

OPINION 6
NOT REALLY A GAME
OF SPORTSMANSHIP

WORLD 8
PAK HAS OTHER 'OPTIONS',
PM IMRAN'S AIDE TELLS US

SPORT 12
ANDERSON LEADS
ENGLAND FIGHT BACK

RANCHI, FRIDAY AUGUST 6 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



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START A
CONVERSATION:
ABHAY DEOL
10 VIVACITY

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*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

Hockey Oly Bronze relieves 4 decades of pain

Dahiya wins debut Silver

PTI ■ TOKYO

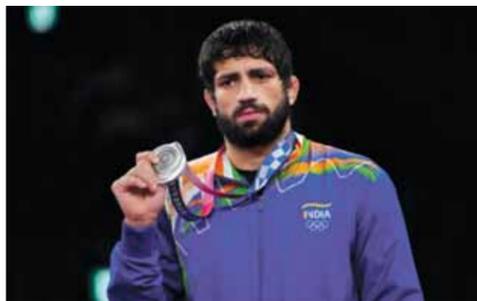
India's newest wrestling star Ravi Dahiya picked up an impressive Silver on his Olympic debut but the country was left emotionally stirred by its lionhearted men's hockey team players who secured a Bronze that washed away four decades of pain and disappointment that the sport and its followers have endured.

Thirteen years after failing to even qualify for the Games, an Indian hockey team stood at the podium, something that had become a mythical tale of a bygone era for an entire generation.

It was India's 12th Olympic hockey medal but the one that came after a gap of 41 years. It was India's fifth medal of the ongoing Games and perhaps the one which evoked the most emotional response.

To put it in context, the last time India won a hockey medal at the Olympics, the USSR still existed.

On Thursday morning, Manpreet Singh and his men outran, outwitted, outpaced and to an extent outplayed an aggressive German team 5-4 to shed the baggage of failures and announce the "rebirth" of Indian hockey as the generation before this one knew it. "We didn't give up. We kept fighting back," said an



Silver medalist Ravi Dahiya celebrates on the podium for the men's 57kg Freestyle wrestling at the 2020 Olympics on Thursday in Tokyo AP

overwhelmed Manpreet after the win which ensured that his and the rest of his teammates' names would be written in golden words in the history of Indian hockey.

In a cricket-mad India, hockey has always been a sentimental sport, making the layman nostalgic about a glorious past, which is dotted with eight Olympic Gold medals.

And having ruefully seen its decline in the past several years, it was only fair that the nation celebrated with gusto. Dahiya added to this celebration with a Silver medal in the men's 57kg division.

He lost the final to reigning world champion Zaur Uguev of Russian Olympic Committee to sign off with a

Silver, which was only the second ever by an Indian wrestler.

There was also plenty of good news coming in from the golf course where Aditi Ashok put herself in contention for a podium finish with a flawless five-under 66 in the second round that left her tied second at the end of the day's play.

But there were plenty of disappointments too, the biggest one being star wrestler Vinesh Phogat.

After a good win in the opening round, she lost to Belarus' Vanesa Kaladzinskaya in the quarterfinals. Her medal hopes were dashed when Kaladzinskaya failed to make the finals.

The 19-year-old Deepak Punia (86kg) came close to a



Indian players pose for photographs as they celebrate their victory in the men's field hockey Bronze medal match at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo on Thursday PTI

bronze medal but conceded the winning lead to San Marino's Myles Nazem Amine with just a few seconds left in the bout.

But nothing could dampen the euphoria of a hockey medal, the sentimental favourite of a cricket-mad country.

Simranjeet Singh (17th, 34th minutes) scored a brace, while Hardik Singh (27th), Harmanpreet Singh (29th) and

Rupinder Pal Singh (31st) also sounded the board to immortalise themselves and the team.

"Today when we won it, this gives a boost and gives energy to the youngsters to pick up hockey, play this game," said 35-year-old veteran custodian PR Sreejesh, quite literally the wall that protected India's citadel.

"This is a beautiful game. Now we are giving a reason for

them to pick up hockey, play the game."

Away from the spotlight, the India's race walkers endured an expectedly ordinary outing. National record holder Sandeep Kumar was going strong at second position till near the halfway mark but he faded to finish 23rd with a below-par timing.

The 35-year-old Kumar crossed the finish line in 1 hour

25 minute and 7 seconds, well outside his national record time of 1:20:16 which he had clocked in February to qualify for the Olympics during the

National Open Race Walk Championships in Ranchi.

His two other compatriots, Rahul Rohilla (1:32:06) and K T Irfan (1:34:41) brought up the rear at 47th and 51st with disappointing performances

under hot and humid condi-

TOKYO 2020 MEDAL TALLY

Country	G	S	B
China	34	24	16
USA	29	35	27
Japan	22	10	14
Australia	17	5	19
ROC	16	22	20
G Britain	16	18	17
Germany	9	9	16
France	7	11	9
Italy	7	10	18
Netherlands	7	9	10
India	0	2	3

tions.

On Friday, the Indian women's hockey team would look to emulate their men counterparts when it takes on Great Britain in the bronze medal playoff.

Rani Rampal and her gutsy teammates have already exceeded all expectations by getting this far but within touching distance of their own maiden Olympic medal, they would hope to raise the bar one last time at the Games.

On the wrestling mat, all eyes will be on Bajrang Punia when he opens his campaign in the 65kg category. The celebrated grappler is a top medal contender for the country.

Among the women, Seema Bisla (50kg) will stake her claim for a podium finish.

Centre buries retro taxes, Bill to nix demand on Cairn, Vodafone

LS proceedings adjourned five times on Thur amid Opp stir

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After setbacks in Cairn and Vodafone cases, the Government on Thursday introduced a new Tax Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha to scrap the nine-year-old controversial retrospective taxation.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced "The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021" in the Lok Sabha that seeks to withdraw tax demands made using a 2012 retrospective legislation to tax the indirect transfer of Indian assets. The Bill said the money will be refunded in these cases without any interest.

The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 provides for the withdrawal of tax demand made on "indirect transfer of Indian assets if the transaction was undertaken before May 28, 2012, the day the retrospective tax legislation came into force." It is also proposed to refund the amount paid in these cases without any interest thereon," it said.

The Bill has a direct bearing on long-running tax disputes with British firms Cairn Energy Plc and Vodafone Group. India has lost two separate arbitrations brought by the two companies against the levy of retrospective taxes in international arbitrations forums.

While the Government has virtually no liability in the Vodafone case, it has to refund USD 1.2 billion to Cairn Energy for the shares of the company it had sold, tax refund withheld and dividends confiscated.

The Bill states that the issue of taxability of gains arising from the transfer of assets located in India through the transfer of shares of a foreign company (indirect transfer of Indian assets) was a subject matter of protracted litigation.

The Supreme Court in 2012 had given a verdict that gains arising from indirect



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Lok Sabha in New Delhi on Thursday PTI

transfer of Indian assets are not taxable under the extant provisions of the Act.

But to circumvent this, the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 were amended by the Finance Act, 2012 with retrospective effect, to clarify that gains arising from the sale of shares of a foreign company is taxable in India if such shares, directly or indirectly, derive their value substantially from assets located in India.

"Pursuant thereto, income-tax demand had been raised in 17 cases. In two cases assessments are pending due to stay granted by High Court," the objects of the Bill said.

Meanwhile, the Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned five times on Thursday amid continuous protests by Opposition members over the Pegasus spying issue and three farm laws.

Out of the 17 cases, arbitration under Bilateral Investment Protection Treaty with the United Kingdom and the Netherlands had been invoked in four cases.

"In two cases, the Arbitration Tribunal ruled in favour of the taxpayer and against the Income Tax Department," it said in a reference to arbitration awards won by Cairn and Vodafone.

"The said clarificatory amendments made by the Finance Act, 2012 invited criticism from stakeholders mainly with respect to the retrospective effect given to the amendments. It is argued that such retrospective amendments militate against the principle of tax certainty and damage India's reputation as an attractive destination," said the new Bill.

CM for traffic jam-free roads of Capital city

Proposal for flyover, four-laning of roads

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Road Construction Department has started the exercise for the sake of freeing the residents of Ranchi from regular traffic jams.

A presentation was made by the Road Construction Department to Chief Minister Hemant Soren at the Jharkhand Secretariat on Thursday on the proposal related to the construction of flyovers/four lanes on two important roads of Ranchi city. Secretary, Road Construction Department, Sunil Kumar, through a presentation (PPT), made preparations for the work plan related to the construction of flyover from Sirmatoli Chowk to MECON via Rajendra Chowk and four-laning of Newri-Kokar Chowk-Namkum Road from the proposed Sirmatoli Chowk of Ranchi city to the CM.

The CM, being aware of the presentation, while discussing various points related to the construction work of the above two roads, gave necessary suggestions and directions to the officials of the Road



Chief Minister Hemant Soren along with senior officials during a meeting at Project building in Ranchi on Thursday Pioneer photo

Construction Department. On the occasion, Chief Secretary Sukhdev Singh, Chief Minister's Principal Secretary Rajiv Arun Ekka, Secretary-cum-City Development Secretary to the Chief Minister Vinay Kumar Choubey, Secretary, Road Construction Department Sunil Kumar, Engineer-in-Chief Road Construction Department Murari Bhagat and other officials were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Hemant Soren has congratulated the Indian men's hockey team for winning the bronze medal in the Olympics. The

Chief Minister said that after decades, the Indian men's hockey team achieved its glory by winning the bronze medal in the Olympics. Words cannot describe the patience and determination that the team displayed for the medal and brought laurels to the country.

The CM also congratulated Indian wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya for winning the silver medal in the 57 kg weight category of freestyle wrestling competition in Tokyo Olympics. The CM said that this is a proud moment for the countrymen.

Serve copies of pleas to Govt, SC tells

Pegasus petitioners

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the petitioners in the Pegasus case to serve copies of their pleas to the Centre "so that somebody from the Government is present" on next hearing August 10 to respond. "Let them serve copies of the petition to the Government. Somebody should appear for the Government to take notice," said the bench headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, while asking series of questions to petitioners and observing the seriousness of the matter. "Let the matters be listed on Tuesday, the August 10, 2021. In the meantime, Advocate-on-Record appearing for the petitioners are directed to serve copies of the writ petitions upon the Union of India well in advance," the bench said in its order. PNS

State completes administering 1 crore vaccine jabs

Over 80 lakh get first jab, 20 lakh get second

PNS ■ RANCHI

The total count of Covid-19 vaccines administered in Jharkhand since the launch of the nationwide immunisation programme on January 16 crossed the 1 crore mark on Thursday as the State inoculated almost 60,000 residents on the day, figures compiled by the health department highlighted.

As per provisional data shared by the National Health Mission (NHM), the State administered the first dose of vaccine to 42,595 residents on the day, while 16,197 beneficiaries got their second jab. The total number of vaccine doses — both first and second —

administered in the State so far reached 1,00,03,374 on Thursday, highlighted Government data. As per Government data, over 80 lakh residents have received the first dose of vaccine and close to 20 lakh beneficiaries have got their second jab in the State so far.

At least 826 session sites, including 24 private ones, were operational in the state on Thursday, as per data available on the Government of India's Co-Win portal. According to Co-Win dashboard, at least 53 session sites were operational in Ranchi on the day, while 36 session sites in East Singhbhum opened their doors for vaccine beneficiaries. More than 8000 residents were inoculated in Ranchi, while over 5,000 got jabbed in East Singhbhum.

As per data with the NHM, the State has almost 3 lakh doses of vaccines in stock, enough to last around three



A medic inoculates a dose of Covid-19 vaccine to a woman at a centre in Ranchi on Thursday Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

days. So far, the State has received 1,01,66,910 doses of Covishield and Covaxin from the Centre, while additional doses of Sputnik V were procured by private facilities, highlighted NHM data.

Jharkhand on Thursday reported 28 Covid cases and

ry that aspirants are acquainted with local languages and customs. Since the syllabus too has been revised there will be three papers in mains examination general studies, language papers consisting Hindi and English and third will be the regional language paper. 12 languages have been notified as regional languages.

The Cabinet also simplified the examination process of JSSC as the Cabinet has now abolished the preliminary test. After preliminary test abolished the selection will be done on the basis of written (Mains) examination.

For further screening the Cabinet has made it mandato-

September 3 till September 9.

The Cabinet approved the appointment of three teachers as members of Jharkhand Public Service Commission. The Cabinet sanctioned appointment of Ajita Bhattacharya (associate professor, Lala Lakshminarayan Degree College, Uttar Pradesh), Anima Hansda (assistant professor of Santhali at Gosner College, Ranchi) and Jamal Ahmed who is a teacher of Urdu as well as assistant examination controller at Vinoba Bhawe University in Hazaribagh.

Besides, the Cabinet extended the tenure of 22 special courts for another two years. These courts were constituted to conduct trial of rape and POCSO cases.

The cabinet also approved the proposal of higher education department to rope freshers to take PG classes who either hold a PHD degree or qualified UGC or NET. Earlier only retired teachers were roped-in to take classes. They will be paid per class and the total payment in a month will not exceed more than ₹36,000.

reported five cases against only two recoveries. East Singhbhum reported one fresh case of infection and two recoveries. The active caseload there was 15 by the end of Thursday.

The State on Thursday tested swab samples of 54,894 residents and about 0.05 per cent of them were found infected by coronavirus. So far, over 3.47 lakh people have been infected by the lethal virus in Jharkhand and 98.4 per cent of them have recovered, while 1.47 per cent of patients could not survive.

The State did not report fresh cases of Covid-induced mucormycosis on the day, while three patients of the fungal infection were discharged from hospital. As per data with the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), the state has reported 163 cases of black fungus so far and 111 patients have recovered, while 31 died.

Work on Dhalbhumgarh airport to expedite

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

The long pending construction of Dhalbhumgarh airport is expected to gather momentum soon. MP Bidhyut Baran Mahto met Civil Aviation Minister Madhavrao Jyotiraditya Scindia and demanded immediate steps to make Dhalbhumgarh airport operational.

The MP apprised Scindia that the foundation stone for this airport was laid in January 2019 and the Union Government has almost completed the work for the same. About 100 crore rupees have



also been allocated, despite this, till now this airport has not been started. The MP also informed the Minister that this airport would prove to be a boon for the entire region.

He said not only Jharkhand but also Baleshwar industrial area of Odisha and Purulia and Kharagpur industrial area of West Bengal would be connected directly with this airport. Through the memorandum submitted, the MP also told the Minister that there is no problem of land acquisition here. As well as this airport was used for military use during the Second World War. If appropriate steps are taken from the level of the central government, then this airport can be started immediately.

Supporting the views of the MP, Scindia said that it is sur-

same time, he said that in this regard, he is directing his officers that they should take necessary action to resolve whatever obstacles are there.

The State Government has zeroed on the World War-II era abandoned airstrip (nearly 2 km long). World War II era abandoned airfield in Chakulia, barely 70 km from Jamshedpur, was built by the British in the 1940s at an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore, and later used extensively during the 1962 war with China and the 1971 war with Pakistan for the liberation of Bangladesh is spread across an area of 515.44 acres.

Hot Strip Mill and BAF, SPM scaled record production

PNS ■ BOKARO

Hot Strip Mills (HSM) team of Bokaro Steel Plant under the leadership of CGM (Hot Strip Mills) Alok Verma has scaled a new height by producing 333052 Tonnes of HR Coils in the month of July and has set a new benchmark of excellence. This is the best production in the month of July so far by the hot strip mill since the establishment of Bokaro Steel Plant. The team of Hot Strip Mill has also set a new record of 5540 Tons (250 Coils) production in one shift on

30th July for the first time after modernization.

This achievement of Hot Strip Mill includes PPC, RCL, HRCE, RGBSS, SMS-2 & CCS, SMS New, Traffic, Central Maintenance Agencies, Shops and Foundries, Heavy Maintenance (Mechanical), General Maintenance (Mechanical), Structural Shop, Machine Shop, PFRS, Capital Repair (Electrical), Heavy Maintenance (Electrical), ETAL, C&A, EMD, WMD, RED, SIGS, PFRS, CED, ACVS and other allied departments also made

commendable contribution.

The personnel of BAF and SPM of CRM-3 under the leadership of CGM (CRM-3) Rajan Prasad are constantly striving to make every month a better month. In the month of July, BAF personnel produced 44294 tonnes as against 43991 tonnes in January. Similarly, the employees of SPM have achieved a new height by producing 44131 tonnes in the month of July, before crossing the figure of 43305 tonnes in the month of January.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, कोडरमा

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

अल्पकालीन ई- निविदा सूचना संख्या - RDD/SD/KODERMA/03/2021-2022

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में)	अग्रघन की राशि (लाख में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	कोडरमा जिलान्तर्गत सतगाँव प्रखण्ड में प्रखण्ड विकास पदाधिकारी-सह-अंचलाधिकारी आवास /पर्यवेक्षीय/तृतीय/चतुर्थ वर्य कर्मचारी आवास एवं प्रखण्ड परिसर का विकास तथा विविध निर्माण कार्य।	528.192	10.57	10,000.00	12Month.
2	कोडरमा जिलान्तर्गत मरकन्डो प्रखण्ड में प्रखण्ड विकास पदाधिकारी-सह-अंचलाधिकारी आवास /पर्यवेक्षीय/तृतीय/चतुर्थ वर्य कर्मचारी आवास एवं प्रखण्ड परिसर का विकास तथा विविध निर्माण कार्य।	527.709	10.56	10,000.00	12Month.

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :- 11.08.2021

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 20.08.2021 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक

4. ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, कोडरमा / मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, कोडरमा, राँची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रघन की राशि एवं Affidavit जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 23.08.2021 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।

5. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :- मुख्य अभियंता, का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, कोडरमा, राँची।

6. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 24.08.2021 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे

7. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- ई.ओ रामजी प्रसाद, कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, कोडरमा।

8. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं. :- 8789456687 (संबन्धित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)

9. निविदा शुल्क राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निर्गत झ्रूपट या बैंकर्स चेक जो कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, कोडरमा के पदनाम से देय हो देना होगा।

10. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है, तदनुसार परिमाण विपत्र की राशि का 02 प्रतिशत राशि अग्रघन की राशि के रूप में जमा करना होगा।

11. विशेष परिस्थिति में बिना कारण बताये निविदा रद्द करने अथवा स्थगित करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को सुरक्षित होगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पत्र पर देखा जा सकता है।

PR 250836 Rural Development (21-22)_D

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, कोडरमा

SER flags off fifth Oxygen Express to Bangladesh

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

In yet another move to meet shortage of oxygen, the South Eastern Railway on Wednesday flagged off the fifth Oxygen Express train to Benapole in Bangladesh from Rourkela railway station under Chakradharpur division.

The train left Rourkela carrying 183 tonnes of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) in 10 containers.

The train will cover a journey of around 700 Km for reaching its destination in Bangladesh from Rourkela.

Notably, the first Oxygen Express train was sent to Benapole in Bangladesh, originating from Tatanagar on July 24 for the treatment of Covid affected patients in that neighbouring country.

Till today, four Oxygen Express trains have been sent to Bangladesh from Tatanagar each carrying 200 tonnes of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO). With the despatch of today's train from Rourkela, altogether five Oxygen Express Trains have been sent to Bangladesh from SER jurisdiction with a total 983 tonnes of LMO.

BK Mishra among top 20% scientists in the world

PNS ■ RANCHI

Professor Dr. Bimal Kumar Mishra, Principal, Markham College of Commerce, Hazaribag name appears in the list of top 20 per cent scientists in the world released by the AD Scientific Index (Alper-Doger Scientific Index). Dr. Mishra, a renowned mathematician of the country, has served as a Professor and Head, Department of Mathematics, BIT, Mesra, Ranchi, and also as a faculty member at BITS, Pilani. He has published more than 130 research papers in journals of repute and has supervised 24 Ph. D.'s under his guidance.

Working in the area of cyber attacks and defense for more than 15 years he has in his credits three patents and edited a book on "Understanding cyber threats and attacks" published from the USA. Earned the highest academic degree Doctor of Science (D.Sc.), Dr. Mishra is an alumnus of St. Columba's College, Hazaribag, and is the son of renowned mathematician Late Prof. B. N. Mishra, Former Professor & Head of Mathematics, Vinoba Bhawe

Covishield not available at in Dhanbad for last 4 days

PANKAJ KUMAR ■ DHANBAD

Hundreds of beneficiaries, who took Covishield as first dose of vaccine, await for supply of the vaccine for taking a second shot here in Dhanbad.

The Covishield vaccine is not available at any of the notified vaccination centres for the last four days where the vaccine is given without cost.

This vaccine was available on August 1 but after that it's no longer available for either those willing to take the first dose or second booster dose.

The nonavailability has dampened the spirit of those who took the first dose in the month of March as the scheduled date of second dose was extended till the first week of the current month. The main reason for nonavailability of this vaccine even for the second dose claimed to be dealt is supply from headquarters. One of the beneficiaries SK Chourasia who took his first dose in March said now he is not sure when he would receive the second dose as slot booking for Covishield vaccine is not available for the last four days here.

NGT imposes ₹1.64 cr environmental compensation on DVC

Bokaro: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a penalty to the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) second time, for dereliction in the duties of the officials of thermal power plants leading to damage to the ecology of Damodar River.

The NGT has imposed environmental compensation of Rs 1,64,53,000 based on an assessment report submitted by a committee constituted by the tribunal. The DVC has been asked to deposit the entire environmental compensation within two months of the order.

Order was issued by NGT following a case filed by Praveen Kumar Singh, Convener, Damodar Bachao Andolan, in concern to furnace oil spill in the Damodar River by Chandrapura Thermal Power Station in October 2019. Earlier, NGT on 14 December 2020 by its order in another case directed DVC to deposit Rs 2,89,39,769 and to comply with all other recommendations within two months. This case was also filed by Praveen Singh in view of fly ash spill in river Damodar due to dyke failure on 12 September 2019.

CHAS MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

CHAS (BOKARO)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF AMRUT PARK PHASE-4

2nd Call Very Short Term E.O.I Notice

EOI NO: 02/CMC/AMRUT PARK/O&M/2021-2022 DATE:-04/08/2021

Chas Municipal Corporation (CMC) invites open auction Expression of Interest for Ten (10) Years Operation & Maintenance and upkeep of AMRUT PARK PHASE-4 Located at Bholur Bandh, ward no-14 & 15, Chas from the Individuals/ registered Agency/ Contractors/Person with Fresher and Experience for upkeep and maintain of the parks, Gardens any other Horticulture and green belt Development Works.

Submission of proposals

Request for qualification (RFQ) consisting of scope of work and Eligibility Criteria may be downloaded from <https://udhd.jharkhand.gov.in/ulb/chas/chas.aspx>. Minimum reserved price is Rs. 2,00,000/- (Two Lakh) per Year and add GST with escalated by 5% every year to be calculated compounded annually for Time Period 10 Years. Interested Individuals/ registered Agency/ Contractors/Persons may submit their proposals along with a Demand Draft of Rs.5,000/- (Five Thousand only) as a E.O.I Fee (Non Refundable) and bank guarantee (B.G) of Rs.1,50,000.00 (One Lakh fifty Thousand) (Non Refundable For Successful Bidder) in favour of "Additional Municipal Commissioner, Chas Municipal Corporation Chas" payable at Chas.

Note-

1.Un-Successful Bidder /Individuals/ registered Agency/ Contractors/Persons bank guarantee (B.G) will be return after award of Operation & Maintenance of Amrut Park Phase-4.

Minimum Eligibility CriteriaS.No. Proceedings Date & Time Date of Issue E.O.I.06.08.2021Last date of Submission of hard copy of require document along with tender fees16.08.2021 AT 12:00 PM3 Date of Public Auction at CMC, Chas Office 16.08.2021 AT 02:30PM

Additional Municipal commissioner, Chas Municipal Corporation, Chas

PR 250848 Urban Development and Housing(21-22)D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

एन०आर०ई०पी०, राँची

शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित ई० टेन्डर अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 03/2021-22 (DMFT मद अन्तर्गत) जिसका P.R.No. 250675 N.R.E.P (21-22)D में निम्न प्रकार से संशोधित किया जाता है -

1. क्रमांक 3 जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष राँची में निविदा शुल्क अग्रघन की राशि, शपथ पत्र के मूल प्रति एवं अपलोड किये गये योग्यता दस्तावेज की एक प्रति जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय - 11.08.21 - 3.00 बजे तक।

संशोधित

1. क्रमांक 3 कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, एन०आर०ई०पी०-1 राँची में निविदा शुल्क अग्रघन की राशि, शपथ पत्र के मूल प्रति एवं अपलोड किये गये योग्यता दस्तावेज की एक प्रति जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय - 11.08.21 - 5.00 बजे तक।

शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
एन०आर०ई०पी०-1, राँची।

PR 250879 (NREP) 21-22 (D)

AFFIDAVIT

I, Kamlesh Kumar Kanaujia, Father-Late Rajnarayan Kanaujia, Address- Village Mahuli, Post-Taluka Duddhi, District- Sonbhadra, State-Uttar Pradesh. My son Atulya Kumar, during the admission in Garhwa Kendriya Vidyalaya (school admission number-582, roll number-27) my name has been registered as Kamlesh Kumar and his mother's name is Anju Devi, while my corrected name is Kamlesh Kumar Kanaujia and his Mother's name is Anju Kumari, which should be corrected in the Admission register of the said school. I am enclosing the photocopy of the Aadhaar Card of my & my wife Anju Kumari, along with this affidavit. My Aadhaar No. 403872822932. Whose affidavit number - 924, dated - 04.08.2021.

FIR against hospital for misuse of Remdesivir, malpractice

PNS ■ BOKARO

An FIR was registered against a private hospital in Bokaro for misuse of Remdesivir injections and not keeping the proper records of the injections, for allegedly violating COVID-19 regulation norms, malpractices, misappropriation of Remdesivir vials and black marketing of injection on their part.

A case has been lodged by the Executive Magistrate PR Kujur at Sector 4 police station against the Hospital management for violation of Clinical Establishment (Registration and Regulation) Rules 2013, Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and Disaster Management Act 2005.

"Seventy vials of Ramdisivir injection were allotted to the Hospital when the pandemic period was at its peak. During the inspection, the hospital management presented the account of only 12 vials. Also, they did not present the empty vial of the injection," said Kujur.

Pipra Tand gets police station in new building

M FAIYAZ AHMAD ■ DALTONGANJ

Divisional commissioner Palamau Jatashankar Chowdhury on Wednesday inaugurated the new police station building at Pipra Tand in Palamau.

DIG Palamu police range R K Lakra, DC Shashi Ranjan and SP Chandan Kumar Sinha were present on this occasion.

DIG Lakra said this Pipra Tand police station holds a very strategic value in terms of extremism.

Lakra said Pipra Tand has a road to Chatra but the road to it leaves much to be desired.

Sources said the road is terribly dilapidated. It is only worth the name, said sources. The condition of the road suggests Pipra Tand is far away from development, said sources.

DC Shashi Ranjan said we saw the road and we would do everything to make it motorable and bike able.

Reminded that the road has forest land issue to which DC said it is really there and around ten kilometers of the road is said to be forest land.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पश्चिम, राँची

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट अति अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

शुद्धि - पत्र

इस कार्यालय द्वारा प्रकाशित Construction of Rural Pipe Water Supply Scheme through DC/HYDT/GPT/ HYGPT (Solar based) 01/2.0 H.P. DC Motor pump complete set for different tolas of content villages which is not included in MVS and has no electricity or less electricity to supply water 2000 LPH maximum at least 15/30 year for 24x7 supply with 100% coverage by Tap water Facility under JJM for the year 2021-22 कार्य का अति अल्पकालीन निविदा संख्या- DWSD/RW/SVS-02/2021-22 दिनांक- 05.07.2021, जिसका PR No. 249192 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 2021-22 है, का संशोधित प्राक्कलित राशि, अग्रघन की राशि, परिमाण विपत्र एवं तिथि को निम्न प्रकार संशोधित किया जाता है।

क्र. सं.	योजना का नाम	योजना की संख्या	प्राक्कलित राशि (₹० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (₹० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (₹० में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1	Sewadh Group of SVS Scheme under Mandar Block (Group No. - 01)	4	5624692.00	112500.00	10000.00	06 (क्र. माह)
2	Jaher (Part A+B) Group of SVS Scheme under Mandar Block (Group No. - 02)	8	16060495.00	321300.00	10000.00	06 (क्र. माह)
3	Bargari (Part A+B) Group of SVS Scheme under Mandar Block (Group No. - 03)	7	15128868.00	302600.00	10000.00	06 (क्र. माह)

2. वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय :- 07/08/2021 / 05.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- 13/08/2021 / 05.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।

4. अग्रघन की राशि एवं परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (हार्ड कॉपी) जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय :- 14/08/2021 / 03.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।

5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 14/08.2021 / 05.00 बजे अपराह्न में।

6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का कार्यालय का पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पश्चिम, राँची।

7. निविदा खोलने वाले पदाधिकारी के कार्यालय का पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, राँची पश्चिम, राँची।

8. ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन नं० :- 0651-2491247

9. निविदा की प्राक्कलित राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है, तत्पश्चात अग्रघन की राशि देय मान्य होगा।

10. कार्य की मात्रा आवश्यकतानुसार घट-बढ़ सकती है।

11. विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु वेबसाइट <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल,
राँची पश्चिम, राँची

PR 250904 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22)_D

झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, सर्कुलर रोड, राँची-834001

प्रेस विज्ञापित

झारखण्ड संयुक्त असेनिक सेवा प्रारंभिक प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा-2021 (विज्ञापन संख्या-01/2021) के संबंध में आवश्यक सूचना।

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि झारखण्ड संयुक्त असेनिक सेवा प्रारंभिक प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा-2021, (विज्ञापन संख्या-01/2021) दिनांक-12.09.2021 को संभावित है। परीक्षा के संदर्भ में शेष सूचनाएँ बाद में प्रकाशित की जाएगी।

2. यह प्रेस विज्ञापित आयोग के वेबसाइट www.jpsc.gov.in पर भी उपलब्ध है।

हो / -
परीक्षा नियंत्रक,
PR 250868 Jharkhand Public Service Commission(21-22)#D झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग,राँची

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची

शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या- RDD /SD / RANCHI /07 / 2021-22 P.R. No. 250235 (Rural Development) 2021-22 को अपरिहार्य कारणवश निम्न रूप से संशोधित किया जाता है:-

कडिका-2 वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :- दिनांक 10.08.2021

कडिका-3 ई०-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 18.08.2021 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।

कडिका-4 कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची / मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, कोडरमा, राँची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रघन की राशि एवं Affidavit जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 20.08.2021 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।

कडिका-5 निविदा खोलने का स्थान :- मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची।

कडिका-6 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 23.08.2021 अपराह्न 02:00 बजे।

कडिका-7 निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची

कडिका-8 ई०-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष संख्या :- 9835746687

कडिका-9 निविदा शुल्क राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निर्गत झ्रूपट या बैंकर्स चेक जो कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची के पदनाम से देय हो देना होगा।

कडिका-10 परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है, तदनुसार परिमाण विपत्र की राशि का 02 प्रतिशत राशि अग्रघन की राशि के रूप में जमा करना होगा।

कडिका-11 विशेष परिस्थिति में बिना कारण बताए निविदा रद्द करने अथवा स्थगित करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को सुरक्षित होगा।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची

PR 250857 Rural Development(21-22)_D

Miscreants loot ₹2.50L by breaking car window glasses

Dhanbad: Miscreants looted Rs 2.50 lakh in a mid-day incident on Thursday by breaking the window glass of a businessman's car and escaped. The incident took place around noon when JMM leader-cum- real-estate dealer Abhishek Kumar had parked his car near a medicine shop in busy Housing colony locality. The miscreants probably were trekking the businessman who had withdrawn Rs 5 lakhs from Axis bank branch located at City Centre that happens to be about half a km away from the incident spot. In his FIR lodged with Dhanbad PS the businessman claims that he had withdrawn Rs 5 lakh from the aforementioned bank and has given payment of Rs 2.5 lakh to a friend. The rest was kept in a bag in the car.

2 agro clinic centres to open in Hazaribag

SHAILESH SHARMA ■ HAZARIBAG

On the directions of the State Government the Hazaribag administration has decided to open two Agro Clinic Centres in Barhi and Sadar sub divisions of Hazaribag district.

The District Agriculture officer will be the controlling officer of both the centres.

DAO Rajendra Kishore said that on the demand of farmers of the district this decision has been taken by the district administration.

With the help of this centre the farmers can use the ultra modern technique of agriculture.

INBRIEF

ECR GM HOLDS WINDOW TRAILING INSPECTION

General Manager of East Central Railway, Anupam Sharma, today conducted a window trailing inspection of Patna-Gaya and Gaya-Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction railway section. During this, the GM inspected railway tracks, rail bridges, level crossing gates, stations etc in Patna-Gaya and Gaya-Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn. The GM specially took stock of the safety related aspects. Principal Chief Engineer Brajesh Kumar, DRM of Danapur Division Sunil Kumar, DRM of Pandit Deen Dayal Division Rajesh Kumar Pandey and other high officials were present during the inspection. In the course of Window Trailing Inspection, the GM got down at Bagaha Bishunpur station and inspected the progress of the ongoing construction work for upgradation of rail infrastructure there. After this, the GM reached the PDDU Mandal where he became aware of the achievements and future action plans of the Board and the work progress of PDDU Jn.-Sonnagar Dedicated Freight Corridor Project in the review meeting held at the Divisional Headquarters.



CBI IN PROCESS TO TAKE OVER UTAM ANAND CASE

A team of CBI that has been entrusted investigation of suspected murder case of judge Utam Anand on Thursday had several rounds of discussions with senior officials of Dhanbad police including City SP and ASP besides select others officers who were part of state SIT. Senior Superintendent of police Sanjeev Kumar said, "Process of handing over the case to the CBI probe team is on. Soon all relevant documents related to the investigation by state police would be handed over to the central probe agency." It's likely that formal investigation and interrogation of the accused of this case may be done in a day or two when experts of different fields reach coal capital.



NTSE QUALIFIERS FROM DPS RANCHI FELICITATED

The meritorious NTSE STAGE I Qualifiers from DPS Ranchi were felicitated by Principal, Ram Singh, on Thursday. After acknowledging them by presentation of bouquets and gifts he counselled them with his profound knowledge and experience. Expressing his firm faith in their success in STAGE II (NATIONAL LEVEL) of the aforementioned coveted examination conducted by NCERT, he wished them the very best of luck.



RRD MEETING WITH CCL AUTHORITIES

A meeting between Divisional Railway Manager Neeraj Ambastha and CMD, CCL PM Prasad was held at CCL Ranchi Headquarters located at Darbhanga House on Thursday. The main objective of the meeting was the increase in loading in the present situation and other topics were discussed in detail as well as the issue of loading more rakes from Rajrapra was discussed. The DRM assured that all possible assistance would be provided to them by the Railways to increase the loading. Also, pending financial issues were also discussed. During the meeting, projects were discussed under Corporate Social Responsibility to increase passenger convenience at the railway station or in the field of eco-friendly technology. Sr DCM cum CPRO of RRD Avneesh, Sr DOM Aditya Kumar Chaudhary and CCL GM (Sales) Ajit Kumar Singh and others were present in this meeting.



TRAINING PROGRAMME METROLOGY IN CHEMISTRY AT NML

A virtual training programme Metrology in Chemistry is being organised jointly by CSIR- National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML) from August 3 to 6. The main objective of this training programme is to improve the understanding and knowledge in the area of statistical analysis of Chemistry and to impart to them core and generic skill. The morning session of the first day commenced at 10 am with an inaugural programme in which Dr. Mita Tarafder Skill Training Coordinator, head, KRIT addressed the participants. In her welcome address, she welcomed the participants and enlightened them about CSIR-NML and the various skill training programmes conducted by them and how the participants could benefit from it. With this, the inaugural programme came to an end and the technical programme began.



HC stay order on RMC plan to demolish health hub

HC ASKS GOVT TO FORM APPELLATE AUTHORITY

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court on Thursday put a stay on the order of Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC) to demolish business establishments, houses including Nagarmal Modi Seva Sadan Hospital at Upper Bazar area till the formation of the Appellate Authority.



A view of Sewa Sadan Hospital near Ranchi Lake, in Ranchi on Thursday
Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

The State Government has been directed to make the appellate authority functional within a week. The divisional bench of Jharkhand High Court comprising High Court Chief Justice, Dr Ravi Ranjan and Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad after hearing the petition asked the State Government to constitute an appellate authority, while staying the demolition plan of Civic body.

A PIL was filed on behalf of the Federation of Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FJCCI). Senior advocate Anil Sinha, appearing for the chamber, informed the court that the corporation's action is against the rules.

The corporation is giving notice of demolition of buildings and houses by citing the order of the High Court. The court also expressed displeasure over the RMC move. The HC asked corporation's advocate LCA Shahdeo whether the court has issued any order for the demolition of buildings.

The HC order has come as a big relief for residents of Upper Bazar and Sewa Sadan administration. It may be noted that recently, Ranchi Municipal Commissioner has ordered the demolition of the 63-year-old health hub Sewa Sadan.

The Sewa Sadan management had said that this order of

the Municipal Commissioner is wrong. It will be challenged in the High Court. The hospital management also stated that the map of Sewa Sadan building was passed by RDA in 1980. It has been presented before the corporation, but the municipal commissioner is not accepting the map.

The hospital management has also clarified that the Municipal Commissioner cannot order not to admit patients. Any patient who comes, he will be admitted if necessary. The hospital cannot return a patient.

On the other hand, Ranchi Municipal Commissioner Mukesh Kumar had said in a press conference that Sewa Sadan has been built by illegal construction. Not only Sewa Sadan, but all such buildings of the capital will be demolished.

On Wednesday, State BJP unit, Ranchi MP Sanjay Seth and RMC deputy mayor Sanjeev Vijayvargiya jumped in defense of the hospital.

Seth termed the Civic body decision to demolish the health hub as "Tughlaqi" farman. Seth said that the Sewa Sadan at Upper Bazar is rendering med-

ical service to people of Capital before the existence of Ranchi Municipal Corporation.

Even ruling party legislators have opposed the demolition of Sewa Sadan. Congress Legislator from Mahagama Deepika Pandey Singh welcomed the decision of Jharkhand High Court to put a stay on RMC order.

She said the Jharkhand High Court has put an interim stay on the decision of Ranchi Municipal Corporation to demolish Sewa Sadan Hospital as well as other buildings, shops in the name of faulty maps.

This decision of Ranchi Municipal Corporation has agitated the people of not only Ranchi but, entire Jharkhand because Ranchi Municipal Corporation, which is occupied by BJP Mayor and Deputy Mayor, is bent on demolishing old hospital. The manner in which the Municipal Corporation has made Ranchi ugly in the name of improving Ranchi infrastructure especially in the last five years, the office-bearers of the Corporation and its high-ranking public representatives will also have to answer to the public.

Demand for setting up AIIMS, Ranchi gains momentum

PNS ■ RANCHI

The demand for setting up the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) centre in Ranchi has gained momentum. State MPs in the past one week have placed their demand for setting up AIIMS campus in the State Capital by meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

On Wednesday former Union Minister and Lohardaga MP Sudarshan Bhagat met Mandaviya and placed his demand for setting up AIIMS campus in Ranchi.

Bhagat informed the Health Minister that with the setting up of the AIIMS centre in Ranchi it will cater to the needs of the entire State.

Bhagat said people of state in absence of state-of-art medical facilities like AIIMS have no other option but to go to other states such as Vellore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai for treatment. He said that with setting up AIIMS like medical facilities it will check the influx of patients from State to other states. The former union minister also suggested that the Union Health Ministry can set up AIIMS at Iki TB sanatorium. He said under the leader-

ship of PM Narendra Modi, commendable initiatives are being taken to increase the medical facilities across the country. In this series, a welfare announcement was made to set up 13 AIIMS in different states across the country. For this purpose an AIIMS has been opened in Deogarh in Jharkhand.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in May 2018 laid the foundation stone for the construction of the AIIMS regional center in Deogarh. The project is being funded under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana. The institute became operational with the first batch of 50 MBBS students, which started in September 2019, one of the six AIIMSs to become operational in 2019. Saurabh Varshney was appointed as director in March 2020 and NK Arora appointed president.

This year AIIMS, Deogarh began its outpatient department (OPD) services in the Devipur community health centre (CHC). Deogarh, Deputy Commissioner, Manjunath Bhajantri and AIIMS director Saurabh Varshney inaugurated the Dept at the CHC. Prior to Bhagat, Ranchi MP Sanjay Seth too had met Prime Minister Modi requesting him to set up another AIIMS in Jharkhand.

'GOVT TOPPLING CASE'

Police takes accused persons in remand for two days

PNS ■ RANCHI

The special ACB court of Prakash Jha on Thursday granted permission to Ranchi police to interrogate Abhishek Dubey, Amit Singh and Nivaran Prasad Mahto in police remand.

However, the court granted only two days police remand whereas Ranchi police had sought their four days remand. The trio was arrested by Ranchi police for allegedly hatching a conspiracy to topple the Hemant Soren Government by bribing some MLAs of the ruling alliance.

Ranchi police claimed that they were arrested from a hotel in Ranchi on July 22. An FIR was lodged against them under section 419,420 124A, 120B and 34 of IPC, section 171 of PR Act and section 8 and 9 of PC act. Police alleged that they were hatching conspiracy along with some Maharashtra based BJP politicians and three MLAs had travelled to Delhi along with them to fix a deal to topple the Government.

CNG and PNG stations to be constructed in Ranchi Smart City area

PNS ■ RANCHI

The construction of one CNG station and two PNG DR stations will start soon in Ranchi Smart City area under construction in Dhurwa. General Manager (Technical), Ranchi Smart City Corporation, Rakesh Nandyoliyar gave the provisional allotment letters of three plots in the Smart City area to the DGM (CGD), GAIL India Limited, BP Toppo on Thursday for the construction of these three stations.

The CNG stations for compressed natural gas and two PNG district regulating stations for domestic supply of piped natural gas will be constructed by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL).

On this occasion, Nandyoliyar congratulated the DGM, GAIL and expressed hope that the construction of CNG station and DRS will be done at an accelerated pace. He said that after the construction



General Manager (Technical), Smart City Corporation Rakesh Kumar Nandyoliyar presents provisional allotment letter of three plots to DGM (CGD) GAIL India Limited BP Toppo at his office in Ranchi on Thursday
Pioneer photo

of these stations, people living in Ranchi Smart City area would not only get the benefit of it, but the nearby consumers would also be benefited through the project.

GAIL India Limited will pay the cost of the land at the rate of reserve price in lieu of this land. Its decision has been taken by the state-level high-powered high level committee constituted under the chair-

manship of the Chief Secretary, Government of Jharkhand.

Speaking on the occasion Topo said that it will be our endeavor that within a year, the CNG station and district regulating station should be ready. "From here we will be able to supply gas to domestic, commercial and industrial sectors. Commercial and private vehicles will be able to get CNG from the CNG station," he added.

State likely to get genome sequencing machine soon

PNS ■ RANCHI

State is likely to procure a genome sequencer machine soon to detect and study new variants of the novel coronavirus amid the growing fear of Delta Plus variant and new mutated variants of concern that may pose higher risk than those strains that have already affected people in Jharkhand, health officials said on Thursday.

A proposal for procurement of a genome sequencer machine is likely to be floated during the next Governing Body meeting of the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), a source closely associated with Health Minister Banna Gupta said.

"A proposal for procurement of genome sequencer machine will be made during the next governing body meeting of RIMS, which is likely to be called very soon," the source said.

The Health Minister recently asked the RIMS administration to work on starting a department of genome studies in the pre-

miere state-run hospital. Gupta, during a meeting earlier this week, said that genome sequencing was an important part of the state's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and the infrastructure will also help in combatting diseases caused by viruses in future.

"We are trying our level best to improve the health facilities in our state, and genome studies appears to be an important part of the

process," said Gupta.

Jharkhand had sent a proposal for procurement of a genome sequencer machine to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare back in March. However, the proposal was not approved for several months and the state was asked to send RT-PCR samples of Covid patients to the Institute of Live Sciences (ILS) in Bhubaneswar for genome sequencing, officials said.

Govt ensures easy loan facilities for farmers through KCC

More than 5,75,761 applications received in July 2021

PNS ■ RANCHI

Agriculture is one of the key priority areas of the Government of Jharkhand. Chief Minister, Hemant Soren at different events has said that the State Government is committed to empowering the farmers of Jharkhand. Given this, Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) are being provided to the farmers to ensure ease in agricultural work.

Benefit for the farmers, Krishak Mitra, Jan Sevak, Assistant Technology Manager (ATM), and the Block Technology Manager (BTM) have been given the target of connecting farmers with KCC. More than 5, 65, 651 KCC applications were received between July 1 to July 31 and more than 60,787 KCC cards were issued to the beneficiaries," she added.

"Apart from the above, after the directions from the State Government, the agriculture loan of farmers was also waived off. More than 1, 22,238 farmers have benefited from the scheme and an amount of Rs 600 crore has been spent by the Government for the loan waiver scheme," said Singhmar.

The Director Agriculture also said that the Government is striving to connect maximum beneficiaries under KCC. "In the year 2016-17, 5,57,933 KCC was issued, 3,16,218 cards in 2017-18, 1,55,953 cards in the year 2018-19 and 5,01,527 KCC in the year 2019-20 whereas more than 8,67,609 KCCs were issued in the year 2020-21," she added.

Singhmar said that the Chief Minister directed to cover farmers from the SC-ST com-

munity, landless farmers under the KCC scheme on a priority basis. "It is believed that this will benefit almost 5 Lakh new farmers of Jharkhand. Given this, the department has received more than 5, 75,761 applications to be registered under the KCC scheme of July 2021," she added.

The Director Agriculture said that so far, 30,93,087 farmers have registered under KCC across the State. As per the record of 2020-21, there are 13 Lakh active accounts under the KCC scheme out of these 82,421 accounts have been freshly opened in the current financial year. An intensive campaign was launched and an increasing number of KCC applications were received from farmers by organizing camps in all the districts.

"As per the instructions of the Chief Minister, KCC is being issued to provide relief to farmers in the agricultural activities. Camps to generate awareness and encourage farmers to get registered under KCC are being organized across all the districts. Work is being done to provide benefits to all the eligible farmers of the State," said Singhmar.



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

Expanding India's Energyscape



Extract from the Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter Ended 30 th June 2021						
(₹ in crore Except EPS)						
Sr. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated	
		Quarter Ended		Financial year Ended	Quarter Ended	
		30 th June 2021	30 th June 2020	31 st March 2021	30 th June 2021	30 th June 2020
1.	Total income from operations	17,386.63	12,090.07	56,737.79	17,588.64	12,183.23
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	2,053.73	356.19	6,385.81	2,540.25	728.74
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	2,053.73	356.19	6,385.81	2,540.25	728.74
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1,529.92	255.51	4,890.18	2,157.15	642.97
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	2,298.59	684.52	6,172.57	2,995.30	1,055.24
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of ₹ 10 each)	4,440.39	4,510.14	4,440.39	4,440.39	4,510.14
7.	Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserves as per Balance Sheet	-	-	39,043.10	-	-
8.	Earnings per share (Face Value of ₹ 10 each)					
	a) Basic (₹)	3.45	0.57	10.85	4.81	1.45
	b) Diluted (₹)	3.45	0.57	10.85	4.81	1.45
	(EPS for the Quarter not annualised)					

Notes:-

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results for the quarter ended 30th June 2021 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock Exchanges website (www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com) and Company's website (www.gailonline.com).
- The above results are in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with the relevant rules issued thereunder and other accounting principles generally accepted in India.
- Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

For GAIL (India) Limited
Sd/-
(A K Tiwari)
Director (Finance) & CFO
(DIN: 07654612)

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

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Acute shortage of specialist doctors Less than 50 Covid experts in India



ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adding to the already grim situation in India's Covid-19 catastrophe is the acute shortage of qualified infectious disease (ID) specialists—there are less than 50 ID experts in the country—who have expertise in handling the pandemic among other infections like HIV and TB and protect the communities from such health threats.

Health professionals said that, especially, at a time when India is fighting the Covid pandemic along with rising menace of antibiotic resistant infections, the need for more ID expertise has become a clear focal point.

It is high time the Government looks at the severe shortage of ID specialists and does the needful, they added. ID doctors are certified specialists in diagnosing and treating IDs associated with bacteria, parasites, fungi – and viruses, such as the new coronavirus that has wrecked the health and economy world over.

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

on paper due to the lack of adequate human resources particularly ID experts.

In a review in a recent edition of IJMR, a government journal, she said, setting up ID blocks in DHs is not enough if not met by adequate human resources and infrastructure to implement these interventions in secondary-level hospitals. "The first and the most important challenge is the absence of ID physician posts in DHs and the dearth of trained ID physicians in the country," Dr Walia explained, "To be effective, the ID blocks would need to be supported by trained manpower such as ID physicians, microbiologists, infection control nurses, clinical pharmacists and well-equipped diagnostic laboratories.

ID physicians would be central to creation of the ID blocks." Dr. Neha Rastogi Panda, Consultant, ID Department, Fortis Research Memorial Institute, Gurugram asserted that "India is already becoming a hub of bugs and the pandemic should therefore be a wake-up call for India to take steps to plug the demand-supply gap.

In India, only AIIMS Delhi and CMC Vellore have started offering Doctorate in medicine in IDs recently. Also, AIIMS Jodhpur, AIIMS Bhopal and KMC Manipal University has recently started the DM from January 2021 while fellowship in NABH accredited ID programme is being run in four institutions Apollo Hospitals (Chennai), Hinduja Hospital (Mumbai), Apollo Hospitals (Hyderabad) and Sterling Hospital (Ahmedabad).

But these are not enough, she said. Dr PH Chandrasekar, educational coordinator for Department of Infectious Diseases at Wayne State University, Detroit, USA too minced no words as he said, "The department of ID has remained an ignored stream. The government should recognize this field as a sub-specialty. ID is still a young branch in India. The educational system never thought of introducing it as a sub-specialty. In the US, it was introduced way back in 1960, Chandrasekar, a patron of National Clinical IDs Society (NCIDS), said adding that ID is the highest cause of death in India but there is a dearth of doctors to support and provide medical care to such patients. "There are many doctors who without any formal training in ID call themselves a specialist", he said, as per a report.

To improve the availability of trained ID physicians, the country should look at creating more ID fellowship opportunities which can be offered online, with compulsory practical training for a short period, said Dr Panda.

Concerned at the acute shortage of ID specialists, Dr Panda along with a few other ID specialists, early this year, had represented before the Union Health Ministry seeking recognition of the ID specialist as a separate entity and starting ID departments at central government and state government institutes in public interest.

India summons Pak envoy, lodges protest against attack on Ganesh temple



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over the atrocities against minorities in Pakistan, India on Thursday lodged a strong protest after summoning the Pakistan envoy here. He was told the attacks were taking place at an alarming rate.

The strong protest came after reports said a mob attacked a Ganesh temple in Rahim Yar Khan in Punjab, Pakistan recently.

Giving details here, ministry of external affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Pakistan Charge d'Affaires was summoned and a firm protest was lodged expressing grave concerns at this reprehensible incident and attacks on freedom of religion of minority communities and their places of worship. Pakistan was called upon to ensure safety, security and well-being of minority communities, he said.

Bagchi said "we have seen disturbing reports on social media of a violent mob attack on a Ganesh temple in Rahim Yar Khan in Punjab, Pakistan. Mob attacked the temple, desecrated holy idols and set fire to premises. The mob also attacked surrounding houses belonging to Hindu community."

He said incidents of violence, discrimination and persecution against the minority communities including attacks on places of worship have continued unabated in Pakistan.

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

"These incidents are occurring at an alarming rate while the state and security institutions in Pakistan have stood by idly and completely failed in preventing these attacks on the minority communities and their places of worship," he said.

Central team finds loopholes in Kerala's coronavirus handling

A central team that went to Kerala to know the reason for increasing Covid-19 cases has found gaping loopholes in the management of the virus which has resurged in the Southern State at a fast pace. In its report to the Union Health ministry, it said, contact tracing of Covid-19 patients in the state is low, home isolation guidelines are not being followed and the number of tests conducted to detect the infection is showing a downward trend.

According to official sources, the report pointed out that people are becoming more complacent regarding Covid-appropriate behaviour and highlighted the need for ramping up vaccination.

In view of the sharp surge in Covid cases in Kerala, the Centre on July 29 had dispatched a six-member team headed by Dr Sujeet Singh, director of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to the Southern State to take stock of the situation and recommend necessary public health interventions.

Kerala on Thursday reported 22,040 fresh coronavirus cases and 117 deaths, taking the total infection count to 34.93 lakh and the toll to 17,328. This was more than half the total national caseload of 42,982 fresh coronavirus cases officially registered in the last 24 hours. It was also the second consecutive day when India logged over 500 Covid fatalities.

The health bulletin said that 533 Indians lost their lives due to Covid complications. In yet another suble sign, the number of active cases in India are on a gradual upward path. At present, India has 4,11,076 active Covid cases, the official health bulletin says. The daily vaccination rate plunged to 37,45,862 on August 4. In comparison with August 3 data, there was a drop of 42.8 per cent.

Rahul: Modi Govt failed to fulfil promise of 2 cr jobs



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday targeted the Modi government over a range of issues, including large scale unemployment.

Addressing party workers while leading a protest 'Sansad Gehrao' by the Indian Youth Congress, Rahul said the Modi government failed to fulfil its promise of providing two crore job opportunities to the youths of India.

Rahul accused the PM of "snatching away employment" from the hands of the youths and would talk about everything except unemployment.

"Unemployment is the biggest issue this country is facing today...PM [Modi] will talk about everything but not unemployment. He had promised to provide 2 crore employment each year," Rahul said.

Rahul said the day the youth of the country start speaking the truth, the Modi government will crumble. The youth of the country cannot get employment till Modi is the prime minister, he said.

"Your mobile phone is your voice. Narendra Modi has put the idea of Pegasus in the mobile phone of every youth, not just mine. This idea is that if you speak the truth, Narendra Modi and Pegasus are there in your phones.

PC takes dig at Govt over high fuel prices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader P Chidambaram on Thursday took a dig at the government over fuel prices, asking whether there was no change in them in the last 19 days as Parliament was in session or chiefs of oil marketing companies "cannot talk to each other because their phones are infiltrated by Pegasus spyware".

He also asked if prices had not changed as all chiefs of oil marketing companies were in quarantine until August 15 or all those reasons were responsible for it.

Congress has been critical of the government for rising prices of petrol and diesel and Rahul Gandhi, accompanied by his party colleagues and Opposition leaders, rode a bicycle to Parliament earlier this week



to protest over the issue.

Taking a dig at the government, Chidambaram tweeted, "Petrol and diesel prices have not been changed for 19 days because: a) Parliament session commenced on 19th July, i.e. 18 days ago b) Chiefs of Oil Marketing Companies cannot talk to each other because their phones are infiltrated by Pegasus spyware and the Israelis are listening. C) All the chiefs are in quarantine until 15th August d) All of the above."

Petrol prices have crossed ₹100-a-litre mark in several cities with the Opposition protesting the high fuel prices.

ISI spreading canards to intensify attacks on Indians in Afghanistan

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Exploiting its leverage with the Taliban, the Pakistani covert agency Inter-Services Intelligence is feeding misinformation to maximise attacks against Indians and the assets in Afghanistan.

The ISI manoeuvre has posed a threat by Taliban not only to the Indian embassy in Afghanistan but to those in the entire region, sources said.

The ISI has convinced the Taliban that India had bombed a group of Taliban in Kandahar province of Afghanistan. It has further told the UN-sanctioned group that attack helicopters and military planes that were built in India were handed over to Afghan defense department some time ago, they said.

The ISI also told the Taliban that fighter jets were stationed in Kabul airport under Indian command with Indian pilots.

The ISI and Pakistan army has provided over 10,000 jihadis from the ranks of terror groups mentored by these two agencies within Pakistan to Taliban for wresting control of the territories in Afghanistan from the democratically elected government there led by Abdul Ghani.

In addition to this, the ISI has helped forge operational synergy between the Taliban and its terror cohorts like the Lashkar-e-Tayabba and Jaish-e-Mohammad for the violent takeover of territories in Afghanistan.

The ISI and Pakistan army are seeking to cement their

leverage with the Taliban to have a significant say in managing the war-ravaged country and control banned drug trade in the scenario of takeover and subsequent rule in Afghanistan post-withdrawal of American troops early next month.

The Pakistani politico-military complex has drawn an elaborate plan to hoodwink China into funding it for securing the Chinese investments in the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in restive Balochistan under Pak occupation.

"Now that the Pakistani politico-military-ISI combine has fully exploited the Americans for funding and technology support under the garb of war against terror and at the same time provided safe haven to Al Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden at Abbottabad military garrison, Islamabad is seeking to milk the Chinese who apprehend the Taliban onslaught to spillover to its restive Xinxiang province predominantly inhabited by Uyghur Muslims," an expert said.

Besides getting significant funding and military weaponry for securing Chinese interests both in CPEC and Xinxiang, Islamabad will also be getting backing from Beijing for bailouts for the economy that is in tatters post-Covid as also support at multilateral forum like Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and avoid sanctions for supporting terror and terror financing, he added.

RS proceedings marred by Opp stir over Pegasus row



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha proceedings on Thursday were marred by protests by the Opposition and repeated adjournments over the Pegasus controversy and other issues. The Opposition also raised a din over the alleged scuffle between the Rajya Sabha security staff and some MPs on Wednesday. A woman security officer was injured.

The pre and post lunch sessions witnessed the Opposition members rushing into the well of the house raising slogans and shouting slogans.

The proceedings in the morning were adjourned thrice. The House was first adjourned for 15 minutes during the Zero hour and then again soon after it met at 11.30 AM. The House which met again at 12 noon was adjourned after opposition members continued to raise slogans in the well and disrupted the proceedings.

Sukhendu Sekhar Roy (TMC) first raised the issue of one of his party members not allowed to enter the house on Wednesday after it was adjourned for the day.

Harivansh earlier said when the member, who was asked to withdraw from the house by Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, tried to enter the house an argument ensued. A glass pane was broken and a woman security officer sustained injuries. Naidu was looking into the issue.

The chair termed the incident as "highly deplorable and condemnable".

While Harivansh said the unnamed TMC MP broke the glass after she was stopped from entering the House after it was adjourned for the day on Wednesday, Sukhendu Sekhar

The House was first adjourned for 15 minutes during the Zero Hour and then again soon after it met at 11.30 AM

Govt holds talks with job makers to meet 60 cr vaccines target



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Racing against time to meet the target of inoculating the 60 crore adult population of the country, the Government is holding back-to-back meetings with the Covid-19 job manufacturers to know the status and challenges in the production of the shots.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday held discussions with Dr Reddy's Laboratories Chairperson K. Satish Reddy to discuss the Sputnik V vaccine production and its supply while on Friday he will meet Serum Institute of India's CEO-owner Adar Poonawalla.

"Had a discussion on the production of the Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine and its supply," the minister said on Twitter. Although details of the meeting are not known, it takes significance in wake of a shortage of Covid-19 vaccines in the country.

In the meantime, Bharat Biotech informed that manufacturing of Covaxin has commenced at Malur (Karnataka) and Ankleshwar (Gujarat) since June.

In a statement, it said that before being released for administering every batch of Covaxin is subjected to over 200 quality control tests and samples are submitted to Government of India's Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL), and only after clearance are the batches released commercially.

On the other hand, another vaccine manufacturer, India's Panacea Biotec Ltd said on Thursday it had agreed to produce up to 25 million doses of the Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine using the drug substance made by Russia's Generium. Panacea will then supply the doses to drugmaker Dr. Reddy's Laboratories for distribution in India.

ED searches locations in 3 States in money laundering cases

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is carrying out searches at several locations in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad and Rajasthan's Jaipur in connection with its probe into the money laundering charges for transmitting fake pop-ups to the victims' personal computers with warnings or bogus messages about serious technical problems including malware infections.

An ED source related to probe said that the agency is

carrying out searches in Delhi, Jaipur and Ghaziabad on the premises of the companies involved in it.

The ED case is based on the FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in September last year against Softwill Infotech Pvt Ltd, Innovana Thinklabs Ltd, Jaipur, Benovellient Technologies Pvt Ltd, Noida, Systweak Software Pvt Ltd, Jaipur, Saburi TLC Worldwide Services Pvt Ltd, Saburi Global Services Pvt Ltd, Gurugram and unknown others on a complaint.

ED arrests VMCSL MD Hima Bindu in bank fraud case

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested telecom equipment manufacturer VMC Systems Ltd's Managing Director Vuppalapati Hima Bindu in a bank fraud case involving hundreds of crore of rupees.

An ED official said that it has arrested Bindu under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED case of money laundering is based on the FIR registered by CBI against the Hyderabad-based com-



pany and its directors over an alleged bank fraud case to the tune of ₹1,700 crore, on the complaint of the Punjab National Bank (PNB) in 2018.

In its complaint to the CBI, the PNB alleged that the company had defaulted on repayment of loans worth ₹1,700 crore to a consortium of banks.

It said that while ₹539 crore was due to it from the company, over ₹1,207 crore is pending towards the State Bank of India, the Corporation Bank, the Andhra Bank, and the JM Financial Assets Reconstruction Company.

According to the CBI, the VMC Systems had availed working capital credit facilities on August 12, 2009 to the tune of ₹1,010.50 crore.

2ND ANNIVERSARY OF ARTICLE 370 ABROGATION

BJP celebrates, other politicians mourn

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Jubilant workers of the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) on Thursday celebrated the second anniversary of the Abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A by holding Tiranga rallies and hoisting the national flag across Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). At the same time several mainstream politicians in the Kashmir Valley, who continue to remain in a state of denial, observed it as a 'black day' and reiterated their demand for the restoration of statehood.

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

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh, who is also

the party affairs in-charge for the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh celebrated the historic day with the party workers in Srinagar. He unfurled a "Tricolor amid chanting of patriotic slogans by the Kashmir based party workers. Similar events were organised by the party leaders in Anantnag, Baramulla. Addressing party workers in Srinagar Tarun Chugh said, "one of the more significant achievements of the 2019 decision was that it dealt a big blow to the divisive and terrorist forces".

"After many decades, the Pakistan-sponsored militancy seems to be on the back foot. Anti-national feelings among people have been replaced by the ideas of inclusive development and progress", Chugh said.

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



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

In Srinagar, PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti took out a protest march from the party's head office near the Sher-e-Kashmir Park.

Shouting slogans against the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision Mufti demanded "resolution of the Kashmir issue". The protesters were, however, stopped by police near GPO and turned back. In Jammu, PDP workers chanted slogans in support of Maharaja Hari Singh,

while attempting to take out a protest march.

The Jammu & Kashmir National Conference held a meeting of the party leaders at Nawa-e-Subha under the leadership of party President Dr Farooq Abdullah.

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

The Jammu & Kashmir unit of the Congress party leaders also questioned what has changed for the benefit & betterment of people of Jammu and Kashmir, as J&K has lost its identity, rights and protections available to its residents which are available in various other states in the country too, in one or other form.

Addressing a Press Conference at PCC HQ here today, JKPC Chief Spokesperson Shri Ravinder Sharma along with senior party leaders asked whether the backbone of militancy has been broken, total number of jobs in Govt. & private sector have increased, big industrial houses have come to J&K, the situation has normalized, KPs can safely return, the gap between hearts and distance from Kashmir and Delhi (Dil ki aur Dilon Ki Doori) has been reduced and what else has been achieved, after two years of the decision, they questioned.

Mamata writes to Modi for adequate supply of jobs

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has once again written to Prime Minister Modi seeking adequate supply of vaccines for her State.

In her letter to the Prime Minister Banerjee has said that while her State was capable of administering 11 lakh doses daily it was able to provide only 4 lakh doses per day because of the acute shortage of vaccines. "We are capable of vaccinating 11 lakh people per day ... still we are getting much lower number of doses despite having very high population density and a higher rate of urbanisation," Banerjee said.

Accusing the Centre of discriminating between the Bengal and BJP-ruled States the Chief Minister told newsmen that States like Gujarat and Karnataka were getting more vaccines than her State.

"I am sorry to say that the Central Government is providing a large number of vaccine doses to States like Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, which are BJP-ruled. I cannot remain a mute spectator to see Bengal being deprived," said Mamata Banerjee adding "if they do not give me adequate number of vaccines what will I do ... from where will get vaccines."

The Chief Minister had earlier said that the State would require 14 crore doses.

Besides administering 3.08 crore and vaccinating 1.93 crore people Bengal was among the few states that had managed to vaccinate more than 10 lakh



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

The State government had more than 50 lakh doses at present, sources in the Government said adding this was the second-highest reserve in the country after Maharashtra which had the highest number of doses.

Incidentally Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh had earlier alleged that the State Government had failed to put

adequate infrastructure in place which was why it was witnessing huge number of vaccine wastage.

"The Centre is sending adequate amount of vaccines but this Government is so worthless that it has failed to put up proper infrastructure in place which is why vaccines are getting wasted ... and they are blaming the Centre for not providing vaccines," he said, adding "the Chief Minister is complaining that the Centre is discriminating between BJP and non-BJP ruled States ... if it is so then how Maharashtra a non-BJP ruled State is getting so many doses."

Earlier the Calcutta High Court had directed both the State and Central Governments to provide details of vaccine supply and inoculation of people in the State.

Bengal may open schools after Durga Puja: Didi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

With the number of corona cases within control the Bengal Government was planning to open schools post October after Durga Puja, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Thursday. "The Government is considering opening of the schools after the Durga Puja," the Chief Minister said adding "we are trying to ensure regular classes but at present it seems that the schools can be reopened after the Puja vacations with alternate day classes."

She said that "the educational institutions would open with fullest observation of corona protocols." The Chief Minister however would not say that whether the college and universities too would open simultaneously.

The Chief Minister's announcement comes at a time when the country is expecting the Third Wave of the corona pandemic.

Yogi visits Ayodhya, offers prayers at Ram Temple

PNS ■ AYODHYA

On the first anniversary of the bhoomi puja for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, a special prayer was held at the Ram Lalla temple which was attended by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday. At the special function, Lord Ram Lalla was clad in yellow clothes and a special bhog was also offered to Him.

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

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

The Chief Minister reached Ayodhya 45 minutes before his scheduled programme and upon reaching there he discussed the progress of different development projects with officers at Yatri Niwas. He also enquired about the progress of the construction of Ram temple from the officials and members of the Ram Janmabhoomi Tirath Kshetra Nyas.



After the meeting, Yogi reached the Ram Janmabhoomi complex and participated in religious rituals organised to mark the completion of one year of bhoomi puja for the construction of Ram temple. Later he did darshan of Ram Lalla and took part in the aarti and performed the puja. On August 5, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation for a grand Ram temple at the Ram Janmabhoomi premises.

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

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

UP ASSEMBLY POLLS

Akhilesh launches SP campaign with 'Cycle Yatra'



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Claiming that his party could win up to 400 seats in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls early next year, Samajwadi Party chief and former Chief Minister of UP, Akhilesh Yadav, launched his poll campaign by joining the 'Samajwadi Cycle Yatra' in Lucknow on the occasion of the 89th birth anniversary of socialist leader Janeshwar Mishra on Thursday.

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

Before launching the 'Samajwadi Cycle Yatra', the SP chief claimed that the citizens of Uttar Pradesh were so upset with the incumbent BJP government that his party might win 400 assembly seats in the 2022 state polls and the ruling party would find it difficult to field candidates on all the seats. There are 403 assembly

seats in UP and in the 2017 state elections the BJP and its ally won 325 seats while the SP could win only 47 seats.

"Till now the party has been claiming to win 350 plus seats in 2022 Assembly polls in the state but now people are so upset with the BJP that Samajwadi Party might get even 400 seats. The BJP has harassed people of all sections, including Brahmins, Dalits, and Muslims, in the state," Akhilesh said while addressing a media conference in Lucknow on Thursday.

"Even today the BJP ministers are inaugurating projects initiated by the SP government. The Yogi Adityanath government did not work at all and now they are confused. They are misleading people by spreading lies," he said. Responding to the BJP government claims that it had established Uttar Pradesh as a top state in the country, the SP president said that the present regime had rendered the state number one in malnutrition, number one in dead bodies floating in the Ganga river, number one in taking off shrouds from dead bodies and number one in its failure to provide oxygen to dying patients.

He added that under the present dispensation, the state had also become number one in beating youths asking for employment, in crimes against women, in deaths due to absence of proper medical treatment and also in non-compliance with various court orders.

ECI categorising polling booths



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has started preparing for the crucial 2022 UP Assembly polls by announcing its schedule to categorise polling booths.

The determination of new polling booths and polling centres will commence from August 17 and after seeking objections from political parties and others, a final list of polling booths would be announced by August 23.

District magistrates are to resolve all complaints over polling booths by September 7 and then submit their final list to the ECI by September 20. The state ECI office will send the final list to the ECI in Delhi by September 25.

On the other hand, in view of the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic, the ECI has announced that elderly voters above the age of 80 years and differently-abled will be given the facility of voting from home.

Elderly and handicapped voters will be able to cast their votes through postal ballots this time. Polling party will visit their homes and collect the postal ballots.

The number of voters above 80 years of age in the state is around 23 lakh while handicapped voters account for nine lakh.

The ECI has directed district magistrates to conduct door-to-door verification of all these.

Chief Electoral Officer Ajay Kumar Shukla along with all the DMs, ADMs and SDMs of the state held the first major meeting through video conferencing on Wednesday evening and took stock of the preparations and informed about the new instructions.

Shukla said that after verifying the elderly and differently-abled voters, 12-D forms would be given to the voters willing to cast a postal ballot by going to their homes and asked officials to confirm polling booths and polling centers at the earliest.

AIADMK's senior leader Madhusudhanan passes away

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Madhusudhanan, president chairman of the AIADMK passed away on Thursday at a corporate hospital in Chennai. He was 79 and was the minister of textiles in the AIADMK Government headed by late J Jayalalithaa during 1991-1996. Madhusudhanan was ailing for some time and had been undergoing treatment for multi-organ failure.

Madhusudhanan, a trusted aide of party founder M G Ramachandran and Jayalalithaa, was appointed party president chairman in 2007. He was one of the senior leaders of the party who cast his lot with V K Sasikala, immediately after the demise of Jayalalithaa. Madhusudhanan had rushed to Veda Nilayam once the mourning period after Jayalalithaa's passing away was over and pleaded with Sasikala to take over the reigns of the AIADMK. The meeting that appointed Sasikala as acting general secretary was presided over by him.

But following the resignation of the then chief minister O Panneerselvam and his expulsion from the AIADMK, Madhusudhanan joined the former's camp and within months expelled Sasikala and her cartel from the party. Though the AIADMK had fielded him as the party candidate against TTV Dhinakaran in the by-poll held from R K Nagar in 2017, he lost the poll.

22,040 new cases in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala on Thursday diagnosed 22,040 new Covid-19 cases while 117 patients succumbed to the pandemic taking the toll till date to 17,328. A release by Health Minister Veena George said the average TPR (Test Positivity Rate) was 13.49 per cent, higher than what was registered on Wednesday.

A total of 1,63, 376 samples were tested during the last 24 hours, said the Minister. Malappuram and Thrissur remained the problematic districts with 3,645 and 2,921 new cases respectively.

As on Thursday evening, there were 1.77 lakh patients undergoing treatment for Covid-19 across the State. A high power committee under Minister Veena George is monitoring the Covid-19 situation on a round-the-clock basis to control and check the rate of transmission of the pandemic. The minister has instructed the medical experts to bring the surging pandemic before the festivities start for Onam. "The minister has her ears to the ground and is in touch with doctors continuously. Efforts are on to make vaccine available to the entire population of the State in the shortest possible time. We are feeling the difference as she leads from the front to tame the pandemic," said a Government physician.

Around 140 terrorists waiting at launch pads across LoC despite ceasefire: Official

Srinagar: Around 140 terrorists are waiting at launch pads to infiltrate into Jammu & Kashmir and the terror infrastructure across the Line of Control (LoC) remains in place even though India and Pakistan agreed in February to a ceasefire, a senior security official said on Thursday.

Commenting that the ceasefire agreement was more important for Pakistan as it is desperately trying to come out of the "grey list" of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the sincerity of Islamabad could have been gauged if they had dismantled the terror infrastructure. The official at the same time

said the Army has been noticing continued presence of around 140 terrorists at the launch pads across the LoC, likely waiting to infiltrate into Jammu & Kashmir, but the robust counter-infiltration grid has so far desisted them from making any such attempts. "They tried in the past but had to return after alert jawans foiled all their nefarious designs," the official said. The official said Pakistan is using the ceasefire window to strengthen its infrastructure along the LoC that was damaged in cross-border shelling last year in response to their troops' firing at civilian areas on the Indian side of the LoC.

Commenting on the situation in Jammu & Kashmir since the Centre abrogated its special status two years ago, the official said foreign terrorists have suddenly disappeared from the scene and got themselves locked in either some hideouts in densely populated areas or mountainous heights having natural caves. "On locals joining terrorist outfits, the official said there has been a constant message to anyone and everyone that those having any evil design "against our country" should shun such ambitions as all those who either pick up a weapon or harbour ill intentions against the sovereignty of the nation "will be dealt with iron hand".

When faced with pandemic, think of DATM

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Two entrepreneurs from India based in West Asia have converted the economic and social ruins caused by the Covid-19 pandemic into an opportunity and this is all set to revolutionise the present system of medical consultation and diagnosis. Girish Narayanan and his younger brother Rajesh Narayanan have come out with a state-of-the-art medical diagnostic system that offers a win-win situation for all stakeholders.

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

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

"It is an integration of tele medicine, medical and information technology. This is a medical device integration to support all medical specialities in a single platform. We are offering the last mile connectivity, which brings physicians and patients together in real time world," said Girish Narayanan, a speed buff who could be seen riding the advanced versions of high power bikes across West Asia and Sri Lanka most of the time honing up his racing skills.

Explaining the salient points of the Devise Assisted Tele Medicine (DATM) system, brother Rajesh said that it was the ideal technology for which India was waiting. The prima-

ry clinic would be managed by a person trained in the basics of medical science. He/she would have skills in measuring/testing nearly 40 medical parameters like blood pressure, ECG, body temperature, focussing the camera on ear, nose, throat and eyes as per the requirements of the physician," said Rajesh. The Asha workers employed by the State and Centre Governments could be trained in this art, he pointed out.

The clinic would have a medical cart with which the parameters could be transmitted to the physician sitting in a far away place. The TV screen at the primary clinic could be viewed by the physician through his iPhone or smart phone and he decides the kind of medicines to

be administered. "The stethoscope, with which the doctors monitor the heart beats have been replaced with electronic and remotely operated contraption," said Rajesh Narayanan.

A primary clinic sans doctor could be set up at a cost of Rs 25 lakh, said Rajesh Narayanan, the chief operating officer of Granteq, the company that brings the technology to our doorsteps. A corporate hospital in Kerala's Kozhikode was the first to establish a primary clinic of this kind with which unlimited patients and unlimited doctors could be brought together on a same platform.

Girish said the uniqueness of the system lies in the facility to diagnose and treat sick patients in place and decrease exposure to others. "It also pro-

ject medical providers so that they could continue to deliver care without interruption," said Girish. This has to be seen in the backdrop of the number of doctors and medical staff who sacrificed their lives during the pandemic.

"This is the ideal telehealth solution the medical fraternity was waiting for," said Dr Rajeev B Pillai, who heads the Tele Medicine Users Association of India. Going by the catchword coined by a fast moving consumer good company, one can always think of Girish and Rajesh Narayanan when faced with issues like pandemic and shortage of doctors. Last heard, Granteq is in consultation with corporate groups in India for setting up doctor-less PHCs and Primary Clinics.



A newly-wed couple travels towards their house in a boat as they wade through a flood affected area, during the monsoon season in Howrah district on Thursday



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Full steam ahead

India's first indigenous naval carrier would give more teeth to our fleet

India achieves a naval milestone as it joins a small group of nations capable of building aircraft carriers. IAC-1, India's first indigenous carrier that was shaped at the Cochin Shipyard took to the sea on Wednesday for its maiden trials. It is 76 per cent indigenous and at 40,000 tonnes, will be INS Vikrant when commissioned next August. It is the second carrier after INS Vikramaditya, inducted from Russia in 2013. The Indian Navy proposes to build a second carrier, a 65,000-tonne INS Vishaal. If the project gets the Government's go-ahead, it may be the most modern vessel and have unprecedented access to the US technology. The carrier may have the capacity to launch and recover heavy strike aircraft and early warning planes like the E-2 Hawkeye. The aircraft carrier projects are the icing on the cake that is the navy's Maritime Capability Perspective Plan to increase its capabilities in the strategic Indian Ocean Region (IOR).



The Indian coastline of 7,516 km with 1,197 offshore islands and a large Exclusive Economic Zone of 2.01 million sq km needs protection from diverse forces from pirates to non-State actors and State-sponsored elements. The future INS Vikrant is the biggest among the batch of 50-odd ships and submarines currently under construction through the indigenous route. Getting ready are large amphibious ships, fast-attack craft, destroyers, stealth frigates, offshore patrol vessels and Scorpene Class submarines. India aims to become a 200-ship navy by 2027.

The IAC-1 boosts India's security preparedness in the IOR. Along with INS Vikramaditya, it will help in the projection of India's air power in the high seas. The main threat to the IOR comes from China which intends to expand its influence over the region. The IOR is the world's busiest trade route, with 80 per cent of the world's maritime oil trade passing through it. Vital sea lanes of the world pass through it with choke points like the Bab-el-Mandeb, the Strait of Malacca and the Strait of Hormuz. China wants a strong foothold here and is working for it through the Belt and Road Initiative. It wrongly interprets the UN Convention for the Law of the Sea to justify the presence of its naval vessels in the IOR. It is executing its "String of Pearls" project for a maritime encirclement of India. The rise of China has made India reshape its maritime strategy. It now protects the Sea Lanes of Communications (SLOC) in the IOR, deploys warships in the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf to protect Indian vessels operating in those regions, and has the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) to keep a close watch on the movement of ships passing through the IOR. It is modernising its naval commands, establishing monitoring stations and investing in reconnaissance, surveillance and communications facilities. The aircraft carriers will help India have its own carrier strike groups that can prowl the IOR and act as a counter-balance to rival intrusions into the region.



A farmer sails jute bundles as a raft across a flooded field in Nadia district, West Bengal

PTI

Women power

The Olympics tally again proves that women have a right to lead the way, in all spheres

Durga, Kali, Shakti, they call her intermittently but one gets a feeling that it is not really heartfelt. Not with what happened in Hathras and, quite recently, with a young minor girl in the nation's Capital. There's something seriously and drastically wrong with us, us here meaning both men and women; only we refuse to look at the truth in the eye. The menfolk for being the perpetrators, and the women for taking it generation after generation. In a country where women are still seen as homemaking and child-rearing machines, gender inequality is highly evident. The fact is that if you haven't seen or experienced it, you are either blind or one of the perpetrators. Even after encountering all these obstacles and hardships, women have come a long way, overcoming several barriers to establishing their identity; they have risen above several unfathomable barriers to show their true potential. Be it sports, science, astronomy or any other field, women have shown their steely potential in every field. Being a woman, things aren't easy in a patriarchal, male-dominated society and unseen factors like passive discrimination have all to be braved by the female of the species.

The first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal, Karnam Malleswari, was deemed unfit and was making news for all the wrong reasons, not for the hard work she had put into her preparations but for the uncharitable comments she was garnering about her physique and personal life, according to a record. In spite of her being one of the top athletes in her chosen discipline, only four out of 42 Indian journalists came up to watch her compete. Or similarly, when India's former sprint queen PT Usha broke down in front of media narrating the not-so-infrequent discrimination faced by her. Basically, no sector can claim to be totally fair to the fair sex. The first Indian-origin woman to travel to space, Kalpana Chawla, was frequently told during her entire childhood that females cannot be astronauts. She had to break free of all these gender norms, and ultimately the glass ceiling and the gravitational pull, to prove herself that she was fit and capable as much as any male around. Better than any, can be argued. Although the situation has not changed for the better but we are headed towards improvement in the societal genetics where women are given, or at least are shown to be provided, equal opportunities.

Not really a game of sportsmanship

The Kashmir Premier League is a mere optics in the name of sports. At the end of it all, it's simply politics with a brazen objective



BHOPINDER SINGH

Sports is a powerful medium to heal and build bridges, when both sides to a conflict agree to put aside contentious and provocative on-upmanship, to usher the possibilities of peace and harmony. Onus of creating an enabling environment necessitates the respecting of mutual sensibilities and desisting from loaded moves — it becomes obvious in the *neyyat* (intent), that is written all over.

Optics surrounding the so-called Kashmir Premier League (KPL) is one such devious intent that does an even worse job of posturing to be 'sports'. With a brazenly political objective to "raise the voice of the people of J&K globally", a tournament logo that teasingly insists "play with freedom", as also having the agelessly controversial, Shahid Afridi, as its Brand Ambassador — the intent becomes clear even before the first ball is bowled. The carefully chosen brand ambassador in Afridi is also the perfect fit towards its nefarious agenda, given Afridi's notorious track record of political statements (way beyond the realm of 'sports'), that have earned him the wrath and ire across the Line of Control (LoC) for its unsportsmanlike import.

Following the abrogation of Article 370, Afridi had knowingly visited the LoC and made railing statements to "express solidarity with our Kashmiri brethren", whilst invoking the United Nations and the United States to intervene. Afridi continued with his exasperating diatribe to "feel the agony of Kashmiris..." and "Save Kashmir"! Seemingly, like his Prime Minister and former cricketer, neither Imran Khan nor Shahid Afridi have ever heard of the beleaguered Baloch, Uighurs or as fellow Pathans of even Pashtunistan (let alone minorities, Ahmediyas etc). At the KPL inauguration, Shahid Afridi mockingly conflated his political view of Kashmir by stating, "India has crossed all levels of oppression" — this is certainly not about 'sports' and it does not even pretend to be so by its organisers.

To espouse a selective cause is indeed a matter of individual choice, even if it militates in terms of fairness and convenience in the eyes of the 'other' side — just as any sovereign has the same right to express its displeasure and punitive



action against anyone and anything, that denigrates the sovereign's integrity, sovereignty and dignity. For India and its cricket board, the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) to take offence and express dismay at the obvious politicisation of cricket by Pakistan is perfectly justified. When relations between Pakistan and India are at an all-time low (with downgraded diplomatic ties and snapped air/land/rail services) — it's a bit rich coming from Pakistan to express surprise at the BCCI reaction towards the KPL. Pakistani State support towards terrorism is not just an Indian accusation but a matter of an disturbing findings by the global watchdog agency, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which has 'greylisted' Pakistan since 2018 — the principal expression of that Pakistani incorrigibility for India is the Pakistani support to terrorism in Kashmir.

While it is expected for Pakistan and its cricketer-politicians to continue their patented path of doom, it was ironic to see the likes of South African Cricketer, Herschelle Gibbs, accuse the BCCI of dissuading him from playing in the KPL. The same Gibbs, convicted and banned for match-fixing and faced a disciplinary ban for



WHILE IT IS EXPECTED FOR PAKISTAN AND ITS CRICKETER-POLITICIANS TO CONTINUE THEIR PATENTED PATH OF DOOM, IT WAS IRONIC TO SEE THE LIKES OF SOUTH AFRICAN CRICKETER, HERSCHELLE GIBBS, ACCUSE THE BCCI OF DISSUADING HIM FROM PLAYING IN THE KPL

racist comments against Pakistani players, recently wrote: "Completely unnecessary of the BCCI to bring their political agenda with Pakistan into the equation"! Classified as 'coloured' under South Africa's loathed former apartheid system, one would have expected Gibbs to be better versed with India's stellar role and position on 'sports' and politics, especially so, towards his native South Africa.

Besides the symbiotic history, relationship and inspiration of the Mahatama Gandhi-Nelson Mandela canvas notwithstanding, India had always taken a principled stand of boycotting apartheid sports as a conscious call for supporting discriminated Blacks and 'Coloured', in South Africa. India had put matters of humanity, dignity and sovereignty of people above sports per se, and that symbolic boycott had mobilised and galvanised far more important messaging. The boycott did entail sacrifices for many sportsmen, sports bodies and perhaps even sports lovers — but the counter-realisation of the stakes gained (standing against apartheid then, and taking a principled stand against Pakistani State sponsor of terrorism under the guise of

Kashmir, now), is every bit an action of principles and morality.

The Pakistani Tennis Federation too had once tried to dissuade its top player Aisam Qureshi from partnering an Israeli owing to larger political-social sensitivities (which he ignored, and later even partnered an Indian) as it felt important to express its stand on sovereign matters, just as the player had the same right to either honour or refuse. But unlike the potential tennis partnership which involved no mal-intent of overt politics — KPL is all about internationalising Kashmir, unabashedly. It is pure politics. Even in the Tokyo Olympics, the authorities have taken a very dim view of such politicisation of the platform, eg Algerian Fethi Nourine's refusal to match up with Israeli Tohar Butbul. Thus, BCCI has only responded to a wholly political provocation, and not politicised the same, to start with. KPL is not about 'sports', it doesn't even claim to be so. A shamelessly political move has met with a principled political reply. Period.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A SAD REPEAT OF HATHRAS

Sir — The ghastly rape and murder of a nine-year-old Dalit girl in Delhi occurred when the nation was exultant at the performances of Indian women in Tokyo. It is a disturbing fact that girl children are not protected from sexual predators. It was tragic beyond words that a girl child born in humble circumstances was brutally raped and murdered when she went to a crematorium near her home to fetch drinking water.

The double felony of rape and murder attested to the crime's ugly rise in Delhi and the Union Home Ministry's anti-crime strategy coming apart at the seams. It revived memories of Hathras tragedy. Women do not have equal status to men, the main characteristic of a patriarchal society. Dalit women and girls have a distinct additional disadvantage; their low caste status as well as the menial, degrading and dangerous tasks they are traditionally compelled to perform renders them more vulnerable; they are often looked upon as objects for sexual gratification; they suffer disproportionately from wanton sexual attacks.

Meanwhile, the BJP seems to be more concerned about the visit of Rahul Gandhi to the victim's house than what it can do to prevent a recurrence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi can at least visit the victim's family and assure justice.

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

THE TINDERBOX CALLED AFGHANISTAN

Sir — Amid the unrelenting violence in Afghanistan by the Taliban, the European Union has reiterated that if the terrorist group rises to power by force, the European Union and other countries will not recognise their regime and that should be followed by the Indian Government. The people of India must express concern about the Afghanistan security situation where the militant have the upper hand who have the dealing with Pakistan militant groups to create serious problem in Kashmir.

India must try to involve the Afghanistan Government as much as possible and must continue our development assistance to be involved politically well. This comes even as violence has been on the rise in Afghanistan in the recent weeks as the Taliban stepped up its offensive after the US and NATO troops began withdrawing from the country. There is the recent statement of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani that in the past two decades, the Taliban has become "more cruel and more oppressive and they do not have any wish for peace, for prosperity or progress". The Afghanistan report released stating that 1,677 civilians were killed and 3,644 more were injured in the first six months of this year. With this, it is dangerous for India if the Taliban takes over Afghanistan.

Hockey does us proud



In the age of mid-seventies, when COVID-19 is around to hound our existence, just at that moment, my joy knows no bounds when the Indian men's hockey team rewrote history as it claimed an Olympic bronze medal after 41 years, beating a plucky Germany 5-4. Agree, it's a bronze medal and India comes third, but how can one forget that our motherland India won seven Olympic gold medals between 1928 and 1964 — losing only in the 1960 final to claim silver? The nation won gold again in 1980 (league basis and without semifinal), but has reached not higher than the fifth slot since. Even in Tokyo, our men's hockey team didn't start so well when India lost its second match 7-1 to Australia. But our hock-

ey team's Australian coach Graham Reid (57) rightly assessed, "Good teams don't let something like a little hiccup affect their overall performances throughout the tournament." If not, then who forget those high-voltage six minutes before half time, four goals scored, when chips were looking down with score at 1-3, India equalised with two penalty corner hits and immediately after scored two field goals. Without any doubt, both the men and women hockey team's performance in Tokyo have shown a sign of revival of the country's national game.

We should again become number one if the Centre and the State Governments (like Odisha), sponsor authority, media and sports lovers cheer them up like the small world of cricket. We need to reduce the dependence on cricket to focus on other sports. Kudos to India hockey, both men and women, for the brilliant performance and hope that they continue to shine and bring more pride to the nation.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

educational institutions in an orderly manner. In a struggle for freedom, people play many tricky games. One such one is planting an atom bomb. On this account, lowering the quality of education and allowing cheating in the examinations by students, one can reduce the standard of education. In the process, patients die at the hands of such incapable doctors. In the same way, buildings collapse at the hands of substandard engineers. And again, money is lost at the hands of such economists and accounts. Thus, humanity dies at the hands of such religious scholars and justice is lost at the hands of such judges. The collapse of education is the collapse of the nation and so it is time to provide the best education to the new generation of students in a planned way.

MR Jayanthi | Mumbai

THE COLLAPSE OF EDUCATION

Sir — In today's time of pandemic, education has been pushed to the backseat and students struggle to enrich their knowledge in the best way possible by going to

SOUNDBITE

Parliament is allowed to function as long as the interest of a family is served... It will not allow Parliament to function if there is no interest of the family.



BJP leader — Ravi Shankar Prasad

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



Bangladeshi actress — Pori Moni

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



Actor — Suchitra Pillai

This current team is probably the best ever in the history of Indian cricket. Only the teams from 1983 to 1986 had a similar kind of depth and balance.



Former India cricketer — Sunil Gavaskar

If anybody is protesting, we are not concerned and we are not taking it seriously.



Karnataka Chief Minister — Basavaraj Bommai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN THE POST-COVID ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The PLI scheme can become a game-changer for us to be the next global destination



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The monsoon rainfall, including the ongoing, has been benevolent to India for the past couple of years, raising hopes of a post-pandemic, quick economic recovery. However, a parliamentary committee on commerce in its report has not accepted the government's view of the "V-shaped" economic recovery. On the contrary, it has expressed concerns regarding missing data on positive economic indicators that attract foreign investors. It has torn into the government's claims of healthy indicators such as E-way bill, rail freight, port traffic, and GST collections promising a return of GDP to pre-pandemic levels, citing a lack of empirical data. Early indications emerging from rural India, coupled with some additional booster shots from the upcoming festival season, may point to a recovery-led future but there are critical variables to consider. For instance, the committee refers to the much-publicised Production-Linked Incentive schemes, announced for various sectors by the government under "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" package. It suggests:



"A transparent system may be formulated by each ministry which was allocated funds under PLI Schemes to enable easy access to data and information regarding the implementation of the scheme. Information regarding incentives disbursed... delay in providing incentives with reasons for the same may be made accessible online." The PLI scheme is a well-thought-out scheme and if implemented well and pursued with the right rigor by an able business leader could put India on the growth path unheard of in the pre-pandemic times. The parliamentary committee rightfully seeks from the government answers that most investors have to convince their global headquarter seniors about before pushing seeking funds for setting up a factory. Every business plan before approval has to be backed by data and, therefore, should be easily accessible.

The government has informed about the setting up of an empowered group of secretaries chaired by the cabinet secretary to monitor the progress of the scheme, establishing an Investment Clearance Cell (ICC), and a one-stop digital platform - a central Single Window System (SWS) integrating the existing clearance systems of the various ministries and departments of the government of India and the state governments. The only missing link is having a business manager monitor the efforts. The PLI scheme has the potential to become a game-changer for making India the next destination for seamless integration with global supply chains. The unexplored markets of Africa, the Middle East, and India's immediate neighborhood in Southeast Asia are easy targets for these manufactured goods. However, despite all the merits of having bureaucrats running target-oriented business goals, it is always a CEO-type manager who will be able to perform and deliver. Smart managers are required for this as also the willingness of the junior bureaucracy to accept new ways of working for 'ease' of doing businesses. What can and possibly raise serious questions on the outcome of the PLI schemes would be lack of data and, therefore, opaqueness in government procedures could be interpreted as favoritism. This has to be avoided at any cost for the scheme to succeed. The other factor contributing to success would be to remove compliance burdens for investors. One may have heard of the famous saying in the investor community about the 'art of doing business' rather than 'ease of doing business in India'. The government's intention to become an export hub while creating world-class products for the global markets and generating millions of jobs is well received. However, the challenge is to overhaul the regulatory compliance regime. Multiple departments competing for 'regulatory capture' or trying to make multiple policies on the same topic ultimately frustrates investors. What is also essential is providing some kind of regulatory continuity assurance to all investors.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Red-flagging online and digital fraud

The lure of easy money and carelessness about the basics of digital hygiene are both responsible for the worrisome situation



SUBHASH C PANDEY

Technology is necessary to provide public services to large populations in an efficient manner and that comes with both risks and rewards. The technology of malfeasance and malfeasance control both have evolved. As the population has exploded, imperatives of technology-enabled governance have also grown, bring in their wake fresh concerns about misuse of technology.

With near-universal Aadhaar enrolment, the opening of PMJDY accounts and their Aadhaar seeding, and the growing spread of Direct Benefit Transfer to cover most subsidies through banking channels, there is a discernible risk of fraud on public finances. Weeding out fake and ineligible beneficiaries of government schemes is a major governance challenge.

Recently, Parliament was informed that about 42 lakh ineligible beneficiaries received ₹2,900 crore under PM-KISAN scheme launched on February 24, 2019. (In February 2021, the figures were 33 lakh ineligible beneficiaries receiving ₹2,327 crore). An amount of ₹6000 per annum is supposed to be transferred to the bank accounts of eligible farmers in three instalments of ₹2000 each. Nearly ₹115,000 crore has been paid so far. The largest number of ineligible beneficiaries were in Assam, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, and Bihar.

Over 10 crore beneficiaries are registered by various state governments. Typically, the registration process requires the 12-digit biometric Aadhaar, phone number, bank details, and KYC documents. These are "triangulated" (cross-matched) by software with the help of the public financial management system (PFMS), the platform that enables the automatic transfer of cash into bank accounts. Scammers use Aadhaar numbers available in the public domain to create fake Aadhaar cards and bank accounts.

Beneficiary databases are likely to have undetected duplicate Aadhaar or mobile numbers if the registration and disbursement (online transfers) are done without biometric authentication for each transaction.

Aadhaar linking of ration cards had helped in weeding out 2.95 crore fake ration cards resulting in a saving of ₹17,000 crore annually (ministerial statement on Feb 26, 2018). These invalid cards were misused by dealers to show fake issues to beneficiaries. Out of 21 crore ration cards, about 90 per cent have been linked with Aadhaar of at least one of the family members listed on the card. Once every adult member's Aadhaar is linked, more ineligible ration card beneficiaries may come to light. This is gradually being done under One Nation One Ration Card scheme to make every individual's ration entitlement portable to any part of the country. This will help migrants and also help weed out invalid entries in ration cards.

A 'teacher recruitment scam' was recently unearthed in Uttar Pradesh when



AUTHENTICATION TECHNOLOGIES ARE EVOLVING TO CHECK ONLINE FRAUDS, IDENTITY THEFTS, QR CODES, MASKED AADHAAR-CARD-BASED E-KYC IS INCREASINGLY USED IN MOBILE BANKING. THE USER ID AND PASSWORD FOR ONLINE LOGIN HAVE BEEN FOUND INSUFFICIENT. ONLINE FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS NOW HAVE ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS OF TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION IN PLACE

(The writer is former Special Secretary, Ministry for Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The views expressed are personal.)



it was found that using the ID and certificates of one hapless Anamika Shukla, many 'fake' Anamika Shuklas were working as teachers in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV). The fraud was unravelled when the Prerna digital system noticed teachers with identical documents. Some governments are deploying technology to check employee malfeasance. Biometric attendance and the requirement for teachers to upload class pictures have been implemented to check the chronic problem of absentee teachers. The problem of bogus employees is not new. In areas of pure manual work, this has been an outstanding concern for long. There are fake muster rolls for workers whose wages would be drawn, who will verify thumb impressions on clumsily organized, sullied scrolls. Somebody may be collecting wages while someone else is working in the field, usually with transnaction.

Instances of duplicate and outright fake beneficiaries have also been reported such as already-married girls participating in fresh marriage ceremonies. The enrolment-linked incentives under the mid-day meal scheme in schools and the aanganwadi schemes also invite fake enrolments. How far can one go to check if the children actually get the intended education and nutrition?

With salaries, pensions, scholarships, and other benefits being directly credited into bank accounts without any biometric authentication of beneficiaries, the manual system of acquittance roll has been dispensed with. Without proper reconciliation between the disbursing

office and the bank, payments can go into fake accounts. I came across a fraud where a cheque drawing officer withdrew salaries of even non-existent and transferred-out employees. These excess draws were directed to the bank accounts of corrupt officials.

(Auditors in a foreign country found people having preserved cut thumbs of dead people to be used for drawing old-age pension disbursed by cash vans. Smart people find ways to evade even CCTV coverage. There is no limit to people's ingenuity in cheating.)

Authentication technologies are evolving to check online frauds, identity thefts. QR Codes, masked Aadhaar-card-based e-KYC is increasingly used in mobile banking. The user ID and password for online login have been found insufficient. Online financial transactions now have additional safeguards of two-factor authentication in place. Mobile OTP and complex Captcha Codes — numeric, alphanumeric, visual, word clues, and even simple arithmetic calculations and click to prove you are not a robot — virtual keyboards, disable-copy-paste, etc., are now in place. Even then scammers are often able to steal IDs and fool gullible people to part with mobile OTP codes.

So, what next in authentication technology? Iris scan? Facial recognition software? Implanted chips? Yes, all these technologies are increasingly being used to safeguard against financial fraud. The self-service kiosks of banks having no human attendants around. Access controls have been installed in particular rooms in offices and factories. These controls allow entry of

only bonafide customers into unmanned smart branches or kiosks after biometrics recognition through fingerprints and iris scan, behavioral biometrics like the way customers type in the key board or click the mouse, facial expressions (smile on the face, blink of eyes), gestures, and speech recognition.

We would like to have all IT systems including Aadhaar-based DBT systems to have strong audit checks and trails built into the system. However, we don't want auditors, managers, and public administrators to be guided by constant suspicion, intrusive scrutiny, invasion of privacy, and assault on dignity. It slows down the system. However, there must be exemplary and deterrent actions to deal with those who betray the trust in a trust-based, simplified administrative system.

A troubling report from Microsoft 2021 Global Tech Support Scam Research says that 69 per cent of consumers in India experienced online fraud encounters in the past year. Nearly 48 per cent of consumers were tricked into taking part in scams. These instances are thrice the global average. Around 31 per cent of surveyed Indians eventually lost money—the highest proportion globally. On average, Indian consumers lost ₹15,334 in 2021 although 88 per cent of them were able to recover some money.

The lure of easy money and carelessness about the basics of digital hygiene are both responsible for this worrisome situation. While the use of mobile phones is expanding daily, awareness about privacy and security issues is lagging. Improving this consciousness is an important public interest issue.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

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



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

Afghanistan: How did they think it would end?

The Western armies lose no matter how big and well-equipped they are because the insurgents are fighting on home ground

I will never kneel before such a destructive force (as the Taliban), declared Ashraf Ghani, the soon-to-be ex-president of Afghanistan. "We will either sit knee-to-knee for real negotiations at the table, or break their knees on the battlefield." Good luck with that, Ashraf.

General Sami Sadat, still commander of Helmand province as I write this (although perhaps not by the time you read it), was equally confident, but warned that the safety of the world is at stake: "This will increase the hope for small extremist groups to mobilise in the cities of Europe and America, and will have a devastating effect on global security." And how did it all come to this? Ashraf Ghani point-



GWYNNE DYER

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

ed out that it is obviously America's fault. "The reason for our current situation is that the (US decision to withdraw) was taken abruptly," he told parliament on Monday.

Well, fair enough. US forces have been in Afghanistan for a bare twenty years and the treacherous cowards are already quitting. Donald Trump signed a treaty with the Taliban eighteen months ago promising that all US troops would leave Afghanistan by the 1st of May this year. Short notice indeed.

I'm tempted to go back into the archives and find similar brave declarations of imminent victory by South Vietnamese generals (followed by similar predictions of global disaster if they are



abandoned) in the final weeks before the helicopters started plucking Americans from the US embassy roof in Saigon in 1975. But it's a nice day and I can't be bothered.

President Ghani, General Sadat, and all their friends are reading from the same old script, just 46 years later, and once that final scene has played out in Kabul they'll go and live in the United States. (Don't worry. They've saved up enough money.) The only

real surprise here is how thoroughly Western armed forces managed to forget their own history.

I'm not talking about the old history, when three invasions of Afghanistan at the height of British imperial power (1839-42; 1878-80; 1919) all failed to achieve their objectives.

I'm not even talking about the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in 1979-89 when the United States helped the Taliban and similar Islamist groups to do to the Russians exactly what the Taliban have now done to the Americans themselves.

The problem there was that Americans did not see Russians as Western, although viewed from a low orbit they are virtually iden-

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

Never mind all that. The really unpardonable mistake was forgetting all the lessons Western armies had learned from a dozen lost guerilla wars in former colonies between 1954 and 1975.

France in Algeria and Indochina, Britain in Kenya, Cyprus and Aden, Portugal in Angola and Mozambique, the proxy wars in Rhodesia and South-West Africa (as they were then known), and the United States again in Indochina. All the wars were lost, and yet the defeated imperial powers didn't lose anything except face.

Western armies really did learn the lessons of those defeats. As a young man in the 1970s I taught military history and strategy in the Canadian Forces Staff College and then at Britain's Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. The doctrine I taught was a) Western armies always lose guerilla wars in the 'Third World', and b) it never really matters.

The Western armies lose no matter how big and well-equipped they are because the insurgents are fighting on home ground. They can't quit and go home because they already are home. Your side can always quit and go home, and sooner or later your own public will demand that they do. So, you are bound to lose eventually, even if you win all

the battles.

But losing doesn't matter, because the insurgents are always first and foremost nationalists. They may have picked up bits of some grand ideology to make them feel that 'history' is on their side - Marxism or Islamism or whatever - but all they want is for you to go home so they can run their own show. They won't actually follow you home.

By 1975 this hard-earned wisdom was the official doctrine in almost every army in the Western world, but military generations are short. A typical military career is only 25 years, so by 2001 nobody remembered it. Their successors had to start learning it again the hard way. Maybe by now, they have.

Airstrikes pummel Taliban in south

Insurgents gain in north

AP ■ KABUL

The Afghan air force carried out more airstrikes against Taliban positions in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, as the insurgent force made additional gains in the country's north. A defence ministry statement said air strikes were carried out across the country, including in the southern Helmand province, where the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah is being fiercely contested. The Taliban control of nine of the city's 10 police districts. Residents in Lashkar Gah reported heavy bombing near the government radio and television station, which is under Taliban control. Several wedding halls and a guesthouse of the provincial governor's are all located near the radio and television station. Dr. Sher Ali Shaker, head of Helmand's public health department said that in past 24 hours at least three civilians were killed and 40 more including women and children were wounded during battles in Lashkar Gah city. In northern Afghanistan, the Taliban took control of most of the provincial capital of Sar-e-Pul, the head of its coun-

cil, Mohammad Noor Rahmani said. In recent months, the group has gained control of dozens of districts across several provinces in the north. Meanwhile, Jawzjan province in the north remains under a three-month Taliban attack, with most of its districts having surrendered to the Taliban without a fight. The stronghold of Rashid Dostum, an Uzbek warlord, it has lost eight out of ten districts to the

insurgents, who continue to advance on the capital, Shibirghan city. Dustum returned to Afghanistan on Wednesday and plans to lead the fight in Shibirghan after an agreement with President Ashraf Ghani, his spokesman Ehsan Nero said. In the west, Taliban attacked seven different parts of Herat city but were defeated, said Jelani Farhad, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

Deeply concerned about safety and protection of people in Af's Lashkargah: UN chief

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

Nearly 360,000 people have been forcibly displaced by the raging conflict in Afghanistan since the start of the year, with UN chief Antonio Guterres expressing deep concern about the safety and protection of people in Lashkargah where tens of thousands of people could be trapped by fighting as the Taliban continue their ground assault. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has called for an immediate end to fighting in urban areas, saying that civilians are bearing the

brunt of the violence. The latest reports show that 40 civilians have been killed and 118 injured within the last 24 hours in the city of Lashkargah as the Taliban continue their ground assault. In Kandahar, at least 5 civilians were killed and 42 wounded. "We can tell you that we are deeply concerned about the safety and protection of people in Lashkargah, in the south, where tens of thousands of people could be trapped by fighting," Stephane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General Guterres, said at the daily press briefing on Wednesday.

Under India's Presidency, UNSC will meet today to discuss situation in Af

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council, under the Presidency of India, will meet on Friday to discuss the worsening security situation in Afghanistan. The decision to hold the open UNSC briefing on Afghanistan comes just a day after Afghanistan Foreign Minister Mohammed Haneef Atmar spoke with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar 'to discuss convening an emergency UN Security Council Session' on Afghanistan.

"UN #SecurityCouncil will meet on Friday, 6th August, under Indian Presidency to discuss and take stock of the situation in #Afghanistan," India's Permanent Representative to UN and Security Council President for the month of August Ambassador T S Tirumurti tweeted late on Wednesday. Atmar said the UN and the international community must play a greater role to stop the unfolding tragedy in Afghanistan due to Taliban violence and atrocities. "Appreciate the lead role of as current UNSC President," Atmar had tweeted. The fighting between the Taliban and Afghanistan's government forces has intensified over the past few months as US and NATO troops complete their pullout from the war-torn country. A meeting on Afghanistan

The decision to hold the open UNSC briefing on Afghanistan comes just a day after Afghanistan Foreign Minister Mohammed Haneef Atmar spoke with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar 'to discuss convening an emergency UN Security Council Session' on Afghanistan

had not been scheduled during the month as per the Council's Programme of Work for the month adopted on Monday. Briefing reporters at the UN Headquarters, Tirumurti had said he expects that "probably the Security Council will be looking at this aspect sooner rather than later" on Afghanistan in response to a question on the situation in Afghanistan and what the Security Council can do to prevent further escalation in the war-torn country. It is significant that the open briefing on Afghanistan comes within the first week of India's Presidency of the Council, highlighting the urgency of the current situation in Afghanistan. Tirumurti had said that the situation in Afghanistan is of deep concern to all members of the Security Council and "we have seen that in recent days, the violence is only increasing."

Pak has other 'options', PM Imran's aide tells US

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Upset over US President Joe Biden's reluctance to telephonically contact Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf has said that Islamabad has other "options" if the American leader continues to ignore the country's leadership. "The president of the United States hasn't spoken to the prime minister of such an important country who the US itself says is make-or-break in some cases, in some ways, in Afghanistan - we struggle to understand the signal, right?" Yusuf said in an interview with The Financial Times of London, according to the Dawn newspaper here. "We've been told every time that... (the phone call) will happen, it's technical reasons or whatever. But frankly, people don't believe it," he said. "If a

phone call is a concession, if a security relationship is a concession, Pakistan has options," he added, refusing to elaborate. The US State Department, however, has assured Islamabad that Washington recognises Pakistan's vital role in restoring peace in Afghanistan and wants Islamabad to play that role. "Pakistan has much to gain and will continue to have a critical role, and be well-positioned to have a role in supporting the outcome" in Afghanistan, said US State Department spokesperson Ned Price. "We'll continue to work and to communicate closely with our Pakistani partners on this," he added. But The Financial Times reported on Tuesday that Yusuf complained about President Biden's failure to contact Prime Minister Khan as Washington sought help to stop the Taliban taking over Afghanistan. "The cold shoulder from

Washington comes as the Taliban has captured swaths of territory across Afghanistan in a ruthless offensive emboldened by the US pullout," the report added. The British newspaper said that while Yusuf did not elaborate on his options, "Pakistan has cultivated deep ties with its 'iron brother' China, which has invested billions in infrastructure projects as part of its Belt and Road Initiative." "There are still a number of world leaders President Biden has not been able to speak with personally yet. He looks forward to speaking with Prime Minister Khan when the time is right," a Biden administration official told the paper. The report pointed out that the diplomatic affront was the latest setback in US-Pakistan relations after their cooperation during the war on terrorism following the 9/11 attack on the twin towers by the Al-Qaeda.

Mob attacks temple in Pak, damages idols

PTI ■ LAHORE

A mob attacked a Hindu temple in a remote town in Pakistan's Punjab province, damaging idols and burning down parts of it, prompting Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed to express "grave concern" over the incident and fix the matter before court for hearing on Friday. Police said the mob attacked the Hindu temple at Bhong city of Rahim Yar Khan district, some 590 kms from Lahore, on Wednesday in reaction to an alleged desecration of a Muslim seminary by a minor Hindu boy. The eight-year-old Hindu boy last week had allegedly urinated at a library of the seminary that caused tensions in

Bhong, where Muslims and Hindus have been living peacefully for decades. A police officer said the boy was arrested last week and booked under the blasphemy laws but subsequently released on bail for being a minor. "The attackers were carrying sticks, stones and bricks. They smashed the deities while raising religious slogans," District Police Officer Asad Sarfraz said. He said a part of the temple was also burnt down. Sarfraz said the law enforcement agencies have controlled the situation and managed to disperse the mob. "Rangers have been called and deployed around the Hindu temple," he said.

Israeli Defence Min threatens Iran with military action

AP ■ TEL AVIV

Israel's Defence Minister warned Thursday that his country is prepared to strike Iran, issuing the threat against the Islamic Republic after a fatal drone strike on an oil tanker at sea that his nation blamed on Tehran. The comments by Benny Gantz come as Israel meanwhile lobbies countries for action at the United Nations over last week's attack on the oil tanker Mercer Street that killed two people. The tanker, struck off Oman in the Arabian Sea, is managed by a firm owned by an Israeli billionaire. The US and the United Kingdom similarly blamed Iran for the attack, but no country has offered evidence or intelligence to support their claims. Iran, which along with its regional militia allies has launched similar drone attacks, has denied being involved. Speaking to the news website Ynet, Gantz responded to whether Israel was prepared to attack Iran with a blunt "yes." "We are at a point where we need to take military action against Iran," Gantz said. "The world needs to take action against Iran now."

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

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

RECRUITMENT FOR VARIOUS POSTS FOR KHELO INDIA STATE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Tokyo logs record 5,042 Covid cases amid Games

AP ■ TOKYO Tokyo reported 5,042 new coronavirus cases on Thursday, its most since the pandemic began as infections surge in the Japanese capital hosting the Olympics. Tokyo has been under a state of emergency since mid-July, and four other areas of the country have since been added. But the measures, basically shorter opening hours and a ban on alcohol for restaurants and bars, are increasingly ignored by the public, which has become tired of restrictions. "We need to tackle the situation now that we have a stronger sense of urgency," Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga told reporters, referring to Tokyo exceeding 5,000 new daily cases for the first time. "The infections are expanding at a pace we have never experienced before." Suga, who has been criticized for insisting on hosting the Olympics despite the coronavirus's surge, says there is no evidence linking the increase in cases to the July 23-Aug. 8 Games. He urged people to firmly stick to the emergency requests and stay at home during summer vacation.

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

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

- NIT No. EE/CD-I/DB/NIT/2021-22/23 (ID No. 2021_IFC_206429_1) H.O.A.-2711-Non Plan, Name of Work:- Watch & ward of N.G. Drain between RD. 40680m (Outer Ring Road) to RD. 45316m (Basaidarapur Bridge) right bank of for preventing any kind of encroachment, dumping of malba, building rubbish and other similar unserviceable material etc. for a period of 180 days round the clock. E.C. Rs. 9,58,098/- period of Completion 180 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 07.08.2021 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M. respectively.)
- NIT No. EE/CD-I/DB/NIT/2021-22/24 (ID No. 2021_IFC_206432_1) H.O.A.-2711-Non Plan, Name of Work:- Repairing and Renovation of Boundary Wall from D/S Kakrola Regulator (old) Bridge RD 30180 to Kakrola Regulator (New) Bridge RD 30780 at Left Bank of Najafgarh Drain. E.C. Rs. 65,74,746/- period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 09.08.2021 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M. respectively.)

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

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

DIP/Shabdarth/0215/21-22

LANDMARK THE HOMES 81

SECTOR-81, GURUGRAM (HARYANA)

PROJECT APPROVED UNDER HARYANA GOVT. AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY 2013

Online applications are invited from general public for booking and allotment of 694 residential apartments in Affordable Housing Project in the name of "LANDMARK THE HOMES 81" proposed to be developed by M/s SRV Automotives Pvt. Ltd., as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Govt. of Haryana vide notification no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 and amendment thereof (details available at the department website i.e. www.tcpharyana.gov.in).

PROJECT DETAILS:

1. Colonizers/Developers:	M/s SRV Automotives Pvt. Ltd.
2. Project Approvals:	License No. 4 of 2021 Dated: 02.03.2021 Building Plans Sanctioned Vide Memo No. ZP-1466/SD (DK)/2021/12887 DATED 02.06.2021. RERA Registration No: 36 of 2021, Dated: 16.07.2021
3. Location:	Sector 81, Gurugram, Haryana
4. Project Area:	5.0 Acres comprising a total 694 nos. of apartments out of which 5% of apartments are reserved for management quota (35 apartments). Community Facilities: One Community Hall of 2046.83 sq. ft. & and One Aanganwadi cum creche of 2023.63 sq. ft.
5. Facilities:	Gated Entry, Security Post, Drop off Zone, Ample Parking, Kids play area, Water body, Badminton Court, Lawn tennis, Commercial Complex

6. Details of Apartments offer for Public:

Unit Type	Unit Carpet Area (Sq.ft)	Unit Balcony Area (Sq.ft)	Total price of Unit (Rs.)	At the time of Online Application (Rs.)	No. of Units
Unit-1 (3bhk)	645.48	143.82	2631920	129096	290
Unit-2 (3bhk)	644.86	152.34	2629440	128972	142
Unit-3 (2bhk)	559.82	179.33	2289280	111964	112
Unit-4 (2bhk)	566.61	124.16	2316440	113322	80
Unit-5 (3bhk)	645.26	338.08	2631040	129052	16
Unit-6 (1bhk)	348.04	85.34	1434830	69608	45
Unit-7 (1bhk)	398.86	85.34	1638110	79772	9

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

8. Payment Terms:

- With online application: Booking amount i.e.5% of Total Price of unit
- On Allotment: 20% of Total Price of unit
- Balance: 75% of the Total amount payable in six equal half yearly instalments over a period of 3 years. Any default in payment will bear penal interest as provided in Rule 15 of the HRERA, rules, 2017.

9. Parking: Two wheeler parking with each apartment.

10. Broad Specification of Apartment:

Flooring: Vitrified/Ceramic Tiles, Wall Finish: Oil Bound distemper, Kitchen Details: SS Single bowl Sink, Granite top platform, Balcony Flooring: Anti Skid Tiles, Railing: M.S Steel, Window/External Door: UPVC/MS/Aluminum or equivalent, Door: Flush Doors, Bathroom Fittings :Chinaware or equivalent, C. P. Fittings: Modern & elegant, Electrical: ISI marked products for wirings, switches & circuits.

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

12. ELIGIBILITY:

- Any person can apply but an applicant in a specify colony shall make only one application. 2. Any Person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojna - Housing for all programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First Priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the state of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, Persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licensed colony in any of the urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given next Preference in allotment of flats. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice to retain only one flat. All such applicants shall submit an affidavit to this effect. 3. PAN Card & Aadhaar Card is mandatory.

13. ALLOTMENT CRITERIA:

- The allotment of apartments shall be done through online draw in the presence of Committee consisting Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned District and the representative of concerned colonizer. 2. After fixation of date for online draw, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicant about the details regarding date/time and venue of the online draw in the same newspaper in which the original advertisement was issued. For detailed criteria and time frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicant may also refer to the details in the affordable housing policy 2013 notified by No. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (available at the department website i.e., www.tcpharyana.gov.in)
- In the event the purchaser(s) wants to avail a loan facility from any bank, financial Institution or his/her employer to facilitate the purchase of the flat, the developer shall facilitate the process but shall not be held liable for any delay in payment or refusal to grant the loan to purchaser(s).

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

ED slaps ₹10,600 crore FEMA notice on Flipkart

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a show-cause notice of nearly ₹10,600 crore to Walmart-owned e-commerce major Flipkart and its promoters for alleged violation of the foreign exchange law.

The notice under various sections of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) was issued last month to 10 persons, including Flipkart, its founders Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal, among others, sources said.

The notice followed completion of investigation and the charges include violation of the foreign direct investment (FDI) rules as also regulations relating to multi-brand retail in India. The company and its executives will now face adjudication that will be conducted by a special director-rank officer of the agency based in Chennai, they said.

Proceedings under the FEMA are civil in nature and the final penalty, post adjudication, can be at least three times the amount contravened under the law.

Asserting that it was coop-



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

The case of alleged FDI rules violation against Flipkart has been under the ED scanner since 2012 and the agency has found alleged violations of the FEMA, including an instance of transfer and issue of security to a person or entity outside India.

Flipkart competes with Amazon and Reliance JioMart in the Indian e-commerce

space and has recorded significant business growth over the last few years.

In 2018, US-based retail giant Walmart Inc had picked a 77 per cent stake in Flipkart for USD 16 billion. Its founders and many of its investors took either a partial or complete exit following the acquisition of major shares of the company.

In July this year, Flipkart Group had announced raising USD 3.6 billion (about Rs 26,805.6 crore) in funding led by GIC, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments), SoftBank Vision Fund 2, and Walmart, pegging the value of the e-commerce platform at USD 37.6 billion.

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

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Responding to a query on the notice, the company said in a statement: "Flipkart is in compliance with Indian laws and regulations, including FDI regulations."

"We will cooperate with the authorities as they look at this issue pertaining to the period 2009-2015 as per their notice," it said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eco recovering at fast pace from recent lows of April, May: PHDCCI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The economy is recovering at a fast pace from the recent lows of April and May on the back of declining new coronavirus cases, continued unlocking in various parts of the country and calibrated economic reforms announced by the government, industry chamber PHDCCI said on Thursday.

At this juncture, it said, there is a need to further fuel the drivers of household consumption and private investments to enhance the aggregate demand in the economy as it will have an accelerated effect on expansion of capital investments in the country.

"On the back of declining new coronavirus cases, continued unlocking in various parts of the country and calibrated economic reforms

announced by the government, the economy is recovering at a fast pace from the recent lows of April and May 2021," PHDCCI President Sanjay Aggarwal said.

He suggested that more and more direct benefit transfers need to be considered for the urban and rural poor under the various welfare schemes.

GAIL PAT jumps to ₹1,530 crore in Q1 FY 22, turnover up 44% to ₹17,352 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

GAIL (India) Limited recorded turnover of ₹17,352 crore in Q1 FY22 vis a vis ₹12,060 crore in Q1 FY21 while Profit before Tax (PBT) in Q1 FY22 stood at ₹2,054 crore as against ₹356 crore in Q1 FY21. The Profit after Tax (PAT) stood at ₹1,530 crore in Q1 FY22 as against ₹256 crore in Q1 FY21.

Sensex, Nifty scale fresh lifetime highs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

Bharti Airtel was the top gainer in the Sensex pack,

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

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

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

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

Air passenger traffic recovery continued in July: ICRA

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

"The average number of passengers per flight during

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING
 General public is hereby informed that a male namely Sanjay, S/o: Ramu, R/o: H.No. D-1/81, Nand Nagri, Delhi has been missing since 18.07.2021 from his house. In this regard DD No. 121-A dated 18.07.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Nand Nagri, Delhi. The description of missing male is as under:
 Name: Sanjay, Age: 38 Years, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black Colour T-Shirt-Pant, Green Colour Trouser and Chappal in Feet.
 If anyone has any information about this missing male may kindly be inform undersigned:-
 Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in
 Ph: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
 Police Station, Nand Nagri, Delhi
 DP/927/NE/2021 Ph: 011-22137761, 8750870733

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

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

MONIND LIMITED
 (Formerly Known as Monnet Industries Limited)
 Registered Office: Plot No. 216, Sector-C, Uda Industrial Complex, Rajpur-493221 (Chhattisgarh), Corp. Office: Monnet House, 11, Masjid Muth, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048 (INDIA) Phone: +91 11 29215542-46; Fax: +91 11 29216541 Email: isc_monind@monnetgroup.com; Website: www.monnetgroup.com CIN:L5103CT1982PLC039717
NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given Pursuant to Regulation 29 & 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015, that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 12th August, 2021 inter-alia, to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter ended on 30th June, 2021. This intimation is also available on the website of the Company (www.monnetgroup.com) and on the website of the Stock Exchange. (www.bseindia.com)
 By order of the Board of Directors
MONIND LIMITED
 (Formerly Known as Monnet Industries Limited)
 Dated: 05.08.2021 Priya
 Place: New Delhi Company Secretary

MPDL LIMITED
 (Formerly, Monnet Project Developers Limited)
 Registered Office: Plot No. 216, Sector-C, Uda Industrial Complex, Rajpur-493221 (Chhattisgarh), Corp. Office: Unit No. 12, GF, Magnum Tower-1 Sector - 58, Gurugram, HR 122011 (INDIA) Phone: 0124-422434-35; Email: isc_mpdl@monnetgroup.com; Website: www.monnetgroup.com CIN:L70102CT2002PLC015040
NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given Pursuant to Regulation 29 & 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015, that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 12th August, 2021 at 11, Masjid Muth, Greater Kailash, Part-2, New Delhi-110048 inter-alia, to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter ended on 30th June, 2021. This intimation is also available on the website of the Company (www.monnetgroup.com) and on the website of the Stock Exchange. (www.bseindia.com)
 By order of the Board of Directors
MPDL LIMITED
 (Formerly, Monnet Project Developers Limited)
 Dated: 05.08.2021 Anurag Singh Rathore
 Place: New Delhi Company Secretary

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Khatima
 Pilibhit Road, Near Allahabad Bank, Khatima (U.S. Nagar) E-mail: eecd@khatima@gmail.com
E-Tendering/Tender Notice
Letter No. 1156/Nivida/55 Date : 05.08.2021
1. Name of Work :- Rising Main (DI Pipe), Over Head Tank, Pump House cum attendent Room, Boundary wall and all other appurtenant works etc.

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

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

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

Key Dates-

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

Executive Engineer

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Making it big

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you're a creator/influ-

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

What this means for you

Learn to think of your audiences in two different categories: Owned and rented.

What do I mean by rented?

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

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

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

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

So, what can you do about it?

Well — own your audience! Ownership means not relying 'solely' on these third-party platforms to build and



nurture relationships with your audience.

Own your audience

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

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

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

The decade-long shift to social networks happened because of the insane reach they had to offer. And, it made sense to 'build your audience' there, because why not? The platforms gave everything you wanted, from reach to visibility to growth. Until they didn't and, by then, you were desperately hooked.

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

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

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

CREATING A BUZZ

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

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

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

Contribution to viral communication

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

Reach a vast target audience

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

Trends 2.0

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

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



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

Ease into the next season

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

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

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

Sania Mirza's fitness master class

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

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

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

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

indulging in fitness activities.

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

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

—IANS

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

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

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

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

An elegy for the sedan

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

TREND BLAZER

A CONVERSATION STARTER: ABHAY

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

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



fairtalk

SIDHARTH MALHOTRA



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

dailytalk

LARA DUTTA



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

'I LOVE PLAYING HARLEY QUINN'

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

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





The drink's craft

On the occasion of International Beer Day, AVNEET SINGH talks about the changes which were witnessed during the year

The past year has drastically changed everything — including a quantum transformation — especially in the craft brewing industry. COVID's impact forced many breweries, globally, to close their taprooms, causing massive disruption and losses in the industry. However, the resilience, dynamism and adaptability of craft-brewing professionals across the world paved a path for breweries to be able to find new ways to sell their beer and keep their business afloat through innovation and dedication.

DTC beer delivery
 One interesting side-effect that the pandemic had on the craft beer industry was consideration for DTC (direct-to-consumer) beer shipping and home delivery. As breweries across the country shut down last year, many breweries and beer manufacturing companies and outlets have considered making up for their loss of in-person sales with delivery sales.

Breweries go digital
 As breweries safely navigate the current situation, upgrading their conventional customer processes has been a necessity. It has also exponentially increased the adoption rate of new software and apps to improve the operations and efficiency of customer service.

Packaging
 The pandemic saw consumers increasingly purchasing items in bulk — including beer. Packaging is always high on the list of craft brewery trends.

Witnessing the growth in demand for craft beer, the market has seen bidding for quality variants consequently. Though at a nascent stage, India's craft beer industry is evidently one of the fastest-growing trades. Growth is primarily being driven by millennials, who find craft beer more authentic and premium, compared to regular lagers.

(The author is the founder of Medusa Beverages.)

Despite administrative impediments — such as authorising limitations, restricted charges and a nationwide taboo on publicising of alcoholic drinks — the industry continues to flourish and makes monstrous developments in the general refreshment industry.

Beer is gradually becoming more acceptable as a social drink among the urban youth. The Indian beer market is progressively attractive and it will double in size till 2025. Increasing purchasing power and changing preferences are some of the major factors of the growth of the beer industry in India.

The craft beer segment in the country is expected to reach \$900 million by 2024, according to a report by Goldstein Research.

Some of the notable craft brewery trends that need to be watched out for are as follows:

demands. With their unique ingredients and end-product choices, conscious and innovative brands are ushering in much-needed change. Indians are looking for nutrient-dense options that don't sacrifice taste while also ensuring they're eating healthy foods. Innovative and healthier alternatives, such as hummus chips, baked wholegrain snacks, vegetable crisps, seeds and nuts, raw kale chips and savoury seed cubes are becoming increasingly popular among guilt-free snackers.

Popular Indian delicacies, like *bhujia*, are being experimented with by brands. Such *bhujias*, for example, are healthy not just because of the nutrient-dense components utilised but also because of the method used to prepare the final product. They're vacuum-fried which, uses 70 per cent less oil and, keeps the nutrient content of the ingredients intact by frying

at a lower temperature for a certain amount of time.

Beetroot *bhujia*, quinoa *bhujia* and other eye-catching goods are available. Consider how antioxidants in a snack like *bhujia* can help protect you from a variety of chronic ailments like heart disease, diabetes, and malignancies of the skin and liver. *Bhujia*, for example, has chemicals that help lower blood pressure, lower the risk of heart disease and improve liver function. Due to the availability of chips produced from *rajma*, brown rice and *moong* dal and the utilisation of innovative processes, such as vacuum cooking — for the previously popular banana, jackfruit — guilt-free snacking has become possible.

(The author is the business head of Yummiano, which strives to provide healthier snacking options without harsh chemicals or preservatives.)

'SLAY'-ED WITH LOVE

Initially sceptical and half-expecting a series of flat drinks, DYUTI ROY is pleasantly surprised by the quality of coffee delivered at her doorstep

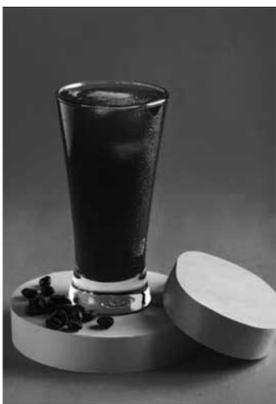
Imagine that feeling of entering a coffee shop and being hit immediately by that heavenly aroma of ground coffee beans and a freshly brewed pot of coffee. And as you stand there staring at the plethora of brews wondering and wishing you had the time and capacity to drink all that they had to offer, you wish the world would stop revolving and all of the time would stand still as you take one deep breath after another hoping this feeling would last forever.

This was the exact feeling I experienced when the Slay Coffee brews arrived. Even before I opened the paper bag handed to me by a delivery valet, the aroma seeped through it and invigorated all my senses. In my head, delivered coffee can't smelt like that. I was half-expecting a series of flat, cold drinks that I'd struggle to digest. So, you can only guess my absolute delight when I took a sip and was instead transported to a happy, warm place of caffeinated wonder.

If I sound like a huge coffee nerd, that is probably because I am one. This almost obsessive, romantic relationship with coffee began from the moment I took my first sip. I

don't quite remember how old I was when I first tasted caffeine, but I distinctly remember tasting it. My mother was having her regular evening cup and offered me a sip. That small mouthful of strong, sugarless black coffee seemed to titillate this hitherto unknown taste bud that I never knew existed. While other kids of my age turned their noses up against this bitter drink, my love affair had already begun. Since that day, years ago, I have consumed a copious amount of coffee so much so that my friends say it is plausible that my veins pump coffee instead of blood.

Drinking the Slay Coffee brews has been a wonderful experience. This cloud kitchen for coffee-on-the-go serves a collection of brews that



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

that the company offers makes authentic coffee both accessible and affordable. In India, where the coffee culture has grown exponentially in the past few years, I am sure most of us have struggled to get a hold of a good cup of gourmet coffee that can be picked up on the way to work or simply ordered online. The people at Slay seem to have nipped this problem in the bud. Introducing the brilliant initiative of takeaway coffee, its smart packaging techniques of insulated cups, snug holders and artistic delivery boxes dispatch their hand-crafted beverages of goodness to you without any spillage while also retaining the warmth and aroma of the freshly brewed coffee. It is like having a coffee bar all to yourself!

Of all the brews I tried, my absolute favourite was the Long Java Americano. Served black, just the way I like it, it looked like an Americano but has an interesting twist to it. Instead of the usual

Mindful eating to guilt-free snacking

VIPUL GAMBHIR elaborates upon the change in heart of the snack industry

ation has made the concept of 'mindful eating' popular among a significant segment of people previously unaware of the ingredients needed to create the final product. The population of people looking for guilt-free eating is growing as they do not want to compromise on the taste of snacks but, at the same time, do not want to mess around with their health. The mindful eating, that once stopped them from relishing various delicacies, has caved in under the pressure of living life to the fullest.

The biggest hurdle was having snacks when you are craving something apart from regular food

items. The munching tooth needed relief from the craving and the best way is to head towards the packet of snacks. Owing to the trend of guilt-free eating, snacking in India is evolving to become gluten-free and GMO-free. Not long ago, high-fat, high-sugar snacks were thought to be the only way to curb afternoon hunger, but companies are increasingly advocating more diverse and sophisticated products, with natural and organic brands (and stores) leading the way.

Resultantly, the snacking scene has changed dramatically in response to changing consumer



R E C I P E S

SABUDANA KHICHDI

- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Tapioca pearls/sago/sabudana: 1½ cup
 - Potato (boiled and chopped): 1
 - Green chillies (chopped): 2
 - Ginger (grated): 1 tsp
 - Peanuts: ½ cup
 - Lemon juice: 1½ tbsp
 - Fasting salt to taste
 - Black pepper powder: 1/3 tsp
 - Cumin seeds: 1 tsp
 - Sugar: ½ tsp
 - Ghee: 3 tbsp
 - Fresh coriander (chopped): 3 tbsp

- Mix soaked *sabudana*, salt, sugar, pepper powder, ginger and lemon juice in a big bowl
- Heat ghee or oil in a wok.
- Add cumin and green chillies in the pan and let it crackle.
- Add crushed peanuts to the pan and saute on low heat till they become golden in colour.
- Add cubed potatoes and a pinch of salt and saute for a few seconds.
- Add the *sabudana* mixture and mix well.
- Cover and cook on low heat for about five minutes, keep stirring in between twice-thrice so that it will not stick and burn at the bottom.
- Once the *sabudana* becomes translucent and shiny, add fresh coriander and mix.
- Serve *sabudana khichdi* hot.

Courtesy: Vinsplate



HOT CROSS BUN LOAF WITH CHOCOLATE & CANDIED CITRUS FRUITS

- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Cling film
 - Piping bag and fine plain nozzle
- For the buns:**
- Strong white flour: 425 gm + extra for dusting
 - Cocoa powder: 30 gm
 - Sea salt: 1 tsp
 - Mixed spice: 1 tsp
 - Butter: 50 gm + extra to grease the casserole
 - Caster sugar: 6 tbsp
 - Fine orange zest: 1
 - Milk: 200 ml
 - Dried active yeast: 1 tsp
 - Large egg (beaten): 1
 - Milk chocolate chips: 60 gm
 - Candied citrus peel

- (chopped): 50 gm
 - Sultanas: 60 gm
- For the crosses:**
- Strong white plain flour: 25 gm
 - Vegetable oil: 1 tsp
 - Cold water: 2 tbsp
- For the glaze:**
- Orange juice: 75 ml
 - Honey: 2 tbsp
- METHOD**
- Sift the flour, cocoa, salt and spice into a large warmed bowl. Rub in the butter and stir in five tablespoons of the caster sugar and the orange zest.
 - Warm the milk, whisk in the remaining tablespoon of sugar and the dried yeast, and leave for five minutes until frothy.
 - Make a well in the centre of

the dry ingredients, pour in the frothy yeast mixture and the beaten egg. Work the mixture together using a large spatula until it leaves the sides of the bowl and forms a dough.

- Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface and knead for five-six minutes until it has become smooth and elastic. Return the dough to the bowl, cover with some oiled cling film and set to rise in a warm place until doubled in size. This will take around one – 1½ hours.
- Turn the risen dough out onto a floured work surface and knead two-three times to knock out the air. Flatten the dough out into a large rectangle, and sprinkle over the chocolate chips, candied citrus peel and the sultanas. Knead two-three times more to incorporate the chocolate and fruit into the dough.
- Divide the dough into 11 equal pieces and roll into balls. To ensure all the buns are the same size, weigh the finished dough, divide the figure by 11 then cut and weigh each piece of dough before rolling into a ball.
- Grease the casserole with some of the extra butter and lightly dust with flour.
- Evenly space out the dough

balls in the casserole, eight around the outside and three in the centre. Cover and leave to rise for one- 1½ hours or until it doubles in size. Warming the casserole before putting in the buns to rise and then placing on the lid will provide a perfect environment for the rising process. 10-15 minutes towards the end of the rising process preheat the oven to 200°C/ 400°F/ Gas Mark 6. For fan assisted electric ovens, you may need to reduce the temperature by 10-20°C.

- For the crosses mix the flour, oil and enough water together to make a smooth paste. Place the mixture into a plastic piping bag or small plastic bag, snip four-five mm off the corner and pipe a cross on each bun.
- Place the casserole into the preheated oven and bake the loaf for 30-35 minutes until well risen and lightly browned.
- To make the glaze, simmer the orange juice and the honey together in a small pan for three-four minutes until it has reduced a little and has a sticky texture. Brush the glaze over the hot baked bun loaf and allow to soak in. Serve the bun loaf in the casserole.

Courtesy: Le Creuset India



COLD FIGHTING DETOX TEA

- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Tulsi leaves: 3-4
 - Tea leaves as per taste
 - Clove: 4-5 pieces
 - Black pepper: 4-5 piece
 - Black tea: ½ tsp
 - Rock salt: a pinch
 - Asafoetida: a pinch
 - Water: 1 cup

METHOD

- In a pan boil a cup of water.
- To this, add some tea leaves, the tulsi leaves, crushed cloves and black peppercorns.
- Let the mixture steep for five minutes in a closed container.
- Pour the tea in a cup and add a pinch of rock salt and asafoetida to it.
- Serve while still hot.

Courtesy: Cherish India Private Ltd

TOKYO TIMELINE

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

● **Athletics:** Sandeep Kumar, Rahul Rohilla and K T Irfan finished 23rd, 47th and 51st respectively in men's 20km race walk event.
 ● **Golf:** Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar at tied second and tied 53rd respectively at the end of women's individual stroke play round 2.
 ● **Hockey:** India beat Germany 5-4 in men's Bronze medal match.
 ● **Wrestling:** Anshu Malik lost to Valeria Koblova (ROC) in repechage round of women's freestyle 57kg. Vinesh Phogat beat Sofia Magdalena Mattsson (Sweden), lost to Vanesa Kaladzinskaya in quarterfinals of women's freestyle 53kg. Ravi Dahiya lost to Zaur Uguev (Russian Olympic Committee) in men's freestyle 57kg final. Deepak Punia lost to Myles Nazem Amine (San Marino) in men's freestyle 86kg Bronze medal match.

IN ACTION TODAY

● **Athletics:** Gurpreet Singh in men's 50km race walk event. (02:00am)
 Priyanka Goswami and Bhawna Jat in women's 20km race walk event. (01:00pm)
 Indian team in men's 4x400m relay round 1 heat 2. (05:07pm)
 ● **Golf:** Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar in women's individual stroke play round 3. (04:00am)
 ● **Hockey:** India vs Great Britain in women's Bronze medal match. (07:00am)
 ● **Wrestling:** Bajrang Punia vs Ernazar Akmatiev (Kyrgyzstan) in men's freestyle 65kg. (eighth bout after 08:00am start.)
 Seema Bisla vs Sarra Hamdi (Tunisia) in repechage round of women's freestyle 50kg. (second bout after 08:00am start.)

Live on **SONY TEN & SIX Network**



Indian men's hockey team players and head coach Graham Reid pose for photo with the Olympic Bronze medal during presentation ceremony on Thursday

PTI ■ TOKYO

INDIA'S WAIT IS OVER

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

A resolute Indian men's hockey team rewrote history as it claimed an Olympic medal after 41 years, defeating a plucky Germany 5-4 to win the Bronze in an edge-of-the-seat play-off match of the ongoing Games here on Thursday.

The eight-time former Gold-winners, who battled a heartbreaking slump in the last four decades, made the resurgence of the last couple of years count in the best way possible with an Olympic medal.

Their Bronze, which is worth its weight in Gold for the sheer emotion and nostalgia that hockey invokes in the country, became India's fifth medal at the ongoing Games.

Simranjeet Singh (17th, 34th minutes) scored a brace, while Hardik Singh (27th), Harmanpreet Singh (29th) and Rupinder Pal Singh (31st) were the other goal-getters for world No 3 India. Germany's goals were scored by Timur Oruz (2nd), Niklas Wellen (24th),

Benedikt Furk (25th) and Lukas Windfeder (48th). Determined to clinch a medal, the Indians made one of the most memorable comebacks in the history of the game, fighting back from

a two-goal deficit to turn the match in their favour after being 1-3 down thanks to some defensive lapses.

There were tears and hugs on the field as the Indians led by

Manpreet Singh and coached by Australian Graham Reid savoured the historic moment.

It is India's third hockey Bronze medal in the history of the Olympics. The other two

came in 1968 Mexico City and the 1972 Munich Games. In all, the country now has 12 Olympic medals, eight of them Gold, making it the most successful at the showpiece.

PM Modi lauds every member of Indian team

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday heaped praises on the players of Indian men's hockey team individually after they won Bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics, and said for every hockey lover and sports enthusiast, August 5 will remain one of the most memorable days.

Hockey has a special place in the heart and mind of every Indian, he said, tweeting words of praise to the team members. Lauding team captain Manpreet Singh, Modi said, "His 3rd Olympics and a medal he waited years for... Throughout the Games, he led from the front, including during critical moments of the matches. India is proud of the leadership of @manpreet-pawar07. A delighted nation thanks him for being the pivot of the team." He praised goalkeeper Sreejesh P R for spectacular performance throughout the tournament, and said his saves played a big part in earning the medal for India. Hardik Singh has put in immense effort and distinguished himself as a bright hockey player, the prime minister tweeted and thanked him for all his hardwork and specially for a "critical goal in a crucial match". He similarly tweeted praise for other players of the team, including Nilakanta Sharma, Sumit, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Lalit Upadhyay, Gurjant Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Shamsher Singh, Mandeep Singh, Birendra Lakra, Amit Rohidas, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh and Rupinder Pal Singh. PTI

Privileged to have played a part: Reid

Tokyo: The Indian men's hockey team's coach Graham Reid on Thursday said he feels "privileged" to be a part of the game's revival in India after the side clinched its first Olympic medal in 41 years, crediting togetherness and a team first mentality for the triumph.

"It is a fantastic feeling, it has come after a lot of sacrifices that the whole group has made," Reid said referring to the time the players spent away from their families and in some cases, battling Covid-19 as well.

"It takes a long time to get where these athletes have gotten. All the sacrifices that go unseen," he added after the 5-4 triumph

over Germany.

"...I know that apart from the country, this group has been waiting for a medal for a fairly long time and I know how much hockey means to India and I am privileged to help play a part in that. It means a lot after being in quarantine for the last eight out of 16 months."

India were 1-3 down in the match and Reid said one of the things that has been worked on during his stint was to never lose hope of a comeback.

"Before the game I asked the guys to make sure they bring the next level if something happens, for example, if you are down, you need to bring the next level of play and they did that very well," Reid explained. PTI



Ageless Anderson leads Poms fight back

PTI ■ NOTTINGHAM

The wily old James Anderson once again got his 'bunny' Virat Kohli in a mesmerising spell that undid India's solid opening stand to leave them tottering at 125 for four against England on a rain-curtailed day two of the opening Test.

The 39-year-old Anderson (13.4-7-15-2) swung it in England's favour with successive precision deliveries that got Cheteshwar Pujara (4) and Virat Kohli (0) as India from 97 for no loss slumped to 112 for four in a space of less than six overs.

The in-from KL Rahul (57 batting off 151 balls) is still standing tall amid ruins alongside Rishabh Pant (7 batting) but the advantage that India got in the opening session was neutralised by Anderson's spell and the pressure also led to an unfortunate run-out of Ajinkya Rahane (5).

Rahul's classy Test match batting would surely be a relief for the Indian team management after the talented Karnataka batsman lost his place in the longest formats due to a prolonged bad patch.

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

ves, were majestic and the control over his own mind while selecting the bad balls under overcast conditions was exemplary.

But Anderson did take the cake on the day the pacer with the highest number of Test matches under his belt (163rd game) equalled Anil Kumble's record of 619 scalps. He matched Kumble's record after fooling Kohli once again in the corridor of uncertainty.

It was a fuller delivery that Kohli played for the inswinger but it held its line to take a healthy edge into Jos Buttler's gloves. Both Kohli and Anderson would have a sense of deja vu thinking about what happened in 2014.

A ball before, the artist was at work as he got Pujara forward with one that was shaping into him in the air but deviated away when he pressed forward for Buttler to take a low catch.

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

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

MANPREET SINGH: The Inspirational Leader

The 29-year-old hails from a small village of Mithapur in Jalandhar. The Indian skipper made his international debut in 2011 at the age of 19. His first big tournament as member of the senior team was the 2012 London Olympics. He has since represented the country at all major tournaments and featured in India's fine victories including the Gold at the 2014 Asian Games.

Under Manpreet's captaincy, India were crowned champions at the 2018 Asian Champions Trophy. In 2019, he was named the FIH Player of the Year.

P R SREEJESH: The Great Wall of India

Born in Kizhakkambalam village in Kerala's Ernakulam district to a family of farmers, India's custodian is arguably one of the best goalkeepers in the world, standing tall as the team's last line of defence.

The 35-year-old made his

Men who made it happen

Meet the stars of India's first Olympic medal-winning campaign in 4 decades

debut for the senior team in 2006 at the South Asian Games, and has been an integral part of the national team since 2011.

Appointed captain in 2016, Sreejesh led the side to Silver medals at the FIH Men's Hockey Champions Trophy in 2016 and 2018.

HARMANPREET SINGH: Drag-flick King

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

He also played a pivotal role in India's Gold-winning campaign at the FIH Men's World Series Finals as well as 2019

Olympic Qualifiers.

RUPINDER PAL SINGH: Another Drag-flick Genius

'Bob' to his teammates, Rupinder is one of the most lethal drag-flickers in the world. The lanky defender made his international debut in 2010 at the Sultan Azlan Shah Tournament, where India clinched the Gold.

Named vice-captain in 2014, Rupinder has had a topsy-turvy journey as he was dropped from the team for the 2018 Champions Trophy squad, but was recalled for the Asian Games later in the year, where he made a solid comeback to the side by scoring a marvellous hat-trick against Sri Lanka and the team went on to clinch the Bronze.

SIMRANJEET SINGH: Super Striker

The 24-year-old, who scored a brace in the Bronze medal playoff against Germany on Thursday, was added to the squad following the International Olympic Committee's decision to allow 'alternate athletes' in team events because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Simranjeet, a product of Jalandhar's Surjit Singh Hockey Academy, was also a member of India's 2016 Junior World Cup-winning side.

His cousin and junior World Cup teammate Gurjant Singh is also a part of the squad.

HARDIK SINGH: Upcoming midfield star of Indian team

Hockey runs in Hardik's genes. From his father to his

uncle and aunt everyone has played hockey for the country.

The 22-year-old midfielder born in Khusrupur in Jalandhar honed his skills under his uncle Jugraj Singh, the former Indian drag-flicker.

His other uncle — Gurmail Singh — was part of the 1980 Summer Olympics where India clinched the historic Gold. Gumail's wife and Hardik's aunt Rajbir Kaur was the former women's team captain.

Hardik's father Varinderpreet Singh Ray also played for India and grandfather Preetam Singh Ray was a hockey coach with the Indian Navy.

Hardik made his international debut with the senior team at the 2018 Hero Asian Champions Trophy where India clinched the Gold medal.

He soon became a regular

GRAHAM REID: The Master tactician

A veteran of 130 international matches, Reid was a member of the Australian hockey team that won the Silver medal in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

A disciple of the legendary Ric Charlesworth, Reid was his assistant in the Australian team for five years before being elevated to the top position in 2014. Under his tutelage, the Australia team finished sixth at the Rio Olympics after being eliminated by the Netherlands in the quarter-finals.

The 57-year-old was appointed the Indian men's team coach in 2019.

He has often spoken about pursuing a process and investing in youth to get the results at a big stage like the Olympics.

Aditi in medal hunt

Tokyo: Indian golfer Aditi Ashok was in contention for a historic Olympic medal after carding a flawless five-under 66 in the second round of the women's competition on Thursday.

The 23-year-old rolled in five birdies, which included three in her last four holes, on yet another steamy day at Kasumigaseki Country Club to lie tied second on nine-under 133 with Danish duo, Nanna Koerstz Madsen (64) and Emily Kristine Pedersen (63).

Aditi, playing her second Olympics with her mother, Maheshwari, as her caddie, trails leader — world No 1 Nelly Korda of USA — by four shots.

Diksha Dagar returned a 72 to share 53rd place on six-over 148.

Aditi kept herself in prime



Indian golfer Aditi Ashok in action AP

position of delivering a first-ever medal in hole for India with birdies on Hole Nos. 2, 5, 15, 17 and 18. PTI

Ravi settles for Silver; Deepak & Vinesh lose

Chiba: Ravi Dahiya on Thursday became only the second Indian wrestler to win a Silver medal at the Olympic Games but Vinesh Phogat's redemption dream came crashing down after a shock quarterfinal exit and Deepak Punia let slip a Bronze in the last 10 seconds of his play-off bout here on Thursday.

There were huge expectations from Dahiya for a Gold medal after his phenomenal semifinal victory but the reigning world champion Zaur Uguev of Russian Olympic Committee dashed those hopes with a comfortable 7-4 win the men's freestyle 57kg title clash.

Dahiya tried every possible trick in his bag but Uguev defended extremely well and kept consolidating his lead with his timely point-scoring moves.

Looking at a bigger picture, Dahiya's Silver medal will further inspire the young generation but star Indian wrestler Vinesh was left to endure a second consecutive heart-breaking quarterfinal exit from the Olympic Games after a massive upset defeat at the hands

of Belarus' Vanesa Kaladzinskaya.

Vinesh had no answer to the supreme defence of Vanesa, who got her revenge from the Indian at the biggest stage after suffering a similar embarrassing defeat 'by fall' earlier this year in Ukraine.

Later, Vanesa lost her semi-final to China's Qinyu Pang on criteria after scores were tied 2-2, a result that brought curtains on Vinesh's campaign at the Tokyo Games. The top-seeded Vinesh, who was a hot favourite for a medal, needed Vanesa to beat the Chinese to rejoin the 53kg competition

through the repechage round and push for a Bronze. In the men's freestyle 86kg category, Deepak Punia came agonisingly close to winning a Bronze medal on his Olympic debut but conceded a take-down in last 10 seconds of the play-off against San Marino's Myles Nazem Amine to miss out on achieving the feat.

Maybe I was good enough for silver only this time: Dahiya

New Delhi: Gracious in defeat, young Indian wrestler Ravi Dahiya on Thursday said perhaps he deserved only a Silver medal at the Olympics at this stage and will strive to get better to complete the unfinished task of winning a Gold at the 2024 Paris Games.

Speaking after his 57kg final, the 23-year-old Dahiya said a Silver medal will never give him satisfaction even though his performance would mean a lot for Indian wrestling.

Deepak's defence was superb throughout the bout but the San Marino wrestler grabbed the decisive two-pointer after getting hold of the Indian's right leg and converted it into a take-down in dying moments of the bout.

The 22-year-old Indian, was leading 2-1 before that take-down but it was not meant to be his day.

Young Anshu Malik also bowed out of the 57kg competition after losing her repechage round 1-5 to Russia's Valeria Koblova, the Rio Olympics Silver medallist.

"I did not come to Tokyo for a Silver medal. It will not give me satisfaction. Maybe this time I deserved only a Silver because Uguev was a better wrestler today," Dahiya said.

"I could not achieve what I wanted to."

"His (Uguev) style was very good. I just could not find a way to play my game. I don't know what I could have done. He wrestled very smartly," the two-time reigning Asian champion added. PTI

Anshu never looked intimidated by a stronger opponent and was leading the bout at one stage on criteria but towards the end, the Russian pulled off a two-pointer to nose ahead.

India's Gold medal hopes now rest on Bajrang Punia, who will begin his campaign on Friday against Kyrgyzstan's Ernazar Akmatiev.

While Seema Bisla is the only Indian woman wrestler left in the fray. She will begin her campaign in the 50kg category, where she will face Tunisia's Sarra Hamdi. PTI

Archer to miss IPL, T20 WC & Ashes

London: Star England pacer Jofra Archer will miss the IPL, T20 World Cup and the Ashes because of a "recurrence of a stress fracture on his right elbow", ECB announced on Thursday. The 26-year-old had undergone scans on his injured right elbow last week which revealed that he has suffered a recurrence of a stress fracture of his right elbow. PTI

Sandeep finishes 23rd, Irfan & Rahul 47th and 51st in 20km race walk

Sapporo: National record holder Sandeep Kumar was going strong at second position till near the halfway mark but he faded later on to finish 23rd with a below-par timing in the men's 20km race walk event here on Thursday.

The 35-year-old Kumar crossed the finish line in 1 hour 25 minute and 7 seconds, well

outside his national record time of 1:20:16 which he had clocked in February to qualify for the Olympics.

His two other compatriots, Rahul Rohilla (1:32:06) and K T Irfan (1:34:41) brought up the rear at 47th and 51st with disappointing performances under hot and humid conditions. Fifty seven athletes started

in the competition and 52 finished their races. Five were either disqualified or DNF (Did Not Finish).

Italian Massimo Stano won Gold in 1:21:05, while the Japanese pair of Ikeda Koki (1:21:28) and Yamanishi Toshikazu (1:21:46) took the Silver and Bronze respectively. PTI