

OPINION 6
 IMAGE ISSUES FOR
 RAMBOS, GI JOES

WORLD 8
 US PREZ DEFENDS TROOPS
 WITHDRAWAL FROM AF

SPORT 12
 NOT BOTHERED BY
 CRITICISM: RAHANE

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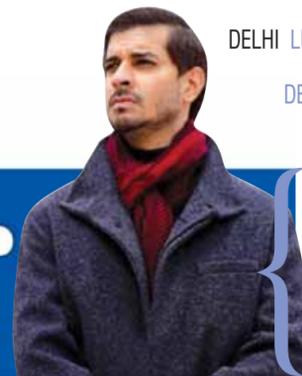
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TAHIR RAJ
 BHASIN'S
 NEW AVATAR
 11 VIVACITY

Govt unveils ₹6L cr monetisation plan

Power, roads, rly stations, airports, telecom, coal mines, stadiums, among the plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday announced an ambitious ₹6 lakh crore National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) aimed at unlocking value in infrastructure assets across sectors ranging from power to road and railways as well as Jawaharlal Nehru stadium in New Delhi.

The Finance Minister had announced the monetisation plan in her annual Budget speech in February.

Sitharaman said the asset monetisation did not involve selling of land and it is about monetising brownfield assets. Projects have been identified across sectors, with roads, railways and power being the top segments.

"NMP estimates aggregate monetisation potential of ₹6 lakh crore through core assets



Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman during the launch of the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) in New Delhi on Monday PTI

of Central Government over the four-year period from FY 2022 to FY 2025," she said. "Ownership of assets will remain with the Government and there will be a mandatory hand-back."

Asset monetisation will unlock resources and lead to value unlocking, she said.

Union Budget 2021-22 had identified monetisation of operating public infrastructure assets as a key means for

sustainable infrastructure financing. Towards this, the Budget provided for preparation of a "National Monetisation Pipeline" of potential brownfield infrastructure assets. NITI Aayog in consultation with infra line ministries has prepared the report on NMP.

The aggregate asset pipeline under NMP over the four-year period is indicative-ly valued at ₹6 lakh crore. The

estimated value corresponds to 14 per cent of the proposed outlay for Centre under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (₹43 lakh crore).

The end objective of this initiative is to enable "infrastructure creation through monetisation" wherein the public and private sector collaborate, each excelling in their core areas of competence, so as to deliver socio-economic growth and quality of life to the country's citizens, she added.

In the railways sector, as many as 400 railway stations, 90 passenger trains, 741-km Konkan Railways and 15 railway stadiums and colonies are planned to be monetised for an estimated ₹1.2 lakh crore.

Monetising 28,608 circuit kilometres of power transmission lines is estimated to generate ₹45,200 crore and another ₹39,832 crore will come from 6 GW of power generation assets.

The telecom sector will give ₹35,100 crore from monetising 2.86 lakh km of BharatNet fiber and 14,917 signal towers of BSNL and MTNL.

Close to ₹29,000 crore each is estimated from monetising warehouses and coal mines.

Continued on Page 2

Centre calls all-party meet on Af situation on Aug 26

Jaishankar to brief leaders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India is engaged in a big rescue operation to bring out its citizens from strife-torn Afghanistan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will brief Parliamentary leaders of various political parties on August 26 about the situation there.

This forthcoming all-party interaction comes at the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said here on Monday. He said the physical briefing will take place at 11 am on Thursday in Parliament House Annex.

"Floor leaders of political parties will be briefed by EAM @DrSJaishankar on the present situation in Afghanistan, on 26th August, 11am in Main Committee Room, PHA, New Delhi. Invites are being sent through email. All concerned are requested to attend," Joshi tweeted.

"In view of developments in Afghanistan, PM @narendramodi has instructed that the MEA brief Floor Leaders of political parties. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs



An Afghan child refugee during a protest in front of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in New Delhi on Monday PTI

@JoshiPralhad will be intimating further details," Jaishankar tweeted earlier.

Sources said the first ever

briefing of this sort is expected to focus on India's evacuation, and Afghanistan situation.

Continued on Page 2

Afghan refugees protest in front of UNHCR office

New Delhi: Amid deepening crisis in Afghanistan after the Taliban took over the war-torn nation, a large number of Afghan refugees in India vociferously protested in front of the UNHCR office here on Monday demanding release of "support letters" from the UN agency to migrate to other countries for better opportunities.

Three Sikh scripture copies, 75 people being flown in from Kabul on IAF aircraft

New Delhi: Three copies of Sikh scripture Guru Granth Sahib and 75 people, including 46 Afghan Sikhs and Hindus, are being evacuated from war-ravaged Afghanistan on an IAF plane, people coordinating the evacuation efforts with the Indian Government said on Monday. Nearly 200 more Afghan Sikhs and Hindus are still stranded in Afghanistan.

Taliban warn of consequences if US delays pullout

PTI ■ LONDON

Ahead of an emergency G7 meeting on Afghanistan, the Taliban on Monday warned that there will be "consequences" if the US and the UK sought an extension to the August 31 deadline for the US-led troop withdrawal from the war-torn country.

Speaking to Sky News in Doha, Qatar, Taliban spokesperson Dr Suhail Shaheen stated that the month-end deadline was a "red line", as any extension would imply an extended occupation of the country.

He said the timeline had been laid out by US President Joe Biden and threatened "consequences" if the US and the UK sought an extension to that deadline.

"It's a red line. President Biden announced that on August 31 they would withdraw all their military forces. So if they extend it that means



they are extending occupation while there is no need for that," Shaheen said.

"If the US or the UK were to seek additional time to continue evacuations — the answer is no. Or there would be consequences. It will create mistrust between us. If they are intent on continuing the occupation it will provoke a reaction," he said.

The warning came as British Prime Minister Boris Johnson convened an emergency G7 meeting on Tuesday in his role as current Chair of the Group of Seven countries — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States and the UK.

Continued on Page 2

Third wave by Sept-Oct: Expert panel

'If vaccination is not ramped up, case will rise exponentially'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The third wave of Covid-19 could hit the country anytime between September and October, an expert panel set up by an institute under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has predicted. It has called for significantly ramping

up the vaccination pace as well as health infrastructure facilities in the country.

The committee of experts also said that children will have a similar risk as adults since pediatric facilities, doctors and equipment like ventilators, ambulances, etc, are nowhere close to what may be required in case a large number of children becoming infected.

The report, which has been submitted to the Prime Minister's Office, observed that only around 7.6 per cent (10.4 crore) people are fully vaccinated in India. If the current

vaccination rate is not increased, India can witness six lakh cases per day in the next week, the report said.

"Leading experts have repeatedly warned of an imminent third Covid-19 wave in India. Epidemiologists predict a series of surges till we achieve herd immunity through infection or vaccination and the disease becoming endemic," the report said.

The NIDM report quoted the prediction of experts from IIT Kanpur which suggested three likely scenarios for the third wave based on the level of unlocking. In scenario one, it



said that the third wave could peak in October with 3.2 lakh positive cases per day.

In scenario two, with the emergence of new and more

virulent variants, the third wave could peak in September with likely five lakh positive cases per day.

Continued on Page 2

Sidhu's advisers stir controversy with remarks on Kashmir, Pak

Chandigarh/New Delhi: Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu's two advisers came under severe attack from the Opposition and within the party on Monday for their recent controversial remarks on Kashmir and Pakistan, with Congress MP Manish Tewari asking if such people should be kept in the party.

Amid mounting pressure, Sidhu met the two advisers at his Patiala residence on Monday, but it was not immediately known what was discussed or decided there.

Tewari's open criticism came a day after Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh asked Sidhu to "rein in" his advisers and described their remarks as atrocious and ill-conceived comments that were potentially dangerous to the peace and stability of the state and the country.

In a tweet, Tewari said, "I urge Harish Rawat, AICC Gen Secy in-charge Punjab to seriously introspect that those who do not consider J&K to be a part of India and others who have ostensibly Pro-Pakistan leanings should be a part of Punjab Congress."

The CM has described the remarks by Sidhu's advisers as atrocious and ill-conceived comments that were potentially dangerous to the peace and stability of the State and India.

'United' Bihar presses Modi for caste census

Nitish leads team to call on PM; Sushil Modi says BJP in favour of exercise

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An 11-member delegation from Bihar led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and demanded a caste-based census across the country.

In a U-turn, the BJP too seemed to revisit its stated policy of not holding caste census. Senior BJP leader from Bihar and Rajya Sabha member Sushil Modi on Sunday said his party has always supported the caste-based census and has been part of the resolution passed in the Bihar Assembly in favour of a caste census.

The leaders of all 10 main political parties having members in the Bihar Assembly were part of the delegation.

Replying to a written query in the Lok Sabha on July 20, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said the Central Government has decided as a matter of policy not to enumerate caste-wise population other than SCs and STs in the census.

Given the OBC pitch of the BJP and Assembly polls in UP



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, HAM president Jitan Ram Manjhi and other leaders after a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi over caste-based census at South Block in New Delhi on Monday PTI

early next year, Sushil Modi's statement signifies the ruling party's reversal of its policy on caste-based census.

Asked about the Prime Minister's stand on the issue, the Bihar Chief Minister said Modi did not "deny it" (caste census) and heard out everyone.

He said the leaders of all political parties from Bihar put their views on the caste-based census before the Prime Minister.

"During the meeting, we all urged the PM to reconsider the Union Government's decision not to hold caste-based census except for SCs and STs. The Prime Minister assured us to think over our demand,"

Continued on Page 2

India's first smog tower in Connaught Place

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday inaugurated India's first smog tower at Connaught Place. The smog tower will significantly reduce air pollution levels.

Kejriwal said experts will study the performance of the tower so that similar towers can be set up in Delhi.

The smog tower is powered by 40 huge fans and 5,000 filters and cleans 1,000 cubic metres of air per second.

Continued on Page 2



A smog tower after inauguration in New Delhi on Monday Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

CCI SLAPS ₹200 CR FINE ON MARUTI SUZUKI

New Delhi: Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Monday imposed a penalty of ₹200 crore on Maruti Suzuki for restricting discounts offered by its dealers and directed the country's largest car maker to cease and desist from indulging in unfair business practices. P9

PORTION OF BHALSWA LANDFILL COLLAPSES

New Delhi: A portion of the Bhalswa landfill in northwest Delhi collapsed on Monday, damaging a few shanties, officials said. Sources in the North Delhi Municipal Corporation said the collapse was triggered by heavy rain in the past couple of days. However, no one was injured in the incident, they said. P3

Monsoon likely 'below normal': Skymet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Private weather forecaster Skymet on Monday downgraded its forecast for the southwest monsoon this year. Skymet said it believes that there is a 60 per cent chance of a below-normal monsoon, which is now forecast to be at 94 per cent of the long-period average of 880.6 mm rainfall.

The forecast for the June-September period has an error margin of plus or minus four per cent. As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD) data, of the 36 sub-divisions in India, deficiency of rainfall recorded in 25 sub-divisions so far. India received

594.5 mm rainfall as against the normal of 652.2, a deficiency of almost 9 per cent so far.

The Skymet Weather said in terms of geographical risk, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Odisha, Kerala, and North-East India are likely to be hit with deficient rain. The chance of drought over Gujarat and West Rajasthan appears imminent. However, the spatial distribution of rainfall over the rainfed areas of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh has been adequate. Accordingly, food production in the agri bowl of the central parts may not be stressed and skewed.

According to Jatin Singh, Managing Director, Skymet,



"The weakness in the monsoon could possibly be attributed to a prolonged negative phase of Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) in the Indian Ocean and extend-

ed break conditions in July and August. There is still no clear signal about the emergence of IOD in September."

Continued on Page 2

Can a woman be forced to name father of child born out of wedlock? asks HC

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat High Court has sought to know whether a woman is under any obligation to disclose the name of the father of her child that she conceived out of wedlock.

Justice Paresb Upadhyay also asked whether one should look for criminal angle into the case of a woman who does not want to disclose the identity of the father of the child she has given birth to without marriage even when she has not complained of rape.

The court made the observations on August 19 while hearing an appeal by a convict against a lower court order sentencing him to ten years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a minor under section 376 of the IPC and provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO). The victim, a resident of Junagadh, had given birth to two children of the convict with whom she lived without marriage, and neither she nor their father had disowned them or denied their paternity.

The victim had said she left her family on her own will and started liv-

ing with the convict after which she gave birth to two children, first of whom was born when she was 16. "She is a poor rural daughter.

If some lady conceives a child and she is not married, and if she goes to hospital, whether the doctor would ask that you have conceived from whom? I don't want to reply. Is it required? Whether a lady is under obligation to disclose to the hospital whose child this is?" the court asked.

"If one goes to Ahmedabad, Delhi or some other metro to give birth to a child, would the doctor ask the name of her father? If she says, 'Sorry to say, I don't know.' If she says that, I don't want to give that name. She is not complaining that she has been raped. Shall we be able to read criminality?" Upadhyay observed while hearing the appeal. The judge wondered which legal provisions would be violated in such cases. "The pure question of law would be, if some lady conceives, and it is her call that I want to have a child but I don't want to marry".

PTI

Maha: Total delta plus, other Covid variants cases rise to 231

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a disturbing development, the total number of Delta Plus and other Covid-19 variants like Alpha, Capa and other strains went up to 231 in Maharashtra on Monday, as 128 patients were found diagnosed in Mumbai with such infections and 27 new Delta Plus cases were in various other parts of the State.

According to the results of the first tests conducted at the Kasturba Hospital of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (MMC), 128 out of the total 188 patients were found to be infected with Delta type covid virus. Of the remaining samples, two patients were detected with alpha type, 24 were with capa type and the other patients were found to be infected with the common Covid-19 virus.

Elsewhere in Maharashtra, 27 more Delta plus cases were reported on Monday. The following are the details of new Delta plus cases reported: Ahmednagar—4, Nagpur—5, Amravati—6, Nashik-2, Gadchiroli-6, Yavatmal-3 and Bhandara-1. After it came out with the details of new Delta Plus and other Covid-19 variant cases, the BMC appealed to Mumbaikars to adhere strictly to the Covid-19 virus prevention guidelines. "A polite appeal is being made on behalf of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation that everyone should follow the measures like wearing mask, maintaining safe distance, regular hand hygiene and avoiding crowds," a BMC statement said.

At the new Next Generation Genome Sequencing Lab set up Kasturba Hospital in south-central Mumbai which was inaugurated by chief minister Uddhav Thackeray on August 4, samples suspected to be that of Delta Plus and other variants of Covid-19 cases are analysed.

Covid deaths dip to 105

Mumbai: The daily Covid-19 infections dropped to 3,643 and deaths came down to 105 in Maharashtra on Monday, even as 6,795 patients were discharged after full recovery from various hospitals across the State.

A day after the state logged 145 deaths and 4141 infections, the infections came down further to 3,643 and deaths dropped to 105.

With 105 fresh fatalities reported on Monday, the total number of deaths in the state increased from 1,35,962 to 1,36,067, while the total infections -- with 3,643 new cases -- went up from 64,24,651 to 64,28,294.

As 6,795 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 62,31,999 to 62,38,794. The recovery rate in the state rose from 97 per cent to 97.05 per cent.

The total "active cases" in the state dropped from 53,182 to 49,924. The fatality rate in the state stood static at 2.11 per cent.

Puri's Jagannath temple reopens for public after 4 months

PTI ■ PURI

The famed Jagannath temple in Odisha's Puri reopened for the public on Monday morning after remaining off the bounds for four months due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, officials said.

People from different parts of the country were seen queuing up to have 'darshan' of the sibling deities -- Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath at the 12th-century shrine, which was shut since April 24.

The devotees were allowed to enter the temple from 7 am to 7 pm.

The temple will remain closed for the public on the weekends to sanitise the premises, as per a notification by the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA).

Devotees coming from outside Puri are needed to produce complete vaccination certificates or COVID-negative reports obtained through RT-PCR test conducted within 96 hours.

The shrine will remain closed on all major festivals, including Janmastami, to avoid gathering, officials said. The annual Ratha Jatra was also held this year in absence of devotees.

The devotees are allowed entry into the temple after thermal screening, and wearing masks and maintaining social distance are mandatory, officials said.

IN SHORT

SC SLAMS ALLAHABAD, U'KHAND HCs ORDERS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday said the Allahabad and Uttarakhand high courts are passing orders one after the other "without application of their mind" for no coercive action or protection from arrest despite its earlier order asking them to use the inherent power sparingly. The top court's remarks came while hearing a petition against an order of Uttarakhand high court passed on a plea for quashing of the FIR in a murder case.

SC SHOCKED OVER HP'S CONDUCT

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday expressed shock over the conduct of Himachal Pradesh in litigating a "sensitive matter" relating to allegations of sexual assault by a man on his minor daughter and imposed a cost of ₹25,000 on the state for the delay in filing the plea before it. The apex court noted the 636-day lag in filing of the petition by the state against the December 2018 judgement of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, which acquitted the accused, and said there was not "even a semblance" of explanation for the delay.

2 get life term for raping girl in Jharkhand

Simdega (Jharkhand): A Jharkhand court on Monday sentenced two persons to life imprisonment for raping a 10-year-old girl in Simdega district in June 2019.

The court of District and Sessions Judge also imposed a fine of ₹50,000 each on the two convicts.

The incident took place in Kasirapaani village in Kurdeg police station area when the girl was sleeping in the courtyard of her relative's house where she had come to attend a marriage function.

PTI

'United' Bihar...

From Page 1
Leaders from Bihar have argued that data from Caste-based census would help and facilitate better administration.

The Bihar Assembly had unanimously passed a resolution on February 18, 2019, and again on February 27, 2020, demanding a caste-based census and sent to Union Home Ministry.

Besides the Chief Minister, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, State's Parliamentary Affairs Minister and JD(U) leader Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Mines and Geology Minister and BJP leader Janak Ram, Ajeet Sharma (Congress), Mehboob Alam (CPI-ML), Akhtarul Iman (AIMIM), former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi (HAM-S), Mukesh Sahni (VIP), Suryakant Paswan

(CPI) and Ajay Kumar (CPM) were part of the 11-member delegation.

The reversal in BJP's stand on caste-based-census was first reflected in July 11 when debating 127th Constitution (amendment) Bill to allow States to make their own OBC list, BJP's Badaun MP Sanghmitra Maurya demanded (as against the Centre's stated policy of not holding caste census) that caste-based census must be enumerated.

"Even cattle have been counted State-wisely, how many cattle are in each district and which animals are more in which district. But backward classes have never been counted," the BJP MP said while accusing previous Congress Governments of not doing justice to OBC communities.

Monsoon likely...

From Page 1

The southwest monsoon had a timely onset and made a good start with June ending above normal at 110 per cent of the long period average (LPA). But it ran into a "break phase" towards June-end, resulting in July starting on a weak note. Rainfall that month was marred till July 11. Rainfall in July was 93 per cent of LPA. The monsoon encountered its second "break" phase during the first fortnight of this month. Extended weak monsoon conditions resulted in pan-India seasonal rainfall being nine per cent deficient till date. The below normal status of the monsoon has not improved till now. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture in its sowing of kharif crops data said that overall, farmers have been able to plant 104 million hectares than the normal area of 101 million hectares as on August 20, higher by 3.2%. However, this is about 1% less than the total area of 104 million hectares sown in 2020.

Centre calls all-party...

From Page 1

This high-level exchange comes after the Taliban took control of Kabul and many other provinces more than ten days back leading to chaos and fear. Modi on August 17 chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and directed officials to ensure the safe evacuation of Indians stranded in Afghanistan.

Concerned over the safety and security of its citizens, India has, so far, evacuated 730 people, including members of the Afghan Sikh and Hindu communities. On Monday, 146 Indians were brought to New Delhi in four different flights from Qatar's capital Doha, days after they were evacuated from Afghanistan by NATO and American aircraft.

A special IAF transport aircraft is now involved in an operation to bring three copies of Sikh scripture Guru Granth Sahib and 75 people, including 46 Afghan Sikhs and Hindus from Kabul. They are expected to land in New

Delhi later in the day.

Announcing the evacuation flight, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri took to Twitter to say, "Three Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji are being escorted to the IAF aircraft at Kabul Airport. Forty-six Afghan Hindus and Sikhs along with stranded Indian nationals are blessed to return on the same flight."

Nearly 200 more Afghan Sikhs and Hindus are still stranded in Afghanistan, said Puneet Singh Chandhok, president of the Indian World Forum, an organisation coordinating the evacuation efforts with the Ministry of External Affairs.

Explaining the challenging nature of the rescue operation now underway, Chandhok said the Sikhs and Hindus are now lodged at Gurudwara Karte Parwan.

He said the 10-kilometre-long drive to the international airport from the Gurudwara Karte Parwan through various checkpoints is one of the biggest challenges in the rescue efforts. Around 100 more Afghan Sikhs and Hindus are likely to be evacuated in a couple of hours, Chandhok added.

The evacuation of these 46 Afghan

Sikhs and Hindus at such a challenging time is a big relief for us, said Manjinder Singh Sirsa, president of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, which is also coordinating with the Indian Government in the evacuation mission.

On Sunday, 392 people, including two Afghan MPs, were evacuated in three different flights under the evacuation mission. The Taliban took control of Kabul on August 15 and within two days after that 200 Indians, including the Indian Ambassador to Kabul, were brought out safely from there.

The first evacuation flight brought back over 40 people, mostly staffers at the Indian embassy, on August 16. The second aircraft evacuated around 150 people, including Indian diplomats, officials, security personnel and some stranded Indians from Kabul on August 17.

Since the Kabul international airport is now under the control of the US armed forces, a special team of Indian officials is in Kabul to coordinate with the US to ensure safe passage for the Indian evacuees.

SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL
Bhopal, Dated 16-08-2021

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>:-

S.No.	Name of Item (s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No. :
1	Non Linear Junction Detector	12	12,500/-	3,50,000/-	3rd Tender
2	Bomb Blanket	04	2,000/-	40,000/-	3rd Tender
3	Bomb Basket with Trolley	04	2,000/-	50,000/-	3rd Tender
4	Deep Search Metal Detector	12	5,000/-	70,000/-	3rd Tender

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.

2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)

3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

4. **Tender Schedule :**

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: sec24-sb@mppolice.gov.in	26/08/2021 up to 1700 hrs.
ii	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	27/08/2021 at 1200 hrs.
iii	Bid Submission Start Date	10/09/2021 at 1000 hrs.
iv	Last date of online e-Tender submission	20/09/2021 up to 1700 hrs.
v	Bid will be opened on	21/09/2021 upto 1700 hrs.
vi	Demonstration from	28 & 29/09/2021 at 1200 hrs.

A. I.G. of Police
Special Branch (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel. No. 0755- 2443654

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER-RWS DIVISION:BERHAMPUR
Near JaradaBunglow, Pin - 760004, Ph. 0680-2296344
ecrws_bam@nic.in rwsbam@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Bid Identification No. **EERWSSBAM-15/2021-22**

The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Berhampur, Ganjam on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites bids in Single Cover & Double cover system according to the norm of "e" Procurement system in online mode for Supply, drawing, design, construction, testing and commissioning and maintenance of different PWS Schemes and electrification works in Ganjam District from the eligible contractors as per DTCN.

1	Name of the work	Execution of different works of different P.W.S. Scheme in Ganjam District.
2	No of Work (Tender)	06 Nos.
3	Estimated cost (Approximate)	From Rs 9.91 Lacs to Rs 106.41 Lakhs
4	Period of completion	From 120 days to 330 days
5	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the Portal.	From 27-08-2021 at 11.00 hrs to 13-09-2021 up to 17.00 hrs
6	Last date & time for seeking clarification	08-09-2021 up to 17.00 hrs
7	Dt. of opening of Bid	14-09-2021 at 11.00 hrs
8	Late date / Time for receipt of bids in the Portal	13-09-2021 up to 17.00 hrs
9	Name & address of the Officer inviting tender.	Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Near Jarada Bunglow, Berhampur-760004, Dist. Ganjam, Odisha.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>

Superintending Engineer
RWS&S Division, Berhampur

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW)-III
SECTOR-VII, R.K. PURAM, NEW DELHI-110022

"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
N.I.T. NO: 21(2021-22) SW-III

S. No.	Description	Amount Put to Tender, Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in E-procurement solution)	Last date/time of receipt of Tender Through E-procurement Solution
1.	Revoation and Repair of J/E(E&M) store at Malviya Nagar under SW-III	Rs. 25,64,442/- Rs. 50,000/-	21.08.2021 Tender I.D.No 2021_DJB_206989_3	04.09.2021 At 2.00 P.M.

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

Sd/-
(Naveen Kumar Khare)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW)-III

India's...

From Page 1

"The tower is 24 metre-high and will take in air from a radius of one kilometre, which it will clean and then give back fresh, clean air to the area. It has a capacity of cleaning 1,000 cubic metres of air per second. It is estimated that the area will see a rapid change in the quality of air because of the establishment of this tower," the CM said.

According to Delhi Government officials, IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay will analyse all the data and submit a report on the effectiveness of the Smog Tower. "Tata Projects executed the Smog Tower's establishment while NBCC provided project consultancy and IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay supervised its technicalities,"

"The Delhi government got this Smog Tower made for the people of Delhi and I want to congratulate them on the progress we all have made in the fight against pollution," he said.

"The average of PM 10 has come down consistently from 324 ppm in 2014 to 187 ppm in 2021, while PM 2.5 has come down from 149 ppm in 2014 to 101 ppm in 2021," Kejriwal said.

"Delhi Government and the people of Delhi have together made incessant efforts

in this fight. I am certain that this Smog Tower will be a path-breaking milestone in the fight against pollution. We are all very excited to see the results of the performance of this project. The data analysis will begin immediately and we'll get a detailed performance report within 2 years after the performance is studied very closely by experts. In the meanwhile, we'll get monthly trends to analyse how successful the tower is turning out to be," he added.

Kejriwal tweeted, "Congratulations Delhi. In the war against pollution, the country's first smog tower has been established in Delhi. This smog tower has been made with American technology and will reduce the amount of pollution in the air. The project has been started on a pilot basis and will be replicated once the performance is found to be efficient."

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said, "Once the monsoon season is over the tower will function on full capacity and then IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay's experts will start their research on its performance. The Delhi Government is committed in its fight against pollution and this tower will deeply aid this fight and act as a technological foundation for our future projects."

Taliban warn of consequences...

From Page 1

On the agenda for the world leaders is expected to be a push for the US to seek an extension of the August 31 deadline, as time is running out for the evacuation of foreign nationals from the Taliban controlled region.

On the issue of desperate scenes at Kabul airport as people risk their lives to flee the country for fear of Taliban reprisals, the spokesperson termed it as economic migration.

"I assure you it is not about being worried or scared. They want to reside in Western countries and that is a kind of economic migration because Afghanistan is a poor country and 70 per cent of the people of Afghanistan live under the line of poverty so everyone wants to resettle in Western countries to have a prosperous life. It is not about (being) scared," claimed Shaheen.

And, on reports of door to door knocks to seek out former Government workers, he added: "All fake news. I can assure you there are many reports by our opponents claiming what is not based on realities."

Third wave by...

From Page 1

In scenario three, the experts predicted that the third wave could peak in late October with two lakh positive cases per day. According to the report, earlier, it was proposed that if 67 per cent of the population became immune (a few by infection and rest through vaccination), herd immunity could be achieved. But this has now been complicated by the new and more virulent mutated variants of SARS Cov-2 that have the ability to escape immunity from earlier infections and in some cases even the prevalent vaccines, it said.

This has pushed the target immune population for achieving herd immunity to 80-90 per cent. Hence, our health system and vaccines are caught in a race against the virus and are trying to catch up with risks that are evolving every day creating uncertainty all over the world, it said. The NIDM is now taking a cue from several warnings indicating an imminent third wave, trying to understand them and prepare for the third wave. With this backdrop, it engaged with multiple stakeholders from diverse backgrounds in an attempt to formulate consolidated recommendations for actions that can prevent or mit-

igate an impending surge.

The report said there isn't sufficient data to back widespread fears that children will be hit more severely in the anticipated third wave of the pandemic. However, as the virus continues to evolve, this is going to be a major challenge for children as there is no approved vaccine for children in India yet (first week of August).

Children with corona infection have largely been seen to be asymptomatic or develop mild symptoms. But this becomes worrisome in case children have any comorbidity or other special needs. Children have also been seen to develop MIS-C (multi-system inflammatory syndrome) which is a rare but extremely serious condition developed post-Covid recovery, it said. The working group committee experts suggested a holistic home care model, immediate increase in paediatric medical capacities and prioritising mental health issues among children, the report said.

According to a recent study done by professors and alumni from Pandit Deendayal Education University (PDEU) in collaboration with Nirma University, the vaccination rate of India is currently 3.2 per cent and if it does not improve, India can witness six lakh cases per day in the third wave.

Govt unveils ₹6L cr...

From Page 1

Monetising 8,154 kms of natural gas pipelines is estimated to give ₹24,462 crore and 3,930-km product pipelines another ₹22,504 crore. Airport monetisation will fetch ₹20,782 crore and ports another ₹12,828 crore. Monetising two national stadiums, including the Jawaharal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, and an equal number of regional centres (at Bengaluru and Zirakpur) is estimated to yield ₹11,450 crore. Redevelopment of seven residential colonies in Delhi, including ones at Sarojini Nagar and Nauroji Nagar as well as development of residential/commercial units on 240 acres of land in Ghitorni in Delhi has also been identified to garner ₹15,000 crore. The Minister said shipping assets worth ₹12,828 crore will be monetised over the next four years. The shipping assets monetisation pipeline projects will be implemented by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and potential models would be public private partnership (PPP).

Similarly, road assets worth ₹1.60 lakh crore will be monetised over four years till FY25. The road assets monetisation will be implemented by the Road Transport and Highways Ministry and

the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said the potential models of road assets monetisation would be Toll Operate Transfer (ToT) and InvIT.

ToT is one of the key models for monetisation successfully employed in the roads sector both by Central and state entities.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) introduced the ToT concession framework in 2016 for monetisation of road assets portfolio by NHAI to long-term investors. The ToT model primarily entails securitisation of the toll receivables by collecting an upfront concession fee from the selected bidder and determined through a transparent competitive bidding mechanism.

Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) is an innovative trust-based financial instrument, which enables participation in infrastructure financing through a stable and liquid instrument.

InvITs provide an opportunity to invest in infrastructure assets with predictable cash flows and dividends. InvITs have been introduced in India in 2014 and are employed by infrastructure asset owners to pool in money from a diverse set of investors against pay-out of cash flow generated by the assets on a periodic basis.

AAP ups ante against sale of Novelty Cinema

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) took out a 'padyatra' (foot march) in all 272 wards of Delhi against the alleged sale of land worth ₹ 200 crore for just ₹34 crore by the BJP-ruled municipal corporation.

Leader of Opposition of North Municipal Corporation (NMC) Vikas Goyal said that BJP leaders sold the land at throwaway prices.

He demanded that the BJP-ruled MCD withdraw the decision to sell Novelty Cinema and said that the party will continue to protest and make the people of Delhi aware of this graft till the demand is fulfilled.

"The North Municipal Corporation sold the land of Novelty Cinema worth ₹200 crore to their loved ones for just



₹34 crore.

This is the same BJP that does not have money to pay salaries to their employees. They do not have money to take up new projects but still they are stealing money from the people," he said.

Goyal further said that the BJP has been ruling the Municipal Corporation for the last 15 years but has not fulfilled a single promise made to

the citizens of Delhi, be it cleanliness and maintaining hygiene in the city or anything else.

However, the BJP-led NMC has rejected as "baseless" allegations of corruption levelled by the AAP which had claimed that the land of Novelty Cinema in the Walled City area was sold at a rate much below its actual worth in the market.

It's raining snakes in city during monsoon

Delhi-based NGO rescues ten Cobras within a span of 48 hours

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Within a span of 48 hours, a Delhi-based NGO rescued ten Cobras from various parts of the national Capital. As per Wildlife SOS, all rescued snakes are currently under observation at the NGO's transit facility.

A four-foot-long Cobra was found at the Atal Adarsh Bal Vidyalaya located in Mandir Marg. The venomous snake was comfortably coiled up below a desk in the main office when a school employee spotted him.

"The snake had become alert and transitioned from its relaxed stance to flaring its hood at the rescuer in a defensive display. Understanding the precariousness of the situation, he proceeded with caution, using a snake hook to rescue the agitated reptile," a member of the rescue team

said.

In another incident, a Cobra was found at a residence in Ambedkar Colony, a resident spotted the snake slithering along the floor of her kitchen. Other Cobras were found in the most unusual places — from generators to inside temples. A three-foot-long Cobra was found in a small temple built inside a home in Bagdola Village, Dwarka. The residents were petrified and refused to enter their home until the Wildlife SOS respondent arrived.

The NGO also rescued a

Cobra that was trapped in an unused bird cage from a house in Faridabad.

Kartick Satyanarayan, Co-Founder and CEO, Wildlife SOS, said, "Reptile rescue calls have become a common occurrence for Wildlife SOS during the monsoon season. However, a Cobra rescue call needs to be handled with extreme precaution since they are one of the four venomous snakes found in India. Our Rapid Response unit is equipped to handle such emergencies with care."

Wasim Akram, Deputy Director-Special Projects for

Wildlife SOS, said, "Cobras espouse a lot of fear from humans due to their reputation as a lethal snake. However, it is important to remember that a Cobra never strikes unless provoked. We are glad to see more people prioritising not only their but also the snake's safety." The Indian Cobra is a venomous snake commonly found in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan. The Cobras have numerous myths attached to them, leading to conflict with humans and abuse at the hand of snake charmers.

Covid Care Centre to be set up at IGIA Terminal-2

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi International Airport (DIAL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Medanta Hospital to set up a dedicated Covid Care Centre at Delhi Airport's Terminal 2.

The Covid Care Centre is expected to be operational early September 2021.

Anticipating the third wave of Covid pandemic, the facility is being set up with various necessary healthcare facilities for its employees and their family members, including children, who are feared to be impacted by the third wave of the pandemic. According to a DIAL official this healthcare centre will help isolate, clinically treat, clinically support asymptomatic, mild and mild to moderate Covid positive employees of GMR or their family members, till they are transferred to a hospital or discharged to their homes.

This medical support facility will be managed by DIAL under the medical supervision of Medanta Hospital. Under this arrangement

DIAL will handle day-to-day operational issues, while Medanta will provide all medical support to this centre, including supervision of medical personnel, treatment protocols, patient care, support for pathology, microbiology and radiology, emergency evacuation and admission of critically ill patients at their facility, etc.

A total of 15 Paediatric High Dependency Unit (HDU) beds, 18 Adult HDU beds and 52 Isolation beds have been allotted at this centre. Besides, 85 oxygen concentrators have been arranged here.

AI based cameras have been installed for monitoring all the activities inside the centre, along with all other medical equipments for HDU and Isolation beds as per state-of-the-art best industry practices.

Videh Kumar Jaipuria, CEO-DIAL, said: "GMR is obligated to keep the airport operational and functional at all times. Since the onset of the COVID pandemic, many of our employees had to suffer to avail healthcare facilities.

Ensure clean water for people, Jain tells DJB

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Water Minister and Delhi Jal Board Chairman Satyendar Jain directed the officials to work tirelessly to ensure that clean water reaches the people of Delhi. He asked them to develop a robust complaint resolution mechanism so that any complaint is resolved within 48 hours.

The direction came in the meeting chaired by the Minister on Monday. He met senior DJB officials to resolve persisting water-related problems in the capital.

Jain told the officials that it is their prime responsibility to be alert and responsive to the people's issues and complaints. He also instructed the officials to work tirelessly in ensuring that complaints do not remain pending and focus should be on resolving complaints in the shortest time span.

"The DJB should work tirelessly in ensuring clean water to the people. It is our prime responsibility to be responsive and alert to any complaints. A robust com-

plaint resolution mechanism must be put in place and any complaint should be resolved within 48 hours," he added.

Jain asked the officials to ensure that no complaints remain pending beyond the 48 hours mark and said, "Any complaints related to water supply, contaminated supply or otherwise must be resolved within 48 hours and complaints taking time beyond that should be flagged immediately so that a resolution can be reached as soon as possible. Data collection of complaints should be undertaken to know which areas face which kind of problems frequently so that those problems can be resolved once and for all for the benefit of the people."

He further said, "Effective supervision of complaints should be done at ward levels so that a quick resolution can be done."

Jain took progress reports of other ongoing projects and emphasised upon the qualities of alertness and responsiveness to be the prerequisite for a good administration.

3 arrested with over 93 kg of ganja worth ₹5.5 crore

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested three men in the national Capital and recovered over 93 kilograms of ganja worth more than ₹5.5 crore in the international market. The accused have been identified as Sanjay Kumar (38) and Mohammad Israel (52), both residents of New Usmanpur, and Ram Prasad (49), a resident of Okhla Industrial Area.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, on Sunday, police received information that one auto-rickshaw, carrying huge quantity of ganja, would be coming in the area of Malviya Nagar for delivery.

"Thereafter, a trap was laid at MMTC Road near SDMC Pratibha Vidhyalya, Malviya Nagar and around 8:45 PM, the accused were apprehended with contraband," said the DCP.

"Police searched the auto-rickshaw and 45 packets containing a total of 93.582 kilograms ganja was recovered. During interrogation, it was revealed that the accused persons had procured the contraband from Odisha. It was transported from remote forest area of Odisha to Delhi," said the DCP.

Portion of Bhalswa landfill collapses yet again

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Some shanties were damaged after a portion of Delhi's Bhalswa landfill in northwest Delhi collapsed on Monday morning, nearly a year after a similar incident took place in August last year. Police said no one was feared trapped inside the debris.

According to Delhi Fire Service (DFS) officials, they received information regarding the incident at 7.30 AM, following which three fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the fire engines returned from the spot at around 2.30 PM.

A senior police official said that the incident took place around 7.30 AM. "A portion of the landfill collapsed and fell on the road near the shanties. The shanties near the base of the landfill were damaged during the incident. However, no major incident has taken place," he said. JCB machines have been called to clear the road and the work is underway, they said, adding further details are awaited.

On Saturday, Delhi recorded 139 mm rainfall, the highest one-day rain for August in at



least 13 years.

This is not the first time that the landfill has collapsed. In August 2020, three people were injured and over 10 jhuggis damaged after a portion of the Bhalswa landfill collapsed following heavy rain. Three ragpickers who were buried under the debris were rescued and taken to hospital with minor injuries at that time.

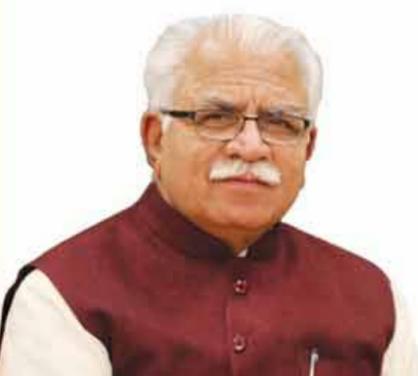
The landfill, which is 53 metres high, receives 2,100 metric tonnes of waste every day from North and Outer Delhi areas. Despite reaching its capacity in 2006, it continues to be in use due to lack of alternate sites.



Govt. of Haryana

Cheer for India

Haryana strengthens India's participation with 19 out of 54 selected players in Paralympics



Best Wishes to all the Paralympic Players for outstanding performance in Tokyo Paralympics-2020



 Sumit Men's Javelin F64	 Amit Kumar Men's Club Throw F51	 Dharambir Men's Club Throw F51	 Ram Pal Men's High Jump T47	 Navdeep Men's Javelin F41
 Ranjeet Men's Javelin F57	 Arvind Men's Shot Put F35	 Tek Chand Men's Javelin F54	 Ekta Women's Club Throw F51	 Harvinder Singh Para-Archery
 Aruna Tanwar Para-Taekwondo	 Manish Narwal Para-Shooting	 Singhraj Para-Shooting	 Yogesh Men's Discus Throw F56	 Vinod Kumar Men's Discus Throw F52
 Jaideep Para-Powerlifting	 Deepak Saini Para-Shooting	 Tarun Dhillon Para-Badminton	 Rahul Jhokhar Para-Shooting	

Prize money to be given by Haryana Government to Paralympic medal winners

 Gold Rs. 6 Crore	 Silver Rs. 4 Crore	 Bronze Rs. 2.5 Crore
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Rs. 15 lakh to the participant players from Haryana Government



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In a first, 5 women officers promoted to colonel rank

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ensuring gender parity in the armed forces, a selection board of the Indian Army on Monday cleared the way for the promotion of five women officers to colonel (Time Scale) rank.

This is the first time that women officers serving with the Corps of Signals, Corps of Electronic and Mechanical Engineers (EME) and the Corps of Engineers have been promoted to the rank of colonel, officials said here on Monday.

Previously, promotion to the rank of colonel was only applicable for women officers in the Army Medical Corps (AMC), Judge Advocate General (JAG) and the Army Education Corps (AEC).

The widening of promotion avenues to more branches of the Indian Army is a sign of increasing career opportunities for women officers, officials said here while announcing the latest decision.

Combined with the decision to grant permanent commission to women officers from a majority of branches of the Indian Army, this step defines the Indian Army's approach towards a gender-



neutral Army.

The five women officers selected for Colonel Time Scale rank are Lt Col Sangeeta Sardana from the Corps of Signals, Lt Col Sonia Anand and Lt Col Navneet Duggal from the Corps of EME and Lt Col Reenu Khanna and Lt Col Ritcha Sagar from the Corps of Engineers. These officers have completed 26 years of "reckonable service."

This comes days five after the Supreme Court allowed eligible women to take the examination for admission to National Defence Academy (NDA). The top court, however, said that the result of the examination would be subject to final adjudication of the

petition. It is the first time ever that women candidates will appear for the NDA entrance examination since it was founded in 1954.

The three Services chiefs last week visited the NDA to take stock of the creation of infrastructure catering to the possible entry of women cadets.

Incidentally, the three chiefs including Army chief M M Naravane, Admiral Karambir Singh and IAF chief R K S Bhaduria are from the same batch of the NDA. Plans are already afoot since last few months to create infrastructure for women cadets, sources said.

SC to consider listing pleas on norms for 'senior' tag to lawyers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said it would consider listing pleas related to conferring of senior designation to lawyers by the some high courts by using "arbitrary and discriminatory" secret voting as a norm and mentioned that "some development" might take place in a week to two.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana took note of the submissions of senior advocate Indira Jaising, on whose PIL the apex court had come out with a slew of guidelines for designating lawyers as seniors in 2017.

Jaising has sought urgent listing of her fresh miscellaneous application alleging that some high courts have been using secret voting process as the norm for conferring senior designation which is "arbitrary and discriminatory" and should be declared so.

The designation of lawyers should be on the basis of marks given by the designated committee and the voting should be resorted to "only" when it is "unavoidable", she said, adding that some high courts use the voting method



The SCBA (the Supreme Court Bar Association) has also requested for senior designation. I want to take this up, said the CJI

as a norm and not an exception.

"There are some problems about senior designation in various courts.

The SCBA (the Supreme

Court Bar Association) has also requested for senior designation. I want to take this up," said the CJI.

The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose, referred to the demise of senior advocate Soli Sorabjee, who was one of the members of the apex court's panel for taking initial decisions on applications of lawyers for grant of senior designation and said that a new appointment has to be made.

"You know one of our seniors Soli has passed away. We have to replace," the bench said, adding that a three-judge bench would hear the case.

SC asks Centre, UP Govt to find solution to road blocks caused by farmers' protest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Centre, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana Governments to find a solution to the nine-month-long road blocks caused by the protests by farmers.

A Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said that while farmers have the right to protest, roads cannot be blocked indefinitely. "They might have right to a place to agitate but roads cannot be blocked like this," said Justice Kaul, adding that Central government and concerned States to devise a solution.

"You have to find a solution. The solution lies in the hands of Union of India and concerned States," the Court said. The apex court was hearing a plea by a resident of Noida seeking relief against road blockade by protesting farmers against the controversial farm laws for the past nine months.

The petitioner, Monica Agarwal contended despite various directions passed by the apex court to keep public roads clear, they have not been followed. The petitioner said that being a single mother with

The UP Government, in its response, informed the court that it is in the process of requesting farmers to clear the area for smoother traffic

medical issues, it has become a nightmare for her to travel from Noida to Delhi. The UP Government, in its response, informed the Court that it is in the process of requesting farmers to clear the area for smoother traffic.

In an affidavit filed before the top court, the Uttar Pradesh Government said that it is trying to convince farmers about how protests by blocking roads is not permitted as per the Supreme Court's earlier judgments. Efforts are underway to "make farmers understand the grossly illegal act of blocking roads", the affidavit said. "At present, there are about 800-1000 protestors in the area, however, a crowd of up to 15,000 protestors collect on their call within hours from adjoining towns and villages," said the UP Government.

Covaxin jab for kids likely to get DCGI nod



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Zydus Cadila, the pharmaceutical firm from Gujarat that was authorised by the DCGI for its needle-free ZyCoV-D Covid-19 vaccine for children aged 12 years and above, it is learnt that the top drug regulator is likely to give approval to the Covaxin vaccine of Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech soon for kids for emergency use.

The administration of two doses of Covaxin vaccination has been completed among children and blood samples have been sent for the third time to check the effectiveness in terms of producing antibodies among children, according to a news agency which has quoted a source in the Union Health

Ministry.

A total of 90 children were subjected to Covaxin trials in Karnataka. However, the trial will take 210 days to complete. As it will take another 5 to 6 months from now, they can't wait till then in the current circumstances to release the vaccination for children, sources added.

"Final report will come on the 210th day. The Government and DCGI can take calls any day after the 56th day of the trial Emergency use. However, the study period will be there for 210 days. Before also, while releasing Covid vaccines for adults the government of India and DCGI did not wait till the completion of 210 days. Vaccines were released earlier,"



they said.

Cheluvamba Hospital in Mysuru attached to Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMCRI) entrusted with the conducting of Covaxin's Clinical trials on children has sent third blood samples of children to designated laboratories.

It is one among the five medical institutes identified in the country, which had got the institutional ethics committee approvals for Covaxin's clinical trials on children. The trials are being done in the monitoring of principal investigator and Associate Professor, department of Paediatrics Dr. Pradeep N.

The Covid vaccination trail for children comprises administration of two vaccinations between 0 and 28th day along with blood sampling. On the 56th day, there will not be vaccination but blood samples will be collected. There will be another blood sampling on the 118th and also on 210th day of the trail.

DCGI will give approvals in a phased manner first starting with children aged 12 years and above in the first phase. The approvals will be given for release of vaccines for 6 to 12 years of children and later for children aged between 2 to 6 years.

US approves record number of visas for Indian students in 2021

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The United States has approved a record number of Indian student visa applications in 2021. This comes despite the many challenges that people are facing in travelling abroad. As per the US embassy, more than 55,000 students and exchange visitors have or will board planes to study in the United States this year. The statement by the US embassy in India comes amid reports of students in several other countries struggling to get their visas although the classes have begun. "This year, more than 55K students are boarding planes to study in the United States, an all-time record in India," the US embassy India tweeted.

The second wave of Covid-19 forced the Mission to delay the commencement of its student visa season by two months. "More students are being approved every day. The US Mission looks forward to another great student season as



it facilitates study for spring semester students over the coming few months," the US mission in India said in a statement. In July, the resumption of visa services allowed after declining in COVID-19 cases.

"The U.S. Embassy and Consulates opened additional hours for visa appointments and made every possible effort to ensure timely arrival for academic programs for as many students as possible. Ultimately, these efforts paid off, as more students than ever before received visas to study in the United States," the US embassy added.

The Covid-19 pandemic created tremendous logistical challenges for the U.S. Mission's consular teams. Embassies and

Consulates typically begin interviewing fall semester students for a given year in May, but the second wave of Covid-19 forced the Mission to delay the commencement of its student visa season by two months.

In July, as soon as conditions allowed for the resumption of visa services without endangering applicants' health and safety, consular teams worked not only to match, but surpass, their pre-Covid workload.

New international student enrollment in the United States dropped 43% in fall 2020 from the year prior, months after Covid sent the world into lockdown. Similarly, the number of new students who actually made it onto campus in person declined by 72 per cent.

Demolition of illegal structure Aravali to continue, says SC



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Monday said that demolition of all unauthorised structures standing on Aravali forest land in Faridabad's Khori village has to continue, even as the municipal corporation informed it that some farmhouses have already been razed there.

The apex court, while hearing an application filed by owners of some marriage halls which have received notices from the civic body, said that Faridabad Municipal Corporation has to proceed and demolish the unauthorised structures as per law.

A bench comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari said that as per previous order of the apex court, the intervenors are supposed to make representation to the concerned authority which will consider them.

"Let the corporation decide on your representation and after that is decided, we will consider what course of action can be adopted.

Today, all unauthorised structures are being demolished and that has to continue," the bench told the counsel appearing for the owners of some marriage halls.

The counsel appearing for the municipal corporation told the bench that they have filed a compliance report in the matter on Monday and as far as representation is concerned, there is already a direction by the court and the authority will consider it in accordance with law.

"We have already demolished few farm houses," the lawyer appearing for the civic body said.

When the bench said it would hear the matter after two weeks, the counsel appearing for marriage hall owners submitted that in the meantime, the authority should not demolish their structures while they consider their representation.

The bench told the counsel that they can make representations and the authority will consider it.

"If it is unauthorised, it has to be demolished as per the present law and legal position. The corporation has to proceed. Let them proceed," the bench observed and posted the matter for hearing on September 6.

Thermocol-made buildings could be earthquake resistant, finds Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Multi-storied buildings constructed with Thermocol or Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) could be the future earthquake-resistant buildings, researchers at IIT Roorkee have found.

EPS, which is used as a composite material in core of reinforced concrete sandwich, could resist earthquake forces on up to four-storey buildings, they found after testing a full-scale building and a number of wall elements constructed with thermocol sandwiched between two layers of concrete at the National Seismic Test Facility (NSTF) of the Department of Earthquake Engineering, IIT Roorkee. The project was developed under the Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST) programme of the Department of Science & Technology (DST).

Research scholar, Adil Ahmad who conducted the tests, evaluated the behaviour of the constructions under lateral forces, as earthquakes cause a force predominantly in lateral direction. The investigation was supplemented with detailed computer simulation of a realistic 4-storey building. Prof. Yogendra Singh, supervising the research, shared that the analysis shows that a four-storey building constructed with this technique is capable of resisting earthquake forces, even in the most seismic zone (V) of the country, without any additional structural support.

They attributed this earthquake resistance capability to the fact that the EPS layer is



India suffers a large variation of temperature in different parts of the country and during different seasons of the year. Therefore, thermal comfort is a crucial consideration along with structural safety

sandwiched between two layers of concrete having reinforcement in the form of welded wire mesh. The researchers said that the force being applied on a building during an earthquake arises due to the inertia effect and hence depends on the mass of the building. Thermocol resists earthquakes

by reducing the mass of the building.

Besides resisting earthquakes, the use of expanded polystyrene core in concrete walls of a building can result in thermal comfort. The core provides the necessary insulation against the heat transfer between building interior and exterior environment. This can help in keeping the building interiors cool in hot environments and warm during cold conditions. India suffers a large variation of temperature in different parts of the country and during different seasons of the year. Therefore, thermal comfort is a crucial consideration along with structural safety.

The technology also has the potential of saving construction material and energy, with an overall reduction in carbon footprint of buildings, said the researchers.

Strike against gold hallmarking rules a success, claims jewellery body



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The All India Gem Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) on Monday claimed that barring big corporates, most jewellery shops remained shut in response to a nationwide strike call given by 350-odd jewellery associations to protest the new gold hallmarking rules. The Government, however, claimed that there was no impact as a very small section of jewellers closed their shops.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs released photos of big corporate jewellery showrooms like Tanishq, Kalyan Jewellers, Malabar Gold and Diamonds, PC Jewellers, PP Jewellers, Heera Panna Jewellers, Anand Jewellers, Kunal Jewellers, Caratlane, Shree Ganesh Jewellers, Talwarsons Jewellers, Lalchand, Epari Sadashiv Jewellers, Caratlane — which remained open in different parts of the country.

The jewellery bodies are against the Government's Hallmarking Unique ID (HUID) system which they said has nothing to do with the purity of gold but is just a tracking mechanism. GJC has claimed that there has been a very

strong response to a nationwide strike against the HUID system. Shops are closed for a day.

"Big corporates in the jewellery sector never participate in such strikes. Mostly individual and family-run jewellery shops in all four zones are shut for a day," GJC said. However, in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, shops were shut till 12.30 pm due to the Onam festival, the jewelers body said.

The Ministry said the said call of strike was itself based on untenable grounds and an attempt was made to misinform fellow jewellers about the various provisions of hallmarking scheme. The ministry also released letters of jewellers' bodies — All India Jewellers and Goldsmith Federation (AJGF), Swanakaar Sabha, Gems and Jewellery Manufacturer Association Organisation (GJMA), Sarva Swarnakar Samaj Netrutva Vikas Sanstha which opposed the strike and supported the Hallmarking Unique ID (HUID) system.

"As expected, the misguided attempt by these limited set of persons to disrupt the normal functioning of jewellery business today, has failed miserably," the ministry said.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that my clients Mrs. JASVINDER KAUR W/o Sh. Kashmir Singh and her husband Sh. KASHMIR SINGH R/o 3072/Q-17, Gali No. 10, Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi have debarred and disowned their son GURSIRAN SINGH from their family and all moveable and immovable properties, because of his irresponsible conduct, misbehavior and quarrelling nature. Now my above named clients and their family would have no concern with their above named son in any manner and they do not want to allow him to reside in their home. If any person deals with the said Gursiran Singh in any way, he/she would do so at his own risk and my clients Mr. Jasvinder Kaur and Kashmir Singh will not be responsible for his any act or liability.
(SHAILESH GUPTA) Advocate
4/30, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008

Public Notice
It is hereby informed to the general public that I, Meena Aggarwal D/o Ram Murti Devi R/o X-051 DLF Capital Greens, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have lost the Original Provisional Allotment Letter and Original Payment Receipts issued by Jaiprakash Associates Limited in respect of Unit bearing No. PCH00H0117 in County Homes-1 project, situated at Jaypee Greens Sports City on 19.6.2019. Anyone finding the said documents is requested to kindly return the same to me or to the company.
Name: Meena Aggarwal,
Address: X-051, DLF Capital Greens, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015,
Phone No. 9810501072,
Email: a_ankur@hotmail.com

SALE NOTICE
The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Muneeer Khan, Case No- 229/2020	Vehicle No- UP16AH0220, Make and Model- FORD INDIA LTD, Endeavour XLT Manu Yr- 2011	1,00,000/-	10,000/-
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Rahul Yadav, Case No 222/2020	Vehicle No- UP14ET0642, Make and Model- TATA ACE, Manu Yr- 2014	40,000/-	4,000/-

Auction Date & Time : September 8, 2021, From 11 AM To 2 PM
Venue: JCS Financial Services & Parking Security Plot No. 112, Old Raipur Road Pakri, Near Kishan Nagar, Kanpur Nagar, Pin 209304, Uttar Pradesh
Contact Person- Avinash Srivastava (8953652366)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)
EMD: DD/PO of EMD amount to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited, payable at Delhi.

Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Jitendra Kumar, Case No 222/2020	Vehicle No- UP14ET0642, Make and Model- TATA ACE, Manu Yr- 2014	40,000/-	4,000/-

Auction Date & Time : September 8, 2021, From 11 AM To 2 PM
Venue: A.N. Motors14 KM- Stone, Agra- Mathura Road Runkata Agra- 282007
Contact Person- Vijay Sharma (9372730494)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)
EMD: DD/PO of EMD amount to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited, payable at Delhi.

Terms of Sale
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves / itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at site with original DD/PO of EMD amount along with original KYC proofs to participate in the auction. Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount) within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/ RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, Shal Tower Plot No. 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005, for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.

2 terrorists gunned down in Srinagar

PNS ■ JAMMU

In a swift operation jawans of the special operations group of Jammu & Kashmir police on Monday evening gunned down two terrorists in Khad Mill ground at Alooichi Bagh in Srinagar.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range Vijay Kumar told reporters, "the two terrorists killed in the operation have been identified as Abbas Sheikh and Saqib Manzoor".

Names of both these terrorists had figured in the list of most wanted terrorists issued by the Jammu & Kashmir police in the first week of August 2021.

IGP said, Abbas Sheikh used to claim he was chief of TRF (The Resistance Front) but in reality both the slain terrorists were associated with LeT.



Claiming it to be a big success for the security forces, Kumar said, "after confirming the information about their presence in the area 10 plain clothes policemen from Srinagar police launched the operation".

"As they zeroed in on the location of the terrorists they challenged them, warned them. In response the terrorists fired back on the policemen and during retaliatory firing both the terrorists were killed in the operation".

PNS ■ JAMMU

After eliminating 100 terrorists including several top commanders of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Hizbul Mujahideen since January this year the Indian Army has once again appealed to the local youth on the path of terrorism to surrender and join the mainstream.

The passionate appeal was made by Lt-Gen YK Joshi, Goc-in-C Northern Command headquarters in Udhampur on the occasion of 23rd anniversary of homecoming of 23 boys who "were forced to pick up arms", but were rescued by the Army in the Gurez sector and handed over to their families later in 1998.

"The youth on the path of terrorism will be given a second chance to come back and integrate with their families and join the mainstream and lead a normal life, like these individuals had done, two decades back", Army Commander said. Lt-Gen Joshi along with

other senior officers interacted with these youth and their families after felicitating them at a simple ceremony at Mansabal Lake park in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

Highlighting the role of the parents the Army commander said, "parents have an important role to play, in ensuring that their children do not follow the path of violence, which only brings pain and misery, not only for the ones who join terrorism, but also their immediate and extended families". He said, the Army is steadfast in its resolve of ethical conduct and ensuring full support to those who want to leave the path of violence.

Defence PRO in Srinagar Col Emron Musavi said, the rescued boys are now leading normal, happy lives and are married and have families of their own, with children, who themselves nurture dreams of having successful careers, and being responsible citizens of the country.

Sharing background of the



event, Defence PRO Col Musavi said, "On 23 Aug 1998, a group of 23 young Kashmiri boys was apprehended, while attempting to cross the LC. These young boys were being compelled into a path of militancy through false promises by a fellow Kashmiri by the name of Abdul Hamid @ Bambar Khan, a resident of Ganderbal, into joining terrorist tanzems and were being taken to POK".

"Over a period of 10 days from 04 Aug to 14 Aug 1998, Bambar Khan, with the help of

local OGWs, had collected these 23 young boys, all within 18 years of age, either by force or through radicalization and had kept them in the dense jungles of Ajas. Thereafter the group moved across the Shamsha Bari range into Gurez Tulail Valley, with the aim of going across the LC, into POK. They were then to be trained there in terrorist activities and thereafter infiltrate back into Kashmir and indulge in terror acts, at the behest of the masterminds in Pakistan",

the Defence PRO said. "On 23 August 1998, information was received by the Brigade Headquarters, that a large number of youths were seen in the jungles near the Kishenganga River.

"An operation was launched. It was led by (then Captain) and now Brigadier Budhwar. This group of youths was sighted in the lower reaches of the forest. The soldiers held fire, as the terrorists accompanying these youths, had run away taking cover of the thick foliage and vegetation. These young boys on seeing the Indian Army soldiers, shouted for help and immediately surrendered. The troops quickly took control of the situation and helped them to cross the river, which was in spate and escorted them to Gurez, where they were medically examined and were given food, water and warm beds to sleep. Thereafter they were brought to HQ 15 Corps in BB Cantt and were reunited with their parents", Col Emron Musavi said.

A science-spiritual combo for curing suicidal tendency

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

There is a cure for the problem of suicidal tendencies, a disturbing trend which has claimed many young lives in India. say Dr Jayant Athavale, a hypno-therapist and Sean Clarke, a researcher based at Maharshi Adhyatma Vishwa Vidyalay, Ramnathi, Goa.

The National Crime Records Bureau states that 1.39 lakh Indians committed suicide in the year 2019, out of which 67 per cent was in the 18-45 age group.

The treatment is based on a system of knowledge dating back to thousands of years and was culled out of the priceless Vedic and Sasthras. "All

these years, we did not have scientific monitoring equipment to study changes that took place in the mind and body to make a foolproof observation. With modern gadgets which could measure changes in energy levels in body and mind, it is time for us to tell the world that, yes, we can completely cure the tendency to commit suicide," Sean Clarke, a former Indian Navy officer who left his job to pursue his passion in research.

According to Dr Athavale and Clarke, practicing spirituality and the 'personality defects removal process' can help prevent suicide. The scientists make it clear that this is not a new finding but a scientific truth explained in Vedas

and Sasthras. Chanting the name of God is an easy yet potent spiritual practice that can generate tremendous amount of positive energy to overcome defects in a person's mind, Clarke told The Pioneer.

This finding was substantiated with Universal Aura Scanner, developed by Dr Mannem Murthy, a former scientist with the Department of Atomic Energy.

The Aura Scanner is capable of detecting variations in energy generated during any phase of one's life. "We found that persons chanting Om Namoh Bhagawate Vasudevaya or Shri Gurudev Datta generate positive energy and act as powerful protection against distress. Daily chanting of these

slokas or the one which is comfortable to the chanter helps to increase the positive energy within oneself and this nullifies the possibility of negative energies," said Clarke.

A person's capacity to face stress depends on how much energy he has available to face it, said Dr Athavale. "When there are more personality defects and unfinished business, the mental energy at his disposal is less. Unfinished business refers to unpleasant incidents in the past like a failed relationship or childhood trauma which causes anxiety. Many problems have a spiritual root cause, destiny or karma being one of them," said Dr Athavale.

Dr Murthy and his daughter Geetha, working on Aura

Scanner with which they measure the amount of positive energy generated/released during recitation of vedic hymns say that the chanting could result in exciting results.

"Hymns or mantras are having high positive energy and by chanting them repetitively one can increase the energy field or their vibration. Mantras refuel the energy," said Geetha.

According to Clarke, persons belonging to Christianity and Islam could recite hymns like Hail Mary or Allah based on their beliefs and the result would be the same. "The fact is that chanting make a difference and we have been observing this for the last four decades," he said.

NTPC cuts 275 MW of UP's power on non-payment of dues

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Central public sector undertaking (PSU), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), has snapped 275 megawatt power from Uttar Pradesh from midnight of August 20 for not clearing dues that were outstanding for more than 45 days.

In a communication to the UP Power Corporation Limited, the Central PSU informed it that it would regulate 275.60 MW from August 20 to 29. The action is a follow-up on NTPC's warning to UPPCL on August 12 that it



would regulate the supply of 5,512 MW power from its generating stations from August 20 as it had not cleared outstanding dues for more than 45 days.

The Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation has sought and received state government guarantees for PFC-REC loans

of nearly ₹4,900 crore for payment of outstanding dues of central generating stations, independent power producers and renewable energy generators.

As of July 31, the UPPCL's pending dues to power generation companies have risen to ₹24,461 crore, out of which dues of Central generating stations amount to ₹4,270 crore, while that of independent power producers are ₹4,675 crore. Dues payable to renewable energy generators are ₹388 crore, while those of state generating stations are ₹15,128 crore.

Yogi reaches Aligarh, pays homage to Kalyan Singh

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh was a developing man as well as a patriot and a devotee of Ram. He strengthened the organization of the BJP and took the party forward. Chief Minister Yogi came to Aligarh on Sunday. Here he paid homage to the mortal remains of former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh at Ahilyabai Holkar Stadium and told in detail about Kalyan Singh's struggle and achievements by holding a press conference.

The Chief Minister said that today every Ram devotee is a staunch national devotee and is mourning the physical death of a Ram devotee. Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh is no

more with us. His mortal remains were brought to the district Aligarh, which was his 'Karmabhoomi' and 'Janmabhoomi'. The attachment has for their late leader for six decades! All of us are getting to see a vision of him here. Kalyan Singh has a relationship of about nine decades in the district. In public life, he spent about seven decades in the district Aligarh. Drawing inspiration from Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, he made programs, made plans and realized the fear-free riot-free vision. The work done by him will always be unforgettable for the administration. Even in the present times, all of us are learning from his work and efforts.

Aligarh is fortunate, today the people of Aligarh are feel-

ing proud that among them for the son of Mother India, who took the state forward with complete transparency, and purity. Hundreds and thousands of people present here today have had the opportunity to live and interact with him in close time.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, during former UP Chief Minister Kalyan Singh's funeral, in Aligarh on Monday

Veteran leader cremated with full State honours

Lucknow: Amid chants of 'Jai Shri Ram' and recitation of 'shlokas', the mortal remains of former Chief Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party's Hindu mascot Kalyan Singh (89) were consigned to flames on the banks of the river Ganga near Narora in Bulandshahr in the presence of several Union ministers and numerous VVIPs on Monday.

The cremation of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement champion was carried out with full state honours at Bansi Ghat and Kalyan Singh's son and Etah MP Rajveer Singh lit the pyre. Rajveer was assisted by his son and UP minister Sandeep Singh. The family members and supporters of the departed leader participated in the cremation and bid adieu to Babuji -- as Kalyan Singh was fondly known. Around 20 priests performed the rituals which went on for about 30 minutes and the pyre was lit at around 4 pm.

Earlier, Singh's mortal remains were brought from Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar Stadium in Aligarh to his native village in Atrauli. Kalyan Singh breathed his last due to sepsis and multi-organ failure at Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow on Saturday, where he had been admitted for 48



Funeral procession of former UP Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, at Narora in Bulandshahr on Monday

days. The UP Government had announced three days' state mourning and declared Monday as a public holiday.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi rushed to Lucknow to pay his tributes to Kalyan Singh where he was joined by Defence Minister

and Lucknow MP, Rajnath Singh. The mortal remains were taken to the Vidhan Bhawan and BJP State office from the residence of Kalyan Singh before being airlifted to Aligarh and kept at Ahilyabai Holkar Stadium for people to have darshan.

Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Smriti Irani, Ashwani Choubey, Ajay Bhatt, Mahendra Nath Pandey, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Maurya, UP BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh along with others gave 'ahuti' on the mortal remains. Earlier these leaders along with former Union Minister Uma Bharti and several UP Ministers and senior BJP leaders paid floral tributes at the cremation ground.

Security forces also presented a guard of honour before the body was taken for cremation. Earlier, the funeral procession from Atrauli to Narora, covering around 29 km, took over two hours as people thronged the roads at several places to pay their respect to the great leader of the region.

Indian evacuees give mixed reaction about Taliban fighters

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Talibs as they call them there are pretty honest people ... I thought they would be ferocious raw-flesh eaters like ... but what I saw ... they were pretty humble ... sweet-tongued and most importantly hospitable.

That is how Tamal Bhattacharya one of the evacuees from war-torn Afghanistan who late on Sunday evening returned to Kolkata depicted the "good Talibs" so to say. Tamal who hails from Nimta area of North 24 Parganas was among the 150 people who were allegedly abducted by the Taliban militia before being released later.

"It was not abduction as such ... we were detained and taken to a location where our identity proof and other documents were checked by the Talibs, said this teacher from an international school in Kabul.

"The only offensive thing about them was perhaps their automatic rifles ... otherwise they looked pretty calm, friendly and behaved well and respectfully with the women in the group," he said.

On the dread of being shot he said "we had initial apprehensions but things turned out to be quite opposite ... in fact we told that the Taliban people apprehending attacks on us and so they had decided to shift us to safer places ... a

school in this case ... as Taliban apprehended that many splinter groups could attack the us they took our charge to protect us ... they hosted us in a school and even played cricket with us ... one of them even asked me to teach him English ... then they treated us to Kabuli Pulao before seeing us off".

On the general atmosphere in Kabul, Bhattacharya the only son of his aged parents said "there is tension ... roads are empty, shops are closed but nothing like the way we thought earlier happened ... there was no mass killing etc".

On the most remarkable change he witnessed in Taliban 2.0 he said jeans and western attires vanished overnight from the shops and women went behind the burqa as immediately as the prices of general products including eatables came down with their quantity increasing by almost 50 percent.

"We loved taking Nan and mutton in the food corners which came for about Rs 160/- per plate. Now with the coming of Talibs the price had not only come down but also the quantity had increased by half ... this is because the traders are not allowed to make extra profit or cheat people," he said.

Abhijit Ghosh from Behala said he and the entire lot of foreigners with him passed dreadful nights. "I was working at a NATO base as a cook ... my employers

immediately shifted us on priority basis after the Talibs entered ... we heard that some people were being searched for ... the people who had backed the western forces".

On whether he would return to Afghanistan again he said he would prefer not to "but for that our Government has to make some arrangement for us ... I am the only bread-earner in my house ... I will expect that the government does something for us or else I will have to go out".

But the family of Sanghamitra Dafadar from Behala is not as lucky as the Bhattacharyas or Ghoshes.

Sanghamitra a mother of two children has been working as a nurse in Kabul. "We are in touch with my daughter through facebook. She is in trouble and we are worried ... her job has gone and being a woman she cannot go out of her house ... her elder son is 19-year-old and he has to be sent out to bring daily ration ... one day he was caught by the Talibs and they were asking him to join his ranks ... they told him that 'you are handsome and well built ... why don't you join us ... he ran back home saying he would first take permission from his family ... since then he has not come out of his house ... I heard that they will be evacuated soon ... but how soon we do not know," Ruby Dafadar her mother said.

ELGAAR PARISHAD-BHIMA KOREGAON RIOT CASE DRAFT CHARGES

College students were hired for terror activities: NIA

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a new revelation in the draft charges filed before a special court in Mumbai, the NIA has said that the accused in the Elgaar Parishad-cum-Bhima-Koregaon riots case had recruited students from various universities, including the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Tata Institute for Social Sciences (TISS) for terror activities.

"...you accused no 1 to 10 along with the wanted accused no 17 to 22 being the active members of the banned terrorist organisation CPI (Maoists) and its frontal organisations had conspired wage a war against the Government of India and the State Government...," one of the draft charges said, adding that they conspired to overthrow the governments at the centre and in the state (both BJP).

One of the draft charges throws up the connection of Nepal and Manipur. "For the purpose (of waging the war against the Government of India and the state government) conspired to demand and organise Rs 8 crore for annual supply of M-4 (sophisticated weapon) with 4,00,000 rounds and other arms and ammunition through a designated supplier from Nepal and Manipur and conspired to over-awe the Government of India and state government by means of criminal force, show of criminal force, thereby committed the offence punishable under section 121 A of the Indian Penal Code," another charge in the draft charges said.

Interestingly, the much-discussed sensational allegation – that the Pune police had made in the initial weeks of investigations in the

also conspired against the Maharashtra government.

"The accused no 1 to 10 along with the deceased accused number 16 (Father Stan Lourduwamy of Tamil Nadu who died in Mumbai while in custody on July 5, 2021) and absconding accused 17 to 22 being the active members of the banned terrorist organisation CPI (Maoists) and its frontal organisations had conspired wage a war against the Government of India and the State Government...," one of the draft charges said, adding that they conspired to overthrow the governments at the centre and in the state (both BJP).

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Interestingly, the much-discussed sensational allegation – that the Pune police had made in the initial weeks of investigations in the

case—that the weapons and ammunition required to be procured by the accused were linked to a conspiracy aimed at "assassinating" Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

At that the Pune police had talked about an allegedly incriminating letter recovered from the lap-top of Human Rights activists Rona Wilson Jacob on April 17, 2018 which the investigators suspected might be Rona himself. Addressed to one comrade Prakash, the purported letter States: "We are thinking along the lines of another Rajiv Gandhi-type incident. It sounds suicidal and there is a good chance we might fail but we feel the party must deliberate over our proposal. Targeting his road shows could be an effective strategy. We collectively believe that survival of the party is supreme to all sacrifices".

Among other things, the purported letter had stated: "Modi-led Hindu fascist regime is bulldozing its way into the lives of indigenous adivasis, in spite of big defeats like Bihar and West Bengal. Modi has successfully established BJP govt in more than 15 states. If this pace continues then it would mean immense trouble for the party on all fronts. Greater suppression of dissent and a more brutal form of Mission 2016 (OGH). Com. Kisan and few other comrades have proposed concrete steps to end Modi-raj".

"Defeating Hindu fascism has been our core agenda and a major

concern for the party... We are trying to consolidate ties with like-minded organisations, pol. parties, representatives of minorities across the country," the letter had stated.

The arrested accused in the cases are: Sudhir P. Dhawale, Vernon S. Gonsalves (both of Mumbai), Arun T. Ferreira of Thane, Sagar Gorkhe of Ahmednagar, Ramesh Gaichor of Pune, Surendra P. Gading, Shoma K. Sen, Mahesh S. Raut (all of Nagpur), Anand B. Teltumbde of Yavatmal, all in Maharashtra.

Two are from New Delhi - Rona J. Wilson and Gautam Navlakra, P. Varavara Rao of Hyderabad, Sudha Bharadwaj of Faridabad, Hany Babu M. Tharayil of Trichur, and the late Fr. Stan Lourduwamy of Tamil Nadu, who died on July 5 in Mumbai while in custody. The absconding-accused are: Milind Teltumbde aliases Dipak and Sahyadri of Yavatmal, Prakash Goswami aliases Navin and Ritupan Goswami of Assam, Kishan Bose aliases Prashanto of Kolkata, Mupalla Laxman Rao, alias Ganpati, Chandrashekhar, Manglu, and Deepu.

It may be recalled that the scanned copies of 10 "incriminating" letters were among the virtual and physical documents recovered by the investigators during their simultaneous raids conducted by the investigators on April 17 2018 ahead of the arrest of Wilson and other accused in the case.

Numbers matter

Family planning has effectively reduced the share of southern States in the Lok Sabha

The Madras High Court said last week that Tamil Nadu should be compensated for the loss of two Lok Sabha seats on account of its successful family planning programme. The reference is to the State's Lok Sabha seats being reduced from 41 to 39 before the 1967 elections. The calculation of the compensation is not germane here but the issue of delimitation of parliamentary and Assembly constituencies certainly is. Regular delimitation rectifies misrepresentation or malapportionment on account of population growth and migration. It is a literal can of worms no Government wants to open. The population growth is uneven in States and a just representation of classes and castes is nearly impossible. The country awaits a full delimitation of constituencies since after the 1970s and the earliest is possible only in 2026; practically, after the 2031 census. There was a sort of delimitation undertaken between 2002 and 2008 on the basis



of the 2001 census. It ended up readjusting the boundaries of existing constituencies and reworking the number of reserved seats. This February, the Government went in for a partial delimitation in four Northeastern States and Jammu and Kashmir. However, the exercise will not change the number of seats except in the latter. British political scientist Alistair McMillan, who wrote a decisive book on electoral representation in India, will have us believe that had delimitation been done on the basis of the 2001 census, Tamil Nadu would have lost seven more Lok Sabha seats while Uttar Pradesh would have gained an equal number.

This is what the southern States bemoan as their 'gift' for practising scientific family planning methods. It is the most sensitive issue no political party wants to touch. If one were to use the 2011 census, the southern States would stand to lose 17 seats while Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan would gain 22 seats. This difference may remain by the next census as well. The Government needs to take the bull by the horns and commit to conducting delimitation on the basis of the 2031 census. That will at least spark a debate in the country on the pros and cons and allow hidden social and political agendas of the States and political formations to surface. The public discourse can lead to a federal discussion between the Centre and the States on the modalities involved and the inter-State inequalities that need to be resolved. It is not just about the number of seats. There is greater political and social awareness among the communities and their representation needs to be in balance. If a caste census is to be conducted at all, it will open an altogether different Pandora's box. Had the previous Governments not shied away from delimitation after every census, the change in the Lok Sabha's composition would have been gradual and non-controversial. The next time it is taken up, it will abruptly change the balance of power but there is no other option.

PICTALK



A view of Jagannath temple as it reopened to devotees after authorities eased COVID-19 restrictions in Puri

Image issues for Rambos, GI Joes



BHOPINDER SINGH

Real images of the US troops flying out without informing anybody from the Bagram airbase are not exactly heroic, despite their romanticised look

Numbers of 300,000 trained and well-equipped Afghan soldiers, up against a ragtag militia of 75,000-odd Talibanis, are banded with the additional element of considerable airpower at the Afghan Military's disposal. To rub in the humiliation, even the essentially clueless Joe Biden commented: "The Afghan military gave up, sometimes without trying to fight." While the bleak commentary on Afghan troops is true, however, the spin doctors in Washington DC have successfully managed to deflect the much-needed criticism of the performance of the world's most powerful military against a motley militia — despite the \$2 trillion bill, nearly 2500 American soldiers returning in body bags, and the unprecedented access to all forms of military wherewithal, air cover and unanswerable military conduct. When the din and dust on Afghanistan under the Taliban does settle, serious questions on the performance and psyche of the American soldier will be awkwardly unavoidable and embarrassing, just as it has been so for the Afghan Army soldier.

Never mind the actual reality of Vietnam earlier or Afghanistan today (as, indeed, many failures in between), the creatively posited virility, 'heart' and moral purpose of the quintessential American Rambos dominate the popular imagination. This manufactured reel-life stories tell the tale that the ignorant public wants to believe, not necessarily accept. The pioneer "American spirit" that tamed the wilderness of tropical rainforests and soggy rice fields in Vietnam, to the dustbowl swirls around the sun-baked Afghan swathes, is deceptively charming, but often incomplete. Real images of the fleeing Americans escaping clumsily in a helicopter from rooftops in Saigon or that of American troops flying out without informing anybody from Bagram Airforce Station, are not exactly in the mould of *Captain America!*

This sophistry of perception creation owes a lot to Reganism-era which rescued, resuscitated and reconstructed the image for the battered American soldier, after the defeat in Vietnam. By the 1990s, during the Gulf Wars, gestures like flag pins, saying "Thank you for



your service", parades and yellow-ribbon symbolism had become the societal norm, and the shift was palpable as the Vietnam Veterans earlier had not been showered with the same fervour, dignity and fanfare coming home from a war that they had clearly lost. The bill for the Vietnam war (like for Afghanistan now) had been prohibitive and the economic consequences of the same were felt by the entire citizenry — the inevitability of the same with the recent Afghan war, with an estimated payout of \$6.5 trillion by 2050 in terms of just the cost of interest towards borrowed money for Afghanistan operations will haunt and pinch for long. What the US got for its military operations in 20 years is the shameful return of the "enemy" even before the last American troop had flown away. Special permissions are believed to have been sought from the Taliban to ensure the safe passage of the retreating American soldiers! Unquestionably, the American Military is defeated once again, this time by the disorderly assemblage of the incongruously armed and trained Taliban militia.



WHEN THE DIN AND DUST ON AFGHANISTAN UNDER THE TALIBAN DOES SETTLE, SERIOUS QUESTIONS ON PERFORMANCE AND PSYCHE OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER WILL BE AWKWARDLY UNAVOIDABLE, JUST AS IT HAS BEEN SO FOR THE AFGHAN ARMY SOLDIER

Authoritarian countries like China or Pakistan have their own suppressive and repressive formulas to hide their failures and myth-make their Military's prowess by simply denying the truth. While the 1962 Indo-China war is a reality, but so was inglorious fate of the Chinese Military in 1967 (Nathu La and Cho La clashes) just as it did not own up to its losses in Galwan Valley recently, till almost a year later! The Sino-Vietnamese War (1979) that led to a spectacular performance from the numerically and materially inferior Vietnamese forces is brushed aside in the Chinese narrative. In Pakistan, despite the repeated disgrace of the 1965 Indo-Pak war, even worse fate in 1971 and the more recent Kargil war, the bloated and over-entitled Pakistani Military remains beyond questioning. Murmurs of sub-optimal performance aside, no one can openly doubt the Pakistani Military as it controls all the essential levers of governance and perception management.

In 2021, the post-Afghanistan optics and perceptions of the American Soldier will require a lot more than just Hollywood produc-

tions, Congressional bravado or flag-waving ceremonies — hard questions will follow and daily images of the turbaned Taliban mocking its might will impact the institution of the US Military, psychologically and permanently. America's longest war (Afghanistan) and its second longest war (Vietnam), as also its unsettled status in the Middle Eastern theatre, will be in sharp contrast to the glories of the "Greatest Generation" of World War II, or the soon thereafter Korean War. The hollowness of George Bush's Texan drawl at the joint session of the US Congress 20 years ago, before sending the American troops to Afghanistan, "The course of this conflict is not known, yet its outcome is certain", will haunt and traumatise the American soldier and national conscience immeasurably. The entire edifice of the US Military from its intelligence assessment, firepower, planning, cutting-edge technology to the 'GI Joe' imagery will be shattered beyond immediate repair.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OPPOSITION NEEDS 'UNITY IN DIVERSITY'

Sir — As it becomes increasingly evident that it would be impossible to dislodge the saffron party from power if the Opposition parties continue to tread the lone path, the mounting efforts by a few leaders to resurrect a united Opposition appear fully justified. Just as the British extended their unwelcome stay in the country to have an uninterrupted reign of nearly 200 years over it, a divided Opposition is only strengthening the hands of the Modi Government. Of course the general elections are yet a few years away, but to have envisaged a united front to challenge the might of the BJP in the country at this stage speaks for the seriousness of the venture.

In Goa too, there are sufficient hints of a combined Opposition being envisioned to topple the BJP in the ensuing Assembly polls. But these have been more of plans than anything concrete being attempted. Somehow in Goa, as elsewhere in the country, an 'Opposition-combine' is only thought of at the last moment after all available options have been exhausted for parties that constitute the Opposition. But, as a stop-gap arrangement, nothing much can be expected to come of these endeavours. Such 'provisions' need to be made much earlier which also gives the electorate sufficient time to adjudge the new alliance.

Pachu Menon | Goa

SEPARATE TIME ZONE ISN'T SEPARATISM

Sir — The Northeast is tired of asking for a separate time zone. Many politicians from the Northeast have tabled the request for a separate time zone over the years but to no avail. The Centre is under the impression that setting up an independent time zone in the Northeast would brew separatist tendencies in the people. However, it's worth noting that Russia has nine different time zones while the US has six and barely do they have any such tendencies. On the other hand, China's policy to adhere to only one time zone for enhanced national unity has backfired on them quite often.

Afghan women bear the brunt



After the Taliban returned to power, women's subjugation was being seen as the most feared aftermath and what is happening in Afghanistan is no different. Women can no longer enjoy the liberty they did under the regime of the previous Government. They are no longer entitled to

education, employment, independent travel and are forced to live under the shadow of a male counterpart. Basically their independent existence is a lost phenomenon and in order to be able to keep breathing, they must follow whatever rules the Taliban force on them.

Strict implementation of the Sharia under the Taliban leadership will cause Afghanistan to become a severely male-dominated nation. Such a sick patriarchal mentality will snatch away women's freedom and rights which are already endangered. Afghan women are under fear and misery and hence they are desperately trying to flee their own land. How ironic is it that a nation which once was the epitome of female liberty and modernisation is now in tatters? The wheels of time in Afghan soil have reached to the tip where women are being thrown into patriarchal lurch, again.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

In winters when the sun sets by 4 pm in the Northeast, offices and industries have to remain open till 6 pm which means unnecessary consumption of electricity. In summers when the sun rises by 4:30 am, nearly five hours of natural daylight is wasted by the time people go to their offices. The tea gardens in Assam follow a schedule which is one hour ahead of the Indian Standard Time (IST) to put the daylight hours to better use. It is a humble request to the Government to facilitate a separate time zone to the Northeast for the greater good of the region as well as the country.

Noopur Baruah | Tejpur

MEHBOOBA'S REFERENCE TO AFGHANISTAN

Sir — Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti has asked the Centre to take a lesson from Afghanistan. This is a highly derogatory statement coming from the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. This is also a veiled instigation from her to the terrorists to follow the footsteps

of the Taliban in Kashmir. Of course, nothing better can be expected from a person who called terrorists the 'sons of soil'. The statements and remarks of Mehbooba have taken her to a new low. On one hand she asks the youth not to pick up arms while on the other she cites examples of Taliban who took over Afghanistan at gunpoint. She cannot eat the cake and have it too.

The Indian army is capable of dealing with worst case scenarios and has proved its mettle by making Kashmir a safer place to live in. Mehbooba wants the Centre to return what it snatched from them. She must realise that what was given was only a temporary arrangement. One can't go on saying 'temporary' permanently. Mehbooba has drawn reference to the talk of India and Pakistan for ceasefire to happen. She cannot feign ignorance to the fact that Pakistan has violated ceasefire pact several times.

KV Seetharamaiah | Hassan

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

The last hurrah

The Panjshir valley is valiantly leading the battle against the Taliban in northern Afghanistan

So, now only the Panjshir valley stands between the total capitulation of the rugged, proud Afghans and the unchallenged brutality of the Taliban militia. But what a fight the native fighters are putting on against the mercenaries, yet again! Years ago, Ahmad Shah Massoud (1953-2001), who came from the same region in northern Afghanistan, had taken up the cudgels for fellow countrymen against the rampaging Taliban ahead of their takeover of Afghanistan when they were targeting the Hazaras and the world-renowned Bamiyan Buddhas. The Afghan politician-guerrilla commander was an unafraid voice leading the resistance against the "Soviet occupation" between 1979 and 1989. In the 1990s, he led the Government's military wing against rival militias; and after the Taliban takeover, he was the leading opposition commander against their regime until his assassination in 2001. Now his son, Ahmad Massoud, is in the same boat as his father, and cut from the same cloth. The enemy is common, so it comes as no surprise that Massoud Junior is not taking the opposition lightly; after all, as with all Pathans and Pashtuns, there's the issue of bloody revenge at the heart of it all, besides the issue of homeland.

The son and his men have unleashed such fierce resistance and led armed uprising groups against the reposeful Taliban that they have cleared the Baghlan province, Deh Salah and Qasaan of the armed terrorists. Locals also claimed to have killed 40 Taliban fighters. Conveniently, the Taliban have not commented on the conflict yet. In an indirect admission that there is reason for it to worry, however, it has said that "hundreds" of its fighters were heading to the Panjshir valley, the *Al Jazeera* has reported. Its commanders, though, feel that their ongoing momentum can stem the resistance emanating from the Panjshir valley; "If we can defeat superpowers, surely we can provide safety to the Afghan people", they claim. Since the Taliban overran Afghanistan, flickers of resistance have begun to emerge with some former Government troops gathering in the Panjshir, long known as an anti-Taliban bastion. Meanwhile, first Vice-President Amrullah Saleh and Massoud Junior have pledged to resist the Taliban and said they will never surrender to them. More than a battle of wits, firepower or perseverance, therefore, it seems the stage is set for a long haul between the intruders and those who belong to democracy.

SOUND BITE

Some media have been trying to glorify the Taliban and this is really deplorable. Everyone knows how they started to grow and who were responsible.



Kerala Chief Minister — Pinarayi Vijayan



Foreign forces should withdraw on the deadline they have announced earlier. Otherwise, it is a clear violation.

Taliban spokesman — Muhammad Suhail Shaheen

My love is for my own independent songs but I would also love to give my voice to an actor if the song fits well.



Singer — Darshan Raval



Virat Kohli is the right man at the right time to lead this formidable India side. His players, in particular the bowlers, want an aggressive captain.

Former England captain — Nasser Hussain

Caste-based census should happen not only in Bihar, but in the entire nation. It will help proper diversion of resources.



Opposition Leader Bihar Assembly — Tejashwi Yadav



FIRST COLUMN RESILIENCE: BEARINGS OF A GREAT NATION

Overcoming health challenges is possible, and voices like Rotary's are crucial



SHEKHAR MEHTA

Many of the nation's most notable achievements over the past few decades have emerged out of some of the biggest healthcare challenges. For example, the country's impressive immunisation programmes today, including the response to COVID-19, are rooted in the early lessons learnt during the eradication of smallpox and then later, the elimination of polio. So, as we continue to intensify COVID-19 immunisation drives in rural areas, it is important to reflect on our history and realize that we are efficiently equipped to handle the challenges that lie ahead. The government's focus after 1947 was the eradication of vaccine-preventable diseases such as smallpox, and India played an important role in the global campaign with support from International Tuberculosis Campaign (ITC), UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO). As a first step, the BCG Vaccine Laboratory established operations in Guindy, Chennai in 1947. By August 1948, BCG smallpox immunizations were available, and by 1956, the BCG smallpox vaccine had been introduced to every State. Several parts of the country still report-



ed outbreaks but innovations and newer vaccine delivery techniques allowed India to conquer smallpox. India was declared free of the disease in 1977. The BCG Vaccine Laboratory then continued its efforts to develop vaccines against other diseases such as influenza and rabies, but the crowning achievement arrived in 1970 as both public and private manufacturers in India began to manufacture vaccines for diseases such as diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and polio on a mass scale. As vaccines became more readily available, a national immunization program—the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI)—was established in 1978, with the goal of reaching 85 per cent of the country's children under the age of five and pregnant women with vaccines against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis and childhood tuberculosis by 1990. This program was carried forward by Mission Indradhanush (MI) in 2014, which sought to accelerate the pace of full immunization for children up to 2 years of age and pregnant women. Thereafter, Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 focussed on immunizing all high-priority districts against 10 vaccine preventable diseases by 2030.

India has always been cognizant of the fact that public-private organizations and governments working together are instrumental in controlling diseases that can be prevented by immunization. Such was the case when the Prime Minister advocated for the EPI and such was the case when Rotary became a founding member of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in 1988 along with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The initiative was later joined by The Gates Foundation and GAVI, along with the Vaccine Alliance. It was a moment of pride when the last case of polio was reported in 2011, and when India was certified polio-free in 2014. Now, the polio infrastructure that Rotary, its members, and GPEI partners helped build is being used to fight COVID-19 and to deploy and deliver Coronavirus vaccines around the world. An effective approach involved recruiting school teachers and training children as part of Bulawa Toli (children's brigade) to bring mothers with their newborn to the vaccination sites during MI weeks. The growth of partnerships between civil society and governments is a trend that we hope continues, particularly as we continue to battle COVID-19. India's history demonstrates that overcoming global health challenges is possible, and voices like Rotary's are crucial in establishing the public-private partnerships necessary to tackling the pandemic effectively. With the lessons of the past to guide us, and the infrastructure at our disposal, we must pick up the pace to conquer the global pandemic.

(The writer is President, Rotary International. The views expressed are personal.)

... And they all fell down!

Ironically, what emerged in the Supreme Court judgment in 2019 was the solution that Kalyan Singh had been working on and trying to convince various parties



ANIL SWARUP

While writing the chapter on Babri Masjid titled, 'When It All Came Crashing Down' in my book, 'Not Just A Civil Servant', I did face a dilemma. Kalyan Singh was understood to be the 'real culprit' behind this demolition but I had some first-hand knowledge about what had happened on the day of demolition. I wondered whether that should be shared with the readers. There was nothing illegal about what I wrote but the dilemma was on account of being privy to some private conversations and whether I should release such private conversations into the public domain with a view to placing certain facts before the public.

Babri Masjid was a bone of contention between the Hindu and the Muslim communities since the 19th century. Although the disputed structure was apparently built during 1520-29 CE by Mir Baiqi on the orders of the Mughal Emperor, Babar. The mosque was located on a hill known as 'Ramkot'. The Hindus believed that Baiqi had destroyed a pre-existing temple of Rama at the site. They also believed that Rama was born here. This belief emanates from the documents of Sawai Jai Singh.

In fact, in the Kapad-Dwar collection in the City Palace Museum of Jaipur, there is a sketch map of the Babri Masjid site. The map portrays an open courtyard and a built structure resembling Babri Masjid with three domes. The courtyard is mentioned as 'Janmsthan' and shows a 'Rama Chabutara'.

In 1853, a group of Hindu ascetics occupied the site and claimed ownership over the structure. In 1855, after a Hindu-Muslim clash, a boundary wall was constructed to avoid further disputes. Accordingly, the Muslims offered prayers in the inner courtyard and the Hindus on the raised platform.

The dispute acquired a legal dimension when in 1877, Syed Mohammad Asghar, the guardian of the structure, filed a petition with the Commissioner of Faizabad requesting for restraint on Hindus who had raised a Chabutara on the spot regarded as the birthplace of Ram.

In December 1949, Akhil Bhartiya Ramayan Mahasabha organized a 9-days recital of the 'Ramcharitmanas' just outside the mosque. On the morning of 23rd December, 1949, the event's organisers announced that the idols of Rama and Sita had appeared miraculously and exhorted Hindus to come for 'darshan'. Given the sensitivity of the issue, the Government declared the mosque a disputed area and locked the gates. The unlocking of the gates took place in the year 1986 when all Hindus were given access to the site.

A massive campaign was subsequently launched to build a Rama temple on the site. It was against this background that



KALYAN SINGH HAD TAKEN ON HIS JOB IN THE RIGHT EARNEST. HE WAS CERTAINLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE RAM MANDIR ISSUE. BUT, ON ASSUMING OFFICE, HE MADE HIS INTENTIONS CLEAR TO PROVIDE HONEST AND PURPOSEFUL GOVERNANCE. HE WAS KEEN ON CONVEYING A MESSAGE THAT HE MEANT BUSINESS. HIS VISION WENT MUCH BEYOND THE MANDIR

The writer is a retired IAS officer and worked as Secretary to late Kalyan Singh when he was Chief Minister. This is a chapter from his book, "Ethical Dilemmas of a Civil Servant". The views expressed are personal.)



the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP), under the leadership of Kalyan Singh, came to power in Uttar Pradesh and I was appointed as Director, Information and Public Relations.

Kalyan Singh had taken on his job in the right earnest. He was certainly concerned about the Rama Mandir issue but on assuming office, he made his intentions clear to provide honest and purposeful governance. He was keen on conveying a message that he meant business. His vision went much beyond the Mandir.

His objective was to build a new and vibrant Uttar Pradesh. A list of such officers who had honest credentials for manning critical posts like District Magistrates and Secretaries of Departments was drawn up at his behest. Certain social evils, like mass copying in school examinations, were sought to be reined in. The Cabinet Meetings would go on for hours, discussing policies on various issues before taking a final call. He got a set of extremely bright officers like Sanjay Aggarwal and Anant Kumar Singh (both of whom rose to become Secretaries to the Government of India subsequently) to his Secretariat.

He was leaving no stone unturned to achieve his objective. Improvements were clearly in evidence in the form of delivery of services at the field level and in the postings of competent officers. These officers were provided security of tenure (the State was otherwise notorious for its flourishing 'transfer industry') and necessary backing to carry out the task of implementing policies.

He did want a grand temple at Ayodhya and was diligently working towards a peaceful and amicable consensus. There were indeed a few options emerging. One such option was the construction of a new masjid close to the site. He even gave an example of the shifting of mosques when Aswan Dam was being constructed in Egypt. This idea was gradually gaining currency. He was engaging intensively with all the stakeholders. However, he was totally against the aggressive posturing that was the hallmark of right-wing religious organisations.

Ironically, what emerged in the judgement of the Supreme Court in 2019 was the solution that Kalyan Singh had been working on and attempting to convince various parties to come around to!

However, what happened on the 6th of December, 1992, shocked him as well. Those who believe that Kalyan Singh was the man behind this demolition overlook the fact that he had an absolute majority in the assembly. Why would he want to bring his own government down in case the Masjid gets demolished? He would have surely known the consequences of the demolition. In his repeated interactions with the central leadership, he was arguing against the congregation of karsevaks at the site.

This became evident on the 6th of December in his telephonic conversation with Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, the then Chief Minister of Rajasthan. I was present when this conversation took place. Kalyan Singh was livid. He reiterated that he was against such a congregation, but he was overruled and no one listened to him. His reservation about such a congregation was not based on any apprehension of a mishap (he was some how convinced that the structure will never come down in the manner it finally did) but with regard to the unnecessary distractions that such events created. He was opposed to the congregation in July as well but, fortunately, no untoward incident happened then.

The other argument often raised is, why didn't he allow the central forces that were stationed nearby to handle the situation? It is a fact that Kalyan Singh didn't permit the central forces to take over or seek their assistance, but it does not automatically imply that he did not allow the central forces to come in because he wanted the demolition to take place. Moreover, a similar event had taken place in July and then the dust had settled down peacefully.

Kalyan Singh believed that, as in July, the karsevaks would go back after performing pooja and that no harm would come to the Masjid. However, on this occasion he was wrong. The structure came down and, with it, brought down his government.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

A SEPARATE STATE IS THE DEMAND OF PEOPLE OF NORTH BENGAL WHO HAVE NOT SEEN DEVELOPMENT FOR 75 YEARS. ASKING FOR SEPARATE STATEHOOD IS NOT ILLEGAL.

— WEST BENGAL BJP PRESIDENT
DILIP GHOSH



THE BJP IS ENCOURAGING ELEMENTS TO DIVIDE BENGAL AFTER ITS HUMILIATING DEFEAT IN THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.

— TMC RAJYA SABHA MP
SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY

Afghanistan: Recycled wars

The various factions of the Taliban will split, mostly on ethnic lines, and another civil war of uncertain length will follow

In the year 2000, five years after the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, nobody elsewhere cared what happened in that land-locked, benighted country. It was ruled by angry rural fanatics who tormented the local people with their demented rules for proper 'Islamic' behaviour, but it was not a military or diplomatic priority for anybody.

It is about to return to that isolated and isolationist existence. Neither then nor now do the Taliban even have a foreign policy. They are more like a franchise operation whose various elements share certain basic principles - e.g. foreigners, women and democracy are bad - but whose members are primarily focused on local issues and personal ambitions. This is not the first time



GWYNNE DYER

that the country has been in such a mess, and about the only useful thing that the current lot of foreign invaders can do on their way out is offer refuge abroad to as many as possible of the Afghans who trusted their promises. That will certainly not be more than ten or twenty percent of those who earned their protection.

The Russians and the Americans share the blame for this catastrophe. It's hard to believe that an uninvaded Afghanistan could have peacefully evolved into a prosperous democratic society with equal rights for all, but 'uninvaded' is the only condition in which it could conceivably have approached that goal.

There was the germ of such a locally-led modernisa-



tion process in the overthrow of the king in 1973 and the proclamation of an Afghan republic. Other Muslim-majority states have made that transition successfully - Turkey did, for example, despite its current government - but the Afghan attempt did not prosper.

Violent resistance by traditional social and religious groups started at once, and the tottering new republican regime was overthrown in 1978 by a bloody military

coup. The young officers who seized power were Marxists who imposed a radical reform programme.

They gave women the vote and equal access to education, carried out land reforms, and even attacked the role of religion. By 1979, the Marxist regime was facing a massive revolt in conservative rural areas, and one faction asked for Soviet military help.

The moribund Communist leadership in Moscow agreed, and 100,000 Soviet troops entered the country. The subsequent war devastated the country for a decade - with much help from the United States.

"The day that the Soviets officially crossed the (Afghan) border, I wrote to President Carter: We now have the

opportunity of giving to the USSR its Vietnam War," said former US National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski. He immediately started sending money and weapons to the rural rebels who later became the Taliban.

It took ten years, \$40 billion of clandestine US military aid, and around a million Afghan dead, but by 1989 the Taliban and their various Islamist rivals forced the Russians to pull out. Shortly afterwards the Soviet Union collapsed, and Brzezinski arrogantly but implausibly claimed credit for it.

"What is most important to the history of the world?" he asked. "The Taliban or the collapse of the Soviet empire? Some stirred-up Moslems or the liberation of Central

Europe and the end of the cold war?" In reality, the Soviet Union was heading for collapse anyway, but the 'stirred-up Moslems' turned out to be a fairly large problem.

The Taliban took power in Kabul in 1996 after a long all-against-all war between the various Islamist groups, and ruled most of the country badly and brutally for five years. Then an Arab Islamist called Osama bin Laden abused the hospitality of the Taliban leader Mullah Omar by launching the 9/11 attacks against the United States in 2001.

That led to another twenty years of war: the Taliban against another set of foreigners who understood little about the country's recent history and why it made local people

profoundly mistrustful of 'helpful' foreigners.

Even now Americans don't realise how closely they have recapitulated the Soviet experience in the country. The ending that is now unfolding was foreordained from the start, although it has taken twice as long to arrive because the United States is much richer than Russia. Nevertheless, the aftermath will also be the same.

The various factions of the Taliban will split, mostly on ethnic lines, and another civil war of uncertain length will follow. The rule of the winners will be as cruel and arbitrary as it was last time. And the rest of the world will rapidly lose interest, because Afghanistan won't pose a serious threat to anywhere else.

Gunfire at Kabul airport kills 1

AP ■ KABUL

A firefight just outside Kabul's international airport killed at least one Afghan soldier early on Monday, German officials said, the latest chaos to engulf Western efforts to evacuate those fleeing the Taliban takeover of the country.

The airport shooting came as the Taliban sent fighters north of the capital to eliminate pockets of armed resistance to their lightning takeover earlier this month.

The Taliban said they retook three districts seized by opponents the day before and had surrounded Panjshir, the last province that remains out of their control.

Afghanistan's security forces collapsed in the face of the Taliban advance, despite 20 years of Western aid, training and assistance. Tens of thousands of Afghans have sought to flee the country since, fearing a return to the brutal rule



In this photo provided by the US Marine Corps, US Soldiers and Marines assist with security at an Evacuation Control Checkpoint during an evacuation at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan

the Taliban imposed the last time they ran Afghanistan. That has led to chaos at the airport in Kabul, the main route out of the country.

Gunfire broke out near an entrance to the airport, where at least seven Afghans died a day earlier in a panicked stampede of thousands of people. The circumstances of the shooting, which occurred

around dawn, remained unclear. The German military tweeted that one member of the Afghan army was killed and three others were wounded by

"unknown attackers." An Italian humanitarian organization that operates hospitals in Afghanistan said it had treated six patients with bullet wounds from the airport. The US Military and NATO did not immediately acknowledge the shooting. There was no comment from the Taliban.

The tragic scenes around the airport have transfixed the world. Afghans poured onto the tarmac last week and some clung to a US Military transport plane as it took off, later plunging to their deaths. At least seven people died that day, in addition to the seven killed on Sunday.

The Taliban blame the chaotic evacuation on the U.S. Military and say there's no need for any Afghans to flee. They have pledged to bring peace and security after decades of war and say they won't seek revenge on those who worked with the U.S., NATO and the toppled Afghan Government.

Logical, rational: US Prez defends troops withdrawal from Af

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Facing criticism over his policy on Afghanistan, US President Joe Biden has defended his move to withdraw American troops from the war-torn country, saying history will record this as a "logical, rational and right decision".

The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, two weeks before the US was set to complete its troop withdrawal after a costly two-decade war.

The insurgents stormed across the country, capturing all major cities in a matter of days, as Afghan security forces trained and equipped by the US and its allies melted away.



PTI ■ WASHINGTON

nations, including the US and many European nations, resulting in total chaos at Kabul airport and deaths.

UK expands evacuation staff as Boris convenes G7

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK Government said on Monday that it has reinforced its staff presence in Kabul to assist with the evacuation of British nationals from the Afghan capital.

Five staff from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) have joined 14 already working on the evacuation operation in Kabul, four of them arriving on Monday morning and one on Sunday night.

"This brings the total FCDO staff currently in Kabul to 19. This includes Ambassador Laurie Bristow, staff from British Embassy Kabul and FCDO rapid deployment team members," an FCDO statement said.

"Alongside UK military, these staff are working round the clock to support evacuations on the ground in Kabul," it said.

Taliban official urges imams to reassure Afghans

AP ■ KABUL

The Taliban's longtime spokesman has urged imams in Afghanistan to give assurances to Afghans about their security and safety.

Zabihullah Mujahid said on Monday at a gathering of clerics in the capital Kabul that they are responsible for keeping their constituents calm.

He also urged them to "clear the baseless propaganda" he says is being disseminated by the US about the Taliban.

He says: "Imams, keep your people calm, we should indoctrinate people to support the Islamic government and Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan."

Russia won't intervene in standoff with Taliban

Moscow: Russia says it will not interfere in the stand-off between the Taliban and their opponents in Afghanistan.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday that leaders of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation member states discussed the standoff and its implications of "another civil war in Afghanistan".

He says, "Of course, no one is going to intervene in these events."

Taliban spokesman said Monday the group's forces have surrounded Panjshir, the only one of Afghanistan's 34 provinces that has not yet fallen to the Taliban. Several Taliban opponents have gathered in Panjshir.

Pop star Aryana flees Kabul after Taliban takeover

Kabul: Afghanistan's biggest female pop star Aryana Sayeed on Thursday confirmed her escape after the Taliban takeover of Kabul city.

"I am well and alive and after a couple of unforgettable nights, I have reached Doha, Qatar and am awaiting my eventual flight back home to Istanbul," Aryana Sayeed told her 1.3 million Instagram followers.

As women and girls plead for their livelihoods under strict Taliban rule, Sayeed, 36, who had recently starred as a judge on a singing competition show on Afghan television, told reporters she left via US cargo jet, reported New York Post.

The singer is among the lucky few as expats from around the world struggle to find flights out of the country.

Disgusting to watch Pak officials celebrate Taliban victory, says US lawmaker

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Pakistan and its intelligence service have played a key role in fostering the Taliban and allowing it to eventually take over Afghanistan, a top Republican lawmaker has alleged, stating that it is disgusting to watch Islamabad celebrate the group's victory that will bring "untold brutality" to Afghans.

Congressman Steve Chabot, Co-Chair of the India Caucus, said in his address to the virtual gala of Hindu Political Action Committee on Sunday that he applauds the Indian government for welcoming the Afghan religious minorities who have a good reason to fear persecution at the hands of the Taliban and their evil rule.

"In contrast, we all know that Pakistan and particularly its intelligence services played a key role fostering the Taliban and allowing them to eventually take over. It's just disgusting to watch Pakistani officials celebrate the victory of this group that will bring untold brutality to the Afghan people," Mr Chabot said.

US cannot simply abandon Af: China

AP ■ BEIJING

China is once again criticising the United States over Afghanistan, saying America cannot simply abandon the war-torn country.

"The United States is the root cause and the biggest external factor in the Afghan issue,"

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Monday. "It cannot just run away like this." He called on the US to help maintain stability, avoid chaos and rebuild Afghanistan.

"I hope the US side can match its acts with words, take on its responsibilities in Afghanistan and put into practice its commitments to Afghanistan in terms of development and reconstruction, and humanitarian assistance," he told a daily briefing.

22 dead, many missing after 17 inches of rain in Tennessee

AP ■ WAVERLY (US)

At least 22 people were killed and rescue crews searched desperately on Sunday amid shattered homes and tangled debris for dozens of people still missing after record-breaking rain sent floodwaters surging through Middle Tennessee.

Saturday's flooding in rural areas took out roads, cellphone towers and telephone lines, leaving families uncertain about whether their loved ones survived the unprecedented deluge. Emergency workers were searching door to door, said Kristi Brown, a coordinator for health and safety supervisor with Humphreys County Schools.

Many of the missing live in the neighborhoods where the water rose the fastest, said Humphreys County Sheriff Chris Davis, who confirmed the 22 fatalities in his county. The names of the missing were on a board in the county's emergency center and listed on a city department's Facebook page.

Threats against Indians in South Africa do exist: Ela Gandhi

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Threats against the Indian-origin community in South Africa do exist after the recent violence, but the Government is doing everything in its power to counter it, Mahatma Gandhi's granddaughter Ela Gandhi said on Monday.

Protests against the incarceration of former president Jacob Zuma on July 7 rapidly devolved into orgies of looting and arson in the two provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. Zuma has been sentenced for contempt of court after he repeatedly refused to testify at the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, where several witnesses have implicated him in corruption.

Some media reports on the violence which wracked the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng last month said that Indian-origin South Africans bore the brunt of the attack, some even stating that 'many' of the 330 people killed as looters went on the rampage were of Indian origin.

US regulators give full approval to Pfizer vaccine

Washington: The US gave full approval to Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine on Monday, a milestone that could lift public confidence in the shots and spur more companies, universities and local Governments to make vaccinations mandatory.

The formula made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech now carries the strongest endorsement from the Food and Drug Administration, which has never before had so much evidence to judge a shot's safety.

More than 200 million Pfizer doses have been administered in the US — and hundreds of millions more worldwide — since December. But up to now, they were dispensed in this country under what is known as emergency use authorisation from the FDA.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender Notice No.: JHS-187/ATM/2021 Dated 18.08.2021

Sealed tenders in Single packet system are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial)/Jhansi, North Central Railway, for and on behalf of The President of India for Supply, Installation & Operation of ATM at following 11 Railway Stations of Jhansi division.

S. N.	Installation of Automated Teller Machine (ATM) at Railway Stations.	Category of Stations	Place for installation of ATM with location code	Earnest Money	Tender Document Cost With G.S.T
01	Jhansi (Total No-02)	NSG-2	1-In Circulating Area behind old P.R.S building (Existing vacant structure). 1A-In Circulating Area behind old P.R.S building (Adjacent to location-1).	₹ 10000/- for each location	₹ 1180/- for each location
02	Gwalior (Total No-02)	NSG-2	2- In Reservation hall (East Side) 2A- In Booking hall (East Side)	₹ 10000/- for each location	₹ 1180/- for each location
03	Chitrakoot Dham Karwi (Total No-02)	NSG-4	3- In circulating area near mela shed entrance gate. 3A- in circulating area near mela shed entrance gate. (Adjacent to location-3)	₹ 10000/- for each location	₹ 1180/- for each location
04	Banda (Total No-02)	NSG-3	4-In circulating area (North Side) in front of railway hospital. 4A-In circulating area (south side) near cycle-scooter stand.	₹ 10000/- for each location	₹ 1180/- for each location
05	Orai (Total No-02)	NSG-4	5 - Near Main entrance gate. 5A - Near main entrance gate (adjacent to location-5).	₹ 10000/- for each location	₹ 1180/- for each location
06	Morena (Total No-01)	NSG-3	6 - in circulating area behind Station Manager office.	₹ 10000/- for each location	₹ 1180/- for each location
07	Kulpahar (Total No-01)	NSG-5	7-In circulating area at the corner near new station building.	₹ 10000/- for each location	₹ 1180/- for each location
08	Belatal (Total No-01)	NSG-5	8-In circulating area between old and new station building besides disability ramp.	₹ 10000/- for each location	₹ 1180/- for each location
09	Harpalpur (Total No-01)	NSG-5	9 - In circulating area between old and new station building besides parcel gate.	₹ 10000/- for each location	₹ 1180/- for each location
10	Mahoba (Total No-01)	NSG-4	10-In circulating area at the corner near Thana G.R.P.	₹ 10000/- for each location	₹ 1180/- for each location
11	Khajuraho (Total No-02)	NSG-4	11 - In circulating area behind Station Manager office. 11A- In circulating area behind Station Manager office (Adjacent to location-11).	₹ 10000/- for each location	₹ 1180/- for each location

Applicant may obtain the prescribed format of the application form along with all terms & conditions on payment of Rs.1180/- (Rs. One Thousand one hundred eighty only in form of Demand Draft of nationalized/scheduled bank in favour of Sr.DFM/JHANSI/NCR) from the office of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Jhansi on any working day up to Date 27.09.2021 between 10.00 Hrs to 17.00 Hrs. The application form along with terms & conditions will be made available on the North Central Railway website www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in and the same can also be downloaded and used as application form for submitting offer. However the cost as stipulated for application form will have to be submitted along with application. Application without stipulated cost will be rejected. The cost of application form amounting Rs. 1180/- (Rs. One thousand one hundred eighty only) should be paid in form of Demand Draft of nationalized/scheduled bank drawn in favour of Sr.DFM/JHANSI/NCR. Application will be received in the office of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Jhansi upto 15.00 Hrs of Dt. 28.09.2021 in sealed envelope with clearly mentioned bank name, address, and the name of Station, name of location with location code. Applications received after due date & time will not be entertained. Sealed box of the applications form will be opened on date 28.09.2021 at 16.00 Hrs. in the Office of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Jhansi. Applicant may be present at the time of opening the seal box if he/she so desires.

28/09/21 (AN)

North central railways | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in | [CPNCR](https://www.facebook.com/CPNCR)

REGISTERED EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

having 80G & 12A seeking donation, interested persons/establishments may contact:

9811734420
email: gbsociety@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Know all men through these present that my client Sh. Sandeep Dewan S/o Late Sh. N.K. Dewan R/o D-69, Ground Floor, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017 is desirous of purchasing the front terrace of property bearing no. D-69, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi from Sh. Vikramjeet Singh S/o Late Major General Ram Singh through his attorney Sh. Kapil Dev S/o Late Sh. Kasturi Lal R/o D-42, South Extension-II, New Delhi appointed vide General Power of Attorney dated 29.11.1996 duly registered as document no. 17756 in Addl. Book No. IV, Volume No.856, on pages 178 to 179, on 29.11.1996, in the office of the sub-registrar, New Delhi.

Any person(s) having any objection in respect of the above stated property or part thereof by way of sale/purchase, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lien, license, hypothecation, transfer of title or beneficial interest under any trust right of prescription or pre-emption under any Agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order or whatsoever may contact the undersigned within 15 days from the publishing of this notice.

GAURAV BHARDWAJ (Advocate)
B-16, Lower Ground Floor, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017

WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION WORK

Deputy Chief Engineer (Const)II, Western Railway, 8th floor, station building, Churchgate, Mumbai - 400020 invites offer through E-tender portal under Two Packet system for the following tender. **Tender No.: Dy CE(C)II/CCG/328. Name of work :** Earthwork, Construction / strengthening of Major / Minor bridges, Construction of side drains, boundary walls and retaining walls etc between Bandra to Borivali stations in connection with providing 6th line between Mumbai Central to Borivali stations of Mumbai Division of Western Railway and Construction of Foundation for 15 Nos. Piers at Malad for Elevated Portion of Harbour Line.

NIT Cost (in Rs.): 42,52,04,616.03.

EMD (in Rs.): Bid Security Declaration. **Bidding Start Date:** 01.09.2021. **Bid submission closing on:** 15.09.2021 - 15.00 Hrs. **Tender Document opening on:** 15.09.2021 - 15.30 Hrs. **Instruction of tenders:** 1. Only E-offers submitted online through E-tender portal will be considered. **Please note that printed offers will not be entertained.** 2. The date of tender, terms & conditions and scope of work are uploaded and are available only in electronic format on our website www.ireps.gov.in.

0369
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

ATLAS JEWELLERY INDIA LIMITED

CIN: L74140DL1989PLC131289
Reg. Off.: JA-710, 7th Floor, DLF Tower-A, Plot No. 10, Jasola, New Delhi-110025
Email: info@atlasjewelleryindia.com, Phone: 011-41041149/ 40541077
Web: www.atlasjewelleryindia.com

NOTICE OF 31st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE

NOTICE is hereby given that:

- The 31st Annual General Meeting of the Company ("31st AGM") will be convened on Thursday, 16th September 2021 at 02:00 p.m. IST through Video Conferencing ("VC")/Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") Facility to transact the Ordinary and Special Business, as set out in the Notice of the 31st AGM, in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rules framed thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with General Circulars dated 8th April, 2020, 13th April, 2020, 15th June, 2020, 28th September, 2020, 31st December, 2020 and 13th January, 2021 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Circular dated May 12, 2020 and January 15, 2021 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circulars"), without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue.
- In terms of MCA Circulars and SEBI Circular, the Notice of the 31st AGM and the Annual Report for the year 2021 including the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March, 2021 ("Annual Report") has been sent through e-mail to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company/Depository Participant(s). The requirements of sending physical copy of the Notice of the 31st AGM and Annual Report to the Members have been dispensed with vide MCA Circulars and SEBI Circulars.
- Members holding shares either in physical form or dematerialized form, as on the Cut-Off Date **Thursday, 09th September 2021**, may cast their votes electronically on the Ordinary and Special Business, as set out in the Notice of the 31st AGM through electronic voting system ("remote e-Voting") of Central Depository Services (India) Limited ("CDSL"). All the members are informed that:
 - The Ordinary and Special Business, as set out in the Notice of the 31st AGM, will be transacted through voting by electronic means;
 - the remote e-voting shall commence on Monday, September 13, 2021 (9:00 A.M. IST);
 - the remote e-voting shall end on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 (05:00 P.M. IST);
 - the cut-off date, for determining the eligibility to vote through remote e-Voting or through the e-Voting system during the 31st AGM, is Thursday, 09th September 2021; any person, who becomes Member of the Company after sending the Notice of the 31st AGM by email and holding shares as on the cut-off date i.e. Thursday, 09th September 2021, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com. However, if a person is already registered with CDSL for e-voting then existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote;
 - The members may note –
 - the remote e-Voting module shall be disabled by CDSL after the aforesaid date and time for voting and once the vote on a resolution is cast by the Member, the Member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently;
 - The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-Voting prior to the 31st AGM may participate in the 31st AGM through VC/OAVM Facility but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again through the e-Voting system during the 31st AGM;
 - The Members participating in the 31st AGM and who had not cast their vote by remote e-Voting, shall be entitled to cast their vote through e-Voting system during the 31st AGM; and
 - a person whose name is recorded in the Register of Members or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-Voting, participating in the 31st AGM through VC/OAVM Facility and e-Voting during the 31st AGM;
 - The Notice of AGM is available on the Company's website at www.atlasjewelleryindia.com, on the CDSL website at www.evotingindia.com and also on BSE's website at www.bseindia.com;
 - Members are requested to address their queries/grievances connected with the regarding attending AGM & e-Voting from the e-Voting System, if any, write an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or contact Mr. Rakesh Davi (022-23058542/43). They can also refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-voting manual available at www.evotingindia.com, under help section.
 - Those Members holding shares in physical form, whose email addresses are not registered with the Company, may register their email address by sending, scanned copy of a signed request letter mentioning name, folio number and complete address, self attested scanned copy of the PAN Card; and self attested scanned copy of any document (such as AADHAR Card, Driving License, Election Identity Card, Passport) in support of the address of the Member as registered with the Company, by email to investor@atlasjewelleryindia.com. Members holding shares in demat form can update their email address with their Depository Participant.
- Pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 Read with Rule 10 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Register of Members and Share Transfer Book of the Company will remain closed from Friday, September 10, 2021 to Thursday, September 16, 2021 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM.

By order of the Board
For ATLAS Jewellery India Limited
Sd/-
(Chandan Mahapatra)
Company Secretary & CFO

Place: New Delhi
Date : August 23, 2021

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Harsh Kumar/ Harish Kumar/ Balaji Tours & Packages Pvt Ltd/ Hansu/ Bina Devi/ LBDEL00002009026/ LBDEL00002009029	Flat No-9515 Duplex First Floor & Second Floor Duplex, Block-C PKT-9 Category-III, Vasant Kunj Delhi-110070/ August 18, 2021	April 16, 2021 Rs. 1,66,07,189/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Vijay Kapoor/ Harsh Kapoor/ Anju Kapoor/ Nimbus Automotive Private Limited/ LBNOD00002372355/ LBNOD00002372358/ LBNOD00002372359	Plot No 269, Block-M, Second Floor With Roof Greater Kailash-II, Delhi/ August 18, 2021	March 26, 2021 Rs. 2,39,06,197/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Naresh Sharma/ Shalini Sharma/ LBDEL00003058205	DDA Mig Flat No-23, On Third Floor Block-C Pocket-1, Sector-15 Rohini, Delhi-110085/ August 18, 2021	March 26, 2021 Rs. 39,21,399/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Kumari Beauty Sinha/ Santosh Kumar Verma/ LBDEL00003744522	Flat No. D-96, 3rd Floor Plot No 24 Delhi, Citizen, Cghs Sec-13, Rohini, Near Dc Chowk, Delhi-110085/ August 18, 2021	March 26, 2021 Rs. 68,36,578/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Binoda Nand Jha/ Samola Devi/ Kundan Kumar Jha/ LBDEL00003789086	DDA SFS Cat-III, Flat No-243, 2nd Floor, Sector- 9, Pocket-1, Dwarka, Delhi-110075/ August 18, 2021	March 26, 2021 Rs. 57,93,717/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Kanchan Kumari/ Raghunath Sharma/ LBDEL00002866980	LIG Flat No-276, Third Floor Block- B2 Pocket-C, Narela, Delhi/ August 18, 2021	January 19, 2021 Rs. 12,93,262/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Anangpal Singh Arya/ Savita/ LBDEL0000116945	LIG Flat No-85-B, First Floor, Block / Pocket-D-2-A, Janakpuri, Delhi/ August 18, 2021	March 26, 2021 Rs. 18,40,880/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Shalendra Kumar/ Rakhi Dhyani/ LBDEL0000247062	Plot No-121, First Floor Without Roof Rights, Block C Pocket 5 Sector-11 Rohini, Delhi/ August 18, 2021	March 26, 2021 Rs. 35,16,927/-	Delhi/ NCR
9.	Naresh Sharma/ Shalini Sharma/ LBDEL00003857631	DDA MIG Flat No-23, on Third Floor Block-C Pocket-1, Sector-15 Rohini, Delhi-110085/ August 18, 2021	March 26, 2021 Rs. 3,15,984/-	Delhi/ NCR
10.	Raj Kumar Dewal/ Rachana Devi/ LBDEL00003674173/ LBDEL00003744522	DDA LIG, Flat No 5C, 2nd Floor Block Mu, Pitampura, Delhi/ 110089/ August 18, 2021	March 26, 2021 Rs. 10,15,733/-	Delhi/ NCR
11.	Naunihal Singh/ Amrita/ LBDEL00001051203	Flat No-A-21, Plot No-C 8, IDC CGHS Ltd Sec-11 Dwarka, Delhi/ August 18, 2021	March 26, 2021 Rs.8,86,494/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : August 24, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Govt to Infosys: Resolve I-T portal glitches by Sept 15

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday set September 15 as the deadline for IT major Infosys to resolve all issues related to the income tax filing e-portal so that taxpayers and professionals can work seamlessly on the website. This after Infosys managing director and chief executive officer Sali Parekh, who was summoned by the Centre, met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to explain his company's efforts to sort out the glitches.

According to the ministry of finance, Parekh explained that he and his team are doing everything to ensure the smooth functioning of the portal. "Further, Parekh said that over 750 team members are working on this project and Pravin Rao, COO of Infosys, is personally overseeing this project. Parekh also assured that Infosys is working expeditiously to ensure a glitch-free experience to the taxpayers on the portal," the ministry said in a statement.

With the new I-T portal remaining unavailable for almost two consecutive days, the Finance Ministry had "summoned" Parekh on Monday to explain to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman the reasons for continued



glitches even after over two months of launch. The Income Tax department said that the portal itself has become unavailable since August 21. At the meeting, Sitharaman has expressed annoyance and concerns of the government and the taxpayers about the continuing glitches in the e-filing portal of the Income Tax Department even after two and half months since its launch, which was also delayed. Sitharaman sought an explanation from Infosys for the repeated issues faced by taxpayers.

problems that are arising on account of the delays in the functioning of the portal. The Finance Minister also made it clear that the issues faced by taxpayers on current functionalities of the portal should be resolved by the team by 15th September, 2021 so that taxpayers and professionals can work seamlessly on the portal. Meanwhile, the company in a late-evening tweet said emergency maintenance of the portal has concluded and the site is live. The new income tax e-filing portal "www.incometax.gov.in", developed by Infosys, had a bumpy start from the day of its launch on June 7, as it continued to face tech glitches with users complaining that certain functionalities were either unavailable or working slow.

CCI slaps ₹200 cr penalty on Maruti Suzuki Says discount control policy violates competition norms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Monday imposed a penalty of Rs 200 crore on Maruti Suzuki for restricting discounts offered by its dealers and directed the country's largest car maker to cease and desist from indulging in unfair business practices.

Passing an order, the fair trade regulator also flagged practices like appointing 'Mystery Shopping Agencies' and preparing 'Mystery Audit Reports' as part of enforcing the company's discount control policy. The watchdog slapped the fine of Rs 200 crore as it found that Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) indulged in anti-competitive conduct of Resale Price Maintenance (RPM) in the passenger vehicle segment by

way of implementing discount control policy vis-a-vis dealers, an official release said on Monday.

MSIL had an agreement with its dealers whereby the dealers were restrained from offering discounts to the customers beyond those prescribed by it. In other words, the company had a discount control policy and dealers who wanted to offer additional discounts were required to compulsorily seek the company's prior approval, as per the regulator.

According to the CCI, any dealer found violating the policy was threatened with imposition of penalty, not only upon the dealership but also upon its individual persons, including direct sales executive, regional manager and showroom manager.



Sensex snaps 2-day losing streak; IT stocks shine

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex and Nifty made a positive start to the week on Monday as IT, banking and finance counters saw robust buying amid a supportive trend in global equities.

A strengthening rupee, which climbed 17 paise against the US dollar, added to the momentum. Recovering from a two-session slide, the 30-share BSE Sensex started up 226.47 points or 0.41 per cent to close at 55,555.79. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 45.95 points or 0.28 per cent to 16,496.45.

HCL Tech was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurring 4.10 per cent, followed by TCS, Bajaj Finserv, Nestle India, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra and Kotak Bank.

On the other hand, M&M, Bajaj Auto, UltraTech Cement, PowerGrid, ITC, Asian Paints and Tata Steel were among the laggards, shedding up to 2.50 per cent.

"Heavy selling continued in small and mid-cap stocks, while headline indices traded positive due to strong support from IT stock and positive global peers. The key factor for the correction is the good per-

Rupee rises by 17 paise to nearly 2-month high

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee rose by 17 paise to close at a nearly two-month high of 74.22 against the US dollar on Monday, supported by a firm trend in domestic equities and weak American currency overseas.

However, surging crude prices in the international market restricted the rupee's gain, forex traders said.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened strong at 74.27 against the greenback and moved in a range of 74.22 to 74.30 in the day trade.

performance during 2020-21, leading to peak valuations while liquidity is expected to normalise in the future. "The ongoing correction will provide an opportunity for long-term investors to re-enter quality stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

RBI slaps ₹20 lakh penalty on NE & EC Railway Employees'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The RBI on Monday said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 20 lakh on the NE & EC Railway Employees' Multi-State Primary Co-operative Bank, Gorakhpur for contravention of certain norms.

In a statement, the RBI said the inspection report of the bank based on its financial position as on March 31, 2019 revealed non-adherence/violation of specific directions issued to it under the Supervisory Action Framework (SAF).

Based on the report, a show cause notice was issued. "After considering the bank's reply and oral submissions made during the personal hearing.

RBI came to the conclusion that the aforesaid charge of non-adherence/violation of RBI directions was substantiated and warranted imposition of monetary penalty," the central bank said.

It, however, added that the penalty is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

HDFC Bank outlines aggressive play in credit cards to regain lost mkt share in a year



PTI ■ MUMBAI

HDFC Bank on Monday said it aims to regain the two per cent market share in the credit card market it ceded to rivals during a recent ban, within a year by aggressively tapping into its existing depositor base. The bank will also focus on forging new partnerships to sell more cards and will not deviate from its conservative approach on taking credit risks as it goes aggressive in the market, its group head for payments and consumer finance, digital banking and IT, Parag Rao, told reporters.

On August 17, RBI lifted the ban on HDFC Bank which had prevented it from issuing new credit cards from December 2020. However, the restrictions on launching new digital initiatives are yet to be lifted. Its smaller rivals, including ICICI Bank and SBI Card, have utilised the opportunity created by HDFC Bank's absence to narrow the gap with the market leader in the last eight months.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Geeta Grewal is the owner and in possession of Entry First Floor without roof rights built on Property bearing No.32, Block-B-1, (commonly known as B-1/432), measuring 133 sq. yds., situated at Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110019. Said Property by virtue of Sale Deed dated 08.07.2021 duly registered as Doc No. 12158, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 6361, page 66/74, on 08.07.2021. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner intend to take loan from our client i.e. IDFC FIRST BANK LIMITED by mortgaging the said property to our client. If anybody has any objection upon said property its ownership & Title/ its Sale and Mortgage, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present.

PREM NATH CREDIT & INVESTMENTS CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN U65993DL1994PLC057025
BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT (REGIONAL DIRECTOR)
NORTHERN REGION, NEW DELHI
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41(5)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of Prem Nath Credit & Investments Corporation Limited having Registered Office at 8A/12 Ground Floor, W.E.A. Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110 005

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Company intending to make an application to the Central Government (Power delegated to Regional Director), Northern Region, New Delhi, under Section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with amended Rule 41(5)(a) and is desirous of converting into Private Limited Company in terms of Special Resolution passed at the 01/2021-22 Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the Company held on August 12, 2021 to enable the Company to give effect to such conversion.

For and on behalf of the Applicant
Rakesh Kumar Anand
Date: August 22, 2021
Place: New Delhi
Director
DIN: 011717103

Govt says no impact of jewellers' strike against gold hallmarking rules

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday said there was "no impact" of a nationwide strike called by a "very small section of jewellers" against gold hallmarking rules.

However, 350 associations and federations including All India Gems and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) which supported the strike said they received a "strong response" as most shops barring big corporates remained shut for the day.

"The strike called by a very

small section of jewellers has had no impact," the Consumer Affairs Ministry said in a statement. The said call of strike was itself based on "untenable grounds" and "an attempt was made to misinform fellow jewellers" about the various provisions of the hallmarking scheme, it said. "As expected, the misguided attempt by these limited set of persons to disrupt the normal functioning of jewellery business today has failed miserably," it added.

LIC launches campaign for policyholders to revive lapsed policies

PTI ■ MUMBAI

To provide continued risk cover to its policyholders, state-run insurer Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Monday launched a special campaign for the revival of lapsed individual policies.

Under the 'Special Revival Campaign', policies of specific eligible plans can be revived within five years from the date of the first unpaid premium, subject to certain terms and conditions, the insurer said in a release.

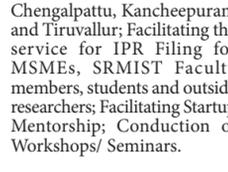
The campaign has been launched from August 23, 2021

to October 22, 2021, the release said. Policies which are in a lapsed condition during the premium paying term and not completed policy term are eligible to be revived in this campaign, it said. "The campaign is launched for the benefit of those policyholders whose policies lapsed as they were not able to pay premiums on time due to unavoidable circumstances," the release said. The insurer is offering concessions in late fee for plans other than term assurance and high risk plans, depending on the total premiums paid.

SRM signs MoU with MSME for IP cooperation

Kattankulathur:SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of Intellectual Property Cooperation and Commercialisation with the MSME - Technology Development Centre (PPDC), Govt of India, Ministry of MSME, and Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre EC - Chennai.

The MoU aims at increasing IP co-operation and commercialisation between the two institutions by way of: Sensitization on IPR among the MSME and public majority in 4 districts - Chennai, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur; Facilitating the service for IPR Filing for MSMEs, SRMIST Faculty members, students and outside researchers; Facilitating Startup Mentorship; Conduction of Workshops/ Seminars.



SRM Institute of Science and Technology building

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN	25/CE/C-2019	REVISION OF BENCHMARK COST OPENING DATE : 27.08.2021	www.uhbvn.org.in	9316867621

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

RO 4350

MOULIN COMMERCIAL LIMITED
CIN : L74899DL1982PLC087811; Ph. No: 9871374285; E-mail: kohli@vinylgroup.com
Regd. Off.: 1, Anand Gram, Aya Nagar, M G Road, New Delhi - 47
Corp. Off.: 11th Floor Vatika Tower B Sector-54, Golf Course Road Gurgaon - 122002

Extract of Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended on 30th June, 2021 (In Lakhs)

Particular	Standalone		
	Quarter ended (30.06.2021)	Year ended 31.03.2021	Quarter ended 30.06.2020
Total Income from Operations (net)	27.95	89.77	22.67
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	8.10	10.39	4.44
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	8.10	10.39	4.44
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period	5.70	5.00	2.97
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after 'tax'))			
Fairly valued equity share capital (Face value Rs. 10 per share)	57.30	57.30	57.30
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserves as Shown in the Balance Sheet of previous Year)	179.60	173.90	171.85
Earnings per share - (after extraordinary items) (-of Rs. 10/- each)	0.99	0.87	0.52
Diluted earnings per share - (after exceptional items) (-of Rs. 10/- each)	0.99	0.87	0.52

Notes: The above is an extract of the Standalone unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter ended 30th June 2021. The detailed Standalone unaudited results for the three months ended on 30th June, 2021 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone Financial Results for the three months ended on 30th June, 2021 are available on the Stock Exchange website.

For Moulin Commercial Limited
Ashish Gupta
Managing Director
DIN: 00115090

Place: Gurgaon
Date: 23.08.2021

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to all concerned public at large that Sh. Devender Kumar, Sh. Subhas Chand, Sh. Jitender Kumar, Sh. Yogender Kumar, Sh. Ashok Kumar all S/o Lt. Sh. Ram Kumar and Smt. Baia Devi alias Raj Baia W/o Lt. Sh. Ram Kumar all R/o Village-Baholpur, Noida, U.P. is the original allottee of residential plot No. Ch-63, Block-CH, Sector-145, Noida (area 73.32sq.meters) AND Sh. Subhas Chand, Sh. Jitender Kumar, Sh. Yogender Kumar, Sh. Ashok Kumar all S/o Lt. Sh. Ram Kumar R/o Village-Baholpur, Noida U.P. given GPA to in favour of Sh. Devender Kumar S/o Lt. Sh. Ram Kumar R/o Village-Baholpur, Noida U.P. which registered in Gauram Buddha Nagar on dated 10/11/2017. The aforesaid property has been sold on the basis of GPA dated 10/11/2017 which was registered at Gauram Buddha Nagar in favour of Sh. Devender Kumar S/o Lt. Sh. Ram Kumar R/o Village-Baholpur, Noida, U.P. Now the said plot is being transferred in favour of Sh. Mahesh Singh Chauhan S/o Sh. Dev Dutt Singh R/o B-4, Sector-33, Noida, U.P. If anybody has any objection may file objection in 30 days from the date of publication of this notice of Residential Plots Department of Noida Authority.
Sh. Mahesh Singh Chauhan

PUBLIC NOTICE
Know all men through these present that I, Kapil Dev S/o Late Sh. Kasturi Lal, R/o D-42, South Extension-II, New Delhi, am the attorney of Sh. Vikramjeet Singh S/o Late Major General Ram Singh vide General Power of Attorney dated 29.11.1996 duly registered as document no. 17756 in Addl. Book No. IV, Volume No. 856, on pages 178 to 179, on 29.11.1996, in the office of the sub-registrar, New Delhi, am duly authorized to enter into any agreement to sell, receive consideration and execute sale deed in respect of front terrace of property bearing no. D-69, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi. Any person(s) having any objection in respect of the above stated property or part thereof by way of sale/purchase, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lien, license, hypothecation, transfer of title or beneficial interest under any trust; right of prescription or pre-emptor under any agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order or whatsoever may contact the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publishing of this notice.
Kapil Dev
D-42, South Extension-II, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I Dinesh Kumar Verma S/o Sh. Ishwar Singh Verma R/o A-1/118-A, DDA Janta Flats, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, present owner of flat No. 118-A, DDA Janta Flat, on ground floor in Block/Pocket-A-1, in the scheme/area of Paschim Vihar Residential Scheme, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063, have applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from leasehold to freehold in DDA. The Original Allotment cum demand Letter No. J25/(150)85/HBM/Janta/G issued by DDA for the above flat has been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station Crime Branch, New Delhi vide FIR/NCR No. LR No.607429/2021 dated 23.08.2021. Any person(s) claiming any right interest, having any objection or found in possession of the above said original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9810998398, within 30 days from the date of issue of this Public Notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to the Dy. Director, (LAB)H or Director(H), 3rd floor, D-Block, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi. (Dinesh Kumar Verma)

KOVALAM INVESTMENT AND TRADING COMPANY LIMITED
CIN : L63910PB1981PLC023058
Regd. Office : Premises Oswal Woollen Mills Limited, G.T. Road, Sherpur, Ludhiana-141003 PB
Ph. : +91-161-5056605; E-mail : kovalam@owmnhar.com

INFORMATION REGARDING 39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF KOVALAM INVESTMENT AND TRADING COMPANY LIMITED TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERRING (VC) OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS (OAVM).

NOTICE is hereby given that the 39th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Shareholders of Kovalam Investment and Trading Company Limited (the Company) will be held on Monday, the 27th day of September, 2021 at 04:00 P.M. through Video Conferencing (VC) Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) in compliance with applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules issued thereunder read with General Circular numbers 14/2020, 17/2020, 20/2020 and 02/2021, dated April 08, 2020, April 13, 2020, May 05, 2020 and January 13, 2021 respectively, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Circular number SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD/1/CIR/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020 and SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD/2/CIR/2021/11 dated January 15, 2021 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (hereinafter collectively referred to as 'MCA Circular(s)' and SEBI Circular(s)) to transact the businesses, as set out in the Notice convening the 39th AGM of the Company. In compliance to the above circulars, the electronic copies of the Notice of the 39th AGM and Annual Report of the Company for the financial year 2020-2021 will be sent to all the shareholders whose email IDs are registered with the Company/Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent or Depository Participant(s). The Notice of the 39th AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2020-2021, will also be available on the website of the Company at www.owmnhar.com and website of Stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com. Shareholders can attend and participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility only. The instructions for joining the AGM are provided in the notice of AGM. Members attending the meeting through VC/OAVM shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Manner of voting at the AGM :
Shareholders will have an opportunity to cast their votes remotely or e-voting during the AGM on the businesses to set forth in the Notice of the AGM through electronic voting system. The manner of voting remotely or e-voting during the AGM for shareholders holding shares in dematerialized form, physical form and for shareholders who have not registered their email addresses shall be provided in the Notice convening the AGM.

Manner of registering/ updating email addresses :
* Shareholders holding shares in physical form and who have not registered/updated their email addresses with the Company are requested to register/update their email addresses by sending a duly signed request letter to Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent i.e. Alankit Assignments Limited at ria@alankit.com or Alankit House, 4E/2, Jhandewalan Extension, New Delhi-110 055 by providing Folio No. and Name of the Shareholder and a self-attested copy of the PAN Card.
* Shareholders holding shares in dematerialized form are requested to register/update their email addresses with the relevant Depository Participant(s).
The above information is being issued for the benefit of all the Shareholders of Company and is in compliance with the MCA Circular(s) and SEBI Circular(s).

For Kovalam Investment and Trading Company Limited
Sd/-
(Jyoti Sood)
Company Secretary

Place : Ludhiana
Date : August 23, 2021

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

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

- NIT No. EE/CD-I/DB/NIT/2021-22/28 (ID No. 2021 IFC 207187_1) H.O.A:- 2711-Non Plan, Name of Work:-Maintenance of Nasirpur drain RD 0m to RD 3000m for a period of 180 days for the year 2021-22. E.C. Rs. 5,53,662/- period of Completion 180 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 27.08.2021 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M respectively.)
- NIT No. EE/CD-I/DB/NIT/2021-22/29 (ID No. 2021 IFC 207195_1) H.O.A:- 2711-Non Plan, Name of Work:- Watch & ward of N.G. Drain between RD. 37180m (Pankha Road drain Outfall) to RD. 40680m (Outer Ring road Bridge) right bank for preventing any kind of encroachment, dumping of malba, building rubbish and other similar unserviceable material etc. for a period of 180 days round the clock for the year 2021-22. E.C. Rs. 7,27,285/- period of Completion 180 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 27.08.2021 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M respectively.)

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

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

DIP/Shabdarth/0260/21-22

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

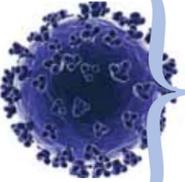
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Connection India Dotcom Pvt Ltd, Represented By Directors Nitin Kamboj & Aman Sahni, Plot No- 345, 4th Floor, Udyog Vihar Phase- 2, Gurgaon Haryana, Loan A/C No- 002105014346 & 002160000714 & 002160000752	Unit No 524 5th Floor Silvertown Tower Sector 50 Village Badshahpur Gurgaon- 122001	28-Jun-2021, Rs. 71,91,690/- & Rs. 3,19,927.29/- & Rs. 63,594.65/-	30/12/2020
2.	Siya Auto Marketing, Ram Lal, Manish Kumar Thakur, Bhagwati, I- 1278/1 Ground Floor, Mohammad Pur, Bhikai Cama Place, Near Community Centre Delhi.	Plot No-127, Block G, Second Floor, Jeevan Niketan, LIC Colony, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi- 110056	03-Jun-2021, Rs. 69,85,799/- & Rs. 1,74,983/- & Rs. 1,77,066/-	05/01/2021
3.	Saisha Hospitality Pvt Ltd, Bhagwanti and Manish Kumar Thakur, Anju Bala, Ground Floor C-7, Vishal Enclave, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi. A/C No- 335951000001 & 335960000003	House No 423, Sector 6, Urban Estate, Bahadurgarh- 124507	03-Jun-2021, Rs. 95,06,767.84/- & Rs. 2,68,793/-	05/01/2021
4.	M/s. Shivam Jewellers, 1166/310, Kucha Mahajan I, Chandni Chowk, Delhi.	Residential property of Krishan Kumar Verma and Narmada Devi situated at House No- 65, SF, Block AH, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi- 110088	03-Jun-2021, Rs. 35,87,970/- & Rs. 64,672.06/-	04/01/2021
5.	Books Cybertech Private Limited, Shubrakant Shadangi, Salsayal Panigrahy, Sanjukta Shadangi, Sucharita Mahapatra, Swagatika Shadangi, A-204, Sunny Valley Apartment, Plot No-27, Sector 12 Dwarka Delhi.	NA/205, Neela Chakra Apartment, Lal Bahadur Shastri Road, Bhubneshwar Khorda Bhubneshwar 751006.	28-Jun-2021, Rs. 30,51,348.13/- & Rs. 95,83/-	07/12/2020
6.	M/s. vardan Infratech Pvt Ltd, Through Directors Rajeev Arora And Shivali Arora C-107 Shivalik, Saket New Delhi.	Property Situated at D-83, Entire FF, Rear Side 'SF, Entire TF with Roof, Block-D, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi	26-Jun-2021, Rs. 2,45,47,210/- & Rs. 4,82,830/-	31/12/2020

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : August 24, 2021
Place: Delhi NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Booster immunity

Data from Israel shows a booster shot of Pfizer Inc's Covid-19 vaccine has significantly improved immunity and offered protection from serious illness among people aged 60 and above, as the US and other countries have announced plans to give additional doses amid the spread of highly infectious Delta variant



ENJOY YOUR HONEY



The nectar of Gods is a great source of energy and has many benefits provided that one chooses the right kind of honey, says ISHI KHOSLA

Honey has been an intrinsic part of our dietary history. From being an essential in Ayurveda to a specially sourced superfood staple sitting on the shelves of our grandparents' homes, it was the sweet treat that cured many an ailment in our homes. The true potential of honey is still to be realised as there are some many unfounded misconceptions and myths about honey. Here is an attempt to debunk some of the most prevalent ones.

This nectar harvested by bees is loaded with essentials that our body needs — Oligosaccharides (plant sugars linked in chains, mostly used in treatment for stomach ailments and high cholesterol levels), B and C vitamins, minerals like calcium, zinc, iron, magnesium and antioxidants. A variety of studies conducted over the years have proven what our ancestors knew —

Oral health: According to some studies, honey reduces the amount of acid produced in the mouth, which stops the bacteria from producing dextran — a component of dental plaque, thus helps to stop the growth of the bacteria as well. Studies pitting Manuka honey against two leading medical oral treatments for dental plaque showed that honey was equal to one and significantly better than the other. Its effects were studied on gingivitis and ulceration as well, showing significant improvement in patients during trial.

Heart health: Honey is laden with antioxidants like phenolic compounds, flavonoids and pinocembrin. Antioxidants, especially phenolic compounds and flavonoid have shown reduced risk of heart diseases and stroke in various epidemiological studies. Some studies show that buckwheat (*Kuttu*) honey can increase the capacity of antioxidants in the blood by helping the arteries to dilate, which enables adequate blood flow to the heart. The antioxidants also inhibit platelets from forming blood clots as well as prevent LDL cholesterol.

Respiratory health: Sore throats and coughs can benefit from a soothing effect of honey along with conventional medicine to cure the ailment.

Gut health: Honey could have a twofold benefit in bettering the gut microbiota which is the core of our health and immunity. On the one hand it encourages the beneficial bacteria in the way of potential probiotics and while the studies on this are early, it definitely has antibacterial properties as well which synergistically enhance the probiotic efficacy against pathogens.

Wound healing: The viscosity and the hygroscopic qualities of honey makes for an even spread on the wound bed, creating a favourable environment for healing. Given that honey has antioxidant, antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties, studies have shown that it can be used as a wound dressing to promote rapid and improved healing. This is effective due to honey's anti-bacterial action, secondary to its high acidity, osmotic effect, anti-oxidant and hydrogen peroxide content. The use of honey improves wound healing in acute cases, pain relief in burn patients and decreased inflammatory response in such patients.

The writer is a practicing clinical nutritionist



It's complicated

SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with doctors who say that post-COVID complications have been on the rise like insomnia, renal injury, cardiac problems and poor exercise tolerance to name a few

It has been over a year now since the pandemic hit worldwide. And during this time, people who have tested positive and recovered have complained of many complications that they are now suffering. Dr Chetan Rao Vaddepally, consultant pulmonologist at the Yashoda Hospitals, Hyderabad tells you that besides the organs complications like acute liver failure, gastrointestinal complications like acute bowel ischaemia and gangrenes and skin complications like hemorrhagic bullae with intra-bullae blood clots and dissecting hematomas, Isolated herpetic lesions, petechial rash, there are several complications that have come up. Some of these complications that have risen post recovery include:

Poor exercise tolerance: This is mainly a complication caused due to the corona virus infection and reduced physical movement. This can be due to the affect or the damage done by the virus on lungs, heart, blood vessels or muscle changes.

Cardiac complications: Recent studies reported an increased risk of heart failure in COVID-19 patients. Post-COVID cardiac complications like acute coronary syndrome (ACS), Acute MI (stroke), dysrhythmias, persistent hypotension, infective myocarditis have been reported.

Heart damage or cardiac muscle injury complication is seen after several days or weeks of recovery.

HEART DAMAGE OR CARDIAC MUSCLE INJURY IS SEEN AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OR WEEKS OF RECOVERY. THE INFECTION FROM COVID-19 CAN LEAD TO INFLAMMATION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE BODY RESULTING IN THE WEAKENING OF THE HEART MUSCLE, ABNORMAL HEART RHYTHM AND COULD EVEN CAUSE BLOOD CLOTS

The infection from COVID-19 can lead to inflammation in various parts of the body resulting in the weakening of the heart muscle, abnormal heart rhythm and could even cause blood clots in blood vessels. Complications like Myocarditis or an inflammation of the heart leads to it not pumping blood properly, causing the narrowing of the arteries, triggering high BP, and thus leaving one susceptible to a heart attack.

Renal injury or failure complications: Elevated levels of protein in the urine and abnormal blood work confirm kidney problems in patients, even in those who did not have renal issues before Covid. Hypertensive and diabetic COVID-19 patients are at a higher risk of kidney complication post COVID-19. Some complications may even require dialysis. This organ acts like a filter for the body by flushing out the extra water, toxins and waste

products from the body. Thus, its proper functioning plays a vital role. Blood clots can stifle the tiny blood vessels in the kidneys leading to its damage.

Central nervous system complications: Reported complications include; acute strokes, encephalopathy, Guillain-Barre syndrome, taste impairment, smell impairment, vision impairment and neuropathy.

Acute necrotizing encephalopathy (ANE) is an immune mediated disease which is usually seen after infection with mycoplasma, influenza A and herpes simplex virus. However it was recently reported in post-COVID patients and seen in children rarely.

Multiple cases of MIS-C are being reported in the pediatric population. As COVID is a pro-inflammatory condition we tend to see these complications with direct injury to the central nervous system.

Direct invasion of virus is also another possibility. ANE is a life threatening condition. It needs immediate ICU admission, MRI to look for abnormalities in the brain, EEG to look for subclinical seizures and CSF analysis to rule out CNS infection.

Vascular complications: COVID-19 is an infectious disease that leads to a proinflammatory and prothrombotic state, resulting in both micro- and macrovascular thrombosis, and both arterial and venous thrombotic events. One-third of patients hospitalized due to severe COVID-19 develops macrovascular thrombotic complications, including venous thromboembolism, myocardial infarction and stroke. Complications like acute pulmonary thromboembolism, deep vein thrombosis, acute limb ischemia/ gangrene, mesenteric ischaemia are seen.

Insomnia: This is a sleep disorder which affects the central nervous system where the sleep cycle of the person gets affected, leading to slower recovery. Various factors can trigger this state which includes anxiety, stress and loneliness. This is more so for patients who stay alone for weeks in hospitalisation or isolation, thus making insomnia a post COVID complication.

The list of complications keeps increasing. In order to avoid such complications, it is wise to avoid exposure to the infection by ensuring precautions.

DOCYARD
DR SAROJA KOPPALA
Fertility Consultant



NOVA IVF FERTILITY
HYDERABAD

Knowledge is power



Millennial women are focused on their careers, and they want to build a life for themselves before they decide to tie the knot or start a family. Women are independent to make their own choices like get married or have babies.

Once a woman has reached a certain point in her career, she might start thinking about having a child. However, it so happens sometimes that women are ready to have a child (with or without a husband/wife) they go for a regular check-up and realize that they have either a low chance of getting pregnant or are infertile. It is ideal for women to plan for a pregnancy at the right time but if they are not able to plan then there are alternatives for that.

Now what we do know is that women have a limited number of eggs, and they are born with those. However, over time these eggs might either get damaged or depleted due to various medical conditions and factors in one's life. That is why doctors are now advising young women to, get a check-up around their late teens and early 20s so that they are aware of their reproductive health and to figure out if they have any health condition that might impact their egg quality or problems with the eggs.

Technology has upgraded so much so that women can now freeze their eggs. Egg freezing can be a great way to preserve good-quality eggs. Women who might have fewer eggs or are undergoing radiation for cancer treatment generally get their eggs frozen as radiation can harm the eggs in a way where they will not be recoverable. In this process women not only invest in egg freezing, but they invest in their emotions as well. We know the fertility of a woman declines with age (the number and quality of eggs in the ovary declines after a certain age, and these days women are delaying getting married to pursue their dreams. One does not have to be too worried about the procedure of egg freezing as it is simple.

It involves a series of hormonal injections which are given over a period of 10 days.

Once the eggs are mature, the woman is then given a shot of general anaesthesia and the eggs are then retrieved.

The retrieved eggs are then frozen at an extremely low temperature, somewhere about minus 190 degrees Celsius.

The frozen eggs are then safe with the lab till she decides to use her eggs and conceive a child.

Cryo-preservation (egg freezing) is potentially helping young female professionals to control their reproductive destiny.

Information about yourself and being aware of your body can be one of the greatest things to happen to a woman. Earlier, people tried to convince women that they could not have it all. A husband, a child, and a career at the same time. However, the latest technology has helped women in changing their life forever. Women can decide when to have a child without any pressure from society because her body clock is not the thing that decides her career or family plan. She, herself decides when she wants to start a family without being worried whether she will conceive or not. It is rightly stated that knowledge is power, and we should encourage more young women to become aware of their bodies from a younger age so that they can take the right step towards having a family and a career.

COVIDCARE

COFFEE: This beverage — hot or cold — is drunk by majority of the people across the globe. But very few know that it has high levels of antioxidant and has many nutrients.

There is a reason why people drink coffee when they feel tired. It contains a stimulant called caffeine — the most commonly consumed psychoactive substance in the world. After you drink coffee, the caffeine is absorbed into your bloodstream. From there, it travels to your brain. In the brain, caffeine blocks the inhibitory neurotransmitter adenosine. Looking to burn fat? Caffeine is found in almost every commercial fat-burning



supplement. It's one of the few natural substances proven to aid fat burning. Studies have shown that coffee drinker's overall risk of premature death is 25% lower than of those who don't drink coffee and prostate cancer in men by 20%, and endometrial cancer in women by 25%.

DadiKaKehna

The COVID-19 has made us work from home which means spending hours on end in front of the laptops leading to eye strain. ROSHANI DEVI shares tips that can help



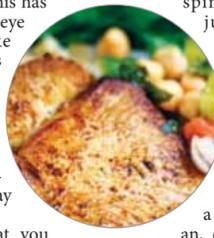
Now that a majority of us are working from home, it means that we are spending far more time in sitting in front of our laptops and working. There are many people out there who are working 12-14 hours a day. This has led to many eye problems like strain, itchiness, and even pain. Here are a few things that one can do to soothe them.

Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated. Ensure that you get seven-eight hours of sleep.

at least 20 seconds. Drink at least two cups of green tea. It helps to defend against damage to the retina and lens.

Eat red berries, kiwi, red and green bell peppers, tomatoes, broccoli, spinach, and juices made from guava, grapefruit, and orange. These have Vitamin C and keep eyes healthy. If you are a non-vegetarian, eat fish. Fish are rich sources of omega-3 fatty acids.

The fish that contains the most beneficial levels of omega-3s include: Tuna, salmon and sardine.



Avoid overthinking

Thinking all the time is exhausting. It is important to consciously relax and practice meditation, says DR JYOTI KAPOOR

Thinking is one of the primary functions of conscious brain and the process itself is continuous unless we focus on stopping the thoughts from forming. Overthinking on the other hand is complained when an individual is continuously analysing and building scenarios over something.

Most people feel they are exhausted because of thinking all the time, analysing and categorising experiences, interpreting and projecting them and re-running the same or alternate projections.

This is called obsessive rumination and is particularly prominent in anxious people. The consequences can be from lack of concentration to inability to enjoy the present and is often associated with anxiety and mood disorders.

The performance at work thus declines, interpersonal relationships suffer and productivity is reduced.

Therefore, relaxation and meditation practices are recommended to still the mind. But it's easier said than done. People with this problem are so habituated to it, that in any given scenario, the processes of analysis, interpretation and projection become automatic and often-times people don't know if there is any other way. Seeking professional help us thus advisable because changing a patterns takes time and an exhausted mind is also impatient and impulsive.

One needs to first acknowledge the problem and need to consciously decide to change. It's like promising yourself to change a habit like smoking or drinking. Next step is to draw a plan, like as soon as one realised that one is stuck on a thought or a scenario, one needs to tell one-

self to stop. It will take more than one attempt to do that, so patience and consistency are the key.

One may take help of a friend or family member also, asking them to distract them or indulge in a creative activity that one enjoys. Physical exercise, dance, music and art help too. At work also, if one feels one is repeatedly thinking of the what and how instead of doing it, write down the thoughts once and then keep them aside, telling oneself to get back to the process if a new scenario turns up.

Detaching oneself from the outcomes of a process is age old wisdom of *The Bhagwat Geeta* which serves the essence of this exercise. Focus on the works and not the rewards, and if one is able to do that, reward will automatically come.

The writer is Senior Psychiatrist and Founder & Director of Manasthali

ZyCoV-D gets nod to jab 12-18

The Zydus Cadila has received the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for ZyCoV-D the world's first Plasmid DNA Vaccine for COVID-19. It is a three-dose vaccine which will be administered first on day zero, day 28th and then on 56th day. With this approval, India now has its first COVID-19 vaccine for adolescents in the 12-18 age group, besides adults. ZyCoV-D is a needle-free vaccine administered using The PharmaJet® a needle free applicator, which ensures painless intradermal vaccine delivery.

Speaking on this development, Pankaj R Patel, Chairman, Cadila Healthcare Ltd, said: "This is a historic milestone. We are particularly happy that our vaccine will contribute to this fight against COVID-19 and enable the country to vaccinate a larger population especially in the age group of 12-18 years. I would like to thank all the researchers, clinical trial investigators, volunteers and the regulators who have supported this endeavour."

The company also plans to seek approval for the two dose regimen of the vaccine.



ART FRAT

REMEMBERING DR JAMSHED JEHANGIR BHABHA

On the 107th birth anniversary of the founder of The National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), CHRISTY VARGHESE tunes in to understand the vision of the man and the institution he created

The National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) was the brainchild of JRD Tata and Dr Jamshed Jehangir Bhabha (brother of nuclear physicist Homi Jehangir Bhabha), two visionaries, who foresaw India's need for an all-encompassing world-class performing arts centre, when it was still a young independent nation. Those who think Dr Homi's work was of more use to the country than Dr Jamsheds, in all probability, are not aware of this one time when Dr Jamshed had sought out JRD Tata's help for setting up NCPA, which was founded in 1969. As Dr Jamshed recalled, "I apologised for taking up his time when he had to attend to so many matters regarding the steel company. I shall never forget his reply: 'No, Jamshed, you should not underestimate what the NCPA is doing. One day, perhaps, the NCPA's work may be more important for the country than the work of the steel company.'"



Tata wasn't entirely wrong about his grand vision given the legacy that the cultural institution has built over the past five decades. From a humble beginning in a small rented space in Akash Ganga building on Bhulabhai Desai Road, today the NCPA houses five theatres sprawling over eight acres on the southern tip of Nariman Point, and hosts over 600 events each year spanning all art forms, to promote and preserve India's heritage of music, dance, theatre, film, literature and photography.

On August 21, the NCPA commemorated the 107th birth anniversary of Dr Bhabha by presenting the Jamshed Bhabha Memorial Lecture, wherein every year, a distinguished speaker

from diverse disciplines is invited to speak on art and culture and allied fields. In the 2021 edition of the series, eminent physician and author Dr Farokh E Udawadia, emeritus professor of medicine, author, and a Padma Bhushan awardee, delivered a lecture on 'Art and Mankind' and discussed why art deserves a place of importance in all human endeavours.

Khushroo N Suntook, chairman of NCPA, kickstarted proceedings by addressing the gathering. "The last year and a half have been a gloomy time for the performing arts. I am extremely curious as to what Dr Bhabha's reaction would have been to the current problems... Back in 1997, after four-five years' worth of work, mere months before its

completion, a fire destroyed his long-cherished dream project of creating a world-class performing art space in Mumbai. But then, then, 83-year-old Dr Bhabha is said to have responded with a simple, 'Tomorrow, we begin reconstruction.' Two years later, in 1999, the Jamshed Bhabha Theatre (JBT) was inaugurated. I wish he was with us, with his indomitable spirit, in these uncertain times also. The importance of art in our daily lives was keenly understood by him and it was a pleasant surprise that Dr Udawadia suggested the same subject when he agreed to speak at this memorial lecture on Dr Bhabha's birthday," Suntook observed.

After Dr Udawadia took to the podium, he patiently waited for the applause to fade away before sharing something about his patient and friend, "Dr Bhabha was a dreamer who dreamed and got to live his dream. Everyone is a dreamer, but how often does one turn his dreams into reality? He was someone who went against norms to live his dreams."

Dr Udawadia's love of art and literature has been a constant companion and guide in his distinguished career spanning six decades, explained how art and human existence are inseparably linked by saying, "Art is the breath, smiles and tears of all mankind. When life climbed its evolutionary ladder to become human, art became part of what's human. You cannot separate art from mankind. It is a great com-

municator and brings people, societies and countries together. Art builds bridges across countries, sometimes a bridge over troubled waters. Art is not only important but essential to man; it is a window to the world around us. Don't forget — art and science are twin pillars that have marked the ascent of man from early history to the present times and it is the balance between art and science that will determine our future."

Theorising that art led the path to the civilisation of man, Dr Udawadia continued, "Apart from art offering a window to the outside world, it lends some much-needed perspective into the world within us all. It nourishes our spirit, our stream of consciousness. It enriches our feelings and in doing so, art moulds us into a better, more civilised human being. Talking about feelings, man is driven by emotions... Can you imagine a world with poor emotions? Semi-robots, moving around the world, how sad would it be? When immersed in the rapturous beauty of some transcendental art, the world ceases to exist — you lose yourself. You delve deep within yourself, you discover yourself anew. Isn't that incredible? Discovering and rediscovering yourself helps you in knowing yourself better and you are able to, perhaps."

Touching upon our country's storied and colourful heritage, he expressed, "As Indians, we should be proud of our heritage... We are a civilisation, a vibrant one at that, which goes back about 5,000 years. The cultural heritage of this country is second to none. The light of civilisation shone on this country when the rest of the world was in bleak darkness,

except perhaps Egypt and China. I don't think that there is any other country which possesses a greater store of treasure than what we possess. Be it poetry, visual art, literature, songs, dance, music, theatre, rites and rituals, languages. Now, it should go without saying that this heritage has to be passionately preserved. And for this, it is imperative that the people in this country be aware of art and participate in art, and its functions. However, there is a strange apathy that people have towards art in this country. Look at the number of people visiting museums and exhibitions in, say, London or New York, and compare it with the footfall our country's museums entertain."

What can we do to change this apathy, you ask? "I remember a sentence from Dante's great work, The Divine Comedy. It goes, 'It is at school that I learnt, O Dante, to tread the path that was to lead me here.' I am taking it out of context to say that it is at school that we need to teach children the relevance of art. Art must be a subject very much like physics, geography, language or mathematics. It should not be a side show, it should not be about 'teaching art' but it should be about trying to make children practice art. Be it songs, theatre, or any form of visual arts, it is only when children, who have practiced some form of art, mature and have to make their own way in the world that they realise how much art really matters. They will learn to protect the art they practice..." remarked Dr Udawadia.

(You can catch the complete proceedings of the event on NCPA Mumbai's YouTube channel.)

Speaking up for a cause

ADARSH GAURAV takes a stand against gender-based pay disparities, while encouraging creative freedom

If the BAFTA-nominated young Bollywood actor Adarsh Gaurav gets an opportunity to change anything about India, it is the persistence of pay disparities based on gender.

"If we wish to build a better society, we need to stop gender-based pay disparities," Gaurav commented. "We're constantly talking about gender equality and there are many areas that need to be worked on, including changing our mindset, but I would like to stress the issue of pay disparities. It exists even in the film industry."

Gaurav started acting at a young age and has appeared in films such as *My Name Is Khan*, *Mom* and the short film *Rukh* alongside Manoj Bajpayee, but he was internationally acclaimed for his character, Balram Halwai, in the Oscar-nominated film, *The White Tiger*. It was this role that brought him a BAFTA nomination for Leading Actor.

Continuing on the subject of gender-based pay disparities, he said, "If I only talk about the principal actors of a film, whether male or female, both of them are working for an equal number of days and putting in an equal amount of work based on the demands of the characters they play.

Then why just because one is a man and the other is a woman, there should be a pay disparity? I know pay disparities exist everywhere but being an actor, I can only talk about our industry. Pay disparities based on gender exist and I think we should put an end to that."

Gaurav also spoke up in favour of "the freedom of creative expression". He added that, as an artist, he felt negatively about the industry's practise of remaking films.

"I believe that making remakes take away the freedom of originality," Gaurav claimed. "Creating anything original, be it a story, song or anything, takes time but it is worth investing our energy in it. To create an original story, we have to be very, very rooted, observant and well-aware of things happening around us," he expressed.

"Creativity, as in inspiration, comes from reality, and when we make films based on reality, it creates an instant connection with the audience. It also reaches a global audience because the story is more authentic, and therefore better," he concluded.

—ANIS



A life-changing opportunity

TAHIR RAJ BHASIN believes that his villainous act in *Mardaani* earned him awards and prepared him for a long career in Bollywood. By TEAM VIVA.

Young actor Tahir Raj Bhasin enticed his audience with his brilliant performance as a negative lead in *Mardaani*. While the newcomer was cast opposite Rani Mukerji, who was playing the role of a firebrand cop chasing a cold-blooded human trafficker, Bhasin managed to hold his own with his spine-chilling villainous act. *Mardaani* released on August 22, 2014, and on the seventh anniversary of the film, Tahir reveals *Mardaani*, produced by Yash Raj Films, has played a huge role in his life, earning him the industry's recognition as an actor to watch out for.



Bhasin expresses, "*Mardaani* was an explosive break for me. My life transformed with its release and has never been the same. The film has played a central role in the recognition I have received as a powerful actor. As a debut film, *Mardaani* cut through the clutter and its uniqueness lay in how Walt, the anti-hero, was projected and stylised by Pradeep Sarkar. People had seen the boy next door, *Mardaani* gave them the bad boy next door."

The actor mentions he had learnt a lot from Mukherji who pushed him to deliver a knock-out performance. He continues, "Sharing screen space with Rani Mukherji was a challenge and hugely rewarding. Being cast against a star of her stature means you have to up your game and this led to the need to show peak performance from day one."

He adds, "I was working with a star whose work I have grown up watching and on set and I learnt through her example. I understood how to be extremely focused when it counts and to relax so one can step out of the zone when you don't need to be in it. I also saw a sterling commitment to the craft and a work ethic that I try to carry with me to date."

After starting as a negative lead in *Mardaani*, Bhasin followed it up with another tremendous anti-hero role in *Force 2*. After shining consistently in his

next few films like *Chhichhore*, and so on, he was cast to play romantic leads. He will now be seen in *Loop Lapeta* as a romantic lead opposite Taapsee Pannu and in *Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein*, in which he has been paired with Shweta Tripathi. Tahir also plays the role of Sunil Gavaskar in Kabir Khan's 83.

Bhasin commented, "2021 is the year of the romantic hero chapter for me. In my two exciting projects set for release, *Loop Lapeta* and *Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein*, I will be exploring romantic dramas. I grew up on a staple dose of 90s Bollywood romance and that's what I channel as I slip into this avatar."

"As an actor it's a huge compliment that the scripts I get now are mostly romantic leads and this pushes me to be more versatile with every successive project. The journey from anti-hero to hero has been an adrenaline rush and I am thrilled that the audience will experience a side of me that they have not seen before," he concluded.

With climate change, global warming and deforestation becoming the realities that we are faced with, people are growing more concerned about the future of the planet. With constant conversations about deforestation, plastic pollution, our carbon footprint and how the quality of life for future generations will be compromised because of the environmental damage caused, the concept of an eco-friendly lifestyle is becoming paramount.

Everyone is now willing to take steps towards making this planet a better place for our communities and generations to come. Charity begins at home. Since our home is where we spend most of our time, it is the best place to start.

Can we make our urban homes eco-friendly without calling an architect or causing major lifestyle changes? The answer is yes. It is about taking small steps every day, making slight switches and changing some habits that can make any home eco-friendly and sustainable.

Without further ado, here are a few small yet practical ways in which you can make your home sustainable and eco-friendly:

Reduce plastic waste

Every person generates around 500-800 grams of solid waste every day. Managing such vast quantities of waste, especially plastic, has become a pressing issue for the country.

While going to zero plastic in one shot may not be possible, we can start by taking small steps such as gradually replacing plastic containers with ceramics, steel or glass to store and cook food. While you are at it, also replace the household garbage bags with compostable garbage bags and carry an eco-friendly cloth bag when picking up vegetables, fruits or snacks.

Reducing plastic is one of the ways to make your home eco-friendly that is also good for your overall health.

Reuse household items

When you are replacing plastic containers with glass ones, look around to see if there are any jars or objects you can repurpose before running to the store. Empty coffee jars make excellent containers for spices and powders, for instance.

Small steps, big change

ADITYA RUIA lists five ways to make your home sustainable and eco-friendly



Similarly, when before buying new furniture, think of eco-friendly ways to spruce up the house.

Daily items such as disposable coffee cups and tissues are easy for us to use but harm the environment. But, there is an easy way to deal with this, switch to reusable coffee cups and bamboo tissues or cloth napkins which you can use again and again.

Opt for upcycled products

Products you choose for your home go a long way towards reducing your carbon footprint on the planet. To start small, replace plastic cutlery and daily essentials such as toothbrushes with upcycled bamboo toothbrushes and cutlery that has 0 per cent negative impact on nature.

Choose furniture made from recycled wood or other materials that might otherwise go to a landfill or be thrown away.

To give your home an aesthetic yet sustainable upgrade, go for older antiques instead of showpieces made of plastic or metal.

Switch to green power

Green energy refers to the energy generated from natural resources such as wind, sun, biomass and water that can be naturally replenished, unlike fossil fuels. Moving away from the traditional sources of energy is a key step to combat climate change.

Now, choosing green power does not mean that you have to change your electricity provider. It refers to making small changes such as replacing regular lights with LED or CFL bulbs as much as possible and installing solar photovoltaic panels on your roof to heat water.

Switch to green appliances

Appliances usually consume a huge amount of energy; it is ideal if we could take advantage of technological innovations and shift to more energy-efficient appliances. They can help us save energy and money, along with protecting the environment.

So, when it's time to get a new refrigerator, a washing machine or any new appliance, look for the products that meet a high level of energy efficiency. Check the 'star label' on the appliance to get the details of the efficiency of the product along with various other particulars. This will allow you to compare models and choose the best one in terms of energy efficiency.

It is now more important than ever to adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle. While some people feel that making changes in our homes to be more environmentally conscious will not make a difference, these will, if we rally together on this.

(The author is the co-founder of *Beco*, an Indian eco-friendly home, kitchen, and personal care brand.)

TRENDBLAZER



PROPER DIET IS IMPORTANT: MIRA

Bollywood celebrity **MIRA RAJPUT KAPOOR** is a well-known yoga lover. However, besides yoga, she likes to practice different workouts to stay healthy.

"Apart from yoga, I enjoy different forms of high intensity workouts like strength training, cardio workouts and I also like trying new fitness forms that help me maintain an active lifestyle," she shared.

Mira added that the number of hours one works out for doesn't matter, as long as they're consistent with the right workout.

fairtalk



'I have an exciting year to look forward to. I have worked tremendously hard in both these projects and I'm delighted about how they have shaped up. I have been choosy about the films that I select because I want to pick quality content over quantity and I'm proud of both *Shamsher* and *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui*.'

dailytalk



'My parents look up #KiaraAdvani every day; they want to know what is being written about me, what my fans are saying about me. I tell my mom to ignore whatever people say about me, but she tells me that she wants to know. People should understand that actors are humans too, that we have emotions and might be sensitive.'

CRAIG FEELS TOO OLD TO PLAY BOND

Hollywood star **DANIEL CRAIG** says he has grown too old to play super spy James Bond as he is required to perform demanding stunts in the Bond movies.

While he has mixed feelings about handing in his licence to kill, "It's absolutely the last. It's time for somebody else to have a go now," he confessed. Craig confirmed that *No Time to Die* will be his last 007 film.



Indian para-athletes primed for unprecedented medal haul



Indian para archers pose for photo before departure @Media_SAI

PTI ■ TOKYO

The best ever Olympics just went by for India and the country looks good for its best ever Paralympics with an unprecedented 54 inspirational athletes eyeing a medal haul that might just surpass the double digit figure for the first time at the showpiece, starting here on Tuesday.

The likes of star javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia and high jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu — both 2016 Rio Paralympics Gold winners — will lead the biggest ever contingent.

India is competing in nine sports in the Paralympics and the expectation of unprecedented success would not be wide off the mark as at least four Indians are ranked top of the world while six are at number two and around 10 are at number three in global standings.

Jhajharia, who lost his left hand due to electrocution as a child, is going strong even at 40 and is aiming for a hat-trick of Gold medals in the F-46 category after finishing on top of podium in 2004 and 2016. He is current world record holder in the event.

Mariyappan, who was permanently disabled at the age of five when a bus crushed his right leg below the knee, is



Para javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia (2nd left) poses for photo @Media_SAI

another para athlete seeking to defend the Gold he had won in 2016 in T63 high jump, though he is currently ranked world number 2.

He will also hold the country's flag during the opening ceremony on Tuesday.

World champion Sandeep Choudhary (F-64 javelin throw) is the third Gold medal contender from the 24-strong para athletics team. He is world number one and world record holder also.

Other medal prospects from para-athletics are reigning world champion Sundar Singh Gurjar and Ajeet Singh (also in F-46) and Navdeep Singh (F41) — all para-javelin throwers.

The Paralympic Committee of India is hoping

Afghanistan flag will be part of opening ceremony: IPC chief

Tokyo: The Tokyo Paralympics opening ceremony will feature the flag of Afghanistan as a 'sign of solidarity', International Paralympic Committee chief Andrew Parsons said on Monday even as the country's athletes were forced out of the Games after Taliban's takeover there.

Afghan athletes were forced to withdraw from the Games as all flights out of capital Kabul got cancelled after the Taliban seized control of the strife-torn nation. PTI

to win 10 medals from para athletics.

Badminton will make its debut at the Paralympic Games in Tokyo and India have some of the brightest medal prospects.

World No 1 and multiple-time world champion Pramod Bhagat is a top Gold medal contender in men's SL3 event.

World No 2 shuttler Krishna Nagar (SH6) and Tarun Dhillon (SL4) are other para shuttlers who are expected to do well.

The experienced Parul Parmar, a two-time former world championship Gold medalist, and young Palak Kohli (SL3-SU5), whose one hand did not develop properly at birth, will carry high hopes of returning with a medal in the women's category.

India is also banking on its shooters and archers to rise to the occasion in Tokyo.

India's campaign begins from August 25 with para table tennis players Bhavina Patel and Sonal Patel in action and India's first medal is expected to come on Friday when para archery events begin. Once para athletics events begin on Saturday, a medal rush is expected to start.

Not bothered by criticism: Rahane



India's Ajinkya Rahane in action during the fourth day of the 2nd Test between England and India at Lord's AP

PTI ■ LEEDS

India vice captain Ajinkya Rahane on Monday dismissed criticism he and Cheteshwar Pujara faced for slow batting during the Lord's Test against England, saying they have played long enough to know what suits the team's interest.

Rahane even laughed off the flak they faced on social media by saying that only "important people" are talked about.

Rahane (61 off 146 balls) and Pujara (45 off 206) took nearly 50 overs to add 100 runs in their partnership.

"I am happy that people are talking about me. I have always believed that people talk about important people, so I am not too concerned about that. It's all about contribution for the team," Rahane said ahead of the third Test, starting here on Wednesday.

Asked again if criticism motivates him, he said,

"Everything motivates me. Playing for the country motivates me. I am not bothered about criticism."

Pujara took 35 balls to get off the mark at Lord's but his slow innings along with that of Rahane's eventually did not hurt India, with the visitors winning the match by a whopping 151 runs.

Rahane, in the context of the win, said that he was pleased with the way he played.

"I always believed in contribution and that contribution was satisfying."

"You think about your own game but team performance is ultimate. You think about your methods, your good innings and what suits you but ultimately whatever team needs we focus on that."

Asked about his discussion with Pujara in the middle, Rahane said it was all about hanging in there.

"The communication was all about short targets and build it on from there. Cheteshwar, we

always talk that he plays slow but that innings was really important for us. He batted for

Wood out of 3rd Test

Leeds: England pacer Mark Wood was on Monday ruled out of the third Test against India with a 'jarred' shoulder, dealing another blow to the under-fire hosts.

Wood had hurt his shoulder while fielding during the second Test at Lord's. "England seamer Mark Wood has been ruled out of the LV= Insurance third Test against India with a jarred right shoulder," the ECB said in a statement.

"Wood sustained the injury on the fourth day of

the second Test at Lord's and will not be fit to play at Emerald Headingley starting on Wednesday.

"He will remain with the squad in Leeds and will continue his rehab with the England medical team. The 31-year-old will be assessed at the end of this Test match."

Seamer Saqib Mahmood, who was called up as cover for Broad, could be handed a Test debut. The 24-year-old has played seven ODIs and nine T20Is. PTI

200 balls. We back each other. "Cheteshwar and I have been playing since long, we know how to handle pressure, how to handle certain situations. Whatever we can't control, we are not thinking about that," he said.

The Headingley will be an unknown territory for the current Indian team since none of the players have the experience of playing there. But for Rahane, that is not something which is

worrying the side.

"When you are playing in the UK, your line and lengths are very important and that's a challenge as a bowling unit. 2014 when we came here, we were a young unit, the guys were still learning. Now we are experienced."

"All the bowlers have played all over the world, they know how to bowl in certain situation. We focused on bowling in right areas."

England will not get drawn into anything that's not honest: Root

PTI ■ LEEDS

India channelled their aggression to their advantage to script a famous win at Lord's while England failed to rile up the opposition players despite regular attempts and that is something Joe Root is looking to avoid in the third Test.

The second Test was played in an intense atmosphere with players of both teams not shying from constant sledging.

With India leading the series 1-0, one expect more aggression from Virat Kohli's team but Root said his team has learnt its lessons from the previous game and will not be

drawn into the conversations needlessly.

"There's the theatre and everything else surrounding the game. We've got to make sure that we play the game how we want to play and we look after that as best as we can, and not get too distracted or drawn into anything that's not honest," said Root in the virtual pre-match media interaction.

"We've got to be genuine to ourselves, genuine to how we are as individuals and how we are collectively and be as good as we can, the way that we go. Virat's team will play how they play, I just want us to go out and be the best version of ourselves."

Root has already admitted to tactical blunders that cost his side the Lord's Test. Their emotions also got the better of them.

"I think there were always conversations you always try to find one percenter in ways you can deal with different situations. "We've done some good learning off the back of the last game I think we could have managed certain areas differently, me as the captain, we could have gone about things slightly differently."

"We have got three massive games to play in this series, there's a lot to play for. And you know we're desperate to bounce back strongly," he said.

Harman, Gurjit, Sreejesh in short-list for FIH honours

Lausanne: The Indian men's hockey team drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh and his female counterpart Gurjit Kaur were on Monday nominated for the FIH Player of the Year awards as the country made the short-list of all the categories on the back of its stupendous performance in the Tokyo Olympics.

Veteran India custodian P R Sreejesh was among three short-listed for Goalkeeper of the Year award for men while Savita Punia was among three short-listed in the women's category.

The Indian men's team head coach Graham Reid and women's team counterpart Sjoerd Marjine were among three nominees for FIH Coach of the Year award for men and women.

Harmanpreet had scored a



whopping six goals from eight matches from his drag-flick to help the Indian men's team clinch a historic Bronze, its first Olympic medal in 41 years.

Gurjit was also a pivotal member of the Indian women's team that reached the semifinals for the first time before losing to Great Britain in the Bronze medal play-off.

India's Sharmila Devi was nominated for FIH Rising Star of the Year award for women while Vivek Prasad was named among men. PTI

Durand Cup in Kolkata from Sept 5 to Oct 3

New Delhi: Five Indian Super League franchises and three I-League teams will be among 16 sides vying for top honours in the Durand Cup football tournament, to be played across Kolkata from September 5 to October 3.

The tournament, now in its 130th edition, was first held in the mecca of Indian football back in 1919, after moving from its longtime venue at Delhi.

Besides top ISL franchises FC Goa and Bengaluru FC, the other clubs from ISL would be Kerala Blasters, Jamshedpur FC and Hyderabad FC.

Challenging them would be the century-old Mohammedan Sporting of Kolkata, who were the first Indian winners of the Cup in 1940 and defending I-League champions Gokulam Kerala and Sudeva FC of Delhi. PNS

Zverev, Barty win Cincy titles

AFP ■ MASON

Alexander Zverev backed up his Olympic triumph with a fifth ATP Masters 1000 title as he crushed Andrey Rublev 6-2, 6-3 in Cincinnati on Sunday.

The German needed less than an hour against his longtime childhood friend and rival to lift the trophy and put himself into a solid position with the US Open starting a week from Monday.

"The US Open starts in a week's time, so obviously I want to keep it up and I want to maybe play even better there," Zverev said.

Women's world number one Ashleigh Barty was similarly impressive in winning her fifth title of the season at the combined ATP and WTA event, cruising past Swiss wild card Jil Teichmann 6-3, 6-1.

The Australian, who will keep a firm grip on the number one ranking as the final Grand Slam of the year approaches, took control mid-way through the opening set and was



never truly threatened. "It's been an awesome week, with each match it was getting progressively better," Barty said.

"Today I was able to trust myself and play with confidence, which was important in a big final."

"I'm excited to get matches in tough conditions here in Cincy going into New York."

Zverev showed no effects from the stomach discomfort

which forced him to take a medical timeout during his draining semi-final victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas on Saturday.

Zverev won his 11th match in a row and his fifth against Rublev, a player he's been playing since their junior days.

The German came into the week with six defeats in prior Cincinnati appearances, but turned that negative on its head.

"My first win here was on Wednesday and now I'm holding the title four days later," he said.

"It's been an incredible week, I had a lot of great matches. It's a great feeling going into the Open."

Tammy stars on Roma debut

AFP ■ ROME

Cristiano Ronaldo was denied a last-gasp winner to save Juventus after his stoppage time header was ruled out for offside in a dramatic 2-2 draw at Udinese, while Jose Mourinho got off to a winning start at Roma with a 3-1 victory over Fiorentina.

Ronaldo started on the bench at the Dacia Arena in Udine amid rumours he is looking for a way out of the Italian giants, but he almost snatched the three points deep into stoppage time after Juve insisted he was going nowhere this term.

Allegri's Juve looked to be cruising to victory when Paulo Dybala, wearing the captain's armband, and Juan Cuadrado put them two ahead midway through the first half. But two sec-

ond-half blunders from Juve 'keeper Wojciech Szczesny allowed Udinese to take a point through Roberto Pereyra's penalty and a Gerard Deulofeu strike.

6 RED CARDS

It was the most dramatic moment in an eventful night in the Italian top flight, with six red cards in four matches and three big-name managers returning to the touchline. The one with the biggest reputation — Mourinho — was made happy by two assists from new signing Tammy Abraham who on his Roma debut laid on both goals in a fine win at the Stadio Olimpico.

With Fiorentina down to 10 men after Bartlomiej Dragowski's bad foul on the England international forward, in the 26th minute Abraham slipped through Henrikh Mkhitaryan whose neat finish was given as a goal after

a long VAR check.

Nicolò Zaniolo's second yellow card gave a brave Fiorentina side hope and Nikola Milenkovic levelled the scores on the hour mark.

However great work again from Abraham led to Roma retaking the lead through Jordan Veretout four minutes later, the 23-year-old just about staying onside before rolling a perfect low cross which allowed the French midfielder to slot home.

Veretout made sure Mourinho got three points from his first match in Serie A since winning the league with Inter Milan in 2010 when he rolled home the third in the 79th minute after collecting a brilliant Eldor Shomurodov pass.

Luciano Spalletti also triumphed on his return to football with Napoli, his team running to 2-0 winners over newly-promoted Venezia despite playing three-quarters of the match a man down after striker Victor Osimhen was sent off for punching Daan Heymans.

Sania-Mchale in QF at Cleveland

PTI ■ CLEVELAND

India's Sania Mirza and her American partner Christina Mchale entered the quarterfinals of the Cleveland Championships with a straight sets win over Oksana Kalashnikova and Andreea Mitu here.

The Indo-American pair triumphed in their women's doubles pre-quarterfinals 6-3, 6-2 over the duo from Georgia and Romania on Sunday night.

Sania and her partner from the USA dominated the match thoroughly and never allowed their opponents a chance to stage a comeback after comfortably winning the first set.

The second set was no different as they won without breaking a sweat to progress into the quarterfinals of the tournament.

Real need Vinicius to earn draw

AFP ■ MADRID

Gareth Bale scored his first La Liga goal since 2019 but it took two late goals from his replacement, Vinicius, to earn Real Madrid a 3-3 draw at Levante on Sunday.

That result allowed champions Atletico Madrid, who beat Elche 1-0 earlier in the evening, to take top spot in La Liga.

In the late game in Valencia, Bale gave Real Madrid the lead after five minutes. Karim Benzema ran in on goal but when the ball was held up by water on the pitch cut it back to Bale who side-footed the ball home.

It was the Welshman's first goal in La Liga since his second goal, an 86th minute equaliser, in a 2-2 draw against Villarreal at the start of September in 2019.

Real dominated the first half but could not find a second.



Instead, Levante levelled 28 seconds into the second half.

The ball broke to unmarked Roger who beat Thibaut Courtois with a hard low shot.

Levante took the lead in the 57th minute when Jose Campaña met a deep cross with a sweet volley into the top corner.

Alaba nodded a Levante free kick down into his own six yard box and Rober Pier gleefully thumped the ball home from close range.

With five minutes left, Vinicius again equalised. Receiving the ball wide of the post and near the goal-line, he still somehow found the net, lofting the ball round goalkeeper Aitor Fernandez and in off the far post.

Two minutes later, Fernandez was sent off for handling outside his area to stop a Real counter-attack. Because Levante had used all their substitutes, defender Ruben Vezo went in goal but Real could not find a winner.

In Madrid, Angel Correa continued his torrid form for Atletico.

A week after striking twice in a 2-1 victory in the opening round at Celta Vigo, the diminutive Argentinian striker struck again in the 39th minute.

Ligament tear rules Bajrang out of worlds

New Delhi: Olympic Bronze medalist Bajrang Punia will not compete in the upcoming wrestling World Championships after being advised a six-week rehabilitation to treat the ligament tear he suffered in his right knee in run up to the Tokyo Games.

The World Championships will be held in Oslo, Norway from October 2-10 and Bajrang will not be able to begin his mat training until the rehabilitation programme is complete.

Bajrang recently underwent an MRI scan to know the extent of the injury he suffered in Russia in June before the Olympics.

"It's a ligament tear and I have been asked to follow a rehabilitation programme for six weeks. I won't be able to compete at the World Championship," Bajrang said.

There is no

ranking series event lined up in the remainder of the year and Bajrang said his season is over.

"The Worlds was the only major championship in the calendar for this year. I don't see myself competing in any other tournament this season," he added.

Bajrang had suffered the injury in the run up to the Tokyo Games when he competed at a Russian tournament — Ali Aliyev in June.

"Since it was my first Olympics and I had a dream to win an Olympic medal, I competed through pain in Tokyo. I had to do it."

Bajrang said he was not consulting any specific physiotherapist for his rehabilitation.

"I am doing it myself in Sonapat. The doctor has advised a few exercises, that I am doing everyday now in gym. The mat-training time will also go into the rehab," he said. PTI

