**OPINION 6** 

INDIA AT THE OLYMPICS

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NEW DELHI, MONDAY AUGUST 9, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

# **DGCA** steps in to clip the wings of airlines

#### India-UK tickets touch the skies

PNS NEW DELHI

A Delhi-London economy class air ticket priced at ₹4 lakh! Yes, that is the price tag for a Delhi-London British Airways flight for August 26. Following an outery over the exorbitant hike in airfares by airlines after the United Kingdom (UK) allowed Indian travelers to enter the country, with certain conditions from Sunday, the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked airlines to submit details of fares, they have been charging for India-UK flights in August.

A round frip between New Delhi and London by Air India in general cost somewhere

in general cost somewhere hetween ₹55,000 to ₹70,000,



but the prices skyrocketed just before August 8, the day the UK moved India from the 'Red List' to the 'Amber List', thus allowing Indian travellers to visit London.

to visit London.

On Saturday, Sanjeev
Gupta, Secretary, Inter-State
Council Secretariat, Union
Home Ministry, had complained on Twitter that an
economy class ticket on British
Airways Delhi-London flight
for August 26 was priced at
43,95 lakh. He added that the
economy class ticket on the

Delhi-London flights of Vistara and Air India for August 26 was also priced between 81.2 lakh and 82.3 lakh amid the rush for college admissions in the UK. The relaxation from UK, too, has come at the time when huge traffic is expected on the Delhi-London route because of the admissions. Officials of the DGCA said that it has asked the airlines that operate India UK flights cur-

operate India-UK flights cur-rently to submit details about their fares. According to offi-cials, the data collected by the

DGCA on Sunday shows the minimum one-way economy class fares on the Delhi-London nonstop flights during August. The fares range from ₹1,03,191 to ₹1,21,356 for Vistara and ₹1,28,916 to ₹1,47,544 for British Airways on different days this month. For Air India and Virgin Atlantic the minimum fare this month is ₹1,15,936 and ₹1,28,916, respectively.

₹1,15,936 and ₹1,28,916, respectively. Vistara, which currently perates flights on the Delhi-London as well as the Mumbai-London route, said on Sunday: Pricing is always a function of supply and demand. There are only 15 flights a week allowed currently on the India-UK route for Indian carriers and when there is relaxation and more capacity allowed, it will automatically bring down prices."

While there have been lower and upper limits on all domestic airfares in India since May 25 last year, no such lim-its have been imposed on international airfares.

Continued on Page 2

### 'Covid-19 vax combo gives more protection'

#### Mixing Covaxin, **Covishield jabs** results in better immunogenicity, says ICMR

PNS NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has said that a study on mixing and matching of two Covid-19 vaccines — Covaxin and Covishield — showed better immunogenicity than two doses of the same vaccine.

The study was conducted on 18 people of Uttar Pradesh's Siddharth Nagar who mistakenly received doses of two separate vaccines a few months ago.

The finding of the study, The finding of the study, which has been uploaded on medRxiv, but is yet to be peer-reviewed showed that immu-nisation with a combination of an adenovirus vector platform-based vaccine, followed by inactivated whole virus vaccine, was not only safe but also delivered better immuno-

genicity.
Covishield, manufactured by Pune's Serum Institute of India, is the adenovirus vector platform-based vaccine, while Covaxin, developed and man-



ufactured by Bharat Biotech and the ICMR, is the whole virus vaccine.

The subject expert committee of the Central Drugs Slandard Control Organisation had in July recommended a trial of mixing Covishied and Covaxin. The trial will be conducted by the Christian Medical College in Vellore on 300 healthy volunteers.

While that will be a proper clinical trial to investigate the effectiveness of the cocktail of Covishied and Covaxin, the ICMR's study titled 'Serendipitous Covid-19 Vaccine-Mix in Uttar Pradesh, India: Safety and Immunogenicity Assessment of a Heterologous Regime was based on the goof-up that took place in May. There was no immediate adverse impact of the mix-up on the beneficiaries. Now, a further study has revealed that the mix-up has actually worked in their favour

as the beneficiaries have more protection than those who have received two shots of the

same vaccine.

"Though India so far has followed homologous approaches (two doses of one vaccine) with Covishield and vaccine) with Covishield and Cowaxin, eighteen individuals, under the national programme, inadvertently received Covishield as the first jab and Covaxin as the second, "it said. "To the best of our knowl-edge, this is the first study which reports the effects of het-erologous prime-boost vac-erologous prime-boost vac-

tored vaccine followed by an inactivated whole virus vac-

inactivated whole virus vac-cine," the researchers said.

The researchers said.

The researchers compared
the safety and immunogenici-ty profile of those people who received two doses of different
vaccines, against that of indi-viduals receiving either
Covishield or Covaxin.

Continued on Page 2

#### **CAPSULE**

Mussoorie: The India-China LAC guarding Indo-Tibetan Border Police force on Sunday women officers for combat after they completed their training.P2

### HOPEFUL IT PANEL WILL TAKE UP PEGASUS: SHASHI

IAKE UP PEGASUS: STASHI
New Delhi: Chairman of the
Parliamentary panel on
information technology Shashi
Tharoor on Sunday said BJP
members disrupted the
committee's meeting on July 28
as they did not want the
Pagasus allerations to be Degasus allegations to be discussed and the officials whwere to testify "appear to have been instructed not to attend." He expressed hope the snooping issue would be taken up by panel going forward. P4

### DELHI TO TAKE 1 MORE YR TO VACCINATE ITS ADULTS New Delhi: It will take another year to vaccinate all eligible beneficiaries aged above 18 in the national Capital at "the present rate of Covid-19 vaccine

supply," the health department has told the DDMA. LAST CHANCE TO GET GRIF ON CLIMATE: UK MINISTER Minister in charge of the COP26 climate summit talks in Glasgow

climate summit tasis in Giasgow in November, on Sunday warned that the meeting hosted by Britain later this year is the world's last chance to get a grip on climate change. He also defended his recent hectic travel agenda, which came under some media criticism for his ministerial exemption from Codd-10 cell-inclusion. Covid-19 self-isolation rules. **P8** 

#### 2 held for making derogatory posts against judges, judiciary

The CBI has arrested two more persons in an ongoing investigation of a case relating to making derogatory posts on social media against judges and the judiciary.

The two arrested accused, Pattapu Aadarsh and Lavanuru Samba Siva Reddy, will be produced before the Competent Court, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, officials said.

Earlier on July 28, the

Pradesh, officials said.
Earlier on July 28, the agency had arrested two accused — Dhami Reddy Konda Reddy (currently in judicial custody) and Pamula Sudheer (currently in police custody till August 10).



The first arrest in the case was made by the CBI on July 9. The accused Lingareddy Rajasekhar Reddy, earlier working in Kuwait, was also remanded to judicial custody by the court.

Till now, five people have been arrested by CBI in the case. The CBI had registered a case on November 11 last year against 16 people and took over

the investigation of 12 FIRs from the CID, of Andhra Pradesh. The cases were taken over by the CBI in pursuance of the orders of the Andhra Pradesh High Court in response to a writ petition.

The original FIRs were registered on the complaints from the Registrar General of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The cases were registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code relating to promoting enmity between the Indian Penal Code relating to promoting enmity between various groups on grounds of religion, intentional insult and criminal intimidation besides relevant provisions of the Information Technology Act. Continued on Page 2

#### NIA raids 56 places in J&K in Jel terror funding case

The National Investigation
Agency (NIA) on Sunday
conducted searches at multiple
locations in 14 districts of
Jammu & Kashmir (B&K)
in connection with the Jamat-ese.
The searches were conducted in conjunction with
the Jammu & Kashmir Police
and the Central Reserve Police
and the Central Reserve Police

ducted in conjunction with the Jammu & Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPP) at 56 locations in Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora, Anantnag, Shopian, Pulwama, Kulgam, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar and Rajouri districts of the Valley.

The agency conducted the searches at the premises of office-bearers of the banned association, its members and also offices of trusts purportedly run by the Jel. During the searches, various incriminating documents and electronic devices were seized from the premises of the suspects.

The case was registered by the NIA on February 5 this year following an order from the

the NIA on February 5 this year following an order from the Union Home Ministry relating Union Home Ministry relating to separatist and secessionist activities of the Jel, under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, even after its proscription on February 28, 2019, the agency said.

"The members of the organisation have been collecting funds domestically and abroad through donations particularly in the form of Zakat, Continued on Page 2



ks at the stadium during the closing ceremony of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics on Sunday in Tokyo

### Rewards rain on India's Olympians

#### From pizzas to free air travel, winners get it all

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

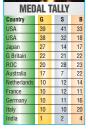
om pizzas to free air travel From pizzas to free air travel, rewards are raining on the Indian athletes who won medals for the country at the Tokyo Olympics. As a token of appre-ciation, Go First, previously known as GoAir, on Sunday announced free travel for all six Indian athletes and the men's hockey team who won medals at the Tokyo Olympics.

hockey team who won medals at the Tokyo Olympics. Bengaluru-based regional carrier Star Air, which connects

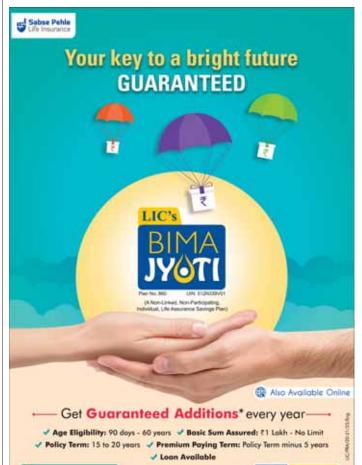


travel to javelin thrower Neeraj medal winners a lifetime of free travel. IndiGo airlines had announced on Saturday that it would offer unlimited free air

Chopra, who won the only Gold medal for India, for one



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#### In a first, ITBP inducts 2 women officers in combat

Mussoorie: For the first time, two women officers joined Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) as Assistant Commandants on Sunday after they passed out from ITBP Academy in Mussoorie. The rank ceremony was held at the Academy in presence of

rank ceremony was held at the Academy in presence of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.
The ITBP started the appointment of woman combat officers as company commanders through UPSC/CAPF exams in 2016. The two officers are Prakriti and Diksha (both officers go by their first name). The two women combations of the properties of the propertie ised officers who are part of 42 Assistant Commandants (GD)

Commandants (Engineer) par-ticipated in the passing-out parade conducted at the acad-emy.

Prakriti is an electrical engineer and Diksha is the daughter of serving Inspector Kamlesh Kumar in the ITBP.

During the passing-out parade, CM Dhami told the officers, You are lucky that you have got the opportunity to serve ITBP, which is deployed on the borders of Tibet and China.

During the event, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force released the first-ever book on its history titled 'History of ITBP'. The book

and 11 Assistant has been published in view of Commandants (Engineer) participated in view of making a reference volume for trighted. has been published in view of making a reference volume for factual history and knowledge of the force to officers and its troops. The paramilitary force said the book will also be useful for administrative and training purposes for in-depth details as the official history of the force, informed the ITBP. There was no such book on the ITBP available till this publication, said ITBP

the ITBP available till this pub-lication, said ITBP Spokesperson, Vivek Kumar Pandey, adding "it contains historical achievements of the force since its inception". The book is in English and reflects different facts and facets about historical developments in the force over the years. PTI



Devotees offer prayers on the occasion of Amavasya in front of the closed Koniamman temple ahead of the third wave of Covid-19, in Coimbatore on Sunday

#### Delhi: DDA asks Environ Min to allow compensatory afforestation for some projects in nearby States

In a view of a shortage of land lin the Capital, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has requested the Union Environment Ministry to allow compensatory afforestation in adjoining states if forest land is acquired in the city for Central projects.

projects.

The ministry's Forest Advisory Committee discussed the issue in June-end and requested additional information from Delhi authorities to ascertain how the proposal for relaxed compensatory afforestation norms can impact the city's green cover.

green cover.
"There is very limited land available in Delhi for compenavailable in Delhi for compen-satory afforestation. It had been planned that 15 percent of

Delhi's area will be set aside for green cover.

This area is already saturated ... either due to plantation or other public facilities coming up on it. So, we don't have vacant non-forest land for compensatory afforestation," a DDA official said. According to the guidelines issued under the Forest Conservation Act, compensatory afforestation is to be carried out on suitable non-forest land, equivalent to the area proposed for diversion, at the cost of the user agency.

Compensatory afforestation can also be raised in degraded land, twice in extent of the forest area diverted, in case of the projects implemented by the Central government or public sector undertakings.

The guidelines also state that

AP Govt reappoints

Subba Reddy as TTD

in exceptional cases where land for compensatory afforestation (CA) is not available in the same state or Union Territory, non-forest or degraded land for CA can be identified in any other state or UTs for projects of the central government or PSUs, the official said.

"So, we have requested the ministry to allow compensatory afforestation for central government projects in nearby states as we have been finding it very difficult to identify non-forest land in Delhi," he said.

In its latest meeting, the FAC observed that any relaxation in the compensatory afforestation norms will "ultimately lead to reduction in forest cover of Delhi which is not a desirable stitution for residents of Delhi in cast and the said with the said with the said and the said with the said with the said and the said with the said

uation for residents of Delhi in the present and in the future".

#### Cabinet Secy warns officers of action if they fail to attend I-Day event at Red Fort

New Delhi: Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba has warned officers invited for the Independence Day function at the Red Fort that a "serious view" will be taken if they fail to attend the event.

In a communication to the secretaries of all Union ministries and departments, Gauba said the Independence Day flag hoisting ceremony at the Red Fort, from where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also address the nation, has its own significance and the officers invited for the function are expected to attend.

"It has been observed that some of the invited officers fail to attend the ceremony. This is inappropriate considering that the occasion is of great national importance. There is clearly a need to remind the officers that it is their duty to attend the Independence Day ceremony, he said. In his letter, Gauba also said that in view of social distancing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, officers of only joint secretary level and above have been invited for the ceremony this year.

"You may suitably advice all officers of your ministry/department, who are invited to the independence day ceremony, to attend the function. You may also like to caution them that a serious view can be taken of their absence on this occasion," Gauba told the secretaries.

#### HC to hear CBI's plea in INX Media corruption case

PTI NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court is scheduled to hear on Monday the CBI's plea in the INX Media corruption case involving Congress leader P Chidambaram and his son Karti. The CBI has challenged a trial court's order CBI has challenged a trial court's order directing the agency to allow inspection of documents kept in the 'malkhana' (room where case properties are kept) by the accused and their counsel. The plea is listed for hearing before Justice Mukta Gupta. The high court had on May 18 stayed trial proceedings in the case involving Chidambaram and his son Karti.

It had also issued notice and sought responses of Chidambaram and others on the CBI's plea.

on the CBI's plea.

The CBI has sought to set aside the special judge's March 5, 2021 order to the extent that it directed the CBI to

allow inspection of documents kept in malkhana by the respondents/accused/ heir counsel. Besides, the CBI has also sought setting aside the observations in the order which says that the agency is required to file or produce before the court all the documents collected by it during investigation.

court all the documents collected by it during investigation.

The trial court had also said that the accused are also entitled to copies of such documents or inspections therefor, irrespective of the fact whether they are being relied upon by the CBI or not. The CBI had registered its case on May 15, 2017, alleging irregularities in a Foreign Investment Promotion Board clearance granted to INX Media group for receiving overseas funds of Rs 305 crore in 2007 during Chidambaram's tenure as finance minister. tenure as finance minister. Thereafter, the ED had lodged the

oney laundering case. The CBI had said this case involved

high level of corruption with wide ramifications on society and while the accused have a right to a fair trial, the collective interest of the society cannot be impringed.

collective interest or un security to be impinged.

"A fair trial is not what the accused wants in the name of a fair trial but must soothe the ultimate justice. Although right of fair trial of the respondents/accused was not infringed, since all documents relied upon by pet intoner-CBI were provided to the respondents/accused...," it has added that it is trite that the

It has added that it is trite that the It has added that it is trite that the right to fair trial is not singularly absolute, as is perceived, from the perspective of the accused and it also takes within its ambit and sweep the rights of the society at large. The agency has contended that the very essence of trial is to unearth the truth for which the court cannot assist the accused in search of a plausible defence.

Amaravat: The Andhra Pradesh Government on Sunday reappointed Y V Subba Reddy, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's uncle, as the Chairman of Tirumali Pausthanams Board, ending a lot of speculation over his future.

Subba Reddy, a former MP, Served as TTD Board Chairman for a two-year term till June this year.

Speculation had been rife that he would be either sent to the Rajya Sabha next year or made a member of the AP Legislative Council and inducted into the state Cabinet.

**Board Chairman** Though some other names did the rounds for the coveted TTD Chairman post, the Chief Minister relied on his uncle only, sources in the ruling YSR Congress said.

Accordingly, Principal Secretary (Revenue-

Accordingly, Principal Secretary (Revenue-Endowments) G Vani Mohan issued a formal order consti-tuting the TTD Board with Subba Reddy as Chairman as per the AP Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act, 1987. The other members would be appointed shortly, the Principal Secretary said in the order. PTI

#### CIABC hails Delhi liquor licence allotments but cautions against high bid prices

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) has, while welcoming the successful allotment of retail wends through bidding, cautioned against high prices of alcohol licences in Delhi and hoped that high auction prices are not passed on to consumers in the form of themands for under discounts. "Whilst we compliment Delhi Government for high revenues collection, we also urge it to ensure that such high auction prices are not passed on consumers in form of higher prices, or to manufacturers in form of higher prices, or to manufacturers in form of higher prices, or to manufacturers in form of discounts. Neither of the two will be good for long term health of the industry, "CIABC Director General Vinod Giri said in a statement on Sunday. "We hope that the bidders have made realistic estimates of revenues and expenses and are able to achieve that without undue stress to themselves or to other stakeholders," Giri added. Notably, in the auction of liquor licences in 20 out of 32 zones in the National Capital after the announcement of new liberalized exise policy, the Delhi government has earned a record

icy, the Delhi government has earned a record Rs. 5,300 crores, while another Rs.3,000 crores are likely to be earned from the remaining auction of licences.

of licences. There has been visible excitement and s "There has been visible excitement and sense of anticipation around the tendering for Delhi liquor retail vends. The outcome has opened up Delhi trade to experienced retailers, not only from the city, but also from other parts of the country. It should help bring in new ideas and innovation to uplift the quality of liquor retailing in Delhi. Distribution of licenses amongst diverse groups should also weigh in against formation of trade cartels which was and remains one of our major concerns," said. Giri.

#### Jyotiraditya Scindia conducts aerial survey of flood-hit areas in Gwalior-Chambal region

Guna (MP),; Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Sunday con-ducted an aerial survey of flood-hit areas of the Gwalior-Chambal region and directed officials to restore public

and directed officials to restore public services on priority.

Taking a jibe at Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath, who conducted aerial surveys of the flood-affected region on Saturday, Scindia said the former should have got down to coat the "ground reality".

said the former should have got down to see the "ground reality".

"One should not confine himself just to conducting aerial surveys. Whenever such visits are made. Those conducting such visits should also get down on the ground to see the actual

situation,"
Scindia told reporters when asked Scindia told reporters when asked about Nath's aerial survey. Talking to reporters in Gwalior before surveying in the morning, Scindia had said the region had not witnessed such devastation in the past four decades. At least 24 people died and thousands were evacuated to safety as rains lashed the Chambal-Gwalior region of north Madhya Pradesh earlier this week.

week.
On Sunday, state Home Minister
Narottam Mishra said the flood situation was improving following which
no rescue operation was undertaken.
He said nearly 14,000 people were staying in more than 230 relief camps in
the affected districts. ground situation is more important than aerial surveys and that is why

wherever I undertake such surveys, I make it sure to visit those places on the ground as well to assess the actual problems being faced by the people. "My feet are always rooted to the ground. I don't believe in just aerial surveys. Anyway, this is a crisis time and the ruling party, as well as opposition members, are first the public servants, and therefore, they should serve the people with dedication," the Guna royal said.

After conducting the aerial survey. Scindia discussed the situation with ministers and officials. He asked them to restore public services on priority. Scindia also directed them to provide relief money to the affected people without delay and also the drinking water. He said transmission lines and transformers are repaired immediately and power restored. Also, he asked officials to ensure speedy distribution of odgrains even in those areas where roads are damaged, sources close to the minister said quoting him.

Scindia also directed officials to organise health camps in the affected villages to check the spread of diseases.

Scindia also directed officials to organise health camps in the affected villages to check the spread of diseases. He also criticized Congress for its stand on COVID-19 vaccines and lockdowns.

"People are aware of the reality of

that party (Congress) and their ideology. They are not bothered about the people's lives and believe in doing cheap politics," he added.

PTI

#### Khattar visits Ravi Dahiya's home in Sonipat; Vij meets Neeraj Chopra's parents in Panipat

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar met the family of wrestler Ravi Dahiya, who won silver medal at the ongoing Tokyo Olympics, while Home Minister Anil Vij

at the ongoing Tokyo Olympics, while Home Minister Anil Vij went to Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra's home in Panipat to congratulate his parents. Dahiya's family and representatives of Nahri village in Sonipat expressed gratitude to Khattar for boosting the morale of sportspersons and creating a harmonious environment for them to grow and perform at the international platform, according to an official statement here on Sunday. The chief minister, while congratulating the parents of the wrestler at his native Nahri village, also resolved several issues of the area on the spot, it said. Among the family members present along with other representatives were Ravi Dahiya's father Rakesh and uncle Mukesh Dahiya, members of the Nahri Gram Panchayat and former sarpanch of the village. At star javelin thrower

Panchayat and former sarpanch of the village. At star javelin thrower Chopra's home on Sunday, Vij congratulated the family, saying he has made the country proud. After honouring Chopra's parents with a turban and a shawl, Vij bowed down and touched their feet.

"I have come to touch the feet of the parents of the son-of-the-soil who has brought in-tures to the entire nation," he told reporters later. Vij said, "The country used to wait from

told reporters later. V13 said, The country used to wait from one Olympics to the other in the hope of winning a gold in athletics. That wait is over now and Neeraj has fulfilled that dream. His performance will encourage more sportspersons to achieve heights of glory.

Replying to a question, he said if Chopra wants to set up an academy to train youngsters, he government will consider. Chopra's father Satish said that the Olympic champion will be arriving in India on Monday evening. He said once he is back in the country will the said in the

will reach his hometown.
Meanwhile, during
Khattar's visit to Dahiya's home,
village representatives presented a demand letter to the chief
minister in which grievances of
the people of the area were listd. Khattar impediately.

the people of the area were listed. Khattar immediately
took up the grievances and
asked the officers concerned to
resolve them on priority basis.
Among the key issues, which
the representatives shared with
the chief minister, was the
problem of water drainage in
the area.

PTI



#### Rewards rain on...

From Page 1
This year is being seen as India's best showing at the Olympics yet, with athletes finishing the campaign with one gold, two silvers, and four bronze medals for the

silvers, and four bronze medias for the country.

A token of appreciation for those who brought us glory at #Olympics2021.

We are happy to offer free travel on our network for 5 years to all medal winners, Go First said in a tweet.

The airlines also tagged the Twitter handles of the Indian athletes who won medals at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The seven Olympics medallists Mirabai Chanu (weight-lifting), PV Sindhu (badminton), Lovlina Borgohain (boxing), the men's hockey team, Ravi Kumar Dahiya (wrestling), Bajrang Punia (wrestling), Bajrang Punia (wrestling), and gold medallist Neeraj Chopra (javelin throw) will be provided free air travel for any Go First sectors for the next five years, Go First noted.

On the other hand, Star Air said it is offering a lifetime of free air travel for the

On the other hand, Star Air said it is offering a lifetime of free air travel for the Tokyo 2020 medal winners. "Star Air congratulates all the Indian Olympic Champions of Tokyo 2020," a tweet posted from the airlines' Twitter handle read.

The post included a graphic, showing 'Free Air Tickets' for Indian medal-

Star Air is an Indian commuter air Star Air is an Indian commuter air-line based at Kempegowda International Airport in Bangalore, Karnataka. It start-ed operations in January 2019, offering flights within Karnataka state as well as

flights within Karnataka state as well as to neighboring Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madlya Pradesh, Rajasthan as part of the Central Government's UDAN scheme. Budget carrier IndiGo has announced that it will offer unlimited free travel to 'Gold Medallist' Neeraj Chopra for a period of one year. The offer is applicable from August 8, 2021, till August 7, 2022. In a statement, Ronojo Dutta, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), IndiGo said, "Neeraj we were all overjoyed to hear about your remarkable achievement. You have made the country proud, and I know

about your remarkable achievement. You have made the country proud, and I know all IndiGo employees would be truly honoured to welcome you onboard one of our flights."

"With all humility, we would like to offer you free flights on IndiGo for a year. You have shown us what hard work, resilience and passion can achieve and I am sure you will be a torchbearer for future Indian athletes. Well done, Neeraj', he said.

#### 'Covid-19 vax combo...

COVIG-19 VAX COMDO...

From Page 1

The study showed that the immunogenicity profile against Alpha, Beta and Delta variants in the heterologous group was superior. "We compared the safety and immunogenicity profile of hem (18 individuals) against that of those receiving either Covishield or Covaxin. Lower and similar adverse events following immunisation in all three groups underlined the safety of the combination vaccine-regime.
"The immunogenicity profile against Alpha, Beta and Delta variants in the heterologous group was superior and the IgG antibody and neutralising antibody response of the participants was also significantly higher compared to that in the homologous groups," the study stated.
These findings have an important implication for the Covid-19 vaccination programme where in heterologous immunisation will pave the way for induction of improved and better protection against the variant strains of SARS-CoV-2, the researchers underlined. "Such mixed regimens will also helit to over-

against the variant is stands to 3rax-CO-v2, the researchers underlined.

"Such mixed regimens will also help to overcome the challenges of shortages of particular vaccines and remove hesitancy around vaccines in people's mind that could have genesis in programmatic 'errors' especially in settings where multiple COVID-19 vaccines are being used," they said.

### clip the wings...

Clip the Wings...
From Page 1
The UK Government had earlier placed India on its "Red List' barring Indians from travelling to the UK in the wake of the second wave of the pandemic in the country. Now that India has been moved to the 'Amber List', Indians are allowed to travel to the UK but will have to follow the home quarantine guidelines even if they are fully vaccinated as neither Covishield nor Covaxin is recognised by the UK authorities. But the relaxation will now ensure that students and professionals can travel to the UK and can quarantine at home or in any place of their stay. The airlines do not have an unlimited quota of flights between the UK and India which has pushed up the demand. Scheduled international passenger flights have been sussended in India sinc March 23 pushed up the demand. Scheduled international passenger flights have been suspended in India since March 23 last year amid the coronavirus pandemic. However, limited special international passenger flights have been operating since July 2020 under the air bubble arrangements formed with 28 countries, including the UK.

#### DGCA steps in to 2 held for making derogatory posts against judges...

"It was alleged that the accused, by intentionally targeting the judiciary, made derogatory posts on social media platforms against judges and judiciary, following some court verdicts delivered by the judges of High Court of Andhra Pradesh," the agency said.

After registration of the

agency said.

After registration of the case, CBI traced 13 of the 16 accused named in the FIR in the case on various digital platforms. Three out of them were found to be abroad. The CBI has so far examined 11 out of the 13 accused persons and arrested five out of them, it said.

out of them, it said.

In investigate the larger conspiracy, the CBI has also examined certain persons including an MP. former MIA and also continued investigation into the role of other persons who were not mentioned in the FIR. Action was also initiated by the CBI, after it had registered this case to get objectionable posts removed from the social media platforms, public domains and a lot of such posts/accounts were removed from the internet.

#### NIA raids 56 places in J&K in Jel ...

From Page 1

Mowda and Bait-ul-Mal purportedly to further charity and other welfare activities, but these funds are instead being used for violent and secessionist activities, it said in a statement.

The funds raised by Jel are also being channelised to outlawed terrorist organisations like Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Lashkar-e-Tayabba (LeT) and others through well organised networks of Jel cadres.

Jel has also been motivating impressionable youth of

Jel has also been motivat-ing impressionable youth of Kashmir and recruiting new members (Rukuns) in Jammu and Kashmir to participate in disruptive secessionist activi-ties.

### Class X to XII students can | Kejriwal Govt launches free food visit schools from today

#### FOR ADMISSION, BOARD PRACTICALS



The Delhi Govern Sunday allowed students of Class 10 to 12 to visit schools from today for work related to

specified that schools, coach-ing centres and colleges will remain closed for teaching purposes. "Students of class 10 remain closed for teaching purposes. Students of class 10 to 12 in the city are permitted to visit their schools from August 9 (Monday) for admis-sion-related work including counselling, guidance and practical activities for board

practical activities for board exam.

"Health checkups and referral services situated in schools or conducted from there can resume. Children of all age may visit these centres accompanied by their parents or guardians," the DDMA order stated.

or guardians," the DDMA order stated. It said the Directorate of Education shall issue appropriate guidelines with respect to these permitted activities to these permitted activities to ensure that COVID-19 protocols are followed and children safety is ensured. The order also said, "All weekly markets are allowed subject to strict compliance of guidelines issued by the government. No unauthorised weekly market is allowed to function."

weekly market ... function." The order added that road-side weekly markets will not be

## distribution programme for homeless

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday launched a food distribution programme for the homeless living in Government shelter homes across the

The programme to distribute free food was launched from a shelter home complex at Sarai Kale Khan in association with the Akshaya Patra Foundation — a non-Government organisation. Kejriwal emphasised on how the Delhi Government has completely transformed the state of these shelters and made them habitable as is the duty of a sensitive and respon-

made them habitable as is the duty of a sensitive and responsible government. The Urban Development Minister of Delhi Satyendar Jain and the Chairman of the Akshaya Patra Foundation Madhu Pandit Dasa were also present at the launch.

at the launch.

Speaking on the occasion,
Jain informed the gathering
that meals were being provide
d at the shelters since the onset
of the pandemic and will now
be permanently provided twice
a day in collaboration with
Alchana Patra

a day in collaboration which Akshaya Patra.
The chief minister said "The poorest of the poor people reside in the shelter homes operated by the Delhi Government. They are those



Ranian Dimri I Pionee

people who are forced to sleep on roads and footpaths. They come to the shelter homes to protect themselves from the harsh weather and get a place to sleep. These people do not make up the vote-bank of any political party. After taking charge of the Delhi Government the first thing we focused on was the improvement of the shelter homes."

improvement of the shelter homes.
"The government has transformed the condition of the shelter homes in the past 6-7 years. We had to even arrange for beds and living utilities. Along with the minister, I myself inspected many

shelter homes. One can under-

shelter homes. One can understand when the CM himself inspects the shelter homes then the entire bureaucratic machinery is compelled to work on the ground and improve the projects," he added.

"At present, the condition of the shelters is very good. As many as 209 shelter homes across the city are serving 6,000 people reside in them in the winters. In the last 6-7 years, you would not have seen any news about the High Court scolding the Delhi Government over the shelters," the CM said.

### Bomb threat email by Al Qaeda at IGI Airport non-specific: BTAC

A bomb threat email, warn A bomb threat email, warn-hing of a possible attack by the terrorist outfit Al Qaeda at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), was received by Delhi Police on Saturday evening. The police and other security forces agencies have also beefed up security as email warned of an attack in the next one to three days.

warned of an attaction one to three days.
However, the threat was later found to be 'non-specific' and the Bomb Threat
Assessment Committee Assessment Committee (BTAC) was terminated from

(BTAC) was terminated from the airport, after a search on the airport, after a search of the airport, after a search of the airport, after a search of the airport and the airport as a security measures have been enhanced, said an IGI official. According to sources, an email was received by police airound 5:50 PM on Saturday following which police alerted the airport and the Airport Operations Control Centre (AOCC), with checks carried out on the airport premises. "The email stated that Karanbir Suri alias Mohamad Jalal and his wife Shaily Sharda alias Haseena are coming to India on Sunday from Singapore and plan to put the

Bomb on IGI in one to three days," said IGI in a statement.

On receiving the bomb threat email, the Security Operations Control Centre (SOCC) at the IGI airport also found out that a similar threat message was received in the recent past. The earlier message received in March also carried the names of the same couple and a similar language detailing the bomb threat.

"As per standard operating procedure (SOP), the airport took all security measures and informed all concerned agencies and put duty personnel on high alert. The SOCC also carried out an anti-sabotage check at all terminals of the IGI airport. Security checks at all terminals of the IGI airport. Security checks at all access control points and webi-cle parking points and at entry values were also intensified

access control points and vehicle parking points and at entry nakas were also intensified, according to the airport authorities," stated the IGI statement. "The BTAC was convened to examine the bomb threat. However, the threat was declared non-specific at about 7:18 PM on Saturday, following which the BTAC was terminated around 7:22 PM," the statement further added.

#### Mercedes-Benz inks pact with DSEU for mechatronics course

The Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mercedes Benz India to offer a highly specialised one year Advanced Diploma in Automotive Mechatronics (ADAM) course under the Auto Mechatronics Research Centre (AMRC) at the Okhla campus.

campus.
At the MoU Exchange cer-At the MoU Exchange cer-emony organised with the senior leadership of the University and Mercedes Benz. India, Shekhar Bhide, Vice President, Customer Services and Corporate Affairs while addressing the event said, "It is a pleasure for Mercedes Benz. India to partner with the DSEU. The course curriculum will include training in elec-DSEO. The course curriculum will include training in electrical and electronics technology embedded systems, advanced automobile systems engineering which will assist a holistic development of students."

dents."

He emphasised that "The trainers will also be benefitted from the course from capacity building exercises. Both students and trainers will attend

its, and be encouraged to enrol for apprenticeships."

The course will nurture future automobile engineers and provide experiential learn-

Bhide further added "It is bilde turner added it is understandable that in today's day and age, students are most concerned about placement when they complete a course, and hence, Mercedes Benz India with DSEU will extend

and hence, Mercedes Benz India with DSEU will extend placement support to all students. The admissions to the course are expected to be announced next month."

Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Neharika Vohra said, "We are extremely glad to have collaborated with such a distinguished and experienced organisation DSEU faculty as well as its students will greatly benefit from this highly advanced course and get insights of the field from an entirely new perspective."

Vohra further clarified, "The University has been established with the idea to provide the best opportunities to students to gain hands-on experience and inculcate industry relevant skills. This partnership is another step taken by the University to bridge the gap between industries and students?





A rainy day in the national Capital

#### Gang selling luxury cars using forged papers busted, 3 held

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

With the arrest of three men, the Delhi Police's Crime Branch on Saturday claimed to have busted a gang allegedly involved in selling lawary cars to buyers using forged bank documents. Police have also seried seven cars from the possession of the accused.

The accused have been identified as Rajeev Kumar (34), Vaibhav Rana (21) and Vijender Rana (51), who operated in the Delhi-NCR region and Uttar Pradesh. Police said the gang usually got the cars financed through different banks using dummy applicants and later sold them to buyers (victims) after getting the vehicles cleared from transport authorities on submitting forged no-objection

certificates (NOCs) of banks from where the vehicles were financed.
According to a senior police official, on August 2, a complaint was also received from one of the private banks about the two cars financed by them to two people and alleged that later it came to their knowledge that he hypothecation of the bank has been removed from Registration Certificate (RC) of both the vehicles after making false representations and on the basis of forged documents submitted in the RTO. "During investigation, local intelligence and technical surveillance led to the arrest of three men who were part of the gang and seven vehicles were seized upon their disclosure," said the senior police official.

#### HC directs AAP Govt to decide as representation PIL for vaccination of street dogs

New Delh: The Delhi High Court has directed the city Government to consider as represen-tation a petition which seeks to "protect the life of innocent street dogs" by ensuring their vac-cination against canine distemper and parvo

of innocent street dugs by circum; and parvo virus.

A Bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh directed the authorities to decide the representation as per law and policy and as early as possible and practicable. The petitioner before court was lawyer Rahul Mohod who daimed to have adopted several street dogs in the last five years, five of whom "could not survive due to poor medicare system in Delhi". In his public interest litigation, Mohod said that one of his dogs died a painful death after

contracting the canine distemper disease which is "dangerous like Covid-19" as it is transmitted from one victim dog to a healthy dog by air.

The petitioner got know by research that Canine Distemper Virus was/is very dangerous like Covid-19 with 100 per cent mortality rate. It was a very difficult moment for the petitioner as his beloved small-adopted dog was dying in front of him but he was helpless," the petition read.

tion read.

Mohod argued that right to life under Article
21 of the Constitution of India was also applicable to street and strays animals who are entitled to the same protection and thus street dogs
ought to be vaccinated against canine distemper and parvo virus.

PTI

#### 45 PSA O2 plants commissioned in Govt hospitals: Health officials to DDMA

New Delhi: Forty-five PSA oxygen plants of 55.46 metric tonnes capacity have been commissioned in Government hospitals in the national Capital as part of preparations for a possible third wave of Covid-19, health officials have told the Delhi Disaster Management Authority Management Authority (DDMA).

(DDMA).

According to the officials, around 160 PSA oxygen generation plants with a total capacity of 148.11 metric tonnes are being installed at

various government and private hospitals in the city.

While 66 plants are being installed in Delhi government thospitals, 10 are being set up in central government hospitals, and 84 in private healthcare facilities.

Forty-five PSA plants with capacity will be ready by October 15, with a capacity of 55.46 MT have already been commissioned. Eighteen such plants of 21.06

MT capacity will be commissioned by August 13 and will be department officials said during a meeting of the DDMA on

### Rain in G'gram leads | Man firing shots to waterlogging

STAFF REPORTER

Heavy rain across
Gurugram led to flooded
roads on Sunday afternoon.
Several city roads and major
traffic junctions witnessed
waterlogging, However, due to
Sunday, the traffic was normal.
"Due to unprecedented
rainfall, few areas and roads had
got affected by water-logging on
Sunday. With the support of
engineering staff of cive bodies
and traffic police, excess water
was drained off and vehicular
novement was sustained," said movement was sustained, said a civic body official. The Delhi-Jaipur

Expressway was also witnessed waterlogging. Not only highway and State highways Grurgram's major roads like Hero Honda Chowk, Signature Tower, Rajiv Chowk, Huda City Centre Road and more were found to be waterlogged. The "crucial points" where the water logging witnessed are Hero Honda Chowk, Rajiv Chowk, Signature Tower Chowk, Jharsa Chowk, Iffoo Chowk, Shankar Chowk, Subhash Chowk, Subhash Chowk, Subhash Chowk, Subhash Chowk, Subhash Chowk, Shona Road, the main Sohna Chowk,



Maharana Pratap Chowk, Atul Kataria Chowk, IMT Manesar Chowk, HUDA City Centre station, Sukhrali Road, old station, Sukhrali Road, old Delhi-Gurugram Road, Sector

Delhi-Gurugram Road, Sector 23-23 Road, between Jawala Mill and Dundahera and service lane of the eastern side of the highway. Many social media users shared pictures of multiple Gurugram stretches and streets waterlogged after the rain. Many residents took to Twitter and complained about waterlogging paralysing normal life in several parts of Gurugram. Pictures and videos of vehicles and people wading through ankle-deep rainwater are doing rounds on social

our city infrastructure in last three years, which kept the city running even during the heavy down our experiences and ensure that areas and junctions which experienced waterlogging, can be improved upon for the future, a civic body official added.

added.

On the other hand, the police department has done a commendable job during and after the rainfall as 2500 police personnel including Station House Officers (SHOs) were deployed across the district to ensure the stretches remained clear.

### in Paschim Vihar viral video held

The Delhi Police has arrest-The Delhi Police has arrest-fed a man along with his friend for firing shots during a birthday celebration in outer Delhi's east Paschim Vihar area. They were arrested after the police took cognisance of a widely circulated video showing the man firing shots in the air at the birthday celebration organised on the rooftop of a house.

The police said the purported video, posted on the social media on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday showed the accused -sumit Tanwar -firing shots in the air.

According to Parvinder

Sumit Ianwar -- mring snots in the air.

According to Parvinder Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer district, taking cognizance of a video on social media, a case under section 336 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered at Paschim Vihar East police station.

"During enquiry, the rooftop in the video was identified. On August 4, Tanwar, a



resident of Guru Harkishan Nagar here, was celebrating his friend's birthday at the house at Pushkar Enclave in Paschim Vihar, which is owned by another of his friend, Ablier Harding and the DCP "In the purported video, Tanwar was seen firing a few rounds in the air from a firearm. The revolver used in the firing belongs to Tanwar's friend. Adana, which is being verified. The two accused are being questioned for recovery of firearm, said the DCP. Tanwar's father owns a factory of leather products in Jaipur and the accused las looking after the office in Delhi, while Abliplet Adana is hint the property dealing business."



STAFE REPORTER - NEW DELHI

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak on Sunday condemned the BJP-ruled municipal corporation for allegedly planning to intro-duce proposal aiming to hand over the functioning of the weekly markets to the private contractors.

weekly markets to the private contractors.

Pathak said that thousands of poor will lose their jobs after the system handed over to private players. The private mafia will set up shops of its own people which will encourage corruption. The AAP will oppose this proposal in the upcoming standing committee meeting if this resolution is tabled in the house meeting. The party will also take to the streets and protest against such a move," he said.

However, Delhi BJP

said.
However, Delhi BJP
Spokesperson Praveen Shankar
Kapoor said that the AAP was
trying to mislead the shop-keepers by saying that MCDs
will give contracts to private
persons to organize the markets.

kets.

Kapoor said that the BJP will not allow discussion on any such proposal brought by the officers. "Under the leadership of Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta, all three munic-



ipal corporations are commit-ted to ensure best livelihood for small shopkeepers of weekly markets and they will not be markets and they will not be privatized till BJP is in power in civic bodies. These markets are operated by shopkeepers themselves and it will remain so in future too," he said. Pathak said "On one side, Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind

Pathax said On one side, Pathax said On one side, Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is working for the betterment of those who are getting their daily wages by putting up shops at the footpaths of the weekly local markets as they have faced the most adversities during the Covid-19 pandemic. While on the other side, the Bharatiya Janata Party is planning to bring such proposal, he said.

The AAP leader further added that in Delhi, various weekly markets are opened in the different zones and the market operations are overlooked by the local association which is made up of people

from the local RWAs and people of the local weekly market so that there is no problem in the overall proper functioning of the weekly markets. "The BJP is bringing a proposal in order to sell the entire market operations of the weekly markets. Private contractors will be hired who will handle the functioning of the markets under this proposal," he said.

The event was presided by Madhu Pandit Dasa, Chairman, The Akshaya Patra Foundation, and Chanchalapathi Dasa, Vice-Chairman of the organisation. Delhi Urban Development Minister Satyendar Jain was also present on the occasion.

Dasa said, "Akshaya Patra is conscious of its responsibility towards society. We have always strived to assist the government's efforts to bring relief to people during emerches."

### **Opp attempts new way to** raise Pegasus, Farm Bill

Tweets video of its members seeking discussions in RS

PNS NFW DFI HI

The Opposition relentlessly demanding a debate on the Pegasus snooping row and farm laws during discussions of Bills in the Rajya Sabha was "deliberate" as part of a joint strategy. The demands on the two issues, even during discussions on Bills, have now been compiled in a three-minute video in what the Opposition said was an attempt to make the Government listen to them.

Admitting as much, TMC MP Derek O'Brien on Sunday said that their "strategy was deliberate".

said that their "strategy was deliberate".

"When the official channels are being denied, this is a new way to reach the masses; said O'Brien, who is also the leader of the TMC in the Rajya Sabha and from whose Twitter handle the video was released.

With this being the last week of the Parliament Session, the video urges "Mr Modi come listen to us".

The video, which has been compiled using clips from RSTV, comprises statements



made by the Opposition MPs in the Upper House, with the words "farmer" and "Pegasus" in the opening lines.

"You are not allowing the discussions we have been asking for the past 14 days and the discussions we can do later you are passing that Bill now. If you have courage, begin the discussions on Pegasus now," Congress's Mallikarjun Khalikarjun Khali

The CFI(NI) according parliamentary democracy, while TMC's Sukhendu Shekar Roy raised the issue of "freedom of speech in Parliament". The other parties which have representation in the video include Samajwadi Party, TRS, DMK

One of the leaders in the One of the leaders in the video, Shiv Sena MP in Rajya Sabha Priyanka Chaturvedi said in a democracy if the government of the day has a responsibility, so does the exposition

opposition.

CPI(M) leader and RS MP

Vareem said that

"CPI(M) leader and RS MP Elamaram Kareem said that speaking during the discussion no bills was the only way to make the Government listen. Senior Congress leader and party spokesperson Manish Tewari said that what is hap-pening in the House is a "com-plete murder of democracy." "The institution of Parliament is being trifled with by the NDA-BJP government," said

BJP didn't want to discuss Pegasus, alleges Tharoor

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology Chairman Shashi Tharoor on Sunday alleged that BJP members "disrupted" the committee's meeting on July 28 as they did not want the Pegasus allegations to be discussed and the bureaucrats who were to testify "appear to have been instructed not to attend". He, however, expressed hope the snooping issue would be taken up by the panel in the days to come.

Tharoor has already written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to take action against the Ministry officials who skipped the meeting. He said that the actions of the three officials making "last-minute excuses" to skip the meeting were a "grievous assault" on such panels' prerogatives to summon witnesses.

On Prime Minister Narenday Rendis remarks that the Opposition was insulting Parliament, Tharoor told PTI Parliamentary Standing

Tewari, slamming the government for getting bills passed when the House is not in order.
Since the start of the Monsoon Session on July 19, parliamentary proceedings

have been continuously wit-nessing disruptions due to protests by opposition parties and a logjam has persisted over their demand for a dis-cussion on the Pegasus snoop-

"It is no secret that the Committee's meeting on its established agenda was disrupted by members who did not want Pegasus to be discussed. It was unprecedented for 10 members to attend and to refuse to sign the register in order to deny the Committee a quorum," Tharoor said.

The panel was to hold a meeting on July 28 during which several issues including which several issues including the Pegasus snooping allegations were expected to be discussed. It had also summond officials from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meit'Y), the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Communications) on the Department that the government's refusal to be answerable in any way, that the government's refusal to be answerable in any way, shape, or form on an issue of national and international importance, has made a "mockery of emocracy and of the ordinary Indians the government claims to represent". Tharoor said for two years now the IT committee has been conducting discussions on "Citizens' data privacy and security and "cyber security, topics that also featured in its agenda under the previous

C om m u n i c a t i o n s (Department of Telecommunications) on the subject "Citizens data securi-ty and privacy". However, the meeting could not take place as the BJP members of the panel did not sign the atten-dance register, even though they were present in the meet-ing room, leading to a lack of quorum. agenda under the previous chairman, BJP's Anurag Thakur. Thakur.

The Pegasus issue therefore clearly falls under the purview of the IT committee and so it is only expected that its members will ask questions about it when these topics arise, he said.

ing row.

The Opposition has also been strongly protesting against the price rise issue and demanding the repeal of the farm laws.

#### Scientists discover antibodies to develop pan-coronavirus vax



PNS NEW DELHI

Scientists have discovered human antibodies that can neutralise several different coronaviruses and pave the way for a pan-coronavirus vacine. These antibodies have been detected in some people who have recovered from Covid-19, said the team at the University of Washington in a study published in the journal Science.

The study describes The study describes research on five such human monoclonal antibodies that can cross-react with a number of beta-coronaviruses. The team examined certain mem-

of beta-coronaviruses. The team examined certain memory B cells from Covid-19 convalescent donors. Memory B cells are white blood cells that recognise and respond to pathogens that have tried to attack the body during a previous encounter.

patnogens that have treat to a track the body during a previous encounter.

Out of five promising antibodies that they isolated, the scientists decided to concentrate on one designated \$2P6. Molecular structure analysis and functional studies showed that this human monoclonal antibody had impressive breadth: it was able to neutralize three different subgenera of beta-cornaviruses. The scientists observed that it did so by inhibiting the virus' ability to fuse with cell membranes. These antibodies target a structure, called stem helix, in the spike protein of these viruses. The spike protein is critical to the virus' ability to overtake host cells.

is critical to the virus' ability to overtake host cells. The stem helix in the spike

protein has remained conserved during the evolution of certain coronaviruses. That means it is much less prone to genetic changes and is similar in various coronaviruses, explained lead author Dora Pinto, from varisty's School of Medicine in Seattle.

These include those originating in bats that have become dangerous pathogens in people, and another subgenus that causes a serious human lung disease transmitted by dromedary camels, as well as a few other subgenera that causes simple common cold symptoms.

toms.

The team went on to test if the S2P6 stem helix antibody could protect against SARS-CoV-2 by administering it to hamsters 24 hours before exposure. They found that this antibody reduced the viral load of SARS-CoV-2 by inhibiting entry of the virus and by enhancing additional anti-viral and virus-clearing cellular immune responses.

Studies of the plasma from pre-pandemic human samples,

Studies of the plasma from pre-pandemic human samples, as well as from Covid-vaccinated and Covid-recovered individuals, were also analysed to see how frequently the stembelix targeting antibodies

helix targeting antibodies appeared.

The highest frequencies occurred in people who had recovered from Covid-19, then were later vaccinated. Overall, however, the data from this study shows that, while it does occur, it is relatively rare for SARS-COV-2 to elicit plasma stem-helix antibody responses.

#### PM Modi to chair **UNSC** debate on maritime security



PNS NEW DELHI

it is important to consider this subject in a holistic manner in the United Nations Security Council. A comprehensive approach to maritime security should protect and support legitimate maritime activities, while countering traditional and non-traditional threats in the maritime domain," it said. With India presiding over the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday will chair a high-level open debate on "Enhancing Maritime Security - A Case for International Cooperation." The meet will be held virtually. It is the first time an Indian prime minister is chairing a UNSC session.

The high profile will be attended by heads of several states and member states of the UNSC, Officials said here said.

The oceane have played an important part in India's history right from the time of the Indus Valley civilisation, it noted, adding that based on the country's civilisational ethos that see the seas as an enabler of shared peace and prosperity, the Prime Minister had put forward the vision of SAGAR — an acronym for Security and Growth for all in the Region' in 2015.

This vision focuses on cooperative measures for sustainable use of the oceans, and provides a framework for a safe, secure, and stable maritime domain in the region. In 2019, at the East Asia Summit, this initiative was further elaborated through the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI) with a focus on seven pillars of maritime security including Maritime Ecology; Maritime Resources: Capacity Building and Resource Sharing; Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation; and Trade Connectivity and Maritime Transport, it said. tid.
The oceans have played an

attended by heads of several states and member states of the UNSC, officials said here on Sunday. "Modi would be the first Indian prime minis-ter to preside over a UN Security Council Open Debate," the Prime Minister's Office (MOM) acid

Debate," the Prime Minister's Office(PMO) said.

As regards the meeting, officials said the debate will focus on ways to effectively counter maritime crime and insecurity, and strengthen coordination in the maritime

domain.

The UNSC has discussed and passed resolutions on different aspects of maritime security and maritime crime, security and maritime crime, the PMO noted. However, this is the first time that mar-itime security will be dis-cussed in a holistic manner as an exclusive agenda item in such a high level open debate, it added.

"Given that no country alone can address the diverse aspects of maritime security,

#### Cong challenges Twitter India after Rahul's account is locked PNS NEW DELHI

Congress on Sunday dared Twitter India to lock its accounts, a day after the social media company locked party leader Rahul Gandhi's handle over a post of his meeting the family of a nine-year-old Dalit girl, who died after an alleged sexual assault. ual assault. "@TwitterIndia lock our

sexual assault.

"@TwitterIndia lock our accounts, we challenge you. Nothing will stop us from fighting for justice & exposing the truth," the opposition party posted along with hashtag all party members calling themselves Rahul. The opposition party also tweeted the photograph of Rahul Gandhi meeting he family of the nine-year-old Dalit girl, who died after being raped by a priest and three other men at a crematorium ear Delhi Cantonment.

"We are highly enraged with what has happened, because this is extremely selective. I can write of 10 accounts, 10 handles, that have pictures, but, that is not the point, the point is that a Dalit girl, a very poor child, a 9 year old child has been gang raped, burt alive, all that the parents have got her parts of her legs. Can you imagine how traumatizing that must be and somebody who want to stand with that family and ensure justice, ou drop his tweet and block his account, so to Tvitter I will say, 'Daro Mat, Ye Dara Nahin Sakte Humein,' said Congress

say, 'Daro Mat, Ye Dara Nahin Sakte Humein,' sad Congress leaders Supriya Shrinate, Alka Lamba and Ragini Nayak at AICC Press conference. Shrinate regretted the fact that New India is counting more on crime against women and dalit, death tolls due to cal-lousness of government, unemlousness of government, unem-ployment and many more unfortunate things. The Congress women leaders said that Congress and their leaders will continue to fight against the incumbent rotten system.

#### NIA conducts searches in K'taka in human trafficking case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has con-ducted searches in Karnataka in connection with a human trafficking case. The searches were con-

The searches were con-ducted on Saturday at two locations in Bengaluru City, Karnataka at the premises of a suspect, who is suspected to be involved in making fake ID proof documents for the Bangladeshi traffickers and the trafficked victims.

Bangladeshi traffickers and the trafficked victims.

During the searches, various incriminating documents, six digital devices including hard disks and mobile phones used for making the forged documents were seized, the agency said. "The women were trafficked from Bangladesh to India by accused persons on the pretext of providing jobs in India but were forced into



prostitution instead," t agency said in a statement. The case was original The case was originally registered on June 8, 2021 at Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station, Bengaluru City against 13 accused persons relating to a raid conducted by Karnataka Police at a rented house where

the custody of human traffick-

#### More rain likely for Bengal, Sikkim from August 11-12, forecasts IMD

PNS NEW DELHI

The intensity of rainfall over sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim is likely to increase from August 11-12 as the monsoon trough has shifted close to the foothills, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday.

IMD Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said the monsoon trough is moving towards the western foothills of the Himalayas. He said rainfall is likely to decrease over north Indian plains and increase over the hills.

The entire monsoon trough is likely to shift close to the foothills of the Himalayas during the next 24 to 48 hours, the IMD said. Ar

during the next 24 to 48-hours, the IMD said. A cyclonic circulation lies over



northeast Madhya Pradesh, it added.

"Under the influence of these systems, widespread rain-fall activity with isolated heavy falls is very likely over north-east and sub-Himalayan West

and an dest-Himidayan West Bengal and Sikkim during the next five days, the fluing at the days, the fluing at the extra the days, the fluing at the westerly or southerly winds from the Bay of Bengal the intensity of rainfall is very likely to increase over these areas from August 11 Isolated heavy to very heavy falls are likely in the region on August

11 and 12, the IMD said.

Fairly widespread rainfall over

Fairly widespread rainfall over Uttarakhand, northern parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and gangetic West Bengal is likely during the next four-five days, Mohapatra said.
Rainfall with isolated heavy falls is very likely over Madhya dring next two days with significant reduction in intensity and distribution thereafter, he added.

and distribution thereafter, he added.
Subdued rainfall is very likely over peninsular India, including Maharashtra and Gujarat, and excluding Kerala, Mahe and Tamil Nadu, where isolated heavy falls are very likely during the next four-five days, the IMD added.

# through WhatsApp: Min:

certificate now available

Covid-19 vaccination

PNS NEW DELHI

People now no longer have to log in into the CoWin portal to download their vaccination certificate.

tion certificate.

Those who have been vaccinated against Covid-19 can now also get their vaccination certificate through WhatsApp within seconds, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya's

Minister Mansukh Mandaviya's office said on Sunday.

"Revolutionising the common man's life using technology! Now get Covid-19 vaccination certificate through MyGov Corona Helpdesk in 3 easy steps. Save contact number: +91 9013151515. Type & send 'covid certificate' on

WhatsApp. Enter OTP. Get your certificate in seconds," Mandaviya's office tweeted. Cumulatively, 50,68,10,492 Covid vaccine doses have been administered in the country through 58,51,292 sessions, according to a provisional report till 72 man Sunday...ii.1 through 58,51,292 sessions according to a provisional report till 7 am on Sunday, with 55,91,657 doses being given in a day. Five states — Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh — have administered more

— have administered more than one crore cumulative doses of the Covid-19 vaccine each to beneficiaries in the 18-44 age group, the ministry said. India has reported 39,070 daily new cases in the last 24 hours.

### INS Vikrant successfully completes maiden sea voyage

The first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant on Sunday successfully completed its maiden sea trials which started on August 4. The warship weighing more than 40,000 tonnes will continue to undergo more sea trials and is likely

tonines will continue to undergo more sea trials and is likely to be inducted into the Navy by the end of next year. India has now joined the elite group of nations building aircraft carrier. The other nations are US, Russia, France and UK. The public sector Cochin Shipyard Limited built be INS Vikrant at a cost of more than ₹24,000 crores.



Trials progressed as planned and system parameters proved satisfactory. The carri-er will continue to undergo series of sea trials to prove all Giving details of the sea tri-als, navy officials said here the warship successfully accom-plished its maiden sea voyage on Sundav. ndergo '

equipment and systems prior handing over the vessel to the Indian Navy. The Indigenous Aircraft Carrier is 262 m long, 62 m at

including five in the super-structure.

The ship has over 2,300

The ship has over 2,300

The ship has over 2,300

crew of around 1700 people, having gender-sensitive accommodation spaces for women officers. The ship with high degree of automation for machinery operation, ship navigation and survivability, has been designed to accommodate an assortment of fixed wing and rotary aircraft.

During the maiden sailing, ship's performance, including hull, main propulsion, Power Generation and Distribution

the widest part and height of 59 ment were tested. There are 14 decks in all including five in the superstructure. The ship has over 2,300 compartments, designed for a crew of around 1700 people, having gender-sensitive accommodation spaces for women officers. The ship with high degree of automation for machinery operation, ship may igation and survivability, has been designed to accommodate an assortment of fixed wing and rotary aircraft.

During the maiden sailing, ship's performance, including hull, main propulsion, Power Generation and Distribution

being targeted to coincide with celebrations to commemorate 75th anniversary of India's independence Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsay'. Moreover, its induction will also strengthen India's position in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and its quest for a blue-water Navy. At present, India has only one aircraft carrier INS Vikrama ditya. INS Vikram will accommodate up to 30 fighter jets and Kea. 31 helicopters. The warship will have a fleet of Mig-29K fighter jets and Ka. 31 helicopters. The ship is designed with a very high degree of automation for machinery operation, ship navigation and survivability, Vikrant' has a top speed

of around 28 knots and cruis-ing speed of 18 knots with an endurance of about 7,500 nautical miles. The Indian Navy has been

The Indian Navy has been focusing on significantly bed-stering its overall capabilities in view of China's growing efforts to increase its military presence in the Indian Ocean Region. The Indian Ocean, considered the backyard of the Indian Navy, is critical to the country's strategic interests.

In order to achieve self-reliance in shipbuilding, the Navy's programme is rightly poised to provide requisite Economic Stimulus, with 44 ships and submarines on order being built indigenously.

# vaccine hesitancy: Study

Chennai: Vaccine hesitancy was prevalent among 27.6 per cent of people aged above 60 years while the same was present in 16.9 per cent between the age group of 18 and 44 years, a study by the Tamil Nadu government revealed on Sunday.

As many as 18.2 per cent of people between the age group of 45 and 59 years were also hesitant to receive the jabs, the survey conducted by the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, in

and Preventive Medicine, in July across Tamil Nadu, said. According to the study, vaccine hesitancy was observed

vaccine hesitancy was observed in 19.7 per cent men and 18.4 per cent women, while 17.5 per cent people living in urban and

20.3 per cent in rural areas expressed 'unwilliagness' tog get inoculated. Some of the reasons for the vaccine heatiancy owns fear of injections (48.4 per cent), fear of complications after receiving the jabs (57.6 per cent), long queue to get the jabs (22.5 per cent), long queue to get the jabs (22.5 per cent), long queue to get the jabs (22.5 per cent), long queue to get the jabs (22.5 per cent), long queue to get the jabs (22.5 per cent), long person to accompany (21 per cent) accompany (21 per cent) accompany (21 per cent) accompany (22 per cent) and per cent in the jabs (23.7 per cent in a reas and 97.9 per cent to per cent developed faced inflicintly in collection and per cent in the person of the study, while 82.8 per cent vaccinated was to prevent discovered the person of the study, while 82.8 per cent vaccinated was to prevent discovered the person of the person

#### **28% of 60+ people show** | Clock tower at Lal Chowk illuminated in Indian colours

The iconic 'Clock tower' located in the heart of Srinagar at Lal Chowk, which mostly remained out of bounds especially for those interested in unfurfula the national flag during Republic day and Independence day celebrations during trouble-torn years, has now been illuminated with 'Colors of India' by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) in the run up to the 75th Independence day celebrations.

The Mayor of Srinagar Municipal Corporation Junaid Azim Mattu was the first to post images of the illuminated clock tower on his twitter timeline. "We have illuminated the Clock Tower ('Ghanta Ghar') at



Lal Chowk in colors of the Tricolour ahead of Independence Day. New clocks fitted", tweeted Mattu.

Netizens celebrated the decision to illuminate and congratulated the Mayor of Srinagar.

Srinagar.

The same has now become the hot-spot for tourists and local visitors as they can be seen

posing for a selfie and family pix in front of the illuminated clock tower during late evening stroll in the area.

Another tourist landmark in the capital city, popularly known as 'Zero bridge', has also been lit up in the same color scheme to attract visitors during the week-long celebrations marking the 1-day celebrations.

The historic Lal Chowk has witnessed many historic events and political gatherings in the past.

Top leaders of the country

past. To leaders of the country including former Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru, founding president of the National Conference Sheikh Mohd Abdullah have made historic speeches in front of thousands of local residents.

relaxed, Maratha quota can't be restored

Raut: Unless 50% cap

Mumbai: Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday said unless the Soper cent cap on reservations is relaxed, the constitutional amendment on allowing states to prepare their own OBC list will not help and the Maratha quota cannot be restored. Talking to reporters her after meeting Shiv Sena president and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Raut said he discussed the issue and developments regarding it in Parliament with the CM. He said state Public Works Department Minister Ashok Chavan will hold a virtual meeting to inform leaders of all political parties about the status of the issue of Maratha under the status of the size of the

#### Fully vaccinated can travel in Mumbai trains from Aug 15

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a big relief to Mumbaikars, the Mumbaikars the Maharashtra Government on Sunday announced that fully vaccinated people could travel by suburban local trains in Mumbai from August 15, with a rider that a gap of 14 days was mandatory after taking the second dose of vaccine to the board train.

After weeks of speculation, the Maharashtra Government relaxed the norms to allow Mumbaikars and their counterparts in the satellite towns in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) → who have taken two doses of vaccine −to travel by suburban trains on a condition that the 14 days' gap was mandatory for the people to board trains after taking the second dose of vaccine.

Interacting with the people across the state through a webcast, Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said: "From August 15, people who have taken two doses of vaccine can travel by suburban local trains. But, the

people will have to wait for 14 days after taking the second dose of vaccine to board the train".

The chief minister said that the

The chief minister said that the fully vaccinated people could get their train passes that will be available on smart phones, ward offices and suburban railway stations. "Passengers an download train passes through the mobile app. Those who do not have smart phones can take photo passes from municipal ward offices in the city as well as suburban railway stations," Uddhw said.

The chief minister said that the state government might announce

The chief minister sad that the state government might announce more relaxations for shops, malls, restaurants and places of religious worship after the state disaster management task force reviews the situation on Monday.

The chief minister said that the second ways of Cavid, 19 was still

The chief minister said that the second wave of Covid-19 was still not over. "If we have to arrest the spread of virus, then the people will have to follow the pandemic protocols strictly. Though the pace of vaccination has increased, but it is

#### Maha toll dips to 151

The daily Covid-19 deaths dropped to

The daily Covid-19 deaths dropped to I 151 and infections came down to 5.508 in Maharashtra on Sunday, even as 4,895 patients were discharged after full recovery from various hospitals across the state. After the fatallites remained static at 187 for two consecutive days, the daily deaths came down to 151, while the infections came down from 6,061 on Saturday to 5,508 on Sunday. With 151 fresh fatallites, the total number of deaths in the state increased from 1,33,845 to 1,33,996, while the infections -- with 4,895 new cases - climbed from 6,47,820 to 6,35,3,228. As 4895 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 61,39,493 to 61,44,388. The recovery rate in the state dropped from 96.72 per cent to 96.71 per cent.

The total "active cases" in the state increased from 71,050 to 71,510. The fatality rate in the state stood static at 2.1 per cent.

#### Will uproot Modi-Deb double engine Govt, says Abhishek

The Trinamool Congress on Sunday launched a fierce attack on the BJP for unleashing a reign of terror in Tripura and vowed to uproot the BJplab De Government from the north-eastern State in 2023 Assembly elections. The TMC5 reaction came a day after alleged BJP men attacked Trinamool youth wing leaders from Bengal who were visiting Tripura's Dhalai district to attend a party programme in pursuance of Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjeels bid to expand her party's base in the North East and elsewhere in the country.

"Tripura is a big sample of Narendra Modis double-engine government ... where the opposition men are attacked every day ... there is no law and order in this State ... the Biplab Deb Government is running reign of terror in Tripura and the Trinamool Congress has come to liberate the local people from the BP's oppression," Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee who rushed to the north-eastern State on Sunday said.

A cavalcade of TMC youth leaders including Jaya Dutta, Sudip Raha and Debangshu Bhattacharya were on Saturday attacked and their nry. Tripura is a big sample of Narendra Modi's

vehicles' were damaged by BJP men, the Trinamool leadership alleged adding the police stood a silent spectator.

Subsequent to the attack 14 TMC men including the Bengal leaders were arrested by the police under National Disaster Management laws. They were granted bail on Sunday by local court. Banerjee rushed to Agartala on Sunday along with fellow MP Dola Banerjee and Bengal minister Batha Banerjee.

Banerjee rushed to Agartala on Sunday along with fellow MP Dola Banerjee and Bengal minister Batya Basu.

"Instead of reaching them to the hospital or providing them with basic medical help the injured leaders were arrested by the police," Banerjee who is also the nephew of the Bengal Chief Minister said wondering "is Tripura outside India" ... does the Indian laws not apply in this region? ... in every street corner the BIP men are standing armed with weapons and wherever our leaders are going they are attacking them with rods, lathis, brickhats ... is this the sample offModi's double-enging Government."

Earlier Banerjee tweeted "the GOONS of BIP have shown their TRUE COLOURS! This abaric attack on Trinamool workers reveals the GOONDA RAJ' in Tripura under Biplab's Gov'! Your threats and attacks only prove your inhumanity.

DO WHAT YOU CAN-CHECK-Trinamoolwill not budge an INCH!"

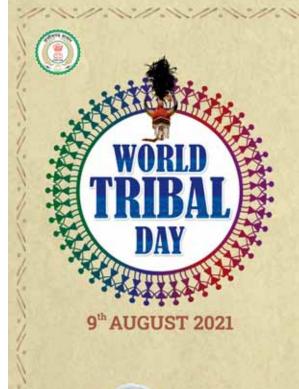
#### Himanta to meet PM over Assam-Mizoram border dispute

New Delhi: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday to discuss the Assam-Mizoram border issue and the restoration of peace in the entire north-east. The Chief Minister, accompanied by Blp MPs from Assam, will also meet other Union Ministers amid Ministers amid Shah. According to sources, the ongoing unrest on the Assam-Mizoram border, as well as restoration of peace in the entire north-east will be the center of discussions during these meetings.

Sarma, who is in New Delhi since Saturday, was unable to meet Shah earlier due to some reasons.

Saturday, was unable to meet Shah earlier due to some reasons. Sources also said that the Assam Chief Minister also held one-on-one meetings with the state's BIP MPs on Sounday.

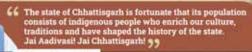
Last month, tensions heightened between Mizoram and Assam over the boundary dispute after six Assam policemen and one civilian were killed in a fierce gun battle between two states on July 26. However, the two states in a joint statement agreed to take forward the Centre's initiative of letting neutral forces patrol the disputed areas of the inter-state border for maintaining peace.



#### PRESERVING TRIBAL LEGACIES THROUGH EMPOWERING POLICIES

Welfare measures for upliftment and empowerment of the tribals

- . Chhattisgarh is one of the leading states in distribution of individual and community forest rights certificates
- 4200 acres of agricultural land acquired for steel plant in Bastar's tribal region of Lohandiguda returned to the farmers
- 718 cases registered against 944 tribals withdrawn; 218 tribals acquitted in 124 Naxal cases
- Swami Atmanand Government English Medium Schools providing equal opportunities for quality education Success of Malaria Mukt Abbiyan appreciated by UNDP and NITI Aavog
- Mukhyamantri Haat Bazar Clinic Yojana consistently delivering medical and healthcare services to 11 lakh tribals in remote areas
- Scope of Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana expanded to benefit tribals
- · Remuneration for Tendupatta collection raised from ₹2,500 to ₹4,000 per standard bag, highest in the country
- In just 2.5 years, number of minor forest produce purchased at MSP increased from 7 to 52
- Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangrahak Parivar Samajik Suraksha Yojana providing social security to Tendupatta collecting families
- Promoting tribal art & culture at the international level
- Ram Van Gaman Tourism Circuit to develop new tourist centres in tribal regions



- Bhupesh Baghel

Pro Active - Pro People



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- PAPER WITH PASSION-

### **Looking up**

India has registered progress in the global sporting arena but there's still a long way to go

okyo 2020 has ended. All eves are now on Paris 2024. The Indian contingent returns from Japan on a high with the highest ever tally of medals, including the first gold in track and field. India made a mark in new fields like golf and fencing while it found its spark in its old flame, hockey. The girls fared better, even though they came from diverse regions and classes. A greater emphasis was on individual sports that returned most of the medals. India was in news on the opening day of the Games and the eve of closing. It is now time for the questions as usual, as at the end of every Olympics. We are more than a billion of us and yet why do we get so few medals? The question is cliched. The answers are, too. However, there is some difference between now and the past. The interest taken by the Government and shown by the private sector is palpable though it is nowhere near what is expected of both. The Union Government



claims to have overhauled the Sports Authority of India (SAI) after the indifferent Indian tale at the Rio Olympics of 2016. It is apparently less bureaucratised, less corrupt, more efficient and more considerate of players' interests. The complaints, howeverate of players interests. The complaints, nowever, remain, ranging from less nutritious food to inferior quality equipment, favouritism and ordinary coaching. These are systemic faults that dilute the impact of crores of rupees poured into the Authority and its various national camps

There is an attitudinal fault in the country. It has to do with a casual approach to sports if it is not cricket. The game is the most popular in India even though hockey is said to be the national sport. Parents would not hesitate to support a child showing talent in cricket because the game is primarily seen as a means to earning money and fame, in that order. Otherwise, sports are considered a recreation. In a country where economic and social inequalities determine the contours of human existence, a talented child has to overcome four hurdles. One is that giving time to sports reduces chances of earning for the household. Two, sports can be acknowledged only after the player achieves a medal and brings in cash; else look for a well-paid job. Three, sports requiring attire that do not cover a woman's body are against the laws of some religions. Four, a lower caste person winning a sporting medal can still expect derision from the upper caste neighbours. There could be more such hurdles. The glimmer of hope is that the new generation of talented youngsters is ignoring these obstacles to fight their way out of the social quagmire and excel in their chosen fields. What they need is a structured support system, public and private, to foster them. Excise their fear of going hungry and ostracism and give them the hope they ask for. The strategising and making of champions come later.



### The protectors?

The threat to human rights and bodily integrity is the highest in police stations, says the CJI

hief Justice of India NV Ramana has rightly pointed out that the weakest link in the legal system is the police station. At a National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) function, he said most of the human rights abuse takes place at the police stations. Indeed, a police station is the first post where an ordinary citizen has to go to get legal assistance and perhaps that is the most tedious task of all.



Often, the complainant is made to feel as if s/he is the criminal. No wonder an ordinary citizen is afraid to even step into a police station, let alone dare file a complaint. Police reforms have been on the anvil for several years. All legal luminaries agree that these reforms should take place, but that never happens The police continue to operate as they did in the pre-Independence era. Even the uniforms of police personal remain what these were before Independence. The Chief Justice of India said that the use of thirddegree and the way police behave at the thana level leaves much to be desired.

Indeed, a person's body integrity and dignity are sacrosanct and must not be med-dled with, no matter how serious her/his crime may be. This is the basic premise of the rule of law and so a law officer must not and cannot stoop to the level of a street goon. Many reasons can be attributed to police atrocities and their conduct towards ordinary citizens. We have failed to transform the police system that was fashioned to operate in the colonial environment to the one for a welfare State. The lack of sensitisation and proper behavioural training does the rest. Often the personnel at the lowest rung are prejudiced. They behave in a casteist and communal manner, throwing all constitutional and legal provisions to the wind. In this scenario, not much can be expected till a complete overhaul of the police system. However, the CJI's observa-tions are laudable; these can lead to far-reaching implications. He quoted Martin Luther King Junior in his address, "Every step towards the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering and struggle, the tireless exertion and passionate concern of dedicated individuals." We need dedicated people who care for human rights. A good start can be made by strengthening the free legal aid system and information dissemination, besides proper training to personnel to make police stations more law-abiding!

# India at the Olympics over the decades



Unlike in the ancient times, sport has not been regarded as integral to Indian society, except for a few privileged families

ven as we celebrate our best ever Olympic performance this year in Tokyo, a retrospective view is in order. Much effort and money was invested by India in the 1982 Asian Games. However, at one event, the guest-in-chief was one of our cine superstars. When he approached the podium to award the medals, the audience erupted in wild applause, as if the players did not matter; the gold, silver and bronze winners were not Indian. The coach of one of the

ers did not matter; the gold, silver and bronze winners were not Indian. The coach of one of the winning teams asked who this chief guest was, to which the rather chirpy reply was: "Don't you know him? He is our most famous cine star." To this, the coach's response was: "I now understand why a vast country like India is nowhere in sport." Except for a few privileged families, sport has not been regarded as integral to Indian society. This wasn't so in ancient India; in the times of Mahabharta, proficiency in archery and other weaponry were a part of the education of the Pandava and Kaurava boys with Dronacharya as their guru. In the war that followed between the boys when they turned men, Dronacharya was a general.

But in latter times, sports did not travel or touch villages until recently. Governments seldom took any interest and most sports bodies were treated by their members as little political arenas for self-promotion. As a result, regional representation was more important than players potential. It is said, "The battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Bton." This implies

Waterloo was won on the play-ing fields of Eton". This implies ing fields of Eton". This implies how sports help make capable military officers of young men. Sports build the physique, introduce strategy and tactics in the lives of youth and teach how to outwit the opponent. While the East India Company and later the British Indian Government employed Indian soldiers, they confined their choice to what they labelled martial' communities, which meant a limited pool of selection in a vast country. In any case, most of those recruited were employed as sepoys, with no officerial exposure, a level they remained confined to.



India

are available in the cities. But even these are not affordable by the poor although the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is lately rolling in wealth.

I do not know whether we would pay sufficient attention in setting up an academy for the poor to provide for the vital need of diet and nourishment, currently unaffordable for many a family in our country. In this context, the Odisha Government deserves hearty congratulations for country. In this context, tne Odisha Government deserves hearty congratulations for patronising hockey. On the contrary, West Bengal, which was once noted in football, allowed its clubs to recruit players from other States and even overseas. In the process, local players declined in numbers as well as quality. If other States could choose other games a la Odisha, it would be a great national service.

It is also important to note that we were monopolists of the Olympic gold medal in hockey until 1960. Today, we are celebrating our men's hockey team winning the bronze at



**BUT IN LATER** TIMES, SPORTS DID NOT TRAVEL OR TOUCH VILLAGES UNTIL RECENTLY. **GOVERNMENTS** SELDOM TOOK ANY INTEREST AND MOST SPORTS **BODIES WERE** TREATED BY THEIR MEMBERS AS LITTLE POLITICAL ARENAS FOR SELF-PROMOTION

Tokyo. Apart from the decline, hockey was an illustration of how not to be smug about one's success. As an instance, now in the total standard and one's success. As an instance, Indian players were adept at dribbling the ball while the rest of the world had adopted the technique of passing the ball from player to player as a replacement. For several players, Indian hockey could not adjust to Astroturf or mandatory wearing of shoes. Earlier, there were years when our hockey wizards won because they played barefoot.

In the 1936 Berlin Olympics, India faced Germany in the hockey final. At half-time, India led the hosts by only 1-0. Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad of Baroda, who was present in the stadi-

who was present in the stadi-um, was concerned and visitum, was concerned and visit-ed the dressing room. He advised Dhyan Chand to play barefoot for the remainder of the match. The eventual score was India-5, Germany-1; Dhyan Chand scored three of the four goals. The result was not pleasing to Führer Adolf Hitler, who was also watching the contest. Nevertheless, he called Dhyan Chand later and offered him the rank of a colonel if the latter came over to Germany as its citizen. to Germany as its citizen.

The Olympic Games originated some 3,500 years ago in Greece as a mark of homage to God Zeus. To begin with, there were many Greek city States participating in the carry state of Olympia. In the early games, the events were very few but later increased. Chariot and horse racing came in. There were no medals but wreaths and garlands. When the Romans conquered Greece, the Games carried on until Emperor Theodosius I in 193 AD who disapproved of young men (there were no women participants) stripping. The Olympics were revived at the initiative of Baron Coubertin of France in 1896 at Athens. The numbers of countries and players have been increasing, except at Moscow in 1980 because of the boycott by 60 nations led by the West to oppose the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. The Olympics have also endured tragedy in the form of the majosacre by terrorists of a dozen Israeli athletes in the 1972 Munich Games.

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

#### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

#### PRIORITISE SPORTS AS ACADEMICS

PRIORITISE SPORTS AS ACADEMICS
Sir — India has colossally performed at the Tokyo Olympios. The performance by our athletes and glories earned are appreciated wholeheartedly by the entire country. They set an extraordinary example as some of them belong to poor families and are not as privileged as the others. If we celebrate their success, we need to stand with their struggle as well.

More priorities and better facilities should be extended to athletes. As we know, quite a many of the talented young-sters lack adequate support, which can be due to pressure from families or situations to focus more on academics than on sports. In this regard, the Governments should come forward to promote sports just like education, as Odisha did for hockey. More value should be attached to sports; it will result in a shower of glories for our country. One hopes that the performance it will result in a snower of gories for our country. One hopes that the performance of our athletes in the Tokyo Olympics will bring about a change in people's mindset towards sports.

Manoj Kumar Jena | Cuttack

#### TIME TO REOPEN MUMBAI SCHOOLS

TIME TO REOPEN MUMBAI SCHOOLS
Sir — Many principals, parents and students feel that schools in Mumbai should now be reopened as COVID-19 cases have dropped significantly. The Maharashtra Government must hold a meeting with the disaster management authorities to discuss the issue. An expert committee must be formed to examine the issue as several principals are of the opinion that schools could now be reopened as there is no danger, especially to the students. The fact of the matter is that by-now frustrated, depressed, tense and anxious students are willing to come to school but their parents are against it and there is a need to convince them.

The parents and students should mentally prepare themselves as it has been over a year since the schools were shut down. Students have been taking online classes and things need to be normalised now with all precautions taken against COVID-19. At times, it gets difficult to understand what is being taught in online classes, so imparting education in a class-

classes, so imparting education in a class-

#### Nothing to equal this glory



n winning the gold medal in javelin throw n winning the gold medal in javelin throw at the Tokyo Olympics, Neeraj Chopra did more than save us the embarrassment of having no gold medal; he ended the 120-year wait for a gold medal in athletics. There is nothing more coveted than that piece of shiny yellow metal that an athlete (and by extension his/her nation) receives at the Olympic podium.

We were elated by the Tricolour flying high and the National Anthem being played with an Indian standing on the Olympic victory podium in an event dairing back to the ancient Greek Olympics. The maiden athletics gold conferred on Neeraj Chopra a certain immortality.

tain immortality

The thought that no fellow competitor should better his 87.58m mark over-

whelmed us in those anxious moments. In hindsight, these were not tantalising moments; it was an emphatic win. Neeraj was at his dazzling best during his first two throws; a human dynamo.

It is a tribute to his prodigious talent that his at the standard of his garger at the

he reached the pinnacle of his career at the young age of 23. The Olympic champion dedicated his medal to the legendary Milkha Singh and spoke of his deep indebtedness to his family, friends and coaching early.

staff.

There were flashes of brilliance in hockey, badminton, boxing, wrestling and 
weightliftling, too. But India's overall performance was not quite worthy of a sporting 
nation. The total of seven media's fell far 
short of what we could have attained with 
greater commitment. No other country has 
as much untapped human resources as 
India. The gimmick of renaming stadia and 
awards won't do. It is unfortunate that the 
Government has recently slashed funds for 
sports. It must invest more in sports, a relistration. sports. It must invest more in sports, a reli-able barometer of a country's health and

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

room makes more sense.

The continuous closure of schools is affecting the students' mental health. The result of this is that neither they are able to meet friends nor able to discuss their career or education. The Education Department of the State must issue the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the reopening of schools as early as possible.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

#### TROUBLED TIMES FOR THE AIADMK

INUBLEU HINES FUR HE AIADMK
Sir — Perhaps for the first time since its
formation in 1972, the AIADMK is in danger of disintegration as the demise of J
Jayalalitha has plunged the party in a leadership crisis over the last five years (Falling
apart?', August 7).
Ever since the death of her political
mentor MGR, Jayalalithaa had emerged as

the party's quintessential leader and led it with a firm grip, serving as the Chief Minister for 14 years in five different stretches. Amma, as she was fondly called, symbolised the AIADMK much like the party represented her.

Things went downhill soon after Edappadi Palaniswamy and O Panneerselvam took over the party, and it was more about individuals than the party and its governance. And the warring factions of EPS and OPS are far from resolving their differences. The AIADMK of today is no longer the party with unity and with military-like strict discipline it was under Jayalathaa's regime, and it now struggles with factionalism.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

torture and other police atroci-

Chief Justice of India



Our Government and the political parties are deter-mined to hold the tions as scheduled on October 10.

Iraqi Prime Minister - Mustafa al-Kadhimi

I feel she (daugh-ter) is a better actor than me. It is so effortless, I just keep looking





Neeraj is a focused competitions.

I humbly request our new Chief Minister to withdraw this order (according BSY the Cabinet rank).



Karnataka BJP leader
— BS Yediyurappa

#### **FIRST COLUMN DEALING WITH OTHERS**

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Every individual is different. This is what makes dealing with others a craft



The ability to work with others is one of the basic requirements of life. It precedes things like climate change, nuclear disarmament, world peaces or indeed handling a virus. The moment a child feels hungry, it instinctively knows how to ask for a feed. This means send-ing a message to whoever is willing to listen. Usually, it is in the form of crying or making a sound seeking attention. If the child didn't have this capacity to deal with others, it would never get feed.

Gradually, the individual learns to communicate with gestures and movements. Sounds begin to fall in a pattern. Language competencies emerge. People learn to respond coherently and a dialogue begins. Language is embellished withan expressive and larger vocabulary. When needed, body language or facial expressions replace words to make com-

The purpose here is to reflect how dealing with others is basic to



vidual with identifiable preferences. The individual entersa higher level of personality development and is conscious about how one can gain sup-port. A person needs clothing, a place to rest, and begins to look for com-fort. The person's range of relationships grows. In teenage and adulthood, the individual recognises some people are

easy to get along with and some are not. The issue is not of pick and choose. It is basic and boundedbecause the needs of food, shelter, clothing, and resources are limited to finding it from a bounded environment. This isoften an institution such as a school or college or a social set-up like the family. The realities of society start surfacing. It becomes obvi ous that institutions and social groups are important. However, there is also a need to have contact with 'strangers' and the need to handle random, short-term interactive situations. One has to go out shopping and deal with a person at the billing counter for acquiring goods or fulfilling a need. One cannot risk being abrasive but one cannot also always marshall the necessary patience, attitude, or even the words to gain compliance. The art of dealing with others gets larger and bigger. Each individual has a distinct personality and expressions vary from person to person and even situation to situation. This is what makes dealing with oth-

Summing it up, one has to learn how to 'read' others and navigate very carefully to achieve one's goals without disrupting or annoying However, temperament, ego, vocabulary, and above all the competency to think and talk becomes increasingly critical. One deals with others through words, gestures, eye contact. The list is long and dealing with others becomes complex. Tune and meter come in. Music and songs emerge. They get embedded in an environment of light and shade, comfort, and discomfort. The interplay of so many forces makes it challenging to stay in control.

lenging to stay in control.

Indeed, the only dimension one can have some control over is one-self: the choices of words, gestures, timing,voice inflection, and intona-

Gradually, dealing with others becomes an interplay of reflex actions and conscious choices. Communicating slowly could help at times and communicating effectively requires a melloweR personality. It requires a capability of simultaneously assessing the environment and consciousby conveying what one seeks to convey. The range of excellence in doing so is often the discriminating factor between the quality of failure and the quality of success. This continuous journey is inherent in keeping life going. It requires skills of dealing with others.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant. The views

# Video games: The new-age opium



The games are designed by experts trained in neurosciences, psychology, and human behaviour in order to make them addictive

few years back, a young boy I knew intimately - a boy who excelledboth in academics and outdoor sports - suddenly ned to have lost his interest in both. seemed to have lost his interest in both.
The otherwise cheerful and outgoing boy
abruptly turned into an introvert and his
school grades started nosediving. The
worried parents, both working, discovered worried parents, both working, discovered that at the root of the problem was a video computer game the boy had become addicted to. They confiscated the CD, but the boy was too intelligent, and by then too addicted, to be deterred by such simple remedies. It took them a year of patient persuasion to motivate the boy to finally give up the gaming, but not before it had taken a toll on hisphysical and mental health.

This is a recurring story: countless parents have gone through similar agonies and many children have paid dearly for such addiction to video games. On August 2, pointing to the "devastating devastating the redevasting of the company that the redevasting of t

ly for such addiction to video games. On August 2-pointing to the "devastating adverse effect" of addictive online games on "the development of children", an addi-tional district judge in New Delhi wrote to the Prime Minister for banning two online games - Free Fire and PUBG India on the line of the accuratory of the state. online games - Free Fire and PUBG' India - on the lines of the government's earlier decision to ban one of the most popular mobile games called 'Player Unknown's Battlegrounds' (PUBG Mobile) in the country. Drawing attention to the fact that the long hours spent by children in playing such games wreak havo on their studies and social behaviour, he pleaded that a law is framed to restrict exposure of children to such games. This suggestion merits serious consideration by the government, and not only for these two games.

India banned PUBG on September 2, 2020, along with 117 Chinese apps under

only for these two games.

India banned PUBG on September 2, 2020, along with 117 Chinese apps under Section 69A of the IT Act. PUBG was linked to Tencent, the Chinese multinational technology giant. The game is banned not only in India, but also in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Korea, Jordan, Israel, Iraq,and even in its home country China, on account of itsbeing too addictiveand having serious effects on users' health without warning them about the dangers of long screentimes (as if it would have made any difference) and for propagating violence. But the effect of the ban in India was only temporary; in June this year, the app was again made available on Google's Play Store under a new avatar, "Battlegrounds Mobile India", with some cosmetic changes like green blood instead of red (as if it reduces the effect of violent content), etc. It has been blamed not only for poor academic performance but also content), etc. It has been blamed not only for poor academic performance but also for violent behaviour and suicides among children, besides causing untold agony and distress to the hapless parents, prompting a Goanese minister to call it 'Demonic'. Faced with ban threats, PUBGearlier tried to placate parents and the government by promising to put time limits for its use, which hardly addresses the real con-



PLAYING THESE GAMES RELEASES THE PLEASURE-GIVING NEUROCHEMICAL DOPAMINE IN THE BRAIN TELLING IT TO 'DO IT AGAIN'. STUDIES SHOW THAT GAMING CAN CHANGE THE STRUCTURE OF MANY REGIONS OF THE BRAIN INVOLVED WITH

HIGHER COGNITION. THE DESIGNERS CONTROL THE PLAYERS' BEHAVIOUR BY PROVIDING SIMPLE STIMULI AND REWARD THEM AT

(The writer is a former Director General of the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India and currently, a Professor at the Arun jailley National Institute of Financial Management. The views expressed are personal.)



cerns and dangers of video gaming for children.

cerns and dangers of video gaming for children.

Numerous studies conducted all over the world have repeatedly drawn attention to the severity of their adverse effects on children, which includeimpeding their physical and mental development, increasing juvenile violence, and suicides. The games are designed by experts trained in neurosciences, psychology, and human behaviour in order to make them addictive. Playing them releases the pleasure-giving neurochemical dopamine in the brain telling it to do it again the brain telling it to do it again the south of the summer of the property of the property

change the structure of many regions of the brain involved with higher cognition. The designers control the players' behaviour by providing simple stimuli and reward them at strategic points. Children, especially those with poor impulse control or struggling with studies andnot knowing the consequences, are most vulnerable to fallprey to their evil charm. What follows is not only falling grades, but also sleep deprivation, fatigue, irritability when stopped from playing, increased anxiety, obesity, aggressive behaviour, and-lack of interest insocial interactions and other physical and mental and other physical and mental activities essential for healthy growth. Video games provide an easy escape for the children from easy escape for the children from seeking more purposeful real-life relationships with friends. Studies using brain scans showed decreased activity in areas of the brain dedicated to self-control and an increase in emotional arousal while playing games that

use violence; it also desensitises them to violence in real life.

"Gaming disorder" is listed as a disease in WHO's "International Classification of Disease" and many countries have started treating it. I know of an addicted boy who forgot how to speak and had to be treated and counselled for more than six months before relearning how to speak again. Yet governments have taken a benign stance all over the world, passing on the responsibility to parents instead, without realising the limitations of such an approach. The industry also has its proponents who forcefully argue that video games also have positive connotations in children's education, life skills, and brain functions, but skills,and brain functions, but these are far outweighed by their

these are far outweighed by their negative impacts. Fifteen countries have banned some forms of video games. China has imposed a time limit of 90 minutes on weekdays, but they are difficult to regulate when played offline. The US Supreme Court refused to regulate the sale of violent video games in 2011, citing the First Amendment regarding freedom of speech which cannot be restricted by any law. The UK has a system of rating of games.like films, for different age groups, making it illegal to sell games rated 12, 16, or 18 to any child below that age, but these ratings are inapplic. 12, 16, or 18 to any child below that age, but these ratings are inapplicable to games bought online. India has no such system and no law to regulate video games, unlike the films for which we have the Central Board of Film Certification.

Video gaming is a multi-billion-dollar industry, more than the movies and DVDs combined. Covid-19 has been a tipping point' for online gaming, as the KPMG study titled 'Beyond the Tipping Point' noted. Confined to their homes for more than a year, both children and adults have sought their escape from boredom through online gaming in massive numbers. FY21 has seen a major boom in online gaming with over 433 million users, with estimated revenue of Rs 136 billion which is poised to grow to Rs 290 billion with 657 million users by FY25. India had about 400 video gaming companies, including respected names like Infosys TCS, and Zensar, India is the number one market for video Intosys, TCS, and Zensar. India is the number one market for video games, and domestic and foreign companies would use all their lob-bying power to prevent any ban or regulation upon such lucrative business.

regulation upon such lucrative business.

The Chinese government is mow going all out against its own going all out against its own going all out against its own going the choolegy companies, the latest target being the for-profit onlinetutoring industry. The next target could well be Tencent whose shares plummeted by 6.1 percent on August 3after a Chinese state-owned media article called gamingthe "opium of the mind". Already under regulatory fire, the company has lost \$400billion in market value since February and its game may be ending in China. Before this lethal opium ensaves all our children here, we need to act. Otherwise, it might be too before an obese and intellectually stunted generation comes of age to lead us.

THE GOONS OF @BJP4TRIPURA HAVE SHOWN THEIR TRUE COLOURS! YOUR THREATS AND ATTACKS ONLY PROVE YOUR INHUMANITY. - TMC GENERAL SECRETARY

**ABHISHEK BANERJEE** 





THEY HAVE NO GROUND IN TRIPURA. SO THEY ARE DOING THESE THINGS TO HOG THE LIMELIGHT

- WEST BENGAL BJP PRESIDENT

### Dual heritage: Autocratic and egalitarian

Democracy is the default mode. We had to go autocratic for a while, because you couldn't run a group with millions of people by consensus

A t first I was going to write about the 'Arab Problem', because there

A write about the 'Arab Problem', because there is not a single functioning democracy in the Arab world. The presidential coup in Tunisia has probably ended democracy in the one country that actually achieved it during the 'Arab Spring of 2010-11.

In Syria and Yemen and Libya, attempted democratic revolutions led to dreadful civil wars - and now Lebanon, the closest thing to an Arab democracy for most of the past century (though always dysfunctional) is actually collapsing, In a once prosperous country, many people are close to starving, and desperate Syrian refugees are going back to live under Assad's regime.

I guess it was Lebanon that the second the country was the street when the second country was the second country to the second country and the second country was the second country to the second country that the second country

I guess it was Lebanon that



(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy (and Work)

lad to go autocratic
there a few years ago because I
wanted my wife to see the old
Lebanon before ISIS came over
the mountains and destroyed it,
but in the end, that didn't
happen. They did it to
themselves instead. Why is the
Arab world cursed?
But that's too melodramatic.
The Arab world is an outlier, but
not very far out. Consider the
Philippines, the heir to not one
but two non-violent democratic
revolutions and a genuine
democracy today - with a
president who was legally elected
five years ago and will soon leave
office peacefully at the end of his
one permitted term.
Rodrigo Duterte is also, by
his own admission, a mass
murderer whose death squads
how leilled thousands of more leaves the super life.

murderer whose death squads have killed thousands of people. Some were real drug dealers



but as he would probably say, you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs.

And in all that time Duterte's public approval ratings have never fallen below 70%. There are a lot of people who will admire a 'strong' leader, even if he is a killer.

Lexing a ratual killers aside.

the 'alpha male' model of leadership is still successful in many countries that are formally democratic: Putin in Russia, Orban in Hungary, Erdo'an in Turkey. Indeed even

Erdo'an in Turkey Indeed even genuine democracies of long-standing can be seduced by a great leader, like De Gaulle in France. (No, I don't know where Trump fits in this Pantheon.) And yet at the same time, we have countries that remain democratic even under great pressure, like Brazil's democracy under attack from Bolsonaro, South Africa under Zuma (and during his recent assault on the rule of law), or Indonesia ever since Suharto. The question is not why does democracy fail or why does it succeed? It's why does it do

The only people who have plausible answers are the people who study human nature: the psychologists and sociologists, of course, but more importantly (because they are getting at the root of the problem) the anthropologists, the primatologists, and the ethologists. And many of them would argue that the human cac has a dual heritage.

We are members of the primate family and particularly close to the chimpanzees, whose little societies are generally tyrannies run by an alpha male. The other members of the group have strong submissive reflexes to protect them from his bullying (but at the same time the subordinate males are constantly making alliances constantly making alliances

thousand years ago

('civilisation', as we called it), we had to go autocratic for a while, because you couldn't run a group with thousands or even millions of people by consensus. There was no way for them even to include everybody in the discussion.

for them even to include everybody in the discussion.

So five thousand years of tyranny-but as soon as we got mass communications (just printing, to begin with), the egalitarian model started coming back, because we are more comfortable with it.

We call it democracy now, and it certainly does not mean absolute equality, it does mean that the differences of wealth and power must not become too great, or the whole structure of consent will collapse and we're back to autocracy. Nevertheless, democracy is the default mode. democracy is the default mode.

### **'UN climate summit in** | First 6 months of 2021, **Nov our last chance'**

#### Get a grip on global warming: UK Min

Undon: Alok Sharma, the UK Minister in charge of the COP26 climate summit talks in Glasgow in November, on Sunday warned that the meeting hosted by Britain later this year is the world's last chance to get a grip on climate change. The Indian-origin Cabinet Minister, who is the President-designate of the United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP26 in Glasgow in November, said in an interview that the world would face a climate catastrophe unless urgent

that the world would face a cli-mate catastrophe unless urgent action is agreed this year. He also defended his recent hectic travel agenda, which came under some media criti-cism for his ministerial exemp-tion from Covid-19 self-isola-tion rules on return from red

tion rules on return from red list countries.

"You're seeing on a daily basis what is happening across the world. Last year was the hottest on record, the last decade the hottest of record, the last decade the hottest decade on record," he told the 'Observer' newspaper.

"I don't think we're out of time but I think we're getting dangerously close to when we might be out of time," he said.

On his own travel, the



minister said he was simply throwing everything at achiev-ing a global consensus ahead of the talks in Glasgow. "I have every week a large number of virtual meetings, but

"I have every week a large mumber of virtual meetings but I can tell you that having inperson meetings with individual ministers is includibly vital and actually immerson the first ob-build those personal relationships which are going to be incredibly important as we look to build consensus," said the minister, who has travelled to countries such as Bangladesh and Bolivia in recent weeks. His interview comes ahead of a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world's leading authority on climate science, out on Monday showing the true impact of extreme weather.

"This [IPCC report] is going to be the starkest warning yet that human behaviour is alarmingly accelerating global warming and this is why COP26 has to be the moment we get this right. We can't afford to wait two years, fly years – this is the noment," Sharma warned.
"This is going to be a

years, 10 years – this is the moment, Sharma warned.

"This is going to be a wake-up call for anyone who hasn't yet understood why this next decade has to be absolutely decisive in terms of climate action. We will also get a pretty clear understanding that human activity is driving climate change at alarming rates... Every fraction of a degree rise [in temperature] makes a difference and that's why countries have to act now," he told the newspaper.

The November summit is Coularlia will read the side of t

Af's bloodiest since 2009

IAMS NEW DELHIKABUL

In a briefing to the UN
Security Council (UNSC),
Shaharaad Akbar, Chairperson
for the Afghanistan
Independent Human Rights
Commission, said that the first
ix monthe of this year has been
the bloodiest for the war-torn
country since 2009, with at least
ix monthe of this year has been
the bloodiest for the war-torn
country since 2009, with at least
1,677 civilians, including
women and children, dead,
while 3,644 others injured.
"If the current rates of violence continue, I am heartbroken to note that there might be
a grim new record of civilian
harm by end of this year. With
districts and now a provincial
city falling to the Tailbian, millions of Afghans are waiting in
terror to see what comes next,"
Akbar told the UNSC.

"This Council and its
members still have the leverage
to stop the bleeding of Afghans
and prevent catastrophes. This
Council can save lives. We will
meed the council to utilise the
full range of political, diplomatic, human rights and
humanitarian tools and interventions to save lives and prevent further and more horrific atrocities.

"We urge the Council, the
UNS and international human
rights mechanisms to respond



with a greater sense of urgency to the Afghan calls for civilian protection, ceasefire, an end to violence and meaningful and

protection, ceasefire, an end to violence and meaningful and inclusive political process. "Women in particular remember the past and present abuses of the Taliban against their freedoms and their persons, and dread what is to come. As you know, many are joining the ranks of those trying to flee this worsening storm," he added.

In Spin Boldak, Kandahar, the Commission's findings confirm that the Taliban dragged out and killed at least 40 civilians associated with the government, in a campaign of targeted, extrajudicial killings.

Following media and human rights reporting, Taliban imposed strict restrictions.

tions and would investigate people travelling to and from Spin Boldak to prevent full documentation of these atrocities.In Malistan, Ghazni

documentation of mese atroctites. In Malistan, Ghazni province, the commission confirmed that at least 27 civilians were murdered in targeted killings by the Taliban.

In one instance, Taliban sought the help of an unarmed guard to move the bodies of civilians and then killed the guard in an attempt to eliminate witnesses.

In Helmand, residents of the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah are stuck between Taliban attacks and government airstrikes, fearing for their lives every minute and deprived of access to their basic rights.

#### Afghan official: Much of Kunduz city controlled by Taliban

Taliban fighters on Sunday took control of much of the Capital of northern Afghanistan Kunduz province, including the Governor's office and police headquarters, a provincial council member said.

said.
Ghulam Rabani Rabani said fighting between insurgents and Government forces had taken place around the Governors office and police headquarters but that later the Taliban had taken over the tob buildings. They also had control of the main prison building in Kunduz, he said.
Rabani said fighting was continuing at the city's airport and other parts of the city. Kunduz is a strategic crossroads with good access to much of northern Afghanistan as well as the capital. Kabul, about 200 miles (335 kilometers) away.
A Taliban surge has intensified as US and NATO troops wrap up their withdrawal from the country. With Taliban attacks increasing, Afghan security forces and government troops have retaliated with airstrikes aided by the United States. The fightı. Ghulam Rabani Rabani

ing has raised growing con-cerns about civilian casualties. On Saturday, Taliban fight-ers entered the capital of Jawzjan province after sweep-ing through nine of 10 districts ing through nine of 10 districts in the province. Several other of the country's 34 provincial capitals are threatened as Taliban fighters sweep through large swaths of Afghanistan at a surprising speed.

#### **Talegan falls** to Taliban

Provincial Afghan lawmak-ers say the Taliban have taken control of another provincial capital, the fourth to fall into insurgent hands in less than a week, in a punish-ing blow to government forces.

es. The Taliban forces over The Taliban forces over-ran Taleqan, the capital of the northern Takhar province on the transparent of the transparent trolled after a monthslong siege, the two lawmakers from the province said.

#### UK PM threatened to demote Sunak over leaked letter: Report

PTI I ONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is said to have been furious over a letter being leaked to the media last week, which claimed his Chancellor

leaked to the media last week, which claimed his Chancellor Rishi Sunak had written to push for easier international Covid-19 travel norms ahead of a planned review.

The reaction followed media reports that the Indianorigin finance minister had written to his boss, calling for a significant easing of the cornavirus travel restrictions, warning that they were damaging the economy.

According to The Sunday Times, which reported on the letter last Sunday, Johnson is said to have been apoplect the with anger and even suggested a demotion for Sunak from the powerful Treasury department to take charge of Health. The problem was that the first Johnson knew of the letter was when details of it appeared in the media, the report said, Quoting a senior source from a meeting, it said source from a meeting, it said that Johnson then went on to say in the presence of around a dozen officials that he had been thinking about a change.

Maybe it's time we looked at Rishi as the next Secratory of State for Health. He could potentially do a very good job there. In an open meeting, after ranting about Rishi, he then suggested the Chancellor could be demoted in the next reshuffe, the source said.

The newspaper pointed out that Johnson is known for his off-the-cuff remarks, often made in jest.

While Downing Street

made in jest.

While Downing Street refused to comment on private conversations, allies of Sunak insisted he remains focussed on his current brief to revive the COVID-hit UK economy.

The Chancellor is solely focused on securing the country's economic recovery and continuing to protect and create jobs, ITV News quoted a Treasury Department source as saying. Meanwhile, Sunak is preparing for a tough budget, known as the autumn Spending Review, in the coming weeks. There have been reports of how this has put him on a collision course with his boss Johnson, who is determined on spending on projects while budgets remain conmined on spending on projects while budgets remain con-strained due to the costs incurred due to the pandemic.

#### **Iraqi PM says Govt determined** to hold polls as scheduled

As SCINEULIEU

Baghdad: Iraqi Prime Minister
Mustafa al-Kadhimi
announced that his
Government and the political
parties are determined to hold
the Parliamentary elections as
scheduled on October 10.
Al-Kadhimi's comment
came during his meeting with
leaders of the political parties
in the presence of Parliament
Speaker Mohammed alHalbousi, head of the Supreme
Judicial Council, the country's
electoral commission, and the
UN Assistance Mission for UN Assistance Mission for Iraq, the Prime Minister's media office said in a state-

ment.

He stressed his govern-ment's insistence on holding the elections on time and con-firmed its ability to provide an appropriate atmosphere for them, Xinhua news agency reported.

them, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Al-Kadhimi and the polit-ical parties renewed the call for the political blocs that boy-cotted the elections to reverse their decision," the statement said.

said.

He also suggested forming a committee of political parties to open a dialogue with the boycotting parties to persuade them to change their decision, it added.

### '54 yrs on, ASEAN succeeds in ensuring peace, development'

Fifty-four years on, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has succeeded in ensuring peace, stability, security and steady development, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said in a message to mark the ASEAN Day on Sunday.
"Together, we have

Together, we have embarked on a long and fulfilling journey to nurture the growth of this regional organization into a closely-knitted and people-oriented entity, he said. ASEAN comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, reports Xinhua news agency. Hun Sen said ASEAN has always been an integral part of

Hun Sen said ASEAN has always been an integral part of always been an integral part of ambodias foreign policy.

"Through ASEAN frame-ming ming we have been albe to maximize opportunities to cultivate inize opportunities to cultivate with countries in the region and sudden and partners around the globe for the sake of upholding durable peace, security, prosperity, and national development

across all spectrums," he said.
"As a regional grouping,
ASEAN has so far been successful in ensuring that its
people enjoy relative peace,
stability, security and steady
development."

Hun Sen said Cambodia is
committed to sustaining
ASEAN as a region of critical
importance for global trade,
investment and supply chains
through generating maximum
benefits rome the existing free
trade agreements and the
Regional Comprehensive
Economic Partnership (RCEP).
While seeking to bind all
Southeast Asian nations as a
strong family, ASEAN will
strive to further deepen and
broaden relations and cooperation with external partners in
the spirit of equality, mutual
interest and respect, he added.
Hun Sen said he spect, he added.
Hun Sen said he spect, be added.
Hun Sen said he spect, be added.
Hun Sen said he in order to prove
once again that we have the
determination and capability to
further strengthen and promote
peace, stability, security and
prosperity in the region for the
well-being of our peoples."

### Japan's daily Covid caseload hits new record

Amid a continued resur-gence, the single-day Covid-19 cases in Japan hit a new record, while the number of people hospitalised in Tokyo also reached a fresh high, according to local media reports.

also reached a riesh nigh, according to local media reports.

On Saturday, the country registered 15,753 new Covid cases, which increased the overall infection tally to 10,01,281, while the total death toll stood at 15,255, reports Xinhua news agency. Tokyo, which hosting the Olympics while under a state of emergency, reported 4,566 new cases on Saturday, exceeding 4,000 infections for the fourth straight day. Strains are growing over hospitals in Tokyo, as the number of inpatients hit 3,485, which surpassed the record of 3,427 in early January. The latest figures were released a day after Japan's cumulative total of confirmed Covid-19 cases topped 1 million. The turning point of the Covid-19 pandemic seems yet to come amid the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant.



Concerns are growing over a potential collapse of the med-ical system and the further spread of the Delta variant ical system and the further spread of the Delta variant during the Bon holiday period since people usually return to their hometowns or travel elsewhere during this period.

To curb the resurgence of the Covid-19 infections, the Olympics were mostly held without spectators.

The state of emergency for Tokyo will not end when the Paralympics are scheduled to begin on August 24.

The Japanese government has recently expanded the state of emergency and also decided to put more prefectures under a quasi-state of emergency.

#### 45 Houthi rebels killed in Yemen's Marib

At least 45 Houthi rebels were killed in multiple airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition tion and in ground clashes with the Yemeni Government army in the oil-rich province of Marib in the last 24 hours, mil-

Marib in the last 24 hours, mil-itary sources have confirmed.

"In the western district of Sirwah, the airstrikes targeted a rebel makeshift operational room, killing at least 12," one of the sources in Marib told Xinhua news agency on Saturday.

"In the adjacent district of Sirwah, the airstrikes destroyed several pick-tup vehicles carry-

Sirwah, the airstrikes destroyed several pick-up vehicles carrying rebel combatants, killing more than 20," he added.

Another military source said the army repelled a fierce attack launched by the Houthi rebels from three directions on the societies in the country of the control of the country of the cou rebels from three directions on its positions in the mountains of Al-Bayadh and Al-Abzakh in Rahabah district.

"Thirteen rebels were killed on the ground, while dozens fled," he told Xinhua. Both strategic mountains and most of Rahabah district were recaptured by the army last week.

#### Biden pushes harder for masks, vaccines amid virus resurgence

US President Joe Biden is pushing harder on vaccines and masks as Covid-19 cases are surging across the

Public Notice
My Client Pinkl Rani I/O Late
Ram Lal Gawri R/o B-2/226, Paschim Vihar/N0-63 has disowned
her Sisters 1. Weana Kumari Sood
2. Sharda Malhotra and brother
Chandra Prakash Gawri from her
movable & immovable property
due to misbehavior to my client.
If anybody deals with them in any
manner they do so at their own risk.
Samech Chander Vide I/O. 48, Weath Wing Te Keeni Court

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

LULIUC NOTICE

TO JULIUS NOTIC Shri Ragbir Singh Khurana Rio 318, Sector-154. Voida Distr. Geatura Buidh Nagar UP-201301. If any one has/have any objection ha/she may submit his/her, objection in the Commercial bepartment of Noida Authority along-

country due to the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant. Cowid-19 cases, hospitalisations, and deaths have continued to increase in most parts of the country, especially in communities with lower vaccination coverage, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (CDC)

CODC). The outlook is especially dire in the South. The States of Florida and Louisiana recently set seven-day case records, Xinhua news agencuy quoted report by The New York Times as saying on Saturday.

In Florida, coronavirus hospitalizations are roughly equal to their previous peak from last summer.

In Louisiana, intensive care units are strained and young adults are contracting serious

in Louisiana, intensive care units are strained and young adults are contracting serious cases of the virus.

The resurgence has prompted the CDC to issue new guidelines on mask wearing, and some areas are returning to restrictions seen last year during the height of the pandemic.

Mask wearing has been a subject of controversy in the United States for more than a year, with a significant chunk of the population refusing to wear masks for many different reasons. Some believe such choices are up to the individual, others believe - against cur-



rent data - that masks do not cessarily protect against the

necessarily protect against the virus.

Recent weeks have also seen a marked increase in the number of private sector companies promoting vaccinations for those who want to return to the office.

In a sharp about face of previous statements, recent

revious statements, recent days saw Biden say he would like to see companies move toward mandates. Biden has announced that

all federal workers must be vac-cinated or be required to wear masks and undergo regular ing. The President also said he

The President also said he believes more cities and states should institute rules like those in New York City, where customers at restaurants, gyms and other venues are required to be vaccinated.

So far, 50 per cent of the US, population, or more than 165.9 million people, have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19, according to the CDC.

### US averaging 1L new Covid-19 infections a day

AP FORT LAUDERDALE

The Covid-19 outbreak in the United States crossed 100,000 new confirmed daily infections Saturday, a mile-stone last exceeded during the winter surge and driven by the highly transmissible delta vari-ant and low vaccination rates in the South. Health officials fear that

Rochelle Walensky said on CNN this week.
It took the US about nine months to cross 100,000 average daily cases in November before peaking at about 259,000 in early january. Cases bottomed out in June, averaging about 11,000 per day, but six weeks later the number is 107,143.
Hospitalisations and deaths are also increasing, though all

Health officials fear that cases, hospitalisations and deaths will continue to soar if more Americans don't embrace the vaccine. Nationwide, 50% of residents are fully vaccinated and more than 70% of adults have received at least one dose.

"Our models show that if

Our models show that in we don't (vaccinate people), we could be up to several hundred thousand cases a day, similar to our surge in early January," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Rochelle Walensky said on CNN this week

are still below peaks seen early this year before vaccines became widely available. More than 44,000 Americans are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, according to the CDC, up 30% in a week and nearly four times the number in June. More than 120,000 were hospitalized in January. The seven-day average for deaths rose form about 270 deaths per day two weeks ago to nearly 500 a day as of Friday, according to Johns Hopkins University, Deaths peaked at 3,500 per day in January. Deaths usually lag behind hospitalizations as the disease normally takes a few weeks to kill. The situation is particularly direin the South, which has some off the lowest vaccination rates in the US. And has seen smaller

dire in the South, which has some of the lowest vaccination rates in the U.S. And has seen smaller hospitals overrun with patients. In the Southeast, the number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients jumped 50% to a daily average of 17,600 over the last week from 11,600 the previous week, the CDC says. Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky represent 41% of the nation's new hospitalisations, the CDC says, twice their overall share of the population.

#### Once lagging, Europe catches up to the US in vaccinations

AP BRUSSELS

Despite a sluggish start, the European Union's Covid-19 vaccination drive has caught up to that of the United States, where the slow-down of the country's oncevaunted campaign has con-tributed to the virus's deadly

ributed to the virus's deadly comeback. In mid-February, less than 4 per cent of people living in the 27-nation EU were at least partially vaccinated against the coronavirus, compared with nearly 12 per cent in the coronavirus, compared with nearly 12 per cent in the University. Oxford, New the EU has surpassed the US by that saureassed the US by that saureassed the US by that saureassed with some 60 per cent of the block residents receiving at least one dose, versus less than 58 per cent of Americans.

versus less than 50 per cent of Americans. In Italy, where roughly 63 per cent of people 12 and older are fully protected, Premier Mario Draghi took a victory lap this past week. "I said that I don't want to

I said that I don't want to celebrate successes, but it must be said that Italy has inocu-lated more doses per 100 inhabitants than France,

Germany, the United States," he said as the country's vaccine verification program 
went into effect Friday.

People in Italy must now 
show proof they have had at 
least one vaccine dose, recovered from COVID-19 or 
recently tested negative for the 
virus if they want to dine 
indoors, use gyms or go to 
concerts, theaters, museums 
and tourist sites such as the 
Coloseum.

European authorities 
attribute success in Italy and 
elsewhere to nationalized 
health care and a history of 
public confidence in the safety of immunizations.

The EU's slow process for 
approving the vaccinations 
set the bloc back at the beginning, but that is now paying 
dividends because it is instilling more confidence in the 
rapidly developed formulas, 
said Dr. Peter Liese, a 
European Parliament member 
from Germany.

While the US and Britain 
issued emergency authorizations of vaccines to get shots 
into arms quickly, the EU 
went through the longer 
process of granting full 
approvals, putting it weeks 
behind.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly passes resolution condemning attack on Hindu temple

PTI PESHAWAR

The Provincial Assembly of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has unanimous-ly passed a resolution con-demning the attack on a Hindu temple in the country's Punjab province.

demning the attack on a Hindu temple in the country's Punjab province.
Hundreds of people, carrying sticks, stones and bricks attacked the temple at Bhong city of Rahim Yar Khan district, some 590 kms from Lahore, burning parts of it and damaging the idols on Wednesday in protest against the release by a court of an eight-year-old Hindu boy, who was arrested for allegedly urinating in a local seminary.

An FIR has been registered under terrorism and other sections of the Pakistan Penal Code against over 150 people for their involvement in attacking the temple.

The resolution at the provincial assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa condemning the attack on the Hindu temple was moved by minority Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) Ravi Kumar to which the house gave a unanimous approval on Friday.

The house also passed a

gave a unanimous approvation. Friday.

The house also passed a resolution for the establishment of the Commission for Minority Affaires in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

#### NIXING CONTAINER SHORTAGE, HIGH SHIPPING FREIGHTS

### 'Major steps needed to help exports hit \$400 bn'

Addressing acute shortage of containers, controlling high shipping freights and ensuring timely refund of pending dues are crucial take the country's overlat acket the country's overlat exports to \$400 billion by the end of this fiscal, according to exporters.

exports to \$400 billion by the end of this fiscal, according to exporters.

The other factors that could help in increasing shipments include ensuring that negotiations for various free trade agreements (FTAs) lead to greater market access for Indian goods; attraction exporters at international rates; and investing in dedicated R&D and design centres for focused products in each State.

Leading leather exporter and Farida Group Chairman Rafeeq Ahmed said exporters are facing huge problems with regard to container shortage, and this issue needs to be resolved immediately. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said, "Container shortage issue is the most serious one and it will affect manufacturing, as goods will pile up in factories".



Ludhiana Hand Tools
Association President SC
Ralhan said that along with
shortage, high shipping
freights are impacting domestic exporters and both these
matters need attention of the
government as "we are targeting \$400 billion exports" in
the current financial year.
Exports during AprilJuly 2021 jumped 73.86 percent to \$130.56 billion, against
\$75.10 billion in the year-ago
period. FIEO former president S K Saraf suggested
exporters to do aggressive
marketing by looking at new
market options; investing in
technology to improve qualimarket options; investing in technology to improve quali-ty and productivity, and dou-bling of existing capacities.

From the Government side Saraf suggested amending land laws so that exporters can buy land and get all clearances in a month's time; allowing bank finance at international

bank finance at international price; and paying off pending dues within a month by all government departments. Current FIEO President A Sakthivel also recommended the Centre for augmenting cash flow to exporters; and providing freight subsidy to adjust abnormal hike of ship-ping rates.

adjust abnormal mike of simp-ping rates.

He also urged the gov-ernment to release pending claims of exporters under dif-ferent schemes like MEIS (Merchandise Exports from India Scheme).

#### Four IPOs to hit markets with aim to garner ₹14,628-cr

PTI NEW DELHI

The buzz in the IPO market continues with four com-panies launching their initial share sales this week to raise over ₹14,628 crore collective-

This comes after four

by. This comes after four companies — Devynair ompanies — Devynair international, Kṛṣṇa Diagnostics, Windlas Biotech and Excaro Tiles- launched their initial share-sales lass week to mobilize 73,614 crore. So fair in the current fised, 7 30,666 crore through IPOs against 731,277 crore by 30 firms in the entire 2020-21. Going forward, market analysts expect the IPO environment to remain buzzing during the entire 2021-22. Hemang Kapasi, Head of Equities at Sanctum Wealth Management, said that as many as 40 IPOs are lined up for the rest of the year looking to raise 77,000 crore. Nuvoco Corporation, part of the Nirma Group, and online auto classified platform, part of the Nirma Group, and online auto classified platform Carl'Fade Techwill launch their initial share-sales on Monday, while that of Aptus Value Housing Finance and Chemplast Sammar will be open for public subscription on Tuesday, information with exchanges showed.

The companies are raising funds to retire their debt, funding capital expenditure require-

ment and for general corporate purposes. Besides, existing shareholders are divesting ther stakes in the IPOs.

Cement manufacturer Nuvoco Vistas' initial public offering (IPO) comprises fresh gissue of shares worth ₹1,500 crore and an offer for sale of ₹3,500 crore by promoter Nivogi Enterprise.

The public issue, with a price band of ₹500-570 a share will open for public subscription on August 9 and conclude on August 11.

At the upper end of the price band, the IPO is expectively and the IPO is expectively and the IPO is expectively and the IPO is expectively a lakh sares).

Currently, CMDB II holds 1,193 per cent stake in CarTrade, Highdell Investment was 34.44 per cent stake in dearway and a lakh sares).

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on August 11.
Proceeds of the fresh issue
will be used for the repayment
of certain loans availed the
company and general corporate
purpose.
Nuvoco Vistas is a cement

Nuvoco Vistas is a cement manufacturer with a consolidated capacity of 22.32 MMTPA. It has 11 cement plants comprising five integrated units, five grinding units and one blending unit.

It operates cement manufacturing units in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Haryana.

CarTrade Techs initial share-sale will be entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of 18,532,216 equity shares. Among the investors participating in the OFS are-CMDB II (22.64 lakh equity shares). Highdell Investments Ltd (84.09 lakh shares), Macritchie Investments Ptd (50.76 lakh shares), Springfield Venture International (17.65

International holds 7.09 per cent stake in the company. The company has fixed a price band of ₹1,585-1,618 a share for the IPO, which will be open for public subscription during August 9-11. At the upper end of the price band, the IPO is expect-ed to mobilise ₹2,998.51 crore. Founded in 2009, CarTrade is backed by marquee investors — Warburg Pincus, Temasek, JP Morgan and March Capital.

March Capital.

The CarTrade platform allows customers to buy and sell used cars as well as new

cars.

The firm is a multi-chan-The firm is a multi-channel auto platform with coverage and presence across vehicle types and value-added services through its brands—CarWale, CarTrade, Shriram Automall, BikeWale, CarTrade Exchange, Adroit Auto and AutoBiz.

AutoBiz.

Aptus Value Housing
Finance IPO consists of fresh
issue of equity shares aggregating to 4500 crore and an
offer for sale of up to
64,590,695 equity shares by
pomoter and existing shareholders.

#### Will step up recovery bid: PNB Housing Finance CEO

PNB Housing Finance Pexpects to manage its bad loans better from this month onwards, when the deadline of going soft on borrowers provided by the courts ends on August 31, and would ask the borrowers to start repaying if they are capable to do so, a top company official said.

The company's gross non-performing assets (NPAs) jumped to six per cent of the gross advances (or ₹3,625 crore) in the quarter ended June 30, 2021, from 2.7 per cent by the end of June 2020, mainly on account of the impact of the second wave of the pandemic. The increase in NPAs is also on account of legal for-bearance up to August 31, 2021, as per high court orders, the company said after its June June 1, 2021, as per high court orders, the company said after its June quarter earnings last week.

Various courts and high courts across the states indicated to the lenders not to take any legal or administrative action during the second wave of the pandemic, which mainly spread during April and May.

"During the quarter, there were 45 days of lockdown. So, there was hardly any activity in this period." "We expect to manage these better from this

"There is no right or wrong deci-sion. Decisions are bad or good. The share sale decision was a bad one," another legal expert said.

housing France

month onwards even as we have managed to pull back some NPAs. We have pulled back about 780 crore of NPA for the NPAs we have pulled back about 780 crore of NPA for the NPAs Housing Finance, told PTI in an interview.

The restrictions led to a little bit of problems on the recovery front, he said.

He added that if someone has borrowed money from the company, the person is bound to return it unless there is a demise in a family, or someone's business is wiped out.

"But, if you have borrowed, your business is running. I have every right to ask for my money." Prasad said.

However, the company will be considerate enough to find a solution on a case-to-case basis, if there are genuine borrowers facing any kind of problem to repay, he added.

The company's Covid-19-caled restructured loans stood at 71,733 crore as of june 30, 2021. It posted a five per cent fall in its net profit to 7243 crore in the first quarter ended june 2021, as against 7257 crore in the year-ago quarter.

FPIs return to

### **RBI** plans to buy additional office space in Mumbai

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is looking for additional office space in the financial capital near its head office in south Mumbai, or in the Bandra Kurla Complex area. According to the RBI, size of 2,601 to 7,681 square metres, for which it has issued a Reguest for Proposals (RFP) for outright purchase of office premises" in Mumbai. The central bank "intends to purchase wacant and peace having clear and marketable title, for its use in south Mumbai and/or in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) area near to its existing establishments...," the RFP document

As per the RFI; the RBI is looking for office premises with minimum 2,601 sq/mtr(28,000 sq/ft) and maximum 7,618 sq/mtr (82,000 sq/ft) carpet area located in south Mumbai within a radius

south Mumbai within a radius of 1.5 km from its Central Office Bullding in Fort, Mumbai and/or in BKC.
Offices of property situated on leasehold land with residual lease period at least 30 years will also be considered by the RBI, the document added.
Anuj Puri, chairman, ANAROCK Property Consultants, said that as per ANAROCK Research, total leasable space at BKC is approximately 8.7 million su/fi area out of which 8-10 per cent is lying vacant.

#### RBI extends curbs on K'taka-based Millath Co-op Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the restrictions on Karnatakabased Millath Co-operative Bank by three months till November 7.

Bank by three months till November 7.

This extension is subject to review, said an RBI statement. The restrictions were last extended till August 8.

"The RBI is satisfied that in the public interest, it is necessary to extend the period of operation of the Directive DCBS.CO.BSD III.D-12 (22.3096/2018-19 dated April 26, 2019 issued to Millath Coperative Bank Limited, Devangere, Karnataka," the statement said.

As per the RBI's directions, the co-operative bank shall not, without prior approval of RBI in writing



grant or renew any loans and advances, make any investment, incur any liability including borrowal of funds and ing borrowal of funds and acceptance of fresh deposits, disburse or agree to disburse or the substance of its liabilities and obligations or otherwise.

The bank would also not enter into any compromise or arrangement and sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any of its properties or assets.

### Sale of Cairn shares a bad decision: Experts

PTI NEW DELHI

Cacd with prospect of its assets
across the globe being seized
just like Pakistan and Venezuela,
the Government decided to scap
retrospective taxation but the
international embarrassment
could have been avoided had
attached shares of Britains Cairn
Energy Plc not been sold, according to tax and legal experts.

On Thursday, the
Government introduced a Bill in
Parliament to scrap the rule that
game the tax department power to
go 50 years back and slap capital
gains levies wherever ownership
had changed hands overseas but
business assets were in India. The
2012 legislation was used to levy
a cumulative of ₹ 1.10 lakh crov
of tax on 17 entities, including UK
telecom giant Vodafone, but substantial punitive action was taken
only in the case of Cairn.

The income tax department
not just sold Cairn's near 10 per

cent shareholding in its erstwhile Indian subsidiary but also seized its dividends totalling ₹1,140 crore and stopped tax refunds of ₹1,590 crore. "The shares the firm held in

"The shares the firm held in Cairn India (renamed Vedanta Ld) were attached by the income tax department soon after it served an initial assessment of ₹10,247 crore tax demand on Cairn Energy in January 2014.
"Most of these shares were sold within two years of serving a formal tax demand in March 2015," a leading tax expert said, requesting not to be identified. The tax department reasoned the decision to the fact that Cairn had begun the process to sell its residual stake in 2014 and the company would have fled the country after that, leaving no avenues to recover the levy.

"But, what is being overlooked is the fact that Cairn couldn't have sold the shares as they were already attached by the

# equities, invest

#### SEBI took up 94 cases to probe alleged violation of norms

IANS MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) took I board of india (s.b.l) fook up 94 new cases for investiga-tion of alleged violation of securities market regulations in the last financial year.

In its annual report for 2020-21, the capital market regulator said that it completed investigation of 140 cases during the year.

ed investigation of 140 cases during the year.
"During 2020-21, 94 new cases were taken up for investigation and 140 cases were completed in comparison to 161 new cases taken up and 170 cases completed in 2019-20," it said.

The total of 94 cases

said.

The total of 94 cases include 41 instances of market manipulation and price rigging, 30 cases of insider trading, 3 cases pertaining to takeovers. Around 20 cases were in the 'miscellaneous' category.

Which include alleged violations of listing conditions, disclosure requirements.

disclosure requirements, SCRA, preferential allotment requirements and violations by statutory auditors, among others.

others.
"During 2020-21, 46 cases
"During 2020-21, 46 cases
(32.9 per cent) pertained to
market manipulation and price
rigging, 40 cases (28.6 per
cent) pertained to insider trading, four cases (2.9 per cent)
pertained to takeovers, two
cases (1.4 per cent) pertained
to 'issue' related manipulation
and 48 cases (34.3 per cent)
pertained to other violations of
securities laws," the annual
report said.

#### SJVN Ltd sets new power generation record

IANS SHIMLA

Public sector hydropowe major SJVN Ltd Chairman and Managing Director Nand Lal Sharma on Sunday

Lai Sharma on Sunday reviewed the operational performance of its two mega facilities - the 1,500 MW Nathpalakir Hydro Power Station and the 412 MW Rampur Hydro Power Station. He told the media that the SIVN has set record power generation from all its generating units, including renewable projects, in July with 1,580 million units (MUS) surpassing the previous record of 1,563 MU during this month in 2020.

In FY 2021, against the

0. In FY 2021, against the In FY 2021, against the total design energy of 8,700 MUs of its five stations, comprising two hydropower stations in Himachal Pradesh, two wind power stations and one solar power station in Maharashtra and Gujarat, the

Maharashtra and Gujarat, the company has established a new benchmark of generating 9,224 MUs of energy. Chairing a review meeting attended by heads of power sta-tions, Sharma said the com-bined team efforts of the officials manning operation and maintenance of both the 'flag-ship power stations' have enabled the company to carve out new milestones in the out new milestones in the power generation. He said that the SJVN operates all of its power stations with the highest level of com-petence of international stan-dards.

#### OMCs keep fuel rates unchanged as global oil prices ease

Oil marketing companies (OMC) kept petrol and diesel rates unchanged on Sunday as international crude oil prices have started to recede.

This was the 22nd day of pause in the fuel

This was the 22nd day of pause in the fuel price change.

Global crude prices have swung in all directions in July starting with a low of \$70 a barrel to quickly breaching to \$877 a barrel, and then fall below \$70 a barrel to cross \$57 a barrel later in the month Currently, the October contract of Brent crude oil on the Intercontinental Exchange is at \$50.70 per barrel. The oil prices have declined on concerns of growing Covid cases, slowing industrial recovery globally and rising US oil inventory.

With no price increase by OMCs, in the national capital, petrol continued to sell at \$101.84 per litre, while diesel was unchanged at \$89.87 a litre on Saturday.

The pump price of fuel has been static since July 18.

The pump price of fuel has been static since July 18.

In the city of Mumbai, where petrol prices crossed the ₹100-mark for the first time ever on May 29, the fuel price is at ₹107.83 per litre. Diesel price in the city is also at ₹ 97.45, the highest among metros.

Petrol prices in all metros have now crossed the ₹100 per litre-mark. In Chennai, petrol is priced at ₹10.24 a litre and in Kolkstat ₹101.08 a litre. Diesel is also priced at ₹04.39 and ₹93.02 per litre in both cities respectively. The long price pause has come after fuel prices increased on the 41 days in the current financial year. The 41 increases have taken up petrol price by ₹11.44 per litre in Delhi. Similarly, diesel prices have increased by ₹9.14 per litre in the national Capital.

Prices of both auto fuels reduced only once.

Capital
Prices of both auto fuels reduced only once in April by 16 and 14 paise per litre respectively. Diesel prices were also reduced by 16 paise per litre in Delhi on July 12. Since April 2020, petrol prices have increased by ₹32.25 per litre from 66.95 a litre to ₹101.84 a litre now in Delhi. Similarly, diesel prices during the period have increased by ₹27.88 per litre from ₹62.29 to ₹89.87 a litre in the national Capital.

#### The Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

The Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645, on behalf of Chairman Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam invites sealed item rate tender on e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. http://www.uktenders.gov.in,

or the following works-				
SI. No.		Cost of Tender (Rs. in lacs)		
1	CONSTRUCTION OF MINI STADIUM AT	73.20 lacs		

Standard I, Booker Sult, DISTNOT NEW NAME OF STANDARD TO STANDARD THE MEMORY STANDARD TO S

## The Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

The Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet (Almora) 263645, on behalf of Chairman Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam invites sealed item rate tender on e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. http://www.uktenders.gov.in, for the following works-

SI. No.	Name of Work	(Rs. in lacs)
1	CONSTRUCTION OF LABORATORY (02 Nos) FOR GOVERNMENT INTER COLLEGE AT KANARA, DISTT. ALMORA	45.51 lacs
2	CONSTRUCTION OF LABORATORY (02 Nos) FOR GOVERNMENT INTER COLLEGE AT QUARALA SULT, DISTT. ALMORA	45.51 lacs
3	CONSTRUCTION OF LABORATORY (02 Nos) FOR GOVERNMENT INTER COLLEGE AT JALALI, DISTT. ALMORA	45.51 lacs

The lender form can be downloaded from e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal i.e. http://www.uktenders.gov.in from 7-8-2021 at 17:00 hrs. to 19-8-2021 at 17:00 hrs. Other information can be seen in tender form o

### ₹975 cr in Aug tax department. They would have remained in its possession till the final conclusion of any or all legal processes," he said. Once the December 2020

Once the December 2020 ruling of the international tribunal on the arbitration initiated by Cairn came overturning the levy of taxes on the reorganisation of India business that Carin carried in 2006 before listing the local unit, "the government could have just released those shares and the matter would have ended," he said. E-mails sent to the finance ministry as well as the Central Board of Direct Taxes seeking comments remained unanswered. "There is no right or wrong deci-

Poreign portfolio investors (FPI) have made a comeback to India's equities segment and made a net investment of 8975 crore in the first week of August. The FPIs have made a comeback after a net outflow of 11,308 crore in July.

The week-ended Friday witnessed surge in the Indian equity market with both the BEE sensex and the Nitry50 on the National Stock Exchange touching new highs. On August 5, the Sensex touched a record high of ₹ 54,717.24 crore. The market surged in line with the global cues and on the back of robust QI earnings.

### निर्देशाल्य महिला सहावित्तकरण एवं बाल विकास विभाग, उत्तरशाध क्रिकट करा की पीकी, सुद्धोवाल विकासनमर हो, वेदल्ला क्रूताल मं -115-277811-277814, ईक्लेश-वी:ricds.ua@gmail.com पत्र संख्य ट-100205पुरक पीपारिक्ट-2-22, दिनाक ठ७ अपरात, २०२१

OPPORTUNITY FOR ALLOTMENT OF COMMERCIAL PLOT AT INTEGRATED INDUSTRIAL ESTATE PANTNAGAR

NTEGRATED INDUSTRIAL ESTATE PARTINAGEN SIDCUL invites bids from interested bidders for allotment mercial plot admeasuring area 73210 som for setting mercial Malfutis-Purpose business Center at Integrated Industes Pantinagar. The bidders must furnish complete information

#### ew Okhla Industrial Development Authorit Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P. Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

#### E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which blds can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned The details and continuous or an tenders are available on words. Authority's official website: <a href="http://lelender.up.nic.in">www.noidaauthorityonline.in</a> & <a href="http://lelender.up.nic.in">http://lelender.up.nic.in</a>. Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) (1) 25/DGM(JAL)/AO/SM(JAL)-I/21-22 M/o Sewerage (Two Yea S/o Mustard Oil & Soap in Div-I Store Sector-5) Noida. Rs. 39.73 Lacs The above tenders can be uploaded by date 16.08.2021 upto

5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 17.08.2021 at 11.00 AM. B) (1) 36/DGM(JAL)/AO/SM(JAL)-I/21-22 D/o Village (Relaying of Old Chocked and Damaged Water and Sewer Lines in M Village-Bishanpura) Noida. Rs. 63.81 Lacs

The above lenders can be uploaded by date 23.08.2021 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 24.08.2021 at11.00 AM. SENIOR MANAGER (JAL)-I

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# els good to be called a game-changer but I am just doing my job.' —Pankaj Tripathi

Bollywood

### **REALITY RUNS IN MY V**I

CHRISTY VARGHESE catches up with the reality TV star, PRINCE NARULA, and the founder of Dreamz Production House, SHARAD CHAUDHARY, as they join forces for the new web series, Extreme Survivors

Prince Narula is a name that has grown to be synonymous with reality television over the past five years. Prince first energed in limelight in 2014 when he finished as the second-runner up in PTC Unjabis Mr. Punjab. In 2015, he participated in MTV India's Roadies X2 where he emerged as the winner and thus commenced his reign as the widely acclaimed star of reality TV. Hot on the heels of his victory at Roadies X2, he took part in MTV India's Splitsvilla 8, winning his second reality TV crown on the trot. In October 2015, Narula entered Colors TV5 Bigg Boss 9, winning yet again, TV's *Bigg Boss 9*, winning yet again, marking a hat-trick of back-to-back

TV's Bigg Boss 9, winning yet again, marking a hat-trick of back-to-back wins.

In 2016, he raked in the rewards of the glory he had attained in the previous year. From 2016 to 2018, he portrayed Lakhan Tucky' Singh Ahlawat in 8TV's Badho Bahu. Since 2016, Narula has also been a 'gang leader' in each season of MTV Roadies. In 2018, he played Aryan in Laal Ishq. following which he portrayed Shahnawaz in Colors TV's Naagin 3. In 2019, Narula made his digital debut with ZEE'S Bombers as Bali. Next, as if on a whim, he participated in Star Plus' Nach Badiye 9, to win his fourth consecutive reality show.

Against the backdrop of this winning mentality comes the news that he would be hosting a new web series. Extreme Survivors. From a model, to a reality TV persona, to an actor and now a web series host, these are not unfamiliar grounds as he has been hosting Flipkart Video's Khel Paheliyon Ka, a riddie-themed interactive quiz show.

In these times when people prefer binge-watching shows and web series at their convenience from the confines of their homes, content has grown to become somewhat redundant. New times need newer solutions, which is why producers and directors are leaving no stone unturned to make sure they create content which can keep people engaged and invested. This is where Extreme Survivors, calcrected by Sharad Chaudarty, holds promise a breath of fresh air in times when lukewarm reality shows and web-series are a dime a dozen.

Sharad, who happens to be a cast-ing director and entertainment entre-



preneur working in the field for over eight years, expresses that the buzz surrounding Extreme Survivors is no fluke as it would be promising for audiences who love adventure and audiences who love adventu high-octane stunts and tasks.

"We have devoted a lot of time and energy to this show, and the results are out there for everyone to see. The first two episodes of *Extreme Survivors* is streaming now on the TV and Movie app named 'VIS ming now on the TV

Entertainment. I am sure you will like it," he says with a smile.

Sharad's Dreamz Production House, a well-known name in the modelling and fashion industry, is promoting the young talents of India through various ventures like Mr & Miss Super Model International and Provogue Personal Care Mr India. As we wait for Prince to join us, Sharad tells us that Prince has a lot going on, but at the moment he has been focussing on the projects of his record label, Winning Records.

Right on cue, Prince shows up and profusely apologises, sharing that he was in the middle of a music video shoot for his label.

His judgement is impeccable as he

and protosey apologiese, sharing that he was in the middle of a music video shoot for his label.

His judgement is impeccable as he sees our initial question coming from a mile away and laughs it off when we ask him how is Extreme Survivors different from other reality TV shows which promise high octane stunts, such as Roadies or Khatron Ke Khiladi.

"You might think that these shows are similar to each other, and on face value it might seem like they might seem to bear a close resemblance to each other. However, if you watch these shows you will realise that each one of the shows you will realise that each one of the shows you will realise that each one of the shows you will realise Extreme Survivors, you would have to agree that Sharad bhai has done a splendid job. I believe that if you really love something and work towards it to the best of your ability without worrying about the results, you will achieve it without fail. Sharad and I have poured a lot of love into the show, and I would urge you to watch the show," Prince grins.

When we quiz him on the chal-lenges he experienced while hosting the show, he is quick to retort, "Reality toh mere khoon me hai (Reality runs in my veins). After over six years in ton mere knoon me hat (Keality runs in my veins). After over six years in the industry, it comes naturally to me. Earlier this year, I was roped in by Flipkart Video to host their quiz shows of it is not really uncharted territory. However, it is great fun to be a part of a show like Extreme Survivors, which involved a lot of stunts and action. I have to say that my time as a gang leader' in the Roadies came in handy here. However, I have developed a change in mentality. Earlier, it was all about entertaining people. Now, while that is all well and good, I have grown to realise that I would to cause some real change and help inspire people. I hope through this show! I have been able to effect growth in participants and the audience, but there is always room for improvement. I have come

able to effect growth in participants and the audience, but there is always room for improvement. I have come a long way, yes, but there is a long way to go, yet!"

While Khatron Ke Khiladi, Roadies and Extreme Survivors may be designed differently, we ask him is there any chance of seeing him in Khatron Ke Khiladi, since he is well acquainted with the other two shows now!

"Who would turn down an opportunity to work with Rohit Shetty sir? Well, I have. (laughs) It was not by design of course, I just could not commit to the show because of pre-existing commitments. But you may rest assured, you will see me on his show soon, if not on the next season, the one after that I. can't wait to win my fifth reality show, after all," he shares unabashedly.



WHAT IF...?
Following the creation of the multiverse at the end of Loki's first season finale, the series explores the various branching timelines of that multiverse in which major moments from the Marvel Cinematic Universe ns occur differently. It releases on August 11 on sney+ Hotstar.



EVANGELION: 3.0+1.01 THRICE UPON A TIME

Japanes animated science fiction film written and co-directed by Hideaki Anno and produced by Studio Khara. It is the fourth and final film in the Rebuild of Evangelion film series of the Neon Genesis Evangelion franchise. It releases on August 13 on Amazon Prime Video.



BHUJ: THE PRIDE OF INDIA

The film's story is based during 1971 Indo-Pak war
when the IAF airstrip at Buj was destroyed in combat.
Subsequently, 300 local women from Gujarat, led by IAF squadron leader Vijay Karnik, heroically reconstruct the airbase. It releases on Augut 13 on Disney+ Hotstar.

### Passing the baton

Popular television actor SHWETA TIWARI shares some insights about her daughter PALAK, who is all set to make her debut in Bollywood

Ohweta Tiwari feels her daughter Palak, who is all set to make her debut in Bollywood with the horror film Rosie: The Soffton Chapter, is a better actor than her.

The 40-year-old added that she would love to share screen space with Palak if she gets a chance.

space with Palak if she gets a chance.

Shweta shared, "I would love to work with her. At times she does these auditions and when I see her at work, I feel that she is a better actor than me. She does it so easily, it seems effortless. I just keep looking and at times I can't help but get emotional when I see her perform."

Shweta has been a part of the small screen industry for over 20 years now. She gained the spotlight with her performance as Prerna Sharma Bajai in Kasautii Zindagii Kay, and later featured in shows such as Parvarrish and Begusarai, among others.

She also revealed that she doesn't consider herself a television star.

"I am not a star, I am an actor. People know me, yes, but I won't say I am a star by any means," she shared with a laugh.



Shweta, who is a part of the Shweta, who is a part of the 11th season of Khatron Ke Khiladi, hosted by filmmaker Rohit Shetty on Colors, revealed that now since her daughter has joined showbiz, there are a lot of common top-ited direct of incertodicts.

"Yes, at least we have com "Yes, at least we have com-mon topics to talk about. There are so many things that I could learn from her and vice versa. It's a lot of fun when you have the same things to talk about," Shweta concluded.

s the COVID-19 outbreak has us

As the COVID-19 outbreak has us spending a majority of our time at home, the sacred space where we go to relax, indulge in some self-care and pamper ourselves are no longer salons or spas but our bathrooms. This corner of our home can play a huge role in melting away the stress of the day, making us feel our best.

Against the backdrop of the pandemic, now, more than ever, ensuring that our bathroom is aesthetically pleasing is crucial. It is time to decode your bath space. Count every single thing within this area and create a sense of luxury. If you are bullding your sanctuary from scratch or renovating it, here are some ways in which you can elevate its overall look and feel with some minimalistic changes. nalistic changes.

imalistic changes.

Make a sustainable statement with your fittings and fixtures
In today's scenario, an ideal bathroom should not just offer a relaxing experience, but also ensure there is minimum water consumption and minimal wastage. Fortunately, new-age, futuristic brands are innovating sustainable products that create al luxury statement while also conserving water with every shower. For instance, certain cutting-edge showerheads enrich the shower water with air, making the droplets delightfully lighter and velvety soft. Not only does this guarantee more enjoyable showers, but it also enables you to reduce your water consumption and take a carefree shower every day.

Similarly, technologically advanced showers and faucets can reduce the amount of water that flows every time to give your comprehensive water and cost savings. These are available in clutter-free designs and styles where you can intuitively switch between jet modes and use only as much water as you need to get a satisfying and uplift-

### **Decode your bathroom space**

Gaurav Malhotra elaborates on how you can give your washroom a touch of luxury with some minimal changes



ing showering experience. Of course, these minimalistic fittings are available in eye-catching designs that you'll be proud to display in your bathrooms.

Less clutter spells elegance
Now that you know how to reduce
the clutter using your sustainable and
smart fittings, it is time to up the elegance quotient with everything present
in your bathroom. You can start with
reducing the number of products that
are displayed on your bathroom counters. The lesser the clutter, the more elegant your space will feel. You can also
use multipurpose products so that

fewer products are in your cupboards and drawers.

fewer products are in your cupboards and drawers.

DIY can be a complete hassle so make decisions and make mindful purchases. Choose a statement shade such as grey, chore, black or white according to the ambience you want to reate. Today, brands also offer taps and other fixtures with different, appealing surface finish designs. Whether you prefer chrome or a pop of colour, you can pick and choose, and add elegance to your bathroom.

Get inspiration from nature A true minimalist spa-like experi-



ence can exude from nature-inspired décor for your bathroom. Go for natural surfaces and materials like pebble floors, natural store tiles, wooden platforms to achieve an aesthetically pleasing the surface of the sur

(The author is the MD of Hansgrohe India, the German sanitary fittings manufacturer's Indian wing.)

#### TREND BLAZER



'I have always wanted to travel the length and breadth of our beautiful country and fortunately my work is taking me to incredibly distinct destinations. I will be shoot-ing a film for the first time in Prayagraj. Coincidentally, when I was participating in Roadies. I rode through this city and shot for the series. I still remember getting mes-merised by its history, heritage and architecture.

# dailytalk

'I think the whole fascination with the spy genre is what makes it so popular. It has a little something for everybody so, I think that always plays like a big hook. *Bellbottom* is the kind of story that will appeal to both the younger demographic and the older generation in terms of the style as well as the ngrossing narrative.

#### BATHING IS NOT REALLY NECESSARY

Hollywood actor JAKE GYLLENHAAL doesn't think that bathing is necessary as according to him it's helpful for 'skin maintenance' to allow the body to naturally clean itself. "With time, I find bathing to be

increasingly less necessary. I think that there's a whole world of benefits for skin maintenance if we don't bathe and that our body is naturally self-cleansing," Gyllenhaal told Vanity Fair magazine.











## AGAINST ALL ODDS

NEERAJ SHETYE shares the story of RAJU KENDRE, who overcame the system to pursue higher education and is paving the way for other marginalised students to do so as well

This is the story of a determined youth from one of the most some anginalised sections of Indian society, paving the path for many behind him. It is also a story of how the system itself creates barriers for many who do not have the privilege of accessing opportunities. It started 10 years ago, in 2011. Raju Kendre, then an 18-year-old boy, was in Pune for admission to undergraduate studies. Owing to financial constraints, he had to give up the opportunity. Today, he is transforming the education scenario in Maharashtra's rural region by helping tribal and marginalised communities access higher education. Not only this, Rajus's determination and belief in himself and the grit to follow the unconventional path has won him the prestigious Chevening Scholarship offered by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Government of United Kingdom (UK) to pursue his higher education.

"I dedicate this scholarship to first-generation learners," Raju wrote to his programme officer at the Chevening Secretariat as he confirmed his opportunity to study in the UK for the next academic year. He has been asserting this during his press

hrmed his opportunity to study in the UK for the next academic year. He has been asserting this during his press interviews and in his social media posts to highlight an important ground reality. "There are so many like me who have the credentials but lack

me who have the credentials but lack mentorship to access opportunities in our system," expressed Raju. As the results of the prestigious scholarship were declared on June 29, Rajus story went viral on social media. Raju was born to a family of farmers in Pimpri-Khandare, a small vilage in Maharshtraß Buldham district in the Vidarbha region. The area is known for faring poorly on development indicators compared to the rest of the actes. He confided to the less of the actes. He confided to the less of the actes. ment indicators compared to the rest of the state. He studied in the local zilla parishad school until the eighth standard, scoring good grades consis-tently. When he turned 14, he left for Bharat Vidhyalaya, Buldhana. The school is known for admitting meri-torious students from nearby areas for feather advantage. further education.

further education.
After returning from Pune, Raju
completed his bachelor's degree from
Maharashtra's open university. "I had
no one to guide me properly. As a
first-generation learner, it's important
to have the right mentor to steer your
path," he shared. This sowed the seed



for Eklavya, a grassroots mentorship platform for first-generation learners from tribal and other marginalised communities.

platform for first-generation learner's from tribal and other marginalised communities.

While pursuing his undergraduate education, he joined Maitri—an organisation—working in Melghat, a distant region on the footbills of Satpura hills in Amravati district bordering Madhya Pradesh. This region suffers from a high death rate among children due to malnutrition and lack of adequate healthcare. Maitri organises a volunteering camp during monsoons where social workers and volunteers from across the state visit the place and work towards improving the London to the local populace. He mentions that this was a critical moment in his life when he decided to pursue this cause further. Melghat transformed Raju's career path. "My experiences have shaped my decisions. And the time I spent at Melghat made me realise that my problems were part of a larger systemic issue. Many of us from rural areas of India are still struggling to access the most basic facilities promised to us by our Constitution," he said describine the initiation of his

promised to us by our Constitution, he said, describing the initiation of his journey. In 2014, he passed the entrance to the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), one of the premier institutes in the country, for development studies. He joined the Master's omised to us by our Constitution programme in rural development.



While talking about his experience at the institutes Tuljapur campus, he revealed, "TISS helped me to structure my thoughts. It helped me to devise a plan from theory to action".

His plan started taking shape when he took a break from the course in 2015 to contest the Gram Panchayat polls in his village. A local youth coalition was formed where the group addressed development concerns of the village — from education to water. To prove their commitment to water. To prove their commitment to be cause, Raju mentions that his panel printed their manifesto on bond papers and distributed it around the village. "People have the right to

hold their leaders accountable. We wanted to prove this commitment with actions and not just words," he remarked. They lost the polls but 21-year-old Raju set up a progressive precedent. "Today, local youth have mobilised themselves actively. They are forming independent panels and some have won these polls too," he said while describing the political situation today.

some have won these polls too" he said while describing the political situation today.

After he graduated from TISS, Raju was selected in the Chief Minister's fellowship programme commissioned by the Maharashtra State Government. During the fellowship, he witnessed the systemis functioning from within. "Maharashtra was at the forefront of the progressive movement. But there were instances which made me realise that he state's commitment to implementing social justice measures was quite slow, especially for geographically distant areas generally populated by scheduled castes and tribes," he said, citing one of the learnings from the programme. Raju strongly believes that Dalits, Bahujan and Adivasi students have to access formal education to uplif themselves. Intending to set up local libraries in distant villages of Vidarbha, he started a book collection drive after the fellowship. He is encouraging more and more students to read and think.

"I believe that a good mentor can

steer you towards success. There are many organisations and government initiatives encouraging students to access primary and secondary education. But there are very few initiatives aiding these students to access higher education. Students coming from lower class-lower caste and tribal backgrounds do not have the same privileges. Many of us in the rural areas face a tough time with limited access and a grave digital divide," said Rajiu, while elaborating on Eklavyas philosophy. The movement has helped over 130 students from rural areas of Waharashtra access opportunities such as scholarships and placements. Students who registered in Ekalavyas mentorship programme are placed in premier institutions like TISS, INU, Azim Premji University, Delhi School of Social Work and IIT's Development Studies programs.

After his success here, he started dies programs. After his success here, he started

After his success here, he started preparing for opportunities abroad to encourage students to aim beyond conventional options. Raju received offers from 18 universities in the UK alone but there was a severe dearth of funding. Chevening Scholarships are one of the most competitive scholarships known for selecting potential leaders from over 166 countries across the world. For the 2021-22 caademic calendar, they received over 63,000 applicants globally, an unprecedented figure. Over 5,000 of these candidates were shortlisted for the interview appicants goodary, at unpreceding digure. Over 5,000 of these candidates were shorlisted for the interview round in March-April. While the exact number is yet unknown, the cohort from India has 53-60 members. Raju is one of them and he will be joining the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). Horizan Studies (SOAS) to University of London to pursue a master's degree in development studies. While discussing his goals after Chevening, Raju shared, "I want to establish a dedicated institution — India's first tribal university — for first-generation learners. I want to use my experience to make things better for the next generation. Eklavya, as a movement, will create 2000 such leaders in the next few years."

Raju's story is a testimony to one

Raju's story is a testimony to one of the gaps in our approach in ensuring social justice. Accessibility, alone, is not enough if there are no mentorship opportunities to help students from the margins enter the mainstream. Raju's story is a testimony to one



#### Remember our forefathers' sacrifices

Rajyogi Brahmakumar Nikunjji feels that the only way to achieve the vision of our ancestors, who fought for India's independence, is by overcoming our vices

OVERCOTHING OUT VIC India gained freedom from British rai, 75 years ago on August 15, as a result of sacri-fices made by leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Pandir Nehru, Maulana Azad and thousands of others who suffered grievously at the hands of Britishers. Many sons and daughters of India even lost their lives in India's free-dom movement. All those who took part in this struggle, which devoured innumerable lives and enormous wealth, made their sacrifices because they thought that India, after independence, would regain peace and prosperity. Our forefathers had a beautiful vision of a united India which forefathers had a beautiful vision of a united India which was free from poverty, communal hatred, slavery to foreign habits and goods and had the complete liberty to build the future, styled by Mahatma Gandhi as the 'Ram Raijva'. With a dream in their eyes and zest in their heart, they fought for our freedom till their very last breath to ensure that we do not have to face what they had to, But today, when we look at the present state of our belowed country, we are unable to match it with the vision they had envisaged.

Today we proudly say that we are a free country, but our behaviour suggests that we are still not free. How? Because we are full of bitterness towards other religions, traditions and always try to suppress the growth of others. We are tied in shackles of terrorism, false vision of a united India which



ideologies, corruption, com-munal violence, caste distinc-tions and so on. We tend to forget that independence is not only living freely but also allowing others to live freely. All this makes one wonder if are we really independent? Are we worthy of any praise? Most of us would agree that at this point what we have is no? \*Ram \*Ranjui,\* which is described as a place or a period where every-one — right from the king down to the most ordinary subject — is righteous and down to the most ordinary subject — is righteous and pure, which is the essence of true religion, is visible everywhere. But in present India one finds, corruption not character, poverty not purity, and violence and vandalism rather than virtues that are thriving visibly. With such a scenario, if we want to have real freedom, we will have to liberate ourselves from the chains of five vices of lust, anger, greed, ego and attachment. As long as we have not secured a release from these five well-known enemies, we cannot call ourselves truly independent.

Dear Anthia,
Why is it that octopuses are always the
bad guys in films? For some reason, they
seem to freak most people out which must
be bad for their PR. Oh... and what is the
plural of octopus (octopus, octopuses, octopi
or octopodes)? That question seems to really bug the grammar Nazis.

oug the grammar Naz LOL- Dr Achtbeine

If yough the grammar Nazas.

LOL- Dr Achtbeine

Hello, Dr Arschgeig,
Time, like tollet paper, is a precious thing.
Some hoard it, waste it even; others recognise its value and so expend it wisely, frugally, in moderation. Writing to newspaper columns about octopus oppression places you firmly in the former category, as a bane to society. So with that poo-pooing complete, let me address your absurd remarks...

Famous for its guile, its gangly arms and its grudge with grammarians, the octopus has captured the hearts and souls of generations—which is probably why it now has three hearts itself. It graced the stage in the worst ever Spider-Man film, as a Bach-playing organ fanatic in the pirate movie nobody can spell, and just last year starred in the Oscar-winning documentary Octosox about how our eight-legged friends propped up the sock industry during its slump in the pandemic when everyone had zip-tied their purse strings. All of which goes to show that there's one lie to every two truths told.

The same applies to your letter—yes, octopuses make excellent evil geniuses; yes, they piss off people trying to pluralise them; but by no means is weirding legniuses; yes, they piss off people trying to pluralise them; but by no means is weirding people out bad for PR. Just look at America's last president. First things first —why do nasty octopi get cast' Well, let me rather ask you a question. Do you fear waterslides, mops and

In a new monthly, frightfully fractious animal complaints column, ELLIOT CONNOR delves arm in arm into why octopi are suckers

drive-through carwashes? Of course, you do! And all these things have clear traits in common: they're wet and they're tentacle. Ergo igos facto quid pro quo et cetera, octopi give people the creeps.

It goes beyond that, however: Octopus' rhymes with hippopotamus — a creature notorious for killing people, tallying 500 human fatalities each year. It also rhymes with hopeless; giporamus, and autobus — all words with bapeless; giporamus, and surbous, and creatures clearly fallen in with the wrong crowd.

Other traits probably don't help either. Octopuses have blue blood, just like spiders, scorpions, vampires and the Queen. No popularity points there. The very name, octopus; is an anagram of itself (switch the viso) which surely is evidence of witchcraft. And some scientists believe that they're aliens, or rather squids mutated by DNA carried on an ancient meteorite. Pretty tenta-cool if you ask me.

But time and tide wait for no man, so

an ancient meteorite. Pretty tenta-coor in you ask me.

But time and tide wait for no man, so whilst we've delved into octopuses' villain credentials and discovered what makes them queer as quaggas, one important question remains answered- to pluralise or not to plu-



ralise? To be or not to bees? Octopus, octo-

ralise? To be or not to bees? Octopus, octo-puses, octopodes or octopi? All of these forms are considered right by different dictionaries and warring gram-mar gangs. I disagree. Octopus cannot be both singular and plural because chaos would ensue. Heaven knows we have enough problems already with plurals — 'woman' and 'women' is especially cruel, besides which some words outright refuse to exist in the singular form. You can have a pair of scis-

sors, but one sciss? I don't think so. No, the

sors, our one sciss: 1 dont timits so, no, the one octopus, two octopus formulation is simply asking for trouble, like the nerdy kid walking into class on his first day with big spectacles labelled fragile: do not break!

As for octopi, if such a word existed it would mean approximately 25.1327412 (eight times pt., and an utterly useless value all-round). Or perhaps it would be some sort of experimental, mixed cuisme. Either way, of experimental, mixed cuisine. Either way it is NOT a group of octopuses because octo

pus is a word derived from Greek so using the Latin pluralisation octopi makes you less intelligent than Caesar AND HE'S DEAD. That leaves us with just two forms, from which you're free to pick and choose. If nearchang you are proportional to the contraction of the contraction o

That leaves us with just two forms, from which you're free to jick and choose. If perchance you are a pretentious nitwit, then octopodes would be the correct Greek plural and if you'd rather not have your head flushed down a tole! then octopuses is the safer option. Better yet, steer clear of the subject altogether. Octopodes are solitary animals after all, so whoever started the whole futile debate was as sadistic and manipulative as the inventor of English grammar.

So where does that leave us? On the first count, the octopus for octopus for Dutch-speakers') has long been held as the villain of legend. From the infamous Kraken to the sea monster of Jules Verne's 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea to Ursula in The Little Mermaid and countless other fictitious beasts, octopuses frighten folks. Even beyond the tales, few creatures can fell 26 people within minutes, just from being held. Australia's blue-ringed octopus can and does (though not often 26 in a session unless the victims are stood like dominos). On the other hand, octopuses are weird enough to be noteworthy without being

badass. I mean, they look like mop heads that have just finished mopping up marsh-mallows, so you can see why they evolved active camouflage. We've all heard of a headless chicken, but octopuses have a 'brain' in each arm, allowing them to pick their nose after being decapitated (assuming they still had a nose, or rather that they had nose in the first place... OK, bad examined they have been them to be the control of the

example).

They've been known to rob fishermen, juggle hermit crabs, intentionally flood aquariums and engineer electrical outages, alongside solving Rublisc cubes faster than any human could. One octopus in a UK aquarium learnt to break out of its tank at night and snack on fish from a nearby tank before returning innocently in time for the

aquarium learnt to break out of its tank at night and snack on fish from a nearby tank before returning innocently in time for the keeper's morning arrival. And who could forget Paul, the German octopus, who correctly predicted the results of all seven of Germany's games and the final of the 2010 FIFA World Cup?

In the end, our world is filled with ignorant people who call octopuses octopi, who think they have six or 10 legs and serve them up on fish menus alongside cuttlefish, starfish, crayfish, jellyfish and shellish, none of which belong to that elite class. Octopuses are smarter than we are, so they become the de facto bad guys to heal our wounded self-esteem. In the age-old words of Harry Wormwood, "I'm smart, you're dumb; I'm big, you're little, I'm right, you're wrong and there's nothing you can do about it."

The End.

(The author is a wildlife carer, naturalist, researcher, writer, scientist, host of the Animalsense podcast and a TEDX speaker.)



When you are inspired by some great purpose, some extraordinary project, all your thoughts break their bonds.

#### REASONS BEHIND ANTI-VACCINE MENTALITY

Vaccine deniers are mostly led by a generalised negative attitude to vaccines, according to a study.

V attitude to vaccines, according to a study.

Vaccine deniers believe that vaccines lead to serious negative side effects, don't protect the individual and the society against infectious diseases, and are not sufficiently tested before introduction.

introduction.

Further, they are convinced that anti-vaccination leaders are better informed about

r informed about nes than physicians, and that it is rather the former that the public interest. A team led by the Jagiellonian University and the SWPS visity of Social Sciences and Humanities in Wroclaw,

University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Wrocław, Poland conducted a study using data from a total of 492 participants, who have self-identified as either ambiguous towards or opposing vaccination. Curiously, even though they often reported their stance to be founded in their ow or observed negative experience with vaccines, when asked about their reasoning, they were rather vague in their

#### SAY NO TO COOKING WITH COAL/WOOD

Cooking with wood or coal can increase the risk of major eye diseases that can lead to blindness, according to a study involving nearly half a million people in China. The study led by a



The study led by a team of international researchers from the University of Oxford and the Chinese Academy of Medical Science and Peking University, Beijing, showed that long-term use of solid fuels for cooking was associated with conjunctiva (32 per cent), cataracts (17 per cent), and disorders of the sclera, comea, iris and ciliary body (ISCID-35 per cent), compared with those who cooked using clean fuels individuals who switched from using solid to clean fuels cooking had smaller elevated risks (over those who had always used clean fuels) compared to those who did not switch. People who switched had 21 per cent, 5 per cent and 21 per cent higher risk for conjunctiva, cataracts, and and 21 per cent higher risk for conjunctiva, cataracts, and DSCIC, respectively, according to the results published in the journal PLOS Medicine

#### SELECTIVE VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Eleven out of the 36 districts in Maharashtra have been found to be 'highly vulnerable' to extreme weather events, droughts and dwindling water security and account for almost 40 per cent of the cropped area across central Maharashtra, a new study has found.

The state's 37 per cent agricultural area spread over 14 districts is moderately vulnerable, which takes the tally to three-fourth of Maharashtra's cropped regions as high to

moderate vulnerable to the prevailing climate crisis, the study Socio-economic prevailing ciminar crisis, ser study Socio-economic vulnerability to climate change - Index development and mapping for districts in Maharashira has found out, a

release said here.

However, the study did not include Mumbai and suburban districts in the analysis. The study was conducted by Chaltanya Adhav from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-National Dairy Research Institute (MDRI), Kamal, Haryana, under the guidance of R Sendhil from ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Bairey Research.

#### LIGHTNING DEATHS SHOWING INCREASING TREND

Parts of the Indian Peninsula, particularly the northeast Pand east, have registered a sharp increase of lip over the past two decades, while the spike is minithe central part of the country and moderate over the rest.

According to a recent study by The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, an esearch and

development institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), it was found that with 401 statalities, Bihar topped the list of lightning deaths from April 1, 2020 till March 31, 2021, followed by Uttar Pradesh (228) and Madhya Pradesh (228) and Madhya Pradesh (228), dolfsan (136), Jharkhand (132), Chhattisgarh (78), Maharashtra (68), Karnataka (64), Assam (46) and Rajasthan (42) are the top 10 states to witness lightning deaths for that duration.

#### MANGOES TO LOWER SUGAR LEVELS

For all those who have been avoiding eating mangoes due to health issues, including diabetes, here is some good



The Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, (CISH) Lucknow has developed healthier varieties of mangoes with bio-active compounds that have high medicinal benefits, including anti-cancerous properties. Shailendra Rajan, director CISH, said, "Indeet, its a major breakthrough for us. Mango is the most fasoured fruit and of the many hybrid varieties of mango the researchers found that CISH-developed Arunika was rich in the bio-active compounds which lover blood glucose levels by preventing glucose absorption in the intestine whereas the manuferior present in this variant. ntestine, whereas the mangiferin present in this variant nelps to protect the body against breast and colon

ncer."
Raian added that in the near future, cultivation of these special varieties of mango would yield better income to the farmers and also health benefits to the consumers.



# **NEERAJ TARGETS 90M THROW NOW**

A history-scripting Olympic Gold medal in this pocket, star javelin thrower Nearaj Chopra's next target is breaching the 90m mark soon in the coming events. In fact, Chopra, who clinched the country's maiden athletics medal to become only the second huling to with an

the second Indian to win an individual Gold in the Olympics, went for it while trying for the Games record (90.57m) on Saturday but could not accom-

Plish it.

"Javelin throw is a very arent and a lot "Javelin throw is a very technical event and a lot depends on the day's form. Anything can happen. So, my next target is to breach the 90m (mark)," Chopra said after his historic feat.

historic feat.
"I was just focussing on Olympics this year. Now that I have won the Gold, I will plan ahead for the upcoming competitions. After coming to India, I will again look for a foreign visa

titions. After coming to India, i will again look for a foreign visa to take part in international events, he added.

After pulling out of the Gateshead Diamond League on July 13, Chopra had said that he could participate in the remain-ing legs of the elite one-day meeting series after the Olympics.

The Lausanne (August 26) and Paris (August 28) legs as well as the Zurich finals (September 9) will have men's javelin events. The Olympics is the grand-est stage for any athlet and can be intimidating but not for 23-year old Chopra, who said he did



Neeraj Chopra in action during men's javelin throw event

does at any outc. ...
event.
"There was no pressure and
" - :+ (Olympics) just There was no pressure and I was taking it (Olympics) just like any other event. It was like I have played against these ath-letes before and there's no rea-

son to worry. I was able to focus on my performance. That has helped me win Gold. "Yes, I did think about India

res, I did mink about india not winning a medal in athlet-ics but once I get hold of my javelin, all these things do not come to my mind." He was short on prepara-

tions in the run-up to the Olympics with just three inter-national events under his belt, and only one of them featured a top class field. But he said he was happy to

have got the chance to compete.
Asked how he was able to come up with big throws in his

first throw goes well, it the first throw goes well, then it releases the pressure. That hap-pened. The second throw was also very good. "I knew at the point of release both will go far. That must have put pressure on the other athletes."

#### Strong family support key to Chopra's success

Panipat: A strong determina-tion, discipline and hardwork backed by family's unflinching support played a key role in shaping his career, agreed with his brother. "God has answered our prayers. Tit is not only a play-er's hard work and strong er's hard work and strong Chense fich be. Strike

star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's success at his maid-en Olympic Games in Tokyo. Chopra's father Satish Chopra, who has a farming background, credited family support behind his son's achievement.

support behind his son's achievement.

"When one's child achieves success and brings glory to the nation, there are no words to express happiness of parents and entire family. We live in a joint family and we are four brothers. Neeraj (Chopra) has been lucky in the sense that he got full support from entire family, who constantly encouraged and motivated him to pursue his passion," he told the media.

The athlete's mother Saroj

The athlete's mother Saroi added: "Today, he has lived up to everyone's expectations and to everyone's expectations and made India proud," she said. Chopra's uncle Bhim

determination that counts, strong family support, constant encouragement and motiva-tion and inculcating good val-ues is important. Neeraj have all these which helped him pursue his aim," Bhim Chopra pursue his aım, pursue his aid.

Chopra's native Khandra

Chopra's native Khandra village, near Panipat burst into celebratory mood after their very own child shone bright at sport's biggest stage on Saturday evening.

Even eldetrly women in the village and family have been dancing and singing after he had won a Gold and heaped praise on the son-of-the-soil for making India proud.

Satish said he was confident that his son would win a medal, but was not sure about the colour of the medal. PTI

### The stars of India's best ever Olympic show

India capped off its best-ever performance in the Olympics with a haul of seven medals, including a Gold. As the Tokyo Olympics come to a close, let's take a look at the medallists and those who came within touching distance of glory but couldn't quite make it to the podium.



They say save the best for last and for India it came true at the Tokyo Games. Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra became only the second Indian to win an individual Gold in the Olympics.

After romanticising stories about 'nearly there' for years, India finally had its first track-and-field medal winner, thanks to Chopra's throw of 87.58m.

net, thanks to Chopra's throw of 87.58m.

The 23-year-old, a Subedar with 4 Rajputana Rifles in the Indian Army, has been a consistent performer since bursting into the scene with a historic Gold in the junior world championships in 2016 with an Under-20 world record of 86.48m which still stands.

His other achievements include Gold medals in the

include Gold medals in the 2018 Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games, besides the top finish in the 2017 Asian Championships. His other achievem include Gold medals in

MIRABAI CHANU: SILVER



The pint-sized weightlifter from Manipuri lifted the spirits of the entire nation as she ended a 21-year wait for a medal in weightlifting, clinching a Silver medal in the 49kg category to open India's account on the very first day of competitions on July 24.

The 26-year-old lifted a total of 202kg (87kg+115kg), finally exorcising the ghosts of her disastrous outing in the 2016 Rio Games where she had failed to log a single legitimate lift.

RAVI DAHIYA: SILVER

RAVI DAHIYA: SILVER
The 23-year-grappler
born in the Nahri village of the
Sonepat district in
H a r y a n a
stormed to
the final of
the men's
5 7 k g
free style
event without any fuss.
Although, he fetched a
Silver, his immense strength
and stamina along with tech
nical prowess impressed one
and all.
Dahiya is a product of the

national capital's Chhatrasal Stadium, which has already given India two Olympic medallists — Sushil Kumar and Yogeshwar Dutt.

PV SINDHU: BRONZE



One of the strongest medal contenders heading to the Tokyo Olympics, PV Sindhu delivered once again. This time snatching a Bronze. The 26-year-old etched her name among the all-time greats after winning women's singles Bronze medal to add to the Silver she won at Rio de Janeiro five years back. She became the first Indian woman and second overall from the country to achieve the feat.

Such was her dominance

Such was her dominance at the Tokyo Games that she dropped only two games, both in the semifinal loss to Tai Tzu Ying, in six matches.

MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM:



Four decades of pain and disappointment was washed away as the Indian men's hockey team clinched the Bronze, the country's 12th Olympic medal in the sport that came after a gap of 41 years.

It wasn't Gold but it was enough to spearhead the revival of the sport in a country that attaches so much sentimental value to it.

While Manpreet inspired the team with his leadership, goalkeeper PR Sreeijesh had a phenomenal tournament, standing like a wall when the opposition mounted an attack.

LOVLINA BORGOHAIN:



Competing in her maiden Olympics, Borgohain carved a niche for herself in the histoniche for herself in the history of Indian women's boxing by clinching a Bronze — India's lone boxing medal at the Tokyo Games.

BAJRANG BRONZE

BRONZE

A favourite heading into the Games, Bajrang didn't quite live up to the sky-high expectations of becoming the first Indian wrestler to win the Gold, but the 27-year-old did return from Tokyo with a Bronze medal, an impressive feat in a nation starved for suc-

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

From a bottom-place finish at Rio 2016, the Indian women's team capped a remarkable journey at Tokyo Olympics, finishing a creditable fourth.

itable fourth.
Although the team's
dream of securing its maiden
Olympic medal remained
unfulfilled as it lost 3-4 to



Great Britain in the closely contested Bronze medal play-off, the side recorded its best ever finish at the Games. After three losses on the

ever finish at the Games.
After three losses on the trot, everyone had written them off. But a moment of brilliance by skipper Rani Rampal that led to a late strike by Navneet Kaur in the team's quarterfinal hopes alive. A win against South Africa, that saw Vandana Kataria strike a hat-trick, and a favourable result helped ensure India's passage to the quarterfinal, where drag flick specialist Gurjit Kaur rose to the occasion when it mattered the most, converting a PC against the mighty Australians.
With the odds stacked firmly against them a brave and determined women's team etched its name in the history books by entering its maiden Olympic semifinals.

DEEPAK PUNIA

DEEPAK PUNIA
After an impressive campaign that saw him race to the semifinals, Deepak Punia was only 10 seconds away from a medal, but the 22-year-old debutant ended up conceding a take-down in the 86kg freestyle Bronze medal playoff.

ADITI ASHOK

Aditi Ashok captured the imagination of the entire imagination of the entire country as sports lovers turned on their tv sets in the wee hours to watch golf, trying their hardest to understand the concepts of the game.

Ranked 200 in the world the 23-year-old from Bengaluru competed toe-to-



toe against the best golfers in the world. But, alas it wasn't meant to be as after coming agonisingly close, Aditi fin-ished fourth.

### **Knee injury affected Bajrang's Oly prep**

New Delhi: Star India wrestler Bajrang Punia on Sunday revealed that his knee injury forced him to skip mat training for nearly three weeks which severely hampered his Olympic preparations and he took the mat for the Bronze play-off without any knee protection, going against the advice of his support staff. Bajrang had skipped the

going against the advice of his support staff.

Bajrang had skipped the Poland Open, the last ranking event before the Tokyo Games, arguing that he needed training more than the points and headed to Russia, where he trained and also ended up injuring his right knee by choosing to compete in a local event.

He was off-colour in his first three bouts in Tokyo but played his usual tactical and aggressive game

usual factical and aggressive game in the do-or-die Bronze medal bout and com-fortably beat D a u l e t Niyazbekov

Niya zbekov frama zbekov m kazakhstan to an a podium finish on Olympic debut. To could not do mat training for nearly 25 days. I was not able to run as well after the injury. Before a tournament like Olympics even missing one day's training sin ot good, "Bajrang said during a media interaction.

"My coaches and physio wanted me to

taped knee in the Bronze bout.
But I don't feel comfortable. It
feels like someone has tied my
leg, so I told them even if injury
happens I can rest later but if I
don't win medal now all the
work will be lost, so I went all
out" be said.

compete when he had skipped the Poland Open to train, the 27-year-old said he needed to assess himself.

27-year-old said he needed to assess himself.

Thjuries can happen in training also. And most of the injuries happen during training because in the tournaments you are completely focussed. In training, you do a too f different things.

Theeded to see where I stand in terms of preparations, so I had to compete, the said defending his decision.

The 27-year-old said he will continue to compete in the 65kg category till the Paris Games.

"There is no scope to move to 74kg. Next year where the CWG and the Asian Games. I have missed the Gold medal now but will work on my weaknesses and try to get a top-finish in Paris, he said.

Bajrang said he will start rehabilita-

Bajrang said he will start rehabilitawill start renaumation after going home and will get ready for the World



Artists perform during the closing ceremony of 2020 Tokyo Olympics at the Olympic Stadium on Sunday

### 1st Test ends in draw as rain washes out final day

Nottingham: Persistent rain proved to be anti-climactic as India, who had a realistic shot at victory in the series-opener, were forced to share points with England after entire fifth day's play was washed out, here on Sunday.

India needed to score 157 runs on the final day but the rain did not allow a single ball.

As part of the new World Test Championship cycle, both India and England log home four points each.

Only 250 plus overs out of a maximum 450 were possible due to the inclement weather as India, chasing a target of 209, were well-placed at 52 for 1 in 14 overs at the end of fourth day.

While cricket remains a

day.

While cricket remains a while start renabilitation after going home and will get ready for the World Championships, set to be held in Oslo, Norway from October 2-10. PTI England to stop India from



Groundsmen cover the pitch area after rain delayed start of the fifth day play of first Test between England and India at Trent Bridge in Nottingham on Sunday AP

The Stewen England and India at Tiers Bridge in Notlingham on Sunday AP scoring 209 runs despite over-cast conditions which would have certainly aided seam and swing bowling.

However there are a lot of takeaways for India from the opening Test of the series.

The Indian team in recent times, save the series in 2007 and the one in 2014, have always lost the opening Test in England and this was a welt-come change in that respect.

The biggest positive for August 12.

### Messi admits 'possibility' of PSG move after Barca exit

AFP BARCELONA

Lionel Messi fought back tears
on Sunday as he began a
press conference at which he
confirmed he is leaving
Barcelona, where he has played
his entire career.

The 3-y-ear-old
Argentinian superstar, six times
a Ballon d'Or winner, has been
out of contract since the end of
June and Barca say they cannot
afford to keep him, with Messi
admitting that a move to Paris
Saint-Germain is a possibility.

"This year, my family and I
were convinced we were going
to stay here, at home — this is
what we wanted more than
anything," said Messi as he
struggled to contain his emotions.

"I have still not come to

tions.

"I have still not come to terms with the reality of leaving this club now, changing my life. I love this club.

Last year he sought to engineer a release from his contract in frustration at some poor



showings in Europe by the club where he has won four Champions Leagues but ended up staying. Last year, he explained, "I was convinced I knew what I was convinced I knew what 1 wanted to say, but this year is not the same", stressing his preference was to prolong his stay rather than contemplate what now seems a likely reunion

ss he won as a player with FC Barcelona with former clubmate Neymar at PSG.

"I would've liked to have won another Champions League," he added while stressing tha "I don't regret anything, I tried to give my best and I'm ending my career here with a good number of titles."

Last month Barcelona, battling huge debts, had said they

were in agreement in principle with the player and his entourage on a new five-year deal on much reduced wages.

"The truth is I don't know what to say," said Messi, who signed for the Catalan giants as a 13-year-old.

"After 21 years I am leaving with my three Catalan Argentine children," said Messi, who won

"This is really difficult for me after so many years spent here — my entire life. I'm not ready for this," he said.
"We have had some good times, some bad times too — but people always showed me the same love," said Messi, who said leaving was 'sad and hard'.

As thousands of Barca fans milled outside in disbelief at his exit, Messi told reporters one day he hoped to be back in some capacity.
"I have I can come back and

"Thope I can come back and be part of this club at some moment, in any way and bring something to help this club to be the best in the world."

'NOTHING SIGNED'

Messi was at pains to say that "nothing has been signed with anyone" and insisted that a justice of him which has made waves on social media in recent days of him on holiday with PSG stars including Neymar and Angel Di Maria was 'just a phote said there was no question of his having enginered a path to the Parc des Princes, adding that there had been interest from other clubs. "When the press release (of his departure) was published, I received a lot of calls from interested clubs," he told reporters who applauded him for several minutes as he took the stage at the start of the press conference and again as he left the stage to embrace staff in the clubs trophy room.

"For the moment nothing is arranged but, yes, we are in discussion," said the Argentinian, who insisted he has always been 'totally transparent' on his intentions. 10 league titles with the club.
"I gave everything for this club from the first day that I carrived right to the last. I never imagined having to say goodbye.
"In recent days I have given lots of thought to what I can say and truth to tell I can't think of anything.
"This is really difficult for ne after so many years spent



#### Parisians survive opening scare

Patis: Paris Saint-Germain might be closing in on signing Lionel Messi but another Argentinian was their matchwinner on Saturday as Mauro Icardis goal secured a 2-1 victory against newly-promoted Troyes in their opening game of the new Ligue I season.

Second-tier champions Troyes had gone in front inside eight minutes to the delight of their fans at the Stade de l'Aube when Moroccan defender Oualid El Hajjam headed home

at a corner.

However, PSG were back level in the 19th minute thanks to a thumping finish by their own Moroccan defender Achraf Hakimi.

Lardi then scored what prowed to be the winner just two minutes later, controlling a Kylian Mbappe cutback and slotting home.

The Argentine striker is one of those who may have the most to lose with the possible arrival of Messi.

AFP