, 2021; SEBI Circular dated 12th May, 2020 and 16th January, 2021.

The Annual Report including Notice of the AGM which includes the process and manner of attending the AGM via VC and e-voting and other documents were sent through e-mail on 05th August, 2021 to all the Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Depository Participants/Company's RTA. Request for sending physical copies of Annual Report including Notice of AGM has been dispensed with vide MCA and SEBI Circulars. The Annual Report including Notice of AGM are also available on Company's Website www.vippyspinpro.com, Website of BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and on NSDL website at www.nsdl.com. In compliance with the provision of Section 105 of Companies Act, 2013, read with Rule 20 of Companies (Management and Administration) Regulation, 2014, as amended from time to time and Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the members are pleased to send a request for e-voting facility to exercise their right to vote prior to AGM and during AGM by electronic means on the businesses specified in the Notice of AGM. The Company has engaged the services of NSDL to provide remote e-voting, participation in AGM through VC and e-voting during AGM. Remote e-voting will commence on 27th August, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. and will end on 28th August, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. The remote e-voting will not be allowed beyond its time limit. Members of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in demat form, are eligible to exercise their right to vote prior to AGM and during AGM by electronic means on the businesses specified in the Notice of AGM. The Member exercising to vote through remote e-voting can attend the AGM but will not be allowed to vote again during the AGM. Only the Members who have cast their votes through remote e-voting may cast their votes during the AGM by attending the AGM through VC. Any person, who becomes a Member after the dispatch of Notice and holding shares on the cut-off date, may obtain the login details by sending a request to invest@nsdl.co.in in case of queries or issue regarding e-voting or attending Meeting through VC, please contact on Toll Free No.: 1800-222-990 or send a request at invest@nsdl.co.in or contact NSDL officials Ms. Sarita Das at designated email ID: evoting@nsdl.co.in or telephone Nos. 1600 1020 990 and 1800 222 44 30 or write to Ms. Ayushi Solanki, Company Secretary at admin@vippyspinpro.com. Pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015 the share transfer books and the register of members of the Company will remain closed from Tuesday, 24th August, 2021 to Monday, 30th August, 2021 (both days inclusive).

For Vippyspin Ltd.
 Ayushi Solanki
 Company Secretary

Place: Indore
 Date: 05.08.2021

Loan cheques to candidates from different target groups under DSFDC disbursed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Social Welfare Minister S Rajendra Pal Gautam disbursed loan cheques to 136 successful candidates from different target groups under Delhi SC/ST/OBC/minorities and Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (DSFDC).

Gautam said "This financial assistance has helped

those belonging to the socially and economically weaker sections to earn a livelihood.

These sections especially the handicapped are often marginalized from mainstream jobs which results in poverty. Our loan scheme has helped all the target groups including the SC/ST/OBC/minority to lead a life of dignity and honor," he

said. A sum of ₹ 191.15 lakh was distributed to 136 successful candidates.

During the financial year 2019-20, the Corporation disbursed a total sum of Rs 485.08 lakh to 268 candidates as loans. In the financial year 2020-21, DSFDC disbursed loans worth ₹ 412.48 lakh to 372 candidates belonging to different target groups.

Acute shortage of specialist doctors

Less than 50 Covid experts in India



ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adding to the already grim situation in India's Covid-19 catastrophe is the acute shortage of qualified infectious disease (ID) specialists—there are less than 50 ID experts in the country—who have expertise in handling the pandemic among other infections like HIV and TB and protect the communities from such health threats.

Health professionals said that, especially, at a time when India is fighting the Covid pandemic along with rising menace of antibiotic resistant infections, the need for more ID expertise has become a clear focal point.

It is high time that Government looks at the severe shortage of ID specialists and does the needful, they added. ID doctors are certified specialists in diagnosing and treating IDs associated with bacteria, parasites, fungi and viruses, such as the new coronavirus that has wrecked the health and economy world over.

on paper due to the lack of adequate human resources particularly ID experts. In a review in a recent edition of IJMR, a government journal, she said, setting up ID blocks in DHs is not enough if not met by adequate human resources and infrastructure to implement these interventions in secondary-level hospitals. "The first and the most important challenge is the absence of ID physician posts in DHs and the dearth of trained ID physicians in the country," Dr Walia explained, "To be effective, the ID blocks would need to be supported by trained manpower such as ID physicians, microbiologists, infection control nurses, clinical pharmacists and well-equipped diagnostic laboratories."

ID physicians would be central to creation of the ID blocks. Dr. Neha Rastogi Panda, Consultant, ID Department, Fortis Research Memorial Institute, Gurugram, asserted that "India is already becoming a hub of bugs and the pandemic should therefore be a wake-up call for India to take steps to plug the demand-supply gap."

In India, only AIIMS Delhi and CMC Vellore have started offering Doctorate in medicine in IDs recently. Also, AIIMS Jodhpur, AIIMS Bhopal and KMC Manipal University has recently started the DM from January 2021 while fellowship in NABH accredited ID programme is being run in four institutions: Apollo Hospitals (Chennai), Hinduja Hospital (Mumbai), Apollo Hospitals

(Hyderabad) and Sterling Hospital (Ahmedabad). But these are not enough, she said. Dr PH Chandrasekar, educational coordinator for Department of Infectious Diseases at Wayne State University, Detroit, USA too minced no words as he said, "The department of ID has remained an ignored stream. The government should recognize this field as a sub-specialty. ID is still a young branch in India. The educational system never thought of introducing it as a sub-specialty. In the US, it was introduced way back in 1960, Chandrasekar, a partner of National Clinical IDs Society (NCIDS), said adding that ID is the highest cause of death in India but there is a dearth of doctors to support and provide medical care to such patients. "There are many doctors who without any formal training in ID call themselves a specialist", he said, as per a report.

On the availability of trained ID physicians, the country should look at creating more ID fellowship opportunities which can be offered online, with compulsory practical training for a short period, said Dr Panda.

Concerned at the acute shortage of ID specialists, Dr Panda along with a few other ID specialists, early this year, had represented before the Union Health Ministry seeking recognition of the ID specialist as separate entity and starting ID departments at central government and state government institutes in public interest.

India summons Pak envoy, lodges protest against attack on Ganesh temple



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over the atrocities against minorities in Pakistan, India on Thursday lodged a strong protest after summoning the Pakistan envoy here. He was told the attacks were taking place at an alarming rate.

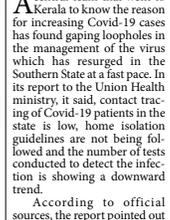
The strong protest came after reports said a mob attacked a Ganesh temple in Rahim Yar Khan in Punjab, Pakistan recently. Giving details here, ministry of external affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Pakistan Charge d'Affaires was summoned and a firm protest was lodged expressing grave concerns at this reprehensible incident and attacks on freedom of religion of minority communities and their places of worship. Pakistan was called upon to ensure safety, security and well-being of minority communities, he said. Bagchi said "we have seen disturbing reports on social media of a violent mob attack

on a Ganesh temple in Rahim Yar Khan in Punjab, Pakistan. Mob attacked the temple, desecrated holy idols and set fire to premises. The mob also attacked surrounding houses belonging to Hindu community."

He said incidents of violence, discrimination and persecution against the minority communities including attacks on places of worship have stood by idly and completely failed in preventing these attacks on the minority communities and their places of worship," he said.

These incidents are occurring at an alarming rate while the state and security institutions in Pakistan have stood by idly and completely failed in preventing these attacks on the minority communities and their places of worship," he said.

Central team finds loopholes in Kerala's coronavirus handling



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A central team that went to Kerala to know the reason for increasing Covid-19 cases has found gaping loopholes in the management of the virus which has resurged in the Southern State at a fast pace. In its report to the Union Health ministry, it said, contact tracing of Covid-19 patients in the state is low, home isolation guidelines are not being followed and the number of tests conducted to detect the infection is showing a downward trend.

According to official sources, the report pointed out that people are becoming more complacent regarding Covid-appropriate behaviour and health measures needed for ramping up vaccination. In view of the sharp surge in Covid cases in Kerala, the Centre on July 29 had dispatched a 10-member team headed by Dr Sujeet Singh, director of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to the Southern State to take stock of the situation and recommend necessary public health interventions. Kerala on Thursday reported 22,040 fresh coronavirus cases and 117 deaths, taking the total infection count to 34,93 lakh and the toll to 17,328. This was more than half the total national caseload of 42,982 fresh coronavirus cases officially registered in the last 24 hours. It was also the second consecutive day when India logged over 500 Covid fatalities.

The health bulletin said that 533 Indians lost their lives due to Covid complications. In yet another suble sign, the number of active cases in India are on a gradual upward path. As per the bulletin, there has 4,11,076 active Covid cases, the official health bulletin says. The daily vaccination rate plunged to 37,45,862 on August 4. In comparison with August 3 data, there was a drop of 42.8 per cent.

Rahul: Modi Govt failed to fulfil promise of 2 cr jobs



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday targeted the Modi government over a range of issues, including large scale unemployment. Addressing party workers while leading a protest 'Sansad Gehrao' by the Indian Youth Congress, Rahul said the Modi government failed to fulfil its promise of providing two crore job opportunities to the youths of India.

Rahul accused the PM of "snatching away employment" from the hands of the youths and would talk about everything except unemployment. "Unemployment is the biggest issue this country is facing today. PM [Modi] will talk about everything but not unemployment. He had promised to provide 2 crore employment each year," Rahul said.

Rahul said the day the youth of the country start speaking the truth, the Modi government will crumble. The youth of the country cannot get employment till Modi is the prime minister, he said. "Your mobile phone is your voice. Narendra Modi has put the idea of Pegasus in the mobile phone of every youth, not just mine. This idea is that if you speak the truth, Narendra Modi and Pegasus are there in your phones.

PC takes dig at Govt over high fuel prices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader P Chidambaram on Thursday took a dig at the government over fuel prices, asking whether there was no change in them in the last 19 days as Parliament was in session or chiefs of oil marketing companies "cannot talk to each other because their phones are infiltrated by Pegasus spyware."

He also asked if prices had not changed as all chiefs of oil marketing companies were in quarantine until August 15 or all those reasons were responsible for it. Congress has been critical of the government for rising prices of petrol and diesel and Rahul Gandhi, accompanied by his party colleagues and Opposition leaders, rode a bicycle to Parliament earlier this week

Pegasus is a way to silence the voice of people," he said. While the Opposition has been attacking the government over the Pegasus issue and accusing it of spying, the ruling party has denied all charges. In his address he also said if the BJP-led Government at the Centre was trying to help big corporates and "finish small businesses".



to protest over the issue. "Taking a dig at the government, Chidambaram tweeted, "Petrol and diesel prices have not been changed for 19 days because: a) Parliament session commenced on 19th July, i.e. 18 days ago b) Chiefs of IOE, IIL and other oil marketing companies cannot talk to each other because their phones are infiltrated by the Israelis are listening. C) All the chiefs are in quarantine until 15th August d) All of the above."

Petrol prices have crossed ₹100-a-litre mark in several cities with the Opposition protesting the high fuel prices. "Hum do humare do ki sarkar, sirf kuch yodogyanon ke lie kya kaam karti hai (this is a government of 'we two, our two' that works for a few industrialists only," said Rahul. "Narendra Modi is not in partnership with youth, farmers, labourers or small traders, but in partnership with two-three businessmen," he said.

ISI spreading canards to intensify attacks on Indians in Afghanistan

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Exploiting its leverage with the Taliban, the Pakistani covert agency Inter-Services Intelligence is feeding misinformation to maximise attacks against Indians and the assets in Afghanistan. The ISI manoeuvre has posed a threat by Taliban not only to the Indian embassy in Afghanistan but to those in the entire region, sources said.

The ISI has convinced the Taliban that India had bombed a group of Taliban in Kandahar province of Afghanistan. It has further told the UN-sanctioned group that attack helicopters and military planes that were built in India were handed over to Afghan defense department some time ago, they said.

The ISI also told the Taliban that fighter jets were stationed at Kabul airport under Indian command with Indian pilots. The ISI and Pakistan army has provided over 10,000 jihadis from the ranks of terror groups mentioned by these two agencies within Pakistan to Taliban for wresting control of the territories in Afghanistan from the democratically elected government there, sources said.

In addition to this, the ISI has helped forge operational synergy between the Taliban and its terror cohorts like the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed for the violent takeover of territories in Afghanistan. The ISI and Pakistan army are seeking to cement their

leverage with the Taliban to have a significant say in managing the war-ravaged country and control banned drug trade in the scenario of takeover and subsequent rule in Afghanistan post-withdrawal of American troops early next month.

The Pakistani politico-military complex has drawn an elaborate plan to hoodwink China into funding it for securing the Chinese investments in the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in restive Balochistan under Pak occupation.

"Now that the Pakistani politico-military-ISI combine has fully exploited the Americans for funding and technology support under the garb of war against terror and at the same time provided safe haven to Chinese interests both in CPEC and Xinjiang, Islamabad will also be getting backing from Beijing for bailouts for the economy that is in tatters post-Covid," sources said.

ISI has also supported at multilateral forum like Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and avoid sanctions for supporting terror and terror financing, he added.

RS proceedings marred by Opp stir over Pegasus row



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The House was first adjourned for 15 minutes during the Zero Hour and then again soon after it met at 11.30 AM

The Rajya Sabha proceedings on Thursday were marred by protests by the Opposition and repeated adjournments over the Pegasus controversy and other issues. The Opposition also raised a din over the alleged scuffle between the Rajya Sabha security staff and some MPs on Wednesday. A woman security officer was injured.

The pre and post lunch sessions witnessed the Opposition members rushing into the well of the house raising slogans and shouting slogans. The proceedings in the morning were adjourned thrice. The House was first adjourned for 15 minutes during the Zero hour and then again soon after it met at 11.30 AM. The House which met again at 12 noon was adjourned after opposition members continued to raise slogans in the well and disrupted the proceedings.

Sukendu Sekhar Roy (TMC) raised the issue of one of his party members not allowed to enter the house on Wednesday after it was adjourned for the day. Hariwanth earlier said when the member, who was asked to withdraw from the house by Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, tried to enter the house an argument ensued. A glass pane was broken and a woman security officer sustained injuries. Naidu was looking into the issue. The Chair termed the incident as "highly deplorable and condemnable". While Hariwanth said the unnamed TMC MP broke the glass after she was stopped from entering the House after it was adjourned for the day on Wednesday, Sukhendu Sekhar

The House was first adjourned for 15 minutes during the Zero Hour and then again soon after it met at 11.30 AM

Roys said the MP concerned was suspended for the remainder of the sitting of the House and she had gone to fetch her bag after the proceedings were adjourned for the day. As the TMC and other opposition MPs opposed the remarks and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge cited former finance minister Arun Jaitley's statement of disruption in Parliament being in part of democracy.

The Opposition was in no mood to adhere to the chair's plea to allow the Question Hour and created a ruckus. The deputy chairman continued with the Question Hour for a few minutes and then adjourned the house till after two pm. Earlier, senior Congress leader and former finance minister P Chidambaram raised the issue of ministers not being present in Rajya Sabha for the laying of official list papers.

Chidambaram raised the issue while Parliament Affairs Minister V Muralidharan was called to lay official papers on behalf of six of his ministerial colleagues. Hariwanth said the matter was raised even on Wednesday and Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu had stated that the parliamentarian affairs minister has been allowed to lay papers mentioned against the names of other ministers because of the Covid situation.

Govt holds talks with job makers to meet 60 cr vaccines target



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Racing against time to meet the target of inoculating the 60 crore adult population of the country, the Government is holding back-to-back meetings with vaccine and job manufacturers to know the status and challenges in the production of the shots.

Union Health Minister Anil Deo Singh on Thursday held discussions with Dr Reddy's Laboratories Chairperson K. Satish Reddy to discuss the Sputnik V vaccine production and its supply while on Friday he will meet Serum Institute of India's CEO-owner Adar Poonawalla. "Had a discussion on the production of the Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine and its supply," the minister said on Twitter. Although details of the meeting are not known, it takes significance in wake of a shortage of Covid-19 vaccines in the country.

In the meantime, Bharat Biotech informed that manufacturing of Covaxin has commenced at Malur (Karnataka) and Anklleshwar (Gujarat) since June. In a statement, it said that before being released for administering every batch of Covaxin, the vaccine is subjected to over 200 quality control tests and samples are submitted to Government of India's Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL), and the Union Health Minister. On the other hand, another vaccine manufacturer, India's Panacea Biotech Ltd said on Thursday it had agreed to produce the 100 million doses of the Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine using the drug substance made by Russia's Generium. Panacea will then supply the doses to drugmaker Dr. Reddy's Laboratories for distribution in India.

ED searches locations in 3 States in money laundering cases

IAANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is carrying out searches at several locations in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad and Rajasthan's Jaipur in connection with its probe into the money laundering charges for transmitting fake pop-ups to the victims' personal computers with warnings or bogus messages about serious technical problems including malware infections.

An ED source related to probe said that the agency is

carrying out searches in Delhi, Jaipur and Ghaziabad on the premises of the companies involved in it.

The ED case is based on the FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in September last year against Softwill Infotech Pvt Ltd, Innovana Thinklabs Ltd, Jaipur, Benovellent Technologies Pvt Ltd, Noida, Systweak Software Pvt Ltd, Jaipur, Saburi TLC Worldwide Services Pvt Ltd, Saburi Global Services Pvt Ltd, Gurugram and unknown others on a complaint.

ED arrests VMCSL MD Hima Bindu in bank fraud case

IAANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested telecom equipment manufacturer VMCSL Systems Ltd's Managing Director Vuppallapati Hima Bindu in a bank fraud case involving hundreds of crore of rupees.

An ED official said that it has arrested Bindu under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).



The ED case of money laundering is based on the FIR registered by CBI against the Hyderabad-based com-

pany had defaulted on repayment of loans worth ₹1,700 crore to a consortium of banks.

It is said that while ₹539 crore was due to it from the company, over ₹1,207 crore is pending towards the State Bank of India, the Corporation Bank, the Andhra Bank, and the IM Financial Assets Reconstruction Company.

According to the CBI, the VMCSL had availed working capital credit facilities on August 12, 2009 to the tune of ₹1,010.50 crore.

In its complaint to the CBI, the PNB alleged that the

2ND ANNIVERSARY OF ARTICLE 370 ABRIGATION

BJP celebrates, other politicians mourn

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Jubilant workers of the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) on Thursday celebrated the second anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A...

the party affairs in-charge for the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh celebrated the historic day with the party workers in Srinagar. He unfurled a 'Tricolor' amid chanting of patriotic slogans by the Kashmir based party workers...



Security personnel stand guard on a street during a strike on the second anniversary of the abrogation of Art 370, in Srinagar on Thursday

"After many decades, the Pakistan-sponsored militancy seems to be on the back foot. Anti-national feelings among people have been replaced by the ideas of inclusive development and progress", Singh said.

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh, who is also

In Srinagar, PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti took out a protest march from the party's head office near the Sher-e-Kashmir Park. Shouting slogans against the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision Mufti demanded "resolution of the Kashmir issue".

while attempting to take out a protest march. The Jammu & Kashmir National Conference held a meeting of the party leaders at Nawa-e-Subha under the leadership of party President Dr Farooq Abdullah.

Yogi visits Ayodhya, offers prayers at Ram Temple

PNS ■ AYODHYA

On the first anniversary of the bhoomi puja for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, a special prayer was held at the Ram Lala temple which was attended by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath...

Lalla temple, which was also attended by many local saints and devotees. A senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party said, "The Chief Minister reached Ayodhya 45 minutes before his scheduled programme and upon reaching he discussed the progress of different development projects with officers at Yatri Niwas. He also enquired about the progress of the construction of Ram temple from the officials and members of the Ram Jannabhoomi Tirath Kshetra Nyas."

After the meeting, Yogi reached the Ram Jannabhoomi temple and participated in religious rituals organised to mark the completion of one year of bhoomi puja. Later he did darshan of Ram Lala and took part in the aarti and performed the puja. On August 5, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation for a grand Ram temple at the Ram Jannabhoomi premises.

The Jammu & Kashmir unit of the Congress party leaders also questioned what has changed for the benefit & betterment of people of Jammu and Kashmir, as J&K has lost its identity, rights and protections available to its residents which are available in various other states in the country, too, in one or other form.

Addressing a Press Conference at PCC HQ here today, JKPCF Chief Spokesperson Shri Ravinder Sharma along with senior party leaders asked whether the backbone of militancy has been broken, total number of jobs in Govt. & private sector have increased, big industrial houses have come to J&K, the situation has normalized, KPs can safely return, the gap between hearts and distance from Kashmir and Delhi (Dil ki aur Dooor Ki Door) has been reduced and what else has been achieved, after two years of the decision, they questioned.

Mamata writes to Modi for adequate supply of jobs

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has once again written to Prime Minister Modi seeking adequate supply of vaccines for her State. In her letter to the Prime Minister Banerjee has said that while her State was capable of administering 11 lakh doses daily it was able to provide only 4 lakh doses per day because of the acute shortage of vaccines.



people in the age group of 18 and 44, she said reminding that wastage rate in her State was minus 7 percent.

"We are capable of vaccinating 11 lakh people per day still we are getting much lower number of doses despite having very high population density and a higher rate of urbanisation", Banerjee said. She urged the Centre of discriminating between the Government and BJP-ruled States the Chief Minister told newsmen that States like Gujarat and Karnataka are getting more vaccines than her State.

The State government had more than 50 lakh doses at present, sources in the Government said adding this was the second-highest reserve in the country after Maharashtra which had the highest number of doses. Incidentally Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh had earlier alleged that the State Government had failed to put

adequate infrastructure in place which was why it was witnessing huge number of vaccine wastage. "The Centre is sending adequate amount of vaccines but this Government is so worthless that it has failed to put up proper infrastructure in place which is why vaccines are getting wasted... and they are blaming the Centre for not providing vaccines", he said, adding "The Chief Minister is complaining that the Centre is discriminating between BJP and non-BJP ruled States... if it is so then how Maharashtra a non-BJP ruled State is getting so many doses."

Earlier the Calcutta High Court had directed said the State and Central Governments to provide details of vaccine supply and inoculation of people in the State.

Bengal may open schools after Durga Puja: Didi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

With the number of corona cases within control the Bengal Government was planning to open schools post October after Durga Puja, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Thursday. "The Government is considering opening of the schools after the Durga Puja", the Chief Minister said adding "we are trying to ensure regular classes but at present it seems that the schools can be reopened after the Puja vacations with alternate day classes".

The Chief Minister had earlier said that the State would receive 14 crore doses. Besides administering 3.08 crore and vaccinating 1.93 crore people Bengal was among the few states that had managed to vaccinate more than 10 lakh

"I am sorry to say that the Central Government is providing a large number of vaccine doses to States like Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka which are BJP-ruled. I cannot remain a mute spectator to see Bengal being deprived," said Mamata Banerjee adding "if they do not give me adequate number of vaccines what will I do... from where will get vaccines".

She said that "the educational institutions would open with full observation of corona protocols". The Chief Minister however would not say that whether the college and universities too would open simultaneously. The Chief Minister's announcement comes at a time when the country is expecting the Third Wave of the corona pandemic.

UP ASSEMBLY POLLS

Akhilesh launches SP campaign with 'Cycle Yatra'



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Claiming that his party could win up to 400 seats in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls early next year, Samajwadi Party chief and former Chief Minister of UP Akhilesh Yadav launched his poll campaign by joining the 'Samajwadi Cycle Yatra' in Lucknow on the occasion of the 89th birth anniversary of socialist leader Jawahar Mishra on Thursday.

seats in UP and in the 2017 state elections the BJP and its ally won 325 seats while the SP won only 47 seats. "Till now the party has been claiming to win 350 plus seats in 2022 Assembly polls in the state but now people are so upset with the BJP that Samajwadi Party could get even 400 seats. The BJP has harassed people of all sections, including Brahmins, Dalits, and Muslims, in the state," Akhilesh said while addressing a media conference in Lucknow on Thursday.

"Even today the BJP ministers are inaugurating projects initiated by the SP government. The Yogi Adityanath government did not do anything at all and now they are confused. They are misleading people by spreading lies," he said. Responding to the BJP government claims that it is a party of the poor, Akhilesh said as a top state in the country, the SP president said that the present regime had rendered the state number one in malnutrition, number one in dead bodies found floating in the Ganga river, number one in taking off shrouds from dead bodies and number one in its failure to provide oxygen to dying patients.

He added that under the present dispensation, the state had also become number one in beating youths asking for employment, in crimes against women, in deaths during the absence of proper medical treatment and also in non-compliance with various court orders. There are 403 assembly

ECI categorising polling booths



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has started categorising polling booths for the crucial 2022 UP Assembly polls by announcing its schedule to categorise polling booths. The determination of new polling booths and polling centres will commence from August 17 and after seeking objections from political parties and others, a final list of polling booths would be announced by August 23.

District magistrates are to resolve all complaints over polling booths by September 7 and then submit their final list to the ECI by September 20. The state ECI office will send the final list to the ECI in Delhi by September 25.

On the other hand, in view of the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic, the ECI has announced that elderly voters above the age of 80 years and differently-abled will be given the facility of voting from home. Elderly and handicapped voters will be able to cast their votes through postal ballots this time. Polling party will visit their homes and collect the postal ballots.

The number of voters above 80 years of age in the state is around 23 lakh while handicapped voters account for nine lakh. The ECI has directed district magistrates to conduct door-to-door verification of all these. Chief Electoral Officer Ajay Kumar Shukla along with all the DMs, ADMs and SDMs of the state held the first major meeting through video conferencing on Wednesday evening and took stock of the preparations and informed about the new instructions. Shukla said that after verifying the elderly and differently-abled voters, 12-D forms would be given to the voters willing to cast a postal ballot by going to their homes and asked officials to confirm polling booths and polling centers at the earliest.

AIADMK's senior leader Madhusudhanan passes away

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Madhusudhanan, president and chairman of the AIADMK passed away on Thursday at a corporate hospital in Chennai. He was 79 and was the minister of textiles in the AIADMK Government headed by late J Jayalalitha during 1991-1996. Madhusudhanan was ailing for some time and had been undergoing treatment for multi-organ failure.

Madhusudhanan, a trusted aide of party founder M G Ramana Chandrababu Naidu, was appointed party president chairman in 2007. He was one of the senior leaders of the party who cast his lot with V. K Sasikala, immediately after the demise of Jayalalitha. Madhusudhanan had rushed to Veda Nilayam once the mourning period after Jayalalitha's passing away was over and pleaded with Sasikala to take over the reigns of the AIADMK. The meeting that appointed Sasikala as acting general secretary was presided over by him.

But following the resignation of the then chief minister O Panneerselvam and his expulsion from the AIADMK, Madhusudhanan joined the former's camp and within months expelled Sasikala and her cartel from the party. Though the AIADMK had named him as the party candidate against TV Dinakaran in the by-poll held from R K Nagar in 2017, he lost the poll.

22,040 new cases in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala on Thursday diagnosed 22,040 new Covid-19 cases while 117 patients succumbed to the pandemic taking the toll date to 17,328. A release by Health Minister Veena George said the average 'PCR (Test Positivity Rate) was 13.49 per cent, higher than what was registered on Wednesday. A total of 1,63,376 samples were tested during the last 24 hours, said the Minister. Malappuram and Thrissur remained the problematic districts with 3,645 and 2,921 new cases respectively.

As on Thursday evening, there were 1.77 lakh patients undergoing treatment for Covid-19 across the State. A high power committee under Minister Veena George is monitoring the Covid-19 situation on a round-the-clock basis to control and check the rate of transmission of the pandemic. The minister has instructed the medical experts to bring the surging pandemic before the festivities start for Onam. "The minister has her ears to the ground and is in touch with doctors continuously. Efforts are on to make vaccine available to the entire population of the State in the shortest possible time. We are feeling the difference as the leads from the front to tame the pandemic," said a Government physician.

UP logs 34 new Covid cases

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh reported 34 new coronavirus positive cases in the last 24 hours while in the corresponding period, 50 Covid-19 patients recovered.

Officials claimed on Thursday, that nine districts of the State - Aligarh, Amethi, Budhau, Ghaz, Hathras, Mahoba, Pilibhit, Pratnagarh and Sitapur, did not have an active Covid-19 case on date.

Meanwhile, Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal told media persons in Lucknow on Thursday that at present the number of active cases in the state was 659. "In the testing done in the last 24 hours, not a single new infection was found in 56 districts, while Covid-19 patients were found in single digits in 19 districts.

Till now, 6.67 crore Covid samples have been tested across the state and 2.53 lakh samples were examined in the last 24 hours. The recovery rate of coronavirus infection in the State is 98.6 per cent while the daily positivity rate stands at 0.01 per cent.

Around 140 terrorists waiting at launch pads across LoC despite ceasefire: Official

Srinagar: Around 140 terrorists are waiting at launch pads to infiltrate into Jammu & Kashmir and the terror infrastructure across the Line of Control (LoC) remains in place even though India and Pakistan agreed in February to a ceasefire, a senior security official said on Thursday.

Contending that the ceasefire agreement was more important for Pakistan as it is desperately trying to come out of the "grey list" of the Financial Action Task Force (FAITF), the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the sincerity of Islamabad could have been gauged if they had dismantled the terror infrastructure. The official at the same time

said the Army has been noticing continued presence of around 140 terrorists at the launch pads across the LoC, likely waiting to infiltrate into Jammu & Kashmir but the robust counter-infiltration grid has so far resisted them from making any such attempts.

They tried in the past but had to return after alert jawans foiled all their nefarious designs," the official said. The official said Pakistan is using the ceasefire window to strengthen its infrastructure along the LoC that was damaged in cross-border shelling last year in response to their troops' firing at civilian areas on the Indian side of the LoC. Commenting on the situation

in Jammu & Kashmir since the Centre abrogated its special status two years ago, the official said foreign terrorists have suddenly disappeared from the scene and got themselves locked in either some hideouts in densely populated areas or mountainous heights having natural caves.

On locals joining, terrorist outfits, the official said there has been a constant message to anyone and everyone that those having any evil design "against our country" should shut such ambitions as all those who either pick up a weapon or harbour ill intentions against the sovereignty of the nation "will be dealt with iron hand".

When faced with pandemic, think of DATM

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Two entrepreneurs from India based in West Asia have converted the economic and social ruins caused by the Covid-19 pandemic into an opportunity and this is all set to revolutionise the present system of medical consultation and diagnosis. Girish Narayanan and his younger brother Rajesh Narayanan have come out with a state-of-the-art medical diagnostic system that offers a win-win situation for all stake holders.

Primary Clinics sans doctors, is what the Narayanan brothers offer the people. "It is an integration of tele-medicine, medical and informatics technology. This is a medical device integration to support all medical specialities in a single platform. We are offering the last mile connectivity which brings physicians and patients together in real time world," said Girish Narayanan, a speed buff who could be seen riding the advanced versions of high power bikes across West Asia and Sri Lanka most of the time honing up his racing skills. Explaining the salient points of the Devising Assisted Tele Medicine (DATM) system, brother Rajesh said that it is the ideal technology for which India was waiting. "The primary

clinic would be managed by a person trained in the basics of medical science. He/she would have skills in measuring/testing nearly 40 medical parameters like blood pressure, ECG, body temperature, focussing the camera on ear, nose, throat and eyes as per the requirements of the physician," said Rajesh. The Ashta workers employed by the State and Centre Governments could be trained in this art, he pointed out. The clinic would have a medical cart with which the parameters could be transmitted to the physician sitting in a far away place. The TV screen at the primary clinic could be viewed by the physician through his iPhone or smart phone and he decides the kind of medicines to

be administered. "The stethoscope, with which the doctors monitor the heart beats have been replaced with electronic and remotely operated contraptions," said Rajesh Narayanan. A primary clinic sans doctor could be set up at a cost of Rs 25 lakh, said Rajesh Narayanan, the chief operating officer of Grantek, the company that brings the technology to our doorsteps. A corporate hospital in Kerala's Kozhikode was the first to establish a primary clinic of this kind with which always-think-of-patients-and-doctors could be brought together on a same platform. Girish said the uniqueness of the system lies in the facility to diagnose and treat sick patients in place and decrease exposure to others. "It also pro-

tect medical providers so that they could continue to deliver care without interruption," said Girish. This has to be seen in the backdrop of the number of doctors who have died or sacrificed their lives during the pandemic. "This is the ideal telehealth solution the medical fraternity was waiting for," said Dr Rajeev B Pillai, who heads the Itele Medicine Users Association of India. Going by the catchword coined by a fast moving consumer good company, one can always think of Grantek and Rajesh Narayanan when faced with issues like pandemic and shortage of doctors. Last heard, Grantek is in consultation with corporate groups in India for setting up doctor-less PHCs and Primary Clinics.



A newlywed couple travels towards their house in a boat as they wade through a flood affected area, during the monsoon season in Howrah district on Thursday

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Full steam ahead

India's first indigenous naval carrier would give more teeth to our fleet

India achieves a naval milestone as it joins a small group of nations capable of building aircraft carriers. IAC-1, India's first indigenous carrier that was shaped at the Cochin Shipyard took to the sea on Wednesday for its maiden trials. It is 76 per cent indigenous and at 40,000 tonnes, will be INS Vikrant when commissioned next August. It is the second carrier after INS Vikramaditya, inducted from Russia in 2013. The Indian Navy proposes to build a second carrier, a 65,000-tonne INS Vishaal. If the project gets the Government's go-ahead, it may be the most modern vessel and have unprecedented access to the US technology. The carrier may have the capacity to launch and recover heavy strike aircraft and early warning planes like the E-2 Hawkeye. The aircraft carrier projects are the icing on the cake that is the navy's Maritime Capability Perspective Plan to increase its capabilities in the strategic Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The Indian coastline of 7,516 km with 1,197 offshore islands and a large Exclusive Economic Zone of 2.01 million sq km needs protection from diverse forces from pirates to non-State actors and State-sponsored elements. The future INS Vikrant is the biggest among the batch of 50-odd ships and submarines currently under construction through the indigenous route. Getting ready are large amphibious ships, fast-attack craft, destroyers, stealth frigates, offshore patrol vessels and Scorpene Class submarines. India aims to become a 200-ship navy by 2027.

The IAC-1 boosts India's security preparedness in the IOR. Along with INS Vikramaditya, it will help in the projection of India's air power in the high seas. The main threat to the IOR comes from China which intends to expand its influence over the region. The IOR is the world's busiest trade route, with 80 per cent of the world's maritime oil trade passing through it. Vital sea lanes of the world pass through it with choke points like the Bab-el-Mandeb, the Strait of Malacca and the Strait of Hormuz. China wants a strong foothold here and is working for it through the Belt and Road Initiative. It wrongly interprets the UN Convention for the Law of the Sea to justify the presence of its naval vessels in the IOR. It is executing its 'String of Pearls' project for a maritime encirclement of India. The rise of China has made India reshape its maritime strategy. It now protects the Sea Lanes of Communications (SLOC) in the IOR, deploys warships in the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf to protect Indian vessels operating in those regions, and has the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) to keep a close watch on the movement of ships passing through the IOR. It is modernising its naval commands, establishing monitoring stations and investing in recon, surveillance and communications facilities. The aircraft carriers will help India have its own carrier strike groups that can prow the IOR and act as a counter-balance to rival intrusions into the region.

PICTALK



A farmer sails jute bundles as a raft across a flooded field in Nadia district, West Bengal

Women power

The Olympics tally again proves that women have a right to lead the way, in all spheres

Durga, Kali, Shakti, they call her intermittently but one gets a feeling that it is not really heartfelt. Not with what happened in Hathras and, quite recently, with a young minor girl in the nation's Capital. There's something seriously and drastically wrong with us, us here meaning both men and women; only we refuse to look at the truth in the eye. The menfolk for being the perpetrators, and the women for taking it generation after generation. In a country where women are still seen as homemaking and child-rearing machines, gender inequality is highly evident. The fact is that if you haven't seen or experienced it, you are either blind or one of the perpetrators. Even after encountering all these obstacles and hardships, women have come a long way, overcoming several barriers to establishing their identity; they have risen above various unaffordable barriers to show their true potential. Be it sports, science, astronomy or any other field, women have shown their steely potential in every field. Being a woman, things aren't easy in a patriarchal, male-dominated society and unseen factors like passive discrimination have all to be braved by the female of the species.

The first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal, Karnam Malleswari, was deemed unfit and was making news for all the wrong reasons, not for the hard work she had put into her preparations but for the uncharitable comments she was garnering about her physique and personal life, according to a record. In spite of her being one of the top athletes in her chosen discipline, only four out of 42 Indian journalists came up to watch her compete. Or similarly, when India's former sprint queen PT Usha broke down in front of media narrating the not-so-frequent discrimination faced by her. Basically, no sector can claim to be totally fair to the fair sex. The first Indian-origin woman to travel to space, Kalpana Chawla, was frequently told during her entire childhood that females cannot be astronauts. She had to break free of all these gender norms, and ultimately the glass ceiling and the gravitational pull, to prove herself that she was fit and capable as much as any male around. Better than any, can be argued. Although the situation has not changed for the better but we are headed towards improvement in the societal genetics where women are given, or at least are shown to be provided, equal opportunities.

Not really a game of sportsmanship

The Kashmir Premier League is a mere optics in the name of sports. At the end of it all, it's simply politics with a brazen objective



BHOPIINDER SINGH

Sports is a powerful medium to heal and build bridges, when both sides to a conflict agree to put aside contentious and provocative one-upmanship, to usher the possibilities of peace and harmony. Onus of creating an enabling environment necessitates the respecting of mutual sensibilities and desisting from loaded moves — it becomes obvious in the *neyyat* (intent), that is written all over.

Optics surrounding the so-called Kashmir Premier League (KPL) is one such devious intent that does an even worse job of posturing to be sports! With a brazenly political objective to "raise the voice of the people of J&K globally," a tournament logo that teasingly insinuates "play with freedom," as also having the agelessly controversial, Shahid Afridi, as its Brand Ambassador — the intent becomes clear even before the first ball is bowled. The carefully chosen brand ambassador in Afridi is also the perfect fit towards its nefarious agenda, given Afridi's notorious track record of political statements (way beyond the realm of sports), that have earned him the wrath and ire across the Line of Control (LoC) for its un-sportsmanlike import.

Following the abrogation of Article 370, Afridi had knowingly visited the LoC and made railing statements to "express solidarity with our Kashmiri brethren", whilst invoking the United Nations and the United States to intervene. Afridi continued with his exasperating diatribe to "feel the agony of Kashmiris..." and "Save Kashmir!" Seemingly, like his Prime Minister and former cricketer, neither Imran Khan nor Shahid Afridi have ever heard of the beleaguered Baloch, Uighurs or as fellow Pathans of even Pashtunistan (let alone minorities, Ahmediyas etc). At the KPL inauguration, Shahid Afridi mockingly conflated his political view of Kashmir by stating, "India has crossed all levels of oppression" — this is certainly not about sports and it does not even pretend to be so by its organisers.

To espouse a selective cause is indeed a matter of individual choice, even if it militates in terms of fairness and convenience in the eyes of the other side — just as any sovereign has the same right to express its displeasure and punitive



action against anyone and anything, that denigrates the sovereignty, integrity, and dignity. For India and its cricket board, the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) to take offence and express dismay at the obvious politicisation of cricket by Pakistan is perfectly justified. When relations between Pakistan and India are at an all-time low (with downgraded diplomatic ties and snapped air/land/rail services) — it's a bit rich coming from the BCCI to express surprise at the BCCCI reaction towards the KPL. Pakistani State support towards terrorism is not just an Indian accusation but a matter of an disturbing findings by the global watchdog agency, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which has grey-listed Pakistan since 2018 — the principal expression of that Pakistani incorrigibility for India is the Pakistani support to terrorism in Kashmir.

While it is expected for Pakistan and its cricketer-politicians to continue their patented path of doom, it was ironic to see the likes of South African Cricketer, Herschelle Gibbs, accuse the BCCCI of disavowing him from playing in the KPL. The same Gibbs, convicted and banned for match-fixing and faced a disciplinary ban for



WHILE IT IS EXPECTED FOR PAKISTAN AND ITS CRICKETER-POLITICIANS TO CONTINUE THEIR PATENTED PATH OF DOOM, IT WAS IRONIC TO SEE THE LIKES OF SOUTH AFRICAN CRICKETER, HERSCHELLE GIBBS, ACCUSE THE BCCI OF DISSAUING HIM FROM PLAYING IN THE KPL

racist comments against Pakistani players, recently wrote: "Completely unnecessary of the BCCCI to bring their political agenda with Pakistan into the equation!" Classified as 'coloured' under South Africa's loathed former apartheid system, one would have expected Gibbs to be better versed with India's stellar role and position on sports and politics, especially so, towards his native South Africa.

Besides the symbiotic history, relationship and inspiration of the Mahatma Gandhi-Nelson Mandela canvas notwithstanding, India had always taken a principled stand of boycotting apartheid sports as a conscious act for supporting discriminated Blacks and 'Coloured' in South Africa. India had put matters of humanity, dignity and sovereignty of people above sports per se, and that symbolic boycott had mobilised and galvanised far more important messaging. The boycott did entail sacrifices for many sportsmen, sports bodies and perhaps even sports lovers — but the counter-realisation of the stakes gained (standing against apartheid) then, and taking a principled stand against Pakistani State sponsor of terrorism under the guise of

Kashmir, now), is every bit an action of principles and morality.

The Pakistani Tennis Federation too had once tried to dissuade its top player Aisam Qureshi from partnering an Israeli owing to larger political-social sensitivities (which he ignored, and later even partnered an Indian) as it felt important to express its stand on sovereign matters, just as the player had the same right to either honour or refuse. But unlike the potential tennis partnership which involved no mal-intent of overt politics — KPL is all about internationalising Kashmir, unabashedly. It is pure politics. Even in the Tokyo Olympics, the authorities have taken a very dim view of such politicisation of the platform, eg Algerian Fethi Nourine's refusal to match up with Israeli Tohar Butbul. Thus, BCCCI has only responded to a wholly political provocation, and not politicised the same, to start with. KPL is not about sports; it doesn't even claim to be so. A shamelessly political move has met with a principled political reply. Period.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A SAD REPEAT OF HATHRAS

Sir — The heinous rape and murder of a nine-year-old Dalit girl in Delhi occurred when the nation was exultant at the performances of Indian women in Tokyo. It is a disturbing fact that girl children are not protected from sexual predators. It was tragic beyond words that a girl child born in humble circumstances was brutally raped and murdered when she went to a crematorium near her home to fetch drinking water.

The double felony of rape and murder attested to the crimes ugly rise in Delhi and the Union Home Ministry's strategy coming apart at the seams. It revived memories of Hathras tragedy. Women do not have equal status to men, the main characteristic of a patriarchal society. Dalit women and girls have a distinct additional disadvantage; their low caste status as well as the mental, degrading and dangerous tasks they are traditionally compelled to perform renders them more vulnerable; they are often looked upon as objects for sexual gratification; they suffer disproportionately from unwanted sexual attacks.

Meanwhile, the BJP seems to be more concerned about the visit of Rahul Gandhi to the victim's house than what it can do to prevent a recurrence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi can at least visit the victim's family and assure justice.

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

THE TINDERBOX CALLED AFGHANISTAN

Sir — Amid the unrelenting violence in Afghanistan by the Taliban, the European Union has reiterated that if the terrorist group rises to power by force, the European Union and other countries will not recognise their regime and that should be followed by the Indian Government. The people of India must express concern about the Afghanistan security situation where the militant have the upper hand who have the dealing with Pakistan militant groups to create serious problem in Kashmir.

India must try to involve the Afghanistan Government as much as pos-

Hockey does us proud



In the age of mid-seventies, when COVID-19 is around to hound our existence, just at that moment, my joy knows no bounds when the Indian men's hockey team wrote history as it claimed an Olympic bronze medal after 41 years, beating a plucky Germany 5-4. Agree, it's a bronze medal and India comes third, but how can one forget that our motherland India won seven Olympic gold medals between 1928 and 1964 — losing only in the 1980 final to team silver. The nation won gold again in 1980 (league basis and without semifinal), but has reached not higher than the fifth slot since. Even in Tokyo, our men's hockey team didn't start so well when India lost its second match 7-1 to Australia. But our hockey

team's Australian coach Graham Reid (57) rightly assessed, "Good teams don't let something like a little hiccup affect their overall performances throughout the tournament." If not, then who forgot those high-voltage six minutes before half time, four goals scored when chips were looking down with score at 1-3, India equalised with two penalty corner hits and immediately after scored two field goals. Without any doubt, both the men and women hockey team's performance in Tokyo have shown a sign of revival of the country's national glory.

We should again become number one like the Centre and the State Governments (like Odisha), sponsor authority, media and sports lovers cheer them up like the small world of cricket. We need to reduce the dependence on cricket to focus on other sports. Kudos to the men and women, for the brilliant performance and hope that they continue to shine and bring more pride to the nation.

Bidyot Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

and must continue our development assistance to be involved politically wedded. This comes even as violence has been on the rise in Afghanistan in the recent weeks as the Taliban stepped up its offensive after the US and NATO troops began withdrawing from the country. There is the recent statement of Hockey President Ashraf Ghani that in the past two decades, the Taliban has become "more cruel and more oppressive and they do not have any wish for peace, for prosperity or progress". The Afghanistan report released stating that 1,677 civilians were killed and 3,644 more were injured in the first six months of this year. With this, it is dangerous for India if the Taliban takes over Afghanistan.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

THE COLLAPSE OF EDUCATION

Sir — In today's time of pandemic, education has been pushed to the backseat and students struggle to enrich their knowledge in the best way possible by going to

educational institutions in an orderly manner in a struggle for freedom, people play many tricky games. One such one is planting an atom bomb.

On this account, lowering the quality of education and allowing cheating in the examinations by students, one can reduce the standard of education. In the process, patients die at the hands of such incapable doctors. In the same way, buildings collapse at the hands of substandard engineers. And again, money is lost at the hands of such economists and accounts. Thus, humanity dies at the hands of such religious scholars and justice is lost at the hands of such judges. The collapse of education is the collapse of the nation and so it is time to provide the best education to the new generation of students in a planned way.

MR Jayanthi | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Parliament is allowed to function as long as the interest of a family is served... it will not allow Parliament to function if there is no interest of the family.

BJP leader — Ravi Shankar Prasad

I was scared of death from the beginning. Someone wants to kill me.

Bangladeshi actress — Pori Moni

It's an absolutely fabulous feeling, because this is a film (Dil Chahata Hai) that is very close to my heart. It's the first one where I played a major role.

Actor — Suchitra Pillai

This current team is probably the best ever in the history of Indian cricket. Only the teams from 1983 to 1986 had a similar kind of depth and balance.

Former India cricketer — Sunil Gavaskar

If anybody is protesting, we are not concerned and we are not taking it seriously.

Karnataka Chief Minister — Basavaraj Bommai

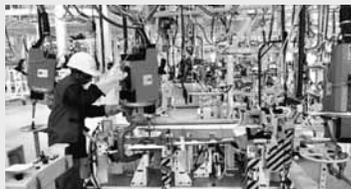
FIRST COLUMN
THE POST-COVID ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The PLI scheme can become a game-changer for us to be the next global destination



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The monsoon rainfall, including the ongoing, has been benevolent to India for the past couple of years, raising hopes of a post-pandemic, quick economic recovery. However, a parliamentary committee on commerce in its report has not accepted the government's view of the "V-shaped" economic recovery. On the contrary, it has expressed concerns regarding missing data on positive economic indicators that attract foreign investors. It has torn into the government's claims of healthy indicators such as E-way bill, rail freight, port traffic, and GST collections promising a return of GDP to pre-pandemic levels, citing a lack of empirical data. Early indications emerging from rural India, coupled with some additional booster shots from the upcoming festival season, may point to a recovery-led future but there are critical variables to consider. For instance, the committee refers to the much-publicised Production-Linked Incentive schemes, announced for various sectors by the government under "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" package. It suggests:



"A transparent system may be formulated by each ministry which has allocated funds under PLI Schemes to enable easy access to data and information regarding the implementation of the scheme. Information regarding incentives disbursed... delay in providing incentives with reasons for the same may be made accessible online." The PLI scheme is a well-thought-out scheme and if implemented well and pursued with the right rigour by an able business leader could put India on the growth path unheard of in the pre-pandemic times. The parliamentary committee rightfully seeks from the government answers that most investors have rightly convinced their global headquarters seniors about before pushing seeking funds for setting up a factory. Every business plan before approval has to be backed by data and, therefore, should be easily accessible.

The government has informed about the setting up of an empowered group of secretaries chaired by the cabinet secretary to monitor the progress of the scheme, establishing an Investment Clearance Cell (ICC), and a one-stop digital platform - a central Single Window System (SWS) integrating the existing clearance systems of the various ministries and departments of the government of India and the state governments. The only missing link is having a business manager monitor the efforts. The PLI scheme has the potential to become a game-changer for making India the next destination for seamless integration with global supply chains. The unexplored markets of Africa, the Middle East, and India's immediate neighborhood in Southeast Asia are easy targets for these manufactured goods. However, despite all the merits of having bureaucrats running target-oriented business goals, it is always a CEO-type manager who will be able to perform and deliver. Smart managers are required for this as also the willingness of the juror bureaucracy to accept new ways of working for 'ease' of doing businesses. What can and possibly raise serious questions on the outcome of the PLI schemes would be lack of data and, therefore, opaqueness in government procedures could be interpreted as favoritism. This is to be avoided at any cost for the scheme to succeed. The other factor contributing to success would be to remove compliance burdens for investors. One may have heard of the famous saying in the investor community about the 'art of doing business' rather than 'ease of doing business in India'. The government's intention to become an export hub while creating world-class products for the global markets and generating millionfold jobs is well received. However, the challenge is to overhaul the regulatory compliance regime. Multiple departments competing for 'regulatory capture' or trying to make multiple policies on the same topic ultimately frustrates investors. What is also essential is providing some kind of regulatory continuity assurance to all investors.

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

Red-flagging online and digital fraud

The lure of easy money and carelessness about the basics of digital hygiene are both responsible for the worrisome situation



SUBHASH C PANDEY

Technology is necessary to provide public services to large populations in an efficient manner and that comes with both risks and rewards. The technology of malfeasance and malfeasance control both have evolved. As the population has exploded, imperatives of technology-enabled governance have also grown, bring in their wake fresh concerns about misuse of technology.

With near-universal Aadhaar enrolment, the opening of PMJDY accounts and their Aadhaar seeding, and the growing spread of Direct Benefit Transfer to cover most subsidies through banking channels, there is a discernible risk of fraud on public finances. Weeding out fake and ineligible beneficiaries of government schemes is a major governance challenge.

Recently, Parliament was informed that about 42 lakh ineligible beneficiaries received ₹2,900 crore under PM-KISAN scheme launched on February 24, 2019. (In February 2021, the figures were 33 lakh ineligible beneficiaries receiving ₹2,327 crore). An amount of ₹6000 per annum is supposed to be transferred to the bank accounts of eligible farmers in three instalments of ₹2000 each. Nearly ₹115,000 crore has been paid so far. The largest number of ineligible beneficiaries were in Assam, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, and Bihar.

Over 10 crore beneficiaries are registered by various state governments. Typically, the registration process requires the 12-digit biometric Aadhaar, phone number, bank details, and KYC documents. These are "triangulated" (cross-checked) by software with the help of the public financial management system (PFMS), the platform that enables the automatic transfer of cash into bank accounts. Scammers use Aadhaar numbers available in the public domain to create fake Aadhaar cards and bank accounts.

Beneficiary databases are likely to have undetected duplicate Aadhaar or mobile numbers if the registration and disbursement (online transfers) are done without biometric authentication for each transaction.

Aadhaar linking of ration cards had helped in weeding out 2.95 crore fake ration cards resulting in saving of ₹17,000 crore annually (ministerial statement on Feb 26, 2018). These invalid cards were missed by dealers to show fake issues to beneficiaries. Out of 21 crore ration cards, about 90 per cent have been linked with Aadhaar of at least one of the family members listed on the card. Once every adult member's Aadhaar is linked, more ineligible ration card beneficiaries may come to light. This is gradually being done under One Nation One Ration Card scheme to make every individual's ration entitlement portable to any part of the country. This will help migrants and also help weed out invalid entries in ration cards.

A 'teacher recruitment scam' was recently unearthed in Uttar Pradesh when



AUTHENTICATION TECHNOLOGIES ARE EVOLVING TO CHECK ONLINE FRAUDS, IDENTITY THEFTS, QR CODES, MASKED AADHAAR-CARD-BASED E-KYC IS INCREASINGLY USED IN MOBILE BANKING. THE USER ID AND PASSWORD FOR ONLINE LOGIN HAVE BEEN FOUND INSUFFICIENT. ONLINE FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS NOW HAVE ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS OF TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION IN PLACE

(The writer is former Special Secretary, Ministry for Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The views expressed are personal.)



it was found that using the ID and certificates of one hapless Anamika Shukla, many 'fake' Anamika Shuklas were working as teachers in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV). The fraud was unravelled when the Prerna digital system notified teachers with identical documents. Some governments are deploying technology to check employee malfeasance. Biometric attendance and the requirement for teachers to upload class pictures have been implemented to check the chronic problem of absentee teachers. The problem of bogus employees is not new. In areas of pure manual work, this has been an outstanding concern for long. There are fake muster rolls for workers whose wages would be drawn, who will verify thumb impressions on clumsily organized, sullied scrolls. Somebody may be collecting wages while someone else is working in the field, usually with connivance.

Instances of duplicate and outright fake beneficiaries have also been reported such as already-married girls participating in fresh marriage ceremonies. The enrolment-linked incentives under the mid-day meal scheme in schools and the aanganwadi schemes also invite fake enrolments. How far can one go to check if the children actually get the intended education and nutrition?

With salaries, pensions, scholarships, and other benefits being directly credited into bank accounts without any biometric authentication of beneficiaries, the manual system of 'anticipancy roll' has been dispensed with. Without proper reconciliation between the disbursing

office and the bank, payments can go into fake accounts. I came across a fraud where a cheque drawing officer withdrew salaries of even non-existent and transferred-out employees. These excess draws were directed to the bank accounts of corrupt officials.

(Auditors in a foreign country found people having preserved cut thumbs of dead people to be used for drawing old-age pension disbursed by cash vans. Smart people find ways to evade even CCTV coverage. There is no limit to people's ingenuity in cheating.)

Authentication technologies are evolving to check online frauds, identity thefts. QR Codes, masked Aadhaar-card-based e-KYC is increasingly used in mobile banking. The user ID and password for online login have been found insufficient. Online financial transactions now have additional safeguards of two-factor authentication in place. Mobile OTP and complex Captcha Codes - numeric, alphanumeric, visual word clues, and even simple arithmetical calculations and click to prove you are not a robot - virtual keyboards, disable-copy-paste, etc., are now in place. Even then scammers are often able to steal IDs and fool gullible people to part with mobile OTP codes.

So, what next in authentication technology? Iris scan? Facial recognition software? Implanted chips? Yes, all these technologies are increasingly being used to safeguard against financial fraud. The self-service kiosks of banks having no human attendants around. Access controls have been installed in particular rooms in offices and factories. These controls allow entry of

only bonafide customers into unattended smart branches or kiosks after biometrics recognition through fingerprints and iris scan, behavioral biometrics like the way customers type in the key board or click the mouse, facial expressions (smile on the face, blink of eyes), gestures, and speech recognition.

We would like to have all IT systems including Aadhaar-based DBT systems to have strong audit checks and trails built into the system. However, we do not want auditors, managers and public administrators to be guided by constant suspicion, intrusive scrutiny, invasion of privacy, and assault on dignity. It slows down the system. However, there must be exemplary and deterrent actions to deal with those who betray the trust in a trust-based, simplified administrative system.

A troubling report from Microsoft 2021 Global Tech Support Scam Research says that 69 per cent of consumers in India experienced online fraud encounters in the past year. Nearly 48 per cent of consumers were tricked into taking part in scammers. These instances are triple the global average. Around 31 per cent of surveyed Indians eventually lost money - the highest proportion globally. On average, Indian consumers lost \$15,334 in 2021, although 88 per cent of them were able to recover some money.

The lure of easy money and carelessness about the basics of digital hygiene are both responsible for this worrisome situation. While the use of mobile phones is expanding daily, awareness about privacy and security issues is lagging. Improving this consciousness is an important public interest issue.

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

JULY HAS PASSED, THE VACCINE SHORTAGE HAS NOT GONE. WHERE ARE VACCINES? — CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



MORE THAN 13 CORE VACCINES HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED IN INDIA IN JULY. IT IS GOING TO ACCELERATE THIS MONTH. — UNION HEALTH MINISTER MANSUKH MANDAVITA

Afghanistan: How did they think it would end?

The Western armies lose no matter how big and well-equipped they are because the insurgents are fighting on home ground

I will never kneel before such a destructive force as the Taliban," declared Ashraf Ghani, the soon-to-be ex-president of Afghanistan. "We will either sit knee-to-knee for real negotiations at the table, or break their knees on the battlefield." Good luck with that, Ashraf.



GWYNNE DYER

General Sami Sadat, still commander of Helmand province as I write this (although perhaps not by the time you read it), was equally confident, but warned that the safety of the world is at stake: "This will increase the hope for small extremist groups to mobilise in the cities of Europe and America, and will have a devastating effect on global security." And how did it all come to this? Ashraf Ghani point-

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

ed out that it is obviously America's fault. "The reason for our current situation is that (the US decision to withdraw) was taken abruptly," he told parliament on Monday. Well, fair enough. US forces have been in Afghanistan for a bare twenty years and the treacherous cowards are already quitting. Donald Trump signed a treaty with the Taliban eighteen months ago promising that all US troops would leave Afghanistan by the 1st of May this year. Short notice indeed.

I'm tempted to go back into the archives and find similar brave declarations of imminent victory by South Vietnamese generals (followed by similar predictions of global disaster if they are



abandoned) in the final weeks before the helicopters started plucking Americans from the US embassy roof in Saigon in 1975. But it's a nice day and I can't be bothered. President Ghani, General Sadat, and all their friends are reading from the same old script, just 46 years later, and once that final scene has played out in Kabul they'll go and live in the United States. (Don't worry. They've saved up enough money.) The only

real surprise here is how thoroughly Western armed forces managed to target their own history.

I'm not talking about the old history, when three invasions of Afghanistan at the height of British imperial power (1839-42; 1878-80; 1919) all failed to achieve their objectives.

I'm not even talking about the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in 1979-89 when the United States helped the Taliban and similar Islamist groups to do to the Russians exactly what the Taliban have now done to the Americans themselves.

The problem there was that Americans did not see Russians as Western, although viewed from a low orbit they are virtually iden-

tical. US generals, therefore, believed that some essential difference between the two armies protected American troops and strategy in the Russians.

Never mind all that. The really unpardonable mistake was forgetting all the lessons taught by the Taliban learned from a dozen lost guerrilla wars in former colonies between 1954 and 1975.

France in Algeria and Indochina, Britain in Kenya, Cyprus and Aden, Portugal in Angola and Mozambique, the proxy wars in Rhodesia and South-West Africa (as they were then known), and the United States again in Indochina. All the wars were lost, and yet the defeated imperial powers didn't lose anything except face.

Western armies really did learn the lessons of those defeats. As a young man in the 1970s I taught military history and strategy in the Canadian Forces Staff College and then at Britain's Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. The doctrine I taught was a) Western armies always lose guerrilla wars in the 'Third World, and b) it never really matters.

The Western armies lose no matter how big and well-equipped they are because the insurgents are fighting on home ground. They can't quit and go home because they are already at home. Your side can always quit and go home, and sooner or later that your own public will demand that they do. So, you are bound to lose eventually, even if you win all

the battles. But losing doesn't matter, because the insurgents are always first and foremost nationalists. They may have picked up bits of some grand ideology to make them feel that 'history is on their side' - Marxism or Islamism or whatever - but all they want is for you to go home so they can run their own show. They won't actually follow you home.

By 1975 this hard-earned wisdom was the official doctrine in almost every army in the Western world, but military generations are short. A typical military career is only 25 years, so by 2001 nobody remembered it. Their successors had to start learning it again the hard way. Maybe by now, they have.

Airstrikes pummel Taliban in south

Insurgents gain in north

AP ■ KABUL

The Afghan air force carried out more airstrikes against Taliban positions in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, as the insurgent force made additional gains in the country's north. A defence ministry statement said air strikes were carried out across the country, including in the southern Helmand province, where the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah is being fiercely contested. The Taliban control of nine of the city's 10 police districts.

Residents in Lashkar Gah reported heavy bombing near the government radio and television station, which is under Taliban control. Several wedding halls and a guesthouse of the provincial governor are all located near the radio and television station.

Dr. Sher Ali Shaker, head of Helmand's public health department said that in past 24 hours at least three civilians were killed and 40 more including women and children were wounded during battles in Lashkar Gah city.

In northern Afghanistan, the Taliban took control of most of the provincial capital of Sar-e-Pul, the head of its coun-

cil, Mohammad Noor Rahmani said. In recent months, the group has gained control of dozens of districts across several provinces in the north.

Meanwhile, Jawzjan province in the north remains under a three-month Taliban attack with most of its districts having surrendered to the Taliban without a fight. The stronghold of Rashid Dostum, an Uzbek warlord, has lost eight out of ten districts to the

insurgents, who continue to advance on the capital, Shibirghan city. Dostum returned to Afghanistan on Wednesday and plans to lead the fight in Shibirghan after an agreement with President Ashraf Ghani, his spokesman Ehsan Nero said.

In the west, Taliban attacked seven different parts of Herat city but were defeated, said Idrisi Farhad, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

Deeply concerned about safety and protection of people in Af's Lashkargah: UN chief

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

Nearly 360,000 people have been forcibly displaced by the raging conflict in Afghanistan since the start of the year with UN chief Antonio Guterres expressing deep concern about the safety and protection of people in Lashkargah where tens of thousands of people could be trapped by fighting as the Taliban continue their ground assault.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has called for an immediate end to fighting in urban areas, saying that civilians are bearing the

brunt of the violence. The latest reports show that 40 civilians have been killed and 118 injured within the last 24 hours in the city of Lashkargah as the Taliban continue their ground assault. In Kandahar, at least 5 civilians were killed and 42 wounded.

"We can tell you that we are deeply concerned about the safety and protection of people in Lashkargah, in the south, where tens of thousands of people could be trapped by fighting," Stephane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General Guterres, said at the daily press briefing on Wednesday.

Under India's Presidency, UNSC will meet today to discuss situation in Af

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council, under the Presidency of India, will meet on Friday to discuss the worsening security situation in Afghanistan.

The decision to hold the open UNSC briefing on Afghanistan comes just a day after Afghanistan Foreign Minister Mohammed Haneef Atmar spoke with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to discuss convening an emergency UN Security Council Session on Afghanistan.

"UN Security Council will meet on Friday, 6th August, under Indian Presidency to discuss and take stock of the situation in Afghanistan," India's Permanent Representative to UN and Security Council President for the month of August Ambassador T S Tirumurti tweeted late on Wednesday.

Atmar said the UN and the international community must play a greater role to stop the unfolding tragedy in Afghanistan due to Taliban violence and atrocities. "Appreciate the lead role of as current UNSC President," Atmar had tweeted.

The fighting between the Taliban and Afghanistan's government forces has intensified over the past few months as US and NATO troops complete their pullout from the war-torn country. A meeting on Afghanistan

The decision to hold the open UNSC briefing on Afghanistan comes just a day after Afghanistan Foreign Minister Mohammed Haneef Atmar spoke with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to discuss convening an emergency UN Security Council Session on Afghanistan

had not been scheduled during the month as per the Council's Programme of Work for the month adopted on Monday.

Briefing reporters at the UN Headquarters, Tirumurti had said he expects that while the Security Council will be looking at this aspect sooner rather than later, it is on Afghanistan in response to a question on the situation in Afghanistan and what the Security Council can do to prevent further escalation in the war-torn country.

It is significant that the open briefing on Afghanistan comes within the first week of India's Presidency of the Council, highlighting the urgency of the current situation in Afghanistan.

Tirumurti had said that the situation in Afghanistan is of deep concern to all members of the Security Council and "we have seen that in recent days, the violence is only increasing."

Pak has other 'options', PM Imran's aide tells US

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Upset over US President Joe Biden's reluctance to telephonically contact Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf has said that Islamabad has other "options" if the American leader continues to ignore the country's leadership.

"The president of the United States hasn't spoken to the prime minister of such an important country who the US itself says is make-or-break in some cases, in some ways, in Afghanistan - we struggle to understand the signal, right?" Yusuf said in an interview with The Financial Times of London, according to the Dawn newspaper here.

"We've been told every time that... (the phone call) will happen, its technical reasons or whatever. But frankly, people don't believe it," he said. "If a

phone call is a concession, if a security relationship is a concession, Pakistan has options," he added, refusing to elaborate. The US State Department, however, has assured Islamabad that Washington recognises Pakistan's vital role in restoring peace in Afghanistan and wants Islamabad to play that role.

"Pakistan has much to gain and will continue to have a critical role, and be well-positioned to have a role in supporting the outcome" in Afghanistan, said US State Department spokesman Ned Price.

"We'll continue to work and to communicate closely with our Pakistani partners on this," he added.

But The Financial Times reported on Tuesday that Yusuf complained about President Biden's failure to contact Prime Minister Khan as Washington sought help to stop the Taliban taking over Afghanistan. "The cold shoulder from

Washington comes as the Taliban has captured swaths of territory across Afghanistan in a ruthless offensive emboldened by US "pullout," the report added. The British newspaper said that while Yusuf did not elaborate on his options, "Pakistan has cultivated deep ties with its Iron brother China, which has invested billions in infrastructure projects as part of its Belt and Road Initiative."

"There are still a number of world leaders President Biden has not been able to speak with personally yet. He looks forward to speaking with Prime Minister Khan when the time is right," a Biden administration official told the paper.

The report pointed out that the diplomatic affront was the latest setback in US-Pakistan relations after their cooperation during the war on terrorism following the 9/11 attack on the twin towers by the Al-Qaeda.

Mob attacks temple in Pak, damages idols

PTI ■ LAHORE

A mob attacked a Hindu temple in a remote town in Pakistan's Punjab province, damaging idols and burning down parts of it, prompting Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed to express "grave concern" over the incident and fix the matter before court for hearing on Friday.

Police said the mob attacked the Hindu temple at Bhong city of Rahim Yar Khan district, some 590 kms from Lahore, on Wednesday in reaction to an alleged desecration of a Muslim cemetery by a minor Hindu boy. The eight-year-old Hindu boy last week had allegedly urinated at a library of the seminary that caused tensions in Bhong, where Muslims and Hindus have been living peacefully for decades. A police officer said the boy was arrested last week and booked under the blasphemy laws but subsequently released on bail for being a minor. "The attackers were carrying sticks, stones and bricks. They smashed the deities while raising religious slogans," District Police Officer Asad Sarfaraz said.

He said a part of the temple was also burnt down.

Israel launches airstrikes on Lebanon in response to rockets

PTI ■ TEL AVIV

Tel Aviv: Israel on Thursday escalated its response to rocket attacks from Lebanon by launching air strikes on its northern neighbor, the army and Lebanese officials said.

A statement from the Israeli military said jets struck the launch sites from which the rockets were fired, as well as an additional target used to attack Israel in the past. The military blamed the state of Lebanon for the shelling and warned "against further attempts to harm Israeli civilians and Israel's sovereignty".

The overnight airstrikes in southern Lebanon were a marked escalation at a politically sensitive time. Israel's new eight-party governing coalition is trying to keep peace under a fragile cease-fire that ended on 11-day war with Hamas' militant rulers in Gaza in May. Several incidents leading up to this week's rocket fire from Lebanon have focused attention on Israel's northern border.

Israeli Defence Min threatens Iran with military action

AP ■ TEL AVIV

Israel's Defence Minister Lior Hareli threatened Thursday that his country is prepared to strike Iran, issuing the threat against the Islamic Republic after a fatal drone strike on an oil tanker at sea that his nation blamed on Tehran.

The comments by Benny Gantz came as Israel meanwhile lobbies countries for action at the United Nations over last week's attack on the oil tanker Mercer Street that killed two people. The tanker, struck off Oman in the Arabian Sea, is managed by a firm owned by an Israeli billionaire.

The US and the United Kingdom similarly blamed Iran for the attack, but no country has offered evidence or intelligence to support their claims. Iran, which along with its regional militia allies has launched similar drone attacks, has denied being involved.

Speaking to the news website Ynet, Gantz responded to whether Israel was prepared to attack Iran with a blunt "yes." "We are at a point where we need to take military action against Iran," Gantz said. "The world needs to take action against Iran now."



People wearing face masks to help curb the spread of the coronavirus cross an intersection in Tokyo on Thursday. AP

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, CD-Irrigation & Flood Control Department GNCTD Opp. ESI Hospital, Basal Darapur Office Complex New Delhi 110027 invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate tender for approved and eligible contractors for the following works:-

- NIT No. EE/CD-I/DB/NIT/2021-22/23 (ID No. 2021_IFC_206429) 1) H.O.A-2711-Non Plan, Name of Work:- Watch & water of N.G. Drain between RD. 0680m (Outer Ring Road) to RD. 4531m (Bassindarapur Bridge) right bank for preventing any kind of encroachment, dumping of malba, building rubbish and other similar unserviceable material etc. for a period of 180 days round the clock. E.C. Rs. 9,58,098/- period of Completion 180 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 07.08.2021 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M. respectively).
- NIT No. EE/CD-I/DB/NIT/2021-22/24 (ID No. 2021_IFC_206432) 1) H.O.A-2711-Non Plan, Name of Work:- Repairing and Renovation of Boundary of O.S. Regulator (old) Bridge RD 30180 to Kankrola Regulator (New) Bridge RD 30780 at Left Bank of Najafgarh Drain, E.C. Rs. 65,74,746/- period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 09.08.2021 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M. respectively).

Note :- 1) Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
2. Amendment(s)/alteration(s)/ corrigendum if any, will be available at website only.

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/CD-I
Civil Division-I
Irr. & Flood Control Deptt.
Govt. Of NCT of Delhi
DIP/Shabdarth/0215/21-22

Tokyo logs record 5,042 Covid cases amid Games

AP ■ TOKYO

Tokyo reported 5,042 new coronavirus cases on Thursday, its most since the pandemic began as infections surge in the Japanese capital hosting the Olympics.

Tokyo has been under a state of emergency since mid-July and four outer areas of the country have since been added. But the measures, basically shorter opening hours and a ban on alcohol for restaurants and bars, are increasingly ignored by the public, which has become tired of restrictions.

"We need to tackle the situation now that we have a stronger sense of urgency," Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga told reporters, referring to Tokyo exceeding 5,000 new daily cases for the first time. "The infections are expanding at a pace we have never experienced before."

Suga, who has been criticized for insisting on hosting the Olympics despite the coronavirus surge, says there is no evidence linking the increase in cases to the July 23-Aug. 8 Games. He urged people to firmly stick to the emergency requests and stay at home during summer vacation.

LANDMARK THE HOMES 81
SECTOR-81, GURUGRAM (HARYANA)

PROJECT APPROVED UNDER HARYANA GOVT. AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY 2013

Online applications are invited from general public for booking and allotment of 694 residential apartments in Affordable Housing Project in the name of "LANDMARK THE HOMES 81" proposed to be developed by M/s SRV Automotives Pvt. Ltd., as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Govt. of Haryana vide notification no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 and amendment thereof (details available at the department website i.e. www.tcpaharyana.gov.in).

PROJECT DETAILS:

- Colonizers/Developers: M/s SRV Automotives Pvt. Ltd.
- Project Approvals: License No. 4 of 2021 Dated: 02.03.2021
Building Plans Sanctioned Vide Memo No. ZP-1466/SD (DK)/2021/12887 DATED 02.06.2021.
RERA Registration No: 36 of 2021, Dated: 16.07.2021
- Location: Sector 81, Gurugram, Haryana
- Project Area: 5.0 Acres comprising a total 694 nos. of apartments out of which 5% of apartments are reserved for management quota (35 apartments). Community Facilities: One Community Hall of 2046.83 sq. ft. & one Aanganwadi cum creche of 2023.63 sq. ft.
- Facilities: Gated Entry, Security Post, Drop off Zone, Ample Parking, Kids play area, Water body, Badminton Court, Lawn tennis, Commercial Complex

6. Details of Apartments offer for Public:

Unit Type	Unit Carpet Area (Sq.ft)	Unit Balcony Area (Sq.ft)	Total price of Unit (Rs.)	At the time of Online Application (Rs.)	No. of Units
Unit-1 (3bhk)	645.48	143.82	2631920	129096	290
Unit-2 (3bhk)	644.86	152.34	2629440	128972	142
Unit-3 (2bhk)	559.82	179.33	2289280	111964	112
Unit-4 (2bhk)	566.61	124.16	2316440	113322	80
Unit-5 (3bhk)	645.26	338.08	2631040	129052	16
Unit-6 (1bhk)	348.04	85.34	1344830	69608	45
Unit-7 (1bhk)	398.86	85.34	1638110	79772	9

- Applicable GST and cesses, levies & fees etc. shall be charged over & above the said total price of the unit)
- Payment Terms:**
 - With online application: Booking amount i.e. 5% of Total Price of unit
 - On Allotment: 20% of Total Price of unit
 - Balance: 75% of the Total amount payable in six equal half yearly instalments over a period of 3 years. Any default in payment will bear penal interest as provided in Rule 15 of the HRERA, rules, 2017.
- Parking:** Two wheeler parking with each apartment.
- Broad Specification of Apartment:**
Flooring: Vitrified/Ceramic Tiles, Wall Finish: Oil Bound distemper, Kitchen Details: SS Single bowl Sink, Granite top platform, Balcony Flooring: Anti Skid Tiles, Railing: M.S Steel, Window/External Door: UPVC/MS/Aluminium or equivalent, Door: Flush Doors, Bathroom Fittings: Chinaware or equivalent, C. P. Fittings: Modern & elegant, Electrical: ISI marked products for wirings, switches & circuits.
- Application Timelines:** Application will be filled online by registration on <https://edraw.tcpaharyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home> starting from 6th August 2021 and last date of submission of online application form is 27th August 2021.
- ELIGIBILITY:**
 - Any person can apply but an applicant in a specify colony shall make only one application. 2. Any Person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna - Housing for all programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First Priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the state of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, Persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licensed colony in any of the urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given next Preference in allotment of flats. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice to retain only one flat. All such applicants shall submit an affidavit to this effect. 3. PAN Card & Aadhaar Card is mandatory.
- ALLOTMENT CRITERIA:**
 - The allotment of apartments shall be done through online draw in the presence of Committee consisting Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned District and the representative of concerned colonizer. 2. After fixation of date for online draw, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicant about the details regarding date/time and venue of the online draw in the same newspaper in which the original advertisement was issued. For detailed criteria and time frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicant may also refer to the details in the affordable housing policy 2013 notified by No. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (available at the department website i.e. www.tcpaharyana.gov.in)
 - In the event the purchaser(s) wants to avail a loan facility from any bank, financial institution or his/her employer to facilitate the purchase of the flat, the developer shall facilitate the process but shall not be held liable for any delay in payment or refusal to grant the loan to purchaser(s).

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Please Contact - 8929887878



black coffee where hot water is poured over a shot of espresso, the Long Java has the espresso shot poured over hot water, therefore, making it slightly more concentrated and the flavours more pronounced. This winning cup of concentrated black might come off as a little bit bitter for some people but gives an exquisite kick that only a good cup of coffee offers. Paired with lemon and floral taste notes, one sip doesn't just jolt you awake but also refreshes you up beautifully.

However, what I found most innovative about the Slay Signature blend was how the taste notes change with different brews. While the Americano was citrusy, the Cappuccino was a warm, chocolaty hug. In my several years of drinking coffee, I have always been wary of having coffee with milk. Having mostly drunk different brews of black coffee, I'm always scared that baristas will add too much milk into my drink creating not a latte but a pale, milky mess. The Slay Cappuccino was a pleasant surprise. The steamed milk added to the blend seemed to elevate the flavour to a completely different level. While the fragrant brew reminded one of a bitter caramel sauce, the flavour of the coffee had hints of chocolate in it. With just the right amount of milk, the Cappuccino made me warm inside and I could close my eyes and visualise myself on a rainy evening, sitting in the balcony with my fingers curled around a cup.

The chocolate taste note doesn't end here. Slay seems to have realised that coffee and chocolate happens to be a combo made in heaven because their famous filter coffee, Madras Mud, a tribute to the South Indian coffee gods features it too. Caramelised with hints of cocoa over a medium roast, the Madras Mud might have just become my new filter coffee favourite.

Along with their hot options, Slay also offers a variety of cold brews and frappés to cool you down on an unbearable summer day. With crowd favourites, like the Hazelnut Cold Coffee that tastes like a cup of Nutella, I can see this cloud kitchen becoming one of the prime places to get coffee in India in a few years.

Coffee isn't just a beverage. It is an overall stimulating experience of all your senses. Being both highly social and intrinsically personal, to me, it is a love language and I'm glad to say I have been "slayed" with coffee.

To all the coffee lovers of the country, try a Slay cuppa—you won't regret it!



The drink's craft

On the occasion of International Beer Day, ANNEET SINGH talks about the changes which were witnessed during the year

The past year has drastically changed everything — including a quantum transformation — especially in the craft brewing industry. COVID's impact forced many breweries, globally, to close their taprooms, causing massive disruption and losses in the industry. However, the resilience, dynamism and adaptability of craft brewing professionals across the world paved a path for breweries to be able to find new ways to sell their beer and keep their business afloat through innovation and dedication.

Despite administrative impediments — such as authorising limitations, restricted charges and a nationwide taboo on publicising of alcoholic drinks — the industry continues to flourish and makes monstrous developments in the general refining industry.

Beer is gradually becoming more acceptable as a social drink among the urban youth. The Indian beer market is progressively attractive and it will double in size till 2025. Increasing purchasing power and changing preferences are some of the major factors of the growth of the beer industry in India.

The craft beer segment in the country is expected to reach \$900 million by 2024, according to a report by Goldstein Research.

Some of the notable craft beer trends that need to be watched out for are as follows:

DTC Beer delivery
 One interesting side-effect that the pandemic had on the craft beer industry was consideration for DTC (direct-to-consumer) beer shipping and home delivery. As breweries across the country shut down last year, many breweries and beer manufacturing companies and outlets have considered making up for their loss of in-person sales with delivery sales.

Breweries go digital
 As breweries safely navigate the current situation, upgrading their conventional customer processes has been a necessity. It has also exponentially increased the adoption rate of new software and apps to improve the operations and efficiency of customer service.

Packaging
 The pandemic saw consumers increasingly purchasing items in bulk — including beer. Packaging is always high on the list of craft brewery trends.

Witnessing the growth in demand for craft beer, the market has seen bidding for quality variants consequently. Though at a nascent stage, India's craft beer industry is evidently one of the fastest-growing trades. Growth is primarily being driven by millennials, who find craft beer more authentic and premium, compared to regular lagers.

The author is the founder of Medusa Beverages.

Imagine that feeling of entering a coffee shop and being hit immediately by that heavenly aroma of ground coffee beans and a freshly brewed pot of coffee. And as you stand there staring at the plethora of brews wondering and wishing you had the time and capacity to drink all that they had to offer, you wish the world would stop revolving and all of the time would stand still as you take one deep breath after another hoping this feeling would last forever.

This was the exact feeling I experienced when the Slay Coffee brews arrived. Even before I opened the paper bag handed to me by a delivery valet, the aroma seeped through it and invigorated all my senses. In my head, delivered coffee can't smell like that. I was half-expecting a series of flat, cold drinks that I'd struggle to digest. So, you can only guess my absolute delight when I took a sip and was instead transported to a happy, warm place of caffeinated wonder.

If I sound like a huge coffee nerd, that is probably because I am one. This almost obsessive, romantic relationship with coffee began from the moment I took my first sip. I

'SLAY'-ED WITH LOVE

Initially sceptical and half-expecting a series of flat drinks, DYUTI ROY is pleasantly surprised by the quality of coffee delivered at her doorstep

I don't quite remember how old I was when I first tasted caffeine, but I distinctly remember tasting it. My mother had her regular evening cup and offered me a sip. That small mouthful of strong, sugary black coffee seemed to fillilate this hitherto unknown taste bud that I never knew existed. While other kids of my age turned their noses up against this bitter drink, my love affair had already begun. Since that day, years ago, I have consumed a copious amount of coffee so much so that my friends say it is plausible that my veins pump coffee instead of blood.

Drinking the Slay Coffee brews has been a wonderful experience. This cloud kitchen for coffee-on-the-go serves a collection of brews that



that the company offers makes authentic coffee both accessible and affordable. In India, where the coffee culture has grown exponentially in the past few years, I am sure most of us have struggled to get a hold of a good cup of gourmet coffee that can be picked up on the way to work or simply ordered online. The people at Slay seem to have nipped this problem in the bud. Introducing the brilliant initiative of takeaway coffee, its smart packaging techniques of insulated cups, snug holders and artistic delivery boxes dispatch their hand-crafted beverages of goodness to you without any spillage while also retaining the warmth and aroma of the freshly brewed coffee. It is like having a coffee bar all to yourself!

Of all the brews I tried, my absolute favourite was the Long Java Americano. Served black, just the way I like it, it looked like an Americano but has an interesting twist to it. Instead of the usual

Against the backdrop of the pandemic, people are increasingly seeking to lose weight more than ever before. Initial constraints on movement — limiting one's capacity to exercise — and increasing levels of comfort eating due to high levels of worry, all contribute to waistline concerns. Individuals, naturally, are becoming increasingly concerned about the short- and long-term consequences of obesity and would want to solve it.

Now, customers want the food and beverage industry to help it by providing solutions that make it easier for them to manage their weight. This is especially important in the snack industry, where customers are increasingly looking for guilt-free and conveniently nutritious items so they can continue to enjoy moments of indulgence without thinking about their health.

Interestingly, the current situ-

Mindful eating to guilt-free snacking

VIPUL GAMBHIR elaborates upon the change in heart of the snack industry

ation has made the concept of 'mindful eating' popular among a significant segment of people previously unaware of the ingredients needed to create the final product. The population of people looking for guilt-free eating is growing as they do not want to compromise on the taste of snacks but, at the same time, do not want to mess around with their health. The mindful eating, that once stopped them from relishing various delicacies, has paved the way under the pressure of living life to the fullest.

The biggest hurdle was having snacks when you are craving something apart from regular food

items. The munching tooth needed relief from the craving and the best way is to head towards the packet of snacks. Owing to the trend of guilt-free eating, snacking in India is evolving to become gluten-free and GMO-free. Not long ago, high-fat, high-sugar snacks were thought to be the only way to curb afternoon hunger, but companies are increasingly advocating more diverse and sophisticated products, with natural and organic brands (and stores) leading the way.

Resultantly, the snacking scene has changed dramatically in response to changing consumer



demands. With their unique ingredients and end-product choices, conscious and innovative brands are ushering in much-needed change. Indians are looking for nutrient-dense options that don't sacrifice taste while also ensuring they're eating healthful foods. Innovative and healthier alternatives, such as hummus chips, baked wholegrain snacks, vegetable crisps, seeds and nuts, raw kale chips and savoury seed cubes are becoming increasingly popular among guilt-free snackers.

Popular Indian delicacies like bhujia are being experimented with by brands. Such bhujias, for example, are healthy not just because of the nutrient-dense components utilised but also because of the method used to prepare the final product. They're vacuum-fried which, uses 70 per cent less oil, keeps the nutrient content of the ingredients intact by frying

at a lower temperature for a certain amount of time.

Beetroot bhujia, quinoa bhujia and other eye-catching goods are available. Consider how antioxidants in a snack like bhujia can help protect you from a variety of chronic ailments like heart disease, diabetes, and malignancies of the skin and liver. Bhujia, for example, has chemicals that help lower blood pressure, lower the risk of heart disease and improve liver function. Due to the availability of chips produced from rajma, brown rice and moong dal and the utilisation of innovative processes, such as vacuum cooking — for the previously popular banana, jackfruit — guilt-free snacking has become possible.

The author is the business head of Yummino, which strives to provide healthier snacking options without harsh chemicals or preservatives.

R E C I P E S

SABUDANA KHICHDI

WHAT YOU NEED

- Tapioca pearls/sago/sabudana: 1½ cup
- Potato (boiled and chopped): 1
- Green chillies (chopped): 2
- Ginger (grated): 1 tsp
- Peanuts: ½ cup
- Lemon juice: 1½ tbsp
- Fastening salt to taste
- Black pepper powder: 1/3 tsp
- Cumin seeds: 1 tsp
- Sugar: ½ tsp
- Ghee: 3 tbsp
- Fresh coriander (chopped): 3 tbsp

METHOD

● Wash sabudana twice to remove the excess starch and then soak it in water overnight. Crush the peanuts to make a coarse powder

- Mix soaked sabudana, salt, sugar, pepper powder, ginger and lemon juice in a big bowl
- Heat ghee or oil in a wok.
- Add cumin and green chillies in the pan and let it crackle.
- Add crushed peanuts to the pan and saute on low heat till they become golden in colour.
- Add cubed potatoes and a pinch of salt and saute for a few seconds.
- Add the sabudana mixture and mix well.
- Cover and cook on low heat for about five minutes, keep stirring in between twice-thrice so that it will not stick and burn at the bottom.
- Once the sabudana becomes translucent and shiny, add fresh coriander and mix.
- Serve sabudana khichdi hot.

Courtesy: Vinsplata



HOT CROSS BUN LOAF WITH CHOCOLATE & CANDIED CITRUS FRUITS

WHAT YOU NEED

- (chopped): 50 gm
- Sultanas: 60 gm
- For the crosses:
 - Strong white plain flour: 25 gm
 - Vegetable oil: 1 tsp
 - Cold water: 2 tsp
- For the glaze:
 - Orange juice: 75 ml
 - Honey: 2 tbsp
- For the buns:
 - Strong white flour: 425 gm + extra for dusting
 - Cocoa powder: 30 gm
 - Sea salt: 1 tsp
 - Mixed spice: 1 tsp
 - Butter: 50 gm + extra to grease the casserole
 - Caster sugar: 6 tsp
 - Fine orange zest: 1
 - Milk: 200 ml
 - Dried active yeast: 1 tsp
 - Large egg (beaten): 1
 - Milk chocolate chips: 60 gm
 - Candied citrus peel

METHOD

- Sift the flour, cocoa, salt and spice into a large warmed bowl. Rub in the butter and stir in five tablespoons of the caster sugar and the orange zest.
- Warm the milk, whisk in the remaining tablespoon of sugar and the dried yeast, and leave for five minutes until frothy.
- Make a well in the centre of

the dry ingredients, pour in the frothy yeast mixture and the beaten egg. Work the mixture together using a large spatula until it leaves the sides of the bowl and forms a dough.

- Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface and knead for five-six minutes until it has become smooth and elastic. Return the dough to the bowl, cover with some oiled cling film and set to rise in a warm place until doubled in size. This will take around one — 1½ hours.
- Turn the risen dough out onto a floured work surface and knead two-three times to knock out the air. Flatten the dough out into a large rectangle, and sprinkle over the chocolate chips, candied citrus peel and the sultanas. Knead two-three times more to incorporate the chocolate and fruit into the dough.
- Divide the dough into 11 equal pieces and roll into balls. To ensure all the buns are the same size, weigh the finished dough, divide the figure by 11 then cut and weigh each piece of dough before rolling into a ball.
- Grease the casserole with some of the extra butter and lightly dust with flour.
- Evenly space out the dough

balls in the casserole, eight around the outside and three in the centre. Cover and leave to rise for one-1 ½ hours or until it doubles in size. Warming the casserole before putting in the buns to rise and then placing on the lid will provide a perfect environment for the rising process. 10-15 minutes towards the end of the rising process preheat the oven to 200°C/ 400°F/ Gas Mark 6. For an assisted electric oven, you may need to reduce the temperature by 10-20°C.

- For the crosses mix the flour, oil and enough water together to make a smooth paste. Place the mixture into a plastic piping bag or small plastic bag, snip four-five mm off the corner and pipe a cross on each bun.
- Place the casserole into the preheated oven and bake the loaf for 30-35 minutes until well risen and lightly browned.
- To make the glaze, simmer the orange juice and the honey together in a small pan for three-four minutes until it has reduced a little and has a sticky texture. Brush the glaze over the hot baked bun loaf and allow to soak in. Serve the bun loaf in the casserole.

Courtesy: Le Creuset India



COLD FIGHTING DETOX TEA

WHAT YOU NEED

- Tulsi leaves: 3-4
- Tea leaves as per taste
- Clove: 4-5 pieces
- Black pepper: 4-5 pieces
- Black tea: ½ tsp
- Rock salt: a pinch
- Asafoetida: a pinch
- Water: 1 cup

METHOD

- In a pan boil a cup of water.
- To this, add some tea leaves, the tulsi leaves, crushed cloves and black peppercorns.
- Let the mixture steep for five minutes in a closed container.
- Pour the tea in a cup and add a pinch of rock salt and asafoetida to it.
- Serve while still hot.

Courtesy: Cherise India Private Ltd

TOKYO TIMELINE

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

● **Athletics:** Sandeep Kumar, Rahul Rohilla and K T Irfan finished 23rd, 47th and 51st respectively in men's 20km race walk event.
● **Golf:** Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar at tied second and tied 53rd respectively at the end of women's individual stroke play round 2.
● **Hockey:** India beat Germany 5-4 in men's Bronze medal match.
● **Wrestling:** Anshu Malik lost to Valerita Kobeseva (ROC) in repechage round of women's freestyle 57kg. Vinesh Phogat beat Sofia Magdalena Mattsson (Sweden), lost to Vanesa Kaladzinskaya in quarterfinals of women's freestyle 53kg.
Ravi Dahiya lost to Zaur Uguev (Russian Olympic Committee) in men's freestyle 57kg final.
Deepak Punia lost to Myles Nazem Amine (San Marino) in men's freestyle 86kg Bronze medal match.

IN ACTION TODAY

● **Athletics:** Gurpreet Singh in men's 50km race walk event. (02:00am)
Priyanka Goswami and Bhawna Jit in women's 20km race walk event. (01:00pm)
Indian team in men's 4x400m relay round 1 heat 2. (05:07pm)
● **Golf:** Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar in women's individual stroke play round 3. (04:00am)
● **Hockey:** India vs Great Britain in women's Bronze medal match. (07:00am)
● **Wrestling:** Bajrang Punia vs Ennaraz Akmatiev (Kyrgyzstan) in men's freestyle 65kg (eighth bout after 08:00am start).
Seema Bisla vs Sara Hamdi (Tunisia) in repechage round of women's freestyle 50kg. (second bout after 08:00am start).

Live on SONY TEN & SIX Network



Indian men's hockey team players and head coach Graham Reid pose for photo with the Olympic Bronze medal during presentation ceremony on Thursday

PTI ■ TOKYO

A resolute Indian men's hockey team rewrote history as it claimed an Olympic medal after 41 years, defeating a plucky Germany 5-4 to win the Bronze in an edge-of-the-seat play-off match of the ongoing Games here on Thursday.

The eight-time former Gold-winner, who battled a heartbreaking slump in the last four decades, made the resurgence of the last couple of years count in the best way possible with an Olympic medal. Their Bronze, which is worth its weight in Gold for the sheer emotion and nostalgia that hockey invokes in the country, became India's fifth medal at the ongoing Games. Simranjeet Singh (17th, 34th minutes) scored a brace, while Hardik Singh (27th), Harmanpreet Singh (29th) and Rupinder Pal Singh (31st) were the other goal-getters for world No 3 India. Germany's goals were scored by Timur Oruz (2nd), Niklas Wellen (24th),

INDIA'S WAIT IS OVER

Men's hockey team beat Germany 5-4 in third place play-off to win Bronze

Benedikt Furk (25th) and Lukas Windfelder (48th). Determined to clinch a medal, the Indians made one of the most memorable comebacks in the history of the game, fighting back from a two-goal deficit to turn the match in their favour after being 1-3 down thanks to some defensive lapses. There were tears and hugs on the field as the Indians led by

Manpreet Singh and coached by Australian Graham Reid savoured the historic moment. It is India's third hockey Bronze medal in the history of the Olympics. The other two came in 1968 Mexico City and the 1972 Munich Games. In all, the country now has 12 Olympic medals, eight of them Gold, making it the most successful at the showpiece. He similarly tweeted praise for other players of the team, including Nilakanta Sharma, Sumit, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Lalit Upadhyay, Gurjant Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Shamsher Singh, Mandeep Singh, Brendra Lakra, Amit Rohidas, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh and Rupinder Pal Singh. PTI

Privileged to have played a part: Reid

Tokyo: The Indian men's hockey team's coach Graham Reid on Thursday said he feels "privileged" to be a part of the games revival in India after the side clinched its first Olympic medal in 41 years, crediting togetherness and a team first mentality for the triumph. "It is a fantastic feeling, it has come after a lot of sacrifices that the whole group has made," Reid said referring to the time the players spent away from their families and in some cases, battling Covid-19 as well. "It takes a long time to get where these athletes have gotten. All the sacrifices that go unseen," he added after the 5-4 triumph over Germany. "I know that apart from the country, this group has been waiting for a medal for a fairly long time and I know how much hockey means to India and I am privileged to help play a part in that. It means a lot after being in quarantine for the last eight out of 16 months." India were 1-3 down in the match and Reid said one of the things that has been worked on during his stint was to never lose hope of a comeback. "Before the game I asked the guys to make sure they bring the next level if something happens, for example, if you are down, you need to bring the next level of play and they did that very well," Reid explained. PTI

PM Modi lauds every member of Indian team

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday heaped praises on the players of Indian men's hockey team individually after they won Bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics, and said for every hockey lover and sports enthusiast, August 5 will remain one of the most memorable days. "His 3rd Olympics and a medal he waited years for... Throughout the Games, he led from the front, including during critical moments of the matches. India is proud of the leadership of @manpreet-pawar07. A delighted nation thanks him for being the pivot words of praise to the team members. Lauding team captain Manpreet Singh, Modi said, "His 3rd Olympics and a medal he waited years for... Throughout the Games, he led from the front, including during critical moments of the matches. India is proud of the leadership of @manpreet-pawar07. A delighted nation thanks him for being the pivot

of the team." He praised goalkeeper Sreejesh P R for spectacular performance throughout the tournament and said his saves played a big part in earning the medal for India. Hardik Singh has put in immense effort and distinguished himself as a bright hockey player, the prime minister tweeted and thanked him for all his hardwork and specially for "a critical goal in a crucial match".



Ageless Anderson leads Poms fight back

PTI ■ NOTTINGHAM
The wily old James Anderson once again got his 'bunny' Virat Kohli in a mesmerising spell that undid India's solid opening stand to leave them tottering at 125 for four against England on a rain-curtailed day two of the opening Test. The 39-year-old Anderson (13.4-7-15-2) swung it in England's favour with successive precision deliveries that got Cheteshwar Pujara (4) and Virat Kohli (0) as India from 97 for no loss slumped to 112 for four in a space of less than six overs. The in-form KL Rahul (57 batting off 151 balls) is still standing tall amid ruins alongside Rishabh Pant (7 batting), but the advantage that India got in the opening session was neutralised by Anderson's spell and the pressure also led to an unfortunate run-out of Ajinkya Rahane (5). Rahul's class Test match batting would surely be a relief for the Indian team management after the talented Karnataka batsman lost his place in the longest formats due to a prolonged ban, but he was dropped in the slips, his only batting glitch on the day. The nine fours, mostly driven, were majestic and the control over his own mind while selecting the bad balls under overcast conditions was exemplary. But Anderson did take the cake on the day the pacer with the highest number of Test matches under his belt (163rd equalled Anil Kumble's record of 619 scalps. He matched Kumble's record after fouling Kohli once again in the corridor of uncertainty. It was a fuller delivery that Kohli played for the inswinger but it held its line to take a healthy edge into Jos Buttler's gloves. Both Kohli and Anderson would have a sense of deja vu thinking about what happened in 2014. A ball before, the artist was at work as he got Pujara forward with one that was shaping into him in the air but deviated away when he pressed forward for Butler to take a low catch. Kristine Pedersen (63), Aditi Ashok was in contention for a historic Olympic medal after scoring a flawless five-under 66 in the second round of the women's competition on Thursday. The 23-year-old rolled in five birdies, which included three in her last four holes, on yet another steamy day at Kasumigasaki Country Club to lie tied second on nine-under 133 with Danish duo, Nanna Koerstz Madsen (64) and Emily Kimbrell (64) and Olympic champion, Lydia Ko (64), who is playing her second Olympics with her mother, Maheshwari, as her caddie, trails leader — world No 1 Nelly Korda of USA — by four shots. Diksha Dagar returned a 72 to share the lead on six-over 148. Aditi kept herself in prime position of delivering a first-ever medal in golf for India with birdies on Hole Nos. 2, 5, 15, 17 and 18. PTI

MANPREET SINGH: The Inspirational Leader

The 29-year-old hails from a small village of Mithapur in Jalandhar. The Indian skipper made his international debut in 2011 at the age of 19. His first big tournament as member of the senior team was the 2012 London Olympics. He has since represented the country at all major tournaments and featured in India's five victories including the Gold at the 2014 Asian Games. Under Manpreet's captaincy, India were crowned champions at the 2018 Asian Champions Trophy. In 2019, he was named the FIH Player of the Year.

P R SREEJESH: The Great Wall of India

Born in Kizhakkambalam village in Kerala's Ernakulam district to a family of farmers, India's custodian is arguably one of the best goalkeepers in the world, standing tall as the team's last line of defence.

ADITI IN MEDAL HUNT

Tokyo: Indian golfer Aditi Ashok was in contention for a historic Olympic medal after scoring a flawless five-under 66 in the second round of the women's competition on Thursday. The 23-year-old rolled in five birdies, which included three in her last four holes, on yet another steamy day at Kasumigasaki Country Club to lie tied second on nine-under 133 with Danish duo, Nanna Koerstz Madsen (64) and Emily Kimbrell (64) and Olympic champion, Lydia Ko (64), who is playing her second Olympics with her mother, Maheshwari, as her caddie, trails leader — world No 1 Nelly Korda of USA — by four shots. Diksha Dagar returned a 72 to share the lead on six-over 148. Aditi kept herself in prime position of delivering a first-ever medal in golf for India with birdies on Hole Nos. 2, 5, 15, 17 and 18. PTI

Men who made it happen

Meet the stars of India's first Olympic medal-winning campaign in 4 decades

debut for the senior team in 2006 at the South Asian Games, and has been an integral part of the national team since 2011. Appointed captain in 2016, Sreejesh led the side to silver medals at the FIH Men's Hockey Champions Trophy in 2016 and 2018.

HARMANPREET SINGH:

He also played a pivotal role

in India's Gold-winning campaign at the FIH Men's World Series Finals as well as 2019 Olympic Qualifiers.

RUPINDER PAL SINGH: Another Drag-Flick Genius

"Bob" to his teammates, Rupinder is one of the most lethal drag-flickers in the world. The lanky defender

made his international debut in 2010 at the Sultan Azlan Shah Tournament, where India clinched the Bronze.

Named vice-captain in 2014, Rupinder has had a topsy-turvy journey as he was dropped from the team for the 2018 Champions Trophy squad, but was recalled for the Asian Games later in the year,

where he made a solid comeback to the side by scoring a marvellous hat-trick against Sri Lanka and the team went on to clinch the Bronze.

SIMRANJEET SINGH: Super Striker

The 24-year-old, who scored a brace in the Bronze medal playoff against Germany on Thursday, was added to the squad following the International Olympic Committee's decision to allow alternate athletes in team events because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sandeep finishes 23rd, Irfan & Rahul 47th and 51st in 20km race walk

Sapporo: National record holder Sandeep Kumar was going strong at second position till near the halfway mark but he faded later on to finish 23rd with a below-par timing in the men's 20km race walk event here on Thursday. The 35-year-old Kumar crossed the finish line in 1 hour 25 minutes and 7 seconds, well

outside his national record time of 1:20:16 which he had clocked in February to qualify for the Olympics. Italian Massimo Stano won Gold in 1:21:05, while the Japanese pair of Ikeda Koki (1:21:28) and Yamanishi Toshikazu (1:21:46) took the Silver and Bronze respectively. PTI

GAIL (India) Limited
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Expanding India's Energyscape

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated			
		30 th June 2021	31 st March 2021	30 th June 2020	31 st March 2021		
1	Total income from operations	17,386.63	12,090.07	56,737.79	17,588.64	12,183.23	57,428.26
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	2,053.73	356.19	6,385.81	2,540.25	728.74	7,725.45
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	2,053.73	356.19	6,385.81	2,540.25	728.74	7,725.45
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1,529.92	255.51	4,890.18	2,157.15	642.97	6,142.82
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	2,298.59	684.52	6,172.57	2,995.30	1,055.24	7,668.77
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of ₹ 10 each)	4,440.39	4,510.14	4,440.39	4,440.39	4,510.14	4,440.39
7	Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserves as per Balance Sheet	-	-	39,043.10	-	-	44,521.35
8	Earnings per share (Face Value of ₹ 10 each)						
a)	Basic (₹)	3.45	0.57	10.85	4.81	1.45	13.61
b)	Diluted (₹)	3.45	0.57	10.85	4.81	1.45	13.61

(EPS for the Quarter not annualised)

Notes:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results for the quarter ended 30th June 2021 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock Exchanges website: www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com and Company's website (www.gailonline.com).
2. The above results are in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, (Ind-AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with the relevant rules issued thereunder and other accounting principles generally accepted in India.
3. Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

For GAIL (India) Limited
Sd/-
(A.K. Tewari)
Director (Finance) & CFO
(DIN: 01654812)

Place: New Delhi
Date: 1st August 2021
(CIN: L42200DL1984G01018976)

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