

OPINION 6
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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CONVERSATION:
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Hockey Oly Bronze relieves 4 decades of pain

Dahiya wins debut Silver

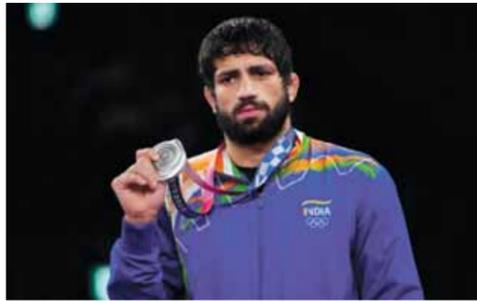
PTI ■ TOKYO
India's newest wrestling star Ravi Dahiya picked up an impressive Silver on his Olympic debut but the country was left emotionally stirred by its lionhearted men's hockey team players who secured a Bronze that washed away four decades of pain and disappointment that the sport and its followers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

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 celebration with a Silver medal in the men's 57kg division.

He lost the final to reigning world champion Zaur Uguev of Russian Olympic Committee to sign off with 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 that 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 Vinesh Phogat.

After a good win in the opening round, she lost to Belarus' Vanesa 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 PTI

bronze medal but conceded the winning lead to San Marino's 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 Sreejesh, 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
ROC	16	22	20
G 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 playoff.

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 have been 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 valuing ₹1.82 crore at the Indira Gandhi International airport.

Help desk for Covid-hit kids unveiled



Under WCD Dept

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Women and Child Development Minister Tukuni Sahu on Thursday unveiled a State Help Desk "SAMPARK" by the Odisha State Child Protection Society in collaboration with UNICEF, in virtual mode.

It aims at providing psychosocial support to children during Covid-19. Besides Minister Sahu, department Secretary Pramod Kumar Meherda and Chief of UNICEF Field Office Odisha Dr Monika

Nielsen were present. The helpdesk would cater to the urgent protection needs of children in context of the pandemic by providing information and primary counselling to children and their caretakers who are impacted or affected by Covid.

It would also support in ensuring shelter, care and protection to children who have lost their parental care in pandemic period and are unable to take care of them, alone or abandoned and also to children who need care and protection, said the speakers. Minister Sahu released a movie on the helpdesk as well.

On rise: State adds 1,342 new Covid cases

TPR 2.02%

MAX 477 CASES IN KHORDHA

68 MORE DIE; TOLL MOUNTS TO 6,236

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State on Thursday reported another increase in the Covid-19 cases with 1,342 new infections in the 30 districts and the State pool, with which the total tally increased to 9,83,523.

A total of 65,146 samples were tested in the last 24 hours and the test positivity rate (TPR) was 2.02%. Of the new cases, 775 were from quarantine and 567 local contacts.

Khordha district reported the day's highest 477 cases followed by Cuttack at 164. The districts which reported below 100 cases were Jagatsinghpur with 78, Jajpur 66, Baleswar 59, Kendrapada 43, Mayurbhanj

41, Bhadrak 40, Nayagarh 28, Keonjhar 23, Dhenkanal 19, Rayagada and Sambalpur 18 each, Sundargarh 13, Koraput 11, Ganjam nine, Bargarh eight, Malkangiri seven, Kandhamal five, Gajapati four, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Balangir and Kalahandi three each.

Besides, 105 cases were reported from the State pool. Meanwhile, another 68 patients succumbed to the disease, mounting the total death toll to 6,236 in the State.

The maximum 13 deaths were reported from Khordha district followed by 12 each from Puri and Sundargarh, 11 from Cuttack, four from Kendrapada, three from Bargarh, two each from Baleswar and Dhenkanal and one each from Balangir, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Nayagarh, Nuapada and Sambalpur. However, another 1,652 patients recovered on the day, taking the total recoveries to 9, 65,370.

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. During the argument, the petitioners pointed out that Pegasus spyware cannot be used



unless it 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 the 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.

CM provides Covid aid to dairy farmers

₹11 crore for 1 lakh beneficiaries; milk production soars

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday provided special Covid assistance to the dairy farmers, about one lakh of whom received assistance of Rs 11 crore, almost Rs 6,000 per farmer. He said his Government aims to increase the production of milk to improve the nutrition level of the State. He appealed to the farmers to avail the benefits of the schemes meant for them and achieve the target of milk production. As many as 2.63 lakh dairy farmers belonging to 3,700 milk production cooperatives are producing milk through the OMFED. The CM said milk production in the State has, meanwhile, risen by three times to 2.4 million MT. **PNS**

History: Two from Odisha win Olympic medals

Olympic Assn to honour Rohidas, Lakra

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha's Birendra Lakra and Amit Rohidas created history when they became the first two players from the State to win Olympic medals.

They were part of the Indian men's hockey team that defeated Germany 5-4 in the bronze medal match of Tokyo Olympics as the country won its first Olympics hockey medal after a gap of 41 years. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated the team on the vic-



tory. Praising the two hockey players from Odisha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said their game is a delight to watch. The Odisha Olympic Association (OOA) would honour the two players.

As per previous announcement, Rohidas and Lakra would receive cash reward of Rs 1 lakh each for the team's bronze medal. Earlier, the OOA had announced cash prize of Rs 5 lakh for gold medal, Rs 3 for silver and Rs 1 lakh for bronze.

255 new infections in BBSR

11 more die; 235 recover

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Bhubaneswar on Thursday registered 255 fresh Covid-19 positive cases, with which the total tally in the city rose to 1,01,128. Out of the new cases, 195 were local contacts and 60 quarantine cases.

The local contacts included 27 cases in Khandagiri, 18 in Nayapalli, 15 in Patia, nine in Old Town and six each in Sundarpada and Chandrasekharpur. The active cases in the city stood at 2,633.

Meanwhile, 11 more patients succumbed to the disease in the city, mounting the total death toll to 859. However, 235 persons recovered on the day, increasing the total recoveries to 97,615.

Odisha to felicitate Oly Men's Hockey team

EVENT TO BE HELD IN BBSR ON AUG 16

NAVEEN SPEAKS TO TEAM OVER VIDEO CALL

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Government would felicitate the Tokyo Olympics Bronze medal-winning Indian men's hockey team in Bhubaneswar on August 16. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday spoke to the team over video call and congratulated the players for their spectacular victory. "Many congratulations to our hockey team."

The whole of India is so excited as well as Odisha of course. We are all behind you and we wish you the very best and we are looking forward to receiving our Indian Olympics hockey team in Bhubaneswar on August 16," said Patnaik,



who was the goalkeeper of Doon School hockey team during his studies there. The men's team made it to the semifinals after 41 years but lost to Belgium. On Thursday, in an edge-of-the-seat match, India fought back brilliantly from a two-goal deficit to beat Germany 5-4 in a high-inten-

sity goal-fest to win bronze, the country's first medal in men's hockey at the Olympics after 1980 in the Moscow Games, when they had won gold. For Odisha players participating in the Tokyo Olympics, the Chief Minister had earlier announced cash award of Rs 6 crore for winning gold medal,

Rs 4 crore for silver medal and Rs 2.5 crore for bronze medal. Notably, when Sahara backed out from sponsoring the national men's and women's hockey teams, the Odisha Government had in 2018 signed a Rs 150-crore deal with the Hockey India to sponsor the teams over the next five years. This was the first time that a State Government sponsored a national team.

Odisha has also hosted major hockey tournaments in the last few years, including World Cup in 2018, Champions Trophy in 2014 and Hockey World League Final in 2017.

And Odisha is all set to host the 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. The country's biggest hockey stadium with a seating capacity of 20,000 is being built in Rourkela for the World Cup.

Truck owners urge CM for bailout package

Demand waiver of road tax, moratorium on loan repayment, assistance to drivers

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Over 4,000 truck owners in Odisha, who have severely been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, on Thursday urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to dole out certain bailout measures to save their families.

In a letter to the CM, the Odisha Truck Owners' Sangha (OTWS) said their vehicles are lying idle due to a halt in economic activities in the State and, hence, they are not in a position to pay their road taxes and insurance fees and are unable to support the families directly and indirectly associated with truck transport services. "During the pan-



demically when the world is in a turmoil and people are in their homes to keep away from coronavirus, we have been rendering continuous services for the benefit of the

public and society. During the last two years, fuel price has continuously increased and maintenance of the vehicles has been more expensive. At the same time, almost all the

industries, except the iron ore-based ones, have closed, adversely affecting our operations," the truck owners said. Sharing a copy of the letter to the CM with the media, OTWS president Puranjan Padhi said the association has sought waiver of road taxes for two years.

"We have sought exemption of road taxes for two years. We have demanded that those who have paid the tax during this period be given exemption for next two years and tax defaulters be forgiven," Padhi said.

The OTWS also demanded in the letter implementation of the fixed rate for freight on kilometer basis as notified by

the State Government on July 6, 2021. The association sought the CM's intervention to give adequate loads of minerals from mines areas to different ports like Paradip and Gopalpur and other plant sites so as to keep their vehicles running. This apart, it sought rationalisation of the exorbitant toll and entry taxes.

"Our financial backbone has completely been broken and we are now literally starving. We have also appealed to the CM to order or advise the bankers to relax the payment of installments of truck buyers for one year. Besides, we have prayed to him for a special package for truck drivers and helpers," Padhi said.

MP demands passenger train for Kendrapada

BHUBANESWAR : Kendrapada BJD MP Anubhav Mohanty on Wednesday asked a question in Parliament to know when the people of Kendrapada district would have passenger train service. There is now only freight train service in the district, he pointed out.



Mohanty reminded that during the Budget Session, when he had mentioned about unavailability of passenger train service in Kendrapada. The Railway Ministry replied that the Kendrapada Road railway station is just 5 km from Cuttack, for which it is not operationally feasible for any rail connectivity for

Kendrapada. Mohanty clarified that the Kendrapada Road railway station is not in Kendrapada district but close to Cuttack and this railway station is as far as 60 km away from Kendrapada. He said that

Kendrapada should have passenger train service, which would create employment opportunities for local youths, generate revenue and assist in overall development of the district. **PNS**

'Give heritage tag to 126-yr-old J'suguda Post Office'

Pradhan writes to Vaishnav

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday wrote to Union Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnav seeking heritage tag for the 126-year-old Jharsuguda Post Office building. He also wanted the building's restoration, maintenance and re-operationalisation.

"I recently received a petition from Tankadhar Tripathy regarding re-operationalisation of Jharsuguda Post Office building. It is understood that the Jharsuguda Post Office was established in 1895 after the

commissioning of Jharsuguda railway station on Bengal Nagpur Railway (BNR) line. This 126-year-old post office has played a pivotal role in the modern history of Jharsuguda since Indian freedom movement till its establishment as a major commercial hub in western Odisha," Pradhan mentioned in the letter.

"I also appreciate India Post's efforts to recognise Indian Postal service's rich historical, social and cultural significance by declaring such old iconic post offices as heritage post offices and undertaking suitable restoration and maintenance activities. I understand that presently 36 such heritage post office buildings are being maintained by India

Post across Bihar, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Kerala, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal," he said. "I seek your personal intervention in directing offi-

cials of India Post for declaration of Jharsuguda Post Office as a 'Heritage Post Office Building' and undertaking suitable efforts for its restoration and maintenance," Pradhan's letter concluded.



BJP alleges irregularities in PMAY sanction

Says BJD workers taking benefit

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP would continue to fight until the last eligible beneficiary in the State gets a pucca house under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

Alleging that the BJD Government is distributing PMAY houses to its party workers, BJD State president Samir Mohanty on Thursday accused the Government of suppressing voices of dissent using police and the Government machinery, the victims especially being those who are opposing these irregularities. Mohanty told



reporters that in a recent incident a poor eligible beneficiary of Kuber gram panchayat under the Tihidi block in Bhadrak district was attacked by BJD workers with the support of Government employees. Many in these areas though are eligible have

been deprived of getting PMAY houses. Mohanty had visited the village on Wednesday with a party delegation and interacted with locals. Eight families in Bhandaripokhari have not got houses though they are eligible, Mohanty said.

Matric answer evaluation from August 12

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Evaluation of answer sheets of offline matriculation examination, which concluded on Thursday, would begin from August 12, informed Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha President Ramashish Hazra here on Thursday.

Speaking to media, he said the evaluation would be carried out at nine centres and results would be declared three to four days after its completion. More than 15,000 students have appeared in examination adhering to the Covid-19 guidelines. Notably, the State Government had cancelled this year's matric examination due to pandemic.

Missing student found dead in Cuttack

Kin allege murder over love affair

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A body of a Plus Two student, Tusharkanta Sahu, who had gone missing, was found at the Jobra Barrage on the Mahanadi here on Thursday. Sahu, a student of the Christ College in the city, had gone missing under mysterious circumstances on Wednesday.

"A special team led by an IIC traced the body at the Jobra Barrage. An unnatural death report has been filed at the Jagatpur police station. Further investigation is ongoing," said a police official. He said a missing complaint had been registered with the Phase-2 police station in Cuttack after the scooter of deceased was recovered from the area on Wednesday. Meanwhile, the relatives of the deceased student have refuted suicide angle. They have alleged that boy was killed by some of his friends over a love affair. "A girl and her friends might have killed my brother and later dumped his body there. I want them arrested and interrogated by police," demanded deceased's sister.

'Let education spread goodwill among all'

Governor speaks at DAV CSpur event

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Education has the potential to change the entire human race if properly manifested. Education should spread the aroma of fraternity and goodwill among all.

This was observed by Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal as chief guest at the 33rd foundation day celebrations of the DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur here on Wednesday. Prof Lal during his virtual address quoted from Veda, Upanishad, Savitri, Vivekananda's discourses and highlighted the philosophy of Arya Samaj. He advised the students to follow the priceless



ideals of the great men of the motherland. School Chairman Sarat Chandra Mishra presented the welcome address. Principal Dr KC Satapathy highlighted the importance of the day. DAV Kalinganagar Chairman MM Panda and Principals of DAV schools were present. Parents and students witnessed the programme virtually. A spectacular dance drama depicting the journey of the school was presented by schoolteachers.

₹641 crore GST fraud: Another man nabbed

Accused held from Bhubaneswar; being probed in another fraud case

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State GST enforcement wing on Thursday nabbed one of the kingpins involved in the Rs 641-crore fake invoice racket. The accused, identified as Basanta Kumar Patnaik, was arrested from Bhubaneswar.

The GST wing was on the lookout for Patnaik for the past one and a half years. He was also involved in a fraud case which is currently being investigated. During grilling, Patnaik confessed that he lured gullible and poor people like plumbers, drivers, unemployed youth and homemakers with promises of jobs and high income in Angul,

Rourkela, Sundargarh, Jagatsinghpur and Jharkhand. Thereafter, he collected their Aadhaar cards, PAN cards and bank passbooks. Using the documents, he made a GST registration and opened current accounts in different banks.

Later, Patnaik in nexus with other accused generated fake invoices and availed input tax credit, the GST. Earlier, two accused Sujit Maitra and Gurudip Dang were arrested in connection with the case. While Dang was the managing partner of Tirupati Traders, Maitra was a partner of Rourkela-based Satguru Metals.

The accused had allegedly generated fake invoices of Rs 641 crore by floating fake firms and availed input tax credit of Rs 115 crore, said the Commissionerate of Commercial Tax and GST in a release. **PNS**

'Disqualify Sorada MLA for fake affidavit'

BJP urges CEO

BHUBANESWAR: The BJP on Thursday demanded that the State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) disqualify Sorada BJD MLA Purna Chandra Swain for his alleged three fake affidavits submitted during the elections in 2009, 2014 and 2019. A delegation of the party met the CEO and submitted a memorandum to him in this regard. BJD leaders alleged that this case revealed how BJD leaders are making false claims in affidavits. Swain claimed that he has passed Class-X through his affidavit in 2009 while in the 2014 and 2019 affidavits he stated that he has passed Class-IX. Why both the State Government and the CEO are silent on this despite the MLA has been resorting to falsehood for so long, the BJP questioned. Only when media reported that Swain was appearing for the Class-X examination recently that the issue came to the fore, stated BJP leader Lekhasri Samantsinghar. **PNS**

Cong alleges huge scam in Govt job process

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Congress on Thursday alleged that despite the BJD Government's tall claims of clean and corruption-free administration, the reality is something different as corruption is rampant in the State.

Party leaders former MLA Debashis Patnaik, spokesperson Manoranjan Das, NSUI State president Yashir Nawaj told reporters that there are many instances of omission and commission in State Government job recruitments. The Vigilance raids and the possession of illegal properties from a PS of an Odisha Staff

Selection Commission Member are only a tip of the iceberg. The irregularities are going on since last 20 years; virtually Government jobs are on sale. There must be a huge chain of corruption from the PS to the highest level. Interestingly, an advertisement for Government jobs was published in 2012, but examination was conducted in 2015 and results were out on 2018. What was going on in between six years, questioned the party leaders. They demanded that the Government make public the details about the jobs, selection process, appointments of last 20 years.



SOCIAL CANVAS SCs still the most neglected in Odisha

Discrimination, landlessness, unemployment; review of welfare schemes need of the hour



MANAS JENA

As it is revealed from various Aperiodic Government reports, the last 70 years of constitutional governance has failed in many ways to ensure a proportionate share in development to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) who comprise around one-fifth of the population of Odisha. Now the question is

how long it will take to bridge the socioeconomic gaps among various social groups while many recent reports such as periodic labour force survey by NSSO 2019-20 shows a rise in poverty and also related reports indicate increase in many forms of inequality, including discrimination and atrocities against SCs.

Let's see the situation of SCs in Odisha by using various Government data on specific issues such as atrocity, poverty, landlessness and employment status. It is a fact that the core issue of SCs is linked to their low caste identity by birth that decides their status. In spite of many legal measures and social reform movements, still the practices of untouchability and caste based atrocities are rampant. The two important protective legislations that primarily address the issues of atrocities are PCR Act -1955 and SCs and STs POA Act

1989. For last 10 years there were about 20,000 reported cases booked under these two Acts whereas about 10,000 cases are pending for trial in special courts and most shockingly the annual conviction rate has been between 0 to 3 per cent as revealed in the NCRB data.

The Prisoner statistics says that the presence of inmates from SCs were disproportionately in higher number. Why the conviction rate is so less? Is there any study or discussion by the appropriate bodies? The Government of Odisha has paid around Rs 20 crore to 1,883 atrocity victims as monetary relief in the year 2020, and has engaged 700 full time legal retainers and hundreds of public prosecutors to provide free legal aid to victims. The Government made operational three exclusive special courts at Baleswar, Balangir and Cuttack added to the existing 92 special

courts for speedy trial of atrocity cases. As part of all India approach to reduce untouchability and caste discrimination, inter caste marriage between non-SC Hindu and SCs are being promoted with cash incentive of Rs 2.5 lakh to couples of inter caste marriage and last year the State Government has spent around Rs 20 crore for 978 couples.

As per legal provision of the POA Act, the matter of atrocity cases needs to be discussed in the State Assembly, but in spite of presence of 57 SC and ST MLAs in the House, there is no review to arrest the growing of atrocities.

Not just social discrimination, the SCs are also reeling under acute poverty as 42 per cent of SC households are featured among the people below poverty line (BPL) and the poverty ratio among SCs and STs is much higher in comparison to other social groups.

There have been targeted anti-poverty schemes in operation for last so many years but mostly used as advertisement of Government. The SCs' livelihood and development are connected to ownership over land, access to quality education and equal opportunity to access employment.

What is the land status of SCs in Odisha? The agriculture census on land holding speaks more in details. A vast majority of SC households depend on land for livelihood, mostly as agricultural workers, sharecroppers and very few are small and marginal farmers owning less than minimum economic holding. About 20-30 per cent of the rural SC households have no record of rights over homestead land to construct a permanent house of their own. In spite of land settlement laws such OGLS Act and OPLE Act, still a sizable number of family lives inside

coconut groves, bank of rivers and village ponds, former landlords' land, and un-surveyed lands which is not yet demarcated and not being allowed a legal possession.

Many of them are deprived of PMAY benefits though the scheme attaches priority to housing for SCs. There has been provision since 2013 to purchase private land for PMAY beneficiaries if Government land is not available for settlement but the Government of Odisha has done nothing in this regard.

The OLR Act has provision of settlement of ceiling surplus land, Bhoodan land, waste land and many other categories of land with landless SC families but what is the status now? Long back, the State Government had made promises to make the State landless free. What changes has the department made in ensuring land to landless families

including SCs? There are thousands of homestead-less families routinely languishing in Revenue offices. The sharecroppers have been suffering for so many years without any rights at par with

land owning farmers. Majority of the SCs hamlets have no basic amenities such as drinking water, toilet, electricity and all-weather linking road which is largely linked to land entitlements. The Census 2011 revealed that not even 1 per cent of rural SC households was in salaried jobs in Government, corporate and private sector. The much propagated job reservation has only helped accommodate the SCs and STs in selective class 4 and class 3 jobs while class-2 and class -1 jobs still remain a day dream for them. Experience shows that the job reservation policy of the Government always has to pass through judicial scrutiny and dilution

which has obstructed these sections of people from getting their legitimate share. Currently, the costly quality technical education has become unreachable for SCs and other poor which has a bearing on their access to salaried jobs.

The caste based hate campaign by a few so-called meritorious social groups against reserve category also has created an undeclared social exclusion in the private job market. Even that affected the technically qualified SCs in getting access to job market.

Social barriers are a major stumbling block for self-employment of SC youths in rural areas. It is found that distress migration is quite high among rural SCs. Odisha's economic growth is not possible with this kind of continued social and economic exclusion of a sizeable historically neglected mass.

At 154 MT Odisha coal production is 2nd-highest

C'garh tops coal output with 158.190 MT: Min

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha produced the second highest coal of over 154 million tonnes in the country during the financial year 2020-21, Union Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi told the Rajya Sabha.

As per a written statement made by Joshi, 154.150 MT of non-coking coal has been produced from Odisha during the last financial year and the State was in second position in non-coking coal production in the entire country. Chhattisgarh was in top position

with production of 158.190 MT of non-coking coal in the year. The other States those are in the list include, Madhya Pradesh (132.350 MT), Jharkhand (74.909 MT), Telangana (52.603 MT), Maharashtra (47.435 MT), West Bengal (17.016 MT), Uttar Pradesh (17.016 MT), Assam (0.036 MT) and Jammu and Kashmir (0.012 MT).

To enhance the production in the country, the Ministry of Coal has launched commercial auction of the coal on revenue sharing mechanism from five coal bearing States (Jharkhand,

Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Chhattisgarh) on June 18, 2020 wherein 20 coal mines with aggregate peak capacity of 59 MTPA were successfully auctioned. Further, in the second tranche of auction on March 25, 2021, where 67 coal mines/blocks were offered with aggregate peak capacity estimated at 150 MTPA.

Joshi said a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) has been engaged by the Ministry of Coal for handling of coal block allottees for obtaining various approvals/clearances for early operationalisation.

of coal mines allocated under CMSP Act, 2015. The Union Government has also

launched a Single Window Clearance portal for the coal sector to speed up the operationalisation of coal mines. It is a unified platform that facilitates grant of clearances and approvals required for starting a coal mine in India, he further said.

Similarly, the Minister said, the MMDR Act has been amended in March 2021 which, inter alia, allows all captive mines to sell up to 50% of the minerals produced during the year after meeting the requirement of the attached plant.

The Coal India Ltd (CIL) has envisaged a coal production programme of one Billion Ton from CIL mines by the year 2023-24. This will help in reducing imports and will also

protect the capital of the country, he said. To reduce import of coal, an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has been constituted in the Ministry of Coal for the purpose of coal import substitution. Representatives from the Ministry of Power, Railways, Shipping, Commerce, Steel, MSME, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Coal companies and ports are members of the IMC.

This committee provides a platform for discussions on a larger forum with the administrative ministries so as to guide them to encourage the coal consumers of their respective sector to eliminate imports

of coal. On the directions of the IMC, an import data system has been developed by the Ministry of Coal to enable the Ministry to track the imports of coal, he informed. Moreover, the Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ) of power plants has been increased up to 100 per cent of the normative requirement. The increase in ACQ would ensure supply of more domestic coal to the power plants, Joshi said.

"With the concerted efforts of various stakeholders, the import of coal for blending purposes by the domestic coal-based power plants has reduced by about 56 per cent, from 23.8 MT during 2019-20 to 10.4 MT during 2020-21," he added.

INBRIEF

NDRF ORGANISES BLOOD DONATION CAMP



Atharaghar: As part of the Amrut Mahotsav of the 75th Independence Day, 03 Bn. NDRF Mundali, Cuttack, organised a blood donation camp at its premises on Thursday in collaboration with the Central Red Cross Blood Bank, Cuttack. The camp was inaugurated by Commandant Jacob Kispotta, who led the NDRF volunteers in blood donation. Total 121 units of blood were collected. The Commandant thanked the doctors of Central Red Cross Cuttack for their support. He also appreciated the NDRF personnel's initiative for a good cause.

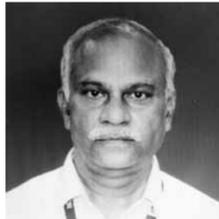
ANOTHER NUAPADA GP ACHIEVES 100% VACCINATION



Nuapada: Nuapada district added one more panchayat to its list of 100% Covid-vaccinated gram panchayats. Ghuchaguda GP completed full vaccination on Wednesday after Kusumjor and Hatibandha GPs last month. The achievement was possible because of active involvement of the Sarpanch, ASHA and Anganwadi Workers, health workers and grassroots workers," said Dr Bhairav Panigrahi, who has been instrumental for 100% success in Kusumjor and Hatibandha GPs of Sinapali block. A total of 1,516 people in all eligible age groups have been vaccinated.

PRAMOD KUMAR HAL'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sunabeda: Pramod Kumar has joined as HAL Koraput Division Executive Director. He was previously the Director of Space Composites in Bangalore. He has done M-tech in IIT and Aircraft Engineering. He is well known as a skilled engineer and administrator. He said he would focus on how to increase productivity with new jobs coming in the HAL Koraput Division. The emphasis would be on the urban area, foster villages and surrounding development. He has been welcomed by all high-ranking officials and unions.



PPT EX-PRO FOOTBALLER MISHRA'S DEMISE MOURNED



Paradip: The Gopabandhu Krida Sansad of Paradip Port Trust (PPT) held a condolence meeting here on Tuesday to mourn the recent demise of former PPT PRO and footballer Prakash Chandra Mishra. PPT FA & CAO and Paradip Port Sports Council president DN Sondhi, Deputy CMO and working president Dr DP Sethy and Advisor Sports, PPT RK Das, secretary, PPSC RR Beura, besides various sports lovers on Tuesday condoled Mishra's demise.

Cough syrup worth ₹3 lakh seized in Boudh

1 held; Scorpio confiscated

PNS ■ BOUDH

The illegal use of cough syrup as an intoxicant is on the rise in some parts of the State and unscrupulous elements want to encash on the demand for it. In an example, the Purunakataka police seized a huge quantity of cough syrup from a vehicle on National Highway-57 in Boudh district and arrested a person on Wednesday night. The arrested person was identified as Satambar Bagh of Gadarpali in Nuapada district.

On a tipoff, a police team seized the cough syrup worth around Rs 3 lakh from a Mahindra Scorpio SUV on the NH-57 near Purunakatak. During a search found 16 boxes of the drug of Escof brand. The syrup was being transported to Balangir from Bhubaneswar.

Further investigation is on to ascertain involvement of other persons in the racket. Addictive use of cough syrup is a major health concern for the State Government. Some chemists are allegedly selling cough syrup to addicted youths with high codeine content at a high price.

RSP executive co-authors book

PNS ■ ROURKELA

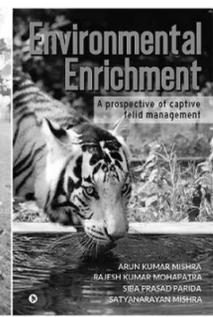
Dr Satya Narayan Mishra, curator and biologist at Indira Gandhi Park Zoo of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant, has coauthored a pioneering book entitled, 'Environmental Enrichment: A Prospective of Captive Field Management'. The other distinguished authors are Dr Arun Kumar Mishra, Dr Rajesh Kumar Mohapatra and Dr Siba Prasad Parida. Notably, Dr Arun Kumar Mishra is presently working as Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle.

The book with a very attractive cover presents general principles and scientific knowledge on environmental enrichment and case studies on enrichment practices in zoo felids. It is a practical yet

scientific book that will help to create and evaluate successful enrichment programmes for captive animals considering their natural history. The book is a helpful reference tool for those who work with or study animals in captivity.

Dr Satyanarayan Mishra, a wildlife enthusiast, is a Post Graduate in Zoology from Utkal University and has been

awarded with a PhD degree on conservation and management of Indian elephants in Odisha. He had started his research work on captive animals as a research scholar at Nandankanan Zoological Park. He has co-authored three books, published many research papers, book chapters and developed booklets in Odia language for school children.



ACF's death Gajapati Police to summon Bidyabharati

DFO denies any involvement

TARINI PRASAD PANDA ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

The death of ACF Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra at his official residence in a fire mishap is still shrouded in mystery even after 22 days of the incident. The sensational case which is being investigated by the Paralakhemundi police with the help of Crime Branch officials has witnessed many twists and turns but yet the investigators are yet to reach any conclusion.

Though Paralakhemundi cops have interrogated deceased's wife Bidyabharati Panda twice at her home in Kapitpada in Mayurbhanj, they are still tightlipped. Meanwhile, family of ACF has threatened to immolate themselves in front of Naveen Niwas if they don't get justice. Besides,



Saumya's mother has moved the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for a thorough probe. These developments have triggered ripples here and one of main accused and Gajapati DFO has clarified that he is in no way involved in death of his subordinate and he had good relations with latter. He also has claimed that he had never gone to Saumya residence. Sources claimed that Bidyabharati might be soon summoned and interrogated at P'khemundi police station.

Despite Covid 255 firms joined NITR placement drive

AUROBINDA DAS ■ ROURKELA

Despite the challenges posed to the global economy by the Covid-19 pandemic, multinational companies are still

not hesitating to offer hefty packages to attract the best talents. With its campus internship process nearly over, students of the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela

Three students got job offer for as high as ₹45 lakh per annum

(NITR) have been offered high salary packages by companies for the Academic Year 2020-21. While three students of the institute have been offered Rs 45 lakh per annum pay packages this time, nine other students have received offers of Rs 43 lakh per annum revealed institution sources.

Prof Umesh C Pati, Head of Training and Placement Centre, NIT Rourkela, said, "This year, taking up the placement drive was a rigorous task. But, keeping up with the new

normal of virtual placement drive, the Training and Placement Centre worked very hard to adapt quickly and enable the students to be at their best for the process. We witnessed 101 new companies which have participated in this placement season.

Some of them are Amazon Web Services (AWS), Barclays, Citi Bank, Siemens Gamesa. etc." With 84 companies offering 253 students more than Rs 10 lakh per annum, the average CTC offered was about Rs 9.36

LPA, an increase of over 4 per cent from the previous year. Another 211 students bagged prestigious internship offers from global majors like Microsoft, Barclays, Bajaj Auto, Citi Bank and Qualcomm with the highest stipend rising to Rs1 lakh per month. So far, the institute received more than 841 full-time offers.

The 256 companies that participated in the placement drive were from the diverse sectors like software, manufacturing, electronics, finance, education, petroleum, construction and top rung public sector units like GAIL, C-DAC, TRAI, C-DOT, IOCL etc, said Pati. Sources said The

Computer Science and Engineering Departments bagged 187 jobs, the maximum among all other departments. More than 230 Postgraduate students have bagged job offers so far. The undergraduate students did well too, with the Chemical Engineering department attaining 100 per cent placements, followed by Computer Science and Electronics and Communication Engineering departments, which achieved 98 per cent. Among the others, the Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering and Electrical Engineering attained 92% and 88% placements, respectively.



BJP Aska unit meet discusses civic issues

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Executive Committee meeting of the Aska Road Mandal of BJP was held here on Saturday. Aska Road Mandal president Bhabagrahi Palo presided while Mandal general secretary Suresh Kumar Sahu and Bijay Kumar Gopal coordinated the event.

Former Ganjam district BJP president and senior leader Kanhu Charan Pati joined meeting as chief guest, while Mandal Prabhari Rama Kumar Patra, district general secretary PK Sadangi and vice-president of district BJP Yuva Morcha Kiran Kumar Sahu along with several senior and



youth wing leaders attended. The key issues discussed included poor drainage, sanitation, frequent power cuts and low voltage, besides bad roads.

Expressing concern, the members alleged that BeMC has completely become defunct as most of drains in city including Aska Road are packed with solid wastes and garbage and are never cleaned up for months. As a result, during rainy season drain water flows

onroad causing inconveniences to local public to move. Besides, the residents of Lakshmi Nrusingh Street are deprived of drinking water.

The water supply is not only irregular but also unhygienic, the party said. Another problem local public is facing is a great deal of inconveniences due to non-shifting of an electric pole that exists on mid of road way to Shantinagar.

Among other issues, renovation of Mandiabandha grabbed by land mafia, repair of roads dug out for putting Janibilla pipe line, replacement of defunct street lights and anti-socials activities were discussed.

J'suguda cardiac hosp work delayed

Project yet to be completed though its deadline expired

RAJ KUMAR SHARMA ■ JHARSUGUDA

The construction work for a super specialty cardiac care hospital at Jharsuguda for which local MLA and Health Minister Naba Kisore Das had laid foundation-stone is moving at a snail's pace here.

The project is coming up



nears the District Headquarters Hospital at Balijori. The entire population of western Odisha will be greatly benefited from

the hospital as it is a first of its kind in the region and the people here won't have to go to far-off places for treatment. While

the hospital has a two years timeline for completion, its budget outlay was some Rs 32 crore. After entering agreement with the Hyderabad based Manjira Construction Limited, the work had started on August 28, 2018 with a target to complete it by August 19, 2020.

An agreement had been made with Quality Care Hospital Private Limited to provide all technical knowhow and required equipment, besides taking over the management of the hospital.

Meanwhile, Minister Das hoped that the mega hospital project would be completed

soon and start functioning. He further informed that a mega cancer hospital is also going to be constructed with finance from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF). That apart, construction work is continuing in full swing for a mega diagnostic centre at Jharsuguda and Laikera with cooperation by Vedanta Company.

Das told that Health Card project will also be initiated soon for the benefit of all citizens of the district. Besides, he said that recently, the State Government has already decided to open a nursing centre with 60 seats.

Attn please for the rusting black beauty!

ANIL DHIR

The steam engine has done much more for science than science has done for the steam engine": Lord Kelvin. Mounted just a hundred metres from the beach, the engine has been buffeted by the sea wind for decades.

A beautiful artifact of a glorious era left behind; today it is a rust-encrusted and decaying relic in a pathetic state. When I had first seen it years ago at Paralakhemundi, it was in a working condition; just some coal and water would have sent it chugging. Even when it was lugged all the way to Puri to be kept at the erstwhile



iconic BNR Hotel, it was a beautiful and grand machine. For the heritage hotel, with its

34 well-furnished rooms with timeless grace of Victorian vintage, the engine in front was a

feather in the cap of its 91 years' history. The Railways took good care of the engine till they managed the hotel; but when Lalu Prasad Yadav gave it to the Chanakya Group in 2007, the new owners gave the old property a facelift but left the engine to rot. The saline air of the place spelt doom of the engine and rust has corroded it completely. The roof of the engine has withered away; there are rust scales on the boiler, wheels and chimney.

This old Methuselah featured in one of the postage stamps issued during the 1987 centenary celebrations of the South Eastern Railway. Whenever I was in Puri, I had

always made it a point to visit the place just for engine. The Paralakhemundi Light Railway (PLR), a two-feet-six inch gauge railway, was the brain-child of the erstwhile Raja of Paralakhemundi, who had decided to connect his capital with Naupada.

With the Government giving sanction in 1898, work began in full earnest and the line was opened to traffic in 1900. Due to a change in the policy of the British Government, the Bengal Nagpur Railway, popularly known as the BNR, took over the northern section of East Coast Railway from Vizianagaram to Cuttack,

including the branch line of Puri in 1902, and the working of the PLR too was taken over by them. The Raja extended the line to Gunupur in two phases in 1929 and 1931. Four engines had been imported from England's Kerr Stuart & Company, Trent, in 1928. These 20-tonne 0-6-4 tank locomotives with small 27-inch diameter-coupled wheels had an axle load of only 4.75 tonnes.

Later, when diesel engines were introduced in the Mayurbhanj Light Railways, four 0-6-0 T Kerr Stuart built locos were transferred to the PLR. In 1987 when I had first set my eyes on these beauties,

eight locomotives were homed at the Naupada shed. Diesel took over from steam on April 23, 1992 and these engines have been preserved. PL 691 had been plinthed outside the Southern Railway's Headquarters at Chennai; PL 692 was plinthed outside BNR Hotel at Puri; PL 693 is outside the Vizianagaram station while PLs 694 and 697 are in Visakhapatnam, one on the Ramakrishna beach the other outside the station.

All are in a well-preserved state except for the one at Puri. The East Coast Railway is planning a museum in its headquarters at Bhubaneswar. This

engine should be removed from Puri, properly restored and kept there. The least they can do is to immediately give it a coat of paint to check further rusting. I recollect that during a stay at the place in 2005, I had leafed through the visitor's book, which had signatures of Nehru, Edwina Mountbatten, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan and John Kenneth Galbraith. The small display case near the reception had original silver cutlery, odd shells, ossified sea horses, photographs, etc. I wonder where all these have gone!

(The writer is a heritage researcher)

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 the 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. They are seen as a critical asset to the medical and public health communities. In fact, Dr Kamini Walia, senior scientist from ICMR, indicates that though the Government has announced establishing ID blocks in district hospitals (DHs) which augur well with the overall intent to step up the fight against IDs, especially antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the plan will remain

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 patron 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. To improve 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 a 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 continued unabated in Pakistan. Within the last year itself, various temples and Gurudwaras have been attacked including the Mata Rani Bhatiyani Mandir in Sindh in January 2020, Gurudwara Sri Janam Sthan in January 2020, a Hindu temple in Karak in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in December, 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

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 highlighted the need for ramping up vaccination. In view of the sharp surge in Covid cases in Kerala, the Centre on July 29 had dispatched a six-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. At present, India 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



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 Oil Marketing Companies cannot talk to each other because their phones are infiltrated by Pegasus spyware and 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.

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 in 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 mentored by these two agencies within Pakistan to Taliban for wresting control of the territories in Afghanistan from the democratically elected government there led by Abdul Ghani. In addition to this, the ISI has helped forge operational synergy between the Taliban and its terror cohorts like the Lashkar-e-Tayabba and Jaish-e-Mohammad 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 Al Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden at Abbottabad military garrison, Islamabad is seeking to milk the Chinese who apprehend the Taliban onslaught to spillover to its restive Xinxiang province predominantly inhabited by Uyghur Muslims," an expert said. Besides getting significant funding and military weaponry for securing Chinese interests both in CPEC and Xinxiang, Islamabad will also be getting backing from Beijing for bailouts for the economy that is in tatters post-Covid as also support 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 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. Sukhendu Sekhar Roy (TMC) first raised the issue of one of his party members not allowed to enter the house on Wednesday after it was adjourned for the day. Harivansh 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 Harivansh 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

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 the Covid-19 job manufacturers to know the status and challenges in the production of the shots. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya 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 Ankleshwar (Gujarat) since June. In a statement, it said that before being released for administering every batch of Covaxin is subjected to over 200 quality control tests and samples are submitted to Government of India's Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL), and only after clearance are the batches released commercially. On the other hand, another vaccine manufacturer, India's Panacea Biotec Ltd said on Thursday it had agreed to produce up to 25 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

IAN S ■ 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, Benovellient 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

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested telecom equipment manufacturer VMC Systems Ltd's Managing Director Vuppalapati 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 and its directors over an alleged bank fraud case to the tune of ₹1,700 crore, on the complaint of the Punjab National Bank (PNB) in 2018. In its complaint to the CBI, the PNB alleged that the

company had defaulted on repayment of loans worth ₹1,700 crore to a consortium of banks. It 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 JM Financial Assets Reconstruction Company. According to the CBI, the VMC Systems had availed working capital credit facilities on August 12, 2009 to the tune of ₹1,010.50 crore.

2ND ANNIVERSARY OF ARTICLE 370 ABROGATION

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 by holding Tiranga rallies and hoisting the national flag across Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). At the same time several mainstream politicians in the Kashmir Valley, who continue to remain in a state of denial, observed it as a 'black day' and reiterated their demand for the restoration of statehood.

The Bajrang Dal, the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and some social organisations also celebrated the second anniversary of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A. The J&K National Panthers Party (JKNPP) batted strongly for the restoration of statehood to J&K and holding of early assembly elections.

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh, who is also

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. Similar events were organised by the party leaders in Anantnag, Baramulla. Addressing party workers in Srinagar Tarun Chugh said, "one of the more significant achievements of the 2019 decision was that it dealt a big blow to the divisive and terrorist forces".

"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", Chugh said.

He also came down heavily on the Gupkar alliance parties for "trying to disrupt the positive narrative in J&K".



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

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". The protesters were, however, stopped by police near GPO and turned back. In Jammu, PDP workers chanted slogans in support of Maharaja Hari Singh, 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.

Addressing the meeting Dr Abdullah stated that the unilateral, unconstitutional, and undemocratic decisions are unacceptable to the party as they were two years ago.

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, JKPC 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 Dilon Ki Doori) 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.

"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.



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

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 both 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."

She said that "the educational institutions would open with fullest 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.

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 Lalla temple which was attended by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday. At the special function, Lord Ram Lalla was clad in yellow clothes and a special bhog was also offered to Him.

Yogi Adityanath participated in a small religious function held at the Ram

Lalla temple, which was also attended by many local saints and mahants, a senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party said.

The Chief Minister reached Ayodhya 45 minutes before his scheduled programme and upon reaching there 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 Janmabhoomi Tirath Kshetra Nyas.



After the meeting, Yogi reached the Ram Janmabhoomi complex and participated in religious rituals organised to mark the completion of one year of bhoomi puja for the construction of Ram temple. Later he did darshan of Ram Lalla 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 Janmabhoomi premises.

The chief priest of Ram Janmabhoomi, Acharya Satyendra Das, said that today being a special day, there was a rush of devotees but no one was stopped from darshan and Covid protocol was strictly adhered to.

A trustee of Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, Anil Mishra, said almost 60 per cent of the foundation work was over and by the end of this year the construction of the temple would start. He said the construction was going as per plan and the temple would be completed by 2025.

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 Janeshwar Mishra on Thursday.

Akhilesh paddled to reach Janeshwar Mishra Park from the Samajwadi Party state headquarters, where he paid homage to the late socialist ideologue. On his nearly six kilometers cycle yatra to the park, which was flagged by his wife and former MP from Kannauj, Dimple Yadav, Akhilesh Yadav was accompanied by over a thousand enthusiastic party leaders and supporters.

Before launching the 'Samajwadi Cycle Yatra', the SP chief claimed that the citizens of Uttar Pradesh were so upset with the incumbent BJP government that his party might win 400 assembly seats in the 2022 state polls and the ruling party would find it difficult to field candidates on all the seats.

There are 403 assembly

seats in UP and in the 2017 state elections the BJP and its ally won 325 seats while the SP could win 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 might 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 work at all and now they are confused. They are misleading people by spreading lies," he said. Responding to the BJP government claims that it had established Uttar Pradesh 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 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 due to absence of proper medical treatment and also in non-compliance with various court orders.

ECI categorising polling booths



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has started preparing 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 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 Jayalalithaa 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 Ramachandran and Jayalalithaa, 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 Jayalalithaa. Madhusudhanan had rushed to Veda Nilayam once the mourning period after Jayalalithaa'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 fielded him as the party candidate against TTV Dhinakaran 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 till date to 17,328. A release by Health Minister Veena George said the average TPR (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 she 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, Budaun, Etah, Hathras, Mahoba, Pilibhit, Pratapgarh and Sitapur, did not have an active Covid-19 case as 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 (FATF), 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 desisted 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 shun 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 stakeholders.

A concept which has not been visualised even by Alvin Toffler who took the readers for a flight to the future for an aerial view of what science and technology hold for them, Primary Health Centres and

Primary Clinics sans doctors, is what the Narayanan brothers offer the people.

"It is an integration of tele medicine, medical and information 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 Devised Assisted Tele Medicine (DATM) system, brother Rajesh said that it was the ideal technology for which India was waiting. The prima-

ry 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 Asha 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 contraption," 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 Granteq, 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 unlimited patients and unlimited 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 and medical staff who 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 Tele Medicine Users Association of India. Going by the catchword coined by a fast moving consumer good company, one can always think of Girish and Rajesh Narayanan when faced with issues like pandemic and shortage of doctors. Last heard, Granteq is in consultation with corporate groups in India for setting up doctor-less PHCs and Primary Clinics.



A newly-wed 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 Vishal. 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 reconnaissance, surveillance and communications facilities. The aircraft carriers will help India have its own carrier strike groups that can prowl 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

PTI

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 several unfathomable 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-infrequent 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



BHOPINDER SINGH

Sports is a powerful medium to heal and build bridges, when both sides to a conflict agree to put aside contentious and provocative on-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 insists "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 unsportsmanlike 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 sovereign's integrity, sovereignty 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 Pakistan to express surprise at the BCCI 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 'greylisted' 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 BCCI of dissuading 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 DISSUADING HIM FROM PLAYING IN THE KPL

racist comments against Pakistani players, recently wrote: "Completely unnecessary of the BCCI 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 Mahatama Gandhi-Nelson Mandela canvas notwithstanding, India had always taken a principled stand of boycotting apartheid sports as a conscious call 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, BCCI 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 ghastly 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 crime's ugly rise in Delhi and the Union Home Ministry's anti-crime 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 menial, 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 wanton 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 possible and must continue our development assistance to be involved politically well. 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 Afghan 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

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 rewrote 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 1960 final to claim 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 forget 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 game.

We should again become number one if 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 India hockey, both men and women, for the brilliant performance and hope that they continue to shine and bring more pride to the nation.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

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

SOUNDBITE

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.

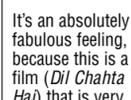


BJP leader — Ravi Shankar Prasad



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

Bangladeshi actress — Pori Moni



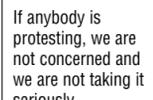
It's an absolutely fabulous feeling, because this is a film (*Dil Chahta Hai*) that is very close to my heart. It's the first one where I played a major role.

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

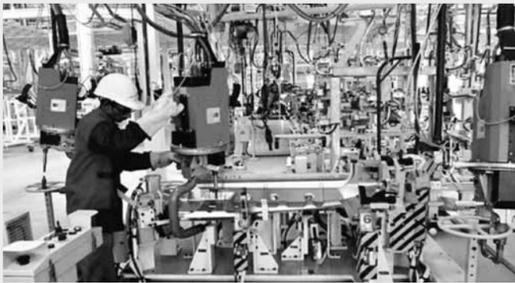
FIRST COLUMN
THE POST-COVID ECONOMIC RECOVERY

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 was 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 rigor 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 to convince their global headquarter 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 junior 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 has 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 millions of 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-matched) 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 a saving of ₹17,000 crore annually (ministerial statement on Feb 26, 2018). These invalid cards were misused 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 noticed 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 transactance.

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?

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 arithmetic 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 unmanned 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 don't 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 scams. These instances are thrice 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.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

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



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

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 forget 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 identical.

US generals, therefore, believed that some essential difference between the two armies protected American troops from the fate of the Russians.

Never mind all that. The really unpardonable mistake was forgetting all the lessons Western armies had learned from a dozen lost guerilla 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 guerilla 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 already are home. Your side can always quit and go home, and sooner or later 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's 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, it has lost eight out of ten districts to the

insurgents, who continue to advance on the capital, Shibirghan city. Dustum 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 Jelani 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 #SecurityCouncil 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 "probably the Security Council will be looking at this aspect sooner rather than later" 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, it's 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 spokesperson 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 the 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 seminary 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 Sarfraz said. He said a part of the temple was also burnt down. Sarfraz said the law enforcement agencies have controlled the situation and managed to disperse the mob. "Rangers have been called and deployed around the Hindu temple," he said.

Israeli Defence Min threatens Iran with military action

AP ■ TEL AVIV

Israel's Defence Minister warned 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 come 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."

5 ultrass belonging to Al-Qaeda and TTP held in Pak

Lahore: Pakistan's security agencies on Thursday claimed to have foiled a terror plot to attack government buildings in Lahore and arrested five terrorists belonging to the banned militant outfits Al-Qaeda and Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) during raids in Punjab province. PTI

RECRUITMENT FOR VARIOUS POSTS FOR KHELO INDIA STATE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The Directorate of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of Tripura and Sports Authority of India (SAI) - Khelo India Division under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (GOI), is in the process of setting up the Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE) for Swimming, Athletics and Judo at Dasharath Deb State Sports Complex (DDSSC), Badharghat to nurture the best talent of the State of Tripura. In order to lead the High-performance centre offline application are invited from Indian Nationals for filling-up the following vacant posts on purely contractual basis. Details of the Posts: Following are the likely posts that will be filled up through examination / interview:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Required Qualification	Monthly Remuneration in Rs.	Tenure
i	High Performance Director	1	Master in Sports (MSI/PHD/MBA)	1,00,000 to 1,50,000	1 Yr.
ii	Head Coach swimming/Athletics/Judo	3	Diploma in Coaching SAI/NS/NIS	1,00,000 to 1,50,000	1 Yr.
iii	Young Professional	1	Graduate/Master Degree (any)	40,000	1 Yr.
iv	Physiotherapist Grade-II	1	Masters in Physiotherapy	60,000 to 80,000	1 Yr.
v	Physiotherapist Grade -1	1	Masters in Physiotherapy	40,000 to 60,000	1 Yr.
vi	Nutritionist	1	M.Sc / Nutritionist	75,000 to 1,00,000	1 Yr.
vii	Masseur Grade -1	2	10+2 pas with skill development programme for Masseur	35,000	1 Yr.
viii	Strength & Condition Expert (Lead)	1	Masters in Sports	1,00,000 to 1,50,000	1 Yr.

Interested candidates may apply by post or directly visiting the office of the Directorate of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of Tripura. The prescribed format is available on the official website (<https://yas.tripura.gov.in>), the application process will be started w.e.f 05/08/2021(10AM) to 31/08/2021(5 PM).

Sd/ Director
Youth Affairs & Sports Department,
Govt. of Tripura

<https://yas.tripura.gov.in>
ICA/D-597/2021-22

Police in B'desh recovers Lord Vishnu's black stone statue

Dhaka: A black stone statue of Lord Vishnu, believed to be more than 1,000 years old, has been recovered by police in Bangladesh from a teacher, according to a media report on Thursday. Police recovered the statue from Boro Goali village in Cumilla district, *The Daily Star* newspaper reported. PTI



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

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 other 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's 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.

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, CD-I, Irrigation & Flood Control Department GNCTD Opp. ESI Hospital, Basai Darapur Office Complex New Delhi 110027 invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate tender from 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 & ward of N.G. Drain between RD. 40680m (Outer Ring Road) to RD. 45316m (Basaidarapur Bridge) right bank of 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 Wall from D/S Kakrola Regulator (old) Bridge RD 30180 to Kakrola 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

THE HOMES 81
Sector 81, Gurugram

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.tcpharyana.gov.in).

PROJECT DETAILS:

1. Colonizers/Developers:	M/s SRV Automotives Pvt. Ltd.
2. 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
3. Location:	Sector 81, Gurugram, Haryana
4. 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. & and One Aanganwadi cum creche of 2023.63 sq. ft.
5. 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	1434830	69608	45
Unit-7 (1bhk)	398.86	85.34	1638110	79772	9

7. Applicable GST and cesses, levies & fees etc. shall be charged over & above the said total price of the unit)

8. 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.

9. Parking: Two wheeler parking with each apartment.

10. 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/Aluminum or equivalent, Door: Flush Doors, Bathroom Fittings :Chinaware or equivalent, C. P. Fittings: Modern & elegant, Electrical: ISI marked products for wirings, switches & circuits.

11. Application Timelines: Application will be filled online by registration on <https://edraw.tcpharyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home> starting from **6th August 2021** and last date of submission of online application form is **27th August 2021**.

12. 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 Aawas 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.

13. 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.tcpharyana.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).

M/s SRV Automotives Private Limited, CIN: U34300DL2005PTC134174
Corp. Office: Landmark House, Plot No. 65, Sector 44, Gurugram, Haryana – 122003
Please Contact – 8929887878

ED slaps ₹10,600 crore FEMA 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 to 10 persons, including Flipkart, its founders Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal, among others, sources said.

The notice followed completion of investigation and the charges include violation of the foreign direct investment (FDI) rules as also regulations relating to multi-brand retail in 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.

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. Asserting that it was cooperating with the ED in this investigation, a spokesperson of the e-commerce giant said, "Flipkart is in compliance with Indian laws and regulations, including FDI regulations. We will co-operate with the authorities as they look at this issue pertaining to the period 2009-2015 as per their notice."

The case of alleged FDI rules violation against Flipkart has been under the ED scanner since 2012 and the agency has found alleged violations of the FEMA, including an instance of transfer and issue of security to a person or entity outside India. Flipkart competes with Amazon and Reliance JioMart in the Indian e-commerce

'We are compliant to Indian laws', Flipkart says after show-cause

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Enforcement Directorate has served a notice to e-commerce major Flipkart over alleged violation of foreign exchange norms, the company has said that it has been compliant to the Indian laws and will cooperate with the authorities in the matter which pertains to 2009-2015.

Responding to a query on the notice, the company said in a statement: "Flipkart is in compliance with Indian laws and regulations, including FDI regulations." "We will cooperate with the authorities as they look at this issue pertaining to the period 2009-2015 as per their notice," it said.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued notices to Flipkart, its founders and nine others in connection with foreign exchange violation case, officials said on Thursday.

A senior ED official related to probe told FIANS, "Yes, a notice has been issued to Flipkart, its founders and nine others."

He, however, did not reveal the details of the persons to whom notices have been sent.

According to financial probe agency sources, in the notice they have asked to explain why they should not face a penalty of \$1.35 billion for alleged violation of foreign investment laws.

The source said that Flipkart and its other holding firms including one in Singapore violated Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) while attracting foreign investments between 2009 and 2015.

According to ED, the investigating agency has found that WS Retail, a firm incorporated in 2009 to transact with customers, was allegedly acting as a front for retail operations of Flipkart Online Services, incorporated in 2008.

The ED investigation started after the RBI had raised the issue.

In 2018, Walmart took a majority stake in Flipkart. Sachin Bansal sold his stake to Walmart during the deal, while Binny Bansal retained a small stake.

E-way generation to be blocked from Aug 15 for return non-filers: GSTN

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Taxpayers who have not filed GST returns for two months or quarters up to June 2021 will not be able to generate e-way bills from August 15, GST Network has said.

The move, experts said, would help increase Goods and Services Tax collections in August as pending GST returns are expected to be filed.

Last year, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) had suspended the blocking of electronic way (e-way) bill generation for non-filers to give them compliance relief during the COVID pandemic.

In an advisory to taxpayers, the GSTN said, "The government has now decided to resume the blocking of EWB (eway bill) generation facility

on the EWB portal, for all the taxpayers ... from August 15 onwards".

Thus, after August 15, 2021, the system will check the status of returns filed in Form GSTR-3B or the statements filed in Form GSTR CMP-08 (for composition taxpayers filing quarterly returns) and restrict the generation of EWB in case of non-filers, it added.

Any taxpayer who has not filed two or more returns in GSTR-3B up to June 2021, or has not filed 2 or more statements in GST CMP-08 for the quarters up to April to June 2021, will not be able to generate e-way bill after August 15.

"To avail continuous EWB generation facility on EWB Portal, you are therefore advised to file your pending GSTR 3B returns/ CMP-08

Statement immediately," said GSTN, which handles the technology backbone of GST.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said GSTN has turned the heat back on all non-filers of GST returns and blocking the generation of e-way bills would bring many businesses to a standstill.

"This automated punitive action will also lead to augmentation in Tax collections for August," Mohan added. Under the GST regime, e-way bills have been made mandatory for inter-state transportation of goods valued over Rs 50,000 from April 2018. However, gold is exempted.

In the electronic way (e-way) bill system, businesses and transporters have to produce before a GST inspector the e-way bill, if asked.

Sensex, Nifty scale fresh lifetime highs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Extending its winning streak to the fourth straight session, equity benchmark Sensex ended 123.07 points higher at a fresh record on Thursday amid gains in index majors Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and ITC.

After scaling its lifetime peak of 54,717.24 during the day, the 30-share index settled 123.07 points or 0.23 per cent higher at its record high of 54,492.84.

In similar movement, the broader NSE Nifty rose 35.80 points or 0.22 per cent to an all-time peak of 16,294.60. It touched an intra-day record of 16,349.45.

Bharti Airtel was the top gainer in the Sensex pack,

surging around 4 per cent, followed by ITC, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel and HCL Tech.

On the other hand, SBI, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance and ICICI Bank were among the laggards.

"Domestic benchmark indices extended gains as rebound in IT and metals supported them to scale new highs. Additionally, recovery in FMCG stocks and RIL supported market," said Binod Modi, Head - Strategy at Reliance Securities.

However, it was again not a broad-based rally as profit booking in midcap and small-cap stocks remained visible with Nifty midcap and small-cap indices declining for the third consecutive day, he added.

Air passenger traffic recovery continued in July: ICRA

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic air passenger traffic sequentially grew by 56-57 per cent at around 48-49 lakh in July, ratings agency ICRA said.

The domestic air passenger traffic stood at 31.1 lakh in June 2021.

According to the ratings agency, the growth on YoY basis was 132 per cent.

Besides, the airlines' capacity deployment for July 2021 was around 90 per cent higher than July 2020.

On a sequential basis, the agency said that the number of departures in July 2021 were higher by 49 per cent, as Covid-19 infections demonstrated a downward trajectory.

"The average number of passengers per flight during

July 2021 was 104, against an average of 98 passengers per flight in June 2021," said Kinjal Shah, Vice President & Co-Group Head, ICRA.

"Though the recovery continued in July 2021, there is continued stress on demand, driven largely by the second wave of the pandemic, limiting travel to only necessary travel, while both leisure and business travel have been curtailed due to various statewide restrictions, despite the decline in infections."

In addition, the agency, said that in August 2021, the ATF prices have been higher by 55.3 per cent on a YoY basis, attributed to the low base of August 2020, when the prices declined YoY by 30.5 per cent due to the impact of the pandemic.

Indian airlines, airports saw financial losses worth ₹22,400 crore in FY 2020-21

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian airlines and airports incurred financial losses worth ₹22,400 crore in the last financial year amid the coronavirus pandemic, according to official data.

Besides, 75 per cent of Airports Authority of India-operated airports are incurring losses. Also, AAI's revenue came down to ₹889 crore during April-June this year.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that Smt. Prem Lata W/o Shri Mahender Singh is owner of House No.187, Land measuring 107.52 sq. yds., out of Khosra No. 49/24/3, situated at Gali No.6, Ashok Mohalla, Mangolai, New Delhi-110041 vide Notarized General Power of Attorney dated 15.05.1982 and she is intending to sell same property sold to Smt. Manjira Devi W/o Shri Rander Kant Jha and to be financed by M/s Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. Branch: Noida U.P. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.
Raghav Tiwari, Advocate
Ch. 830, Paliya House Courts,
New Delhi - 110011. Mob. +91-8876186828

PUBLIC NOTICE
Any person having objection to issue of a duplicate share certificate to Rajeev Sharma in lieu of share certificate No. 93986 (Distn. Nos. 9398501-600) may communicate the same to the company within ten days hereof.
SONIPAT
05-06-2021 Sd/- (S.K. VERMA)
Company Secretary
JASCH INDUSTRIES LTD
502, Block C, NDM-2, NSP,
Pitampura, New Delhi 110034

Abhijit Banerjee: Centre should be more into free spending policies than balancing deficit

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Nobel laureate economist Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee on Thursday said that the Union Government should be more into free-spending policies like other economies of Europe and the US rather than being more concerned about balancing the deficit and the budget.

Banerjee, who heads West Bengal's Global Advisory Board (GAB) and advises the state government on issues related to the pandemic, said that boosting the state's economy is directly related to the revival of the country's economy as it is under stress due to the ongoing pandemic situation.

"The (Union) Government has a fiscal problem, and it may have more faith in balancing the budget than free-spending policies. The Government is trying to use the one instrument it has as other forms of tax collection are not necessarily keeping pace, given the economy is slow. It is using this to balance the budget," he said when asked to react to the Centre's decision to increase cess on various items including fuel from time to time in the last year.

But this is not the direction the government should not have taken, Banerjee said. "I think the government should have been more open-handed with the spending. I have said this many, many times. It is the central government is too unwilling to do what US or European economies are doing - printing money and spending. And I think that would have been a better policy in the present context," the economist said.

MONIND LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Monnet Industries Limited)
Registered Office: Plot No. 216, Sector-C, Uda Industrial Complex, Rajpur-493221 (Chhattisgarh), Corp. Office: Monnet House, 11, Masjid Muth, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048 (INDIA) Phone: +91 11 29215542-46, Fax: +91 11 29216541 Email: isc_monind@monnetgroup.com; Website: www.monnetgroup.com CIN:L5103CT1982PLC039717

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given Pursuant to Regulation 29 & 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015, that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 12th August, 2021 inter-alia, to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter ended on 30th June, 2021. This intimation is also available on the website of the Company (www.monnetgroup.com) and on the website of the Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com)

By order of the Board of Directors
MONIND LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Monnet Industries Limited)
Priya
Place: New Delhi Company Secretary

MPDL LIMITED
(Formerly, Monnet Project Developers Limited)
Registered Office: Plot No. 216, Sector-C, Uda Industrial Complex, Rajpur-493221 (Chhattisgarh), Corp. Office: Unit No. 12, GF, Magnum Tower-1 Sector - 58, Gurugram, HR 122011 (INDIA) Phone: 0124-422434-35; Email: isc_mpdl@monnetgroup.com; Website: www.monnetgroup.com CIN:L70102CT2002PLC015040

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given Pursuant to Regulation 29 & 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015, that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 12th August, 2021 at 11, Masjid Muth, Greater Kailash, Part-2, New Delhi-110048 inter-alia, to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter ended on 30th June, 2021. This intimation is also available on the website of the Company (www.monnetgroup.com) and on the website of the Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com)

By order of the Board of Directors
MPDL LIMITED
(Formerly, Monnet Project Developers Limited)
Anurag Singh Rathore
Place: New Delhi Company Secretary

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division,
Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Khatima
Pilibhit Road, Near Allahabad Bank, Khatima (U.S. Nagar) E-mail: eecd@khatima@gmail.com

E-Tendering/Tender Notice
Letter No. 1156/Nivida/55 Date: 05.08.2021

1. Name of Work :- Rising Main (DI Pipe), Over Head Tank, Pump House cum attendent Room, Boundary wall and all other appurtenant works etc.

Name of Scheme	Estimated cost	Period of completion of work:
(A) Dah Dhaki (MVS) W/S Scheme	Rs. 37.94 Lakh	06 months
(B) Gidhor (SVS) W/S Scheme	Rs. 50.07 Lakh	06 months

2. Name of Work :- Distribution system (HDPE Pipe), FHTC and all other appurtenant works etc.

Name of Scheme	Estimated cost	Period of completion of work:
Gidhor (SVS) W/S Scheme	Rs. 59.07 Lakh	06 months

Key Dates-

1 Date of Online Publication	07.08.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
2 Document download : Start Date	08.08.2021 at 10:00 hrs.
3 Document download : End Date	21.08.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
4 Pre Bid Meeting	13.08.2021 at 14:00 hrs.
5 Bid Submission : Start Date	08.08.2021 at 10:00 hrs.
6 Bid Submission : End Date	21.08.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
7 Offline submission of documents (Cost of bidding document, Bid Security, Original Affidavits & all the Supporting Documents in support of qualification).	23.08.2021 upto 17:00 hrs.
8 Date of Technical & Financial Bid Opening	24.08.2021 at 11:00 hrs.
9 Details of tender, corrigendum or cancellation etc. may be obtained at web site: www.uktenders.gov.in	

Executive Engineer

Lost & Found
I, Mr. ALAM KHUSTAR S/o Athar Alam holding Passport No. L2010691 have lost my ORIGINAL PASSPORT while it was under transition with Professional Courier Delhi. Please contact +91 7479162156 if found.

Lost & Found
I, Mr. JYOTHIR RAJ S/o Rajeshkumar Kuttappan Nair holding Passport No. N5182394 have lost my ORIGINAL PASSPORT while it was under transition with Professional Courier Delhi. Please contact +91 9605922366 if found.

ANNEXURE - A PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice u/s 64(2) of the Electricity Act 2003 w.r.t petition filed in the Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC) (Petition No. - 16 OF 2021) for determination/approval of generation tariff w/s 62 of the Act. The salient features of the tariff for 25 years of the useful life of the project are as under:-

1). Name, Address, Contact Number of the petitioner	Avadaa Green HN Project Private Limited 910/19, Suryakiran, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi -1100001 Contact No: 0120-6757000
2). Location of the Power Plant, Capacity including Continuous Overloading (MW)	Distt. Sirsa, Haryana connected 132 KV HVPNL Grid Substation Milhisurera (Ellenabad) Sirsa - 50 MW
3). C.O.D	19th August 2021
4). Project cost net of subsidy, if any (Rs. Crores)	Rs. 189.04 Crores
5). O&M Cost (Rs. Crores)	Rs. 103.32 Crores
6). Depreciation (Rs. Crores)	Rs. 170.13 Crores
6a). Accelerated Depreciation, if claimed (Rs. Crores)	-
7). Interest on Term Loan (Rs. Crores)	Rs. 77.41 Crores
8). Interest on Working Capital (Rs. Crores)	Rs. 10.56 Crores
9). IDC Claimed, if any (Rs. Crores)	-
10). Income Tax (Rs. Crores)	Rs. 79.26 Crores
11). Return on Equity (Rs. Crores)	Rs. 198.49 Crores
12). Capacity Utilization Factor (CUF)	17.119%
13). Gross Generation (MU s)	74.98 MU's
14). Auxiliary Energy Consumption (MU s)	0.1874 MU's
15). Net Saleable Energy (MU s)	74.79 MU's
16). Discounting factor	10.50%
17). Proposed Levelized Tariff (Rs/kWh)	Rs. 3.58/kWh

A copy of the petition can be downloaded from www.avadaaenergy.com free of cost. Any person/stakeholder desirous of filing any comments/objection/suggestion etc. may do so within one week including name, contact number and email id. The same may be directly sent through email to the petitioner (avadaa@greenhn.com) and Chief Engineer/HPPC (cehppc@ubhn.org.in) and cehppc@gmail.com) and Secretary, HERC (secretary.herc@nic.in) and dir-trf.herc@nic.in)

PUBLIC NOTICE: LOST ID CARD
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Sec-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that three ID card of issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. having ID card no. RAJESH KUMAR-2132951, HARPREET SINGH-2110237 & RENU-2110712 has been lost on 05-08-2021. Anyone, who so ever finds the said ID card, is requested to return the Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, Sec-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085. Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card no. 2132951, 2110237, 2110712. Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment.
Date: August 06, 2021 Sd-
Place: Delhi For ICICI Bank Ltd.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown has injured in accident at Road No. 57A, Near Singla Sweet Red Light, Madhu Vihar, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 191/21 U/s 279/337 IPC dated 27.07.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Madhu Vihar, Delhi. During the treatment in GTB Hospital he has expired. Dead Body has been preserved for 72 Hrs in GTB Hospital. Identification of unidentified dead body is as under:
Name: Unknown, Age: 25 Years, Height: 5'7", Face: Round, Hair: Black, Complexion: Shallow, ID Mark: A Tattoo mark of "OM" on Right Hand, Wearing: Nude.
If anyone has any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.
SHO
Police Station, Madhu Vihar, Delhi
DP/639/ED/2021 (UIDB) Ph: 011-22732427, 8750870624

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General Public is hereby informed that one girl Namely: Shivani, D/o Rameshwar, R/o: H.No. A-21, Street No. 1, Radha Vihar, Delhi, has been missing from her house since 21.07.2021, from the area of P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 41-A, dated 21.07.2021 has been registered at P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing girl is as under: Age: About 21 years, Height: 5', Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue colour suit, pink colour salwar and red colour slipper in her feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl kindly inform to the following.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO
Fax No. 011-24368639 P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi
DP/935/NE/2021 Ph: 011- 22342073, 8750870734

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that a male namely Sanjay, S/o: Ramu, R/o: H.No. D-1/81, Nand Nagri, Delhi has been missing since 18.07.2021 from his house. In this regard DD No. 121-A dated 18.07.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Nand Nagri, Delhi. The description of missing male is as under:
Name: Sanjay, Age: 38 Years, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black Colour T-Shirt-Pant, Green Colour Trouser and Chappal in Feet.
If anyone has any information about this missing male may kindly be inform undersigned:-
Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
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DP/927/NE/2021 Ph: 011-22137761, 8750870733



Bollywood
 'Crime as a genre is not just engaging but also eye opening.'
 —Manoj Bajpayee

https://www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/

Making it big

ABHINAV ARORA imparts a crash course in succeeding, as a creator, in an algorithm-driven world

Once upon a time, your social media feeds were curated by who you chose to follow (aka your social graph). Brands and influencers would camp on these platforms to 'build' their audiences. They would get 100 per cent reach and, as a consumer, you'd see everything chronologically from whoever you're subscribed to.

Things aren't the same anymore. All social networks now have an algorithmic feed. The algorithm has one job — to keep people watching, scrolling, coming back and attentive (more or less) for as long as possible. These algorithms are unbelievably complex and constantly evolving. Just when you feel like you've finally cracked how a platform's algorithm works, it'll change.

The organic reach on Instagram is down by up to 70 per cent than what it used to be just a couple of years ago. In the case of YouTube, the algorithm clearly favours regular and diluted content that easily engages the masses. Any content that requires cognitive load, gets slapped with lower reach.

Creators are pulling off crazy stunts just to attract a click while many have had to give up quality for quantity. As the amount of content uploaded keeps growing, the competition is becoming even more intense.

If you break the consistency, you shall be punished with lower reach for your future uploads. The algorithms (which lack transparency) dictate the rules. Many creators big and small are burnt out and disgruntled because of this. It's like their entire career is based at the mercy of algorithms.

If you're a creator/influ-

encer or a professional who is heavily reliant on these platforms, you should read on.

What this means for you
 Learn to think of your audiences in two different categories: Owned and rented.

What do I mean by rented?
 When you rent an apartment from your landlord, s/he is the owner you pay rent to and s/he gets to dictate the terms. Of course, you get some control over things — like interiors and the like — but the landlord, being the owner, has the ultimate say.

You share a similar relationship with social media. With each small change, these platforms seem to make lives tougher for creators. What's making them do this? Simple. Ad revenue growth. Organic reach is taking a toll so that paid reach (aka ads) can flourish.

That's not all. If you create or follow culturally sensitive content (LGBTQ, politics, activism and the likes) you might be familiar with the word 'shadow ban'. If you feel like your posts are receiving low engagement suddenly, you might be shadowbanned. Even worse, the platform is never going to acknowledge it. Shadowban is a soft temporary ban on your content showing into your subscribers' feed because you've apparently violated community guidelines — which are a grey area — with no clear justification.

For a creator who relies on his/her social audience to make a living, these things are painful.

So, what can you do about it?
 Well — own your audience! Ownership means not relying 'solely' on these third-party platforms to build and



nurture relationships with your audience.

Own your audience

Before the rise of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, the internet used to hang out in communities (which existed on discussion forums). Pre-internet, there were communities and associations like YMCA, Rotary Club, Toastmasters. Brands like Harley Davidson tapped into communities as a core part of their brand strategy.

In the early 80s, Harley-Davidson was doing poorly. They transformed their businesses with a focus on marquee rides, exclusive memberships

and events to deepen their engagement with the riding community. Today, it's a cultural phenomenon. Central to the company's turnaround was Harley Owners Group, the brand's community, an audience that it has direct relationships with. Brands, like Harley Davidson and Royal Enfield, have grown beyond the usual manufacture and retail mould to become more experiential in conjoining the global riding community.

The decade-long shift to social networks happened because of the insane reach they had to offer. And, it made sense to 'build your

audience' there, because why not? The platforms gave everything you wanted, from reach to visibility to growth. Until they didn't and, by then, you were desperately hooked.

It's time to start taking a hard look at the past, creating communities where you own the social capital. Building an audience with such loyalty to your brand that regardless of what platform you're on, your community always flocks to you. That's the true meaning of 'owning your audience'. No question, social networks will always remain an essential part because of their scale. But, today, the key is to follow a hybrid approach where you source new members from social networks, but safely house them in your own community.

But where? Explore platforms like Reddit, Discord, Slack, Telegram and Scenes by Avalon. These are some of the best places on the internet where one can create and own their communities.

Build a community and control your destiny!
 (The author is the co-founder of Scenes by Avalon, a next-gen community platform made in India.)

CREATING A BUZZ

KYLE FERNANDES talks about the power of memes to popularise a web series

Did you know meme pages often have more than seven million followers and a reach that exceeds 20 million? With such a large captive audience, memes are bound to leave an impact on the minds of people. Its popularity further indicates that the consumers of online information are receptive to communication that takes place via crisp, witty, and hilarious posts.

You must be wondering how a meme contributes to the popularity of a web series? Product manufacturers to movie/show producers have been adopting memes to communicate with the audience. Memes are also seen as effective marketing tools during the post-launch period for sustenance and the creation of high recall value. Listed below are some ways through which memes are contributing to this arena.

Contribution to viral communication

The primary usage of memes is to generate awareness among the masses. It usually happens in the pre-launch stage. For instance, before the release of the Netflix original film *Bird Box*, the marketers used snippets from different scenes to create memes. These humorous content pieces were circulated across social media platforms and soon the film became famous across the internet. People found the templates amusing and were drawn to watch the film like anything. Subsequently, *Bird Box* received more than 70 million views in the first 24 hours.

Reach a vast target audience

Very often, viewers come across memes based on unfamiliar subjects. Memes have the capacity to intrigue individuals. Piquing their interests, it urges them to dive deeper into the topic. For instance, someone who has not watched a single episode of the Emmy winning series — *Schitt's Creek* — can be prompted to watch the show by memes featuring lines by the show's loved character Moira Rose

Trends 2.0

Trends are not everlasting. They have a limited life cycle; some might be longer than others, but each reaches its maturity and gradually fizzles out. A series, on the other hand, stays on the platform since its very release. In such a case, it is essential to adopt techniques that boost the current craze, adding to the lifespan of the trend. Memes are the best way to achieve this goal.

For instance, if your show is released in April, it might begin to lose its momentum after some time. To avoid this from happening, marketers should use memes featuring famous dialogues and characters, simultaneously creating top-notch recall value. The famous dialogue,



"Kabhi kabhi lagta hai apun hi bhagwan hai" from *Sacred Games* is still making rounds as one of the most loved memes, keeping the show alive in the process.

Ease into the next season

If the time gap between two seasons is more, then memes can efficiently ease into the announcement of the upcoming season. Circulating memes based on the content from preceding seasons before the upcoming one prepares the audience and creates excitement. The viewers are reminded of the previous experience and storyline. As a result, they subconsciously start desiring more of such content. With your viewer base already wanting more, it is an ideal time to announce a new season. Such tactics generate a widespread buzz, and producers do not have to reveal many details about the upcoming episodes, keeping the surprise element intact.

Marketing is a dynamic field. Now and then, a new tool becomes a craze while the others take a back seat. In such a change-centric environment, a successful marketing endeavour capitalises on the popular tool to leave a long-lasting impact. In recent times, memes have emerged as a major component in the secret behind the fame of most products, shows, and services. However, while using memes for the promotion of series, marketers need to be cautious. They need to ensure that their subliminal messages should not reveal too much about the storyline while, at the same time, catering to the taste of a large audience base.

(The author is the CEO & co-founder of MemeChat, a social networking app designed to revolutionise the world of memes.)

Sania Mirza's fitness master class

The tennis ace, Sania Mirza, motivated over eight lakh students in a masterclass aimed at inspiring them to adopt a healthy lifestyle through fitness and yoga. The former World Doubles top-ranked athlete highlighted the importance of physical and mental exercises for students to combat limited physical activity and anxiety.

EdTech major in the K-12 segment, LEAD initiated its second MasterClass to provide school children with exposure to overall development and growth by partnering with renowned experts to share their knowledge and experience.

The first MasterClass on creative writing was held with author Chetan Bhagat.

Sania shared her mantra of 'building inner core and muscle strength to remain fit' and explained the role of discipline in life to students by sharing anecdotes on how she managed both, sports and academics. She chatted with mothers on their role in supporting their children in remaining mentally and physically strong during the pandemic while also taking care of their own health by

indulging in fitness activities.

The Padma Bhushan awardee said, "The pandemic must never come in the way of our commitment to pursue our dreams. Fitness and Yoga is a great way for children today to build on their mental and physical strength. A healthy body and mind is central to overall growth and learning; in the present context it is important that schools provide such opportunities to students."

The co-founder and CEO of LEAD, Sumeet Mehta, remarked, "MasterClass provides access to an exclusive world that is otherwise unavailable to students and schools from small towns. Our mission is to make excellent education accessible and affordable to every child. Where would children otherwise have a chance to attend a live class from Bhagat or Sania? LEAD brings this to them because we believe that children from small towns, if given access and opportunity, can shine as bright as students from metros. And with successful celebrities such as Sania Mirza, students will get a dose of inspiration to take fitness and health seriously in life. Because a fit mind lives in a fit body. In future, we will bring more such Masterclasses to students of LEAD powered schools!"

—IANS

One of the barometers I use for the strength in demand for the Indian auto market is the number of phone calls I entertain every week from friends, family, acquaintances and even friends of acquaintances asking for advice. The past few weeks I've had a lot of calls and the July sales figures reflected that and I'm sure that sales for the Indian automotive industry will be very good in August as well. In fact, I don't think it will be a demand problem for the industry, but the global semiconductor shortage will impact sales during the next few months.

If you didn't know, a massive surge in demand for consumer electronics, coupled with firms shutting down production in early-2020 thanks to the pandemic has led to huge shortages of semiconductors across the world. And given that modern cars are essentially supercomputers on wheels, with hundreds of small chips making millions of calculations every second, a shortage means that even producers like Maruti-Suzuki, whose cars won't be at the top of your mind when you think 'high-tech', are announcing a slowdown in production.

But this column is not about that, it is about an anguished call from a friend who railed against Sports-Utility Vehicles and how that body-style is becoming ubiquitous today. Indeed, the SUV craze has meant that one in every three cars sold today in India is an SUV. It has propelled Hyundai Motor Group (Hyundai and Kia) to a position of dominance behind Maruti-Suzuki, thanks in no small part to the astounding success of the Creta which was launched six years ago this week. However, just like in antiquity, when one empire rose, it rose because another empire declined. And that decline in the automotive space has been the decline of the sedan.

Think about it, today in the D-segment, there is only the Hyundai Elantra and Skoda Octavia, albeit at vastly different price points. Honda recently withdrew production of the Civic, Toyota hasn't been selling

An elegy for the sedan

The SUV body-style is taking over the world and killing the sedan in the process



The next-generation Hyundai Elantra, will it come to India?

the Corolla Altis for a while and even Hyundai has been a bit cagey when asked whether the next-generation Elantra will come to India in 2022. When it comes to the next-generation Tucson however, it is a prompt yes. And therein lies the rub. It is the same story in the C-segment, none of the offerings are terribly exciting anymore. Yes, Honda City loyalists will buy a City, and I genuinely like the Hyundai Verna, especially the iVT variant that I've been driving the past few months. But anyone spending ₹12-15 lakh on a car almost reflexively asks about a Creta or Seltos, unless they're in the government or a public-sector company where the Ciaz has become the new Ambassador. Sure, Hyundai has put a turbo petrol version of the Verna on sale, but I feel

that is because the 1.0 litre engine does service on multiple cars across Hyundai and Kia. Once upon a time, when you upgraded to your first 'big' car, you bought a Maruti Esteem or Hyundai Accent. Heck, owning the Honda City was a sign that you have arrived. And sedans were fun to drive, they were low to



the ground and even though you might have suffered on poor roads, on a nice stretch of tarmac, nothing really could beat a sedan in that price segment. Most importantly, the SUVs of the time were more about functionality and their body-on-frame construction made them unwieldy on the road. That has fundamentally changed today, as Utility Vehicles, even extremely rugged ones such as the Land Rover Defender are monocoques, where the body itself provides the structural strength to the car. But lower the price range and that change to monocoques meant that SUVs could be produced on the same platforms as sedans and hatchbacks with much-reduced engineering and manufacturing complexity. So a Creta could be built on a platform similar to that of a Verna, and while it could cost a bit more to build, thanks to changing consumer preferences for SUVs, Hyundai could charge a lot more per Creta than they could for an Accent or a Verna.

And it wasn't just Hyundai, everybody saw the writing on the wall. While bad roads were an excuse for the reason the SUV segment grew in India, even though roads have improved over the past decade, this wasn't an Indian phenomenon alone. The SUV body-style, and I call it a body-style rather than a 'type' because really, these cars are not vehicles you'd ever really take off-road, in fact, except some versions of the Jeep Compass, there are no true off-road capable SUVs out there in India (the Thar isn't an SUV, it is an off-roader which can work in the city). I guess more people like sitting high off the ground than low to the ground. And this has killed the sedan and it will slowly start killing premium hatchbacks such as the Baleno and i20 too.

Personally, I prefer sitting lower down, closer to the tarmac than higher up. And I think it is a pity that the sedan is dying out. The SUV now counts for one of every three cars sold in India, it won't be too long before that becomes one in two.

TRENDBLAZER



A CONVERSATION STARTER: ABHAY

Actor **ABHAY DEOL** is very excited to play a pivotal role in the upcoming Disney film *Spin* that revolves around an Indian-American family.

"The right representation of Indian-American community in cinema is so crucial and slowly the American film industry has started doing it. Disney is surely playing an important part here with *Spin*, which is an attempt to redefine what we perceive an American looks and sounds like," Abhay shared.

fairtalk

SIDHARTH MALHOTRA



"When I heard about Vikram Batra's life, I knew his story needed to be shown to the world and hopefully inspire everyone. I think I am very fortunate to have spent time with his family and friends, learning about him, which helped me prepare for my role in *Shershaah*. Playing him on the silver screen was not only a huge responsibility but also very challenging as an actor."

dailytalk

LARA DUTTA



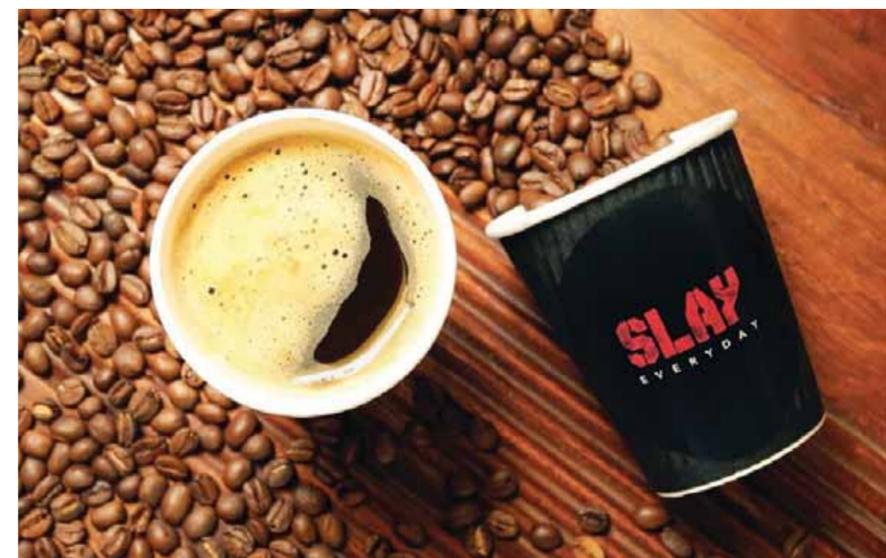
"For *Bellbottom*, getting Indira Gandhi's hairstyle right, which was such an iconic part of her, involved quite an effort. Once everything was ready, it took me three hours to transform into Mrs Gandhi and about an hour before coming back to Lara. A lot of homework went into getting her body language and voice right, apart from the appearance."

'I LOVE PLAYING HARLEY QUINN'

Hollywood actor **MARGOT ROBBIE**, who currently awaits the release of *The Suicide Squad*, says she loves playing Harley Quinn.

Talking about her role, Robbie expresses, "I love playing Harley. I don't know when I'll ever get sick of playing Harley, she's such a catalyst of chaos." Warner Bros Pictures released *The Suicide Squad*, directed by James Gunn, in select cities of India yesterday.





The drink's craft

On the occasion of International Beer Day, AVNEET 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.

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.)

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 refreshment 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 brewery trends that need to be watched out for are as follows:

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 healthy 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 and, 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 Yummiano, which strives to provide healthier snacking options without harsh chemicals or preservatives.)

'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

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 smelt 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

don't quite remember how old I was when I first tasted caffeine, but I distinctly remember tasting it. My mother was having her regular evening cup and offered me a sip. That small mouthful of strong, sugarless black coffee seemed to titillate 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



are a must-try for any coffee aficionado. Importing their beans from the award-winning coffee estates on the rolling hills of Chikmagalur in Karnataka, the diversity of brews

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 caved in 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



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
- Fasting salt to taste
- Black pepper powder: 1/3 tsp
- Cumin seeds: 1 tsp
- Sugar: ½ tsp
- Ghee: 3 tbsp
- Fresh coriander (chopped): 3 tbsp
- 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: Vinsplate



HOT CROSS BUN LOAF WITH CHOCOLATE & CANDIED CITRUS FRUITS

WHAT YOU NEED

- Cling film
- Piping bag and fine plain nozzle
- For the buns:**
 - Strong white flour: 25 gm
 - Vegetable oil: 1 tsp
 - Cold water: 2 tbsp
- For the glaze:**
 - Orange juice: 75 ml
 - Honey: 2 tbsp
- 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- 1½ 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 fan assisted electric ovens, 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 piece
- Black tea: ½ tbsp
- 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 Valeria Koblova (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 Zavur 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)
● **Hockey:** India vs Great Britain in women's Bronze medal match. (07:00am)
● **Wrestling:** Bajrang Punia vs Ernazar Akmataliev (Kyrgyzstan) in men's freestyle 65kg. (eighth bout after 08:00am start.)
● **Hockey:** India vs Sarra 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

INDIA'S WAIT IS OVER

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

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-winners, 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),

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.

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.

Hockey has a special place in the heart and mind of every Indian, he said, tweeting 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".

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, Birendra Lakra, Amit Rohidas, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh and Rupinder Pal Singh. PTI

after the 5-4 triumph

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 game's 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



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 fine 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.

The 35-year-old made his

Aditi in medal hunt

Tokyo: Indian golfer Aditi Ashok was in contention for a historic Olympic medal after carding 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 Kasumigaseki Country Club to lie tied second on nine-under 133 with Danish duo, Nanna Koerstz Madsen (64) and Emily Kristine Pedersen (63). Aditi, 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 53rd place 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:

Drag-flick King

The son of a farmer in Jandiala Guru township, a village in the outskirts of Amritsar, Harmanpreet made his international debut in 2015. He was part of the Silver winning teams at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup and the FIH Men's Champions Trophy in 2016.

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 Gold.

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,

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.

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 classy 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 bad patch.

He could have also been Anderson's third victim but was dropped in the slips, his only batting glitch on the day. The nine fours, mostly

drives, 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 game) equalled Anil Kumble's record of 619 scalps. He matched Kumble's record after fooling 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 Buttler to take a low catch.

The manner of dismissal is sure to increase the cobwebs in Pujara's mind as this series is certainly going to have a bearing on his international future.

However, Indian team had one of its best opening stands in recent tours of England before Rohit Sharma's (36 off 107 balls) now familiar propensity to pull brought about his downfall at the stroke of lunch. PTI

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

Expanding India's Energyscape

Extract from the Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter Ended 30th June 2021
(₹ in crore Except EPS)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter Ended		Financial year Ended	Quarter Ended		Financial year Ended
		30 th June 2021	30 th June 2020	31 st March 2021	30 th June 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	7,468.77
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/-
Director (Finance) & CFO
(DIN: 07654612)

Place: New Delhi
Date: 5th August 2021
(CIN: L40200DL1984GOI018976)

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Directorate of Sch. Castes & Sch. Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) CRPF Square, Bhubaneswar-751003
(Telephone No-0674-2563649/Fax No. 0674-2561635, Email: scstrti@yahoo.co.in)

No 2078 Date 4/8/21

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Sealed Expression of Interest are hereby invited from interested registered agency/company for out sourcing of food court in Odisha State Tribal Museum of SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar. The tender must be addressed to Director of SCSTRTI, CRPF Square, Near P.D. Market, Bhubaneswar-3. The last date of submission of the bid EoI 17.08.2021 at 1 P.M. The interested Agency/company can log on to the office website www.scstrti.in for detail.

Advisor-cum-Director & Spl. Secretary to Govt. SCSTRTI, BBSR

OIPR-26026/11/0006/1212