OPINION 6

3 YEARS OF UNSEEN

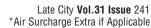
'NAYA PAKISTAN'

WORLD 8

EU TAKES US OFF SAFE TRAVEL

LIST, BACKS TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

RNI No. 53466/91, REGD. No. DL (C)-05/1219/2021-23 Posted at DRMS Delhi 6



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RICHA CHADHA LOVES TO **EXPERIMENT**

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY AUGUST 31, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3 the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

ISIS rockets target Kabul airport

US def system intercepts and destroys rockets; aerial evacuation op continues

AP ■ KABUL

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{slamic State (ISIS) militants}}$ fired a volley of rockets at Kabul's rapidly emptying international airport on Monday, with just hours left before a deadline for US Forces to withdraw at the end of America's longest war.

The Pentagon is tightlipped about final operations and has not specified when the withdrawal will be completed ahead of Tuesday's deadline. But spokesman John Kirby told reporters "there is still time" for Americans to join a massive airlift that has allowed more than 1,16,000 people to leave since the Taliban swept

back into power two weeks ago. Five rockets targeted the airport, said Navy Čapt. Bill Urban, a US Military spokesman. A defensive weapon known as a C-RAM a Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar System - target ed the rockets in a whirling hail of ammunition, he said.

The system has a distinct, drill-like sound that echoed through the city at the time of

All day on Monday, US

Military cargo jets came and went despite the rocket attack, which did not hurt anyone. The Taliban released a video shot from the airport's grounds, saying the Americans had removed or destroyed most of their equipment and that troop numbers were far lower. "It looks like today will be the last day," one of the unidentified fighters said.

With the departure of the last of its troops, the US is ending its 20-year war with the Taliban back in power. Many Afghans remain fearful of them or further instability, and there have been sporadic reports of killings and other abuses in areas under Taliban control despite pledges to restore peace and security.

Continued on Page 2



Locals view a vehicle damaged by a rocket attack in Kabul on Monday

Pak planting terrorists as Guvs in Af

ISI-Army want to have grip over **Taliban to fulfil** strategic agenda

RAKESH K SINGH NEW DELHI

The Pakistan Army-ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) combine is now planting its homegrown terror commanders as Governors of Afghan provinces bordering Pakistan



in the National Directorate of Security (NDS), Afghan intelligence agency, and other such offices of the Government to have a significant leverage in strategic planning and action by the new regime in Kabul. Earlier, the ISI had plant-

ed 50,000 jehadis in the ranks of Afghan national defence force by providing them bogus refugee cards portraying them as Afghan residents residing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region of Pakistan, before recruitment into Afghan national defence

force.

The Taliban Governor for Afghanistan's Kunar province, popularly known as Qari Osman, is originally a resident

of Gabri in Mamondo Tehsil, Bajaur Agency of Pakistan.

Educated at Inayat Qala Government School, Bajaur (Pakistan) till ninth standard, Osman has married twice. He has one house and family in Bajaur and the other in Peshawar.

Osman's younger brother Shahidullah is the Taliban district Governor for Marawara of Kunar province. His other brother is Zabihullah who is an ISI operative and works in Peshawar's Bala Hissar.

Continued on Page 2

Best Paralympic show for India with 2 Golds

Javelin thrower Sumit Antil and **shooter Avani Lekhara smash** world records

p ecords tumbled and histo-Kry was scripted more than once as India's Paralympians, both young and old, recorded their best ever Games medal haul on just the sixth day of competitions here making it a memorable Monday for the

The debutant duo of Javelin thrower Sumit Antil (23) and shooter Avani Lekhara (19) shone the brightest with their epoch-making Gold medals and there was a Silver each for the 40-year-old veteran Devendra Jhajharia (javelin) and Yogesh Kathuniya (discus), along with a Bronze for Sundar Singh Gurjar (javelin).

To put the performance into perspective, it is worth mentioning that India have so far won 14 medals in the history of Paralympics, with half of them coming in the ongoing competition, which is expected to yield more for the country

India have so far won five



Sumit Antil wins Gold in the men's javelin throw F64 with a new world record of 68.08m at Tokyo 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo



medals in athletics — 1 Gold, 3 Silver and 1 Bronze. The Silver medal from table tennis player Bhavinaben Patel came on Sunday

The country stood 26th in the medals tally, an unprecedented high, surpassing the

four medals it had won in 2016 Rio Paralympics.

However, in a heartbreak for the contingent, discus thrower Vinod Kumar (F52) lost his Bronze won on Sunday after he was found "ineligible' in reassessment of his disabil ity classification.

But that was after Lakhera, 19, became the first Indian woman to win a Gold medal at the Paralympics, firing her way to the top of the podium in the R-2 women's 10m Air Rifle

Standing SH1 event. Jaipur's Lakhera, who sustained spinal cord injuries in a car accident in 2012, finished with a world record equalling total of 249.6, which was also

a new Paralympic record. Continued on Page 2

<u>CAPSULE</u>

EMINENT BENGALI WRITER BUDDHADEB GUHA DIES Kolkata: Eminent Bengali write Buddhadeb Guha, author of many notable works such as "Madhukari" (Honey Gatherer) has died. He was 85. Guha died of post-Covid complications at a private hospital here at 11.25 pm on Sunday after a cardiac arrest, family members said.

TOMATO PRICES CRASH TO ₹4/KG AMID SUPPLY GLUT wholesale markets in most producing States have crashed to as low as ₹4 per kg amid supply glut, Government data

showed. In fact, the wholesale prices of tomato in 23 growing centres out of 31 monitored by the Government were down by 50 per cent from the year-ago period or below three-year

seasonal average

KHATTAR, CAPT EXCHANGE WORDS OVER FARM STIR

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday accused the Congress Government in Puniab of fuelling farmers' unrest in his State, provoking a sharp response from his Punial counterpart Captain Amarinde Singh. The exchange took place two days after farmers protesting over laws enacted at the Centre several months back clashed with the Harvana Police

Govt plans to give 1st dose to all by Oct end

Some States to achieve this target by Sept end, 49.28 cr our of 94 cr adults got first shot

PNS NEW DELHI

 $B^{\text{y the end of October, the}}_{\text{Union Government is hop-}}$ ing to substantially complete the first dose job in the country, while a dozen States are expected to do so by the end of September amid fears of a third Covid-19 wave after the festive season.

According to the Government, based on the projected mid-year count for 2020, the total population of the country aged 18 years and above is approximately 94 crore. Last week, India completed administering 47.29 crore first doses - which is 50.30 per cent of this projected adult population. On Monday, it reached 49.28 crore

first doses. The officials in the Ministry hope that with an increase in supplies of the vac-



Beneficiaries wait in a queue to receive a dose of vaccine at NMMC Hospital in Navi Mumbai on Monday

cines - 48 crore in next two months — the other half of the population will also be inoculated with the first dose.

In fact, as the pace of vaccination has started to gain momentum over the past few weeks, four States have administered the landmark of over one crore second doses till date.

The four States are: Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

At 1.07 crore second doses, Gujarat has covered the maximum eligible population — 22 per cent getting both the shots.

Continued on Page 2

VACCINATION STATUS OF FIRST TWELVE TOP STATES

314153	Vaccillatio
Uttar Pradesh	7,13,99,33
Maharashtra	5,81,54,98
Madhya Pradesh	4,55,59,58
Gujarat	4,55,10,85
Rajasthan	4,39,01,50
Karnataka	4,16,92,40
West Bengal	3,97,97,60
Bihar	3,55,28,44
Tamil Nadu	3,20,41,47
Andhra Pradesh	2,92,95,28
Kerala	2,86,14,66

2,19,86,807

WHO warns of 2.36L more Covid deaths in Europe by Dec 1

As the virulent Delta variant workers.

Wreaks havoc globally, the (WHO) warned on Monday that another 2.36 lakh people could die from Covid in Europe by December 1. This is seen as an expression of WHO concern over rising infections and stagnating vaccine rate in

the continent. "Last week, there was an 11 Last week, there was an 11 per cent increase in the number of deaths in the region—one reliable projection is expecting 236,000 deaths in Europe by December 1," WHO Europe director Hans Kluge said on Monday, blaming the more infectious Delta variant, the easing of restrictions and the easing of restrictions and summer travel. He also attributed the slump in vaccination to "a lack of access to vaccines in some countries and a lack of vaccine acceptance in others".

Only 6 per cent of people in lower and lower-middleincome countries in Europe are fully vaccinated, and some countries have only managed to vaccinate one in 10 health



More infectious Covid variant found in S Africa

New Delhi: A new variant — C.1.2 — of SARS-CoV-2, the virus which cause Covid-19, has been detected in South Africa and many other countries globally which could be more transmissible and evade protection provided by vaccines, according to study.

Delhi schools to open for IX to XII with 50% capacity tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Management Authority fresh guidelines for reopening of schools in the national Capital. Releasing Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for schools amid the threat of Covid-19 third wave, the Delhi Government said educational institutions can resume physical classes in a phased manner from September 1.

As per the fresh guidelines, maximum 50 per cent of students per classroom may attend the class, and the timetable should be prepared according to occupancy limit of classrooms.
"The educational institu-

tions must follow the coron-avirus disease (Covid-19) norms as specified by the Government," the notification

Further, the authority directed schools to stagger lunch breaks to avoid crowding. These breaks should be

Staggered lunch The Delhi Disaster breaks in schools, suggests DDMA

held in open areas, according to the guidelines.

The schools and colleges have been asked to set up quarantine rooms for emergency use and discourage the routine guest visits. The DDMA has also directed the schools not to allow students and teachers living in Covid containment zones to come to

educational institutions. From September 1, all Government schools will open for Classes 9 to 12, all private schools can also resume Classes for 9 to 12 standards. Coaching centres can also start classes for students of 9 to 12 standards. No decision has been taken on

reopening junior classes yet. Authorities decided to reopen the schools on account of a marked improvement in the Covid-19 situation in Delhi.

Cloudburst, rain-triggered cave-in kill 8 in Uttarakhand

PNS PITHORAGARH/DEHRADUN

Eight persons were feared the dead in two accidents caused by cloudburst and heavy rain in Uttarakhand during the last 24 hours.

three were missing after a cloudburst in the border region of Dharchula in Pithoragarh district late on Sunday night. In Dehradun district, two

Four persons died and

children were buried in debris when an under construction home collapsed following heavy rain in Kotda Kalyanpur area of Sahaspur in Vikasnagar.

The torrential rain in Dharchula resulted in collapse of about half-a-dozen homes in the Jumma village burying a number of persons in the

Continued on Page 2



Restoration work in progress after landslides due to heavy rain at Jumma village in

Taliban's capture of Af shoots up prices of dry fruits in India

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The impact of the Afghanistan crisis is being felt in the retail markets across the country. Prices of dry fruits have almost doubled in the retail markets in the last 15 days in most of the cities after disruption in supply chains from Afghanistan as the Taliban stopped all import and export of goods with India.

India imports around 85 per cent of its dry fruits from Afghanistan.

According to traders from Khari Baoli, Delhi, which is popular for wholesale trade of spices, dry fruits and food grains, almonds are being sold at around ₹1,100-1,500/kg against ₹700-800 a few days



Anjeer prices have increased to ₹1,300-1,700/kg kg, and almond (badam) from ₹900-950. Afghan fig in around ₹1100-1500 per kg. the market rose to ₹400-500 per kg from ₹300 a kg. Raisins The prices of mixed dry fruits also rose from ₹500-600 a kg to ₹900 a kg in the retail around ₹800-₹1,000 per kg,

Taliban is now visible on dry fruits markets as the current stocks have started exhausting, said Rajiv Gupta, a wholesale trader on Khari Baoli

market

markets. Pistachio prices rose to ₹1350 a kg from ₹900 in the past few days. Fox nuts (

Makhana) prices also increased from ₹600-700 a kg to ₹1,000

a kg.
"Currently, prices are almost doubled ahead of the

festive seasons. The impact of

"Due to higher prices, sales of dry fruits have dropped," he are a worried lot as they are fac-

ing disruption in imports of figs, almonds, pistachio, and Continued on Page 2

Dry fruit traders in Jammu

Gandhis: Rawat MONIKA MALIK CHANDIGARH

Punjab polls to

be fought under

The battle within the Punjab Congress has virtually esca-

lated into a war with the Central leadership forcing Delhi Durbar to take a vague middle path. A day after Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu's camp questioned Harish Rawat's declaration of Capt Amarinder leading the party to 2022 Assembly polls, Punjab party affairs' in-charge on Monday maintained a strategic silence on the issue. Days after declaring that Punjab Chief Minister Capt

Amarinder would lead the party in crucial elections, Rawat tactically declared that Congress will fight 2022 polls in the State under the leadership of the Gandhis.

Continued on Page 2

Chhattisgarh fight on as Min rushes to Delhi

Chhattisgarh Health Minister TS Singh Deo left for the national Capital on Monday, again bringing to the fore an intensified power struggle within the ruling Congress

party.
Singh Deo has been demanding that the post of Chief Minister should be handed over to him after two-and-a-half

His trip to Delhi comes ahead of a twotour Chhattisgarh

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Although Singh Deo said his visit to Delhi was

of a personal nature, some sources said he had been called by the party High Command. After his earlier visit to Delhi, Singh Deo hint-

ed he got a positive signal from the High Command. "Only one thing is permanent in this world, and that



PTI NEW DELHI

Convict him or acquit him," an anguished Supreme Court observed on non-framing of charges on an accused jailed for 11 years over serial blasts in multiple Rajdhani Express andother trains in 1993. Underlining the right to speedy trial, the top court sought areport from the special Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act court judge in Ajmer explaining why charges have not been framed against Hameer Ui

"The Special Judge, Designated Court, Ajmer, Rajasthan is directedto submit a report to this Court within a period of two weeks from the date of receipt of a certified copy of this order...The reportshall clarify why

charges have not been framed," a bench of justicesDY Chandrachud and M R Shah said. In its order passed recently, the bench said that to facilitate the submission of the report expeditiously, the registrar (judicial)will communicate a copy of the order to the judge directly as wellas through the Registrar (Judicial) of the High Court of Rajasthan. During the hearing, advocate Shoeb Alam, appearing for Hameer UiUddin said the petitioner has been in custody since 2010 but charges have not been framed and trial is yet to

He said that detaining an accused indefinitely without trial is a gross abuse of rights of an individual under Article

Chirag's men attacked me with acid on August 23, claims Paras

IANS PATNA

evelling sensational allegations Lagainst his nephew Chirag Paswan, Union Minister Pasupati Kumar Paras on Monday claimed that he was a victim of an acid attack during his Hajipur visit last week.

Paras met Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at his official residence and urged him to enhance his security.

"I could have been killed during the road show in Hajipur on August 23. God had saved me that day. I, along with my supporters, are facing a life threat from Chirag Paswan, Paras said after the meeting.

After taking charge as Union

Minister, he had come to Bihar for the first time on August 23.

"We were welcomed wholeheartedly in my parliamentary constituency Hajipur. It was similar to Ram Vilas Paswan's magic when he was the MP from Hajipur. Such a huge support was a setback for Chirag Paswan. He freaked out and initiated an attack on me in desper-

"On August 23, some persons had thrown black lubricant on my convoy.



During investigation, it appeared that it was not burnt lubricant but was an acid. It had torn my shirt similar

to acid does," Paras said. He also alleged that the conspiracy was planned during a "muttonrice-liquor party" in Rajapakad market on August 22.

Chirag Paswan has already clarified that he has no role in the attack, and asked the Nitish Kumar government to initiate an inquiry into the matter.

'Paras ji is a part of the govern-

ment at the Centre and in Bihar. He should ask police or other investigating agencies to probe this incident. How can a Union Minister come under attack in Bihar. It means there is no law and order in the Nitish Kumar ruled state," he had said on a day after the purported attack.

Deaths dip to 52, infections down to 3,741 in Maharashtra

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a major relief to the State authorities, the daily Covid-19 deaths dropped to as low as 52 and infections came down to 3,741, even as 4,696 patients were discharged after full recovery from various hospitals across the State.

A day after Maharashtra logged 131 deaths and 4,666 infections, there was an improvement in the Covid-19 situation in the state, as the deaths dipped to 52 and infections came down to 3,741.

With 52 fresh deaths reported on Monday, the total number of deaths in the state increased from 1,37,157 to 1,37,209 to , while the total infections -- with 4,831 new cases - went up from 64,56,939 to 64,60,680.

As 4,696 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from

the hospitals since the second weel of March last year increased from 62,63,416 to 62,68,112. The recoverv rate in the state came down from 97 per cent to 97.02 per cent.

The total "active cases" in the state increased from 52,844 to 51,834. The fatality rate in the state stood static at 2.12 per cent.

Pune with 12,717 active cases emerged as the first in the state in terms of maximum number of "active cases" in the state, while Thane with 7156 cases stood second in the state, followed by Ahmednagar (5,961), Satara (5421), Sangli (4,356), Solapur (4,068) and Mumbai (3504).

Of the 5,38,12,827 samples sent to various laboratories across the state so far, 64,60,680 have tested positive (12.01 per cent) for COVID-19 until Monday. Currently, 2,88,489 people are in home quarantine while 2,299 people are in institutional quarantine.

Amid open dissent, 4 Central BJP leaders rush to Tripura

IANS AGARTALA

Amid dissidence by a section of ruling BJP MLAs and leaders in Tripura, four senior party leaders arrived in the State on Monday for a weeklong visit to plug the shortcomings, both in the government and the organisation.

BJP's Tripura chief spokesman Subrata Chakraborty said that the central leaders, led by party's North East Zonal Secretary, Organisation, Ajay Jamwal, would meet Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, state President Manik Saha, all Ministers, MLAs, state and district leaders and would obtain their views about the governance and functioning of the party organisation.

The other Bharatiya Janata Party leaders in the team are national General Secretary Dilip Saikiya, General Secretary in-charge of Tripura-Assam Phanindranath Sharma, and state's central observer Vinod

From page 1

In the last 24 hours, the

American military evacuated

about 1,200 people on 26 C-17

flights, while two coalition

flights flew out 50 others, the

brought scenes of desperation

and horror. In the early days,

people desperate to flee Taliban

rule flooded onto the tarmac

and some fell to their deaths

after clinging to a departing air-

craft. On Thursday, an Islamic

State suicide attack at an airport

gate killed at least 169 Afghans

and 13 US Service members.

more radical than the Taliban.

who captured most of

PUBLIC NOTICE

Inform that my client Mr. Satish Kumar and his wife Mrs. Satyawati, R/o C-38,

Gali No.: 13, Village Gokalpur, Delhi-110094 have disowned / debarred their son Surender Kumar from all

their movable, immovable properties and severed all their relations with him due to his misbehaviour,

If Anybody deals with him in any manner will do so at their own risk and

responsibility and my client will not be responsible for any kind of act done

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Sh. Suresh Chander Monga S/o Late Sh. C. L. Monga R/o S-190, 1st Floor, Greater Kailash Part-2, South

Delhi, Delhi-110048 was having

commercial property in Joint Ownership along with his wife Mrs. Avinash Monga in our project Vatika Inxt City Centre F.

flat no 134 admeasuring 500 sq.ft which his/her legal heirs (Avinash Monga, Meeta Bhatia and Tarun Monga)

requested the company to be transfer to

his Wife Mrs. Avinash Monga Any persor

having any objection on this please may contact the company officer details as

under within 15 days after which No Clain

Vatika Limited

Vatika Inxt City Centre,4th

Floor, Block A, Sector-83,

Vatika India Next, Gurugram

Manoranjan Gaur (Advocate)

misconduct towards my clients.

The extremist group is far

The two-week airlift has

White House said.

"The central party leaders would also visit a few districts and subdivisions to meet the grassroot leaders and workers. Chakraborty told IANS.

The central team arrived a day after five dissident BJP MLAs, and former district and state leaders held a meeting here on Sunday.

The five MLAs are Sudip

Roy Barman, Ashis Kumar Saha, Diba Chandra Hrangkhawl, Ashis Das, and Burba Mohan Tripura.

Barman, a former Health and Information Technology Minister, told IANS that in the meeting, they obtained views and suggestions of the district and local leaders of all the eight districts and these would be communicated to the visiting central leaders.

"Leaders of the government and party organisations are not keen to listen to the opinion, grievances and suggestions of the district and grassroot leaders. That's why the conference was held. This is not against the BJP or to join February 2023.

ISIS rockets target...

Afghanistan in a matter of

days. The two groups have

fought each other before, and

the Taliban have pledged to not

security cordon around the

airport after the attack, clear-

ing away massive crowds of

Afghans who were desperate to

flee the country in the waning

days of the US-led airlift.

Taliban fighters are now sta-

tioned along a fence near the

on Monday around the remains

of a four-door sedan used in

the rocket attack. The car had

what appeared to be six home-

made rocket tubes mounted in

place of its back seats. "I was

inside the house with my chil-

dren and other family mem-

bers. Suddenly there were some

blasts," said Jaiuddin Khan,

who lives nearby. "We jumped

LOST & FOUND

that I am Radha w/o Satyapal

Singh Resident House No. 515/7

Bheem Nagar Bye Pass Vijay

Nagar Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh

My registry whose Book Number 1 volume 331 on Page Number

331-345 to Doc. No. Number

6505's which is actually dated

23/12/2002 Lost somewhere, If

anyone is found then contact this

CHANGE OF SPOUSE NAME

Santosh Kumari as per a.

of Discharge

Pension form IAF(F)P-61 b. PPO

No. 08/14/B/08308/1993 c.

IAF(F)P-53, W/O Bhim Singh

Dabas, R/o 550, Ishwar Colony,

Bawana, Delhi-110039 have

changed my name from

Santosh Kumari to Santosh as

per my Aadhar Card, Pan Card

address within 7 days

Certificate

general public is informed

A crowd quickly gathered

main runway.

The Taliban tightened their

harbour terrorist groups.

the Trinamool Congress," the Congress-turned BJP leader

With our joining, along with thousands of party (Trinamool and Congress) workers in 2016, the BJP got a massive political strength, facilitating it to come to power defeating the Left parties after

"People and workers of the party have many problems and issues. We want that the government and the party should give importance to the opinion and propositions of all," Saha

A senior BJP leader told IANS that the Chief Minister would expand and reshuffle his council of ministers in line with the recent Union Cabinet reshuffle done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Without elaborating, the BJP leader said that the exercises both in the ministry and the organisation would be done keeping an eye on the next assembly elections, due in

into the house compound and

ed across town, striking resi-

dential apartment blocks, wit-

nesses said. That neighbour-

hood is about 3 kilometers

(under 2 miles) from the air-

port. No injuries were report-

by the group's Amaq media

outlet, claimed the militants

President Joe Biden was briefed

on the rocket attack. "The

president was informed that

operations continue uninter-

rupted at HKIA, and has recon-

firmed his order that com-

manders redouble their efforts

to prioritize doing whatever is

necessary to protect our forces

said, using an acronym for

20 minutes at one point on

Monday morning. One C-17

landing in the afternoon shot

off flares as it approached — a

maneuver to protect against

sign the US Military remains

concerned about surface-to-air

missiles loose in the country.

could be seen. It wasn't clear

what was ablaze, although U.S.

Forces typically destroy mate-

of the few ways out for for-

Taliban. However, coalition

nations have halted their evac-

the US Military largely alone

there with some remaining

take with them.

Smoke from several fires

Planes took off about every

An ISIS statement, carried

The White House said

Some of the rockets land-

lay on the ground."

fired six rockets.

Kabul's airport.

Web version of e-GOPALA app launched

New Delhi: The web version of e-GOPALA application developed by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has been launched to aid dairy farmers. It was launched by Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in presence of Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB. Rupala said that in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi"s dream of "Digital India", NDDB is promoting technology-driven activities for milk producers. PNS

IIT-Madras to develop model to tackle electronic wastes

New Delhi: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras is developing an innovative model to tackle electronic wastes (e-waste) by linking stakeholders in the formal and informal economy. Called "e-Source", the exchange platform that will serve as an online marketplace for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and facilitate a formal supply chain between various stakeholders(buyers and sellers). PNS

Best Paralympic...

Then, capping off India's day in a blaze of glory, debutant Antil smashed his own world record five times for the F64 class gold, while Jhajharia's F46 category silver cemented his status of being India's greatest para-athlete as javelin throwers led the country's track-andfield medal rush at the show-

In between, another javelin thrower Gurjar picked up bronze in Jhajharia's event, discus thrower that India made its presence felt across the podium and through

The man of the moment was, however, the 23-year-old Antil as he bludgeoned his way to the top of the podium with an astonishing fifth attempt of 68.55m mark, which was the best of the day by quite a distance and a new world record.

"In training, I have thrown 71m, 72m, many times. I don't know what happened in my competition. One thing is for sure: in future I will throw much better," Antil said after

the stupendous performance. Hailing from Sonepat in Haryana, Antil, who lost his left leg below the knee after he was involved in a motorbike accident in 2015, bettered the previous world record of 62.88m, also set by him, five times on on the ground," the statement

His series, which read 66.95, 68.08, 65.27, 66.71, 68.55 and foul, made it seem that he was perhaps competing only with himself. Australian Michal Burian (66.29m) and Sri Lanka's Dulan Kodithuwakku (65.61m) took the silver and bronze respectively.

heat-seeking missiles and a The F64 category is for athletes with a leg amputation, who compete with prosthetics in a standing position. A stualong the airport's perimeter dent of Delhi's Ramjas College, Antil was an able-bodied wrestler before his accident which led to the amputation of rial and equipment they don't his leg below the knee. A para athlete in his village initiated The airport had been one him to the sport in 2018. It was tough for him initially as he eigners and Afghans fleeing the battled pain and loss of blood because of his prosthetic leg. But, Antil never quit and conuations in recent days, leaving tinued his dream of reaching

> Son of a JWO officer in the Indian Army, Antil also com

peted against Olympic champion Chopra in the able-bodied Indian Grand Prix series 3 on March 5 in Patiala where he

finished seventh with a best

throw of 66.43m. He won a sil-

ver in the F64 javelin throw at 2019 Championships in Dubai. Jhajharia, meanwhile, clinched a stupendous third Paralympic medal, a silver this

second in his event. Guriar also chipped in with a bronze, finishing behind Jhajharia. athletes with arm deficiency, impaired muscle power or impaired passive range of move-

time, while Kathuniya finished

ment in arms, with athletes competing in a standing position. The javelin throwers started from where the country's first track-and-field Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra left earlier this month, the para athletes in fact going better by winning two

gold in a single day. Lakhera, who is also appearing in her maiden Games, dominated headlines in the first half of the day.

"I can't describe this feeling, I'm feeling like I'm on top of the world. It's unexplainable, an elated Lekhara said. Hers is also the first shooting medal that India has logged in the showpiece.

"Īm so happy I could be the one to contribute it. Hopefully there's a lot of medals more to come," Lekhara said. In the R-1 men's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 event, Mahavir Swaroop Unhalkar missed out on a podium, finishing fourth with a total of 203.9, while compatriot Deepak was ousted in the qualification round after firing 592.6. Lekhara edged out 2016 Rio Games gold-medallist Cuiping Zhang of China who clinched the silver medal with a total of 248.9 at the Asaka Shooting Range. World number one and reigning world campion Iryna Shchetnik of Ukraine took home the bronze with an effort of 227.5.

"I was just saying one thing, that I have to take one shot at a time. There's nothing else matters now, just take one shot at a time and just finish it. "I just think that I have to

follow the process. Beyond that, I try not to think about the score or the medal tally," Lekhara said reflecting on her final.

Pak planting...

From page 1 Osman's elder brother, Najibullah, works for ISI in Bajaur. Pakistani

Government is deliberately appointing its nationals at all bordering provinces of Afghanistan and NDS along with other such sensitive posts in the Taliban hierarchy,"

counter-terrorism expert of Afghan origin Ajmal Sohail told The Pioneer. Sohail is based in Germany

and is the founder of anti-Taliban grouping Afghanistan Republican Salvation Front.

The ISI move is fuelled by the possible rebellion within various splinter groups of Taliban that has so far not been able put in place a governance structure despite taking siege of Kabul on August 15.

In addition to posting Osman and his brother as Governors in Afghanistan's Kunar province, the ISI has also supplanted its men in other provinces along the Tajikistan border, eastern and northern Afghanistan besides Nuristan province, Sohail further said. The ISI's game plan is clearly to have a firm and effective grip over Taliban to achieve its strategic agenda through the regime in Kabul, he added.

Govt plans to give... doses, covering 7.5 per cent of its 13.8 crore eligible popula-

The State has 4.93 crore

population above 18 years, of which, 1.07 crore are fully vaccinated as on August 24.

Maharashtra, on the other hand, tops with the most number of second doses administered at 1.44 crore, but it has only 16 per cent of the State's eligible 9.14 crore population covered with both doses so far.

India's most populous State, Uttar Pradesh, has administered 1.03 crore second

tion. West Bengal, on the other hand, has 14 per cent of its 7.3 crore eligible population covered with both the doses of vaccines, as the second dose reached 1.03 crore till August India's total vaccination

doses reached 63.28 crore, including 14.61 crore as second dose as of August 30.

The pace of vaccination has increased across the country

with increased vaccine supplies in August. The daily average vaccine doses administered has almost doubled to about 60 lakh doses on most of the days in August, compared to about 30-35 lakh doses in the previous month.

As per the Union Health Ministry data, between August 1 and August 24, a total of 7.66 crore doses were supplied to the States, the highest so far

during a comparable period in any previous month.

Taliban's...

From page 1
As a result, the prices of dry fruits have risen sharply, leading to heavy financial losses for these traders. Afghan exports such as anjeer, walnuts, almonds, apricot, green and black raisins, cherry, aromatic asafoetida and figs. Exports from India include garments, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, computers, hardware materials, cement, sugar and synthetic fiber. Over the past 20 years, India's bilateral trade with Afghanistan has grown by leaps and bounds.

Bilateral trade between India and Afghanistan stood at against \$1.52 billion in 2019-20. Exports from India were \$826 million, and imports were aggregated at \$510 million in 2020-21, according to the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT). Most of India's exports either go through the international north-south trade corridor routes or through Dubai (therefore) it has not been directly affected.

The Federation of Indian has also expressed concern about increasing prices of dry fruit prices ahead of the festive seasons due to the turmoil in Afghanistan.

WHO warns...

From page 1
Europe has registered

around 1.3 million Covid deaths to date.

Countries across the region have seen infection rates tick up as the highly-transmissible Delta variant takes hold, particularly among the unvaccinated. The WHO says the region has recorded more than 65 million confirmed cases and 1.3 million deaths since the start of the pandemic.

Covid infections across Europe declined in April but started to creep up again at the

end of June.

Poorer nations, especially in the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia, have been hardest hit, and deaths are mounting as well.

Of the WHO Europe's 53 member States, 33 have registered an incidence rate greater than 10 per cent in the past two weeks, Kluge said, Most are in poorer countries. High transmission rates

across the continent were "deeply worrying, particularly in the light of low vaccination uptake in priority populations in a number of countries."

Kluge said the Delta variant was partly to blame, along

with an "exaggerated easing" of restrictions and measures and a surge in summer travel.

While around half of people in the WHO's Europe region are fully vaccinated, uptake in the region has slowed. "In the past six weeks, it has fallen by 14 per cent, influenced by a lack of access to vaccines in some countries and a lack of vaccine acceptance in others."

Only six percent of people in lower and lower-middleincome countries in Europe are fully vaccinated, and some countries have only managed to vaccinate one in 10 health professionals.

Cloudburst.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami took stock of the situation and directed the officials concerned to ensure swift rescue and relief

According to official sources, the cloudburst occurred around midnight and resulted in the death of four persons including three children, while three persons are missing and two injured. The district magistrate, senior police officers along with personnel of State Disaster Response Force and other departments concerned reached the affected site on getting information about the disaster.

The road link to the village is also cut off. This area is located near the border with Nepal. Elsewhere in the district, the flow of the Kali River was hampered by debris following a cloudburst in Sirbagad area of Nepal. This resulted in the water of the river reaching the administrative office and colony of Dhauliganga hydroelectric project.

Punjab polls to be fought...

From page 1

Rawat's assertion came a day before his visit to the State capital and a day after senior party leader and MLA Pargat Singh questioned him when the party decided that the Punjab election would be fought under the leadership of Capt Amarinder Singh.

Already, Navjot Singh Sidhu had virtually threatened the party's Central leadership of adverse reaction in case he was not given a free hand. His "itt naal itt" remark has, in fact, failed to go down well with the party high command.

The reactions from the anti-Capt Amarinder camp came after Rawat, on August 25, had stated that the Congress party "will contest 2022 Punjab elections under the leadership of Captain Amarinder Singh". His statement had come after the dissident Congress leaders' seven-member delegation, including four Cabinet Ministers and three legislators, had met Rawat in Dehradun seeking Capt Amarinder's ouster from the Chief Minister's

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AAP leaders booked for Pinki Chaudhary to surrender **flouting Covid protocol**

IT'S A TIRANGA VS LOTUS FIGHT, SAYS SANJAY SINGH

STAFF REPORTER

Police have registered a case against 17 AAP leaders, including Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh, for violating Covid protocols during the party's Tiranga Yatra here.

Reacting to the develop-ment, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that the mindset of the BJP is still like that of the British. The BJP Government

ensures an FIR is filed for taking out the 'Tiranga Yatra' that too in the 75th year of Independence. "The British have gone but the mindset of the BJP is still a slave to them. The BJP can hold Ashirwad Yatra, Bengal elections and gatherings in Banaras but the Tiranga Yatra' is a crime. No matter how many FIRs are filed against us but the 'Tiranga Yatra' will run," he tweeted in

AAP senior leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh tweeted: "This fight is "Tricolour flag" vs "lotus flag". Was there an FIR against these BJP leaders? It is clear that the BJP leaders are afraid of the pride of the Tricolour and are playing FIR-FIR. File a lot of FIRs Yogi ji, the Tricolour-yatra



will go out in every village of

Permission had been granted to organise the Tiranga Yatra while following Covid-19 protocols with a limit of 50 people, they said.

But the number of people, who attended the march on Sunday, exceeded the permitted number and Covid-19 protocols were not followed, police

Ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) plans to take out Tiranga Yatras in Ayodhya, Lucknow and Noida to mark the 75th year of India's Independence.

The AAP party will carry out this yatra in Ayodhya on September 14 and later in 403 Assembly segments of Uttar Pradesh, Sisodia had said on Sunday, as he attacked the BIP Government in the State over

the poor law-and-order, education, healthcare and employment situations.

Superintendent of Police (City) Vikas Kumar said that the case has been registered against 17 AAP leaders, including Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Rajya Sabha MP, and another 500 unidentified people.

They were part of the Tiranga Yatra carried out by the party's leaders on Sunday evening from GIC ground till the Shaheed Smarak in Sanjay Place in Agra, he said. "For not following the

Covid-19 protocol the FIR was registered at the Lohamandi Police Station on Monday morning," the SP said. They have been booked

under İndian Penal Code Sections 188, 269 and 270, and under provisions the Epidemic Diseases Act for violation of Covid-19 protocols,

Section 188 pertains to disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant, while Section 269 and 270 pertain to whoever unlawfully, malignantly or negligently does any act which is, and which he knows or has reason to believe to be, likely to spread the infection of any disease dangerous

today in hate speech case



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a video reseased on Monday, Hindu Raksha Dal chief Pinki Chaudhary has said that he will surrender himself before Delhi Police on Tuesday.

Chaudhary is accused of raising communal slogans and inciting the youth to propagate negative ideas against a particular religion, at a rally held at the Jantar Mantar in the national Capital on August 8.
"I am still firm on my

point. I and no worker of my organisation did anything wrong at Jantar Mantar. respect the court. I will surrender myself tomorrow, on August 31, around 12 pm at the Connaught Place police station and will cooperate with the police during the probe,"

Chaudhary said in a video.

"I never run away from being arrested. It is the right of every person to go to court and I did the same. All the allegations against me are false and baseless. My life has been devoted towards Hinduism and Hindutva. As long as I am alive, I will continue to do the work of religion," he further said in the video.

The Delhi High Court on Friday refused to grant interim protection from arrest to Bhupinder Tomar alias Pinki Chaudhary.

Earlier this month, a sessions court here had dismissed Chaudhary's anticipatory bail application, saying, "We are not a Taliban State.

A video showing anti-Muslim slogans being raised

during a protest at Jantar Mantar here was widely circulated on social media, following which the Delhi Police registered a case in connection with the matter. Hundreds of people had attended the protest organised by the Bharat Jodo Aandolan. The Delhi Police has already arrested eight people in connection with the incident. The accused have been identified as Uttam Upadhyay, Ashwini Upadhyay, Preet Singh, Deepak Singh, Deepak

Preet Singh is the director 'Save India Foundation' while Deepak Singh, Deepak Kumar and Vinod Sharma are associated with different Rightwing organisations and Sushil Tiwari is Hindu Army chief.

Bajpai and Sushil Tiwari.

Kumar, Vinod Sharma, Vinit

AAP: Uttarakhand health services are the worst

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

he Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP's) chief spokesperson and MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj on Monday said that Uttarakhand has the worst health services among all the Himalayan States and patients lose their life before they even

reach the hospital.

Citing a CAG report, he said that Uttarakhand's health budget was ₹188 crore in 2018-19 but that reduced to just ₹97 crore in 2019-20 and only 5.25 paisa is being spent per person on healthcare in a year.

"Ambulance services are not available to bring patients to hospitals, air ambulances are used only for politicians and their relatives and the common man is left to die," he said.

Bhardwaj said, "The recently published CAG report 2019-20 has revealed the extremely poor conditions of the health sector in Uttarakhand. The health situation is so grim that many women die in the initial stages of their pregnancy. The availability of ambulances is also so poor such that 'Dandi Kandis' (sort of litter made of bamboo) are used to take the patients to the hospitals and most of the time they die before reaching the hospital."

'The CAG's report has revealed many such shocking



pieces of information as well. The most important information therein is that the debt burden of the Uttarakhand Government is constantly increasing.

Currently, the Uttarakhand Government is in a debt of ₹65,982 crore. Moreover, the Government has adequate cash in many sub-bodies. Yet, the Government is unnecessarily taking loans from the market at expensive rates. The Uttarakhand Government has taken a loan of about ₹5,100 crore from the market at expensive rates this year. Moreover, the report also reveals that the Government has spent about ₹100 crore and is not aware of where it was spent," he said.

The AAP leader further said, "If the AAP Government is formed in Uttarakhand, the people of the State will be able to get good and free health ser-

Delhi Police fines over 1,000 people in a day for not wearing masks

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has issued 1 over 1,000 challans and 1,100 people were prosecuted for not wearing mask in the national Capital. According to the data shared by police, on Sunday, a total of 1,225 challans were issued by police and 1,100 people were prosecuted for not wearing masks.

"Of these, 76 people were prosecuted for violating social distancing norms, eight for spitting and 41 for consumption of liquor, pan, gutkha, and tobacco," the data stated.

A total of 2,38,721 people

were prosecuted for not wearing mask in the national Capital during the lockdown In the same period of time

police penalised 28,734 people for violating social distancing norms, 1,463 for large public gatherings or congregations, 1,482 for spitting and 1,509 for consumption of liquor, pan, gutkha, and tobacco, the data showed. A total of 2,71,909 challans were issued from April 19 to August 29, according to

Delhi records 20 fresh cases of Covid-19, one death reported





STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 20 fresh Coronavirus cases were reported in the national Capital

ity rate stands at 0.04 per cent, according to data shared by the health department of the Delhi

Government. According to the bulletin one death was also recorded on Monday due to the viral disease. "The total number of fatalities stands at 25,081, while the cumulative case tally has reached 1437736. At least 51387 tests, including 41577 RTPCR/CBNAAT/TrueNat tests, were conducted in the last 24 hours," it said. As per the bulletin, out of

12,015 available beds in hospitals, 266 are occupied as on Monday while the rest are vacant. As many as 14,12,280 people have either been discharged, have recovered or migrated out, it added.

In order to deal with the possible third Covid-19 wave, the Delhi Government has taken a number of measures including doubling the number beds since the last wave. The city Government has been ramping up health infrastructure to prevent a repeat of the crisis witnessed during the peak of the second wave of the pandemic in April-May.

The Delhi Government

has also decided to create over 6,800 new intensive care unit (ICU) beds at seven facilities over the next six months.



The famous Birla Mandir wears a deserted look on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami as devotees were not allowed in due to Covid-19 restrictions, in New Delhi on

Beneficiaries ignore social distancing norms as they wait in a queue to receive a Covid-19 jab at a Government school turned vaccination centre at Shivaji Nagar in Gurugram on Monday

12 held for running fake call centre



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police have arrest-L ed a 24-year-old man and 11 women for allegedly running a fake call centre and cheating people on the pretext of offering them personal loans on low interest rate under 'Pradhan Mantri Loan Yojna' in Delhi's Rohini area.

Police said that the mastermind of the scam has been identified as Deepak Saini, a resident of Nangloi area. Police have also recovered one laptop, 29 mobile phones, one tablet, order book receipts etc. from the possession of the accused.

According to Pranav Tayal, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Rohini district, on Saturday around 11:30 PM, police received specific inputs regarding a fake call center being operating near Vishram

Chowk, Sector-6, Rohini. "Acting on the specific

inputs, the police team conducted a raid where a man and some women were found indulged in tele-calling. They were arrested. During enquiry, it was revealed that they were indulged in illegal activities of defrauding people on the pretext of offering personal loans at very low interest rates under 'Pradhan Mantri Loan Yojana Scheme," said the DCP.

'The accused used to make calls to people to offer them loans on lucrative interest rates. However, they would ask them to pay a certain amount as processing fee to execute the offer," said the DCP.

"Later, they would keep asking them to pay money on one pretext or another. They have cheated people across India," said the DCP adding that the owner of the call center is yet to be arrested and sincere efforts are being made to

Delhi Fire Services organises a cyclothon at Connaught Place

In the series of celebrating L'Amrit Mahotsav' (75th anniversary of India's Independence), the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) on Monday morning organised a cyclothon at Delhi's Connaught Place.

The fire fighters along with the officials of the Fire Control Room participated in the event. On this occasion, Atul

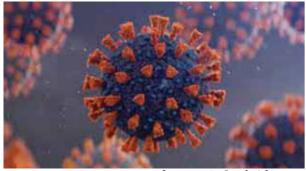
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI Garg, the Director of DFS, while addressing the assembled force, said that many departments were formed in the independent India, each of them was assigned various responsibilities, the fire service department was given the best responsibility, to save the lives and property of citizen from the fire and other emergencies.

"It is a matter of pride that all the brave firefighters and control room officials are tire-lessly working shoulder to shoulder to upkeep the motto "We serve to Save"," said Garg.

Garg resolved and rededicated all the officers and employees, that no matter what happens, DFS will perform duties with full dedication and honesty. He further said that this cyclothon is a mechanism to assure the citizens about the



New variant found in SA more infectious, evade vax protection



PNS NEW DELHI

t a time when the world At a time when the the Delta and Alpha variants of SARS-CoV-2, a new variant of interest, C.1.2, which is more virulent and immune to vaccine, has been detected in South Africa and many other countries raising a new concern globally.

"It could be more transmissible and evade protection provided by vaccines," according to scientists from National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) and the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform (KRISP) in South Africa.

C.1.2 has since been found in China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mauritius, England, New Zealand, Portugal and Switzerland as of August 13,

they said. According to the yet-to-be peer-reviewed study posted on the preprint repository MedRxiv on August 24, C.1.2 has mutated substantially compared to C.1, one of the lineages which dominated the SARS-CoV-2 infections in the

first wave in South Africa

The new variant has more mutations than other variants of concern (VOCs) or variants of interest (VOIs) detected worldwide so far, the researchers said.

They noted that the number of available sequences of C.1.2 may be an underrepresentation of the spread and frequency of the variant in South Africa and around the world.

The study found consistent increases in the number of C.1.2 genomes in South Africa each month, rising from 0.2 per cent of genomes sequenced in May to 1.6 per cent in June and then to 2 per cent in July.

"This is similar to the increases seen with the Beta and Delta variants in the country during early detection," the authors of the study

According to the study, C.1.2 lineage has a mutation rate of about 41.8 mutations per year, which is about twice as fast as the current global mutation rate of the other

Virologist Upasana Ray noted that the variant is a result of numerous mutations accumulated in C.1.2 line in the spike protein which makes it a Covaxin likely to get WHO approval for emergency use



PNS NEW DELHI

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech is likely to get approval from the World Health Organization in two weeks for the emergency use listing (EUL) of its Covaxin vaccine, according to NK Arora, who is heading the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation

EUL is a WHO procedure

lot different than the original

virus that was identified in

sequences have 14 mutations,

but additional variations have

Over half of the C.1.2

Wuhan, China in 2019.

through which it assesses the medicines, vaccines and devices used to address an outbreak classified as a 'public health emergency of interna-tional concern. With the approval for EUL, Bharat Biotech will be able to supply its vaccine to other countries. The Hyderabad-based company had applied to WHO for EUL in the second week of

July. Covaxin, the company's

been noticed in some of the

occur in the majority of C.1.2

viruses, there is additional

variation within the spike

"Though these mutations

sequences.

home-grown Covid-19 vaccine approved for emergency use in India, is one of two shots driving the country's massive vaccination programme launched on January

On Sunday, the company rolled out the first batch of Covaxin shots from a facility in Ankleshwar in western India that has the capacity to produce more than 1 crore doses per month.

region of this lineage, suggest-

ing ongoing intra-lineage evo-

study noted.

lution," the authors of the About 52 per cent of the mutations in the spike region

Glad that Centre announced schemes for kids orphaned during Covid: SC

devastated many lives and it is "heart wrenching" that the survival of children who lost either or both parents during the pandemic is at stake, the Supreme Court said, but expressed satisfaction over schemes announced by the Centre and States to provide succour to them.

The apex court said that "satisfactory progress" has been made by the Executive in identifying children who have either become orphans or have lost one of their parents during the Covid-19 pan-

"We are glad that the UoI (Union of India) and the state governments/Union Territories have announced schemes to provide succour to the children in need. We have no doubt that the authorities concerned would leave no stone unturned to attend to the immediate basic needs of the crestfallen children," said a bench of justices L Nageswara Ŕao Aniruddha Bose.

The top court, which was

'Contagion of Covid-19 on (Care and Protection of children protection homes, Children) Act, 2015, have to noted in its order that over one be expedited to identify those lakh children have lost either children who are in need of

care and protection.

Immediate steps also "The catastrophe caused have to be taken to ensure by the cataclysmic Covid-19 that benefits of schemes reach the needy minors, the bench has devastated many lives, especially children at a tender age who have lost their par-The apex court said all children have a constitutionents," the bench said, adding that "it is heart wrenching to

al right to free and compulnote that the survival of so sory elementary education many children is at stake." and the State has a duty and It said inquiries by Child obligation to facilitate education for children. Welfare Committee (ĆWCs), in accordance with provi-

of the C.1.2 sequences have previously been seen in other VOCs and VOIs.

The spike protein is used by the SARS-CoV-2 virus to infect and enter human cells, and most vaccines target this

The mutations N440K and

Y449H, which have been associated immune escape from certain antibodies, have also been

noticed in C.1.2 sequences.

or both parents during the

"While these mutations are not characteristic of current VOCs/VOIs, they have been associated with escape from certain class 3 neutralising antibodies," the authors wrote.

V-P urges scientists to intensify research to combat pandemic

PNS NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday urged the scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO)to intensify their research to effectively combat any such pandemic in the future.

He lauded their efforts in the fight against corona pan-

Interacting with a group of scientists and frontline workers from the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences(DIPAS), a DRDO laboratory, Naidu said the pandemic has triggered unprecely impacted lives and livelihoods across the world.

Commending the DIPAS and other DRDO laboratories for rising to the occasion and developing various indigenous products for treatment and management of COVID-19,

BSF lodges

Aday after smugglers from Bangladesh attacked an

injuries to the Border Security

Force party. Sensing immi-

nent threat to life and left with

no other option, the troops

fired in self-defence," the north

bengal frontier of the force said

the total 4,096 kms of the

India-Bangladesh

International border on the

country's eastern flank and is

It guards over 932 kms of

in a statement.

Siliguri.

protest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

West Bengal.

with BGB



gence of new variants of SARS-CoV-2,

effectively tackle any future

Around 25 scientists and technicians from DIPAS were invited to Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas by the Vice President. They were accompanied by DRDO Chairman, Dr G.

he said in the wake of the emer-Satheesh Reddy.

Reddy briefed the Vice President about various prodindigenously by the DRDO laboratories

treatment and management of Covid-19. He expressed his gratitude to the Vice President for inviting the scientists and technicians and sharing his

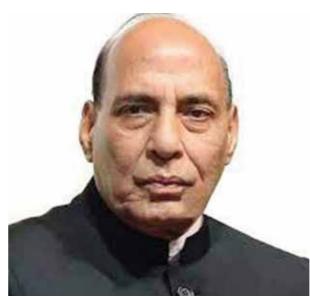
'Af situation is a concern, but Govt can deal with any challenge

PNS NEW DELHI

autioning that the current Usituation in Afghanistan has raised new security questions, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said the Central Government is capable of dealing with any scenario.

Making this assertion, he also said the government is alert to the fast evolving sequence of events. No anti-national force should be allowed to encourage terrorism from across the border by taking advantage of the developments in Afghanistan, the minister said.

Balramji Dass Tandon memorial lecture organised by Panjab University, Chandigarh on the issue of national security, Rajnath said "What is happenin neighbouring Afghanistan is raising new questions in terms of security



and our government is keeping a watch on the developments

Along with the security of Indians, he said in a virtual address "Our government also

wants that anti-national forces do not encourage terrorism from across the border by taking advantage of the develop-'We have some more con-

cerns which can become challenges from the point of view of national security," he added. Rajnath said the Modi-led government at the Centre is alert and capable of dealing with any situation. In an address to the

Defence Services Staff College, Wellington on Sunday, Rajnath had said rapidly changing situ-

Afghanistan after the Taliban taking over is a "challenge" for India and the Government has been forced to rethink its strat-

He also said the recent developments resulted in India forging alliance with the countries forming the Quad. It com-

Australia. Rajnath said alignment and re-alignment of global powers have added to the already changing security challenges and the changing equations in Afghanistan are a recent and important example of this.

Bollywood actress Jacqueline grilled for 4 hrs in money laundering case

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday examined Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez here for over four hours in connection with a money laundering case against conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar.

Fernandez is not a suspect or an accused in the case and her statement was recorded as a witness under the provisions of the Prevention Money Laundering Act, officials said.

Lodged at Rohini jail as an under trial, Chandrashekhar multi-crore extortion racket from behind the bars. He faces over 20 cases of extortion besides charges under money laundering. The conman is alleged to have extorted money to the tune of Rs 200 crore.

On last Tuesday, the ED had conducted searches at various locations of Chandrasekhar and his wife and Malyalam film actor Leena Maria Paul leading to seizure of a luxurious sea facing bungalow in Chennai and 16 high end luxury cars which included Rolls Royce Ghost, Bentley Bentayga, Ferrari 458 Italia, Lamborghini Urus, Escalade and Mercedes AMG 63 besides BMW and Range Rover.

Searches were also conducted under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at the premises of middlemen, one banker and associates of Chandrasekhar. The banker, Komal Poddar, Vice President, RBL Bank was working as conduit for transfer of funds to Chandrasekhar and has also cheated the complainant, the ED had said.

During search at the residential premises of Komal Poddar, unexplained Indian currency to the tune of Rs 82.50 lakh and 24 carat. gold bar weighing two Kg. Podďar was subsequently arrested by the Delhi Police.

The agency has also conducted searches at the residenand business premises of Paul who is a small-

actress in Malyalam films and has done some small roles in Hindi movies like Madras Café. During the searches, a lavish sea-facing bungalow in Chennai), a benami property owned by the couple was iden-

tified.
"Chandrashekhar led a lavish life in this bungalow in Chennai which is no less than a resort, The house is luxurious sea facing with a home theatre and a fleet of cars and servants," the agency had said in its

Tomato prices in wholesale markets across States crash

PNS NEW DELHI

Indian patrol, which fired in self-defence leading to the Tomato prices in wholesale markets in most producing death of two miscreants along the border, the BSF has lodged states have crashed to as low as ₹4 per kg amid a supply glut. a "strong protest" with its neighbouring counterpart Border Guard Bangladesh In fact, the wholesale prices of tomato in 23 growing centres (BGB). out of 31 monitored by the gov-The incident took place in ernment were down by 50 per the early hours (around 3:35 cent from the year-ago period AM) of Sunday near the or below three-year seasonal Changrabandha border post in

the Cooch Behar district of The daily price monitoring data of the ministry of consumer affairs showed the aver-"The troops were encircled by 18-20 Bangladeshi smugage price of tomato was ₹30 a kg glers while patrolling the boron Sunday. The maximum price der. The troops asked them to was quoted ₹58 in Port Blair leave the area. However, they while the minimum price ₹10 a didn't pay heed and attacked kg in Davanagere. the troops resulting in grievous

In Delhi's Azadpur mandi, wholesale price of tomato declined to 24 per kg on August 28 from Rs 36 per kg in the yearago period. Wholesale price of tomato in Mumbai declined to Rs 12 per kg from Rs 30 per kg, while that of in Bengaluru to Rs 8 per kg from Rs 30 per kg in the said period. Recently, farmers in Nashik and Aurangabad on Friday dumped truckloads of tomatoes on the road after prices crashed to Rs 2-3 per kg

headquartered at Kadamtala, in the wholesale market. The statement said a search Currently, tomato crop of of the incident spot resulted in the early kharif (summer) seathe recovery bodies of two son of the 2021-22 crop year "Bangladeshi smugglers" about (July-June) is being harvested. 100 meters "inside" the Indian According to the data, the wholesale price of tomato in



Dewas in Madhya Pradesh -the countrys' top tomato growing state -- fell to Rs 8 per kg on August 28 of this year from Rs 11 per kg in the year-ago period. Similarly, the wholesale price of tomato at Jalgoan in Maharashtra -- the country's sixth largest tomato growing state -- fell by 80 per cent to Rs 4 per kg on August 28 from Rs 21 per kg in the year-ago peri-

Tomato prices at Aurangabad declined to Rs 4.50 per kg from Rs 9.50 per kg, while that of Solapur to Rs 5 per kg from 15 per kg and in Kolhapur to Rs 6.50 per kg from 25 per kg in the year-ago period. According to the government data, wholesale price of tomato at Kolar in Karnataka the country's fourth largest tomato growing state -- dropped

to 5.30 per kg on August 28

from Rs 18.70 per kg in the year-

ago period, while that of in Chikkaballapura fell to Rs 7.30 per kg from 18.50 per kg in the said period. In Uttar Pradesh too, prices

fell in the range of Rs 8-20 per kg on August 28 this year from Rs 14-28 per kg in the year-ago period.

In West Bengal, wholesale price of tomato declined to Rs 25-32 per kg in different growing areas from Rs 34-65 per kg in the said period, the data showed. In consuming markets too, wholesale prices of tomatoes showed a decline. Tomato crop is ready for

harvest in about 2-3 months after planting. India's tomato production rose by 2.20 per cent to 21 million tonnes in the 2020-21 crop year (July-June) as against 20.55 million tonnes in the year-ago period, as per the Agriculture Ministry's second advance estimate.

Veep to launch AmritMahotsav WithKhadi today

PNS NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu will launch the dig-ital quiz contest called AmritMahotsavWithKhadi on Tuesday. The Quiz has been designed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). to celebrate Azadi ka Amrit

The Quiz Contest seeks to connect the public with the Indian Freedom Struggle, the sacrifices of freedom fighters and the legacy of Khadi since the Pre-Independence era. It comprises questions pertaining to Indian freedom struggle, Khadi's role in the Swadeshi Movement and Indian polity.

The Quiz contest will run for 15 days, i.e., from 31st August 2021 till 14th September 2021, with 5 questions to be placed across all digital platforms of KVIC every day.

To participate in the quiz, eneeds to visit https://www.kviconline.gov.in/k vicquiz/. The participants will be required to answer all five questions within 100 seconds. The quiz will start at 11 AM every day and will be accessible for the next 12 hours, i.e., till 11 PM.

Participants giving maximum correct answers in minimum time frame will be declared winner for the day. A total of 21 winners (1 first prize, 10 second prize & 10 third prize) will be announced every

Priyanka urges UP to prevent



PNS NEW DELHI

With reports of multiple deaths due to "viral fever" in parts of western Uttar Pradesh, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday urged the state government to take steps to stop its spread and make adequate arrangements for medical treatment of those affected.

Priyanka said the news of death of many people, including children, due to fever in Firozabad, Mathura, Agra and other places of Uttar Pradesh is

"The Uttar Pradesh government should at once make

efforts to stop the spread of this disease with the help of an alert health system. Arrangements should also be made for better treatment of the people affected by the disease," the Congress general secretary tweeted.

The Gautam Buddh Nagar administration had last week raised an alert about "viral fever" and directed health workers to particularly take note of people running a temperature. Some western UP districts

have witnessed a spike in cases of "viral fever" in recent days also leading to fatalities in some cases, according to

Covid spread

Aired sleazy video of leader shakes up TN BJP

 $T^{\text{he BJP, struggling to get a}}_{\text{foothold in Tamil Nadu,}}$ has been rocked by a sleazy video featuring one of the top State-level leaders of the party. K T Raghavan, the party's State Secretary, a familiar face in TV channel debates, had quit on his own following the release of a video in which he was seen in a compromising position with a party supporter. The video was aired

through YouTube at the Madhan Ravichandran, who himself is a BJP worker. Ravichandran has been a party hopper and reached the BJP hardly months ago with the blessings of the High Command Ravichandran had told the media that he had told K Annamalai, the president of the Tamil Nadu BĴP that he had sleazy videos of more than a dozen leaders of the party with him to which Annamalai is reported to have asked him to go and get the video aired. The video featuring Raghavan was the first one to be aired through

Annamalai remained incommunicado despite efforts by The Pioneer to contact him but he retaliated by expelling Ravichandran and his associate

YouTube.



from the party. The videos are also being seen as the reflection of the discontentment brewing up among a section of the BJP leadership is Tamil Nadu who feel being side-lined by Annamalai and the new crop of

"What Ravichandran has done is not a sting operation but a honey-trap. He is working for a mafia to blackmail the BJP and its State chief Annamalai. I feel Ravichandran should be arrested under criminal charges," said Arjun Sampath, President, Hindu People's Party. Sampath is of the view that the sleazy videos have been done to destroy the BJP at the instance of the DMK and the Left parties who are worried over the growth of the nationalist party Tamil Nadu.

He said Ravichandran was sore at the fact that he had not been accommodated in the

party structure. "Basically he is a blackmailer. Earlier there were reports of him alleging Udhayanidhi Stalin (son of chief minister M K Stalin) in a case which has been hushed by following the intervention of DMK leadership," said Sampath.

Ramakrishnan Gauthaman, political commentator, said the whole incident has been a setback for the BJP. "The party lost its strong presence in the social media because of the ouster of Ravichandran. The resignation of Raghavan is noteworthy because he was the party's livewire in mainstream media," said Gauthaman, He also pointed out that the DMK was feel ing uncomfortable with Annamalai who has been questioning the ruling party on issues while the AIADMK was becoming weaker by the day.

Tyagi downplays his 'Nitish is PM material' remark, says PM Modi candidate for 2024 polls

day after his comment that A Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is a PM material created a ripple in the political waters, JD (U) general secretary K C Tyagi on Monday sought to downplay it saying it is Narendra Modi who will be the Prime Minister candidate for 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Tyagi's comment in Patna comes a day after he said that 'Nitish Kumar is not a candidate for the post of the prime minister' but that he "certainly is a PM material". He, however, called for setting up an NDA coordination committee to resolve various issues.

"Nitish Kumar is not a candidate for the post of the prime minister. The JD(U) is the most trusted member of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the leader of the alliance. But he (Kumar) certainly is a PM material, JD(U) general secretary had said after the party's national council meeting in Patna.

Kumar, who had parted company with the NDA in 2017, has been in the past seen as a potential Prime Ministerial candidate by some leaders in opposition and the

firmly support the alliance. The party would welcome setting up of an NDA coordination committee to resolve various issues. During the period of Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, several works were done after setting up the coor-

dination committee.
"We will be happy if a similar coordination committee is formed again at the central and state levels for smooth functioning of the government and to put a stop to unwarranted comments made by leaders of alliance partners," Tyagi said.

Tyagi announced that JD(U) will contest the assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and Manipur in 2022. On possibility of forming an alliance with the BJP, the JD(U) leader said we will try to tie-up but if it does not materialise we will contest the polls independently.

"Our priority will be to form an alliance with the BJP (for the polls). If that does not happen, we will contest independently," the senior JD(U) leader said.

Recently, JD (U) has demanded that the Modi-government expedite announcement for Caste-based census that may help regional parties with a dominant focus on caste politics like itself. Eom

There're people with Talibani thinking in AMU: Sakshi Maharaj

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

 $B^{\text{JP's} \text{ fire brand leader and}}_{\text{MP from Unnao, Sakshi}}$ Maharaj, who had reached Raj Palace to pay tribute to former Chief Minister late Kalyan Singh, said, regarding the posters on AMU campus, that there are people of Talibani thinking in Aligarh Muslim University. Calling the incident unfortunate, he said that talks have been held with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

In the context of the Babri demolition incident, he told that he himself was present with the kar sevaks in Ayodhya on the day of the demolition of the disputed structure. The kar sevaks were climbing on the dome. Meanwhile, the Home Minister of the country called Kalyan Singh. Kalyan Singh told the Home Minister that he knew the whole incident. Maharaj said that Babar had built a mosque after demolishing the Ram temple in Ayodhya and the credit of Ram temple goes to Kalyan

Taking the responsibility of demolishing the disputed



chair. Whereas in this country the leaders do not leave even the Prime Minister. Kalyan Singh will always be alive in the hearts of people regarding Ram Mandir. No one can touch his splendor. His stature was huge. This loss can never be undone. Kalyan Singh had taken two resolutions. His first resolution was to build a temple in Ayodhya and the second one was wrapped in the flag of the BJP and was in the lap of death. Both these resolutions were fulfilled. Whatever their wishes were for the rest of the nation, efforts will be made to fulfill them.

Kerala records 19,622 cases on Monday



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI:

Kerala tested 1,17,216 samples during the last 24 hours out of which 19,622 were diagnosed with Covid-19, said a release by Veena George, Minister of Health on Monday. While 132 persons suc-

cumbed to the pandemic on Monday, the Test Positivity Rate stood at 16.74. There is nothing to feel relaxed about the reduced number of positive cases diagnosed on Monday, according to doctors in Government Service. Yesterday being Sunday, the State was under triple lock down. Moreover, the number of samples tested on Monday was far ess than what was tested on Sunday, 1,51, 670 samples. Let's wait till Tuesday morning to know whether this trend would continue or not," said a government doctor.

of Kerala Sources Government Medical Officers Association told The Pioneer that they were yet to get any response from the authorities to the grievances they have sent. All Government doctors in Kerala would observe Tuesday as a day of protest but without affecting the normal duties.

ED raids Maha Min Parab's properties

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

 $A^{\text{day after it summoned him for}}_{\text{questioning in connection with}}$ a corruption case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday conducted raids at three locations belonging Maharashtra Transport Minister Anil Parab of the Shiv Sena and also carried out searches at nine location Sena's five-time MP Bhavana Gawli in connection with a money laundering case. On a day when the Shiv Sena

MP Sanjay Raut charged once again that the BJP was using the ED to indulge in "vindictive politics" against his party, the ED conducted raids at three locations of Parab in connection with the allegations of corruption made by incarcerated police officer Sachin Vaze against

The ED's raids on Parab's premises came a day ahead of Parab is scheduled to appear before the investigating agency on the allegations of corruption

Talking to media persons after spread, Raut said: "The ED action has been on against the Shiv Sena for the past few days. ED issued summons to Parab, but the smile on our faces has not gone. The ED is targeting the Shiv Sena. The raids on Parab's premises will have no bearing on the stability of the MVA government. Parab is well versed with law. He will fight it out".

"For political workers like us, these kinds of notices are not warrants but mere love letters. Only the frequency of such 'love letters' has increased after the BJP failed in many



attempts to breach the strong and impregnable wall of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government which remains stable. We are not scared by these kinds of actions," Raut said.

Raut handed out an indirect warning to the BJP and its leaders, when he indicated that the Shiv Sena would pay them back in the same coin when its party – in alliance with other like-minded parties -- comes to power at the Centre. "Everybody can see the BJP-led Narendra Modi government is indulging in vindictive politics. In politics, every political party gets a chance to rule. The BJP should realise that even our time will come," he said.

"There is collusion between the ED and BJP. The ED is acting at the be, we will cooperate with the agencies," Raut said

Meanwhile, elsewhere in Washim in eastern Maharashtra and Mumbai, the ED conducted raids at nine locations belonging to five educational institutions of Yavatmal-Washim MP Bhavana Gawli. She said that she had so far not received any notice from the ED.

Talking to media persons, Bhawana Gawli dsaid: "I have not received any notice from the ED. The ED officials have landed at the offices of various educational insti-

tutions that I am associated with. They are behaving as if the country is under an Emergency rule. The Shiv Sena's ministers and leaders are being targeted. Since there were issues with the accounts, I had myself an FIR against some officials. The ED is trying to give a new twist to the whole thing. The educational institutions where the raids are being conducted are the places where students are undergoing education".

"I have been in the educational field for the last 20 years. I have been elected to the Lok Sabha five times. Maybe some leaders are not liking this," she said.

Demanding to know if ED was not taking similar action was not being against the BJP leaders, Gawli said: "We have a BJP MLA in our area. He runs a land mafia. He is involved in a Rs 500 crore scam. My question is why the Centre is not ordering ED action against this MLA? Why is it targeting only the Shiv Sena leaders? What we are witnessing is an Emergency-like situa-

On Sunday, Raut had linked the summons issued to Parab to the recent arrest of Union Minister and senior BJP leader Narayan Rane during the "Jan Ashiward Yatra" during the last week.

It may be recalled that Rane was arrested at Sangamner in Ratnagiri district on August 24 for his "tightslap" remark against Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray. However, Rane was granted bail by a Mahad court on the same night.

Following Rane's arrest, the BJP had charged that Parab, as a guardian minister of Ratnagiri district, had mounted pressure on the district police administration to arrest Rane. The principal opposition party had also demanded a CBI probe into a CBI probe into a video clip that purportedly showed the minister speaking to a senior police official and asking the latter to arrest Rane.

Though the timing of ED's notice and raids smack of political vendetta, the ED is said to be investigating an allegation that Vaze had made in April this year that the minister had asked him to collect Rs 50 crore to close a preliminary inquiry against Saifee Burhani Upliftment Trust (SBUT).

It may be recalled that in a fourpage hand written letter to the Special Judge of the NIA court on April 7, 2021 Vaze – who is currently in the central investigating agency's custody in the twin SUV planting and alleged Manshukh Hiran murder cases - had claimed that Parab had called him July-August, 2020 to a complaint concerning the Saifee Burhani Upliftment Trust (SBUT), which was under preliminary enquiry and asked him to bring the SBUT trustees to him for negotiations about the enquiry.

"He (Parab) also insisted to initiate primary talks to get Rs.50 crore from the SBUT in order to close the said enquiry. I had expressed my inability to do any such things as I do not know anyone from the SBUT and also I did not have any control over the enquiry," Vaze contended in his letter to the NIA court.

Woman's throat slit for rejecting marriage proposal; succumbs

IANS BENGALURU

In another shocking crime reported from Karnataka, a youth in Bengaluru on Monday slit the throat of his former co-worker right on a road after she rejected his marriage proposal again, police

The victim was identified as Anita, 23, a private company worker, and the accused as Venkatesh, 22. Both hailed from Andhra Pradesh, had worked for the same company for three

years, and were known to each other very well. The incident took place when Anita was walking towards her workplace at about 7 a.m. Venkatesh stopped her and proposed to her. When Anita rejected him, he took out a knife and slit her throat.

When blood began gushing out of her neck, Venkatesh, with the help of her co-workers who were on the same stretch, took her to a nearby hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries.

DCP, West, Sanjeev M. Patil said Venkatesh has weapon from the scene of crime.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the accused and victim were close to each other. They were working in a private company as staff checkers and also distributed goods to retail shops. Three months ago, Venkatesh joined another company. But, they lived on different floors of the same building," he said.

Lakshmi and Venkatesh were very close. Her father objected to it and she moved away from him. Venkatesh had also approached the victim with a marriage proposal on Saturday and had been rejected. On Monday, he bought a knife in a supermarket for Rs 80 and used it for the crime, the DCP

Two terrorists neutralised along **LoC** in Poonch

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

Alert troops of the Indian army early on Monday morning neutralised two heavily armed terrorists while they were attempting to infiltrate inside the Indian territory along the line of control in Poonch sector.

A Jammu based Defence PRO Lt-Col Devender Anand said, "in the early hours of 30 August 2021, terrorists from across the Line of Control made an attempt to infiltrate in Poonch Sector. Alert Army troops detected the infiltration bid by effective use of the integrated surveillance grid. On being challenged by Army firefight with the terrorist in which two terrorists were neutralised and their dead bodies along with separate AK-47 rifles have been recovered". "The operation is still in progress in the area", the Defence PRO added.

The fresh infiltration bid in the region has confirmed assessment reports shared by the top brass of the Indian army during a series of recent high level security review meetings

reports, " the launching pads and terrorist training camps located closer to the line of control were witnessing hectic activity for the past several weeks"

Following these reports and in the wake of recent developments in Afghanistan the counter infiltration grid was kept in a state of high alert as the security forces were anticipating desperate bids to push fresh groups of terrorists inside the Indian territory. Earlier, a high alert was sounded along the LoC in the run up to the 75 Independence day celebrations two weeks ago to prevent from across the LoC.

On August 19, a terrorist was neutralised in the ThanaMandi area of Rajouri while a JCO sacrificed his life in the operation. The terrorist killed in the operation was part of the group of infiltrators who had managed to sneak inside the Indian territory in the first week of August.

Two terrorists of the same group were gunned down on August 6 in the same area of

Noted Bengali writer Guha dead

PNS KOLKATA

orona claimed yet another emi-Cnent member of Bengal civil society with noted Bengali writer Buddhadeb Guha succumbing to the pandemic little before Sunday midnight. He was 85. Though he had recovered from the disease in May he succumbed to post corona complications, sources said.

Guha known for his liberal romantic novels and stories many of them woven around forests of Jharkhand and even Madhya Pradesh was an accomplished singer of Rabindra Sangeet and was among the busiest chartered accountants of eastern India.

Having to his credit the memorable forest centric novels Madhukari, Kojagar, Koeler Kache, Tand Baghoa, Babli, Unees Bees, Sabinoy Nibedan, Baba Howa etc had created the famous character Rijuda which earned huge popularity among the children.

Expressing his condolence Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote "Shri Buddhadeb Guha's writings were multifaceted and displayed great sensitivity to the environment. His works were enjoyed across generations, particularly among youngsters. His passing away is a big loss to the literary world. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti.



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said "I am deeply saddened by the demise of the eminent writer Buddhadeb Guha. He passed away in Kolkata last night. He was 85 years old. Buddhadeb Guha, the prominent author of Bengali literature, had written notable books including Koel, Kojagar, Madhukari, Jangalmahal, Charibeti etc. He is also the creator of two popular fictional characters in Bengali literature - Rivu and Rijuda."

Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar too wrote, "saddened at passing of eminent Bengali writer Buddhadeb Guha, author of many notable works such as 'Madhukari' (Honey Gatherer). His works of fiction reflected his closeness to nature and forests of eastern India. Pray Almighty to bestow eternal peace on the departed soul." Winner of a number of literary awards the departed writer leaves behind two

2 Bangladeshis trying to sneak into India shot in Cooch Behar

he Border Security Forces on Monday shot I dead two men trying to cross over from Bangladesh to India through the non-fenced border at Changrabanda under Mekhligunj police station in West Bengal's Cooch Behar after they opened fire on being challenged.

The duo were identified as Younia Ali and Md Sagar, reportedly from Bangladesh's Patgram. According to local sources, the BSF has tightened its hold on the border area to check cattle smuggling. However, despite this, smugglers from Bangladesh allegedly continue to carry on with the illegal activity, using both open or barbed wire borders as corridors.

The area in question in Monday's incident is adjacent to the Dharla river and so, barbed wire could not be installed in a four kilometer area. The smugglers try to take advantage of this situation. According to BSF sources, on Monday

morning, some people had entered Indian territory from Bangladesh to smuggle cattle. When the BSF challenged him, they attacked the BSF, which retaliated, killing the two. As soon as the news of the incident was

received, DIG, Jalpaiguri Sector, Sanjay Panth, BSF's 146 Bn second-in-command Mohit Kothiyal, second in command of battalion number 146, and other senior officers of police and the administration reached the spot. The bodies have been handed over to the police for a post-mortem examination, and will subsequently be handed over to the BGB.

BJP loses yet another MLA; Ghosh joins TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

The Bengal BJP on Monday lost yet another MLA to the Trinamool Congress as a saffron legislator from Bishnupur left the party to join the State ruling outfit saying that he left the saffron party because of its divisive and unethical politics.

Accepting the TMC flag from Bengal Minister Bratya Basu Bishnupur Legislator Tanmoy Ghosh said, "the reason why I am in the Trinamool Congress is: I was inspired by the developmental works being carried out by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee ... I invite others also to do the same ... I want the members of other parties also to join the Trinamool so that they can also take part in the work of Mamata Banerjee's public welfare programmes.

Attacking the BJP he said "After going to that party I found that they are only into vindictive politics which is evident from the way they are using the central agencies against their political opponents ... they follow no ethical norms and indulge in dividing the people for narrow political gains.

Ghosh also said that the BJP had no organizational strength at the booth-level and only thrived on the votes transferred by the other parties like the Left Front. "They will soon lose whatever they gained because they have no organizational strength at the booth

Ghosh had joined the BJP before the April-May Assembly elections in which Mamata Banerjee's party returned to power with a huge tally of

The Monday's development brings down the BJP's strength in the State Assembly to 73. Earlier former BJP national vice president Mukul Roy too left that party to join the TMC where he was instantly made the party's national vice president. The JP had won 77 seats in this year's Assembly elec-

Two MPs Nisith Pramanik and Jagannath Sarkar who had successfully contested the Assembly elections later resigned the Assembly post. Soon after he left the party Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh alleged "Tanmoy Ghosh is yet another example of how the TMC is arm-twisting the opposi-

tion leaders into joining its ranks."

Curiously a former State Minister and TMC leader SP Mukherjee who had joined the BJP before the Assembly elections was arrested last week on charges of corruption.

State BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said Ghosh's quitting the party would not make any difference for the saffron outfit in the State. "Everyone is not capable of taking the pressure opposition leaders have to face. Here Tanmoy Ghosh gave

Kerala: Following rejig, dissatisfaction grows in Congress

IANS THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Most of the Congress leaders in Kerala are showing their dissatisfaction after the party high command put out a list of 14 district Congress Committee presidents. Even though two have been suspended, the outbursts from others continued on Monday also.

The list of the 14 surfaced late Saturday night, and out came the daggers. It was a free for all with everyone washing dirty linen in the public.

So far two top Congress leaders, a two time legislator K.Sivadasan Nair, and senior party leader who is the outgoing organisational general secretary of the Kerala unit -- K.P. Anilkumar have been suspended in a jiffy by State party chief

K.Sudhakaran for their outbursts. Incidentally trouble began in the Kerala unit of the party ever since contrary to what has been the practice, the party high command came down heavy when they decided enough is enough of the way the faction managers -- two time Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and veteran outgoing Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala for the past two decades used to share all the posts between themselves.

Putting an end to their hegemony, the high command stepped in soon after the April 6 Assembly results saw the Congress being defeated by Pinarayi Vijayan for the second time in a row.

Soon after Vijayan took over, the Congress high command stepped in and announced Sudhakaran as the new party president and V.D. Satheesan as the new leader of opposition, making its intentions clear that it will no longer succumb to the arm twisting tactics of the faction www.dailypioneer.com

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- PAPER WITH PASSION-

Crunch time

India's handling of the Afghan issue will decide the credibility of the Taliban rule

etween the last day of August and through the month of September, global attention will shift to India insofar as the United Nations formal reaction to the power shift in Afghanistan is concerned. As the current head of the United Nations Security Council, India has set the tone for the world's opinion on matters related to the Taliban and terrorism. As chair of the Taliban Sanctions Committee, India's role will again be crucial. Hitherto, it was said that various blocs were keeping India away from talks over Afghanistan. The reference is to Russia's extended troika meeting with Pakistan, China and the US, and the separate confabulations between Russia, Iran, China and Pakistan. India also did not figure in the American initiative to organise a grouping of Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan as well as China's initiative for a closed dialogue with Russia, Iran and Pakistan. Both are about discussing regional support for the Afghan peace process



and shaping the contours of a post-settlement Afghanistan. Naturally, these groups and blocs, unlike the UN panels, do not have any official standing and are able to play only the role of influencers. The United Nations Security Council's formal cognisance of the Afghan situation came about when India convened two meetings under its presidency, asking the world to immediately act on the humanitarian situation Afghanistan faces. Under its charge, a statement was issued by the UNSC dropping the reference to the Taliban

while asking the Afghan groups not to support terrorists operating on their territory even though an earlier statement had referred to the Taliban.

This is the first, formal indication that the wheels within the Security Council are turning to formulate a policy resolution on the Afghan affair. The Taliban eagerly await what the UN has to say, well aware that there are several questions and issues pending that will determine how far the world body is willing to accommodate it and on what conditions. August 31 is when the deadline expires for the US to completely withdraw from Afghanistan. The month of September is crucial for three things. One, the current meetings of the various Taliban factions will need to reach an understanding on the formation of a governance council and requesting world recognition. Two, the UN Taliban Sanctions Committee with India in the chair will meet on terror sanctions. Three, the United Nations General Assembly session begins in September where India is expected to articulate its policy on Afghanistan. If the Taliban have made a formal overture to India — which continues to be watchful but silent — it is perhaps because they are not unaware of the challenges they face, including the recognition of the 'Islamic Emirate' of Afghanistan, the status of the current Afghan envoy to the UN, the issue of minority and women's rights, shelter to terror groups inside Afghanistan; in short, the factors that stand between the Taliban and its legitimisation by the UN.



Soldiers and policemen keep vigil during Janmashtami celebrations in Srinagar

Road to school

Thorough implementation of standard operating procedures could help schools keep open for long

he Indian Government's Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan launched in the early 2000s had a popular campaign tune and video — School chale hum. It showed primary students from Kashmir to Kanyakumari rushing towards their schools in the first flush of morning. It showed their enthusiasm to learn and meet their friends at school. The campaign tune was discontinued long ago; however, the enthusiasm managed to live on. It lived on



until the schools were physically closed due to the pandemic last year. And now that the Delhi Government is planning to reopen them on September 1, we might now need School chale hum 2.0 or something more potent. We certainly cannot expect the students to be the same after a hiatus of nearly a year and half. They now have mixed feelings about going to school, many are willing while a lot many are reluctant. Many are enveloped in their comfort zones and are too lazy to pack their bags for school. However, amid these arguments, there is a genuine concern, the risk factor of infections as the third wave lurks. The parents are hesitant of sending their chil-

dren to schools who, at this moment, are unarmoured soldiers going out on the field after a horrible intermission. While the Government has allowed Bharat Biotech to conduct vaccine trials on children, the rollout may still take months.

The students have significantly compromised their studies and school life and hence it was of utmost importance to figure out a way to open schools, at least in the COVIDfree regions. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority, therefore, has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be followed by students, teachers and staff after the schools resume on Wednesday. All educational institutions would operate at 50 per cent capacity and must have mandatory quarantine centres. The reduced attendance capacity and staggered lunch breaks (in open spaces) are aimed at ensuring social distancing and minimising large assemblies. The SOPs look good on paper and its thorough implementation could actually minimise the risk factor. However, students are required to comply with the protocols and the school staff need to monitor students for any symptom in order for the schools to remain open. Also, since attendance has not been made compulsory and online classes will still be available, it would be worth seeing how the students react to it.

3 years of unseen 'Naya Pakistan'



Imran started with the promise of bringing a change in governance but he also has been caught in the old maze of religion and military Generals

hree years ago, Imran Khan swept to power with a reformist rallying cry to deliver 'Naya Pakistan' (New Pakistan). His political vehicle PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf) was equated to a veritable 'jazba' (passion) — the party's official site noted, "addressing the root causes of religious extremism" as amongst its foundational ideology. Much hope was riding on the proverbial "political outsider", who did not belong to any of the boroughs plaguing Pakistan such as the feudatory system, military barracks or the madrasa-schooled ignoramuses. Imran had seemed refreshingly different as an Oxfordeducated, successful (captain of the World Cup-winning Pakistani cricket team), well-travelled, liberal (had earlier married a westerner of Jewish faith) - he seemed just the right candidate to coursecorrect Pakistan from the slippery slope of religious extremism, terror ecosystem and ignorance. Today, as it enters the fourth

year, 'Naya Pakistan' reeks of sameness to the past, only more obviously and decidedly so. Imran's theatrical railing and opposition to the law unto themselves, Pakistani 'Generals', prior to his 'selection', is a forgotten memory, as the beholden Imran Khan dutifully extended the current Pakistani Chief of Army Staff's tenure, continuing the Military institutions tradition of extraconstitutional levers. The Pakistani Military's penchant for control with a civilian façade has led to many calling the system a 'Hybrid Martial Law'. Meanwhile the political discourse amongst the civilian politicians too has reached unprecedented lows, with personalised character assassination of the Opposition leaders, unsubstantiated attributions, intemperate and mocking tone to populist rhetoric to hide the Government's failures, one after the other. Imran's crass language and undignified allusions have sunk the conversations far below the relatively pedestrian standards of the likes of Nawaz Sharif, Asif Zardari, Pervez Musharraf or even

the clearly bigoted, Zia-ul-Haq. Upon becoming the PM, ran had promised a lean team of 'change leaders' and ushered in a 21-member Cabinet — today, it has bloated to 54, comprising

other party members that Imran harangues against today, or made up with unelected members. The name-calling and blame-game has only become shriller, with the 'past' as the most invoked means of deflecting any awkward attention from the crumbling present.

However, it is on the issue of religious extremism that the failure of Imran has been spectacular and regrettable. Signs started early with him axing an internationally renowned economist from his panel of advisers, Atif Mian, only because of his faith (Ahmadi), whom the puritanical Pakistani Government does not recognise as Muslim. Soon, Imran's Government (and the Military) were seen cutting 'deals' with the likes of Tehreek-i-Labbaik (TLP) instead of taking stern action for fanning poison in society on the issue of blasphemy. Meanwhile, offering patronage and succour to organisations like Jamaat-ud-Dawa and Sipah-i-Sahaba continued unabated. For a society mired in regressive chauvinism and sexism, Imran chipped in with his own shocking observations like, "If a woman is wearing fewer clothes, it will have an impact on men" and recently on the falling educational standards in a madrasa-rife Pakistan, Imran solely blamed the 'English-medium educa-



IMRAN HAS REMAINED VOCAL, PASSIONATE AND UNSUCCESSFUL IN POSITING THE COUNTER-NARRATIVE OF PAKISTAN AS A 'VICTIM' OF TERROR, YET THE MAN KNOWN AS 'TALIBAN KHAN' **CONTINUES THE** PATENT PAKISTANI DOUBLESPEAK ON **ISSUES LIKE THE** TALIBAN, RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM AND MODERNITY

tion'! Imran's solution to train children and society properly was only to teach them Seeratun-Nabi (Biographies of the Holy Prophet). But Imran's religiosity, like his morality, remained flexible and predicated on convenience — on one hand he accused French President Emmanuel Macron of 'encouraging Islamophobia', and in the case of the clearly persecuted Chinese Uighur Muslims, he rather ingloriously and meekly surrendered saying that he accepts the "Chinese version" due to "extreme proximity and relationship" with Communist China!

For a nation that has steadfastly remained under the infamy of being 'Greylisted' on the international terror financing watchdog agency, FATF, the comments emanating from Pakistan on the Taliban are shocking self-goals of complicity. From senior PTI leader Neelam Sheikh's "Taliban is with us to free Kashmir", to Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid taking credit for India's ostensible "defeat" with the advent of Taliban in Afghanistan -Pakistan is openly legitimising and welcoming the Taliban, in Afghanistan. Imran has remained vocal, passionate and unsuccessful in positing the counter-narrative of Pakistan as a "victim" of terror, yet the man known as 'Taliban Khan' con-

tinues the patent Pakistani doublespeak on issues like the Taliban, religious extremism and modernity. The last hope standing against the darkness of Taliban, Amrullah Saleh, excoriates Imran's Government by insisting, "Afghanistan is too big for Pakistan to swallow"; yet, in the last three years, that is the yeoman service done by Imran

towards burning Afghanistan.

Irony dies a thousand deaths when Imran's PTI ends its falsehoods on its official party site by ending the portion on its "mission" by quoting celebrated secularist Faiz Ahmed Faiz's immortal lines, "*Jab raaj* karegi khalq-e-khuda; Lazim hai ke hum bhi dekhengey" who actually wrote this against Zia's illiberal, doctrinaire and degressive misuse of religion towards orthodoxy. Imran has been a schizophrenic usurper of identities to present the "winning identity" from an electoral perspective, and sadly in a country facing caught in the vortex of extremism, it is only befitting that Imran contextualises and justifies the likes of Taliban or expansionist China, whilst stuttering his way in broken Urdu, half-sincerely quoting Faiz!

(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

IT'S RAINING MEDALS FOR INDIA

Sir — The remarkable performances of Indian athletes in the Tokyo Paralympics clinched four new medals, including a gold, two silvers and one bronze on Monday. Bhavina Patel's first ever medal in table tennis, Nishant Kumar's silver in high jump and Avani Lekhara's gold in shooting will serve as an inspiration for many in terms of what differently abled people can achieve if the will is strong and the right opportunities and infrastructure is provided.

According to the 2011 Census, about 2.68 crore people in India are differently abled. The Government's flagship -Accessible India Campaign launched in 2015 to make public transport and public infrastructure more accessible to the physically challenged had envisaged to make 50 per cent of the infrastructure fully disabledfriendly by July 2018. However, only 29.7 per cent of the total buildings identified, have been made accessible till date. Also, the Centre's target to make 25 per cent public transport disabled-friendly is also nowhere close to being achieved. In addition, the physical, emotional, behavioural and other stereotypes that these people face in education and employment need an attitudinal change. To meet the sustainable development goals, the 'Persons with Disability Act' must be enforced in every state in a time bound manner.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

STILL UNORGANISED IN PUNJAB

Sir — Perhaps, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, a bankable politician, could have easily pulled it off for the party but the cricketer-turned-comedian-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu's ambitions have dented the party prospects to a considerable extent. Just as Captain Amarinder was all set to be projected as the party's face again for the 2022 polls, Sidhu threw his hat into the ring. Though 'pacified' with the State party chief's post, Sidhu has a much bigger agenda. Therefore, his endless histrionics are the order of the day. One of the biggest assets of an ambitious politician is patience. When the BJP had

A picture worth a thousand emotions



picture of a little Afghan refugee girl hopping on the tarmac of an airport in Belgium, after alighting from the aircraft, has gone viral, giving the world some hope in an otherwise hopeless scenario. The photograph captured by photographer Johanna Geron has truly won the hearts of millions around the world. In contrast to the heartbreaking and blood-curdling images

and stories, this picture has undoubtedly brightened the hearts of all. The picture of this happy innocent little girl skipping on the tarmac as she follows some adults, who seem to be her parents, is truly a symbol of hope and the desire to live.

Though many were fortunate to escape from the clutches of the Taliban, lakhs of others are still under the mercy of these fanatics and fundamentalists. It is here that this one photograph, clicked at Melsbroek military airport in Belgium, urges the whole of mankind to help and liberate the people who are forced to lead a life of woe and misery. This photo symbolising hope, promise and a better tomorrow has struck a chord in the hearts of millions around the globe and is sure to remain etched in the hearts of those who truly believe in freedom.

M Pradyu | Kannur

little time for an impatient Sidhu, he left the party in a huff.

Despite being given a patient hearing and due support from none other than Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra, Sidhu's histrionics continue to ruffle the party. But Sidhu's *bete noire* is an old war horse. The formidable Captain Amarinder Singh is not an easy nut to crack and is unlikely to budge an inch, and Sidhu's restlessness is on the rise. A waiting game almost always pays for a determined politician. It is not wrong to

should have his feet firmly grounded. Ganapathi Bhat | Nagpur

PUBLIC INTEREST DIRECTORS BE MADE PUBLIC

have stars in his eyes, but the wily Sidhu

Sir — The Security and Exchange Board of India should direct the companies to share the complete notings on selection of Public Interest Directors (PIDs) of all companies on their respective websites apart from putting these on the website. If such notings can be provided in case of Central Information Commissioners, including also names of those having applied for the post though not selected, then there is no logic in declining the same even under provisions of the RTI Act under Section 8(1)(j) of RTI Act being personal in nature. Otherwise also as the name Public Interest Directors indicates, it is in larger public inter-

est to put all their details on the website. Likewise, after the Supreme Court allowed making inspection reports of banks public under RTI Act, there is no logic in declining the same in respect of companies under the RTI Act as being of commercial confidence and being held in fiduciary capacity. Since a huge amount of public-money is invested in companies, Sebi should rather directly put inspectionreports on websites of respective companies apart from putting these on SEBI website itself. RTI Act also provides any information that can be accessed by the Parliament or State Legislature to be provided under RTI Act, therefore complete notings on selection of PIDs and inspection-reports should also be mandatorily put on websites under section 4(1)(b) of

Subhash Chandra Agrawal | Delhi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

The Punjab Govt must revise the tariffs paid to private power plants, making the faulty power purchase agreements null

> **Punjab Congress president** Navjot Singh Sidhu



and void.

Palestinian Chairman Mahmoud Abbas and told him that Israel seeks to take measures that will strengthen the PA's

> Israeli Defence Minister – Benny Gantz

Lord Krishna has been an inevitable part of my life. My parents used to say that as a child, used to do pranks like Kanha

- Kailash Kher

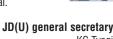


display by @AvaniLekhara to win India its first Paralympic gold medal in shooting. Many congratulations

on your shot at history. Olympic gold medallist

— Abhinav Bindra

Nitish Kumar is not a candidate for the post of the Prime Minister but he certainly is PM



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Human effort in history is a strange mix of banality and benevolence



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

eriodically, the Homo Sapiens pass through a seminal experience that affects the very core of their existence. Millions of years ago, when the wheel was discovered, it was a seminal revolution. Human civilisation and culture depended on the outcome of this experience. All this happened so long ago that there is no record or information on where this revolution began or did it begin parallelly in many parts of the globe at the same or at different points of time. One doesn't know whether the wheel was one man's idea or a collective effort. So distant it is in the hoary past that no one has ever thought of even celebrating this break through. Similar is the story of fire - again, a basic revolution. Not much is known about the discovery of fire. The list can be added to. Similar is the issue of discovery of iron or the invention of firearms. Given the brevity of a human life, the active years are less than half of one's existence. Given the millennia that have passed in human



growth, a human lifespan would occupy even less space than a speck on the canvas of time. Imagine the level of insignificance when compared to the evolution of a planet. Notwithstanding this truth, seminal times have been many in human history. They have even varied from region to region and few of them have had global impact concurrently. The last century and the first two decades of the present one have been transformative. August 6, 1945 is etched in glass because of the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima. Along with Nagasaki, both are a grim reminder - if any be needed— that human beings have no limits to what they can wreck on one another. There is no record of any regret having been expressed in words or behaviour to the civilisation-altering, conscious effort at human devastation. If anything, it led to a global race for possession of atom bombs, hydrogen bombs and more. Human civilisation lives today with 'bomb-mines' with a magnitude which belies comprehension. There are nobler sides of the human effort too. And if the earth still rotates around its axis, it is because human beings are capable of equally elevating efforts. Many could possibly conclude that human effort in history is a strange mix of banal-

Be that as it may, the present COVID times are a grim reminder that everything that happens is not necessarily within the domain of human comprehension to begin with. The human species has to grow to comprehend this. Here is an experience the logical origin of which is unknown. The parameters of mutation stand very largely unprogrammed, the responses, be it of prevention or the antidote by way of vaccination, etc., have areas of grey. There is no knowing when it will end. Surely, these are seminal times. It may be an error to believe one thing or another. This virus may never fade away or indeed it may continue in a more transformed manner. The core message is to develop a realistic vision of human competence and capabilities; to have the wisdom and fortitude to recognise one's own divinity but with a modesty of recognition to its reach. Human beings need one another. They need to do the best they can to keep the species evolving and growing. Today, that message to the Homo Sapiens who began their journey with the wheel may be as significant as any revolution this planet has seen. The sooner we wake up to this truth, the better we will cope with the pandemic.

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

expressed are personal.)

Is India clueless on Afghanistan?



SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY

The Govt must consider its options in remaining engaged with Afghanistan and of ordinary people who boldly placed their faith in Indian leadership

aliban takeover of Kabul on August 15 was noisy but the desperate appeals of innocent Afghans who wanted to leave the country for securing their individual liberty could not be arranged adequately by the international community. Taliban has already taken over most of the provinces, but Kabul is the cherry topping.

India has been largely silent. As of now, it is not clear what the Narendra Modi Government's policies are with regard to the situation in Afghanistan. On the ground, it chose to make India "speak with its feet" with Indians fleeing through Governmentprovided flights. But not all have left due to Talban allies' terror in the provinces and near the Kabul airport.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi early on ordered the full evacuation of the Indian Embassy and all Indian personnel within hours of Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani's departure from the Presidential Palace. A little earlier, Indian diplomats and staff had departed from Kandahar and other provincial capitals to reach Kabul. Most Indians have been evacuated.

At the UN Security Council in New York and UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, India has expressed its worries about terrorism, human rights and refugees, but has not mentioned the Taliban itself even once by name. And in India, the Government appears to be just as mute, as thousands of Afghans clamour for visas, and get no reply, focusing instead on the task of bringing a few hundred Indian nationals back home.

The Modi Government's silence is in sharp contrast to the past, particularly the last 20 years till recently. India had then been at the forefront of discussions in Afghanistan and on Afghanistan. India's role strengthened over the tenure of three different Governments in Delhi in three areas: infrastructure building and development assistance, encompassing all 34 provinces of the country; building democracy, such as in helping script the Constitution and technical assistance to hold elections; and educational investment, as also allowing thousands of young Afghans to study in India, be trained as professionals and soldiers, and become skilled.

India was the first country that Afghanistan signed a strategic partnership with, the only country that undertook perilous but ambitious projects such as a new arliament building , the Zaranj-Delaram Highway, and the Chabahar port project in Iran, the infrastructure for transit trade. As a consequence, India by far is the one country that polled consistently highest among countries that Afghan people trusted.

It seems inconceivable and incomprehensible that the Government can choose to simply walk away from such capital invested and nurtured, regardless of the developments in Afghanistan, the domestic political considerations in India and geopolitical sensitivities of some neighbours. Therefore, it would be abdication of respon-



IN DEALING WITH THE TALIBAN REGIME, THE MODI GOVERNMENT MUST DETERMINE THE NATURE OF ITS ENGAGEMENT WITH THIS NEW REGIME. THE QUESTION OF WHETHER INDIA WILL MOVE FROM ITS FRUITLESS **BACK-CHANNEL** TALKS WITH THE TALIBAN AND WITH PAKISTAN IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, INTO SOMETHING

SUBSTANTIVE

REMAINS

TO BE SEEN

(The writer is a BJP MP

and former Union

Minister. The views

expressed are personal.)

sibility. The Government must instead consider all its options in remaining engaged with Afghanistan for its future and of the ordinary people of Afghanistan who boldly placed their faith in Indian leadership.
For this, to begin with, it is nec-

essary to acknowledge the hard agonising truth that no other power from the West to the East has considered India's interests or contribution to date, while charting the course on Afghanistan.

Such shocking blocking out of India has been found in the cut-out of several quadrilateral arrangements, e.g., the main negotiations held by the "Troika plus" consisting of the United States-Russia-China-Pakistan that pushed for a more "inclusive Government" by including the Taliban; the alternative grouping of Russia-Iran-China-Pakistan that formed a "regional arc" that has today enabled them to retain their Embassies in Kabul; and the connectivity quadrilaterals formed by the US and China, respectively, with Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan, that depend heavily on Taliban protection and Pakistani port access. India is nowhere in these arrangements-a loud denigration of the Modi Government.

Neither India's so-called traditional strategic and defence partner, Russia, nor its currently fastest-growing global strategic partner, the United States, thought it important to include India in any confabulation or insist that their envoys, Zamir Kabulov (who is Russian President Vladimir Putin's special envoy to Afghanistan) and Zalmay Khalilzad (US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation), briefed their counterparts in New Delhi about the details of their negotiations with the Taliban leadership.

New Delhi was unable to assure its diplomatic staff that they would be secure from Taliban militia and their Pakistani benefactors, in order to keep diplomats in Kabul. It was able to negotiate a diplomatic outpost at Kabul airport that would allow it to place a core team as with the US, the United Kingdom and other North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries, it is time to accept India's diplomacy was a huge failure. This acceptance will mean that India's foreign policy needsa reset and a new diplomat-

strategy. While the Modi Government found it inconvenient to vocally protest the talks with the Taliban and the extended line to Pakistan to facilitate the talks with these "friendly" global leaders thus far, it is necessary for India to publicly decry such an outcome that has clearly worked against India's interests till now.

In order to do so, India must begin by rallying in the United Nations, to exert its influence, explicitly in its own interest, and that of the still existing on paper, the Afghan 'Republic" in the UN, which cannot be allowed to be just abandoned.

At the UN Security Council (UNSC) in the remained period as Chairman, India must be vocal about its abhorrence of a Taliban-run Alghanistan that seeks to reverse the gains of democracy developing in the past two decades. A pathetic diluted statement that India drafted as UNSC president on August 16 did not even mention opposition to theso-called "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan".

India must thereafter take a leading role in the debate over who will be nominated to Afghanistan's seat at the UN, and whether the Republic's appointed current Ambassador will remain, or the seat declared "vacant", or even "suspended" depending on the new regime in Afghanistan committing to international norms on human rights, women's rights, minority rights and others.

As Chairman of the Taliban Sanctions Committee (or the 1988 Sanctions Committee), India must not act shy, but in fact use its muscle to ensure terrorists such as Sirajuddin Haqqani and other members of the Haqqani group responsible for brutal suicide bombings on Indian embassies and consulates, not be given any exemptions: on travel, recourse to funds, or arms.

Thus, Prime Minister Modi's forthcoming speech at the UN General Assembly scheduled for September 25th will be an appropriate occasion to express India's position on the civilised future of Afghanistan and thus challenge the rest of the international community to refuse legitimisation of the Taliban regime, unless the regime is willing to negotiate on all these

In dealing with the Taliban regime, the Modi Government must determine the nature of its engagement with this new regime. The question of whether India will movefrom its fruitless back-channel talks with the Taliban and with Pakistan in the past tew montns into something substantive remains to be seen.

In a world of hard geopolitical realities, it is also uniquely India's soft power, autonomy based on principles and a Hindu tradition selfless assistance to those in need, such examples as Parsis and Jews, particularlyhas been the unique voice of VasudhaivaKutumbakam. We must make that voice heard loud and clear on Afghanistan, loud

and clear and now

WHAT DOES THE CAPTAIN'S LEADERSHIP MEAN NOW AFTER THE KHARGE COMMITTEE'S DECISION TO CONTEST POLLS UNDER SONIA AND RAHUL GANDHI. — CONGRESS MLA

PARGAT SINGH





WE HAVE MANY NATIONAL AND LOCAL FACES, INCLUDING SONIA AND RAHUL GANDHI AND EVEN PARGAT SINGH HIMSELF. ONE SHOULD NOT BE IMPATIENT.

— PUNJAB CONGRESS IN-CHARGE

HARISH RAWAT

Afghanistan in transition, no end to turmoil in sight

Is India's calculated wait-and-watch stand purposeful or an attempt to find a prominent role for itself in dealing with Afghan affairs?

fghanistan, having a population of 3.84 crore, a per capita GDP of \$580 and an average annual in this in the strength of the s individual income of 14 lakh in Afghan currency (2020 figures), was not an Íslamic country to begin with. It was not fully under the control of the British either. It is an irony that August 18 is observed as the 102nd Independence Day of this country that takes pride only in taking revenge, if a prominent dialogue in a Rambo blockbuster is to be

believed. World Bank data indicates that Afghanistan is one of the six poorest countries and that only Somalia, Burundi and Sierra Leone have a lower GDP per head. But the population growth of 2.33 per cent (fertility rate of 4.55 births per



AALOC SRIVASTAV

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IAS officer and former Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim.

The views expressed are personal.)

female) can be adjudged definitely on the higher side.

The ethnic groups of Pashtun, Tajiks, Hazaras and Uzbeks, speaking mainly Dari and Pashto languages, used to inhabit four major territories of Balkh, Herat, Ghazni and

The Pashtuns or Pathans who primarily followed Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu religions till the 8th or 9th century began converting to Islam with the advent of acts of loot and sacrilege perpetrated by foreign tribal and non-tribal chieftains and kings such as Ghenghis Khan of Mongolia. Ahmed Shad Durrani is considered as the ablest of them, though

Presently, this beautiful and enchanting country having a tough terrain with immense



metallic and opium production potential comprises 99.7 per cent Muslims, of whom 88.9 per cent are Sunnis — same as in Pakistan but diagrammatically opposite to Iran where Shias are in the majority.

When Islam began dominating, the number of Sikhs and Hindus was bound to register a rapid fall, so much so that their combined strength was barely one thousand according to the last count.

Now, exactly 655 Sikhs and Neo-Taliban. Hindus are being evacuated.

On 15th August, when India was celebrating the 75th anniversary of independence, co-incidentally in Afghanistan, it was a different ball game, a different kind of liberation that was happening.President Ashraf Ghani lost no time in ed to be the 'D' date for ultifleeing with close associates and lots of cash. His predecessor Hamid Karjai stayed back and is now getting closer to old foe Abdullah Abdullah, the

outgoing CEO. While shrewd, sophisticated and westernised Abdulla has declared that God will decide the fate of the now-former President, a statement from Karjai is very much awaited. One will not be surprised if their hand is later discovered in the 'return' of the reasons, has kept herself sub-

Is Afghanistan in the doldrums again? What would happen to this cold, dry fruitand opium-producing mountainous country, now that a "non-peaceful transfer" of power has become reality?

Though August 31 is slatmate pullout by the US, the

UK,France Germany, Taliban or Talb—e-Ilam (literal meaning — seekers of knowledge) were closewatching and following the developments from their strongholds in many pockets of Afghanistan and offered bases to a handful of friendly Islamic countries. China, meanwhile, has made it clear to have

friendly ties with the new

regime. Pakistan, for obvious

dued or may have consciously decided to maintain a low

The facade of the Doha talks was arranged in a haste, by purposely sidelining India.India's late participation in "apology to talks", at the relatively low level of a Joint Secretary, proves that its Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam policy received a setback. Despite her two-decades-long involvement in the re-development efforts, this strange country is still to get out of drugs, arms and ammunition and an ever-ready Inclination

to fight for the cause of Islam. Was India's slow but calculated wait-and-watch stand purposeful or was it due to her utter helplessness in the rapidly changing scenario? India will have to be more

proactive given the large presence of Afghans in India.

Only the passage of time will tell if the bold act of Pakistan to recognise Taliban or the complete silence of the entire Islamic world has paid off.

in the emerging sce-

nario,a vital buffer State is Iran and it may be slipping out of India's horizon. Iran may choose to react after getting a sense of what is happening in Afghanistan; that much can be expected after the recent change of guard in Tehran. The stand of Israel, in view of rapid developments in the Islamic world, will have to be also watched, particularly after her successful diplomatic ties with UAE and Morocco that were reportedly brokered by the US.

'Guide Taliban actively': China to US | Pak NSA denies 'warning' of second 9/11 if West

All parties' should establish contact with Taliban: China

China has told the US that the Afghanistan situation has undergone fundamental changes and it is necessary for "all parties" to make contact with the Taliban and "guide it actively", reiterating that America's troop withdrawal may provide an opportunity for the resurgence of terrorist

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, during his telephonic conversation with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Sunday, discussed the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan amidst chaotic airlifts of Afghan civilians and diplomats by the US and NATO countries before the August 31 deadline.



Wang and Blinken also discussed bilateral ties which were riddled with tensions over a host of issues.

The Chinese Foreign Minister said the situation in Afghanistan has undergone fundamental changes and it is necessary for "all parties" to make contact with the Taliban and "guide it actively", state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The US, in particular, needs to work with the international community to provide Afghanistan with urgently-needed economic, livelihood

and humanitarian assistance. help the new Afghan political structure maintain normal operation of government institutions, maintain social security and stability, curb currency depreciation and inflation and embark on the journey of peaceful reconstruction at an

early date, Wang said. Facts have proved again that the Afghanistan war never achieved the goal of eliminating terrorist forces in Afghanistan and the hasty withdrawal of the US and NATO troops is likely to offer

Qatar played an outsized role in US efforts to evac-

uate tens of thousands of peo-

ple from Afghanistan. Now the tiny Gulf Arab state is

being asked to help shape what

is next for Afghanistan because

of its ties with both Washington

rorist groups in Afghanistan to regroup, Wang told Blinken.

Wang urged the US to take concrete actions to help Afghanistan combat terrorism and violence on the premise of respecting its sovereignty and independence, instead of practicing double standards or fighting terrorism selectively.

On China-US relations, The Chinese Foreign Minister said that dialogue is better than confrontation and cooperation is better than conflict, and that the Chinese side will consider how to engage with Washington based on its attitude towards Beijing.

If the US side also hopes to bring bilateral relations back on the right track, it should stop blindly smearing and attacking China, and stop undermining China's sovereignty, security and development interests, Wang added. Their conversation fol-

Qatar emerges as key

lowed the first round of highlevel military talks after US President Joe Biden came to

power in January during which the two sides discussed the rapidly-evolving situation.

China, along with Russia and Pakistan, has kept its Embassy in Kabul open. Wang Yu, Chinese Ambassador in Afghanistan,

held first diplomatic talks with

held first diplomatic talks with the Taliban officials recently. China, which is closely coordinating with its "all-weather ally" Pakistan to evolve its Afghanistan policy follow-ing the withdrawal of troops by the US, has held two rounds of the US, has held two rounds of talks with the Taliban.

Last month, Beijing hosted a Taliban delegation headed by its senior leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar.

In his talks with Baradar, Foreign Minister Wang asked the Taliban to break away from the terrorist groups and not allow the Uygur militant group from Xinjiang — the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) — to operate from Afghanistan.

After the Taliban returned to power, China has asked it to build an open and inclusive

sultation, implement moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies, thoroughly dissociate from all terrorist groups and maintain friendly relations with the rest of the world, especially neighbouring coun-

The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, two weeks before the US was set to complete its troop withdrawal after a costly twodecade war. This forced Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to flee the country to the UAE.

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

Thousands of Afghan nationals and foreigners are fleeing the country to escape the new Taliban regime and to seek asylum in different nations, including the US and many European nations, resulting in total chaos at Kabul air-

didn't recognise Taliban

AGENCY ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan National Security Adviser (NSA) Moeed Yousuf's latest interview has sparked a controversy after it was indicated that the security official suggested the risk of 'second 9/11' if the Western countries do not recognise Taliban.

However, in a statement issued later on Sunday, the Office of the Pak NSA asked 'The Times' to retract what they called a "frivolous" interpretation of Mr Yusuf's interview with journalist Christina Lamb.

The office of Pak NSA said the story titled "Work with the Taliban or Repeat the Horror of the 1990s, West Told," published in The Times on August 28, 2021, wrongly interpreted the interview of NSA Dr Moeed Yusuf.

In The Times interview, Mr Yusuf had said, "Mark my words. If the mistakes of the Nineties are made again and

Afghanistan abandoned, the outcome will be absolutely the same — a security vacuum filled by undesirable elements who will threaten everyone, Pakistan and the West."

Pak NSA's office termed the British publication's story as a "gross mischaracterisation" of the conversation that took

place between journalist Lamb and Yousuf. "At no point did he state that the West should 'immediately recognize' the Taliban, as the article states. Nor was there any 'warning' of a second 9/11 linked to formal 'recognition' of the Taliban," the statement

from Mr Yousuf's office said, as quoted by Radio Pakistan. This controversy comes as many experts and the majority of Afghans believe that Islamabad is behind the Taliban's aggressive advance against the government forces in Afghanistan and that Islamabad has been assisting the terror group on all possible

White House: US has capacity to evacuate remaining Americans

AP WASHINGTON

The United States has the capacity to evacuate the approximately 300 US citizens remaining in Afghanistan who want to leave before President Joe Biden's Tuesday deadline, senior Biden administration officials said, as another US drone strike against suspected Islamic State militants underscored the grave threat in the

"This is the most dangerous time in an already extraordinarily dangerous mission these last couple of days," America's top diplomat, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, said not long before confirmation of that airstrike in Kabul, the capital.

Americans kept pace even as a

new State Department security alert, issued hours before the military action, instructed people to leave the airport area immediately "due to a specific,

The evacuation flow of

adviser, Jake Sullivan, said that for those US citizens seeking Afghanistan by the looming deadline, "we have the capacto have 300 Americans, which is roughly the number we think are remaining, come to the airport and get on planes in the time that is remaining. We moved out more than that number just yesterday. So from our point of view, there is an opportunity right now for American citizens to come, to be admitted to the airport and to be evacuated safely and

CIN: L65910PB1981PLC023058

Regd. Office: Premises Oswal Woollen Mills Limited, G.T. Road, Sherpur, Ludhiana-141003 PB
Ph.: +91-161-5066605, Email: kovalam@owmnahar.com

Notice is hereby given that the 39th Annual General Meeting (AGM) 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) to transact the businesses, as set out in the Notice convening the 39th AGM of the Company.

Iransact the businesses, as set out in the Notice convening the 39" AGM of the Company, In view of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, the 39" Annual General Meeting (AGM) is convened through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") In accordance with the General Circular numbers 14/2020, 17/2020, 20/2020 and 02/2021, dated April 08, 2020, April 13, 2020, May 5, 2020 and January 13, 2021 respectively, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Circular numbers SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020 and SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/111 dated January 15, 2021 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Unersinafter

2021 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (hereinafter collectively referred to as 'MCA Circulars and SEBI Circulars') which allow the companies to hold AGM through VC/OAVM, which does not require physical presence of members at a common venue. The deemed venue for the 39th AGM shall be the Registered Office of the Company i.e. Premises Oswal Woollen Mills Limited, G.T. Road, Sherpur, Luchiera 14003 Pusing

Unice of the Company I.e. Premises Oswai Woollen Mills Limited, G.T. Road, Sherpur, Ludhiana-141003, Punjab. Incompliance with aforesaid circulars, the Notice of 39th AGM and the Annual Report for the financial year 2020-2021 has been electronically sent on Monday, August 30, 2021, to the shareholders whose Email Id's are registered with the Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent, Alankit Assignments Limited/ Depository Participants (DPs) and the same are also available on the Company's website at www.owmnahar.com, website of Stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited at www.owmnahar.com, website of Stock Exchange website at www.owmnahar.com, website at www.owmnahar.com, website at www.owmnahar.com, website at www.owmnahar.com, website of Stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited at www.owmnahar.com, website at www.owmnahar.com, website of Stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited at www.owmnahar.com, website at www.owmnahar.com, website of Stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited at www.owmnahar.com, website at www.owmnahar.com, website of Stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited at www.owmnahar.com, website of Stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited in www.owmnahar.com, website of Stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited in www.owmnahar.com, website of Stock Exchange i.e. BSE with the Cost in www.owmnahar.com, website of Stock Exchange i.e. BSE with the Cost in www.owmnahar.com, website of Stock Exchange i.e. <a href="https

website at www.evotingindia.com.
Book Closure: Notice is also hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of Section 91 of the

Book Closure: Notice is also hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rules made thereunder and Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that the Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Tuesday, September 21, 2021 to Monday, September 27, 2021 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of 39th AGN. Shareholders holding shares in physical form and who have not updated their email addresses with the Company are requested to update their email addresses to Registrar and Transfer Agents of the Company, Alankit Assignments Limited and Members holding shares in dematerialized form are requested to register/update their email addresses with the relevant Deposition. Participants along with decompants as mantingrain in the Nethers of AGN for

Depository Participants along with documents as mentioned in the Notice of AGM for

Depository Participants along with occurrents as the management of email address.

Manner of joining the AGM: Instructions for attending the AGM through VC/OAVM are provided in the Notice of 39th AGM of the Company.

Remote E-Voting and E-Voting during the AGM: In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 (as amended) and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, read with MCA Circulars and SEBI Circulars, the Company is provided the familiar of remote e-voting to the shareholders, to exercise their right

is pleased to provide the facility of remote e-voting to the shareholders, to exercise their right to vote on the resolutions proposed to be passed at the AGM. The facility of casting votes by the members using an electronic voting system and for participating in the 39* AGM through VC/OAVM facility along with e-Voting during the AGM will be provided by Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL). The EVSN (E-voting sequence number) is allotted to Company

by CUSL is 210814004.

The details are required to be given under the act and rules made thereunder are as follows:

The remote e-voting shall commence on Friday, September 24 2021 at 09:00 A.M. (IST) and ends on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 05:00 P.M. (IST). The e-voting module shall be disabled for voting thereafter and Members will not be allowed to vote electronically beyond the said date and time and once the vote on a resolution is cast by a member, he/she shall set be allowed to change it by the control of the production
not be allowed to change it subsequently. E-Voting shall also be made available at the 39

AGM and the members who have not cast their vote through remote e-voting shall be able

to vote at the 39° AGM.

The members of the Company holding shares as on cut-off date i.e. Monday, September 20, 2021 (EOD). The voting rights of the members shall be in proportion to their

shares of the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on cut-off date. 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, participation in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility and e-voting during the AGM.

By order of the Board of Directors

credible threat." Biden's national security

and the Taliban, who are in charge in Kabul. Qatar will be among global heavyweights on Monday when US Secretary of State Antony Blinken hosts a virtual meeting to discuss a coordinated approach for the days ahead, as the US caompletes its withdrawal from Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover

of the country. The meeting will also include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the

United Kingdom, Turkey, the European Union and NATO.

Qatar is also in talks about providing civilian technical assistance to the Taliban at Kabul's international airport

TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Engineer (Br. Line) HQ @

Central Railway, G. M. Building, 2nd

Floor, CSMT Mumbai- 400001 invites

-bids at e-Procurement website,

"http://www.ireps.gov.in" for the following work. SN:1 Tender Notice

No. & date: CR-Br. MMR/14/2021

2022 dtd. 27.08.2021 Name of work: Provision of Inspection cradle on Open Web Spans on Machna Br. No. 802/1

Up & Dn, 4/30.5m spans, Saheli Br. Dn, 1/45.7m span on ET-NGP section

and Wunna Br. Up & Dn 4/45.7m spans, Pothra Br. Up 2/45.7m spans & Rai Br Dn on WR-BPQ sections on

NGP division. Approx cost of Work:

Rs. 2,12,09,949.73/- Earnest Money

Rs.: Nil Cost of Tender Document:

Nil Completion Period: 12 Months

SN:2 Tender Notice No. & date: CR-

Br. MMR/15/2021-2022 dtd.

27.08.2021 Name of work: Provision

of Permanent bearing inspection

arrangement on TGB for facilitation of

C&G and inspection of underside of

Bearings on various bridges over

Shusawal division. Approx cost of

Work: Rs. 1.48.82.634.04/- Earnest

Money Rs.: Nil Cost of Tender

Document: Nil Completion Period:

date: CR-Br. MMR/16/2021-2022

dtd. 27.08.2021 Name of work:

Regirdering of Karanalla br. No. 514/1

Up & Dn, 2/17.68m span on BSL

KNW section on Bhusawal Division Approx cost of Work: Rs.

08 42 925 53/- Earnest Money Rs.

Nil Cost of Tender Document: Nil

Completion Period: 12 Months SN:4

Tender Notice No. & date: CR-Br

MMR/17/2021-2022 dtd. 27.08.2021

Name of work: Repairing of Footpath

15 Bridges) and jacketing brackets

(17 Bridges) on various track bridges

and composite bridges of various sections on Nagpur Division. Approx

cost of Work: Rs. 2,48,89,491.19/-

Earnest Money Rs.: Nil Cost of Tender Document: Nil Completion Period: 12 Months SN:5 Tender

Notice No. & date: CR-Br. MMR/18/2021-2022 dtd. 27.08.2021

Name of work: 1) Replacement of

corroded member of rail bearer

chequered plate, corroded/loose

rivets on various bridges over NGP

division. 2) Provision of Footpath and decking plates on Machna Br. No. 802,

On, Wardha Br. No. 727/1 Up & Dn and

Wunna Br. No. 788/1Dn on various ections on Nagpur division. Approx

cost of Work: Rs. 88.31.282.46/-

Earnest Money Rs.: Nil Cost of Tender Document: Nil Completion

Period: 09 Months. Date & Time of

Closing: 04.10.2021 at 15.00 Hrs Date & Time of opening: 04.10.2021

at 15.30 Hrs. Complete information of

above e-tender notice is available on

website "http://www.ireps.gov.in"

Bids other than in the form of e-bids

shall not be accepted against above



Afghan children who were evacuated from Afghanistan are served ice cream cones in a temporary housing compound, in Doha, Qatar. Qatar played an out-sized role in US efforts to evacuate tens of thousands of people from Afghanistan

Taliban-controlled Mazar-e-Sharif

once the US Military with-drawal is complete on Tuesday.

Qatar said its main priority is restoring regular operations while preserving safety and security at the airport facilities. Meanwhile, international UN agencies are asking Qatar for help and support in delivering aid to Afghanistan. Qatar's role was somewhat unexpected.

carrying medical essentials

from the World Health

Organization (WHO) landed at

the Mazar-i-Sharif Airport -

the first international flight to

the city after the Taliban swept

Afghanistan in mid-August,

state-run Associated Press of

Pakistan reported.

Qatar's Foreign Ministry

confirmed to The Associated Press it has been taking part in negotiations about the operations of the Kabul airport with Afghan and international parties, mainly the United States

CENTRAL RAILWAY Pak delivers medical supplies in

Islamabad: Pakistan on

Monday delivered WHO med-

ical supplies to northern

Afghanistan's Mazar-e-Sharif,

the fourth largest city of the

country which fell to the

Airlines (PIA) flight - PK-234

A Pakistan International

Taliban on August 14.

PTI ■ LONDON and holding the Taliban to account on human rights. In particular, the minister is expected to stress the impor-

efforts after exit from Af

UK plans series of diplomatic

The UK Government has said it will continue to drive a coordinated international response to Afghanistan under Taliban control after its last troops left the country over the weekend, with a series of diplomatic efforts planned from Monday. According to diplomatic

sources in the Foreign, Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab will participate in a meeting with Qatar, Turkey, fellow G7 partners and NATO on

He will use the US chaired meeting with "like-minded partners" on Afghanistan to emphasise the UK's four international priorities: preventing Afghanistan from becoming a haven for terrorists; responding to the humanitarian plight; safeguarding regional stability;

tance of ensuring the Taliban stand by their commitment to allow "safe passage" for foreign nationals and Afghans authorised to enter third countries.

Pak's borders are secured: Gen Bajwa

Islamabad: Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Monday assured lawmakers that the country's borders are secured and his forces are prepared to meet "any" situation, amid the evolving situation in neighbouring Afghanistan.
"Due to our timely steps

for western zone border management, today despite challenges Pakistan's borders are secure and we are prepared to meet any situation," Gen Bajwa

Pakistan says world must brace for 'huge mess' if its advice on Af ignored

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Monday warned of potential spillovers from the Afghan crisis, saying the world would have to deal with a "huge mess" if its advice on the war-torn country was

Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said that the world must listen to Pakistan as "in the recent past, Pakistan's advice had not been paid heed to, and if Pakistan and the prime minister's advice was listened to, the situation would have been different."

In an interview with TRT World, which was published by Dawn, the minister said the situation in Afghanistan was "very worrying" for Pakistan, recalling that "we had to deal with the problems when the Soviet Union left Afghanistan

EU takes US off safe travel list, backs travel restrictions

The European Union rec-**I** ommended on Monday that its 27 nations reinstate restrictions on tourists from the US because of rising coronavirus infections there.

The decision by the European Council to remove **PTI** the US from a safe list of coun-

reverses advice that it gave in June, when the bloc recommended lifting restrictions on US travellers before the summer tourism season.

The guidance is nonbinding, however, and US travellers should expect a mishmash of travel rules across the contiCovid-19 tourism policy and national EU Governments have the authority to decide whether they keep their borders open to

The EU also removed Israel, Kosovo, Lebanon, Montenegro and North Macedonia from the safe trav-

Abbas, Israel's Gantz hold new high-level talks, urged by US

Jerusalem: Israel's defense minister has held talks with the Palestinian president in the occupied West Bank, the first high-level meeting between the two sides in years, officials said.

Sunday's meeting between Benny Gantz and Mahmoud Abbas signaled a possible shift of direction after the nearcomplete breakdown of communication between Abbas and Israeli leaders in recent years. It came two days after

new prime minister during a White House meeting to take steps toward improving the lives of Palestinians. Gantz's office said he told Abbas that Israel will take new measures to strengthen the Palestinian economy. It said they also discussed

security issues and agreed to remain in touch. It was believed to be the highest level public meeting between the sides

IAEA: N Korea appears to have resumed nuke reactor operation Seoul: North Korea appears to

have restarted the operation of its main nuclear reactor used to produce weapons fuels, the UN atomic agency said, as the North openly threatens to enlarge its nuclear arsenal amid long-dormant nuclear diplomacy with the United States.

The annual report by the International Atomic Energy Agency refers to a 5-megawatt reactor at the North's main nuclear complex in Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang. The reactor produces plutonium, one of the two key ingredients used to build nuclear weapons along with highly enriched uranium.

"Since early July 2021, there have been indications, including the discharge of cooling water, consistent with the operation of the reactor," said the IAEA report dated on Friday.

The report said there were indications of the operation of Yonbyon's radiochemical laboratory from mid-February to early July this year. It said this period of operation is consistent with previous reprocessing campaigns announced by N Korea of irradiated fuel discharged from the reactor. The laboratory is a facility where plutonium is extracted by reprocessing spent fuel rods removed from reactors.

Astronaut gets ice cream delivery for **50th birthday**

Cape Canaveral (US): A space station astronaut is celebrating her 50th birthday with the coolest present ever - a supply ship bearing ice cream and other treats. SpaceX's latest cargo delivery showed up Monday at the International Space Station after a day in transit. Overseeing the automated docking was NASA astronaut Megan McArthur.

"No one's ever sent me a spaceship for my birthday before. I appreciate it," she radioed after the capsule

Hurricane Ida weakens

Germany arrests woman accused of helping ISIS

AGerman woman was arrested on Monday on suspicion of helping the Islamic State group by backing efforts to transfer money to militants prosecutors said. The suspect, identified only

as Denise \bar{S} ., was arrested in Geretsried, near Munich and faces possible charges of supporting a foreign terrorist organisation. She is accused of supporting Aymen A.-J., an Iraqi man who was arrested in Germany earlier this year.

30 kph max: Paris shrinks speed limit to protect climate

No more zipping past the Eiffel Tower or through the Latin Quarter without slowing down to soak in the sights: Starting Monday, the speed limit on nearly all streets of Paris is just 30 kph (less than 19 mph).

It's the latest initiative by a city trying to burnish its climate credentials and transform people's relationship to their vehicles. City officials say it's also aimed at reducing accidents and making Paris more pedestrian-friendly.

Car owners are fuming.

Delivery drivers say it will create longer wait times for customers. Taxi drivers say it will drive up rates and hurt busi-

But polls suggest most Parisians support the idea, notably in hopes that it makes the streets safer and quieter. Already, cyclists often

move faster than cars in the densely populated French capital. And only action stars like Tom Cruise in "Mission Impossible" can realistically pick up speed on winding, medieval Parisian streets that are barely more than one car

as rescues begin **AP** ■ NEW ORLEANS and people began carefully

Hurricane Ida became a tropical storm as its top winds slowed over Mississippi on Monday, while across southeast Louisiana residents waited for daylight to be rescued from floodwaters and see how much damage was caused by one of the most powerful hurricanes ever to strike the US mainland.

All of New Orleans lost power right around sunset Sunday, leading to an uneasy night of pouring rain and howling winds. The weather died down shortly before dawn

walking around neighborhoods with flashlights, dodging downed light poles, pieces of roofs and branches. Levees failed or were overtopped in the maze of rivers

Orleans, threatening hundreds of homes. On social media, people posted their addresses and locations — directing search and rescue teams to their attics or rooftops. Officials promised to start

and bayous south of New

the massive rescue effort as the weather broke and the sun

Place: Ludhiana Date: August 30, 2021

ii. Any person who acquires shares of the Company and becomes member of the Company after the notice is sent and holds shares as on the cut-off date, i.e. September 20, 2021, may follow the same instructions as mentioned in the Notice of AGM for the process to be adopted for obtaining the User ID and password for casting the vote. Members attending the Meeting, who have not already cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be eligible to cast their vote through e-voting during the AGM. Members can attend the AGM even after exercising their right to vote through remote e-voting but shall not be allowed to vote again at the AGM. The detailed instructions for remote e-voting and e-voting during the AGM for shareholders holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for shareholders who have not registered their email addresses has been given in the Notice of 39th AGM of the Company. Members who have any queries or issues regarding attending AGM & e-Voting from the e-Voting System, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-voting

Punjab, Ph. 0161-5066605, E-mail Id: kovalam@owmnahar.com.

manual available at www.evotingindia.com, under help section or write an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or contact Mr. Nitin Kunder (022-23058738) or Mr. Mehboob Lakhani (022-23058542) or Mr. Rakesh Dalvi (022-23058542) or Toll Free No.

Lakhani (022-23058543) or Mr. Rakesh Dalvi (022-23058542) or foil Free No. 1800-200-5533. All grievances connected with the facility for remote e-voting may be considered to the control of the control

For Kovalam Investment and Trading Company Limited Sd./- (Jyoti Sud)

addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Manager, (CDSL,) Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futurex, Maratlald Mill Compounds, N M Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai - 400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or call on 022-23058542/43 or contact Ms. Jyoti Sud, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer. Premises Oswal Woollen Mills Ltd, G.T. Road, Sherpur, Ludhiana-141003, Decision 164545506075.

Gatishakti to ensure timely implementation of NIP projs

MINIMAL COST **OVERRUNS: GOVT OFFICIAL**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The ambitious ₹100 lakh crore-Gatishakti programme will provide the framework for timely implementation of the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) initiative with minimal cost overruns, Road Transport Secretary Giridhar Aramane said on Monday.

A holistic infrastructure development programme that aims to boost employment opportunities and productivity of industries, Gatishakti was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day speech on August 15. The initiative is set to be launched in September.

"Gatishakti provides the implementation framework for NIP. Gatishakti basically ensures that the National Infrastructure Pipeline is implemented in time and as per the original estimated cost, with very little overrun of costs and time," Aramane told PTI in an interview.

He did not provide specific details about Gatishakti.

The NIP was launched with 6,835 projects and the



numbers have expanded since

The projects identified under this ambitious programme are estimated to require an investment of ₹111 lakh crore during FY 2020-25

Both the initiatives will lay a key role in bolstering infrastructure development activities amid the country striving to become a USD 5 trillion economy in the near

'So, without Gatishakti, NIP implementation will be a huge problem. So, it is essential that we implement Gatishakti along with the NIP so that full efficiency is harvested," he said.Replying to a question, he said the entire process of launching the InvIT has been completed, NHAI also has discussed with various investors and there is a very good

"Canadian pension funds have shown interest (in NHAI InvIT), and some other investors from abroad are also interested.

"Domestic FIIs and other companies who are involved in the tolling contracts will also be interested in taking the stake,' Aramane, who is also chairman of NHAI, said.

According to him, there shall not be any problems in terms of the investments.

We are going with an appropriate size of the package, around 350 to 400 km. So, monetising that in a very appropriate fashion shall not be a problem," he said.

Sensex skyrockets 765 pts as markets maintain record run

The Sensex surged 765 points while the Nifty cruised past the 16,900-level on Monday as equity benchmarks maintained their record-setting spree on all-round buying amid supportive global cues.

A firm trend in the rupee, which rallied 40 paise against the US dollar, added to the momentum.

After touching a lifetime high of 56,958.27 during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 765.04 points or 1.36 per cent higher at its new closing peak of 56,889.76, extending its winning run for the third ses-

The broader NSE Nifty advanced for the sixth consecutive day, surging 225.85 points or 1.35 per cent to its record closing of 16,931.05.

It touched an all-time intra-day high of 16,951.50. The Nifty has closed at fresh lifetime highs in five of

the previous six sessions. Bharti Airtel was the top performer in the Sensex pack, rallying 4.44 per cent, after the company's board raising up to Rs 21,000 crore via a rights

Axis Bank, Tata Steel, Titan, Bajaj Finance, Maruti and SBI were among the other prominent gainers, spurting

up to 4.15 per cent.

Only four index components ended in the red -- Tech Mahindra, Nestle India, Infosys and TCS, sliding up to 1.88 per

Investors were richer by ₹3.56 lakh crore, with the mar-

₹ spurts 40 paise to over 2-month high on hopes of dollar inflows

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee surged by 40 paise to close at more than two-month high of 73.29 against the US dollar on Monday following dovish comments by the US Federal Reserve chairman on interest

A strong rally in the domestic equity markets and a weak American currency in the overseas markets also supported the rupee senti-

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened strong at 73.46 against the greenback and later moved in a range of 73.21 to 73.54 in the day trade.

ket capitalisation of all BSE-listed companies reaching a record ₹247.30 lakh crore.

"Domestic equities skyrocketed on strong global cues with benchmark Nifty is just one notch away to surpass 17,000 mark," said Binod Modi, Head-Strategy at Reliance Securities.

Dovish commentary from US Federal Reserve chairman in Jackson Hole Symposium lifted investors' sentiments globally, he noted

Financial and metals wit-

M-cap of BSE-listed cos zooms to record ₹247.30 lakh crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Driven by bullish sentiment in equities, the market capitalisation of BSElisted companies jumped to an all-time high of ₹ 2,47,30,108.97 crore on Monday.

Extending its winning momentum for the third session, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex ended 765.04 points or 1.36 per cent higher at 56,889.76, its new closing peak. During the day, it jumped 833.55 points to its lifetime high of 56,958.27.

In three days, the benchmark has gained 945.55 points. Thanks to the winning run in equities, the mar-

nessed sharp recovery. Barring IT, most key sectoral indices traded in green with decent rebound. Strong buying in midcap and smallcap stocks continued as recent correction made risk reward propositions favourable for investors, Modi said.

"Following a strong gap-up opening, equity benchmark indices maintained the trend throughout the day in line with the strength in global "Global markets markets. strengthened as the anxiety ket capitalisation of BSE-listed companies zoomed to ₹ 2,47,30,108.97 crore.

In a tweet, BSE CEO Ashish Chauhan said "congratulations India" as he mentioned about the equity market capitalisation on the exchange reaching an "all time high of USD 3.37 trillion. (INR 2.47 crore crore)".

He also tagged the handles of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the tweet.Investors have become richer by ₹5,76,600.66 crore in three days of market rally. The 30share BSE index had closed above the 56,000-mark for the first time on Friday.

over the Jackson Hole symposium subsided following the dovish tone of the Fed Chair. Jerome Powell stated sticking with the wait-and-see approach giving reassurance that the easy money policy will continue this year with a smaller rate of tapering," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Sectorally, BSE telecom, metal, power, basic materials, utilities and bankex rallied as much as 3.53 per cent, while IT and teck closed lower.

Exports from SEZs up 41.5 pc to ₹2.15 L cr during Apr-June 2021

PTI NEW DELHI

Exports from special eco-momic zones (SEZs) grew by about 41.5 per cent to ₹2.15 lakh crore during the April-June quarter of the current fiscal on account of healthy growth in pharmaceuticals, engineering, and gems and jewellery sectors, as per official

SEZs are key export hubs which contribute about one-fourth of the country's total outbound shipments.

According to commerce ministry data, exports from these zones dipped to ₹ 7.56 lakh crore in 2020-21 as against ₹7.97 lakh crore in 2019-20.

In the first quarter of the current financial year, SEZ exports rose about 41.5 per cent to ₹2.15 lakh crore.As many as 427 such zones have been approved by the Government, out of which 267 are operational as on June 30. The data showed that till June 30, ₹ 6.25 lakh crore have been invested in these zones and a total of 24.47 lakh people are employed there. Export Promotion Council for EoUs and SEZs (EPCES) is the nodal body, set up by the Commerce Ministry, to promote shipments from these zones. The council has announced Bhuvnesh Seth as its new chairman and Srikanth Badiga as the new vice-chair-

Niti Aayog suggests tax incentives for investment in InvITs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Niti Aayog has suggested to the Government to provide tax incentives for investment in InvITs, and bring them under the IBC to attract retail as well as institutional investors to achieve the goals of the National Monetisation Pipeline

The Aayog in consultation with infra line ministries has prepared and released a report on National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) this month. "More tax-efficient and

user-friendly mechanisms like allowing tax benefits in (InvITs) as eligible security to invest under Section 54EC of the Income-Tax Act, 1961, are important starting points for initiating retail participation in the instruments," the Aayog has recommended.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on August 23 had announced a Rs 6 lakh crore NMP scheme that will look to unlock value in infrastructure assets across sectors, ranging from power to road and rail-

Govt extends

by 2 years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

said on Monday.

ly notified

tenure of Canara,

Bank of India EDs

The Government has

▲ extended the tenure of two

executive directors of Canara

Bank and Bank of India for two

Canara Bank in a regula-

Director, for a period of

terms that expires on 10

Bank of India in a separate

years, the state-run lenders

tory filing said that the central

Government has extended the

term of office of A Manimekhalai, Executive

two years beyond her current-

February 2022, or until further

filing said that the term of

office of PR Rajagopal

Executive Director, has been

extended for a period of two

years, beyond his currently

notified term or until further

orders, whichever is earlier.

His current term was to expire

on February 28, 2022, the bank

ernment informed them about

The banks said the gov-

orders, whichever is earlier.



She had also said the asset monetisation does not involve the selling of land and it is about monetising brownfield assets. "Since the trusts are not considered as 'legal person' under the extant regulations, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) regulations are not applicable for InvIT loans. an existing process for recourse to project assets," Aayog has noted in the NMP guidebook.

While the lenders are protected under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) and the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, the provision of recourse under IBC regulations will bring in an added level of comfort for the investors, it observed.

SAT quashes Sebi ban on Yashovardhan Birla, others from securities market

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has quashed a Sebi order that had barred Yashovardhan Birla and others from the securities market for two years for alleged mis-utilisation of the IPO pro-The Sebi, in October 2020,

restrained Birla Pacific Medspa Ltd, Yashovardhan Birla and eight others from the securities market for two years for mis-utilisation of the IPO proceeds. Birla Pacific Medspa Ltd (BPML), which came out with offer documents in March 2011, had floated its over Rs 65core initial public offering (IPO) in June 2011.

said that the company made misstatements in the prospectus in respect of the objects of the IPO. Pursuant to Sebi's order, Yashovardhan Birla and other individuals moved SAT. These individuals were the signatories to the prospectus of Birla Pacific Medspa. In its order dated August 26, the SAT said that appellants did not make any misstatement in the prospectus. It, further, said that the finding given by the Sebi that there is a misstatement in

the prospectus which was done deliberately from the very inception in order to misuse the IPO proceeds and divert the proceeds through inter-corporate deposits (ICDs) to group companies is "perverse and based on surmises and conjectures which a prudent person cannot arrive at".

"It is settled law that a finding must be based on some facts but in the instant case the facts which has been brought on record shows that there is no misstatement in the prospectus and, therefore, the question of having some ulterior design from the very inception to divert the proceeds through ICDs is in our opinion stretching it a bit too far," it added.

not utilised in the manner stated in the prospectus it does mean that the subsequent action taken by the company indicates that there was a misstatement in the prospectus, the tribunal noted.

According to the tribunal, the interim use of funds in the prospectus clearly indicates that the IPO proceeds could be temporarily invested in interest or dividend bearing liquid instruments including deposits with bank, mutual funds etc.

Over 1,200 students participate in the Freshers' Induction program at SRMIST



Kattankulathur: The Freshers' Induction 2021-22 program for the College of Science and Humanities at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur was held virtually today (30 August 2021). Over 1200 students participated in this event.

The chief guest of the event Dr. NK Senthamarai Kannan, Inspector General of Police, Tamil Nadu & Commissioner the gathering. He said the Institute needs to take adequate precaution when classes start physically such as masking, washing, social distancing, and vaccination. Emphasizing on the need to become job creators, he urged the incoming students to focus on developing skills and have a multidisciplinary approach so that they become entrepreneurs. He pointed out that pandemic has changed the outlook of job opportunities.

COSCO (INDIA) LIMITED

(CIN: L25199DL1980PLC010173)

Registered Office: 2/8, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110007 Website: www.cosco.in; Email: mail@cosco.in;

Tel: 91-11-23843000; Fax: 91-11-23846000 BSE Trading Symbol: COSCO

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF COSCO (INDIA) LIMITED

In view of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs("MCA") vide its circular nos. 14/2020, 17/2020 20/2020 & 02/2021 issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs on April 8, 2020, April 13, 2020 May 5, 2020 and January 13, 2021 respectively (MCA Circulars) permitted to hold Annual General Meeting (AGM) through Video Conferencing/Other Audio-Visual Means ("VC/OAVM") facility without the physical presence of the members, at common venue. In compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013("The ACT") and Rules framed thereunder SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ["SEBI (LODR)"] read with SEBI Circulars nos. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 & SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated 12 May, 2020 & January 15, 2021 respectively ("SEBI Circulars"); and MCA Circulars, the Board of Directors of the Company has decided to convey the 42ndAGM of the Company on Thursday 30, September, 2021 at 12:00 Noon through Video Conferencing/Other Audio-Visual Means ("VC/OAVM") to transact the business that will be set out in the AGM Notice.

Please note that the requirement of sending physical copy of the Notice and Annual Report to the Members have been dispensed with vide MCA and SEB

To comply with the provisions of MCA and SEBI circulars, the Notice of the 42nd AGM and Annual Report of the Company for the FY 2020-21 along with the login details for joining the 42nd AGM through VC/OAVM including e-voting details will be sent only by e-mail Id, to all those members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company or Company Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (RTA) M/s. Skyline Financial Services Pvt. Ltd. or with their respective Depository Participants(DPs). Members can join and participate in the 42nd AGM through VC/OAVM facility only. The instructions for joining the AGM, casting their vote at the AGM and casting vote through remote e-voting will be provided in the Notice of the 42nd AGM. The Notice of the 42nd AGM and the Annual Report shall also be available on the Company website www.cosco.in and stock exchange website www.bseindia.com

The Company is providing remote e-voting facility and e-voting facility to all its members to cast their vote on all the resolutions set out in the Notice of the 42nd AGM. Detailed instructions for remote e-voting and e-voting during the AGM is provided in the Notice of the 42nd AGM. Members will have an opportunity to cast their vote remotely on the businesses as set out in the AGM Notice through e-

Members holding shares in the physical form who have not registered their e-mail address with the Company or RTA, can register their e-mail address for receipt of Notice of 42nd AGM, Annual Report and the login details for joining the AGM through VC/OAVM facility by sending a request to Skyline Financial Services Pvt. Ltd. Registrar and Share Transfer Agent of the Company at info@skyline rta.com/ admin@skylinerta.com or contact Company Secretary at sudha@cosco.in by providing their name, folio no., scanned copy of Share Certificates(front and back), self-attested scanned copy of PAN card and Aadhar Card in support for registering their e-mail addresses.

Members holding Shares in demat form whose e-mail addresses are not registered are requested to register their e-mail address for receipt of Notice of the 42nd AGM, Annual Report and login details for joining the AGM through VC/OAVM facility, as per the process advised by their DPs. The registered e-mail address will also be used for sending future communications.

Any person, who acquire shares and become member of the Company after the date of electronic dispatch of the Notice of the 42nd AGM and holding Shares as on cut-off date i.e., Thursday, 23rd September, 2021 may obtain the Login-ID and password by sending a request at info@skylinerta.com/sudha@cosco.in.

This notice is used for the information and benefit of all the members of the Company and is in accordance with the applicable circulars of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Securities and Exchange Board of India.

For Cosco (India) Limited

Devinder Kumar Jain (Managing Director and CEO) DIN No. 00191539 Add: C-124, DLF Colony, Gurgaon- 122001

ONGC eyes offshore wind energy projects



PTI NEW DELHI

Tndia's largest oil and gas producer ONGC is eyeing generating electricity from wind at its vast offshore acreage as it looks to augment its renewable energy portfolio, its chairman Subhash Kumar said.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has oil and gas fields both in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal. That experience of operating in shallow and deep-sea is now being tapped to set up wind turbines to generate electricity that could be wired to land.

"A study for a pilot project in Offshore Wind has already been commissioned for assessing the opportunities in this niche segment," Kumar said in the company's latest annual report.

the extension given to these Last year, ONGC signed an executive directors through MoU with India's largest elecnotifications on August 26, tricity generator NTPC to capacity by 2030."

explore setting up offshore wind projects along with the 7,600-km coastline.

Offshore windmills as almost twice as efficient as onshore wind turbines. But the cost per MW for offshore turbines is higher because of stronger structures and foundations needed in marine environments. The government has set a target of 5 GW of offshore wind installations by 2022 and 30 GW by 2030.

ONGC, Kumar said, is pursuing opportunities in the renewable energy field in India and abroad. "We added another 6 MW of solar capacity taking our total installed capacity (of solar energy) in excess of 30 MW," he said. "Our total installed capacity in renewable space has exceeded 325 MW and... We have a long distance to cover as we are targeting 10 GW of installed renewable

Go Airlines gets Sebi nod for ₹ 3,600 crore IPO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $B^{\text{udget carrier Go Airlines}},\\$ which has rebranded itself as 'Go First', has received market regulator Sebi's go-ahead for an initial public offer worth ₹3,600 crore.

The airline plans to garner up to ₹3,600 crore through sale of shares, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP). It also plans to raise up to ₹1,500 crore by way of a pre-IPO (Initial Public Offer) placement.

The carrier, which filed its preliminary papers for the IPO in May, received its observations on August 26, according to Sebi's latest update on processing status of the draft offer documents. The information

was updated on August 27 and made public on Monday.

In Sebi parlance, issuance of observations implies its goahead for the IPO. In June, Sebi had kept in abeyance the processing of Go Airlines' draft papers for the initial share sale. From the net IPO proceeds, the airline plans to utilise over ₹ 2,015.81 crore towards pre-payment or scheduled repayment of all or a portion of certain outstanding borrowings, according to the DRHP.

An amount of ₹279.26 crore would be for "replacement of letter of credits, which are issued to certain aircraft lessors towards securing lease rental payments and future maintenance of aircraft, with cash deposit".

Place: Delhi

Date: 30th August, 2021



A lot of people are now experiencing

post-COVID hair loss. While it may

be alarming to some, doctors tell

MUSBA HASHMI that one doesn't

need to panic and that some easy

tips will come in handy

hile defeating COVID and gaining back our health has definite-

ly been one of our major

Those extra hair on the comb or on the

ground are sufficient to give us a mini heart

attack. While it can be a cause of concern, doc-

tors say one shouldn't panic.
"A few months after recovering from

COVID-19, many people see noticeable hair loss. It is actually hair shedding more than actual hair loss. The medical name for this type of hair shedding is Telogen Effluvium. It happens when more hair than normal enter the shedding (telogen) phase of the hair growth lifecycle at

(telogen) phase of the hair growth lifecycle at the same time. A fever or illness can force more hair into the shedding phase," says Dr Amit Vij,

Senior Consultant, Dermatology, PSRI Hospital,

fall is the result of any stressful condition that

ly as well as mentally and that is leading to

increased incidences of hair fall in the recov-

two to three months after having a fever or ill-

ness. Handfuls of hair can come out when you

shower or brush your hair or even on the pil-

low while sleeping.
"This hair shedding can last for six to nine months. Most people then see their hair start

to look normal again and stop shedding," adds

been another cause of hair fall. The deficien-

cies caused by a compromised nutritional intake, sudden changes in weight, hormonal dis-

Post-COVID-19 inflammation has also

we may face either physical or mental.

ered patients," says Bajaj.

Dr Shuchin Bajaj, Founder & Director, Ujala

"COVID has been an extraordinarily stressful situation for most patients, both physical-

Most people see noticeable hair shedding

killer has still managed to leave behind its

footsteps in the form of post-COVID com-

plications. One of which is hair fall.

achievements of life, but the

KidneySay An Ayurvedic poly-herbal formulation, NEERI-KFT, has the potential to not only slow down the progression of chronic kidney disease but also restore normalcy in functional parameters of the vital organ, a team of researchers has claimed. Phytopharmacological evaluation of NEERI-KFT suggests that it exhibits substan tial potential against oxidative and inflammatory stress induced apoptosis by exerting antioxidant and immunomodulatory effects in the patients



DOCYARD

DR SURBHIT RASTOGI

Associate Consultant Orthopedics

INDIAN SPINAL INJURIES CENTRE,

NEW DELHI



Take care of your bones



When we refer to the term health, we mainly refer to the concept of a disease-free body. However, health is also synonymous to getting the right nutrition so that organs and other essential elements of the body, like blood, can function as needed. However, the bones mainly give us strength & structure and deficiency of required nutrition can cause them to be weak and influence the quality of life. Bone health is important at all stages of life and a healthy well-balanced diet will help build and maintain healthy bones.

healthy bones.

intake can lead to

bone loss and the

protein intake can

help protect bone

health during

aging and

weight loss

Low protein

Right food for strong bones

Eat lots of vegetables: Include as many vegetables and as many colours as you can. Vegetables such as green, yellow and all the different colors of bell peppers are the richest source of vitamin c and act as antioxidants. They not only help in case of nutrient deficiency but hydrate us as well. Develop the habit of hav-

ing more vegetables in lunch and dinner. Developing this **Maintaining** habit during childhood will help to create healthy bones enough protein in young adults as well as

intake is important for ■Do not avoid healthy fats: Fats are not always harmful, some of them are important for healthy bones. Omega 3 and 6 fats which can be sourced from fish like mackerel, tuna and salmon along with almonds, walnuts etc. right amount of Healthy fats help formation of new bone and prevent bone

> Have enough protein: Maintaining enough protein intake is important for healthy bones. Low protein intake can lead to bone loss and the right amount of pro-

tein intake can help protect

bone health during aging and weight loss. Good sources of protein include pulses, legumes, beans, peas, nuts, egg, chicken, fish, tofu, milk and milk products. Calcium is the key ingredient: When it comes to bone health, calcium is the important mineral. It is advisable to get calcium in a natural way from foods rather than supplements unless it is a case of deficiency. Sources of calcium include dairy prod-

ucts such as milk, cheese, yoghurt as well as non-dairy products such as leafy vegetables, fishes like sardine and salmon with bones. ■ Vitamin D & K: Vitamin D deficiency is one of the most common reasons for poor bone among Indians. Get morning sunlight for 10 minutes to fulfill your need. If you are identified with this deficiency, then you must consult Doctor and start taking supplements as per the prescription.

Avoid alcohol, packed and processed foods: All such foods contain extra salt that may cause the body to lose calcium and lead to bone loss. It is also advisable not to drink alcohol as it

■Limit caffeine intake: It is not advisable to drink more than 3 cups of coffee or tea everyday as doing so may interfere with calcium absorption in the body and cause bone loss. Don't take

coffee and tea along with & directly after the meals.

MMERCOOLER

CORN: Corn is high in Vitamin C, an antioxidant that protects cells from harm and helps prevent diseases such as cancer and heart disorders.

Yellow maize is high in the carotenoids lutein and zeaxanthin, which are good for eye health and can help prevent cataracts by eliminating the risk of lens damage. Vitamins B, E, and K, as well as minerals like magnesium and potassium,

are found in lower amounts in

The fiber in corn helps you stay full for longer between meals. It also feeds healthy bacteria in your digestive tract, which may help pro-

tect against c o l o n

to providing volume to your hair. Frizziness can however be a problem if proper nutrition isn't provided to the hair especially in a country like India, where humidity is higher. You can always move to no ammonia shampoos to protect your

change the hair game?

their hair. Metal DX and French Balayage serve the exact purpose

■ People still believe colouring often settle in our hair. During a hair hair will result in hair loss and color when oxidants and these metal particles interact, the oxidant cannot fully do its job which in turn leads to breakage or unreliable hair color results. Metal DX helps remove

Metal DX with Glicoamine helps to deactivate even the largest amount of metal from the hair which helps you get the exact color you desire with less damage and breakage. On the other hand, the new hair color service, French Balayage is a service that is customized especially for Indian taste. This two-step technique suits all hair bases, even the darkest ones which makes it perfectly adaptable to Indian skin tones and hair bases. The first step involves perfectly blended lightening while the second step focuses on nourishing gloss to neutralise warmth and add shine.

Some tips to manage healthy and shiny coloured hair.

To keep your hair healthy and keep the shine going after colouring make sure you oil your hair at least once a week and wash it twice a week

Shweta Sahni, Education Head, L'Oréal Professionnel

Make sure to condition your hair after every wash to prevent it from drying. Another huge myth people believe in is that sun rays do not affect coloured hair. It is extremely important to protect your hair color from the UV rays to prevent it from turning into an unwanted brassy hair color. And one of the most important things is to use a heat protectant if you use heat styling tools

■ Are there any particular types of hair colour that one should refrain

turbances and reduced iron, ferritin, vitamin D and B12 levels are some of the major reasons for the large volumes of hair loss post Covid-

"Even post steroid withdrawl has shown hair fall," he points out.

But fret not. Washing your scalp daily or at least every alternate day can help.

"Use conditioners and hair serum to keep hair nourished and soft externally. If the hair loss lasts longer or is uncontrollable, blood investigations are recommended in order to

investigations are recommended in order to find specific causes," opines Vij.

However, when suffering from hair fall one usually prefers taking supplements. While it is not a no-no, it is preferable that you try and stick to following a nutritional diet.

"Supplements should always be given after proper investigations. Taking non-specific supplements without knowing the cause may or

plements without knowing the cause may or may not help. Market is flooded with combination supplements promising various forms of results, it should be avoided at all cost. Always problem scientifically supported by investiga-

tions," advises Vij.

Bajaj opines that in order to prevent hair loss, we should follow a healthy diet.

"Include green vegetables and lots of fruits. Apart from that Vitamin E supplements can also help in reducing the incidence of hair fall and preventing it," he asserts.

A lot of people believe that avoiding shampoo during hair loss can help, but Vij brushes it off. He emphasizes that hair wash is an important part of hygiene and preventing hair fall. "Various myths about usage of shampoos are all wrong as shampoos can cause dryness of hair but not damage them. To avoid scare of shampoos, you can start using baby mild shampoos but avoiding them is a wrong approach. Use of conditioner and serums after head wash is a very good practice and it should be followed regularly," he explains.

Something as simple as ensuring you use the correct oil for different cooking methods and cuisines can help you stay healthier, says SHAMMI AGARWAL



Heart diseases have been on the rise, with people as young as 30 years old succumbing to heart attacks and strokes. While people tend to say the stress of work is to be blamed, unhealthy diet and wrong ingredi-ents play an integral part in those who suf-fer from a weak heart or chronic heart con-

A simple change in eating habits and food can help keep heart diseases from becoming deadly. Something as simple as ensuring you use the correct oil for different cooking methods and cuisines can help you stay healthier and keep the severity of heart conditions under control. Including suitable oils in your diet is one way of ensuring your heart stays healthy and robust.

Different oils have different properties and react differently when treated in different temperatures. While most plant-based oils are healthy options and provide the body with unsaturated fat, not all are suited for Indian cooking. Most Indian cuisines involve cooking at high temperatures. Since heat changes the core composition of oil, you must pay attention to the type of oil used during frying, sauteing, or salad dressing.
Flaxseed oil and til oil are known to be

excellent for Indian cooking. These oils have excellent heat resistance. Besides being good sources of monounsaturated or polyunsaturated fatty acids, including these oils in your daily diet is crucial. These seed-based oils help reduce bad cholesterol, keeping the heart healthy and safe from chronic diseases. Known for their sharp taste that helps enhance the flavouring in Indian meals, these oils help improve your health in a tasty way. It is essential to include a mix of healthy will in your distant and not give only a portion oils in your diet and not give only a particular oil a preference. Each oil has its own set of nutritional benefits when consumed in a limited and monitored manner. In addition, it is advised to include a combination vegetable and nut oil to help the body stay healthy and fight lifestyle diseases that can cause heart disease and trouble.

Many people make the mistake of cutting out oils and fats from their diets to watch their weight. However, it is strongly advised to ensure your diet includes at least 15 per cent healthy fats. Healthy fats help minimise your risks of heart diseases as our bodies need healthy fats for energy, to help with digestion, for better vitamin absorption, and many more internal functions.

While it is crucial to include healthy oils in your daily diet, everyone's body has different dietary requirements. Hence, it is essential to consult a dietitian to know your body's particular nutritional needs and which fats are a must in your diet and which

need to be avoided by you.

The writer is Director, The pansari Group

Your hair is your crown

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with SHWETA SAHNI about the common myths surrounding hair colour, how one can keep them healthy and the new services launched by the brand

HAIR SUPPLEMENTS SHOULD

KNOWING THE CAUSE MAY OR

FLOODED WITH COMBINATION

VARIOUS FORMS OF RESULTS.

MAY NOT HELP. MARKET IS

SUPPLEMENTS PROMISING

IT SHOULD BE AVOIDED AT

A DERMATOLOGIST AND

BY INVESTIGATIONS

APPROACH THE PROBLEM

SCIENTIFICALLY SUPPORTED

—DR AMIT VIJ, SENIOR

CONSULTANT, DERMATOLOGY,

PSRI HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI

ALL COST. ALWAYS CONSULT

ALWAYS BE GIVEN AFTER

PROPER INVESTIGATIONS.

TAKING NON-SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENTS WITHOUT

frizziness, among other things. Do

Losing hair after a hair colour is a huge myth. There are various reasons for hair fall but hair color is not one of them. I believe it's quite the opposite. A hair colour leads to swollen cuticles, which in turn leads hair and help avoid a frizzy head. A quick tip, oiling your hair on a reg-ular basis and moving to mild shampoos surely helps beat the

How the two new services by L'Oréal Professionnel aim to

We at L'Oréal Professionnel have always believed to provide our consumers with the absolute best for too. After a shower, metal particles

these metal particles from the hair.

with the right shampoo and mask.

something that I generally recommend. Temporary hair dyes and extremely short lived and often need to be retouched or recolored. This can cause damage to the hair due to the frequency and timeline of coloring. These hair dyes have larger molecules which do not penetrate in the cuticle effectively. I highly recommend using Semi-Permanent or Permanent hair color to prevent damage and get shiny

A temporary hair colour isn't

■For coloured hair, how safe is

heat-based styling?
Flat ironing or blow drying your hair may seem like a fast and effective way to get ready instantly. However, when you constantly use these heat styling tools especially for your coloured hair, you're on your way to spoil that beautiful mane. Heat styling directly on your hair can lead to breakage, split ends and even drying out your hair strands. If heat styling is something you constantly indulge into, make sure to take a few seconds more to protect your hair and use a heat protectant.

INBRIEF —

Vaccine sensitisation kit

The COVID-19 vac- objective is to create awareness around postacross India is picking up pace, thanks to the combined efforts of public hospitals and private healthcare providers. While people are getting vaccinated, they have many doubts and questions on post-vaccination hygiene and care. On the other hand, some individuals become completely negligent towards hygiene norms after their vaccine dose, believing they are completely immune. Acknowledging these concerns and to address them, an interesting initiative has

been announced.

Cinthol Health
Plus, the health soap
brand from Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), and Fortis Hospital Vadapalani have joined hands for a post-vaccine sensitisation programme. The

vaccine precautions, do's and don'ts while encouraging citizens to keep following hygiene norms even after the vaccination is done. The week-long pilot of this programme has already started at Fortis Hospital, Vadapalani (Chennai), where a post-vaccine kit will be given free of cost to those getting vaccinated at the hospital. The brand has con-

ceptualised the post-vaccine sensitisation kit along with Fortis Hospital, incorporating key hygiene messages that can inform and empower people. The carefully curated kit contains a COVID-19 booklet capturing important do's and don'ts in an easy to understand language. The kit also includes safety and hygiene









I WILL MEET YOU...AGAIN

Celebrated writer AMRITA PRITAM, who believed in living life on her own terms, would've turned 102 today. By KHUSHBU KIRTI

his Punjabi author, novelist, poet and essayist, was the first Indian woman to win the Sahitya Akademi Award for her magnum opus Sunehadey (Messages) in 1956. Amrita Pritam was an exemplar who received almost every Indian award you can name -Jnanpith Award (for Kagaj Te Canvas), Padma Shri and Padma Vibhushan. She was born, on this day, in Gujranwala, Pakistan and migrated from Lahore to India, post-Partition. Pritam had also received the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, an award given to 'immortals of literature', for lifetime achievement in 2004.

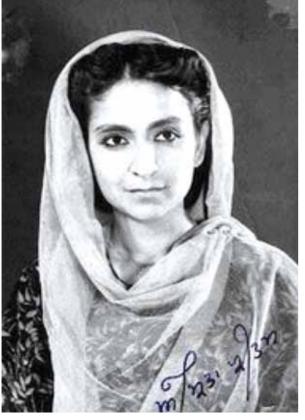
The writer was extolled for her elegy Ajj Aakhaan Waris Shah Nu (I Say Unto Waris Shah). The poem invoked Waris Shah, the renowned historic poet, who wrote the popular version of the Punjabi love tragedy of Heer Raniha

'Aaj akha Waris Shah nu, ki tu kabra wichu goe Ki ajj kitabein ishq da koi agla var ka koe..

(I summon Waris Shah today, speak from thy grave, and find the next page in the Book of Love.)

The poem describes the natural environment and the hearts of the people of Punjab which were poisoned during the Partition. The land of love and beauty, known for its religious tolerance and secularism, was polluted. The love and respect had vanished and was replaced by cruelty, bloodshed and all the vices present. She takes the trope of Heer Ranjha and sadly expresses how thousands of Heers were raped, killed, and buried and how the Ranjhas had forgotten their lessons of love.

In *Pinjar*, she created her indelible character Puro, an epitome of violence against women, the loss of humanity and the ultimate surrender to existential fate. *Pinjar* was later, in 2003, made into an award-



The writer's sensibility towards the plight of women and towards love arose from her own life. Following her failed marriage, her immense love for Sahir Ludhianvi could not be consummated. It was only later that she found solace in the companionship of the artist and writer Imroz. She spent her last 40 years with him. Imroz designed some of her book covers and often painted her portraits. Their life together is also the subject of many books. One of them is Amrita Imroz: A Love Story.

The title of her autobiography came from a conversation that she had with writer Kushwant Singh. The name carried with it immense significance and was a testament to how strong the woman was. He commented on her failed rela-

tionship with Sahir Ludhianvi, stating, publically, that her love-life was sufficient to be penned down on a 'raseedi ticket. The sarcastic comment inspired her and she turned it around in her favour. She boldcalled her autobiography Raseedi Ticket (English: Revenue Stamp). Therein, she openly indited her life story, her love life, her journey as a litterateur, a famous writer, and as an academy award winner. The script was in Gurumukhi.

Pritam was a child bride, engaged at the age of four, and had lost her mother when she was very young. While she, initially, had a good relationship with her father, who was a pious and religious man, the relationship suffered a blow when she decided to become a writer. He wanted her to follow the path of religion, while



Pritam felt betrayed by the same. She felt that all her life, she was lied to by her elders about the power of prayers. She was married to an older man, Pritam Singh, and had two children with him. Despite her failed marriage and subsequent divorce, she retained his name because she believed that her husband had greatly contributed to what she became.

She went on to become a seminal litterateur and was a single woman who openly expressed her love for a man who was not her husband. And one can imagine how big a deal and huge a controversy that was in the 1950s. Her reputation was smeared. She was termed as a 'siren' and her works were often considered lewd and sexually explicit, due to which she was not considered a serious writer. Despite being an accomplished author, her works were often sidelined. Like any other woman who wanted to be independent and stand up for herself, Pritam, too, had to bear the onslaughts on her character, endure the constant comments and interference in her life, merely because she was honest about it and not apologetic for her choices. She possessed clarity in life, something not everyone can claim to do.

The Padma Shri awardee opened up, in her memoir, about how the wives of other writers prohibited them from attending international events which Pritam, too, was a part

of. This was due to the fear that she would 'steal' their men. Pritam had once mentioned that she had received more love abroad than she had received at home. She garnered wide acclaim internationally.

Despite all the obstacles, here was a woman challenging all conventions of a society that was recently coming out of a Partition, still very much dogmatically patriarchal, enveloped with conventions of tradition, and a society that had not stepped yet into the modern idea of 'live and let live'. It was very simple to question the character of women and subjugate them. However, Pritam was ahead of her times, both in her works and actions. There was a revolutionary zeal in her writings

Love and passion defined her life and purpose. She pointed out that the problem of the society was that people thought they could bind love in the fetters of bonds and relationships. The last work she wrote was a poem for her beloved Imroz, called Main tenu Phir Milangi in 2004. Her writing style was simple as if she was narrating a story. The narration was done in an honest and straightforward manner. Pritam produced hundreds of works, over a span of 60 years, and frequently spoke of the society of her time, the position of women in it, their place in literature, the culture of Punjab and about her life and relationships.

The current times are increasingly defined by frail social ties. An ever-growing pattern of indifference and shrinking empathy has ren-dered us secluded and loneliness seems to be the widespread epidemic that plagues us all. But in the midst of all this, what if one still yearns to establish a genuine human connection? Addressing this social crisis, Kaivalya Plays, an independent group of Delhi theatre practitioners, seek to create more opportunities for women in theatre, mentor new talent and innovate theatre formats, presented Lifeline 99 99 . It had loneliness and the urge to reconnect at the heart of its theme. I was lucky to tune in to the last day of the unconventional show; while the makers are planning to do another round before the year ends, they revealed that they are severely underfunded as it is currently being self-funded.

Unlike proscenium or the newly emerging online zoom plays, Lifeline 99 99 is an absurd drama that takes place over the telephonic medium. Due credit to the creators of the show — Gaurav Singh, the production manager of Kaivalya Plays who oversaw the technical aspects and co-directed it with Akshay Raheja, the writer. It is a testament to the fact that theatre is a collaborative creation as the audience members, in this case, the listeners, are engaged in an interactive exchange with the actors, which were one of the seven personas at the other end of the line. Each persona had a story of its own and did not hesitate to seamlessly make you a part of them.

How ironic is it when you are compelled to feel challenged by something as natural as a telephonic conversation? Within the first two rings, my call was received by what seemed like a bot with a prerecorded set of lines and responses. However, it was paradoxical how this virtually simulated set-up felt so life-like. The monotone of the bot was interspersed with a joke here or an anecdote there, and it felt more humane than most people I interact with nowadays! My curiosity about what awaited me was further fed when I was connected to the persona of my choice.

Seven unique entities, seven distinct stories, and seven separate voices were all tied together by one thread of inter-



SNEHA DASGUPTA dials in on Kaivalya Plays' Lifeline 99 99 rogation — in the age of growing indifference and shrinking of theories and questions in my

empathy, can one still create a genuine human connection? Right at the onset of the performance, I was challenged with the 'task' to choose who is it that I would like to interact with — a conflicted sex chat operator, an aggrieved idealist, an alien cab-driver, a morbid insurance agent, a memory alteration researcher, an ethical scammer or art itself, personified. I was thrilled at the prospect of discussing a question that is always tethered to the corner of my mind. At first, I was connected to a persona I did not select but surprises are something I never shy away from, even if they appear in the garb of technical glitches.

In 30 minutes, Murugan from Telangana, with his persistent urge to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, was already on my nerves. All of a sudden, a complete stranger, who does not even exist, rightfully marched into my life with one telephone call and a treasure of ideologies that set my mind ticking. In an incessant badgering tone, trying to sign me up for a subscription to an illegal telephone network, Murugan propelled me to question the luxuries of my life. How do I stay cocooned in the comfort of my world turning a blind eye to the thousands of destitute living a life of mayhem? Is this where humanity is headed towards, an abyss of indifference?

This mind-boggling experience fueled my second conversation with a different persona, Kalpana, the one I had chosen in the first place. Having constructed a tapestry

mind, Kalpana was the exact opposite of Murugan. She lacked his haste and embodied a prophetic vision. All this while I felt like a researcher, trying to gauge the performative aspects of this entire production, its nuances and technicalities, till I talked to Kalpana. I was Kalpana's lab rat and she was the researcher. She quizzed me about memories, their impact and origin and left my mind riddled with a million questions. Her enigmatic laughter peppered between her thought-provoking games about memory alteration not only evoked a box of memories from my childhood but made me perceive memory as a separate being. Would I alter my memories if I had the chance to; sell them in exchange for more pleasurable ones? Do we even have any control over our memories, or are we the ones constructing or demolishing

This audio experience leaves a lot to the imagination, while simultaneously making it suitable for not only those with visual impairments but also for those experiencing screen fatigue. Each performance is a conversation that is distinct from another which is what makes it all the more unique and personalised.

Lifeline 99 99 portrays the urge to connect, regardless of the person you are communicating with. There is a sense of relief in just having another person on the line, a quantum in the canvas of the universe. A human being is an eclectic unit, and only conversations with different people bring out the nitty-gritties of human nature.

$S_{ m global}^{ m omewhere}$ in the middle of a global pandemic, two women find good, affordable and accessible home decor elements in the city? Keya and Mandavi shared a passion to discover extraordinary finds from all over the world and wondered whether it might be possible to make them accessible to and for all. They wanted everyday low prices, but high-quality design with

great value.

Mid Mod Mad is an unusual and quaintly curious emporium of style on Instagram. It began as a lark, which hatched around a simple idea and several conversations. Two friends — one a strategy and sustainability consultant, Airbnb superhost and entrepreneur, the other a (very) senior corporate executive, Airbnb superhost and entrepreneur — lamented how uninspired, unwelcoming and overwhelmingly boxy and cookie-cutter the home decor and design world felt in

Where was the curious, wideeyed experimentation that foreigners, design enthusiasts, manufactures and deal hunters kept coming to India for?

"We both dreamt of a platform, somewhere in cyberspace, where adventurous homeowners and decorators in the city could find expertly curated one-of-a-kind affordable home furnishings, decor and art. You know, just like those vintage stores abroad? I think both of us always wanted to bring the beauty

UMA NAIR explores the resurgence of mid-century modern designs while highlighting the story of KEYA and MANDAVI who offer high-quality in home decor at great value



favourite thrift/vintage stores and global bazaars to a common meeting place," says Keya

"We love the idea that what we offer will always change and like the favourite mementoes from our lives, each will have a story worth sharing — whether it's that hand beaten, cut copper floral chandelier that was dragged back home from Thailand or that stunning vintage Silver Tray with a

Gallery Rim that I woke up at 6 AM to go find at a Barcelona flea market or the Cambodian Apsaras that Keya forced a street artist to paint, with nothing but a knife because he had no brushes while she tried to convince him that he was an impressionist even when he did not know what that meant," laughs Mandavi.

> hidden gem full of gorgeous stuff, all of which are some sort of seconds. If you haven't heard of it, don't be surprised, they don't have a warehouse or a brick and mortar store, nor do they have a website. The inventory, which keeps changing subject to new acquisitions and sales, updated on Instagram via artful posts/stories.

Their current stock is dedicated to home decor pieces that are either factory seconds, elegantly aged or gently used. Some are export surplus, dated design samples, or experiments that went a wee bit wrong.

Crash course of mid-century modern designs

The history of mid-century modern style in the US begins in roughly the 1940s, though its hev-Mid Mod Mad is meant to be a day was the mid-1950s through the early 1960s. The movement has origins in Germany, Holland, and France. It's heavily influenced by the school of thought popularised by the Bauhaus — an art school in Germany — that began post the World War (WW)I. Think radically simplified designs where form follows function, a celebration of materials, visible construction elements, minimalism and dedication to a great design above all.

The expression of this modern approach in the US was more organic and connected to nature. When suburban areas began to expand in post-WWII America, the mid-century modern style grew as



The term "mid-century modern" was coined well after the movement ended, when author Cara Greenberg used the phrase for the title of her book about the era. The book was written in 1984, and the term has been widely used since.

Materials employed

Mid-century modern designs tend to celebrate the materials they use rather than hide or disguise them. In the '50s and '60s, designers were excited to use relatively new materials, such as plastic, lucite, and plywood, but they also relied heavon more traditional materials like wood — especially reclaimed wood and upcycling waste materials from the glass and marble industries (think terrazzo). Today's designs follow suit with moulded fibreglass and plastic, as well as organic materials.

In mid-century modern style, less is more, but it's definitely not boring. Materials are chosen carefully and used in interesting ways. Pops of colour add interest. And forgoing fluff and ornamentation gives the breathtaking shapes of mid-century furniture a chance to take cen-

Why is MidMod making a come-

Though it's been around for over 75 years, this style is anything but outdated. Mid-century modern design has seen a resurgence in popularity recently, and it's easy to

The clean, simple shapes of the

design have a timeless quality that still feels current. Individuals today are aiming to

cut the clutter and pare down their spaces, and mid-century's minimal approach (similar to that of Scandinavian design) fits right in

As people increasingly look to make a connection with nature, the organic elements of mid-century modern designs bring back popular appeal. There's a sense of nostalgia for the era, both from people who lived it and those who've seen it highlighted on shows like Mad Men. Adoption of the design today falls across a wide continuum, with some decorating whole homes in the style and others choosing a few distinctive pieces that fit their taste.

TREND:



HAPPY WITH **RESPONSE: KUNAL**

Actor KUNAL KAPOOR is seen playing the role of Mughal emperor Babur in the new web series, The Empire. He says that playing the character was a gruelling experience for

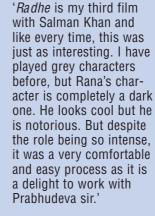
"This was a very complex and challenging character and it was very interesting to explore the different layers of his personality. From doubt and vulnerability to strength and ruthlessness. And I'm so happy with the way people have reacted to the performance," shares a beaming Kapoor.



experiment with my character and roles. And with the forthcoming show, Candy, I have another opportunity to play a distinctive character, a cop with a vivid character sketch. It has always been a challenge to play the character of a tough and uncompromising policewoman. Get ready to witness how DSP Ratna from Rudrakund unwraps the sin.'

'I have always loved to

dailytalk RANDEEP HOODA



AGEING GRACEFULLY: **SHARON STONE**

Hollywood actor **SHARON STONE** shared on *The Drew Barrymore Show* that she always thought she would like to get older like a dancer as they age beautifully.

When asked how does she manage to age so gracefully, the 63-year-old revealed, "When I got to be 40, I thought, I am going to get older and fancied getting older like a dancer. Hence I'm thoughtful about what I put in my body, and the way I treat it, so that I get to keep it."



Shooter Avani becomes 1st Indian woman to win Gold at Paralympics

car accident in 2012 left Avani Lekhara wheel-Chair-bound but on Monday the shooter felt "on top of the world" after becoming the first Indian woman to snare a Paralympic Gold medal.

Focussing on only one shot at a time and shutting out everything else did the trick for Lekhara. She fired her way to the top of the podium in the R-2 women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event.

"I can't describe this feeling, I'm feeling like I'm on top of the world. It's unexplainable," she said after the triumph.

Lekhara, who sustained spinal cord injuries in a car accident in 2012, finished with a world record equalling total of 249.6, which is also a new Paralympic record.

On staying calm through the final, Lekhara said, "I was just saying one thing, that I have to take one shot at a time. There's nothing else that matters now, just take one shot at a time and just finish it.

"I just think that I have to



follow the process. Beyond that, I try not to think about the score or the medal tally.

The 19-year-old from Jaipur, who started shooting on the insistence of her father in 2015 at a city shooting range, was delighted to have become the first Indian woman to win a Paralympics Gold.

"I'm so happy I could be the one to contribute it. Hopefully there's a lot of medals more to

She has not looked back since firing her first shot some six years ago, enjoying every bit of the precision sport while working her way to glory at the showpiece.

'İt seems very homely when

towards it. When you have to focus and the consistency, that's what I like about shooting," she said. When asked how she began shooting, Lekhara said, "Summer vacations 2015, my father took me to the shooting range. I shot some shots and

She will also be competing in the mixed 10m Air Rifle Prone SH1, the women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions SH1 and the mixed 50m Rifle Prone event.

they were pretty okay. So I just

started as a hobby, and here I

In the SH1 Rifle category, shooters are able to hold a gun with arms.

The athletes have an impairment in their legs, for example amputations or paraplegia.

She is the fourth Indian athlete to win a Paralympics Gold after swimmer Murlikant Petkar (1972), javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia (2004 and 2016) and high jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu (2016) and by the end of Monday, it became five for India as javelin thrower Sumit Antil also won Gold with World Record throw.

No coach, no problem for **Silver-winner Kathuniya**

Tokyo: It's a Silver worth its weight in Gold for Indian discus thrower Yogesh Kathuniya, who trained for the Paralympics without a coach and is quite proud to have finished on the podium without any tangible guidance for over one year

The 24-year-old sent the disc to a best distance of 44.38m in his sixth and last attempt to clinch the Silver.

"That was amazing. Winning the Silver has given me so much more motivation to get the Gold medal at Paris 2024," he said in the mixed

Kathuniya said preparing for the Games was hard for him as lockdowns ensured that facilities were closed for a major part of the last two years.

"In the last 18 months the preparations have been very tough. In India there was a six month lockdown so every stadium was closed," he said.

"When I could return to the stadium on a daily basis I had to practice by myself. I couldn't have a coach then and I am still training without a coach. It was a great moment that I could win the Silver medal without a coach," he added.

Kathuniya suffered a paralytic attack at the age of eight which left him with coordination impairments in his limbs. Kathuniya said he would work harder to finish on top the next

"I am going to work hard. I was just one metre away from the Gold medal here, but in Paris I will want to break the world record," he said.

"Today was not my day as I was fully prepared to break the world record here, but that was a barrier I just could not break

It wasn't my best performance: Sumit after winning Gold with WR throws

world record?

Tokyo Games, within a span of

20 days, Haryana's Antil had

he hurled the javelin to a dis-

tance of 66.90 metres at the 19th

Para-Athletics Championships

world record of 66.43 metres, set during the third leg of the

Indian Grand Prix on March 5

in Patiala. Both these efforts

were, however, not recorded for

can throw, he said, "In training

I have thrown 71m, 72m, many

times. I don't know what hap-

On how much further he

The effort bettered his own

at Bengaluru in March.

world records.

Breaking the world record five times on his way to Gold in the Paralympics did not suffice for reluctant-wrestler-turnedjavelin-thrower Sumit Antil and the Indian vowed to better what was already an incredible per-

formance by every yardstick.

The 23-year-old clinched
India's second Gold at the ongoing Paralympics here on Monday, shattering the men's F64 category world record multiple times in a stunning Games debut performance of 68.55m.

He was a wrestler prior to a motorcycle accident that resulted in his left leg being amputated, before life smiled on him and a new avenue opened

"I was not that great a wrestler. In my area of India, the family forces you to become a wrestler," he quipped.

"I started when I was seven, eight years old, and I continued for four or five years, but not regularly. I was not that good," Antil said.

"I met with an accident and had my leg amputated. After that, life changed. I went to the stadium just to meet people in 2015, and I saw para athletes. They said, 'You have good height and posture, maybe you can be in the next Paralympics'. Who knew I would be the next champion?" He did become a champion

on Monday, and that too, at the sport's grandest stage. first "This is my

Paralympics and I was a little

pened in my competition.

nervous because the competitors are great. I was hoping for "One thing is for sure in a 70-metre-plus throw, maybe I future I will throw much better," can do 75m. It was not my best, Antil who started out as a I am very happy to break the wrestler before switching to javelin throw said.

But he was definitely happy to have won the top medal at the This was not the first time he was making the javelin travbiggest stage, terming it as real-A few months before the isation of a dream.

"It is a dream come true. I can't express my feelings right broken the world record twice now," the 23-year-old who in the F-64 category.
In his sixth and last attempt entered the Tokyo Paralympics as the world record holder in his event said.

Antil, who lost his left leg below the knee after he was involved in a motorbike accident in 2015, sent the spear to 68.55m in his fifth attempt, which was the best of the day by quite a distance and a new world record.

In fact, he bettered the previous world record of 62.88m, also set by him, five times on the day. His last throw was a foul. His series read 66.95, 68.08, 65.27, 66.71, 68.55 and foul.

Ineligible Vinod loses discus Bronze

Tokyo: Indian discus thrower Vinod Kumar on Monday lost his F52 category Bronze medal at the Paralympics after being found ineligible in disability classification assessment by the competition panel.

The 41-year-old BSF man produced a best throw of Piotr Kosewicz (20.02m) of Poland and Velimir Sandor (19.98m) of Croatia on However, the result was

challenged by some competi-

"...The panel was unable to allocate the athlete Vinod Kumar from NPC India with

was designated as Classification not Completed (CNC)," the organisers said in a statement.

"The athlete is therefore ineligible for the Men's F52 Discus medal event and his results in that competition are void," it added.

2nd-leg of IPL



New Delhi: Young Indian allrounder Washington Sundar was on Monday ruled out of the second phase of the IPL starting in the UAE on September 19 as the finger injury he suffered in England has not healed completely and he could not clear the fitness test at the NCA.

Washington, who plays for Royal Challengers Bangalore, had travelled to England with the Indian squad but returned to the country after injuring his finger while playing in a County game that served as a

practice game for the visitors. The 21-year-old, who is an off-spinner and a useful batsman, had turned up for the County side and was hit by forcing the all-rounder out of

Challengers "Royal Bangalore's all-rounder Washington Sundar has been ruled out of the remainder of the Vivo IPL 2021 due to an impending finger injury," the IPL Franchise said in a state-

Bengal cricketer Akash Deep, who is net bowler with the franchise, has been named as replacement for the remainder of the IPL.

Sources told PTI that Washington appeared in a fitness test at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru a few days back but could not clear that.

The World T20 is slated to begin immediately after the conclusion of the IPL and it remains to be seen if Washington is picked in the Indian squad without playing | 14 ODIs a single IPI game. PNS Internationals.

Sundar to miss | Jhajharia dedicates Silver to late father

New Delhi: Not being there with his cancer-stricken father during his dying moments last year still rankles Devendra Jhajharia, who on Monday dedicated his third Paralympic medal to the man without whose encouragement, he wouldn't have competed at the ongoing Games. The 40-year-old javelin thrower,

after winning Gold medals in the 2004 sonal best throw of 64.35m for the Silver in F46 classification. "Of course, this medal belongs to the people of the country but I also want to

already India's greatest Paralympian

dedicate this to my late father (Ram Singh Jhajharia) who had wanted me to win another medal in the Paralympics," Jhajharia said from Tokyo on Monday. F46 classification is for athletes

with arm deficiency, impaired muscle power or impaired passive range of movement in arms. Jhajharia makes this

New Delhi: India all-rounder Stuart

Binny, who owns the record of the

best bowling figures in ODI format,

on Monday announced his retire-

ment from First Class and interna-

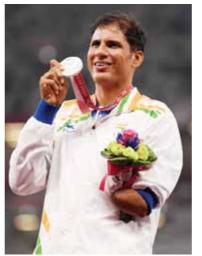
his career with his state Karnataka

and represented India in six Tests,

The 37-year-old Binny began

ODIs and three T20

tional cricket.



cut owing to the left hand he lost after being electrocuted as an eight-year-old.

"I would like to inform you that

"It has given me tremendous joy

While he did not get many

I have decided to retire from First

Class and international cricket,"

Binny, whose father Roger also

represented India, said in a state-

and pride to have represented my

country at the highest internation-

Jhajharia came to know about his father's illness while he was training at Sports Authority of India Centre in Gandhinagar last year.

He rushed home but his father sent him back to continue training as he wanted his son to win another medal at the Paralympics. The inspiration of Jhajharia's life died in October last year.

"I would not be here if it was not for me to train hard and win another medal. I am happy that today I have fulfilled his dream.

His father's death, at the time of which he was training, left him shattered and he was seen crying after winning a national level event.

On Monday, although he bettered his own earlier world record (63.97m) but Gold winner Sri Lankan Dinesh Priyan Herath Mudiyanselage (67.79m) was too good for the entire field. PTI

international runs under

his belt, Binny returned

exceptional bowling figures

against Bangladesh when he

took six wickets for just four

runs in an ODI in June 2014

It remains the best

bowling performance in the ODIs

till date. PTI



3 Gold, six Silver medals for India in Asian youth boxing

Ranji Trophy: Delhi, Mumbai,

New Delhi: World youth Bronzemedallist Bishwamitra Chongtham (51kg), Vishal (80kg) and Neha (54kg) struck Gold, while six other Indian boxers signed off with Silver medals in the Asian Youth Championships in Dubai on Monday.

Chongtham defeated Uzbekistan's Kuziboev Ahmadjon 4-1, staving off a stiff challenge. Vishal, on the other hand, outpunched Kyrgyzstan's Akmatov Sanzhar 5-0 to finish on top.

Among women, Neha pulled off a hard-fought 3-2 win over Kazakhstan's Aishagul Yeleubayeva to clinch the yellow

The last time India secured two Gold medals in the men's competition was back in 2010. . Vishvanath Suresh (48kg), Vanshaj (63.5kg) and Jaydeep

medals. Suresh lost 0-5 to reigning youth world champion Sanzar Tashkenbay of Kazakhstan.

Rawat (71kg) ended with Silver

Vanshaj was also beaten 0-5 Yernur Suyunbay of Kazakhstan in his summit clash.

Rawat did not complete his bout against Uzbek Abdullaev Alokhon, whose pounding left the Indian visibly shaken and mostly off-balance in the opening round

with victory

New York: Two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep, battling back from injury, advanced to the second round of the US Open on Monday as the hardcourts showdown began before fullcapacity crowds.

29-year-old The Romanian 12th seed defeated Italy's Camila Giorgi 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) to book a second-round match against Slovakian lucky loser Kristina Kucova, who ousted American Ann Li 7-5, 6-1.

4 goals win for Milan & Roma | Messi finally makes PSG debut **AFP** ■ MILAN three minutes later, but Milan

Olivier Giroud and Tammy Abraham both got off the mark in Serie A on Sunday as the former Chelsea men helped their new teams AC Milan and Roma to comfortable victories which gave them two wins from the season's opening two fixtures.

France forward Giroud, who has not been picked for Les Bleus' upcoming World Cup qualifiers, bagged a brace in a 4-1 win over Cagliari at the San Siro, while Abraham scored in a 4-0 rout at promoted Salernitana.

Both strikers left European champions Chelsea this summer in the search of more regular football and have got off to

quick starts in Italy.

Giroud played well in last week's 1-0 win at Sampdoria and scored the third and fourth in an easy victory at the San



Sandro Tonali gave Milan a 12th-minute lead with a stunning free-kick, which was also first Milan goal.

five on a perfect six points, Alessandro Deiola's surwhich also includes leaders prise header levelled the scores Lazio, Inter Milan and Napoli.

only needed seconds to retake the lead through Rafael Leao. Giroud then artfully guid-

al level.

Stuart Binny announces retirement

ed home his first Milan goal following a superb run and pass from Brahim Diaz, and when Kevin Strootman's handball was judged to have taken place in the penalty area by VAR, the 34-year-old stepped up and stroked the spot-kick home.

Abraham, meanwhile, crashed home the third in the 69th minute at Salernitana as a flurry of second-half goals gave Iose Mourinho's team a comprehensive win in the Italian south.

Roma struggled to break down the hosts in the opening period, but Lorenzo Pellegrini's double and Jordan Veretout's third goal of the season gave the capital club a deserved win. Both teams sit in a pack of

in Dhaka.

Paris: Lionel Messi came on as a substitute to make his Paris Saint-Germain debut on Sunday, but Kylian Mbappe stole the show by scoring both goals in a 2-0 win against Reims in Ligue 1.

Messi, wearing the No 30 jersey, came off the bench in the 66th minute to replace Neymar at the Stade Auguste-Delaune but the Argentine six-time Ballon d'Or winner will have to

wait for his first goal with his new club, and his first start, which could come when PSG host Clermont in their next

After that, they will begin their Champions League campaign away to Club Brugge in Belgium.

match on September 11.

The week leading up to this game had been dominated not by Messi but by talk of Mbappe's future, with Real Madrid reportedly having two offers for the World Cup-winning striker rejected.

With the transfer deadline looming on Tuesday, the 22year-old did not appear remotely distracted by the talk of a move as he headed in a Angel Di Maria cross in the 15th minute put the away side in front.

Mbappe then scored his second of the night, and third of the season, just after the hour mark, finishing off an inviting low cross to the back post by Achraf Hakimi.

New Delhi: Heavyweights have been clubbed in virtual Group of Death in the Ranji

Tamil Nadu, Railways, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand and

K'taka clubbed in same group Last year's runners-up Bengal has a relatively easy group (Elite B) with Vidarbha,



Mumbai, Karnataka and Delhi Trophy, which will start from January 5 next year.

Along with the multiple

time Ranji champions are Hyderabad, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand in Elite group C.

Defending champions Saurashtra are clubbed with Goa in Elite group D.

Haryana, Kerala, Tripura and

Another interesting group will be Elite group A that has Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Services and Assam. The Elite E group has Andhra, Uttar Pradesh, Baroda, Odisha, Chattisgarh and

Meghalya, Bihar, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh. The six cities where matches will be played are Mumbai (Elite A), Bengaluru (Elite B), Kolkata (Elite C), Ahmedabad

(Elite D), Trivandrum (Elite E)

Pondicherry. The Plate group will comprise Chandigarh,

and Chennai (Plate). There will be a five-day quarantine for teams ahead of each game.

