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India, China to pull back troops from Gogra point

First breakthrough achieved in 12th round of parleys

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

India and China are likely to pull back their troops from a friction point in Gogra at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh in the next few days. This could be a significant step towards resolving the continuing border crisis. At present, about 30-40 soldiers from both sides are in a face-off situation there and may disengage after a consensus has been reached between the Corps Commanders of the two armies.

They had held the 12th round of talks on Saturday last and broadly agreed in principle to withdraw from Patrolling Point (PP) 17A in Gogra, sources said here on Tuesday. However, the final decision will be taken by the top brass of the military and diplomatic hierarchy, they said.

The latest round of talks lasting more than 10 hours was held nearly four months after the 11th round in early April.

As regards the face-off sites, the other friction points are in the Hot Springs and the Depsang Valley, and the two



FORWARD MOVEMENT

- At present, about 30-40 soldiers from both sides are in a face-off situation at Gogra
- To resolve other friction points — Hot Springs and the Depsang Valley — the two sides will hold more military and diplomatic-level talks
- The first disengagement of troops from both the southern and northern banks of the Pangong Tso

sides will hold more military and diplomatic-level talks in the coming weeks to ease tension there, they added.

Since last one and a half years, the LAC is tense due to transgressions by China with the first incident taking place in May last year at the Pangong Tso (lake). Shortly afterwards, stand-off erupted at more places, including Gogra and Hot Springs.

The first disengagement of troops from both the sides took place in February this year at the southern and northern

banks of the Pangong Tso. Since then, a stalemate persisted regarding the other friction points.

Incidentally, India and China had started pulling back their troops from Gogra and Hot Springs last year but massive induction of troops and armour by China saw the process coming to a halt.

India has all along insisted that China has to disengage from all the friction points in order to normalise ties. India has also made it clear status quo ante has to be restored at the

LAC as it was in April last year. A joint statement issued by India and China on Monday after the 12th round of talks said the Corps Commander Level Meeting was held at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Indian side. This round of meeting was held following the meeting of the Foreign Ministers on July 14 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and the 22nd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs on June 25.

Rahul trying to unite Opp for 2024

Second such Opposition huddle in recent times as Rahul cycles to Parliament

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

From meeting over a "sumptuous" breakfast to cycling to Parliament in a bunch, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday sought to "unite" leaders of over a dozen Opposition parties to take on the Modi-led NDA dispensation in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

This is the second such

Opposition huddle in recent times, the first convened by NCP supremo Sharad Pawar. In between, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee camped in Delhi in her bid to bring about Opposition unity by meeting a section of Opposition leaders. Notably though, while the TMC attended the Rahul-chaired meeting unlike earlier times, the BSP and AAP chose to skip it.

"The more this voice unites, the more powerful it will become, the more difficult it will become for the BJP and RSS to suppress this voice. We should remember the foundation of unity and it is important that now we start to come up with the principles of this foundation," Rahul said in his wel-

come message to the leaders.

During the breakfast meeting held at Constitution Club in the vicinity of Parliament, TMC leader Mohua Moitra, NCP Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule, DMK's Kanimozhi, Shiv

Sena leader Sanjay Raut and Congress' Mallikarjun Kharge, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury were among those present. Representatives of RJD, SP, CPIM, CPI, IUML, RSP, KCM, JMM, National Conference and LJD too joined for tea and breakfast with Rahul and other leaders.

Opp agrees to debate 7 Bills in Parliament

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With stalemate continuing in the Rajya Sabha for the 11th day, the Government, Opposition and other parties on Tuesday agreed on eight items of business, including seven Bills, for which 17 hours of time has been allotted.

Parliament sources said this was decided at a meeting chaired by Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, who appealed to all sides to enable normal functioning of the House.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi rides a bicycle in a symbolic protest over fuel price hike in New Delhi on Tuesday
Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

Opp parties insulting Parl by not letting it function, rues Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday slammed the Opposition for "insulting the legislature and the Constitution" by forcing repeated adjournments and not allowing Parliament to function. He also criticised the "arrogant" conduct of those from the Opposition who remain unrepentant on their conduct of tearing papers and making "derogatory" remarks on the way Bills have been passed.

The Opposition has not been allowing Parliament to function demanding a debate on the Pegasus snooping issue. The Government has termed it a "non-issue".

Briefing the media on Modi's speech at the BJP parliamentary party meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said the Prime Minister expressed anger at the conduct of some Opposition members and noted that those who tore papers and



threw it around have remained unrepentant.

This shows their arrogance, Modi said and asked his party members to maintain restraint.

While TMC MP Santanu Sen had torn the statement of IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on the Pegasus issue in the Rajya Sabha, several Opposition members had torn papers in the Lok Sabha and thrown it in the air and towards the Chair.

TMC MP Derek O'Brien had criticised the manner of Bills' passage in Parliament by drawing a parallel with making of "papri chat".

Journalists, Editors Guild move SC for SIT probe into Pegasus snooping

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior editors N Ram, Sashi Kumar, and the Editors Guild of India on Tuesday filed a plea in the Supreme Court seeking a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the reported surveillance of journalists and others allegedly by the Government through the use of Israeli firm NSO's Pegasus spyware.

Apart from Ram and Kumar, five other journalists whose phones were tapped using Pegasus spyware too approached the apex court. Paranjay Guha Thakurta, SNM Abdi, Prem Shankar Jha, Rupesh Kumar Singh, and activist Ipsa Shatakshi are the

five journalists who approached the SC with the forensic reports of Pegasus' presence in their phones.

Lawyer ML Sharma and CPI(M) MP John Brittas too have petitioned the SC seeking a probe into the snooping incident. The cases are expected to be listed on Thursday.

The Guild's petition stated that journalists are tasked with enforcing the public's right to be informed, accountable and to an open and transparent Government. The plea stated that all attempts to seek accountability and enforce Constitutional limits through Parliamentary processes have been stonewalled.

CAPSULE

PENTAGON ON LOCKDOWN AFTER SHOOTING NEARBY

Washington: The Pentagon was on lockdown on Tuesday morning after multiple gunshots were fired near a platform by the facility's Metro station. A Pentagon announcement said the facility was on lockdown due to "police activity." An Associated Press reporter near the building heard multiple gunshots.

SENSEX SOARS 873 PTS, NIFTY ABOVE 16,000

Mumbai: The Sensex skyrocketed 873 points to a fresh closing peak while the Nifty finished above the 16,000-mark for the first time on Tuesday as economic recovery hopes triggered across-the-board buying. Investors grew richer by ₹2.30 lakh crore, with market capitalisation of all BSE-listed reaching a lifetime high of ₹2,40,04,664.28 crore.

GIANT WAVES SWALLOW CENTURIES-OLD TEMPLE

Kendrapara (Odisha): The marauding sea that had been eroding the coastline in Kendrapara for decades, devouring one village after another, recently razed to the ground the centuries-old Panchuvarahi Temple, dashing hopes of locals who often offered prayers there seeking respite from the scourge of Mother Nature.

Corona R-factor high, wave not over: Govt

8 States show rise in virus reproductive rate

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as concerns are being raised over the impending third Covid-19 wave, the Government on Tuesday cautioned that the country is not yet done with the second wave and eight States have shown a rise in the R-factor which, it said, is a "significant problem".

Dr VK Paul, who heads the Government's Covid task force,

said as many as 44 districts have reported a high case positivity and the Delta-driven second wave is still not over. Eighteen districts showed an increasing trend in cases in the last four weeks, he said at a Press conference here.

"Delta variant is a dominant problem. The pandemic is still raging and the second

Covid-19 IN INDIA	
TOTAL CASES:	3,17,66,226 (+40,771)
DEATHS:	4,25,774 (+546)
RECOVERED:	3,09,21,544 (+32,742)
ACTIVE:	4,06,328
MAHA:	63,21,068 (+6,005)
KERALA:	34,49,149 (+23,676)
K'TAKA:	29,09,958 (+1,674)
TN:	25,65,452 (+1,908)
DELHI:	14,36,451 (+50)



wave is persisting in our own country," said Dr Paul, expressing concern about the R-factor or the reproductive rate of a virus, which indicates how fast it is spreading.

18 crore Covishield, Covaxin shots to be ready by year end

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

By December-end, around 18 crore Covishield and Covaxin jabs against Covid-19 will be available for inoculation in the country, the Government told Parliament on Tuesday even as it hoped that four more Indian pharma companies will start production of indigenous

vaccines that will help meet the domestic demand.

India has administered 47 crore doses of vaccine so far since the launch of the national vaccination drive from January 16 aimed to protect the people from the virus.

It plans to inoculate the adult population by December end.



99.04% students pass CBSE Class X

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Tuesday declared the much-awaited Class X results with 99.04 per cent students declared passed. While the pass percentage of boys is 98.89 per cent, that of girls is 99.24 per cent.

While Thiruvananthapuram region topped results with the highest pass percentage of 99.99, as much as 98.19 per cent students in the Delhi region have passed the CBSE Class X board examinations.

Indian student's death homicide, suspect held: Chinese Foreign Min

PTI ■ BEIJING

The death of a 20-year-old Indian student in China's Tianjin city was a homicide and a foreigner has been arrested in connection with the murder, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said here on Tuesday.

The suspect's nationality has not been disclosed, officials said. Aman Nagsen, who hailed from Bihar's Gaya, was a student of Business Administration in the Tianjin Foreign Studies University. He was found dead on July 29.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry, in a written response to PTI, said around 8.00 pm, Tianjin police received a call that an "Indian student was lying on the floor of the dormitory with no sign of life".

PM to invite entire Indian Olympics contingent as spl guests on I-Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will invite the entire Indian Olympics contingent to Red Fort as special guests on Independence Day, the celebrations for which will remain low-key for the second year in a row due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The PM will also meet the athletes personally at his official residence and interact with all of them. Prior to the contingent leaving for Tokyo, he had promised ace shuttler PV Sindhu to have ice-cream with her, which she could not due to her preparations for the games. Sindhu became the first Indian woman athlete to bag two Olympic medals.

Modi on Tuesday also



sought to cheer up the Indian men's hockey team that lost to Belgium in the semi-final clash, saying wins and losses are a part of life and India is proud of its players.

and that is what counts," Modi tweeted.

Wishing the Team the very best for the next match and their future endeavours, he said, "India is proud of our players". He also spoke with Manpreet Singh, the captain of the hockey team, after the semi-final match, officials said.

Modi appreciated the team's good performance throughout the tournament and wished them luck for the next game, they said. The Indian women's team is also in the semi-final.

When the match was in progress, Modi tweeted, "I'm watching the India vs Belgium Hockey Men's semi-final at #Tokyo2020. Proud of our team and their skills. Wishing them the very best!"

Olympic Gold still elusive for men's hockey India to take on Germany for bronze medal today

PTI ■ TOKYO

The Indian men's hockey team's dream of an Olympic gold after 41 years remained unfulfilled as it lost 2-5 to world champions Belgium in the last-four stage but the side is still in the hunt for a bronze in the Tokyo Games here on Tuesday.

Alexander Hendrickx (19th, 49th, 53rd minutes), the tournament's highest goal getter, scored a hat-trick while Loick Luypaert (2nd minute) and John-John Dohmen (60th) also struck to hand the reigning silver-medallists their second successive entry into the final of the Olympics.

India's goals came from

the sticks of Harmanpreet Singh (7th) and Mandeep Singh (8th).

The Indians still have a chance to secure an elusive medal from the Olympics as they will feature in the bronze medal match on Thursday against Germany, who lost 1-3 to Australia in their semi-final clash.

India's last appearance in the final of the Olympics came way back in 1980 Moscow Games, where they went on to win their last of the eight gold medals.

The Indians had only themselves to blame for Tuesday's disappointment as Belgium's all four goals came from penalty corners.



India players wait for a video referral decision during their men's field hockey semi-final match with Belgium in Tokyo on Tuesday

The Indian defence was put under relentless pressure by the Belgians as they secured as

many as 14 penalty corners out of which they converted three. Belgium's game plan was

TOKYO 2020 MEDAL TALLY			
Country	G	S	B
China	32	21	16
USA	24	28	21
Japan	19	6	11
Australia	14	4	15
ROC	13	21	18
Great Britain	13	17	13
France	6	10	8
India	0	1	1

clear from the onset as they tried to enter the Indian circle and earn penalty corners with Hendrickx and Luypaert in their ranks.

The play worked to perfection as the Indian defence wilted under pressure to concede the set pieces.

EYE ON PUNJAB POLLS

SAD promises 400 units of free power, discount on diesel

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Making a series of promises and announcing a slew of schemes with an eye on 2022 assembly elections in Punjab, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Tuesday promised 400 "free" power units to residential consumers across all categories, Rs 10 per litre discount on diesel for tractors and agriculture purposes, Rs 10 lakh annual medical insurance for all families, among other things "if SAD is voted to power".

Announcing the 13-point charter of initiatives which the SAD-BSP alliance will implement once it comes to power in the State in 2022, Sukhbir also announced Rs 2,000 per month grant to all women heads of blue card holder families, provision of power at the rate of Rs five per unit for industry and an interest free loan of Rs 10 lakh for students.

Besides 400 'free' power units, the slew of initiatives, which cover all sections of society, also include doing away with outstanding residential bills of all blue card holders,

and restoration of connections of BPL families, which have been disconnected due to non-payment of bills.

"The health insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh per annum will cover treatment, medicines, diagnostic tests, surgeries and medical equipment in all public and private hospitals," said Sukhbir while addressing the media.

Simultaneously, in a big announcement for youth to help them go in for higher studies in India and abroad, Sukhbir announced that a Student Education Card, with interest free loan up to Rs 10 lakh, would be issued to the students for the purpose of college fees and coaching fees like IELTS.

"For Scheduled Caste students, this facility would be in addition to the SC scholarship which would be restarted," he said.

Speaking about the initiatives which would be taken up in the agriculture sector, Sukhbir said that the legislation would be passed in the State Assembly to ensure that the three agriculture laws were not

implemented in Punjab.

"Simultaneously, the Government would introduce minimum support price (MSP) for fruits and vegetables and pay the differential in case of reduction in prices to farmers," he said.

Stating that the next SAD-BSP government would prioritize health and education, Sukhbir said that 500-bed Government Medical Colleges with super speciality facilities would be established in every district.

He also announced that 33 percent reservation would be given to students passing their education from government schools in all professional colleges in the State, including medical colleges.

Sukhbir also announced that one lakh new jobs would be created in the government sector and that 10 lakh new jobs would be created in the private sector. He also announced a minimum of 50 percent reservation for women in all government jobs, adding that 75 percent jobs would be reserved for Punjabi youth in the private sector.



In another announcement, Sukhbir promised that all contractual employees, including safai karamcharis, would be regularized besides announcing complete digitization of all government services available to citizens and making Sewa Kendras which have been closed down by the Congress Government functional again.

He also announced that large companies would be encouraged to switch to solar

energy by waiving off transmission charges in the State besides asserting that new textile and IT hubs would be created in the State.

Stating that the SAD had always delivered on the promises made to the people, Sukhbir said that Akali Dal had earlier promised free power to farmers and delivered on it.

"We promised unique schemes for the socially disadvantaged including 'aata-daal'

scheme and 'Shagun scheme' and made them a reality. We promised to make the State power surplus and did so. Similarly, we promised to provide world class infrastructure to the people and delivered on it by four to six lane highways or international airports. Jo keha, oh keeta; jo kehang, oh karange", he quipped.

SAD chief also detailed how the SAD-led governments of Parkash Singh Badal had always stood for peace, communal harmony, brotherhood and respect for all religions.

Lashing out at the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, Sukhbir said that the Congress leader had sworn false oaths on the holy Gutka Sahib and reneged on them.

"As far as AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal is concerned, the latter has always adopted double standards on all issues concerning Punjab and Punjabis. Kejriwal betrayed the interests of Punjab on SYL issue and stubble burning and recently even tried to force closure of the thermal plants in the

Jo keha, oh keeta; Jo kehang, oh karange: Sukhbir's promises

- 400 "free" power units to residential consumers across all categories
- ₹10 per litre discount on diesel for tractors and agriculture purposes
- ₹10 lakh annual medical insurance for all families
- ₹2,000 monthly grant to all women heads of blue card holder families
- Power at ₹5 per unit for industry
- Doing away with outstanding residential bills of all blue card holders
- Restoration of connections of BPL families, disconnected due to non-payment of bills
- Student Education Card, with ₹10 lakh "interest-free" loan, to be issued to students
- Legislation to ensure Centre's three agriculture laws not implemented in Punjab
- To set up 500-bed Govt Medical Colleges with super-speciality facilities in every district
- 33% reservation to students passing from govt schools in state's all professional colleges
- To create one lakh new jobs in Govt sector, 10 lakh in private sector
- Minimum 50% reservation for women in all govt jobs
- 75% jobs to be reserved for Punjabi youth in private sector

State," said Sukhbir adding that even the 300 units free power promised by Kejriwal had proved to be a hoax with AAP leader claiming that anyone consuming even one unit more than 300 units would have to pay the entire bill.

Haryana 112 emergency number helps 25,826

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A total of 2,17,754 calls were received on Haryana emergency helpline number 112 in the first 500 hours from July 13 onwards after this ambitious project was launched by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

Giving details, Additional Director General of Police Telecom and IT, Arshinder Singh Chawla, who is also the nodal officer of Haryana 112 project, informed that out of these total calls, 31,717 calls were from those who had genuine need for help out of which, 25,826 emergency vehicles dispatches were made to the incident location to support the citizen in distress. Remaining calls were majorly enquiry calls, blank calls, appreciation calls and missed calls etc. The system has the capability to manage the missed calls and ensures that all the missed

calls are properly addressed by calling back the callers, he said.

Out of the total actionable calls received at the unified emergency helpline number in the first 500 hrs, as many as 23,924 calls needed police assistance, 2,836 ambulance services and 241 people requested for fire services. Out of the total dispatched calls, multi-service dispatches have also happened in which the system dispatched multiple services on a single call, he said.

Chawla further informed that initially the response time was on the higher side than expected. A continuous improvement has been observed on the basis of learnings and day-to-day monitoring to bring down the response time between 15-20 minutes.

He congratulated Uday Singh Meena, SP/ERSS and the remaining team members

for their hard work to bring down the average response time from approximately 34 minutes (as on July 13) to less than 20 minutes (as on August 2) He added that Haryana Police is committed to provide prompt and efficient emergency services to the residents across the State and is taking all necessary steps in this regard.

The project has been initiated with the integration of Police, Ambulance and Fire emergency services to start with. It is a new and complex system in terms of its multi-dimensional components and spreads across the state, hence some issues in the system including delay in response, capturing accurate location of the victim etc. did occur in the initial stage after go-live, Chawla said.

He said that despite these issues, the project took-off smoothly without any critical

issue affecting the system. Now, Haryana 112 is improving rapidly by incorporating suggestions and feedback from residents of Haryana. Feedback calls are being made to the victim within 24 hrs after availing the emergency service.

Haryana Police appeals to the victims to provide their feedback and valuable suggestions about the Haryana 112 services, so that Serving and Improving (SAI) could be ensured for better services to the residents of Haryana, he added. The round-the-clock emergency response support system (ERSS) started functioning on July 13 from the State Emergency Response Centre (SERC) in Panchkula and Mirroring emergency response centre (MERC) in Gurugram with highly equipped 601 Police Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) across Haryana.

Haryana BJP's election committee holds meeting

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The BJP's election management committee for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Haryana met here on Tuesday to chalk out a strategy for upcoming polls.

The Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, state BJP chief OP Dhankar, Education Minister Kanwar Pal Gujjar among other senior leaders attended the meeting.

After the meeting, Dhankar said that members of the committee have been assigned the duty of all districts to oversee the preparations of the elections.

The Chief Minister has informed us that the State Government is prepared for the elections. Due to legal hurdles, the elections to panchayati raj institutions cannot be held before August 22. Hearing of a court case into the issue is

scheduled on August 22. After this, the State Government will write to the Election Commission for the conduct of the elections, he said.

The state BJP chief said that the 10-member election management committee for urban local bodies polls will meet on Wednesday.

When asked whether the party wants elections to urban local bodies and PRIs to be conducted simultaneously, Dhankar said that this would depend on the government's preparations. However, we would prefer that both elections are conducted at the same time, he said.

Responding to a question about the impact of ongoing farmers' agitation in rural areas during elections, he said that the BJP is witnessing a tremendous response to the ongoing Tiranga Yatra and getting full public support on the ground.

Eyeing upcoming elections to municipal bodies and PRIs in Haryana, the BJP had on August 1 launched its fortnight Tiranga Yatra to reach out to the people at grassroots level.

Voter list of PRIs to be prepared according to Assembly voter list

Haryana State Election Commissioner Dhanpat Singh on Tuesday said that the voter list of Panchayati Raj elections will be prepared according to the voter list of the Vidhan Sabha elections, and this voter list will be distributed ward-wise.

Singh was addressing a meeting of officials in Narnaul regarding the upcoming elections of Panchayati Raj Institutions. During this, he also gave necessary directions to the officials regarding preparation for elections.

He made it clear that before

enrolling in the voter list for future elections, citizens will have to first enroll their names in the Vidhan Sabha list. Only after that will they be able to get their name registered in the electoral roll for the PRIs.

He said that the name of any candidate would be considered correct only on the basis of the name given in his/her educational certificate.

The State Election Commissioner further said that in addition to the Panchayati Raj elections, elections for urban bodies are also to be held at some places, so the officials of the Municipal Council should also complete their preparations in the same way. All the officers should ensure that if there is any complaint related to the voter list, then it should be resolved on priority basis as per the rules, he added.

Punjab to develop smart language listening labs in Govt schools

A grant of ₹4.74 crore has been released by the Education Department to 2,200 primary and 2,538 high and senior secondary schools for the establishment of listening labs

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To further heighten the quality education in the government schools, Punjab Government has decided to develop language listening labs in as many as 4,738 smart schools.

"A grant of Rs 4.74 crore has been released by the Education Department to 2,200 primary and 2,538 high and senior secondary schools for the establishment of listening

labs," said the state School Education Minister Vijay Inder Singla on Tuesday.

The Minister said that recently, Punjab has emerged as a leader in the field of school education as per the Performance Grading Index (PGI) released by the Union Government and the State Government has continuously been working hard to retain the top position in the upcoming years.

"The children have the right to good quality education, and therefore all efforts are being made by the Congress Government to create an enabling environment in schools, where both teachers and students are being involved in a meaningful teaching and learning process," he said.

Divulging details of facilities in the listening labs, Singla

said that these labs will be equipped with Bluetooth amplifiers, headphones, baton, pen-drive, and aux cables for smooth functioning. Detailed guidelines have also been issued to the district officials and they have strictly been directed to conduct the purchase of the material in a fair and transparent manner, he added.

Singla said that apart from playing other listening material in these classes, the teachers have also been permitted to record their voice and use it for teaching purposes in these smart listening labs. The learning of the students of these schools would be assessed on regular intervals and after the assessment of positive outcome, the smart language listening labs would be extended to all government schools, said the Minister.

Punjab's GST revenue collection on receipt basis up by 29%

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab's GST revenue collected on receipt basis during the month of July this year has witnessed 29 percent jump as compared to the previous year.

The GST revenue collected on receipt basis, that is cash collected under State Goods and Services Tax head, Central Goods and Services Tax head, Integrated Goods and Services Tax head and Cess head, during the month of July 2021 stands at Rs 1,533 crores which remained Rs 1,188 crores during July 2020, said a spokesperson of the Taxation Department.

Spokesperson said that the GST revenue, that is State Goods and Services Tax collected in cash and the credit of Integrated Goods and Services

Tax, used to make payment of State Goods and Services Tax, transferred by the Centre, collected during the month of July 2021 is Rs 1455.85 crores which remained Rs 1103.31 crores during the month of July 2020. The GST revenue during the month of July 2021 is 31.95 percent higher than the GST revenue during the month of July 2020, which indicates that the pace of economic recovery has improved.

The GST revenue up to the month of July 2021 is 85.28 percent higher than the corresponding period in the previous year. "Punjab is rigorously monitoring bogus billing and unscrupulous trade practices through effective enforcement. Use of advanced data analytics from multiple sources and sector wise study of modus operandi of tax evasion in particular sectors is practised by the Taxation Department, Punjab," said the spokesperson.

Spokesperson added that holistic and effective tax administration has contributed to the robust increase in tax revenue. "VAT and CST revenue, during the month of July 2021, is Rs 692.44 crores and Rs 28.76 crores respectively. VAT and CST revenue collection during the month of June 2021 is 48.85 percent and 62.49 percent higher, respectively, than the collection made in the month of July 2020 and VAT and CST revenue up to the month of July 2021 is 88.36 percent and 125.51 percent higher, respectively, than the corresponding period in the previous year.

Chandigarh 10th in CBSE Class X percentage

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The long uncertain and stressful wait for the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class X results finally came to an end on Tuesday. The CBSE, this year, had cancelled the Class X examinations in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the result was prepared through an internal assessment system.

The Chandigarh region, which includes Punjab, Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir, remained at the tenth spot with a passing percentage of 99.46—as compared to the ninth position it bagged the previous year.

As per the available information, 99.46 percent students in Chandigarh have passed Class X, while the overall result

of Panchkula region is 99.77 percent.

In Chandigarh, there are 95 government and 70 private schools in all, with around 12,000 students appearing in Class X examinations for 2020-21 session.

Sanyam Agarwal, a student of Shri Guru Gobind Singh College Public School, Sector 25 Chandigarh secured 99.8 percent marks in the Class-X examinations.

Six students of Bhawan Vidyalyaya, Panchkula Sector-15 — Guntas Grewal, Parv Goyal, Muskan Dhiman, Geetansha Beniwal, Arsh Sharma, and Simran Grover — also secured 99.8 percent. Aadya Gupta of the same school secured 99.6 percent marks, while Gaganjot Kaur, a student of the Blind Institute Sector-26 secured 95.20 percent marks.

People in Delhi-NCR, Chd receive pre-recorded calls threatening Haryana CM

State Govt. begins investigation

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

People living in Delhi, Chandigarh and several districts of Haryana on Tuesday reported to have received phone calls threatening Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

The threat was made through pre-recorded phone calls originating from different mobile numbers.

Several Chandigarh-based journalists also received the threat calls.

The caller threatened that the Chief Minister will not be allowed to hoist the Tricolor on August 15, in support of the movement of farmers' organisations.

The State Government has given orders to investigate the threat call against the Chief

Minister.

The calls are stated to be made from Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the general counsel for Sikhs for Justice.

Reacting to the threat calls, the Chief Minister Manohar Lal told the mediapersons, "I am aware of the threat call for August 15. I have not received any such call directly, but we have made tight security arrangements. Our security agencies are also on alert. The subject of Pannun is very old. We will not allow any such issue to flourish."

Earlier, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur was threatened by Pannun. An audio message was sent that the tricolor will not be allowed to be hoisted on August 15.

Addressing the State Assembly on Tuesday, Thakur had urged residents to unfurl the national flag atop their homes on Independence Day.

Sidhu meets party's Dalit leaders, plans to take up their issues with State Govt

leaders discussed policy framework for the welfare of the Scheduled Caste community of State with next party chief

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Days after handing over the list of "five priority areas" that need immediate action to the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) president Navjot Singh Sidhu is now in the process of identifying the issues concerning the Dalit community for redressal by the State Government.

Sidhu, who has been holding series of meetings to galvanize the party cadre ahead of the 2022 elections scheduled

for early next year, on Tuesday held a brainstorming session with the party's Dalit leaders from the state, including the Cabinet Ministers and party legislators.

During the three-hour-long meeting held at Punjab Congress Bhawan in Chandigarh, the leaders discussed the policy framework for the welfare of the Scheduled Caste community of the State with the next party chief.

It has been learnt that a detailed plan of action, to take up Dalit issues for redressal by the State Government, has been chalked out keeping in view every demand and grievance of the community.

Sidhu reiterated the party's commitment to fulfill the high command's 18-point agenda and do even more than what is promised for the Dalit community at the earliest possible.

1,69,355 saplings planted in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

As part of the "75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" being run across the country under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as many as 1,69,355 saplings were planted in Haryana on Tuesday.

Maximum saplings were planted by Karnal and Nuh districts during the plantation programme, said a spokesperson.

He said that as per the directions given by Chief Minister Manohar Lal, as many as 45,968 women belonging to Haryana State Rural Livelihood Mission (HSRLM) organized a special campaign for plantation in all the districts of the state.

Under this campaign, women planted 1,69,355 saplings of different species (Peepal, Banyan, Badha, Neem, Amla, Giloy, Tulsi, Lemon, Sahjana, Belpatra, Mango, Jamun etc.), he added.

SFI writes to Capt, demands mass vaccination for students

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Ahead of the reopening of the university and colleges, the students have demanded mass vaccination. Raising the same demand, the Students' Federation of India (SFI) on Tuesday submitted a letter to Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh.

SFI Punjab unit president Jaswinder Singh Dher and State Office Secretary (SFI) Aryan, in a letter to the Chief Minister, raised the issue of vaccination of the students while pointing at the danger of the third wave of Coronavirus.

They demanded that in the next 10 days, the vaccination camps should be set up in all the educational institutions in Punjab, and the students, who are above 18 years of age, should get vaccinated so that they can go to colleges and university without any fear.

"A long struggle was going on by various student organi-

sations to open the colleges and universities as a lot of problems are being faced by the students in order to attain education. Now after the successful protests, the Punjab and the Central Governments have taken the decision to finally open the educational institutes," read the letter.

It added, "Panjab University, Chandigarh, is going to open from August 11, 2021, which means that all the 186 colleges, affiliated to Panjab University, will be opened."

"There are more than thousands of students who have not been vaccinated even with the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine," it added.

The letter further stated that since last one year, there has been a major loss of students as there were no physi-

cal classes and the Government should immediately take the precautionary methods so as to ensure the minimal loss of students and their education and also to avoid spreading the third wave of COVID-19 virus.

Due to unavailability of internet connections and smartphones, lakhs of students could not attend the online classes and now that the physical classes will be started, the Government should ensure that not even a single student should suffer, due to vaccination, in order to attain education, it added.



BJP MPs given leaflets to take on Covid plan critics



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the impending Assembly polls in various States, BJP MPs on Tuesday were handed over a booklet giving a detailed note on the Modi Government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing vaccination drive with an aim to help them with information to take on the critics and clarify its position among public in general.

The booklets, prepared by the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry, claim all efforts to counter the disease cannot be attributed to just the Union or State Governments

but to "Team India" which acted with a "whole of Government and whole of society" approach in a pre-emptive, proactive and graded manner.

Opposition parties have been attacking the Narendra Modi dispensation and the BJP governments in poll-bound states such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Goa for their handling of the pandemic.

They have also accused the central government of not doing enough to vaccinate people at a fast pace.

The ministry's note argues that India has delivered the highest vaccine doses compared to other countries for

which "transparent" data is available in the public domain. China has claimed to have given 160 crore doses, it added.

India has by July-end administered over 45 crore doses compared to 34.3 crore in the US and 13.7 crore in Brazil and 8.4 crore in the UK, it said. India took 166 days to reach the mark of 34 crore vaccine doses against 221 days by the US, the note stated.

India has so far administered over 10 per cent of the doses given globally.

Referring to India's handling of the pandemic, the note claims that the country managed to "evade" the catastrophic effects of the pandemic which had wreaked havoc in the world.

It also highlights the government's efforts to distribute required medicines and medical oxygen, besides the measures to ramp up the supply of the life-saving gas.

PM Modi, it notes, held 21 meetings with states, addressed the nation 10 times and chaired a total of 40 meetings. India's Covid-19 cases at 22,726 per million and fatality at 305 per million are among the "lowest" in the world, it said.

Explore ways to put money into bank a/cs of lockdown-hit labourers, Parl panel asks Govt



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maintaining that nearly 1.20 crore migrant workers returned to their home States during the pandemic-induced lockdown in the first and second waves, a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour, headed by Biju Janata Dal MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, has asked the Government to

explore ways and means to put money in the bank accounts of the informal workers during adverse conditions like Covid-19.

The panel noted that total number of migrant workers who returned to their home states during the lockdown in the first wave of COVID-19 was 1,14,30,968. During the second wave lockdown,

5,15,363 migrant workers returned to their home states.

According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), over 90 per cent of workers in India are informal workers, which in absolute terms translate into 419 million out of a total of 465 million workers.

The Committee in its report, "Impact of Covid-19 on rising unemployment and loss



of jobs/livelihood in organised and unorganised sectors", tabled in the Parliament said that in the short/immediate term, it is imperative to expand the social assistance and public welfare programmes, both in the urban and rural areas, to provide relief and protection to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged strata of the society. "Offering another round of income support to the poor to compensate for loss of jobs/employment incurred due to the two lockdowns imposed would go a long way in mitigating their woes," the report said.

The Committee has asked the labour ministry to take note of any unprecedented situation, like the migrant workers' exodus during the pandemic, rather than waiting for the judiciary to intervene on the issue.

It found that in compliance to a Supreme Court order on June 9, 2020, Union Labour Secretary wrote a letter on June 19, 2020 to the chief secretaries/ administrators of all states/UTs to collect and maintain details of all migrant labourers who returned to their native places along with their skill, nature of employment etc to facilitate the administration

About 93 million informal workers in urban areas are involved primarily in five sectors

to extend benefit of different schemes to them.

In magnitude, the informal workers in rural areas (298 million) comprise almost 2.5 times higher than urban areas (121 million). This is primarily because a large number of informal workers are engaged in farm or agricultural activities (62 per cent) as compared to only 8 per cent in urban areas.

About 93 million informal workers in urban areas are involved primarily in five sectors namely manufacturing, trade, hotel and restaurant; construction; transport; storage and communications; and finance, business and real estate. Out of these total 93 million informal workers in these sectors, 50 per cent are self-employed, 20 per cent are casual workers on daily wages and 30 per cent are salaried or contract employees.

The Committee advised that the Government both at the Central and State Levels should encourage and introduce entrepreneurial opportunities as means of sustenance which would help in reducing unemployment and supporting recovery.

CBI files case against director of Mumbai-based pvt firm

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against a Director of a private company based in Mumbai (Maharashtra) and unknown officials of the Transport Department of Meghalaya

besides unknown others on the allegations of awarding contract at exorbitant rates for supply of High Security Registration Plates (HSRPs). The CBI on Tuesday conducted searches at various locations/premises connected to the accused at Shillong (Meghalaya), Delhi,

Mumbai and Sirmaur (Himachal Pradesh).

Director Mumbai-based firm Shimnit Utsch India Pvt. Ltd., Nitin Shah and unknown officials of the Transport Department of Meghalaya as also others have been listed as accused in the case.

It has been alleged that in the year 2003, the State of Meghalaya floated a tender for execution of High Security Registration Plates (HSRPs) scheme and three private companies based at



Mumbai and New Delhi had participated in the tender process, the agency alleged in the FIR.

"It was further alleged that the Director of said company in collusion with unknown officials of Transport Department of Government of Meghalaya, rigged the said tender process by submitting col-

lusive bids through entities controlled by him," it said.

It was also alleged that the work was awarded to the Mumbai-based company at exorbitant rates in 2005.

The company also got approved exorbitant rates for supply of High Security Registration Plates (HSRPs) in Meghalaya.

Modi to chair open debate on maritime security at UNSC

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually chair an open debate on maritime security at the United Nations Security Council on August 9, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday.

It will be the first time that an Indian Prime Minister will preside over an open debate at the world body.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in a tweet, "PM @narendramodi will Chair Open Debate on 'Maintenance of



international peace and security: Maritime security' in virtual mode @UN #SecurityCouncil on 9th August. This will be the 1st time an Indian Prime

Minister will preside over Open Debate."

On August 1, India took over the rotating presidency for the month at the 15-nation UN Security Council, and on January 1, India began its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. It is India's seventh term.

India has planned high-level engagements with the world community on key focus issues like maritime security, peacekeeping and counter-terrorism during the month of August. IANS

'Both heal patients': SC for same 65 years retirement for ayurvedic, allopathic doctors

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the doctors, both under Ayush and the central health services (CHS), render service to patients and on this core aspect, there is nothing to distinguish between them as it held that ayurvedic doctors are also entitled to the benefit of enhanced superannuation age of 65 years (raised from 60 years), at par with allopathic doctors.

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation had argued before the top court that classification of Ayush doctors and doctors under the CHS in different categories is reasonable and permissible in law.

A bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Hrishikesh Roy said: "This however does not appeal to us and we are inclined to agree with the findings of the Tribunal and the Delhi High Court that the classification is

discriminatory and unreasonable since doctors under both segments are performing the same function of treating and healing their patients."

It emphasised that the only difference is that Ayush doctors are using indigenous systems of medicine like ayurveda, unani, etc. and CHS doctors are using allopathy for tending to their patients.

"In our understanding, the mode of treatment by itself under the prevalent scheme of things, does not qualify as an intelligible differentia," said the bench, in its 19-page judgment.

It added that such unreasonable classification and discrimination based on it would surely be inconsistent with Article 14 of the Constitution.

The bench said the municipal corporation not paying the ayurvedic doctors their salary and benefits, while their counterparts in CHS received salary and benefits in full, "must be seen as discrimination".

Pawar meets Shah, discusses sugar price, blending of ethanol in petrol

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

NCP chief Sharad Pawar met Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday to discuss issues related to pricing of sugar and ethanol blending in petrol.

He was accompanied by National State Cooperative Sugar Factories Federation Chairman Jayprakash Dandegaonkar and NCP MP from Raigarh. Shah has been also appointed as the new Cooperation minister and his Ministry aims to provide a separate administrative, legal, and policy framework for co-operatives.

After meeting Shah, Pawar told reporters that they discussed the current selling price of sugar, which is even lower than the cost of production, and he requested the



Government to look into it.

Pawar, a former agriculture minister, said he also talked about the need to increase the blending of ethanol in petroleum products.

The NCP chief said Shah has assured him that he will look into all issues related to the sugar sector. Pawar had earlier met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in connection

with amendments made by the Centre in the Banking Regulation Act to limit rights of cooperative banks.

With speculation rife about the agenda of the meeting, NCP spokesperson Nawab Malik said, "Rumours are being spread over the meeting but Pawar had already informed CM Thackeray and Congress leaders about the same."

LS passes Essential Defence Services, Tribunal Reforms Bills without any debate



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Lok Sabha proceedings on Tuesday continued to remain disrupted due to protests by the Opposition on the Pegasus and Farm Bills' issues, two legislations namely The Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021 and The Tribunal Reforms Bill, 2021 were passed without any debate.

The Essential Defence Services Bill seeks to prohibit any agitation and strike by anyone engaged in essential defence services. Amid protests by some opposition members on the intent of the bill, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt, who piloted the measure, informed the House that the "biggest thing" is that "we have taken a decision to add a sunset clause in this (bill)". A sunset clause gives an expiry date to a law.

The Tribunal Reforms Bill, 2021 seeks to abolish tribunals or authorities under various laws by amending various statutes to streamline the justice delivery system. These include the Cinematograph Act, the Copyright Act, the Customs Act, the Patents Act, the Airport Authority of India Act, the Trade Marks Act and the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act.

The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day when it assembled again at 4pm after three earlier adjournments. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the government was ready to respond to any queries raised by members on bills laid in the House.

Critical of the Opposition, Sitharaman said that the "constitutional impasse" in Parliament was "not correct". She also said it was unfortunate that nothing is being done to stop the din in the House.

Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and RSP MP N K Premchandran said that bills should not be passed when the House is not in order and there should be a proper debate before the passage of any bill.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said he wants to assure the House that after the parliamentary nod and presidential assent, the Act will become effective only when it is invoked. As the minister was speaking, opposition members continued their protests over Pegasus snooping row and farmers' issues. N K Premachandran (RSP) was of the view that such an important Bill should not be passed amid the din.

Chowdhury termed the bill as "draconian" and said that it should not be passed when the House is "not in order". TMC's Saugata Roy alleged the measure is "anti-labour". The defence minister said the Bill has been brought keeping in mind the security of the nation and the importance of the legislation should be understood. "Keeping in mind national security, I request you to pass this Bill," he told the Lower House. MoS Defence Bhatt said there was no intention to harm the interests of government employees.

Rahul indulging in gimmicks for cheap publicity, says BJP



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday accused former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi of indulging in "gimmicks" for cheap publicity and alleged that the Opposition has resorted to a "rant and run" tactics to hijack parliamentary proceedings and defame the Government.

Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, the deputy leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, said Opposition members have been outdoing each other in disrupting Parliament's proceedings to project themselves as the leader of the anti-BJP grouping.

Opposition parties have stalled Parliament's proceedings over the Pegasus row.

BJP chief spokesperson Anil Baluni said the Congress leader is mostly concerned about cheap publicity through gimmicks like driving tractor or riding cycle and does not take the legislature seriously.

"They have no real issue and do these things to be in news. This is the first time we are seeing that the government wants to debate issues in Parliament while the opposition does not," he said.

Naqvi said the opposition is engaging in "rant and run" tactics. It is not allowing Parliament to function and then defames the government outside it, he said.

In their "Modi-bashing", the opposition has been resorting to "India-bashing", he alleged.

Leaders of several opposition parties attended a breakfast meeting hosted by Rahul at the Constitution Club here where he stressed on opposition unity. Several opposition MPs led by Rahul later cycled to Parliament to highlight the issue of fuel price hike. Those who could not cycle walked down to Parliament.

2 CGST officials in CBI net for taking bribe



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Tuesday arrested two officers of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST), Patna, in a bribery case and conducted searches at their premises.

The arrested accused are Superintendent CGST, Patna, Umesh Prasad and Inspector, Akhilesh Kumar Singh posted in the same office.

A case was registered against the accused posted in

the office of Directorate General of GST, Intelligence, Zonal Unit, Patna on a complaint alleging therein the demand of bribe of ₹50,000 for favouring the complainant's firm in the enquiry of bank transactions, the CBI said.

The CBI laid a trap and caught the accused while accepting the bribe of ₹10,000 from the complainant. Searches were conducted at the premises of the accused at Patna, it said.

Hyderabad rapists' encounter killing: SC gives probe commission 6 month extension

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday gave another six months to the three-member inquiry commission, headed by former apex court judge V S Sirpurkar, to file the final report on encounter killing of the four accused in the case of gang-rape and murder of a veterinarian in Hyderabad.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana asked the lawyer appearing for the inquiry panel as to how much more time it wanted to conclude the probe.

The bench, also comprising Justice Surya Kant,



referred to a similar panel, set up to inquire into the encounter killing of gangster Vikas Dubey in Uttar Pradesh, and said it has already filed the report.

The commission was headed by former Supreme Court judge B S Chauhan and had concluded that there

was no evidence to suggest that the encounter of Dubey was staged.

Referring to the inquiry into the Hyderabad encounter killings, the bench sought to know from lawyer K Parameswar the reason for the delay in concluding the inquiry.

The lawyer said the commission has to hear from over 130 witnesses in the matter and the COVID situation contributed to the delay as well.

"Ok. Six months," the bench ordered. PTI

₹11,500 cr relief package for flood-hit people: Maha Govt

● To give ₹5,000 each to affected families
● ₹1.5L compensation for each damaged house

TN RAGHUNTHA ■ MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Government on Tuesday announced a ₹11,500 crore relief package towards the losses suffered by the people during the recent floods in coastal Konkan region, western Maharashtra and other parts of the state.

Of the flood relief package, the State Government has earmarked ₹1,500 crore for providing immediate assistance to flood victims, while ₹3,000

crore would be spent on reconstruction and repair of damaged infrastructure. A sum of ₹7,000 crore has been allocated for undertaking long-term measures to minimise impact of future floods.

Talking to media persons after the State Cabinet approved the ₹11,500 crore relief for the flood-affected people in the State, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said that his Government would extend a financial assistance of ₹5,000 to each of the

flood-affected families.

Similarly, the State Government would give a financial assistance of ₹1,50,000 to each of the families whose houses were damaged in the floods, while the people whose houses suffered damage to the tune of 50 per cent would get ₹50,000 as compensation. The partially damaged houses will get ₹25,000 per home.

As per the package, the farmers who lost their cattle would get financial assistance of up to ₹40,000, while fishermen would be compensated ₹25,000 per damaged boat.

Shop owners and village artisans who have suffered



losses during the floods would be given a compensation of ₹50,000 each, while the affected owners' way-side shops would be compensated up to ₹10,000 each.

Earlier at the beginning of the state Cabinet meeting, the State Disaster Management department made a presentation before the chief minister and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on the impact of recent floods and heavy rain after which the Maharashtra cabinet sanctioned the financial assistance, an official statement said.

The Chief Minister asked the state administration to set up an expert committee and seek help from the National Water Development Agency to study flood lines of the

which caused havoc in late July after intense rainfall.

"There should be a three-year plan for constructing flood resistant walls, cleaning and dredging river beds, the Government," Uddhav told the senior officials present at the State Cabinet meeting.

The chief minister asked the state administration to evolve a real-time data gathering mechanism and make it functional during the next three months.

It may be recalled that during the heavy rains and consequent earthquakes and floods witnessed in Maharashtra from July 21 to 23, as many as 213

people were killed and 52 other injured, while the rescue and relief teams shifted as many 4,35,879 people in the flooded areas of the state to safer places.

The districts of Raigad, Ratnagiri, Satara and Sangli were badly affected by the natural calamity. Raigad accounted for a maximum of 95 deaths, while there were 46 deaths in Satara district of western Maharashtra.

The death tally in other places comprised: Ratnagiri-35, Thane-15, Kolhapur-7, Mumbai-4, Pune-3, Sindhudurg-4. Wardha and Akola-2 each. Eight persons were still reported missing.

Guv trying to create two power centres: Maha Min | BJP flays Didi's 'Khela Hobe' call

TN RAGHUNTHA ■ MUMBAI

Another round of turf war broke out between the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government and Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari on Tuesday, as its senior Minister Nawab Malik of the NCP accused the Governor of "exceeding" his brief and trying to create two power centres in the State.

Talking to media persons after the weekly Cabinet meeting, Malik took strong exception to the manner in which Koshyari was conducting himself said that State chief secretary Sitaram Kunte would meet the Governor's secretary later in the day and would submit a letter explaining the brief of the Governor and asking the latter not to exceed it.

Malik said that at the Cabinet meeting, several ministers expressed

serious concern about the manner in which the Governor had chosen to undertake a three-day tour of Nanded, Hingoli and Parbhani in Marathwada region.

"The Maharashtra Governor is trying to create two power centres in the State, where powers are delegated to the chief minister once he takes oath. For reasons best known to him, the Governor is going about inaugurating some state government projects during his proposed tour of three districts in Marathwada region," Malik said.

During the proposed tour, the Governor is slated to inaugurate two minority student hostels at Nanded, a review meeting of the district officials at Nanded on August 5, to hold a review meeting of University at Hingoli where there was no University, attend an agriculture university programme at Parabha and hold a review meeting

there. Malik also charged that the Governor was not only touring the state but was also holding meetings with district collectors and seeking information about various government works. "If he needs to know something, the Governor can always write to the chief secretary for the same," Malik said. Koshyari has been at loggerheads with the MVA government ever since Uddhav Thackeray assumed office as the chief minister on November 28, 2019.

Among the first of the controversies that arose between the Governor and the MVA government was his refusal to nominate chief minister Uddhav as a Member of Legislative Council in one of the two vacant slots. It was another matter, Uddhav -- who was not a member of either of the Houses of the State Legislature when he was sworn in as the chief minister

on November 28 2019 -- was elected unopposed subsequently to the State Legislative Council, through a normal election.

On another occasion, the Governor had landed in an unsavoury situation by calling up Home Minister Anil Deshmukh and conveying his concern over the "security and health" of incarcerated editor-in-chief of Republic Media Network Arnab Goswami. It may be recalled that on October 12 last year, the Governor had triggered a controversy by rooting for the reopening of temples in the state. In a letter shot off to the chief minister, questioning the latter's Hindutva credentials and wondering if Uddhav was receiving any "divine premonition" to keep postponing the re-opening of the places of worship time and again or whether he suddenly turned "secular".

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal BJP has strongly reacted to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's country wide Khela Hobe call saying her slogan has "dangerous underpinnings."

State BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya on Tuesday said "by giving Khela Hobe slogan the Chief Minister has hinted at unleashing of violent politics in India ... The one practiced by her party in Bengal that has seen hundreds of bloody attacks on BJP workers leaving scores of them dead."

Saying that "the Chief Minister's brand of Khela (sports) is always smeared with blood," he said the people of India would learn from Bengal's experience and never vote for TMC wherever it went. Banerjee earlier declared that

"Khela Hobe", which turned out to be the Assembly poll winning slogan for her Trinamool Congress in Bengal, would be reverberated across the country soon for its immense popularity, clearly hinting at her national ambitions.

The Chief Minister said, "some people may not admit it, but khela hobe has become very popular. It is being raised in Parliament and states like Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan now. So far Khela (game) was limited (to Bengal). Now it will happen again across the country. Life can not go on without 'Khela'."

The Chief Minister also suggested a theme song on 'Khela Hobe' for August 16 Khela Hobe Diwas, that her Government has decided to celebrate every year in memory of some spectators who died during a football match in

Kolkata more than three decades ago. Reacting to Banerjee's announcement the BJP leaders said that "after converting Bengal in to a disturbed State the TMC was trying to do the same thing across the country... But they will forfeit their deposit wherever they will go... Like it happened in Assam, Delhi and elsewhere." Meanwhile, TMC MP Sunil Mondal who had joined BJP last year on Tuesday said that he was still in the Trinamool and had never left it.

"I had never left TMC or taken BJP's membership ... There was only some misunderstanding with local leaders ... That has been sorted out." Earlier he had talks with senior TMC leader Mukul Roy who too returned to the Trinamool three-and-a-half-years' stint in the saffron outfit.

Army helicopter crashes into Ranjit Sagar Dam lake

Pilots remain untraceable

PNS ■ JAMMU

Two pilots of the Indian Army's aviation wing remained untraceable after their chopper crashed into Ranjit Sagar dam lake in Basohli area of Kathua Tuesday morning.

This is the second incident involving an ALH Dhruv. On January 25, 2021 an Army pilot was killed after his helicopter crash-landed in Kathua district following a technical snag.

According to official sources, "an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH Dhruv) had taken off from Mamun cantonment on Tuesday morning and while it was passing through Ranjit Sagar Dam lake it suddenly crashed around 10.30 a.m."

The depth of the crash site has been measured to be over 200 feet.

The helicopter was piloted by two officers of the Indian army's aviation wing at Mamun cantonment.

Eyewitness accounts claimed the helicopter was flying low and fell suddenly after losing height.

The rescue operations were launched immediately. Local divers of the Indian army accompanied by the NDRF team rushed to the spot to locate the pilots. The rescue teams located the wreckage of the helicopter and also zeroed in on the possible location of the crash. During the day long searches divers faced a tough task to trace the pilots.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) R C Kotwal while supervising the rescue operations told reporters that the forces and boats were mobilised for the search operation, after which some pieces of chopper were found, confirming it to be an Army helicopter.

Plight of West Pak refugees in J&K

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

An 89-year-old ex-serviceman Pritam Singh, a veteran of 1965 and 1971 wars, is waging a lonely battle along with thousand others to get a sanctioned amount of compensation announced by the Union Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2018 for West Pakistan Refugees of 1947.

The compensation package of ₹5.50 lakh per family was announced by the former Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh for West Pakistan Refugees on June 9, 2018.

On August 5, 2019 when the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir was reorganised and Article 370 and 35-A, which granted special status to J&K, were abrogated these refugees celebrated the momentous occasion. As they earned their citizenship rights after a struggle of over 70 years their hopes of early settlement of compensation claims too were raised.

Ahead of the second anniversary of Abrogation of Article 370 when this correspondent visited the village Chak Jaffar near Akhnoor, a large number of West Pakistani Refugees revealed an ugly truth.

"Nothing much has changed for us in the last two years. We continue to receive a step motherly treatment at the hands of lower rung officers of the revenue, social welfare and other departments", several refugees narrated their ordeal while attending a monthly meeting in the presence of President of the West Pakistan Refugee Action Committee, Labha Ram Gandhi and other office bearers.

Speaking to The Pioneer, a West Pakistani refugee Pritam Singh said, "So far I have not received my compensation. My file is yet to be approved. The concerned officers have raised some queries. I will try and submit my claim afresh".

Singh said, "in 1947 when I was in my early teens my family migrated from



Ex-serviceman Pritam Singh Mohit Kandhari

village Pull Bhajuan, Sialkot (now in Pakistan). He said, later I joined Indian army and participated in the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan. I was posted in the Chhamb sector in 1971. "Indian army gave a tough fight and pushed back the enemy. I feel proud when I recollect those memories".

When asked why his claim had not been approved, Singh said, "I was told my file was incomplete".

Singh is not the only one who is struggling with this tedious exercise of preparing a complete file with relevant records.

In the last more than three years, files of little over three percent families living in Jammu district have been recommended to the Office of Divisional Commissioner for disbursement of relief amount through direct bank transfer.

Official records clearly revealed out of 5457 files/families as per old record only 459 files have been received in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Jammu till July 23, 2021.

Out of these 459 files only 174 files i.e. 3.18 percent have been recommended to the office of Divisional Commissioner for disbursement of relief amount while 163 files with objections have been returned to the concerned Tehsildars.

According to the records, "a total number of 86 files which were found in



order have been awaiting certification from the committee and lying in the DC office". On the other hand, a total number of 36 files with objections are yet to be returned to the concerned Tehsildars and lying in the DP section.

The maximum number of 3263 families, as per old records, were staying in the border belt of Ranbir Singh Pura in Jammu. Out of these only 80 files were received in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Jammu and 63 were recommended to the office of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu.

President of the West Pakistan Refugee Action Committee Labha Ram Gandhi told The Pioneer, "the Government claims only 5764 families of West Pakistan Refugees have been registered with them. But as per our records, a total number of 22159 families of West Pakistan Refugees have been living in different districts of Jammu region".

Gandhi said the successive state governments in Jammu and Kashmir always misled the Union Government over the exact number of west Pakistani refugee families camping here in Jammu.

He said they may have earned citizenship rights but the compensation package announced by the central government is yet to be implemented on ground zero.

He said less than 200 cases have been processed so far. Gandhi said, after the abrogation of Article 370 we all celebrated our freedom. We were struggling for the last 70 years to earn citizenship rights. He said, despite getting domicile

certificates the Government machinery on the ground is still asking members of the community to produce their state subjects to earn benefits of government schemes such as Ladli Beti, Scholarship and housing schemes for members living below poverty line.

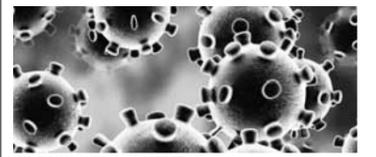
Gandhi in the absence of a government order the lower rung government servants are creating hurdles and not processing their files in time. Some of the refugee families were allotted land and have constructed their homes but when they approach the revenue authorities for registration of their properties they are told to produce state subject certificates.

Another activist and office bearer of West Pakistan Refugee Action Committee Ratan Lal said, "When poor people from different villages approach revenue authorities for verification they are told to visit them after some time. It is causing long delays and the majority has not received even a single penny compensation".

Rattan Lal said, "After the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A, the long pending demand of granting citizenship rights to West Pakistan refugees has been fulfilled by the Union Government but the real benefits are yet to reach them. He said on papers our children can now apply for government jobs within Jammu and Kashmir and they can cast their votes to elect their own public representatives. But in the last two years we have failed to get any benefits from the government machinery. We are not able to enrol girl children for Ladli Beti Scheme, enroll bright students from scholarship schemes and earn benefits of housing schemes of the Central Government.

Rattan Lal demanded smooth implementation of the central govt schemes for West Pak refugees and clear cut directions to the revenue authorities to entertain their files on top priority without any further delay to ensure timely disbursement of compensation package.

Covid deaths in Maha rise to 177



TN RAGHUNTHA ■ MUMBAI

After a significant drop in the number of Covid-19 fatalities and infections, the daily pandemic deaths rose to 177 in Maharashtra on Tuesday, while the State recorded 6,005 new cases.

A day after the number of deaths dipped to 90 and the infections dropped to a relative low of 4869, the Covid-19 deaths rose 87 to touch the daily tally of 177, while the infections registered an increase of 1,136 to reach the daily case tally of 6,005.

With 177 fatalities reported on Tuesday, the total number of deaths in the state increased from 1,33,038 to 1,33,215, while the infections -- with 6,005 new cases -- climbed from 63,15,063 to 63,21,068.

As 6,799 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year increased from 61,03,325 to 61,10,124. The recovery rate in the state dropped from 96.55 per cent to 96.66 per cent.

The total "active cases" in the state dropped from 75,303 to 74,318. The fatality rate in the state stood static at 2.1 per cent.

Pune with 15,552 active cases emerged as the first in the state in terms of maximum number of "active cases" in the State, while Sangli with 7,301 stood second, followed by Satara (6,848), Ahmednagar (6,570), Thane (5,982), Kolhapur (5,404), Mumbai (4,996) and Solapur (4,776).

Of the 4,85,32,523 samples sent to various laboratories across the state so far, 63,21,068 have tested positive (13.02 per cent) for COVID-19 until Tuesday.

Currently, 4,51,971 people are in home quarantine while 3,009 people are in institutional quarantine.

IN SHORT

ARAVALI UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES TO BE RAZED

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said all unauthorized structures standing on Aravali forest land in Faridabad's Khori village will have to go as its order passed in the matter regarding demolition of such buildings is "very clear". The apex court, which had on July 23 granted four more weeks to the Faridabad municipal corporation to remove encroachments from forest land, asked the commissioner of the civic body to submit a status report which may also include the outcome of representations made before him regarding rehabilitation.

ORDER PROHIBITING USE OF PARK FOR FUNCTION STAYED

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has stayed a National Green Tribunal order prohibiting the use of parks for social, commercial, marriage or other such functions. A bench comprising Justices Indira Banerjee and V Ramasubramanian said however that in no circumstances, the use of parks be permitted for more than 10 days in a month. The order was passed on the petitions filed by the municipal bodies against the February 4 order of the NGT.

Kerala: Surge in cases again after slight relief

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The relief seen all over Kerala by Monday night as the total number of Covid-19 cases saw a dip turned out to be short lived. On Tuesday evening, the office of the Health Minister Veena George wore a sombre as it was officially announced that 23,676 new persons were tested positive for Covid-19 while the disease claimed 148 lives during the last 24 hours which took the death toll in the State till date to 17,103.

The average Test Positivity Rate across the State stood at 11.87 per cent while there were 323 places with TPR of 15 per cent and above. On Monday, there was some relief all over the State as the day's diagnosis had shown only 13,984 new cases. But on Tuesday, more than 1.9 lakh samples were tested and this threw out more Covid-19 patients.

Malappuram topped the table of districts with the highest number of patients (4,276). The district was followed by neighboring

Thirissur (2908), Ernakulam (2702), Kozhikode (2416), Palakkad (2223) and Kollam (1826).

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was presiding over a review meeting at the time of going to Press to take stock of the new situation. It is widely expected that the Government may make alterations in the weekend lock down which has been slapped for the last two months.

Elsewhere in the State, traders and business community are demanding for a total lifting of the lock down. The CPI(M)'s leading business baron VKC Mohammed Koya himself came out in the open asking the LDF Government to relax lock down rules as this has affected the financial position of the traders. More than six traders have committed suicide in the State since the lock down was enforced.

The Kerala Government Medical Officers' Association in a letter addressed to the Chief Minister has suggested that the

lock down should be revoked as early as possible because it has served its purpose.

"Hassle free and effective vaccination is the best tool for containing the Covid-19. Restrictions should be imposed in specific micro containment zones like wards rather than the whole Panchayat/Municipality/ Corporation. Targeted testing of all symptomatic and their contacts must be the rule. All positive cases must be quarantined for 17 days. Those with Covid like symptoms must also be quarantined even if tested negative on antigen testing at RT-PCR repeated if symptoms persist," are some of the salient points suggested by the KGMOA to the Chief Minister.

The association also said it was for allowing the functioning of markets as well as shops selling essential goods from 7 am to 11 pm.

But the doctors want the practice of serving food in hotels and restaurants to be stopped immediately.



Army personnel train members of the Village Defence Committee at Mendhar in Poonch district on Tuesday



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Watch out!

COVID-19 third wave is almost here, so the Govt must take hard decisions right away

Researchers at the Indian Institutes of Technology in Hyderabad and Kanpur predict the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic may hit the country as early as this month. They soften the punch, claiming the wave might be much smaller, peaking in October and at its worst reporting 150,000 infections a day. Compared to the second wave that saw over four lakh new cases a day, the predicted surge of the third wave would certainly be smaller. The issue is whether the country needs a preventive lockdown in August, and what would be the economic implications of such a decision. The clamour about a third wave began ever since the second wave began to abate in July. Thereafter, the States adopted a gradual unlock. As of date, most restrictions have been lifted in the country, except containment zones in some districts with higher positivity rates. Educational institutions are on the verge of re-opening in most States while, in some others, they have been functional for nearly a fortnight. The public transport systems have 100 per cent occupancy rates though they are restricted in cities like Mumbai. The urban, semi-urban and rural commercial and industrial enterprises are back to normal. There is general confidence in the country after the fourth sero survey claimed that antibodies are present in over two-thirds of the population. Add to that the number of recovered people who have antibodies and only 40 crore people are said to be susceptible.



Even if at a slow pace, the number of fully vaccinated people is going up. However, a sense of complacency is also there, with a casual approach to following the safety protocols. Would the IIT prediction of a smaller third wave make the people and the Governments much more complacent? The Government's approach in the first two waves was reactive. In the last two months, it appears to have organised itself, sprucing up medical infrastructure and otherwise preparing to face a fresh wave. The Government needs to take a few decisions right away. One, at what point would the restrictions be re-imposed, before or after the fresh wave hits the country? The argument is that if everybody is anticipating a third wave, why open up businesses, offices, institutions and schools only to close them down in a while? Two, can the decision on restrictions be deferred till experts confirm whether the vaccination and the presence of antibodies have blunted the impact of fresh infections? The argument is, what if the Delta Plus variant, considered more dangerous and easily transmissible, leads the third wave? Three, with schools about to re-open and the children under 18 not vaccinated at all, would not they be most susceptible to the third wave? The pandemic task force advising the Government needs to look at these concerns on a priority basis. The wave prediction exercise can continue but not at the cost of not knowing how to come out of the predicament.

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PICTALK



School students at an open-air class for those who can't afford smartphones and internet, in Baramulla

PTI

Humanity

Sporting events show us the way to lead a full, meaningful life outside of the playing arena, too

We have grown up hearing "Khelege kudoge, hoge kharab...". However, worldly experience has since shown us that the basic sense of humanity stands at a much higher pedestal than education, knowledge and wisdom; also, that it can be gained out of a confined classroom and in spaces as vast and cut-throat as the Olympics. There is nothing more uplifting and inspiring as seeing a person helping a vanquished opponent. Let the body be bruised and defeated, but not the spirit, nor the soul! The latest essay in this life lesson comes from the men's high jump finals event at the Tokyo Olympics. Italy's Gianmarco Tamberi and Qatar's Mutaz-Essa Barshim gave a gold-worthy performance, clearing 2.39 metres with zero failed attempts. The referee gave them the option for a jump-off, to which Barshim asked if they could share the gold medal (Tamberi had the short straw in the sense that he was injured by then). So they shared not only the yellow metal but also the jubilation of each other's nation. This was the first time since 1912 that a gold medal was shared in athletics.



Cut to 1936 Berlin Olympics: Silver claimants Shuhei Nishida and Sueo Oe cut their medals in half to create two new "medals of friendship" of half silver, half bronze. There are moments galore when sportspersons have stopped to lend a shoulder to their crashed competitors. Like this runner at a mega event paused for another runner, who had taken a wrong detour in a marathon and so lost seconds, before following him to the finish line. He could have easily grabbed a medal but he said: "My mother wouldn't have approved of that." This is the spirit that the world needs to imbibe, especially in the times of the pernicious COVID-19 virus, when it is important for all to survive for each one of us to live. Nobody can live in isolation. Like the ancient theorem of "vasudhaiva kutumbakam", we swim together or we sink together; there is no other option, there is no room for greed or upmanship. To sum it up, Tamberi said: "He is one of my best friends, not only on track but outside of it, too. This is a dream come true. It is the true spirit, the sportsman spirit, and we are here to deliver this message." Well said. Let's go, world!

Uttar Pradesh under Yogi is making waves



PRAFULL GORADIA

From being derided as a 'Bimaru' State since Independence, it has come a long way and is now attracting significant investment

India's largest State Uttar Pradesh and also its most vibrant, politically speaking, has moved in the field of development the fastest. Be it in the layout of highways, appointments to Government services, providing employment to the State's vast population, increasing investments, law and order, encouragement to tourism and pilgrimage as well as expanding the small and medium enterprises sector, Uttar Pradesh is making waves.

All these years since Independence, one has never heard that the largest State of the country had ever moved significantly in the area of development. It is surprising that New Delhi did not bother; perhaps ignoring the fact that UP is one-fifth of India. If, therefore, UP leaps in progress, the country races ahead in terms of development. Evidently, for the powers-that-be in India's rajdhani, UP was treated as a bank of 84 Lok Sabha seats (80 now) and a sure-shot ticket to parliamentary majority at the Centre, but nothing more. In fact, the head of a former ruling dynasty was reported to have voiced an opinion in favour of keeping Uttar Pradesh backward fragmented as that alone could help maintain this particular dynasty maintain its hegemony on power at the Centre!

Uttar Pradesh today, in 2021, is a vastly changed place. From the backwaters of most economic indices, the State today has moved to becoming India's second richest in terms of gross state domestic product (GSDP), which for the State stands at \$268 billion (financial year 2020-21 figures), behind only Maharashtra now. This, under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has been an achievement that has been clocked despite the ravages of COVID-19. In the ease of doing business, a crucial global benchmark anywhere, UP, which languished at 16th position in the country in 2016, has moved up to the second rank among Indian States.

Law and order, the most important prerequisite for any developmental activity to flower, was never a strong suite in Uttar Pradesh before Adityanath took over. Any economic or capital investment in the State remained



a dream. The scenario after Yogi's coming to office in March 2017 is a sharp contrast. Over the past four and a half years, 137 criminals have been liquidated in police action, while close to 3,000 criminals were injured; nearly 37,000 accused have been booked under the Gangster Act and over 500 under the National Security Act. The Yogi administration has also hit criminals hard by targeting their finances; in the Government's drive against the mafia, their illicit property worth approximately ₹1,580 crore has either been attached or demolished. Along with action against the mafia, Adityanath has also provided protection to witnesses.

Vastly improved law and order has begun to pay off in the realm of development. Here, too, figures speak for themselves. The State's industrial development data reveals that over the years, UP has received investment proposals worth ₹66,000 crore from both foreign and local investors. The administration has been acting quickly on these proposals. More to the point, companies from Japan, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, the UK, the US and South Korea are lining up to invest in UP; one

“UTTAR PRADESH TODAY, IN 2021, IS A VASTLY CHANGED PLACE. FROM THE BACKWATERS OF MOST ECONOMIC INDICES, THE STATE TODAY HAS MOVED TO BECOMING INDIA'S SECOND RICHEST IN TERMS OF GROSS STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT, WHICH FOR THE STATE STANDS AT \$268 BILLION

company has even returned from China to set up operations in Agra. It is also significant that Yogi's Government is ensuring that the flow of investment is not restricted to the bigger cities, it is being channelled to smaller towns like Etah, Amroha, Mirzapur, and so on.

Yogi has adopted an investor-friendly policy. Apart from the fresh proposals for investment, MoUs worth ₹4.68 lakh crore have been signed at investor summits, of which 371 proposals worth close to ₹3 lakh crore are already functional, generating employment for up to 5 lakh people. Here, one must mention the work being done by the State Government on the defence industrial manufacturing corridor, which has already drawn in up to 14 MoUs. The aim is to transform UP into a hub of capital-intensive manufacturing, which the defence industry invariably entails.

Farmers, a community very much in the news these days, have much to be happy about under Yogi's rule. Development schemes and programmes for their long-term success also need the health of the rural economy to be robust. And the rural economy, of course, includes farmers. Adityanath's transparent

policy of wheat and paddy purchase, as also his continuous supervision of purchase centres, has been successful. Take paddy, for instance; the State Government has purchased a record 60 lakh metric tonnes of the crop against a slated target of 55 lakh metric tonnes. Payments made to the State's farmers have been touching new records as well. The Chief Minister has accelerated his efforts to double the income of the State's farmers. Nearly ₹33,000 crore have been transferred to the accounts of about 3 crore farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, plus separate transfers under crop insurance schemes. The modernisation and expansion of 20 sugar mills in the State, along with the reopening of the Pipraich, Munderwa and Ramala sugar mills, is a significant milestone in the administration's agriculture policy. Uttar Pradesh under Yogi is clearly not the "Bimaru" State it was once derided as, under earlier dispensations that only milked the State politically.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INDIA'S DAUGHTERS ARE CREATING HISTORY

Sir — India's performance in the Tokyo Olympics so far has been in the name of India's daughters. The journey started with Mirabai Chanu's silver medal, progressing further with PV Sindhu's bronze medal and then women's hockey team defeating Australia to reach the semifinals for the first time.

It seems that the daughters of this country have taken the responsibility of making the country proud; this is the changing identity of India. Sushil Kumar was the first Indian to set a record of winning two medals in two consecutive Olympics. He is still the only player to win two Olympic medals in men's individual events. Sushil Kumar won bronze and silver medals at the Beijing Olympics 2008 and the London Olympics in 2012, respectively, when he won in the 66-kg freestyle category. So, in the same vein, the women's hockey team has made it to the semifinals for the first time by defeating Australia. Many congratulations to PV Sindhu! She has given the country a chance to be proud, and we hope the women's hockey team will do the same.

Devanand Ray | Delhi

THE GOVERNMENT VS THE OPPOSITION

Sir — The conditions seem to be ripe for the Opposition to intensify its attacks on the Modi Government and mount a fresh challenge to its misrule. The Opposition is at its most vibrant and exudes confidence. It uses issues like the mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic, the unprecedented fuel price hike, the new farm laws and the Pegasus phone hacking scandal as rods to beat the Government with. The blows seriously hurt the Government as the concerns raised by the Opposition over these issues are shared by the general public.

The current climate of opinion is tilted in favour of the Opposition. The cycle rally by the Opposition MPs, led by Rahul Gandhi to protest the runaway price hike of petrol, diesel and LPG cylinders, obviously struck a chord with the common people. Fuel price hike that has now

No kneejerk reaction, please



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Meghalaya Minister Sanbor Shullai is urging people of his State to eat more beef than chicken, mutton and fish. This is not the first such instance in the Christian-dominated Meghalaya. In 2017, Bernard Marak, a BJP leader from Garo Hills, had promised to reduce the price of beef if his party was elected to power in the Meghalaya Assembly. People are fully aware, as a Hindu party, of the BJP's problem with beef and cattle slaughter. But here also the BJP has played some give-and-take regarding banning both the sale and consump-

tion of beef or even cattle slaughter in the majority of the BJP-ruled States, and has made exemptions in its crusade against beef (in Goa and the northeast).

On the poll trail, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the UPA Government of promoting a "pink revolution", slaughtering our "mother cow" and exporting meat. Interestingly, India continues to be the world's largest exporter of beef, 70 per cent of it buffalo meat. In the current economic condition, Sanbor Shullai is urging the State's people to eat more beef because it is cheaper than chicken and fish and is a staple for the poorer communities. Why not, when Swami Vivekananda himself points out: "There was a time in this very India when, without eating beef, no Brahmin could remain a Brahmin; you read in the Vedas how, when a sanyasin, a king or a great man came into a house, the best bullock was killed; how in time it was found that as we were an agricultural race, killing the best bulls meant annihilation of the race. Therefore, the practice was stopped."

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

become unaffordable for many people is no sign of *achhe din*.

The Pegasus issue has put the Government on the defensive. Its adamant refusal to agree to a "structured" debate on the issue in the presence of the Prime Minister and a probe by a JPC or a sitting Supreme Court judge has deepened suspicions. The Government cannot just wish Pegasus row away by just dismissing it as a "non-issue" or as a "manufactured issue". Illegal snooping is a serious issue; its chilling effect on the right to free speech is obvious. Modi has described the disruptions in Parliament as an "insult to democracy". It is within his power to end them by acceding to the just demand of the Opposition.

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

EVEN ALLIES ARE CRITICISING GOVT

Sir — Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar became the first NDA ally to echo the Opposition's demand for a probe into the

sensational Pegasus snooagate and discussion in Parliament. All this is happening due to the misuse of modern technology.

At a time when the BJP is busy stonewalling a Parliament debate on Pegasus, saying IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has already made his statement in both Houses, Nitish Kumar's divergent position has set the cat among the pigeons. The Opposition wants the presence of either Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the debate. In recent weeks, Nitish Kumar has not aligned himself with the NDA on important issues like caste census. Even the appointment of Munger MP Rajiv Ranjan alias Lalan Singh as the JD(U) president was seen as an attempt to nibble into the BJP's core traditional Bhumihar vote bank in Bihar.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

If the Opposition is demanding a probe in the Pegasus phone tapping case, it is a serious issue. The Government should initiate an inquiry.



Former Bihar Chief Minister — Jitan Ram Manjhi

An imported, hasty peace process not only failed to bring peace but created doubt and ambiguity among Afghans.

Afghan President — Ashraf Ghani

It (*Girls Will Be Girls*) is a fresh and feminist story, and I believe Shuchi is a new voice in Indian cinema.



Actor-scriptwriter — Richa Chadha

This is not only my first Olympics, but also my first championships. I am so excited to represent my country at this level.

American equestrian rider — Jessica Rae Springsteen

The salary of Delhi's MLAs hasn't increased since 2011 and the Delhi Government had requested the MHA that it should be at par with MLAs of other States.



Delhi Chief Minister — Arvind Kejriwal

FIRST COLUMN
CITIZENS, MSMEs IN LOAN DEFAULT CRISIS

Several loans are linked as individuals unable to pay one loan take recourse to the other



SHIVAJI SARKAR

There is more to the COVID-19 menace as it leads to a dreadful rise of a whopping ₹66-lakh crore in personal loan defaults in the country. This is in addition to the accumulated MSME debts of ₹2.26 lakh crore. Several individuals are facing auctions by banks and financial institutions. The MSMEs are facing temporary or permanent closure and yet seeking more loans to survive. Personal debts stand at ₹27.86 lakh crore and people are finding it difficult to repay. Another ₹14.64 lakh crore accounts for individual housing loans, ₹2.38 lakh crore in vehicle loans, credit card dues total ₹1.02 lakh crore. People are also unable to repay education loans of ₹62,720 crore and loans against jewellery worth ₹62,221 crore. The education, housing, and jewellery loans are often linked to each other, as individuals unable to pay one loan take recourse to the other. Often, none of them is fully repaid, revealing the poor economic status of the loanees. The people also suffer from high taxation. Most of them, except for a small segment, are income-tax payers. As



their deposits are being eroded by tax deduction at source (TDS) on meagre interest earnings, the national crisis deepens. Many of them compromise on their food intake. The debts are affecting the banking, FIs, and non-banking (NBFC) sectors. There are calls for a drastic income-tax reduction. If that happens, it can help many sectors coming out of difficult situations and help banks reduce their NPAs. Fitch Ratings indicate the NBFCs facing near-term pressure as "non-performing loans (bad loans) are likely to rise as renewed activity restrictions have impaired borrower repayment capacity". The woes of individuals, small businesses, and others surviving on small incomes may multiply as banks and financial institutions plan tough recovery drives.

The lending institutions may start auctioning their pawned gold, vehicles, and other assets just as the festival season begins. This might mar festivities and create societal and political problems. The FIs put off selling or auctioning the collaterals during the pandemic but now they are finding their survival difficult and some like HDFC and Axis are indulging in allegedly unethical means to shore up their cash books. Both these banks have been penalized for this. The ICICI is mulling the auction of pawned jewellery and vehicles. Jewellery loans indicate that households are in dire straits and rising numbers of suicides could be linked to people's deteriorating financial conditions. The fall in sales of FMCG goods sells or vehicles also reflects the worsening situation. The political thinkers are yet to mull over this grave situation. MSME minister Nitin Gadkari told the Rajya Sabha about a Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) study on the pandemic impact on micro-units under the PM Employment Guarantee Programme (PMEGP) revealing that 88 per cent of the beneficiaries were "negatively affected" by the pandemic. The private insurance sector is in a shambles. The sale of the LIC banks and LIC to the private sector cannot be a welcome step as it further adds to the deterioration of the economy and leads to bigger job losses. The entertainment, cinema included, and education sectors are also in deep crisis. Many cosmetic programmes, incentivisations, loans, and even direct benefit transfers, surprisingly, are not boosting the economy. The economic contours have to change, free from Manmohanomics, and a new economy needs to be conceived with discussions with all stakeholders and political parties. The post-demonetisation downfall has to be stemmed for the country to become an effective power. It has to begin with empowering the individual in real financial terms, including a cut in taxes.

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

Street-connected kids in pandemic's shadow



SURINA NARULA

It is time to improve the quality of life of street-connected children who continue to be one of the most vulnerable sections of the society

The multiple and complex challenges we face today because of the COVID-19 pandemic have fallen hard on children who live, work, or play in the streets and are known as street-connected children. For them, it is often impossible to follow the basic guidelines to "stay at home" and "wash your hands". It is also difficult for them to access food, water, and medical services if they fall ill. In addition, they are at risk of being detained for being out during the lockdown or curfew.

The authorities say they are providing help. For example, the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights has been distributing food to street-connected children and vulnerable families in the Indian capital. In other cities too, local governments and charities have been doing the same.

However, the situation with street-connected children on the ground is very different. Sanjay Gupta works with street-connected children through CHETNA (Childhood Enhancement Through Training and Action), a grass-roots Indian NGO. He says that the scale of the problem is daunting and that many children are invisible because they live away from the main roads and in areas that are not accessible. He wants essential service passes to be made for his workers during COVID lockdowns as they work round the clock to try and reach these children whom the government cannot reach.

The Consortium for Street Children (CSC) is an international global network with more than 150 organisations, researchers, and practitioners across 135 countries that have been working since 1990 to protect the rights of street-connected children and making their voices heard at key forums. In its early days, the biggest challenge CSC faced was getting acknowledgement of the very fact that street-connected children exist. In the 1990s, many governments did not acknowledge them or recognise who they were. In many countries with dictatorial governments, they were actually shot to 'clean the streets'. It took a lot of persuasion and pressure on governments through diplomats in the UK to stop such practices. Being one of the founders of CSC, I had personally attended a lot of these meetings for securing funding and holding workshops with the police in Latin America to stop treating these children with such cruelty among other issues.

It took many years to get the term "street-connected children" accepted and included in common parlance - it is now widely used to describe children who depend on the streets for their survival. It does not matter whether these children have parents or some kind of support outside the street situation; it is important to understand that once they are on the streets, they are vulnerable. Along with these workshops and conferences over the past 20 years, CSC has also been working on long-term goals of making street-connected children visible on global platforms



WE MUST TAKE URGENT STEPS TO BETTER PROTECT CHILDREN IN THE COMING MONTHS AND YEARS. A COORDINATED, CONSOLIDATED EFFORT IS REQUIRED FOR THIS AND ALL SEGMENTS OF THE SOCIETY MUST BE PART OF THE RECOVERY PROCESS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS. WE CANNOT AND MUST NOT LEAVE THEM BEHIND

(The writer is the Co-founder of Consortium for Street Children and The DSC Prize for South Asian Literature. The views expressed are personal.)



by pushing policy interventions that address the discrimination these children face on a daily basis by empowering them and improving the quality of their lives.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely ratified international human rights treaty that promises to protect and fulfill the rights of every child. There was never any mention of street-connected children in this convention. After many consultations with NGOs and street-connected children across the world, CSC finally managed to convince the UN to include a general comment on street-connected children in this convention. This comment gives all those working with street-connected children a high-level tool to hold their governments accountable for not adhering to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In the words of the UN: "The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child provides authoritative guidance to States on developing comprehensive, long-term national strategies on children in street situations using a holistic, child rights approach and addressing both prevention and response in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child." The obligation of States towards children in street situations is defined quite comprehensively in this comment. This is already being implemented in a small number of countries.

While global alliances like CSC and the efforts of local grassroots community organizations and non-government bodies attempted to improve the lives of these children,

the present reality is that the COVID-19 pandemic has suddenly and severely deteriorated their condition. The need for rebuilding much more resilient societies and frameworks that protect and empower them could not be more vital than it is now. We must take urgent steps to better protect children in the coming months and years. A coordinated, consolidated effort is required for this and all segments of the society must be part of the recovery process. This is particularly important for children in street situations. We cannot and must not leave them behind and must ensure that all children are being counted and included in our visions of the future. In other words, we must have policies and laws that ensure that street-connected children are guaranteed the same rights as every other child, so that they can live with dignity, safety, and security. The pandemic threatens to set back the realisation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which go to the heart of children's rights, their well-being, and their development. We must act urgently to avoid this. As responsible citizens, we can identify the NGOs in our area working with these children and provide help in kind or cash as we see fit, guide them and participate in their outreach activities. In the meantime, we also need to put pressure on our governments and policy makers to implement the general comment related to street-connected children in more countries. The Consortium for Street Children, with generous funding

from Abbvie, has been providing crucial support to street-connected children and has helped them access the services, information, and legal protection they need throughout the pandemic. It has provided safe shelters, access to safe food, water, and information on how to stay safe from the virus when the street is the home. Its member partners have collaborated with local governments to come up with innovative strategies to provide basic healthcare facilities, hospital care, essential medicines, and mental health counselling to street-connected children during the outbreak of the pandemic.

In India, Abbvie has partnered with CHETNA along with two other organisations and provided relief packages including dry food, health/hygiene kits, and basic supplies to 750 families of street-connected children who have been hardest hit by the lockdowns or are at the highest risk from COVID-19. These relief packages are making a difference on the ground as each package can sustain a family of six for two weeks. CHETNA has also provided educational support and materials to 300 children for remote home learning.

While international networks like the Consortium for Street Children and NGOs like CHETNA are making a tangible difference, the time has now come for each one of us to contribute in our spheres of influence to improve the quality of life of street-connected children who continue to be one of the most vulnerable sections of the society.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

NOBODY IN THE GOVERNMENT IS LISTENING. SO WE HAVE DECIDED TO GET TOGETHER; THE OPPOSITION IS UNITED.
 — CONGRESS LEADER MALLIKARJUN KHARGE



THE CONDUCT OF THE OPPOSITION IS AN INSULT TO PARLIAMENT AND THE CONSTITUTION... (CERTAIN) COMMENTS ARE DEROGATORY.
 — PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Mamata's Opposition unity Delhi errand

Her strategy is to first unite the Opposition parties, then find a suitable narrative acceptable to all and finally think of a leader

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee made a whirlwind trip to Delhi last week, for another attempt to unite the opposition parties. She met all the right people and made adequate noise about the eluding opposition unity. Will she be able to succeed where others have failed? She is all but ready to challenge Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 2024 polls.



KALYANI SHANKAR

It is not her first attempt to unite the opposition. She tried to forge a third front ahead of the 2019 general elections but did not succeed. The Opposition bloc also lacked a face to pit against Modi. Above all, without Congress, there cannot be a government, arithmetically. This time Mamata has

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

started early, almost three years before the next Lok Sabha polls. "Nothing can be done by a doctor who comes after the patient has died. The patient can be saved if treatment is given on time. Now is your time. The more time you waste all the more the situation will worsen," Banerjee said. She wants to expand her winning slogan "Khela Hobe" as a national slogan.

No doubt, after winning West Bengal for the third time in a row, Mamata Banerjee's stature has gone up. She has dropped enough hints to show that she is now ready for a national role. It is to prepare for this role she came to Delhi. Her poll strategist Prashant Kishore prepared the ground before her arrival. Mamata declared that "regional parties



will lead the nation, we will not bow down before anyone anymore, the time has come".

One of the biggest challenges before the opposition is to show a united face against the BJP before the 2024 polls. There are too many regional chieftains claiming to be the face of the opposition. Mamata has belled the cat once again. Mamata also understands now that without Congress, there can be no opposition front. Arithmetically, it is difficult to form a government.

To soften the Congress, she met Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi during this trip.

Though Congress is the oldest national party and has ruled the country for long, it presently faces too many problems. They include a leadership crisis and a weakening party organisation. Sonia Gandhi has taken a backseat due to health reasons. In 2004 she went from one party leader to the other and united the heterogeneous opposition block successfully. Her son Rahul

Gandhi is still not ready.

The second problem is that the regional satraps are not keen to accept Rahul as their leader. Congress is not willing to consider any regional chief as the leader. Some parties like the BJD, Samajwadi Party, and Bahujan Samaj Party are neutral. That is why it is not easy to visualize a united opposition emerging before 2024.

Mamata has set off speculation whether she could be the catalyst to unite the opposition parties. She has good relations with many regional satraps. They include Sharad Pawar of Nationalist Congress Party, Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik, Telangana chief minister K.Chandrashekar Rao, besides Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, and Delhi chief minis-

ter Arvind Kejriwal.

During her current visit, Mamata seems to have made up her mind to project herself as a mature leader who can be courteous to a bitter political enemy. This was evident when she called on the Prime Minister. The photograph showing Mamata greeting the Prime Minister with folded hands and a bowing Modi has gone viral.

In her interaction with the national media also, she spoke along similar lines. She kept the media guessing with her one-liners. She said, "I think all these will happen automatically... I am hopeful" and "I will not lead, the country will lead... We are all followers", etc. In her speech, Banerjee took her winning slogan

"Khela Hobe" (Game On) to the national stage and declared that "Khela" would happen in all States before the 2024 elections. This slogan is to underline that it is possible to defeat the BJP.

The opposition sees a possibility of building up a narrative before the next Lok Sabha polls and the upcoming Assembly elections in many States. She said: "In politics, there are times together for the sake of the country. This is that time."

Whatever may be the outcome, Didi is determined to be in the game. She has defined the fight as the country versus Narendra Modi. Her strategy is to first unite the opposition parties and then find a suitable narrative acceptable to all and think of a leader later.

Taliban take much of provincial capital in south Af

Kabul: The Taliban pressed ahead with their advances in southern Afghanistan on Tuesday, capturing nine out of 10 districts of the Helmand provincial capital, residents

and officials said. Afghan Government forces launched airstrikes, backed by the US, in a desperate effort to defend the city of Lashkar Gah.

The fall of Lashkar Gah would be a major turning point in the offensive the Taliban have waged over the past months as US and NATO forces complete their pullout from the war-torn country. It would also be the first provincial capital captured by the Taliban in years.

Residents of the city, speaking to The Associated Press over the telephone, said the

fighting has them trapped, hunkered down inside their homes and unable to step out for basic supplies. They said Taliban fighters were out openly in the streets, and that all but one Lashkar Gah district was under Taliban control.

Elite commando units were dispatched from Kabul to aid Afghan forces as the government held on to key government buildings, including the local police and army headquarters.

Majid Akhund, deputy chairman of the Helmand provincial council, confirmed

that the Taliban control nine Lashkar Gah districts and also the city's TV and radio station, which had both gone off the air.

The Afghan forces commander for Helmand, Gen. Sami Sadat, in an audio message shared with journalists Tuesday urged residents in neighborhoods captured by the Taliban to evacuate immediately, though he did not clarify how they could do that amid the ongoing clashes. The message was an indication more airstrikes were planned.

"Please evacuate your families from your homes and

their surroundings," Sadat said. "We will not leave the Taliban alive. ... I know it's hard ... we do it for your future. Forgive us if you get displaced for few days, please evacuate as soon as possible."

Lashkar Gah is one of three provincial capitals under siege by the Taliban as they stepped up their onslaught against government forces. In recent months the Taliban swept through dozens of districts across the country, many in remote and rural, sparsely populated areas.

Afghan troops in those

battles often surrendered or pulled out with barely a fight, frequently lacking re-supplies and reinforcements. Over the past weeks, the Taliban have also captured several lucrative border crossings with Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

Most recently, the Taliban have turned their guns on provincial capitals as the withdrawal of the US and NATO forces is now more than 95 per cent complete. The final US and NATO soldier are expected to be out of Afghanistan by Aug. 31.

PTI

China's Wuhan, cities begin mass testing, impose lockdowns

Beijing: Authorities in central China's Wuhan, where the coronavirus first emerged in 2019 and spiralled into a pandemic, on Tuesday began testing of its over 11 million people following the resurgence of cases, a year after it contained the deadly virus, even as a sense of unease prevailed in the country as several provinces reported fresh infections.

Wuhan, which became

famous all over the world for its first coronavirus lockdown early last year, broke the zero-infection record since June 2020, as seven new Covid cases were reported.

Authorities began a city-wide Covid testing on Tuesday, the official media here reported. The city has upgraded its epidemic response measures in the face of the recent coronavirus infections, locking down the area where Covid infections have been reported while upgrading its risk levels, state-run Global Times reported. The city metro has adopted stricter anti-epidemic rules, and all schools have been closed. Just as Wuhan braced for the second Covid resurgence, especially the Delta variant, several provinces and cities including Beijing are rushing to test millions of people.

The National Health Commission (NHC), in its daily report on Tuesday, said that 61 new locally-transmitted COVID-19 cases have been reported from different provinces, including Jiangsu, Hunan, Hubei, Henan, Yunnan besides Beijing, Shanghai and Fujian.

PTI

Pak has much to gain from Af peace: US

Washington: The United States has said Pakistan has much to gain and will continue to have a critical role in Afghan peace process.

"We do appreciate Pakistan's efforts to advance the Afghan peace process and stability in South Asia, including by encouraging the Taliban to engage in substantive negotiations," State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters at his daily news conference on Monday.

"Pakistan has much to gain and will continue to have a critical role, will be well-positioned to have a role in supporting the outcome that not only the United States seeks, but that many of our International partners, many of the countries in the region also see," he said.

Can't have terrorist camps moving back into Af, this will have direct impact on India: UNSC Prez

United Nations: The situation in Afghanistan is of deep concern to all members of the UN Security Council, President of the Council for the month of August Ambassador TS Tirumurti has said, underlining that "we cannot have terrorist camps" once again moving back into the war-torn country that will have a "direct impact" on India.

India, currently a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2021-

22 tenure, assumed the rotating Presidency of the powerful UN organ for the month of August. "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," Tirumurti said at the UN Headquarters on Monday.

Briefing reporters at the UN Headquarters on the Council's Programme of Work, Tirumurti, who is India's Permanent Representative to

the UN, cited a UN report that said the number of casualties in Afghanistan during May-June exceeds the number between January and April.

Responding to a question on the situation in Afghanistan and what the Security Council can do to prevent further escalation in violence, Tirumurti said he expects that "probably the Security Council will be looking at this aspect sooner rather than later" on Afghanistan.

US hits 70% vaccination rate — a month late

Washington: The US has finally reached President Joe Biden's goal of getting at least one COVID-19 shot into 70 per cent of American adults — a month late and amid a fierce surge by the delta variant that is swamping hospitals and leading to new mask rules and mandatory vaccinations around the country. In a major retreat in the Deep South, Louisiana ordered nearly everyone, vaccinated or not, to wear masks again in all indoor public settings, including schools and colleges.

AP

More than 110M Covid vaccines sent to 60 countries, says US

Washington: The US has donated and shipped more than 110 million doses of Covid vaccines to more than 60 countries, ranging from Afghanistan to Zambia, the White House announced Tuesday.

President Joe Biden was expected to discuss that milestone and more later Tuesday in remarks updating the public on the US strategy to slow the spread of coronavirus abroad.

The announcement comes amid a rise in infections in the

US, fuelled by the highly contagious delta strain of the virus, which led US public health officials last week to recommend that people who have been fully vaccinated against Covid resume wearing face coverings in public indoor settings. Biden has promised that the US will be the "arsenal of vaccines" for the world. But while notable, the 110 million doses the US has donated largely through a global vaccine programme known as COVAX represent a fraction of what is needed worldwide.

AP

Lanka probing massacre of Buddhist monks by LTTE in 1987: Apex Court told

Colombo: Sri Lanka has begun an investigation into the 1987 massacre of Buddhist monks by the Tamil separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) which attacked a bus and killed 31 people, the country's Supreme Court here was told on Tuesday.

The Attorney General's counsel told the apex court that a survivor, Buddhist monk Andaulpotha Buddhasingha, has given a statement on the attack.

The LTTE, then fighting for a separate homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and east provinces, carried out the attack on June 2, 1987 at Aranthhalawa in the eastern Ampara district.

Some 33 monks and three civilians were travelling in a bus on the monthly Buddhist holy day when the bus was waylaid by the LTTE, who randomly opened fire, killing at least 31 monks.

No one was arrested and there were no legal proceedings as in the case of many attacks carried out by the LTTE.

Suspect in fatal S Carolina shooting of 3 found in Florida

AP ■ COLUMBIA

The suspect in the killing of three people in rural South Carolina hopped on a plane after the shootings and was arrested hours later at a Florida hotel, authorities said.

A man and two women were killed in the shootings Monday around 3 p.m. inside a Greenwood County home just off U.S. Highway 25, Sheriff Dennis Kelly said. A child was also hurt in the shooting.

US OK's sale of Harpoon Joint Common Test Sets to India worth \$82 mn

Washington: The US has approved the sale of Harpoon Joint Common Test Set (JCTS) and related equipment to India for an estimated cost of USD 82 million, a decision which it said will help strengthen the bilateral strategic ties and improve the security of a major defensive partner in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) delivered the required certification notifying the US Congress of this possible sale on Monday, according to an official statement. Harpoon is an anti-ship missile.

The Government of India has requested to buy one Harpoon Joint Common Test Set (JCTS). Also included is one Harpoon Intermediate Level maintenance station; spare and repair parts, support, and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; personnel training; US Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and programme support. The estimated total cost is USD 82 million, it said.

PTI

US, India share number of interests, values: Biden admn

Washington: The US has a number of shared interests and values with India in terms of economic and trade ties and cooperation on climate and regional security issues that were discussed during the recent visit of Secretary of State Tony Blinken to New Delhi, a top State Department official has said.

Blinken arrived in New Delhi on July 27 on a two-day visit with an extensive agenda for talks. It was Blinken's first visit to India after assuming charge as the US Secretary of State and the third by a high-ranking Biden administration official.

"The other point that we made is that we have a number of shared interests and shared values with the Government of India," he said.

PTI

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PTI

Pentagon on lockdown after shooting near metro station

Washington: Gunshots were fired on Tuesday morning near the entrance of the Pentagon, resulting in multiple injuries. The facility, the headquarters of the U.S. military, was placed on lockdown.

The Arlington County Fire Department reported "multiple patients," but it wasn't immediately clear if they had been shot or the extent of the injuries.

The incident occurred on a Metro bus platform that is part of the Pentagon Transit Center, the Pentagon Protection Force Protection Agency tweeted.

AP

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI. 4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001. R.C.No. 406/2015. E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE. Dated: 19.07.2021. ICICI BANK VS. MR. HARISH KUMAR GOSWAMI. As per my order dated 19.07.2021 the under mentioned properties will be sold by Public e-auction sale on 02.09.2021 in the said Recovery Certificate. The auction sale will be "online e-auction" through website: www.bankeauctions.com. Date and Time of Auction: 02.09.2021 between 03:00 PM to 04:00 P.M. (With extensions of 5 minutes duration after 04:00 P.M., if required). DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY. S.No. Property Description Reserve Price (In Rs.) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.). 1. House No.1007, Khasra No.204, NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Mawai, Loni Ghaziabad-200001. Rs. 10,00,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/- Terms & Conditions. 1. The auction sale will be "online through" e-auction through website portal: www.bankeauctions.com. 2. The EMD shall be paid either through Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of the "Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi-A/C R.C. No. 406/2015". The said Demand Draft/Pay Order qua EMD, alongwith self-attested copy of Identity (voter I-card/driving license/passport), which should contain the address for future communication, and self-attested copy of PAN card, and in the case of company, copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company also, must reach the Office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi latest by 31.08.2021 before 4:00 P.M. The EMD or original proof of EMD received thereafter shall not be considered. 3. The envelope containing EMD, along with details of the sender, i.e. address, e-mail ID and mobile number, etc, should be super-scribed "R.C.No. 406/2015". 4. The property is being sold on "as is where is basis" and "as is what is basis". 5. The bidders are advised to go through the portal www.bankeauctions.com for detailed terms and conditions for e-auction sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings and/or contact Sh. Mohit Chadha, Zonal Debt Manager, ICICI Bank Ltd, 2nd Floor, Videocom Tower, Inderwala Exten Delhi, Mobile No. 9650957770 Email ID: mohit.chadha@icicibank.com. 6. Prospective bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, after deposit of EMD, which is mandatory for bidding in the above e-auction, from M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd, Udyog Vihar, Phase-2, Building No. 301, Gurugram Haryana-122015, Telephone No. 7291981124/2526 Contact Person: Mr. Vinod Chauhan, Mobile no. 9813887931 Email id: delhi@c1india.com and support@bankeauctions.com. 7. The interested bidders may avail online training on e-auction, after deposit of EMD, from M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd, Udyog Vihar, Phase-2, Building No. 301, Gurugram Haryana 122015, Telephone No. 7291981124/2526 Contact Person: Mr. Vinod Chauhan, Mobile no. 9813887931 Email id: delhi@c1india.com and support@bankeauctions.com. 8. Only those bidders holding valid user ID & Password and confirmed payment of EMD through demand draft/pay order shall be eligible to participate in on line e auction. 9. The prospective buyer may inspect the site on 25.08.2021 and 26.08.2021 from 10.30 AM to 04.00 PM, 10. The interested bidders, who have submitted their bids not below the reserve price by 31.08.2021 in the office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II Delhi, shall be eligible to participate in the e-auction to be held from 03.00 PM TO 04.00 PM, 02.09.2021. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes. 11. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiples of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) 12. The unsuccessful bidder shall take the EMD directly from the Office of Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings. 13. The successful / highest bidder shall have to prepare and deposit Demand Draft/Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount, after adjusting the EMD, favoring Recovery Officer II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/C R.C. No. 406/2015 by next bank working day i.e. by 04.00 PM with this Tribunal, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited. 14. The successful/highest bidder shall deposit, through Demand Draft/Pay Order favoring Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi, A/C R.C. No. 406/2015, the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi on or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @2% upto Rs. 1,000 and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT-II Delhi. (In case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery Officer as above). In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be re-sold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit after defraying the expenses of the many sale, they, if the undersigned thinks fit be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sam for which it may subsequently be sold. 15. CHFI/CH Bank is directed to serve the Sale proclamation on CDs through Dast speed post, courier and by affixation at the conspicuous part of the property and by beat of drum in its vicinity and a copy of the same be placed on the notice board of the Tribunal. 16. Sale proclamation be also published in the Newspapers in English as well as in Vernacular language, having adequately wide circulation in the area. 17. CHFI/CH Bank is directed to confirm the publication of advertisement in the Newspapers and original proofs of the publication be filed before next date of hearing. 18. The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final. Schedule of the property. Description of the property to be sold Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof Details of any encumbrance to which property is liable Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property, and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value. House No. 1007, Khasra No.204, NH-24, Bhim Nagar, Mawai, Loni Ghaziabad-200001. Not known Not known Not known Matter be listed on 18.08.2021 for filing affidavit of service of E-auction sale notice with proofs of service (including track results qua speed post and courier) and dasti, original proofs of publication in newspapers and wider publicity including website for the purpose of e auction. (Dattatrey Bajpayee) RECOVERY OFFICER-II, DRT-II, DELHI.

Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited. Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Date House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai-600 001. Branch Office: H-1 & 2, 3rd Floor, Padam plaza, Plot No.5, Sec 16 B, Awas Vikas, Sikandra Yojna, Agra 282002. DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002. You, the under mentioned Borrower / Mortgagee is hereby informed that the company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13 (2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for Borrower's has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-Sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is hereby mentioned that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company. Table with columns: Name and Address of the Borrower/s, Loan Amount, Date of Demand Notice & Amount Outstanding, Description of the property / Secured Asset. Includes entries for ASHOK KUMAR JAIN, BABITA JAIN & PIYUSH JAIN; PARUL PRATAP SINGH; SANTOSH KUMARI, DEV PRATAP SINGH & KRISHNA TENT & CATERING; NISHA AGRAWAL, NITIN KUMAR AGARWAL, KUMAR GAURAV AGARWAL, PARUL AGARWAL; MISHRA HARI OM ENTERPRISES; PRANOD KUMAR, AMAR SINGH & SHRI MATI REKHA; ANUJ PATHAK & GUDDI DEVI; MUKESH MAHAJAN, YOGESH MAHAJAN, CHANCHAL MAHAJAN; SANDHYA GAUTAM & GAYATRI GAUTAM; MIS AMAN COLOR CHEM; Aman Gautam & Mis Jagdamba Enterprises; SANDHYA GAUTAM & GAYATRI GAUTAM; MIS AMAN COLOR CHEM.

RTCL LIMITED. CIN No.: L16003UP1994PLC016225. Registered Office: 8/226, Second Floor, SGM Plaza, Arya Nagar, Kanpur UP 208002. Corporate Office: 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007. Website: www.rtclimited.in. E-mail: rgc.secretarial@gmail.com. NOTICE. Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, 13th August, 2021 at 04:00 P.M. at its corporate office 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007. Inter-alla to consider and take on record the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter ended 30th June, 2020. This Information is also available on the Company's website at www.rtclimited.in and on the Stock Exchange website at www.bseindia.com. Further, in accordance with the SEBI (Prevention of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 and the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the Trading Window for dealing in the Company's securities was closed from Thursday 01st July, 2021 and will open 48 hours after the said financial results are declared to the Stock Exchanges. For RTCL Limited Sd/- (Ajay Kumar Jain) Director. Place: Delhi Date: 03.08.2021. RAGHUNATH INTERNATIONAL LIMITED. CIN No.: L52312UP1994PLC022559. Regd Office: 8/226, Second Floor, SGM Plaza, Arya Nagar, Kanpur UP 208002. Corporate Office: 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007. E-mail: rgc.secretarial@rediffmail.com. Website: www.raghunathintltd.com. NOTICE. Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, 13th August, 2021, at 03.30 p.m. at its Corporate office at 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007 inter-alla to consider and take on record the Un-Audited Standalone and Consolidated financial results of the Company for the First quarter ended on 30th June, 2021. This information is also available on the Company's website at www.raghunathintltd.com and on the Stock Exchange website at www.bseindia.com. Further, in accordance with the SEBI (Prevention of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 and the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the Trading Window for dealing in the Company's securities was closed from Thursday 01st July, 2021 and will open 48 hours after the said financial results are declared to the Stock Exchanges. For Raghunath International Limited Sd/- (G.N. Choudhary) Director. Place: Delhi Date: 03.08.2021. APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION. General public is hereby informed that this person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 50 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Build: Thin, Wearing: Black Colour Shirt and Black colour Lower, was found Dead on the Pavement Under Paharganj Flyover, Delhi on 28.07.2021. In this regard a DD No.63-A, dated 28.07.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi. The Dead Body has been kept preserved in the Mortuary of MAMC Hospital, Delhi, for 72 hours for identification. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this dead person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following. SHO P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi DP/917/CD/2021 Ph.: 011-23521082, 8750870428

Class XII results are out. SUMIT SAURABH lists courses that students can pursue for a flourishing career

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX



sky's the limit for a school graduate today. Gone are the days when you could not think beyond becoming a doctor, engineer or lawyer once you have passed the threshold of Class XII annual exams. The meritorious students could have the pick of the so-called top careers while the not-so-meritorious students had to settle for the less coveted courses to build a career out of. At the turn of the century, all that changed, for good!

The trends are much better today, as the world tries hard to rise up after being knocked down by the COVID-19 pandemic. The students who have completed education till Class XII, or not yet, can now look forward to some of the most amazing arrays of career choices, which make good use of their natural talents and skills while allowing them to have a flourishing career that doesn't feel boring at all. So, whether you belong to science, arts or commerce streams, if you are a student who is about to get into the Class XII or sitting for the final examination next year, you should read all about five of the most exciting career options you could think of taking up:

FASHION AND DESIGN

Fashion industry is not an alien concept anymore as far as the average Indian Class XII pass student is concerned. In fact, many of the young girls and boys know more about the fashion trends and designer-wear in comparison to their contemporaries from the past decades. The vast challenges that this industry throws at a newcomer can help you really shine if you are strong-headed and abundantly

creative. There are so many roles you can play after completing this course, such as fashion designer, fashion illustrator, fashion stylist, fashion coordinator, etc. With such prestigious fashion colleges now operating in the country and ever-increasing chances of an overseas education in fashion and design, it is no surprise that more and more Indian students are finding it easier to think of making fashion & design a career for life.

EVENT MANAGEMENT

Event Management industry single-handedly offers the most exciting career opportunities to students on the verge of making a career choice. With so much happening around, be it stage shows, conferences, concerts, seminars, theme parties, product launches, press conferences, weddings, exhibitions and corporate events, there is so much to do for someone who has studied event management in college. You just need to have passion for organising events and a keen eye for detail so that everything runs smoothly. Once you finish this course, you can have multiple job opportunities such as event planner, stage decorator, wedding planner, logistics manager, etc.

EVENT MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY SINGLE-HANDEDLY OFFERS THE MOST EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENTS ON THE VERGE OF MAKING A CAREER CHOICE. WITH SO MUCH HAPPENING AROUND, BE IT STAGE SHOWS, CONFERENCES, OR CORPORATE EVENTS, THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS STUDIED EVENT MANAGEMENT

APP DEVELOPER

The world is running on mobile applications these days and everything has an app version. The way this ecosystem is working, through technologies like Internet of Things, Blockchain, AI, Machine Learning, etc, there is going to be a higher demand for app developers now than ever before. With the software entering into every nook and corner of the world, this professional choice is already shooting through the skies in terms of popularity. You can choose to be an iOS or Android developer after you finish your course and look forward to a substantial first salary!

CONTENT WRITER

If there is one professional career option that has gained the maximum traction in the past one year, despite pandemic, it is the field of freelance content writing. Freelance because more and more people have joined the work-from-home workforce for obvious reasons. So, with that, there is an added lure to this career choice. You need to possess a fairly good writing acumen, language skills and hunger for knowledge because in whatever you write about, you need to have the

industry knowledge beforehand, which is what the client demands. Moreover, with professional content writing courses, short-term as well as long-term, being run in various universities and colleges these days, there is no dearth of learning opportunities.

JOURNALISM

Journalists are professionally trained eyes & ears of the society and lately, this is an area to grow exponentially, in terms of opportunities as well as remunerations. Finishing a journalism course from a good college opens up job opportunities for you in newspapers, magazines, TV channels, blogs, social media, radio, etc. So, you see, if you have that fire to bring a change into the society with the help of a pen, keyboard or a microphone, going down this path will not only give you a career, it might also give you job satisfaction at the end of the day.

The career choices that you make today, decide what kind of life you are going to lead tomorrow. If any of these career options rock your boat, start preparing today!
The writer is Director, The Desizn Circle, Hauz Khas Village, New Delhi

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Do you know the difference between education and experience? Education is when you read the fine print; experience is what you get when you don't.
— Pete Seeger

MSC COURSE

The University of Sheffield, UK invites applications for the MSc Pharmaceutical Engineering course starting in September 2022.

The MSc gives you hands-on experience of an industrial-scale continuous powder processing plant, and develops the knowledge and skills you need to stand out in the global pharma market.

This programme has been developed taking into consideration the requirements of the global pharmaceutical industry. You will learn about: the science and application of products, oral drug delivery, the production of medicines and new technologies.

Duration: One year
Eligibility: Holders of a three-year bachelor degree with a minimum of 60 per cent or first class in science, technology and engineering from a reputable university. Overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component, or equivalent.

How to apply: Log on to <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/2021/pharmaceutical-engineering-msc> or cbe-msc@sheffield.ac.uk.

MBA PROGRAMME

Offered by the Coller School of Management at Tel Aviv University, the Sofaer Global MBA is the flagship one-year full-time MBA focused on New Venture Creation, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship.

It is designed for students with professional ambitions ranging from founding ventures, building start-ups, and leading innovative processes in multinational companies. The programme's curriculum combines a foundational core with a wide variety of advanced courses focused on entrepreneurship and innovation.

The programme is structured to be experiential alongside classroom learning that brings together theory and practice and simultaneously



guides students with opportunities to develop their own start-up in sectors as Agri-tech, fintech, and wearables.

Eligibility: The programme is open to all who have obtained or are about to obtain a completed under-graduate degree from a recognised university in India. The students are required to have a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or 75 on a scale of 100. Applicants with lower final grades should still apply; the admissions committee takes candidates' full applications into consideration.

Students are also required to submit their GMAT/GRE scores along with clearing scores for English language proficiency.

How to Apply: Log on to https://international.tau.ac.il/Sofer_Global_MBA.

MSC DATA ANALYTICS

The University of Sheffield, UK is inviting applications for its MSc Data Analytics course starting in September 2021. This course will develop your skills in analysing big data sets so that you can transform the information into actionable knowledge.

Duration: One year
Eligibility: Holders of a three-year bachelor degree with a minimum of 60 per cent or first class from a reputable university in a numerate discipline (computer science, mathematics, economics, engineering, physics, chemistry). Overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component, or equivalent.

How to apply: Log on to <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/2021/data-analytics-msc> or msc-compsci@sheffield.ac.uk.

Industry visits have become an essential part of students pursuing a professional degree or course. The Indian education system has witnessed immense transformation over the last few years, with more importance being given to hands-on training. The approach for delivering quality education has changed with time for the Indian universities, and industry visits have become a part of the curriculum for many courses.

Industry visits have become the norm for courses ranging from Engineering to Management in a number of institutes. A number of institutions now give grades and attendance on industry visits to students. The reason behind the popularity of industry visits is due to the fact that it exposes students to gain the practical knowledge on their subject which even their textbooks can't provide. There are several other advantages attached to such visits – but, before we move on, let's take a look at what exactly are industry visits:

Industry visits give students an insight regarding the internal working of companies. Just having a theoretical knowledge about a subject is not enough for making a good professional career. With an aim to go beyond academics, industrial visits provide students with a practical perspective on the internal working in a company.

The students are provided with the opportunities to gain an in-depth knowledge of the pro-

It's a visit worth making

The approach for delivering quality education has changed with time for the universities and industry visits have become a part of the curriculum for many courses, says DR KULNEET SURI

cedures and techniques followed throughout in the company. Also, the students attain an understanding of the work culture of the industry they have been taken to, followed with an opportunity to analyse the management essentials. The industry visits are not limited to only engineering – nowadays, management students are being actively taken to industries to help them get a hold of management concepts.

BENEFITS:

Not everything that is essential to be learnt by students can be delivered by in the classroom. There are several practical aspects which require a hands-on experience for a student to elucidate the understanding of the facts and concepts. Industrial

visits transform the concepts into action which in turn, facilitate the attainment of hands-on experiential awareness. The benefits are not limited to mere practical exposure. Below mentioned are the advantages which students enjoy during industrial visits:

- The detailed information on the functioning of industries can only be experienced after visiting one. The visits are extremely helpful for students to embed hands-on understanding of the effective functioning of an organisation.

- The industry visits offer an opportunity to students to engage in a conversation with the professionals. This, in turn, helps students improve their communica-

tion and interpersonal skills. Also, the students get a chance to establish a connection with experts, which could be helpful in placements.

- There are certain myths which have been prevalent for years, in terms of management and other aspects based on the entire functionality of the industries. Industry visits provide an opportunity for students to gain insight into actual practices in a work-place. The students get an enhanced outlook on the practices followed by the companies to ensure effective operations and how they manage their workforces.

- The industry visits are not limited to the attainment of practical knowledge, but, it also plays an essential role in identifying an interest area for the students. During the visit, they go through different departments and thus, they get an idea about different roles and what they entail. Students can get clarity of what exactly a job functions required to be performed in a specific profile. Industry visits are slowly becoming mandatory in leading institutes in India, as it gives students a chance to enhance their practical knowledge. Nowadays, students actively participate in industry visits in a bid to understand the workings of an organisation.

The writer is Senior Director at Institute of Management Studies (IMS) Noida

Top cybersecurity institutes

The modern life we live these days is highly dependent on online services. Hence, having a clear understanding of cybersecurity threats is extremely vital. Additionally, since most of the data is now stored on servers and clouds across the globe, applications of cybersecurity in our day-to-day lives has caused a vast explosion of careers in this field. Owing to this, the importance of courses revolving around cybersecurity is gaining high prominence.

There are many institutes offering the best cyber security courses and to make your choice a little simpler, we list down the best five institutes for cybersecurity. If you are aspiring to carve a career path out of this, you may definitely want to consider these courses.

Henry Harvin: The cybersecurity course offered by India's leading Ed-tech company — Henry Harvin takes you through various modules of cyber security thus adding stars to one's portfolio. The course explains in detail the meaning, purpose, scope, applications of cybersecurity. The course also deep dives into cloud security, data & endpoint security along with application security to train the professionals with every aspect of the course.

This extensive training session acquaints the pursuants with the best skills and knowledge transferred by experienced professionals and helps you attain the title of a qualified cybersecurity professional.

Intellipaat: This PG certification in Cyber Security & Ethical Hacking by E&ICT Academy, MNIT Jaipur in collaboration with the EC-Council aims to provide extensive training on Cyber



Security concepts including risk analysis and mitigation, data security, cloud-based security, ethical hacking, etc. The course is designed by the top faculty at MNIT & industry expert to help you gain relevant skills required by the Industry and land you in your dream job.

Simplilearn: The cybersecurity expert master's programme equips you with the skills needed to become an expert in this rapidly growing domain. The course allows you to learn comprehensive approaches to protect your infrastructure, including securing data and information, running risk analysis and mitigation, architecting cloud-based security, achieving compliance and much more with this best-in-class programme.

Great Learning: This cybersecurity course navigates the pursuants through the foundations and skills necessary to build a successful cybersecurity career. In addition to security objectives basics like confidentiality, integrity, non-repudiation and authentication one also gets to exploit the vulnerabilities. By using secure systems, and design methodology, the applicant also learns about primary security breaches that might occur over the years and thus makes you eligible for building the countermeasures for the same.

Eduureka: Cybersecurity certification training by Eduureka allows one to learn cybersecurity concepts from scratch. Throughout the online cybersecurity training, the students get to learn important concepts such as ethical hacking, cryptography, computer networks & security, application security, idAM (identity & access management), vulnerability analysis, malware threats, sniffing, SQL injection, DoS, session hijacking, and various security practices for businesses along with hands-on demonstrations.

Career guidance course

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In recognition of the need to facilitate career guidance for young learners, the UK's leading personalised career guidance programme is launching in India. LaunchMyCareer (LMC) has unveiled a first-of-its-kind career focused program for schools. The platform promises to help young learners

discover their interests, identify their potential, learn workplace readiness skills and apply these in real life. From nurturing young people's skills and aptitudes to providing them age-appropriate exposure to career knowledge, LaunchMyCareer helps students make informed career decisions.

Most learners are overwhelmed and confused about

what career they want to pursue, and how to be what they want to be. However, everyone is looking for career success. True career success is an amalgamation of financial stability and job satisfaction.

This can be achieved when one is able to map interests and skills with available opportunities. LaunchMyCareer brings forth a unique gamified experience to enable young people

the chance to explore career possibilities through a journey of self-discovery, harmonising interests with future careers and helping them to acquire requisite skills.

The platform brings together educators, counsellors and experts to steer students along a career roadmap, under parental guidance, in a systematic, experiential and engaging way.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Great Learning, a leading global ed-tech company for professional and higher education, in collaboration with the National University of Singapore (NUS) Business School, has announced the launch of two executive education programmes: Future Leaders Programme (FLP) and Practical Decision Making Using Data Science Programme (PDDDS).

NUS Business School is known for providing management thought leadership from

Executive programmes

an Asian perspective, enabling its students and corporate partners to leverage global knowledge and Asian insights. The school has consistently received top rankings in the Asia-Pacific region by independent publications and agencies, such as *The Financial Times*, *Economist Intelligence Unit*, and *QS Top MBA*, in recognition of the quality of its programmes, faculty research and graduates.

The Future Leaders Programme is designed for first-time and middle managers who aspire to build their leadership skills, and entrepreneurs who need to lead as they scale up their organisations.

The three-month online programme focuses on professional growth, developing self-awareness and tangible skills in learners that can be applied to real-world situa-

tions. The Practical Decision Making Using Data Science Programme is best suited for mid to senior managers who have a strong understanding of their respective domains and wish to learn analytics to aid their decision-making skills.

It provides an in-depth and comprehensive journey in Data Science from the lens of a business manager.



ENHANCING LEARNING

The future of online education lies in the development of a holistic platform that enhances teaching-learning experiences, says ROHIT JAIN

In the wake of the COVID-19 lockdown, the transition from in-person classes to online learning was facilitated by digital educational platforms along with online learning tools. Against such a backdrop, it is now making parents, teachers and students wonder what the future of online education is?

The future of online education lies in the development of a holistic platform that enhances the teaching-learning experiences. And, determined strides are being made in this direction.

Several ed-tech platforms are offering a wide range of educational tools and learning materials to students to learn while they are stuck at home. These digital platforms have evolved to provide classroom-like experiences as they enable real-time interaction between students and teachers, which is crucial for clearing doubts or assigning homework, and so on.

It must also be noted that education comprises five pillars—mentorship, self-learning tools, effective doubt solutions, test and feedback systems and a cus-

tomised performance improvement plan. At the moment, the platforms are mostly solving any one of the following. However, the future of online learning is expected to be a holistic one, with platforms covering all five of them.

Looking at the trend, it isn't a secret that online learning will become mainstream. Gradually, schools are expected to adopt a hybrid learning model in the new normal era. In a hybrid model, online as well as offline learners can simultaneously attend the class of a particular teacher.

This will provide immense flexibility in teaching and learning. Hybrid learning also increases the accessibility of education to learners from even the remotest areas. It improves their learning experience through more customised and interactive classes, audio-visual lessons, and engaging tutorials. These facilities can meet the requirements of both online and in-person learners.

ONLINE SIMULATION TOOLS
Educational institutions that cannot afford world-class labora-

It isn't a secret that online learning will become mainstream. Schools are expected to adopt a hybrid learning model in the new normal

ries can use online simulation tools thereby giving students a real-lab experience. In addition, remote learning can be further enhanced by the use of virtual labs. In-depth virtual experiments can also increase their understanding of various equipment and experimental processes.

COMMUNITY LEARNING

Another benefit is the community learning that will act as the key to solving doubts. In addition to the faculty, peers and seniors can guide in a moderated environment. All in all, it will enhance the exchange of new ideas, sharing experiences, discussions, and teamwork.

ROLE OF EDTECH

It is therefore fair to mention that several Edtech platforms have emerged to make online learning effortless. According to IBEF, in 2020, a total of \$ 1.1 billion was poured into the Edtech sector. Another report by IBEF suggests that the Edtech market in India is expected to touch \$10.4 billion by 2025. The data points that ed-tech

is going to flourish further, making online learning popular in the years to come. These platforms will be serving an array of advantages.

They will continue to play an important role in giving students access to customised and interesting e-content. Collaboration of ed-tech start-ups with educational institutions is serving the interest of both educators and learners alike. Besides, the courses are available in multiple languages to cater to the needs of diverse sections of learners. Teachers can create educational content and share it with students instantly. Through the use of online grading tools, the evaluation of the students' performance can conveniently be done.

Therefore, the future of online learning appears bright mainly because of rapid digitisation and the advancements taking place in the field of technology. Further, modernisation of the education sector will continue to happen to raise the standard of the quality of education in the country.

The writer is CEO, DUX Education

'Research before applying abroad'

There are many choices and opinions when it comes to foreign education. But it is crucial to acquaint with science of making intelligent decisions, says ADARSH KHANDELWAL

You are looking to study abroad? Consider the following: Why apply now? Why this course and university? Why do you want to move abroad for your degree? What are your future goals? How do the university and your chosen program align with these? Do you know what you want from this experience?

If you have failed to answer any of these questions, not even an outstanding GPA will secure that coveted college spot for you. University admissions are not merely an exercise in form-filling, in which you would mechanically list your achievements; this is an introspective and constantly evolving process. One of the first things you would need to do is set aside some time to ponder these questions and the research universities that match your expectations.

In India, students instinctively reach out to their immediate network for advice or follow a gut feeling. The danger this poses is that there is a surfeit of information on the web, not all of which is accurate or even relevant to your profile. Confronted with so many choices and opinions, it is crucial to acquaint yourself with the science of making intelligent decisions. Here are tools to help you choose better.

Academic strength: The universities you choose should ideally be global leaders in the field of your choice. If the institution specialises in that discipline, you can rest assured that you will be immersed in a competitive, cutting-edge, and quality-driven environment with like-minded peers. Research the courses that the university offers. If you would like a tailored, mixed curriculum, or a course that incorporates an equal amount of practical and theoretical modules, pick the universities that give you that flexibility. If you are interested in the university's research strengths, find out where its faculty expertise lies and if this relates to your academic goals.

Prospects: Look at the university's recruitment data. This will help you get a better idea of life after graduation. Alumni connections via LinkedIn will provide an insider view. There are also university career services and fairs, as well as internship or professional pro-



Adarsh Khandelwal, Co-founder, Collegity

ject opportunities, that many schools offer; if gaining professional experience alongside your degree is a priority for you, choose accordingly.

Social life: This may not seem like the most important part of your decision-making process, but its value is often understated. Your peer community will be a considerable part of your student life, and the experiences you have via student clubs, societies, and events can be formative and inspiring. The informal network you build is a much more personal way to network and learn about potential opportunities. Another aspect you would be taking into account is its location, your accommodation, and access to the city's industry contacts and cultural scene.

Don't go overboard. We recommend listing not over seven schools for a PG shortlist, and not more than 15 for undergraduate. Divide these further into aspirational and safe schools—universities you feel confident about and consider your chances of gaining admission. However, keep your expectations realistic and be prepared for failure. College rejections are a tough but healthy way of learning that you are entering into a competitive, globally involved space. A story of failure may just provide you with that extra motivation for your next attempt.

The rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) methods in the past decade, along with the realisation that automated data-based AI tools can outperform even top-level human experts at some tasks, has given rise to the hope that AI may soon be able to take over many of the functions of a manager. This is hardly a new dream.

Frederick Taylor, in the late nineteenth century, already imagined the transformation of management to an engineering subject. The discipline of operations research was invented in the last century, mostly by experts working for the US Department of Defence, to quantify and automate

managerial tasks such as scheduling of work, planning of inventories, distribution and logistics, and production planning and management. A lot of tools that are used in AI were invented by operations research engineers. The advance of computer and communication technology in the latter part of the last century brought the dream of automated management and decision making even closer to reality.

Automated decision making is indeed, one of the central topics studied in AI. The general case is that of an intelligent agent that needs to make a sequence of decisions in the presence of uncertainty. A number of

MINDIT

AI tools are already available that can take a description of the business environment, its laws of evolution, and the set of actions that the manager can take and find a sequence of actions that minimises costs or maximises rewards. However, most of these tools are of recent vintage, still have a lot of theoretical shortcomings, and have not been tested extensively under real life conditions. Also, they work well only when the business problem they address is very well-defined

and can be expressed numerically.

As such, these tools can be of great use when the decisions to be made are in a well-specified and precisely measured domain such as production planning, or advertisement targeting, or financial asset-liability management. When the problem is less clearly specified, and less clearly measured, say as in customer satisfaction improvement, or human resource management, or strategy formulation, the

available tools are still at a very early stage of their life cycle and they are of an elementary nature. As such human intuition and expert judgment are more successful than any automated AI based method.

What will it take to change this? The answer turns out to lie in the relentless expansion in the capabilities of computer hardware and software, as embodied in Moore's Law and its corollaries. There is little doubt that in the 2030s we will look back at the early 2020s as an era of primitive computers that had only terabyte storage, gigabyte memories and gigahertz clock speeds and 5G communications.

As we push on to exabyte storage, petabyte memories and 7G communications, we will be able to pose messier real-life problems using conversational natural language interfaces, and solve them using much more advanced algorithms, maybe even quantum methods. This will bring business management automation within our grasp and ever more realistic decision problems can be solved to a degree of efficiency that will be beyond the abilities of even the best human managers.

The writer is Dr Debashis Guha, Director, Master of AI in Business, SP Jain School of Global Management



Last date to apply is August 31, 2021.

To recognise academic achievement, the University of Strathclyde's (Glasgow) Dean's International Excellence Award-Postgraduate Taught offers all qualified international PG students pursuing a Masters a merit based scholarship. The amount of £4,000 is towards the first year of tuition fees of a full-time Masters, EdD Education or one-year MRes programme in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Number of scholarships: 70

Duration: One year
Eligibility: Candidates must be available to commence their academic studies in the UK by the start of the academic year in September-October 2021.

Have an offer of study for a full time, postgraduate, Humanities and Social Sciences programme at the University of Strathclyde.

Have paid the tuition fee deposit before 31 August 2021.
For more information contact: Masters, PGDE, MRes: hass-pg-enquiries@strath.ac.uk; for EdD Education: hass-post-grad@strath.ac.uk
Application deadline:

The University of Melbourne, Australia invites applications for its Melbourne Mobility Awards. International students can apply.

Eligibility: The candidate must be enrolled at the university in either an undergraduate or a graduate course-work degree.

The applicant intends to study overseas as part of a University of Melbourne Exchange or short-term program or a University of Melbourne subject with an overseas component that will be credited towards your University of Melbourne degree.

Supporting documents: If applicants want to apply for a scholarship on the basis of financial disadvantage, personal difficulties or disability or medical condition, they will be asked to provide supporting documents like Centre link statement or medical certificates as part of the online application.

Admission requirements: For taking admission, applicants must have high school certificates with a good academic record.
How to apply: Applicants must submit an online application form.

Application deadline: The last date to apply for the awards is December 31, 2021

DATA SCIENCE AT HEYSTACK
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/172dd0
Deadline: August 12, 2021

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT GROWTHGEAR
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/d52998
Deadline: August 11, 2021

TECHNICAL RECRUITMENT AT TRUCLANCER
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link - internshala.com/i/a31551
Deadline: August 12, 2021

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE DEV (BI/ETL) AT CREDDGENICS
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹30,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/bc44b8
Deadline: August 12, 2021

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT SOCIAL CRAWLER
Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹6,000-₹8,000/Month
Link: internshala.com/i/f8b30d
Deadline: August 12, 2021

BIZ ANALYTICS AT ELECTROVESE SOLUTIONS
Location: Chandigarh, Delhi
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/f8d778
Deadline: August 11, 2021

DIGITAL MARKETING AT PATHARITECH
Location: Ranchi, Bokaro Steel City, Jamshedpur
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/d69261
Deadline: August 10, 2021

HR AT ZIGSAW CONSULTANCY
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/68456c
Deadline: August 12, 2021

INBRIEF

INCUBATION CENTRE AT ANANTU

The AnantUhas launched incubation centre — Aarambh with a vision to foster a culture of entrepreneurship among the design and architecture fraternity, students and budding entrepreneurs to use Design Thinking for solving societal problems with a long-term impact.



The aim is to promote the entrepreneurship culture in and around the campus by offering various platforms to budding entrepreneurs to experiment with their business ideas, get one-on-one mentorships from domain experts and professionals from

the industry, interact with investors and create their own organisation and or enterprise. The platform will nurture entrepreneurial thinking, promote business knowledge and inculcate confidence in every student. It would add value to the entrepreneur and make an impact on society at large.

Partnered with the Student Startup & Innovation Policy, Government of Gujarat and IIT Kanpur, the incubation centre provides an integrated approach to learning that includes converting the idea into a feasible business proposition, connecting to the entrepreneurial network assist in pitching the idea to the right audience.

SUCCESSFUL IELTS TRAINING BY LEAP

The Leap's IELTS training programme has been attended by more than two lakh study abroad aspirants since its

launch in February 2021. It offers a whole suite of curated courses, delivered fully digitally on the web and the app. The

IELTS is a globally accepted standardisation test, designed to gauge the English language proficiency of non-native speakers.

PARTNERSHIP INKED

The Aplicar, an end-to-end student recruitment tech start-up has announced its partnership with Portage College and CodeCore College. Students and recruitment partners from around the globe can now access these esteemed institutions only through Aplicar. Located in New

Westminster, CodeCore College was founded in 2008 in Vancouver as a coding bootcamp. It has been providing practical programming training tailored to industry needs to students. With many innovative courses, this college has a placement rate of 95% within 90 days of graduation.

2ND EDITION OF F-SET ANNOUNCED

The Association of International Wealth Management of India (AIWMI) has announced the second edition of India's largest Financial Services Employability test (F-SET) which is a national assessment designed for aspirants who are keen to work in the financial services.

The assessment consists of 14 individual tests focusing on various verticals and functions

with financial services. For an aspirant keen to work in financial services, F-SET is a fantastic way to gain insight and get ahead of peers in preparation for the recruitment processes of financial services institutions.

The registration process has already started for and the last date of enrolment is September 30, 2021.

Duration of each exam will be two hours and

results will be announced on October 17, 2021. The fees for the assessment is ₹354 till August 15, ₹472 between August 16 September 15 and ₹590 post September 16 till the last date.

Aditya Gadge founder-CEO of AIWMI said: "Appearing for various assessments under F-SET is an ideal way for aspirants to test their knowledge and gain national recognition."

2ND EDITION OF PRE-INCUBATION PROGRAMME AT IIMU

The Indian Institute of Management Udaipur (IIMU) Incubation Centre opened registrations for its second cohort of the pre-incubation programme for early-stage ventures, students and working professionals with product ideas. The program is open to 30 eligible participants and will run from September 1, 2021 till November 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought

a surge in entrepreneurship. The programme will host live curated workshops, structured modules, offer incubation team support and provide a learning community.

The modules will help participants to understand target customers and their problems, design prototype and define business model, understand pricing, learn to find investment and launch product.

FARMERS FAMILY SIGNS MOU WITH IIML-EIC

Farmers Family, a Noida-based agritech startup, has signed a long-term memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IIM Lucknow-Enterprise Incubation Centre (IIML-EIC). The signing of the MoU marks a significant development in promoting entrepreneur development, startup incubation, and opening up investment avenues to the business.

According to the MoU signed with IIM Lucknow, Farmers Family will receive guidance from IIML-EIC incubator expert mentors, investors, experienced and successful senior business and corporate sector executives and industry veterans on a broad range of topics, including the fundamentals of setting up a business, among others.

Vikal Kulshreshtha, Co-founder & CEO, Farmers Family said, "Our association with the world-class premier institute is not only fostering close linkages between academia and industry but will also open new avenues for resource sharing. We believe that this partnership has the real potential to make a deep and tangible impact on our business and enable us to reach milestones."

TOKYO TIMELINE

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

● **Athletics:** Tajinder Pal Singh Toor finished 13th in men's shot put qualification group A, fails to qualify for final.
Annu Rani finished 14th in women's javelin throw qualification group A, fails to advance to final.
● **Hockey:** India lost to Belgium 2-5 in men's semi-final, will play for Bronze medal.
● **Wrestling:** Sonam Malik lost to Bolortuya Khurelkhuu (Mongolia) after 2-2 scoreline in first round of women's freestyle 62kg event.

IN ACTION TODAY

● **Athletics:** Neeraj Chopra in men's javelin throw Qualification Group A. (05:35 am)
Shivpal Singh in men's javelin throw Qualification Group B. (07:05 am)
● **Boxing:** Lovlina Borgohain vs Busenaz Surmeneli (Turkey) in women's 69kg semifinal 1. (11:00 am)
● **Golf:** Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar in women's individual stroke play round (05:55 am onwards)
● **Hockey:** India vs Argentina in women's semi-final. (03:30 pm)
● **Wrestling:** Ravi Kumar vs Oscar Eduardo Tigreros (Colombia) in men's freestyle 57kg. (4th bout after 08:00 am start)

Anshu Malik vs Iryna Kurachkina (Belarus) in women's freestyle 57kg. (5th bout after 08:00 am start)
Deepak Punia vs Ekereke Agiomor (Nigeria) in men's freestyle 86kg. (8th bout after 08:00 am start)

Live on **SONY TEN & SIX Network**

Brazil vs Spain in final

Tokyo: Spain will play reigning champions Brazil in the Olympic men's football final after Marco Asensio's superb extra-time winner on Tuesday secured a 1-0 victory over host nation Japan in Saitama. The Real Madrid winger came off the bench as a substitute and curled in a terrific strike in the 115th minute, sending Spain through.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to General Public that Smt. Sita Devi W/o Sh. Chandernandan has lost her previous sale deed no. 5872 dated 13.08.2007 in favour of Smt. Sheela Devi W/o Sh. Balbir and Smt. Ramraj W/o Sh. Prem Singh for Property i.e. plot No. 18 measuring 111 Sq. Yards situated at Shiv Nagar Hisar Tehsil & Distt Hisar. If any person has objection then file replies along with proof of ownership within 15 days before the undersigned. After lapsation of stipulated period no claim will be accepted regarding the above said property.

Rajesh Jain Advocate, Hisar.

Public Notice

General Public is informed that Sale Deed No. 11555 Dated 19.10.2011 in favour of rajni gupta w/o sandeep gupta and sale deed no. 5343 dated 03.10.2008 in favour of Mr. Darshan Lal s/o jivan dass. Lost somewhere, which is not found yet. If anybody found The Said Document, He/ She Can Contact Mr. Rahul Kumar R/o Prem Nagar, Lalru (M) +91-9855483527.

Public Notice

Public is informed that Rama Devi W/o Dharampal has lost its previous Sale deed dated 11/01/2008 no.9372 in favour of Krishan S/o Rai Singh for the property situated at Plot no.23 in New Dairy Complex Kanhil Road, Rohtak. If any person has found Intimation Possession / Knowledge for above said document then Submit/ Intimate within 15 days to Pankaj Sharma, Advocate, Chamber 392, Distt. Courts Rohtak-09896553019. Thereafter no claim will be accepted.

Pankaj Sharma, Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to General Public that Smt. Partha W/o Sh. Deepak Kumar has lost her previous sale deed no. 2257 dated 04.07.2013 in favour of Smt. Rekha Rani W/o Sh. Devraj for Property i.e. Part of bearing Khevat no. 43, Khatoni no. 121 to 137 kite 75 Khasra no. 340/5, 6, 13, 14, measuring 75 Sq. Yards, Situated at Fatehabad Teh & Distt Fatehabad. If any person has objection then file replies along with proof of ownership within 15 days before the undersigned. After lapsation of stipulated period no claim will be accepted regarding the above said property.

Rajesh Jain Advocate, Hisar

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of General Public that we have lost the original Apartment Buyer's Agreement No. ABA/ARB/3001 issued by Pioneer Urban Land & Infrastructure Ltd. For Flat No. B-3001, 30th Floor, Araya at Sector-62, Gurugram (Hry). Lost on 01-08-2021 at Gurugram, It has been reported to Police vide App. No. 132270882100304. If found, please send to below address:-

Dr. Kirat Cheema (Director)
Mr. Sahjiv Singh Sandhu (Director)
M/s Springdale Core Consultants Pvt. Ltd. 606, PP City Centre, Road No. 44, Pitampura, New Delhi.

'Need to focus on Bronze medal match'

Indian men's hockey team dream of Olympic Gold end with 2-5 defeat against world champions Belgium in semis; will play Germany for third place tomorrow

PTI ■ TOKYO

The 2-5 loss to Belgium in the Olympic semifinals on Tuesday is disappointing but Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh and star custodian P R Sreejesh said the side has no time to dwell on the heartbreak as it has to refocus for the Bronze medal play-off on Thursday.

The eight-time winners of Olympic Gold, the last of which came way back in 1980, fell short against world champions Belgium, losing 2-5 in the semifinals here on Tuesday.

"It is really hard for me right now because we came with a winning mindset, but unfortunately we didn't win the match. Now we need to focus on our next Bronze medal match and we need to work and we need to get the medal," Manpreet said after the loss.

"It's a great honour for us reaching the semifinal after a long time, but now I think we need to focus because the



next match is going to be really important for us. At least we should win a Bronze medal for the nation," he added.

The skipper said having toiled hard for the last five years to reach this level, India deserved a better result on Tuesday.

"It's always been hard work and togetherness. This team has been together for the last four or five years. We have worked really hard to be reaching this level. We deserve better, and unfortunately we couldn't get it today."

Sreejesh agreed with his

skipper and said the loss against Belgium is a thing of the past now and the team needs to focus on returning home with a medal from here.

"Disappointed, but you don't have time to worry about that. You need to forget about that and think about

the future. Now we still have a chance to win a medal and that's more important for us than crying at this time," he said.

"It's more important for us to think about the future, watch the match, think about where we lost, where we committed the mistakes, rectify that, and move on," added.

Senior India defender Rupinder Pal Singh too feels that all is not lost in the ongoing Games for them.

"Of course it's heartbreaking for us, reaching the semifinal after 41 years and we were here to win a Gold medal. That was our aim, but we lost today. The great thing is we have a chance to finish third in the next game so we will focus on that," he said. Rupinder believes a medal from Tokyo will be big for the sport back in the country. "If we win that, it's going to be for us only. Of course there are a lot of people behind this and supporting us. But we are going to win for us first and then (everyone else). That's a great

motivation, too," the tall drag-flicker said.

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD
(A CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION UNDERTAKING)
8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh-160009, Ph.: 0172-4601826

PUBLIC NOTICE
Before Secretary, CHB Exercising the Powers of the Estate Officer, UT Chandigarh.

Subject:- Mutation / Transfer of the of the transferee in respect of Dwelling Unit No. 2717, of MIG-I (Independent) Category in Sector 40-C, Chandigarh on the basis of Transfer Deed in the name of (i) Sh. Rajesh Bagga S/o Sh. Harbans Lal Bagga and (ii) Sh. Ajay Kumar Bagga S/o Sh. Harbans Lal Bagga from the name of allottee/transferee Sh. Harbans Lal Bagga S/o Late Sh. Godha Ram Bagga.

(FATHER TO SON)
It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that the Dwelling Unit No. 2717, of MIG-I (Independent) Category in Sector 40-C, Chandigarh stands in the name of Sh. Harbans Lal Bagga S/o Late Sh. Godha Ram Bagga. It has been reported by (i) Sh. Rajesh Bagga S/o Sh. Harbans Lal Bagga and (ii) Sh. Ajay Kumar Bagga S/o Sh. Harbans Lal Bagga have applied for transfer of ownership right in respect of said Dwelling unit on the basis of Transfer Deed in his name which was Executed and registered in office of Sub-Registrar Chandigarh on 13.07.2021.

If any body has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of applicant, he/she/they may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which, the ownership of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of above said claimant(s).

Secretary,
Chandigarh Housing Board, Chandigarh.
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8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh-160009, Ph.: 0172-4601826



PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Transfer/Mutation of Allotment/ Registration of D U.No. 649 of Category LIG(D) Sector 41-A, Chandigarh in the names of 1. Smt. Suraksha Rani-W/o Late Sh. Brij Mohan Sharma 2. Sh. Naresh Kumar Sharma S/o Late Sh. Brij Mohan Sharma 3. Sh. Sanjeev Kumar S/o Late Sh. Brij Mohan Sharma 4. Sh. Naveen Kumar S/o Late Sh. Brij Mohan Sharma on the instestate Demise of allottee/transferee Sh Brij Mohan S/o Sh Ram Sarup.

It is hereby notified for the information of the General Public and all concerned that Sh. Brij Mohan S/o Sh. Ram Sarup owner of Dwelling Unit No 649 of Category LIG (D) Sector 41-A, Chandigarh expired on 22.5.2021 at Chandigarh as informed by has legal heirs 1. Smt. Suraksha Rani W/o Late Sh. Brij Mohan Sharma 2. Sh. Naresh Kumar Sharma S/o Late Sh. Brij Mohan Sharma 3. Sh. Sanjeev Kumar S/o Late Sh. Brij Mohan Sharma 4. Sh. Naveen Kumar S/o Late Sh. Brij Mohan Sharma. If any person has objection then file replies along with proof of ownership within 15 days before the undersigned. After lapsation of stipulated period no claim will be accepted regarding the above said property.

In case anybody has any objection regarding the claim/right/interest in the dwelling unit which is proposed to be transferred by the Chandigarh Housing Board in favour of (1) Smt. Suraksha Rani (Wife) (2) Sh. Naresh Kumar Sharma (son) 3. Sh. Sanjeev Kumar (Son) 4. Sh. Naveen Kumar (Son), he/she may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the registration and allotment of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of the above claimant's

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Chandigarh Housing Board, Chandigarh.
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Transfer/Mutation of Allotment/ Registration D.U.No. 2122 of Category - EWS in Sector 40-C, Chandigarh in the names of (i) Smt. Jaswinder Kaur W/o S. Asket Singh D/o Late S. Kesar Singh (ii) Smt. Amarjeet Kaur W/o S. Sarabjeet Singh D/o Late S. Kesar Singh (iii) Sh. Parvinder Singh S/o Late S. Kesar Singh (iv) Smt. Gurpreet Kaur W/o S. Amrinder Singh D/o Late S. Kesar Singh (v) S. Ratandeep Singh S/o Late S. Kesar Singh on the instestate Demise of allottee/transferee Smt. Paramjit Kaur W/o Late Sh. Kesar Singh.

It is hereby notified for the information of the General Public and all concerned that Smt. Paramjit Kaur W/o Late Sh. Kesar Singh owners of Dwelling UnitNo 2122 of Category - EWS in Sector 40-C, Chandigarh expired on 12.05.2021 at Chandigarh as informed by his legal heirs, (i) Smt. Jaswinder Kaur W/o S. Asket Singh D/o Late S. Kesar Singh (ii) Smt. Amarjeet Kaur W/o S. Sarabjeet Singh D/o Late S. Kesar Singh (iii) Sh. Parvinder Singh S/o Late S. Kesar Singh (iv) Smt. Gurpreet Kaur W/o S. Amrinder Singh D/o Late S. Kesar Singh (v) S. Ratandeep Singh S/o Late S. Kesar Singh have requested for transfer of ownership of Dwelling Unit No. 2122 of Category - EWS in Sector 40-C, Chandigarh in their names on the basis of instestate demise of Smt. Paramjit Kaur W/o Late Sh. Kesar Singh. They have further stated that no other legal heir has been left out and they are the only legal heirs of deceased owner of the above said Dwelling Unit.

In case anybody has any objection regarding the claim/right/interest in the dwelling unit which is proposed to be transferred by the Chandigarh Housing Board in favour of (i) Smt. Jaswinder Kaur (Daughter) (ii) Smt. Amarjeet Kaur (Daughter) (iii) Sh. Parvinder Singh (Son) (iv) Smt. Gurpreet Kaur (Daughter) (v) S. Ratandeep Singh (Son), he/she may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the registration and allotment of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of the above claimant's.

Secretary,
Chandigarh Housing Board, Chandigarh.
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Lovlina chases historic final berth

Tokyo: A medal already secured, Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) will be in pursuit of history when she takes on reigning world champion Busenaz Surmeneli of Turkey in the Olympic semifinals here on Wednesday, aiming to become the first ever Indian boxer to advance to the Games final.

The 23-year-old from Assam, who started her career as a Muay Thai practitioner, has become only the third Indian boxer to ensure a podium finish at the showpiece after Vijender Singh (2008) and M C Mary Kom (2012).

Hers is also the first Olympic medal in boxing in nine years and the aim now is to reach where none before her has reached, the finals.

"Since the bout is in the afternoon, we have been training in the afternoon everyday for the past two days," national coach Mohammed Ali Qamar said on the eve of the



crucial fight.

"As for Lovlina, all that needs to be conveyed in terms of strategy has been conveyed to her and she is ready. These two have never faced each other before so it is an uncharted territory for both of them," he added.

"She is very upbeat and confident about a good per-

formance and I am sure she will deliver."

The boxer herself seemed pretty clear about her path ahead after the semifinal win over former world champion Nien-Chin Chen on the Chinese Taipei.

"Medal to bad gold hota hai, let me get that first," she had said after the historic triumph which ensured that the nine-strong Indian boxing team that came here has at least one medal to celebrate.

Borgohain has shown remarkable composure for a debutant at the sport's biggest extravaganza. And it is this poise that might do the trick for her against the imposing opponent from Turkey, who is seeded top in the draw.

Surmeneli is also 23 and has collected two Gold medals this year internationally.

Borgohain is no novice either and has secured two world championship Bronze medals so far in her career.

ELECTION PROGRAMME

Election programme for The Managing Committee of The Kainthala Khurd Cooperative Credit & Service Society Ltd., Kainthala Khurd to be held on 27.08.2021.

Sr. No.	Particulars	Date & Time	Place
1.	Exhibition of the list of voters as required under Sub para (2) of Rule 35	02.08.2021 to 09.08.2021	1. Office of A.R.C.S. 2. At the Regd. Office of the Society 3. Concerned Sale Point of the society 4. Concerned Branch C.B. 5. Inspector Kurukshetra - II
2.	Hearing of objections of the list of the voters as required Under Sub para rule (4) of Rule 35	13.08.2021 10:00 am to 12:00 pm	In the Office of Assistant Registrar, Coop. Societies Kurukshetra
3.	Filing of Nomination Papers.	16.08.2021, 10 am to 2 pm	-do-
4.	Scrutiny of Nomination Papers.	17.08.2021, 10 am to 13:00 pm	-do-
5.	Display of List of Validly nominated Candidates	17.08.2021, 2:00 pm	-do-
6.	Withdrawals of Nominated Candidates	19.08.2021, 10 am to 2 pm	-do-
7.	Allocation of election symbols	19.08.2021, 3:00 pm to 4 pm	-do-
8.	Display of list of contesting candidates	19.08.2021, 4:00 pm	-do-
9.	Taking of Poll (if necessary)	27.08.2021 08 am to 04 pm	In the premises of Society

NOTE: 1. It is compulsory for all voters to bring their Society Passbook / other Photo ID. 2. Out of 07 Committee members which has to be elected at least two women members, one S.C. member and if backward caste voters are 10% or more, one B.C. member will be elected and also out of these 7 committee members which has to be elected five members will be elected from Agri. members and two from non-agri. members

Ret. Returning Officer Assistant Registrar Coop. Societies, Kurukshetra

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
Tel. 01783-264437 iphnerwa@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed item rate tender on form No.688 are called by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Nerwa for the following works from approved and eligible contractors enlisted with Jal Shakti Vibhag so as to reach in this office on or before 11-08-2021 up to 11.00 AM and will be opened on the same day at 11.30 AM in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives if any. The tender forms can be had from this office against cash payment (Non-refundable) on any working day up to 10-08-2021 till 03.00 PM. The application for the issue to tender form will be received upto 10-08-2021 at 3.00 PM and tender form will be issued till 10-08-2021 upto 5.00 PM. The form can also be downloaded from Departmental web site www.hphip.org. Opening of tenders shall be considered as next working day if any holiday on above specified date.

The earnest money in the shape of FDR in any of the Nationalized Bank duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Nerwa must be accompanied with each tender. Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will be rejected. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject the tenders without assigning any reason. The contractors are advised to see site and read the conditions carefully before tendering. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days. Rate be quoted both in words and figures.

Sr. No.	Name of work	E/Cost (in Rs)	E/ Money. (in Rs)	Time	Cost of form
1	Repair of 25 No non functional hand pump under Jal Shakti Sub division Chopal Tehsil Chopal Distt Shimla H.P.	399410/-	8000/-	1 Month	250/-
2	Providing LWSS Patal Khad to Sari in GP Sari Tehsil Chopal Distt Shimla (SH- C/O 3 Nos RCC Storage tank of 35200 ltr cap. node no 4, 5400 ltr node no 5, 6100 ltr node no 10)	250986/-	5020/-	4 Month	250/-
3	Providing LWSS Patal Khad to Sari in GP Sari Tehsil Chopal Distt Shimla (SH- C/O 3 Nos RCC Storage tank of 10600 ltr cap. node no 16, 6900 ltr node no 20, 6900 ltr node no 25)	205290/-	4106/-	4 month	250/-
4	Prov GWSS to Up mahal Aar in GP Bijmal Tehsil Nerwa Distt Shimla (SH- C/O 1 No storage tank =10000 ltr cap & laying of pipe line 32mm dia 800 Rmt & 15mm dia 300 Rmt)	222985/-	4460/-	2 month	250/-
5	R/W of GWSS Kutangan in GP tharchoth Tehsil Nerwa Distt Shimla (SH- C/O 1 No storage tank 30000 ltr cap)	292121/-	5842/-	2 months	250/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The contractor should submit the registration with HP&PH Department, appropriate class and latest renewal thereof.
- The tender received without earnest money will be rejected.
- The income tax, GST and L/cess shall be deducted according to instruction issued by Govt. time to time.
- Copy of PAN card and GST No. be attached.
- Telegraphic / conditional tenders shall not be accepted.

Executive Engineer, Jal shakti Division Nerwa
RO No. 3002/21-22 Dt. 03-08-2021

ELECTION PROGRAMME

Election programme for The Managing Committee of The Mirzapur Cooperative Credit & Service Society Ltd., Mirzapur to be held on 05.09.2021.

Sr. No.	Particulars	Date & Time	Place
1.	Exhibition of the list of voters as required under Sub para (2) of Rule 35	02.08.2021 to 09.08.2021	1. Office of A.R.C.S. 2. At the Regd. Office of the Society 3. Concerned Sale Point of the society 4. Concerned Branch C.B. 5. Inspector Kurukshetra - II
2.	Hearing of objections of the list of the voters as required Under Sub para rule (4) of Rule 35	13.08.2021 10:00 am to 12:00 pm	In the Office of Assistant Registrar, Coop. Societies Kurukshetra
3.	Filing of Nomination Papers.	16.08.2021, 10 am to 2 pm	-do-
4.	Scrutiny of Nomination Papers.	17.08.2021, 10 am to 13:00 pm	-do-
5.	Display of List of Validly nominated Candidates	17.08.2021, 2:00 pm	-do-
6.	Withdrawals of Nominated Candidates	19.08.2021, 10 am to 2 pm	-do-
7.	Allocation of election symbols	19.08.2021, 3:00 pm to 4 pm	-do-
8.	Display of list of contesting candidates	19.08.2021, 4:00 pm	-do-
9.	Taking of Poll (if necessary)	05.09.2021 08 am to 04 pm	Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Mirzapur

NOTE: 1. It is compulsory for all voters to bring their Society Passbook / other Photo ID. 2. Out of 07 Committee members which has to be elected at least two women members, one S.C. member and if backward caste voters are 10% or more, one B.C. member will be elected and also out of these 7 committee members which has to be elected five members will be elected from Agri. members and two from non-agri. members

Ret. Returning Officer Assistant Registrar Coop. Societies, Kurukshetra

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD
(A CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION UNDERTAKING)
8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh-160009, Ph.: 0172-4601826

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sh. Ramesh Chand s/o Sh. Milkhi Ram r/o House no. 2209, Sector-40-C, Chandigarh, has approached to the Chandigarh Housing Board for the issuance of Duplicate Copy of Allotment letter Possession slip, and No Due Certificate document issued in favour Sh. Ramesh Chand s/o Sh. Milkhi Ram, in respect of Dwelling Unit No. 2209, Sector-40-C, Chandigarh due to loss of these documents. Sh. Ramesh Chand s/o Sh. Milkhi Ram has furnished the online Complaint at Police Post I.S.B.T Sector-43, Chandigarh vide, D.D.R No.17, dated 30.07.2021 regarding the loss of above said document. Any person having any objection, against the issuance of duplicate copy of Allotment letter Possession slip, and No Due Certificate document issued in favour Sh. Ramesh Chand s/o Sh. Milkhi Ram in respect of the above said Dwelling Unit to the said Sh. Ramesh Chand s/o Sh. Milkhi Ram he/she should file the objection before the undersigned in writing within 15 days from the publication of this notice, failing which the documents shall be issued. Further, in case original documents as mentioned above are found by anyone, the same should be submitted in the above noted Police Station or in the office of the undersigned.

Secretary,
Chandigarh Housing Board, Chandigarh.
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8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh-160009, Ph.: 0172-4601826



PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Transfer/Mutation of Allotment/ Registration D.U. No. 2092-3 of MIG Category in Sector 45-C, Chandigarh in the name of (i) Smt. Meenu Sood W/o Late Sh. Ashwani Sood (ii) Smt. Apurva Singh D/o Late Sh. Ashwani Sood W/o Sh. Maninder Singh (iii) Sh. Abhir Sood S/o Late Sh. Ashwani Sood on the instestate Demise of allottee/transferee Sh. Ashwani Sood S/o C.L. Sood.

It is hereby notified for the information of the General Public and all concerned that Sh. Ashwani Sood S/o C.L. Sood owner of Dwelling Unit No. 2092-3 of MIG Category in Sector 45-C, Chandigarh expired on 23.04.2021 at Chandigarh as informed by their legal heirs, (i) Smt. Meenu Sood W/o Late Sh. Ashwani Sood (ii) Smt. Apurva Singh D/o Late Sh. Ashwani Sood (iii) Smt. Maninder Singh (iii) Sh. Abhir Sood S/o Late Sh. Ashwani Sood have requested for transfer of, ownership of Dwelling Unit No. 2092-3 of MIG Category in Sector 45-C, Chandigarh in their name on the basis of instestate demise of Sh. Ashwani Sood S/o C.L. Sood. They have further stated that no other legal heir has been left out and they are the only legal heirs of deceased owner of the above said Dwelling Unit.

In case anybody has any objection regarding the claim/right/interest in the dwelling unit which is proposed to be transferred by the Chandigarh Housing Board in favour of (i) Smt. Meenu Sood (Wife) (ii) Smt. Apurva Singh (Daughter) (iii) Sh. Abhir Sood (Son) he/she may submit the objection in writing to the undersigned within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the registration and allotment of the said dwelling unit shall be transferred in favour of the above claimant's.

Secretary,
Chandigarh Housing Board, Chandigarh.
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