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 XI MEETS TOP MILITARY
 OFFICIALS IN LHASA

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 INDIA IN EXCITING PHASE
 OF GROWTH: PAYTM CEO

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 MANPREET & CO
 START WITH WIN

 Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD
VIJAYWADA
CHANDIGARH, SUNDAY JULY 25, 2021; PAGES 8-4 ₹3


India rejoices at Chanu's feat

21-year-long wait for weightlifting medal at Olympics ends



Mirabai Chanu reacts during a successful attempt in the 49 kg category of Women's Weightlifting event of the Summer Olympics 2020 in Tokyo on Saturday

PTI

PTI ■ TOKYO

A confident smile never leaving her face, Mirabai Chanu ended India's over two-decade long wait for a weightlifting medal at the Olympics, clinching the 49kg category silver medal five years after leaving the same platform in tears following a disastrous

debut.

With her historic triumph, she ensured that India was second on the medals tally for a brief while, a feat that has never been achieved before by the country. It was also the first time that India managed to win a medal on the opening day competitions.

The diminutive iron lady

from Manipur lifted a total of 202kg (87kg+115kg) to better Karnam Malleswari's bronze in the 2000 Sydney Olympics. With this, she exorcised the ghosts of the 2016 Games where she had failed to log a single legitimate lift, leaving her shattered.

I am very happy, I have been dreaming of this for the

past five years. I am very proud of myself right now! I did try for gold but even silver is a great achievement for me. Chanu told reporters after her career-defining triumph for which she had been training in the US for past few months.

The 2016 experience was a watershed in her career and Chanu had spoken about how

Mother in tears as Mirabai sports 'good luck' earrings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A historic silver medal and a radiant smile were not the only eye-catching things about Mirabai Chanu on Saturday, her gold earrings shaped like Olympic rings were as striking, a gift from her mother who sold her own jewellery for them five years ago.

The hope was that the earrings would bring her 'good luck'. It didn't happen in the Rio 2016 Games but Chanu made the little sacrifice count

in Tokyo this morning with a silver medal and Saikhom Ongbi Tombi Leima has struggled to stop her tears from flowing ever since.

"I saw the earrings on TV. I gave them to her in 2016 before the (Rio) Olympics. I have made it for her from the gold pieces and savings I have so that it brings luck and success," Leima told PTI from her home in Manipur where a considerable number of relatives, friends and well-wishers gathered to watch Chanu script history in Tokyo.

confused she had felt during her debut at the biggest stage. There was none of those nerves to be seen on Saturday, just a very composed and focused athlete who knew she was destined for the podium.

"I am very happy to win the first medal for India at these Games. I don't just belong to Manipur, I belong to the whole country," she said in response to a query on what it meant for her as a Manipuri.

"I would like to thank my coach Vijay Sharma and the support staff for their continuous hard work, motivation and training," she added.

Could not have asked for a happier start to Tokyo2020! India is elated by Mirabai Chanu's stupendous performance. Congratulations to her for winning the Silver medal in weightlifting. Her success motivates every Indian.

Heartiest congratulations to Mirabai Chanu for starting the medal tally for India in the Tokyo Olympics 2020 by winning silver medal.

—Ram Nath Kovind

Better safe than sorry: Embassy to Indians in Af

PHS ■ NEW DELHI

As fighting rages in Afghanistan, the Indian embassy there on Saturday said the situation 'remains dangerous' and advised all Indian nationals there to exercise caution.

The advisory came days after the IAF planes evacuated more than 50 diplomatic staff of the Indian consulate in Kandahar.

The note of caution by the embassy in Kabul on Saturday urged Indians staying, visiting, and working in Afghanistan to exercise utmost vigilance at all times and avoid all non-essential travel as security situation in Afghanistan remains dangerous. It also warned Indian nationals are not exceptions, and they additionally face a serious threat of kidnapping.

The detailed advisory also asked the Indian nationals to remain vigilant with security at workplace, place of residence and also during movement to their places of work. It is recommended that all types of non-essential movements be avoided. Movements especially during peak commuting hours should also be avoided. While travelling on roads, maintain distance from possi-

'Avoid travel as Af situation dangerous'



ble targets like military convoys, official vehicles of Government and Ministries, high ranking officials, law enforcement agencies, it cautioned.

Indians were also asked to refrain from going to crowded markets, shopping complexes, restaurants and other public places. All essential movement may please be kept as discrete as possible, it said. It also advised traveling outside the main cities should be strictly avoided. Moreover, all Indian nationals arriving in Afghanistan are advised to register with the Embassy.

CAPSULE

BATLA HOUSE CONVICT ARIZ KHAN MOVES HC

New Delhi: Ariz Khan, who was awarded the death penalty for the murder of decorated Delhi Police Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma in connection with the sensational 2008 Batla House encounter case, has moved the Delhi High Court challenging his conviction and sentence.

ARMY JAWAN DIES IN MINE BLAST ALONG LOC

Jammu/Hamirpur: A 27-year-old Army jawan was killed in a mine blast along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Saturday. Sepoy Kamal Dev Vaidya was on operational duty in Krishna Ghati sector on Friday.

GOLD SMUGGLING: INDIGO, SPICEJET STAFF ARRESTED

New Delhi: Seven persons, including four staffers of Indigo and Spicejet airlines, were arrested by the customs officials at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport here for allegedly smuggling into the country gold worth ₹72.46 lakh, an official statement said on Saturday.

Delhi Metro, buses to run at full capacity; theatres at 50%

But no standing allowed in Metro

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the latest unlock guidelines issued on Saturday for the national Capital, the Delhi Metro and public buses in the city will operate at full seating capacity, while cinema halls, theatres and multiplexes will open with 50 per cent occupancy from Monday.

The city witnessed an unprecedented surge of cases and deaths during the second wave of coronavirus in April and May. The situation seems to have been improving over the past few weeks, allowing the Government to reopen the city in a phased manner.

The latest unlock guidelines by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority



(DDMA) said the Delhi Metro, the city's lifeline, will be allowed to operate with 100 per cent seating capacity from Monday but no standing passenger will be allowed.

Cinema halls, theatres and multiplexes will be allowed to open with 50 per cent seating capacity from July 26, while

business-to-business (B2B) exhibitions will also be allowed, but only with business visitors, the guidelines said.

The order also directed that number of people allowed at marriage functions and last rites will be raised to 100 from Monday.

Spas can also open from July 26 but their all employees have to be fully vaccinated and undergo RT-PCR test fortnightly, the DDMA said. Delhi faced a brutal second wave of the pandemic that claimed a large number of lives daily. The rapid rise in the number of cases led to a shortage of medical oxygen at various city hospitals.

On April 22, the city had reported a record 28,395 cases. On April 22, the case positivity rate was 36.2 per cent, the highest so far. At 448, the highest number of deaths was reported on May 3.



People stranded in floodwaters watch others being rescued at Kolhapur in Maharashtra on Saturday. Officials say landslides and flooding triggered by heavy monsoon rain have killed more than 100 people in western India

AP

CBI raids 40 locations in fake arms licence case

Premises of 20 gun dealers, IAS officers in J&K, Delhi searched

PHS ■ JAMMU

The CBI on Saturday conducted searches at around 40 locations in Srinagar, Jammu, Udhampur, Rajouri, Anantnag, Baramulla and Delhi, including the premises of two IAS officers, in the ongoing investigation of a case related to arms licence racket.

The CBI teams searched the premises of around 20 gun dealers and other public servants from early morning across multiple locations.

Some officials in connivance with gun dealers were involved in the issuance of more than 2.78 lakh arms licences to the non-entitled persons.



According to a statement issued by the CBI headquarters, "CBI had registered two cases on the request of J&K Government and further notification from Government of India, and taken over the investigation of two FIRs i.e. No.18 of 2018 dated 17.05.2018, earlier registered at Police Station Vigilance Organisation Kashmir (VOK), and FIR No. 11 of 2018 dated 17.05.2018 of Police Station Vigilance Organisation Jammu (VOJ) on the allegations of bulk issuance of arms licences in the erstwhile State of J&K during the period 2012 to 2016".

The CBI collected documents about the issuance of these arms licences allegedly spread over 22 districts of J&K.

During investigation and scrutiny of documents, the CBI reportedly found that certain gun dealers in connivance with District Magistrates were allegedly issued such illegal arms licences. The persons who got these licences were not residents of the places from where the said arms licences were issued.

Senior IAS officer Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, who served as DM in three districts of Reasi, Udhampur and Kathua during the said period of investigation, posted a tweet confirming the raid at his residence. "With reference to media reports I've to confirm that CBI did search my residence. I am very happy to see that CBI did search my residence in the ongoing arms licence probe. Media friends may note the probe covers 4 years across all districts. I am fully answerable to CBI for my tenure," Dr Shahid Iqbal wrote giving details of total arms licences issued during his tenure.

Blinken: Will discuss human rights in India as we share values

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Secretary of State Antony Blinken will raise issues of human rights and democracy with Indian officials during his first visit to New Delhi as the two nations have more values in common on those fronts than otherwise, according to a senior US official. Blinken is scheduled to arrive in New Delhi late on July 27.

During his stay in the country, he will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. The Ministry of External Affairs said in New Delhi that National Security Adviser Ajit Doval will also meet Blinken.

"With respect to the human rights and democracy question, yes, you're right; I will tell you that we will raise it, and we will continue that conversation, because we firmly believe that we have more values in common on those fronts



than we don't," Dean Thompson, the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, told reporters during a conference call ahead of the visit.

"We believe India is going to be a really important part of continuing those conversations and building strong efforts on those fronts in partnership as we go forward," Thompson said in response to a question.

India has previously rejected criticism by foreign governments and human rights groups on allegations that civil liberties have eroded in the country.

Massive evacuation in rain-ravaged Maha

89,000 moved to safety; relief ops continue

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

More than 89,000 people were evacuated from the rain-ravaged coastal Konkan region and several parts of western Maharashtra as multiple agencies continued rescue and relief operations in the flood-affected areas of the State on Saturday.

Despite a let-up in the rain in most parts of the State, large parts of western Maharashtra districts of Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur remained thick sheets of floodwater, while the towns of Chiplun, Khed in Ratnagiri district and other areas in coastal Konkan region continued to reel under inundation.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray visited Talai village in Mahad taluka of Raigad district where

more than 50 people were killed in a massive landslide on Friday. He assured the affected people that the State Government would, apart from giving compensation to the affected families, undertake rehabilitation of the displaced people across the coastal Konkan region and other parts of the State.

As many as 89,333 people were rendered homeless as they were evacuated in various flood-affected districts of coastal Konkan region and several parts of Western Maharashtra.

Sangli district in western Maharashtra bore maximum brunt of the flood situation arising from the heavy rain battering the region for the past four days.

While 40,573 people have been evacuated to safer places in Sangli district, the neighbouring Kolhapur district accounted for the evacuation of 40,882 people. As many as 2,681 marooned people were shifted to safer places in Thane district, there were evacuation

of people in other districts like Ratnagiri (12,000), Raigad (10,000), Satara (734) and Pune (263).

Due to heavy rainfall in the district and heavy discharge from the Koyna dam, rivers in the district, including the Panchganga breached the danger mark and contributed to inundation in many areas in Sangli and Kolhapur districts.

On its part, the district administration evacuated people from low-lying areas with help of NDRF and local teams. Apart from the heavy rain, the discharge of huge volumes of water from Almati dam is contributing to the flood situation in Kolhapur district. The authorities have sounded high alert and deployed more teams to face any eventuality.

Earlier in the day, the State Disaster Management Authority pegged the current rain-flood toll at 76, while another 59 have gone missing and 38 others were injured in the floods, landslides and other rain-related tragedies.

‘Playing an asura came with challenges’

SIDDHARTH NIGAM, who plays a 2500-year-old asura in Hero-Gayab Mode On on Sony SAB, speaks with **SHALINI SAKSENA** about his reaction on getting this role and challenges faced

■What was your reaction when you were offered to play a 2500-year-old asura?

When I was approached for the project, I was not told what character I was being offered. I was only given the brief. They told me that they already had their main lead. And now they were looking for a person who can make the hero a superhero. — someone who can make the hero a superhero. I was interested. I felt that the show was unique. I have always tried to do projects where I could be different from what I had done in the past. When I was offered this role, I was excited. However, when I was told that I would be an *asura*, I was taken aback a bit but I was told that I would remain in my human form; just that I would have superhuman powers. The best part was that I would get to be part of the project with my brother.

■How did you come on board the project?

I was lucky that I didn't have to audition for this project. The producer of Peninsula Pictures, Alind Srivastava offered me the role. He said that he wanted me to be part of this show and play Shivaay. I agreed and here I am.

■What are the challenges that come with playing Shivaay?

There were quite a few. First, Shivaay's voice is a bit heavy. I am unlike Veer Nanda (Hero) who is street-smart. I am all-powerful and strong. Then there is the look. I have tattoos and initially it would take up to two hours to get ready. Now, of course, it doesn't take that long. Also, the dialogue delivery is different, he is extremely intelligent. Whatever he says has deeper meaning. How this has to be conveyed had to be practiced.

■Do you get into fights with your brother — off-screen?

On-screen, I am obviously trying to turn him into a superhero, so there are fight sequences. Off-screen, sometimes we have differences of opinion and get into verbal fights, as is normal. We sometimes end up in a WWE kind of situation. But we are brothers and respect each other. The good part is that we have no

ego clashes.

■How did you get into acting?

I never wanted to be an actor. My background as a gymnast left very little time for any recreational activities. It ended up on the news, that was enough for me. I was in the hostel; I didn't have a mobile; we had to practice for eight hours a day. That left little time for anything else. It never occurred that I would end up acting. I have a Gold in parallel bar and a Silver in high bar at 58th National School Games, Pune and during one of the games I was spotted and was approached for the audition of Bournvita ad. That is how I came into the industry. It was destined.

■Was it tough to do the ad?

It was tough. I had no acting background.

I have never taken any classes. It was difficult to face the camera, well-known actors and memorise dialogues and deliver them with emotion was so alien to me. This made me nervous. But I was determined that since I was offered to play a part I would do it to the best of my abilities. So, I worked really hard.

■You have done a couple of movies. Why not pursue Bollywood?

I am sure that there is something really big that will come my way from Bollywood. I am also looking at roles that I can play in web series. Since I came into this industry I have always tried different roles. I know only one thing however big or small the screen may be, my job is to give my best.

■You have done a few music videos. How has the experience been?

Doing music videos is so different from serials. There are two types of music videos. One where there is a song and there is a boy and or a girl and they are dancing about. Then there are videos that tell a story. What I have done comes under the second category. I love doing such music videos since they are shot within two-three days; it is a stress-buster. Listening to music and performing it is very relaxing.



Plan Your Sunday

It's hard to say no to coffee especially in this rainy season. How about making it yummiest and healthier coffee with available ingredients in your kitchen? These hot coffees has the goodness of natural ingredients and spices like cinnamon and ginger that boost your immunity.

SPICY CINNAMON COFFEE WITH ORANGE ZEST

This a Perfect monsoon coffee with extra dose of caffeine. Natural ingredients like cinnamon, ginger and orange zest pairs beautifully with this creamy black coffee.

Ingredients:

- ◆ 3 tbsp ground coffee
- ◆ 2 tspn grated orange zest
- ◆ 2 tspn chopped crystallized ginger
- ◆ Pinch of cinnamon powder
- ◆ 3 cups hot water

◆ Whipped cream, cinnamon sticks and/or additional orange zest, optional

Preparation:

- ◆ Combine the coffee, orange zest, ginger



and cinnamon; pour into a Frenchpress and brew it for 4-5 minutes.

◆ Pour into mugs; if desired, garnish with whipped cream, cinnamon sticks and orange zest.

PARISIAN CHOCOLATE COFFEE

This Parisian Hot Chocolate Coffee is an indulgent blend of thick and creamy hot chocolate and bold hot dark roast coffee. The perfect brunch or dessert beverage for rainy day.

Ingredients:

- ◆ 1 cup freshly brewed French press coffee
- ◆ 1 cup full cream milk
- ◆ ½ cup heavy cream
- ◆ 2 tspn powdered sugar
- ◆ 60gm bittersweet chocolate
- ◆ whipped cream
- ◆ chocolate shavings

Preparation:

- ◆ In a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, whisk together the milk, cream, and sugar and heat until bubbles start to form on the outer edge. Do not boil.
- ◆ Remove from heat and add in chopped chocolate, let set for 2 minutes, then whisk until a rich chocolate color forms. Let set for about five minutes.
- ◆ Pour hot coffee into two mugs, half each cup. Top it with hot chocolate to the coffee and finish off with whipped cream and chocolate shavings. Note: Store in temperature of 20 degree C and humidity less than 5 per cent, away from foreign odours, for up to three weeks.

Courtesy: Abdul Sahid Khan, Head Trainer, Lavazza India

TELLYTALE

VIRENDRA SAXENA IS BACK ON THE SMALL SCREEN

After several extremely successful collaborations such as *Hum Paanch*, *Pavitra Rishta*, *Jodha Akbar*, *Kumkum Bhagya*, *Kundali Bhagya*, *Zee TV* and *Balaji Telefilms* are set to present viewers with an exciting story about life, love, karma and destiny. Set against the backdrop of Mumbai, *Zee TV's Bhagya Lakshmi* will follow the journey of Lakshmi, a selfless girl of limited means, who despite her humble background and the curveballs life has thrown at her, always puts others' needs before hers. While *TV actress Ashwarya Khare* has been paired opposite the heartthrob television actor Rohit Suchanti to play the lead characters, featuring alongside them will also be the veteran television, film and theatre actor, Virendra Saxena.

With several notable characters and shows to his name, Virendra Saxena is definitely a prominent personality in the industry. The actor's work has been recognised across fields and he is all set to once again enthrall his fans, bringing yet



another interesting character to life with all his efficiency and artistry. Virendra who was last seen as a part of a show in 2010 is all set to return to the small screen after more than a decade with the role of Lakshmi's father, Manoj Bajwa, who has a rustic

charm and shares a great bond with his daughter. He firmly believes that Lakshmi has both his and his wife's values instilled in her and that their small family is only weaved in happiness.

Talking about making a comeback on television, Virendra Saxena said, "A good story always impacts the audience and their lives, and I'd like to believe *Bhagya Lakshmi* would do the same. I've been keeping away from TV for quite some time now, because the kind of stories that has been happening and the kind of roles I've been getting over the years had somehow bored me. In fact, when I got the offer for this show also, I wasn't very curious, but when I read the script, I couldn't say no. Also, when I got to know that Gita Ji (Kapoor) wanted me to play this role, there was no way I could say no to the project because I have always had this huge respect for her for the person she is. Working with Balaji has always been a treat because the investments they do for their projects are really unfathomable."

NEW KHATARNAK CHALLENGE FOR KHLADIS

Colors' much-awaited stunt-based reality show, *Khatron Ke Khiladi* is back with bang as it has already captivated the viewers with its dare, dare and endless drama. This season is bigger, better, and wilder as we are back in Cape Town. "Yeh Hai Darr aur Dare ka Battleground, welcome to Cape Town", *Khatron Ke Khiladi* and the master of action, Rohit Shetty, and the makers of the show have left no stones unturned to make the show better than ever.

In the upcoming episode, Rohit Shetty will give another interesting challenge to the contestants to win the K medal. The winner will get the golden opportunity in the future challenges to skip one of the tasks and also choose any other contestant to perform the same on their behalf.

Vishal Aditya Singh, Shweta Tiwari & Divyanka Tripathi Daahiya will be chosen

to perform the task wherein they will stand around each other just like a Mexican standoff.

The thrill and fun didn't end here, as the episode also witnessed Divyanka flinching. In this task, as Rohit Shetty



asks rapid-fire questions to Divyanka, she starts to slow down and gradually drops in the water! Curious? Who will win the K-Medal among Vishal Aditya Singh, Divyanka Tripathi & Shweta Tiwari?

CENTURY OF CELEBRATION

Adding to the monsoon cheer and continuing to spread the Khushiyon Wali Feeling, Wagle Ki Duniya - Naya Peedhi, Naye Kisey has continued to entertain the audience. To celebrate 100 episodes and to thank the viewers for declaring it the 'best show on television currently', lead actors Sumet Raghavan, Pariva Prantani and new entrant Anuj Jadhav, who comes in as Sumet's new tough boss, engaged in a candid chat.

Delighted by the appreciation shown by the fans, Sumet Raghavan said, "There are many reasons the audience love us so much. The credit goes out to the story and the atmosphere that we have all built on the sets. From making a conscious decision to avoid preachy content to building amazing bonds offscreen, it all reflects well on-screen in the interest of all generations. Ananjan ji and Bharati ji on the sets never fail to surprise us with the hard work and motivation they bring daily. The way Ananjan ji comes so well prepared with all his lines learnt continues to inspire me to be a better actor."

Adding further, Pariva Prantani said, "I'm glad that we continue to inspire more and more people by the day. Recently a fan from the US got in touch with us, mentioning how we have impacted her and her family's life, it was truly surprising and unexpected. We continue to keep the episodes realistic and contribute from the nuances of daily life, ensuring we always stay connected with our fans. Also, a huge amount of credit goes to our bond that has been built over time. We bond over food, music and loads of *noh jhok*."

The upcoming track adds more thrill and excitement. Anuj Jadhav on her entry in the show said, "Kiara Tejwani as a character is a business-minded individual who doesn't appreciate mixers emotions with work. Kiara enters the show as Rajesh Wagle's new boss, and she is here to take the company to new heights. The role and the show is what amazed me to accept this offer. It allows me to explore many emotions at a go. It is also something that I haven't explored before, and I truly believe I am blessed to have received this opportunity."

'I don't have fans, they are my friends'

ZAKIR KHAN, who has recently collaborated with **KARAN JOHAR** for a campaign film by Britannia Good Day, tells **MUSBA HASHMI** about the concept, what made him swap his look with KJo and that he misses stage

■How was your experience working with Britannia Good Day?

It was beautiful. We were going to start before the second lockdown, but the situations that arose caused a delay. Finally, we were able to come up with this film and I am happy and excited. I love the concept, so I was dying to be a part of it.

■How was your experience collaborating with Karan Johar for the campaign film?

It is a beautiful opportunity for me. He is someone I have seen him as a fan. He is an icon for a lot of us, over the years. I remember watching *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*. I remember watching his interview on Doordarshan after the film. In my memory, it is always a magical moment when we meet a person we have seen on TV in real life. So, it is a magical moment for me. Someone I have seen giving interviews as a kid, today I am getting to see him in real life.

■What made you guys come up with the idea of swapping. And how difficult or fun was it for you?

The idea itself is fun. As an artist I would like to say that image is for under confident people who are not sure of themselves. Protecting image is something you do when you are very insecure. I assume Karan as well as me, though we are two distinguished personalities, we have full faith in what we do in our separate fields.

■What made you guys come up with the idea of swapping. And how difficult or fun was it for you?

I think his access to Shah Rukh Khan and all the actresses in the world. I am a huge Shah Rukh Khan fan and somebody who can be in his first circle is something that I would like to exchange. I can give him my cricket gang, we have full faith in what we do in our separate fields. We didn't refrain from looking like someone else. The experience of swapping was so exciting that there was no second thought about doing it or not.

■A trait of Karan Johar that you would like to swap with yours.

I think his access to Shah Rukh Khan and all the actresses in the world. I am a huge Shah Rukh Khan fan and somebody who can be in his first circle is something that I would like to exchange. I can give him my cricket gang, we have full faith in what we do in our separate fields. We didn't refrain from looking like someone else. The experience of swapping was so exciting that there was no second thought about doing it or not.

Protecting image is something you do when you are very insecure. I assume Karan as well as me, though we are two distinguished personalities, we have full faith in what we do in our separate fields. Thus, we didn't refrain from looking like someone else. The experience of swapping was exciting



my fans see me like that. They know me in many different avatars. They know that I am a musician, I have played *sitar* for 21 years of my life and I do stand-up comedy. So, I keep doing things which are pole apart, in my life. The people who know me are not affected by it and the people who do not know me, I am not affected by them.

■While Karan and you are both writers, did you take any time to prepare or study each other's personality to execute this better?

Of course, I saw some of his interviews and tried to understand how he talks. Secondly, as an iconic figure, I somehow knew how he talks to a certain extent. But yes, some days before the shoot I tried to understand how he works. And as an artist, I am not a very good mimic but I can imitate. So, I was just trying to look at the kind of mannerisms I can pick, and what will look nice. There are some things which you pick, but they do not look good on you. So, the idea was to pick things which will look okay on me.

■You have been one of the most popular faces in Indian stand-up comedy. Do you think that now we have a wider audience to appreciate your field of art?

I feel even when the audience was less, it was wide for me. Because, the art form is so new that we still do not know what it is full potential. My aim is to explore and to reach to more and more people so that there comes a time when we know exactly the number of people that are there in the audience.

■Do you miss the stage? How difficult is it to perform on a virtual platform?

Stage is different from a virtual platform. It is like meeting someone you love in person and talking to them on video call. They are exactly two very different things. The affection is there of course, but the warmth is definitely missing. That hype, that rush of being on stage is definitely not there, though, the rush of good conversations is always there on an online platform. But not as great as what it is on stage. It is like asking somebody that how do they feel about the scent of *biryani* as compared to actually getting to taste it. Of course, having *biryani* is more satisfying than just getting to smell it.

Haryana extends lockdown till August 2

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Government on Saturday extended the coronavirus lockdown in the state by another week till August 2 to curb the spread of the pandemic.

The Mahamari Alert-Surakshit Haryana is extended for another week, that is from July 26 (5 am onwards) to August 2 (till 5 am) in the state

of Haryana," according to an order issued by Chief Secretary Vijay Vardhan in exercise of powers under the provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

According to the order, the conduct of entrance and recruitment examinations by different universities, institutions, government departments and recruitment agencies are allowed in the state while adher-

ing to Covid protocols.

The order said restaurants in malls are allowed to open with 50 per cent capacity from 10 am to 11 pm and standalone restaurants from 8 am to 11 pm subject to adherence to social distancing norms and Covid-appropriate behaviour.

These timings will not be applicable to restaurants in hotels. In the previous order, the state government had allowed

all restaurants and bars including those in hotels and malls to open from 10 am to 11 pm with 50 per cent seating capacity. Home delivery from hotels, restaurants and fast food joints is permitted up to 11 pm. Meanwhile, the lockdown relaxations, with respect to opening of shops, malls, restaurants, religious places, corporate offices, will continue as currently in place.

"Now, after duly considering the fact that although the Covid positivity rate and the number of new Covid positive cases have declined, so as to continue the preventive and precautionary measures to contain the Covid pandemic... the Mahamari Alert-Surakshit Haryana is extended for another week," as per the order.

The state government has termed the lockdown

"Mahamari Alert-Surakshit Haryana (Epidemic Alert-Safe Haryana)".

Haryana Saturday reported one COVID-19 related death, taking the cumulative toll to 9,617, while 13 fresh infections pushed the total infection case count to 7,69,717.

The Haryana government had imposed the lockdown in the state on May 3 in view of the prevailing Covid situation.

INBRIEF

205 KG NARCOTICS RECOVERED IN HARYANA

Chandigarh: Haryana Police on Saturday said it has recovered 205 kg of doda post from an abandoned vehicle from Mahendergarh district. A spokesperson informed that a police team during patrolling had got a tip off that a vehicle parked in the abandoned condition on a Byovar Rivasa in the district following police immediately rushed to the spot and impounded the vehicle. Search of the vehicle led to the recovery of 13 plastic bags weighing 205 kg of doda post. Prima facie, it seems that hearing arrest, the persons involved in drug peddling left the vehicle loaded with contraband and fled. A case has been registered with the police station, and further probe is underway. Meanwhile, in a separate case, the police arrested a man and recovered 34 kg ganja pathi from his possession in Panipat district. The accused has been identified as Joni, a resident of Nawanshahr in Punjab. Primary probe reveals that accused brought the drug from Uttarakhand for supply in Panipat area.

SECONDARY EXAMS DATE OF HARYANA ANNOUNCED

Chandigarh: Board of School Education, Haryana, Bihwani will conduct the Secondary and Senior Secondary (Academic/Open School) examinations from August 18 and the DL Ed examinations from August 19. Board Chairman, Jagbir Singh said that one-day examination of secondary and senior secondary (Academic/open school) for partial marks improvement, full marks improvement, additional and compartment in only one subject would be held on August 18. He said the examinations for more than one subject would start from August 19 to September 1. He informed that the date-sheet of these examinations has been uploaded on the official website of the board, www.bseh.org.in. Similarly, DL Ed examinations will be conducted in two sessions starting from August 19 to August 28. He said that given the COVID-19 Pandemic, all the candidates have been asked to ensure strict adherence to COVID-19 guidelines while coming to the examination centers.

PARENT-TEACHER MEET ON JULY 26 AND 27

Chandigarh: The Punjab School Education Department has directed to conduct parent teacher meetings in all the schools on July 26 and 27 to evaluate and further improve the education of the students from class VI to XII. A spokesperson of the school education department said that a letter has been issued by the Director SCERT Jagbir Singh in this regard. The teachers have been directed to reach out to the children and their parents during these meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to improve the education of the students by identifying the shortcomings. During the meetings, the teachers have been asked to share all the information about the children to their parents regarding their health care, the assessment for the month of July and national achievement survey.

SAD CONDEMNS CENTRE FOR 550 FARMER DEATHS

Chandigarh: The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Saturday condemned the NDA government for refusing to recognize the human tragedy which was unfolding on the borders of Delhi by feigning ignorance of the fact that more than 550 farmers had been martyred in the peaceful protest against the three agricultural laws. It also demanded an apology from union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar on this issue. Expressing shock at the statement of union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar that the union government did not have any record of the farmers who had died in the ongoing Kisan Andolan on the borders of Delhi, former union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal said "this anti-farmer attitude of the NDA government is responsible for the plight of the farmers who have not only been stonewalled for eight months, but even their dead are not being recognized. The SAD condemns this anti-human attitude and requests the agriculture minister to apologize to the farmers for this statement and assure the country that the 'annadatas' will not be humiliated in this manner again in parliament". She said the NDA government had also made it clear in parliament that it was functioning in a dictatorial manner and had not even cared to conduct any study to ascertain the apprehensions in the minds of farmers about the three farm laws.

MAKE REPORT ON DRUG TRAFFICKERS PUBLIC: AAP

Chandigarh: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has demanded from the ruling Congress government to make public the investigation report prepared by the Special Task Force (STF) on drug trafficking, so that the names of big defaulters linked to the drug mafia can be made public. In a statement on Saturday, Leader of Opposition (LoP) Harpal Singh Cheema while challenging the newly-appointed state president of the ruling Congress, Navjot Singh Sidhu, said that due to collusion between the drug kingpins and the government, the STF's sealed report was gathering dust in the High Court since February 1, 2018 and no official authority had made any effort at the administrative and legal level to get the report unsealed. On the contrary, the entire emphasis of the Punjab Advocate General's office was that it be kept at bay, so that the 2022 assembly elections can pass.

Haryana records one Covid death, 13 fresh cases

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana on Saturday reported one Covid-19 related death, taking the cumulative toll to 9,617, while 13 fresh infections pushed the total infection case count to 7,69,717.

According to the health department's daily bulletin, the latest death was reported from Panipat district. Among the districts, six cases were reported from Gurugram and two each from Rohtak and Palwal and one each from Yamunanagar, Sonapat and Karnal.

The total number of active cases in the state is 740. The total recoveries so far were 7,59,360. The recovery rate was 98.65 percent, the bulletin said. Meanwhile, Chandigarh, the common capital of Punjab and Haryana, on Saturday reported four Covid-19 cases. The case tally stands at 61,922 in the Union Territory, according to the medical bulletin. The toll figure stood at 809.

The number of active cases is 32. With six patients being discharged after they recovered from the infection, the number of cured persons reached 61,081, according to the bulletin.

HP CM visits his own Assembly constituency, showers it with projects

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur visited his home Assembly Constituency of Seraj and showered it with several projects as he inaugurated and laid foundation stones of developmental projects worth about Rs 5 crore. He inaugurated Lift Irrigation Scheme (LIS) Latogali in Gram Panchayat Saroa and Lift Irrigation Scheme Sawla in Gram Panchayat Jandi constructed at a cost of Rs. 60.22 lakh and Rs. 70 lakh respectively. He also laid foundation stones of Rs. 38 lakh CAD LIS Thach Sawla in Gram Panchayat Mandi and Rs. 33 lakh CAD LIS Kukhal in Latogali in gram Panchayat Saroa in Seraj Vidhan Sabha area of Mandi district.

He also inaugurated Rs. 1.23 crore Forest Rest House Dharot, Rs. 78 lakh LIWSS Bassi Dharot, Rs. 42.40 lakh FIS Chandrotthar to Dharot and Rs. 43.06 lakh LIWSS accommodation building of Government Senior Secondary School Dadoh. He addressed public meetings at Saroa, Bara, Keolidhar and at Dadolthar in Seraj Assembly Constituency.

Addressing a public meeting at Saroa, he said that this area was once part of Nahan



Vidhan Sabha area and today was part of Seraj Vidhan Sabha area after delimitation and thanked the people of the area for giving their wholehearted support to him. He said that despite the corona pandemic, the State Government ensured that pace of development goes uninterrupted. He said that the State Government took effective steps for Covid-19 management and ensured that there were adequate facilities for treatment of patients. Sufficient availability of oxygen, ventilators, beds and medicines were ensured in all parts of the State, he added.

Thakur said that during the three-and-a-half-year tenure of the State Government, there was not even a single case of any irregularity, adding that his Government ensured balanced

development of every area of the State. He said that recently he opened SDM offices at Jubbil, Kotkhai and Nirmand to ensure equitable development of these areas. He said that about Rs. 50 crore were being spent on water supply schemes in about eight neighbouring panchayats of the area.

The Chief Minister announced the opening of PHC at Saroa and opening of HPSEB JE Section. He also announced construction of Forest Rest House/ Inspection Hut at Saroa and also announced Rs. 11000 each for all the Mahila Mandals present on the occasion from his discretionary fund. He announced Rs. 5 lakh for improvement of the link road in Kandi panchayat and Rs 2 lakh each for two link roads in

Saroa panchayat.

Addressing the people at Bara, he said that despite the corona pandemic he had dedicated the developmental projects worth Rs. 4000 crore virtually for different parts of the State. He said that the State Government created 412 new panchayats in the State, whereas as not even a single panchayat was created in the last 15 years. He said that as many as 20 new panchayats were created in Seraj Vidhan Sabha area. He said that never before in the history of the State, such a large number of new panchayats were created in one go. He urged the people of the area to continue giving wholehearted support for ensuring that the pace of development goes uninterrupted.

Chief Minister announced Agriculture Extension Centre at Bara, Rs. 10 lakh each for three panchayats of the area for construction of Panchayat Bhavans, Rs. 10 lakh each for three panchayats for construction of link roads, construction of three additional rooms in Primary School Bara and Rs. 3 lakh for construction of Examination Hall.

Addressing the people of Keolidhar, he said that the State Government was giving special impetus to development of those areas which

remained neglected so far due to one reason or another. He announced Rs. 10 lakh for link road of area, Rs. 5 lakh for construction of Kala Manch in Government Senior Secondary School Keolidhar and starting of Commerce Classes in the School. He announced Forest Guard Hut in Keolidhar.

He said the State had only one oxygen plant, but today there were 10 functional oxygen plants and 28 more were soon being established. He said that the State Government has also achieved a target of zero percent wastage in vaccination. Thakur announced opening of Health Sub Centre at Bassi, starting of Science classes in Government Senior Secondary Schools, Bassi, Devdhar and Dadoh, upgradation of Government Middle School Bahwa to Government High School, construction of Science block at Government Senior Secondary School, Kharshi and construction of playground in this school.

Haryana, Punjab CMs congratulate weightlifter Chanu for silver medal at Tokyo Olympics

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and his Punjab counterpart Capt Amarinder Singh have congratulated weightlifter Mirabai Chanu for becoming the first Indian weightlifter to win an Olympic silver medal. In a tweet, the Haryana Chief Minister said that he hopes that like Mirabai Chanu, several other players from the country would also win laurels and return home from Japan after winning several medals for India. "Heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to weightlifter Mirabai Chanu for getting India its first medal in Tokyo Olympics" wrote

Khattar. Indian woman star weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has created history by winning a silver medal in Tokyo Olympics. Mirabai won the first medal for the country in the weightlifting event of the 49 kg category. With this victory, India's 21st year wait in the Olympic games weightlifting event has ended and after 21 years, India has got the second medal in the weightlifting category.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh also congratulated Chanu. In his tweet, he said, "Our first medal! Congratulations to Sakthom Mirabai Chanu for winning Silver at Tokyo Olympics with a combined lift of 202 kg in

women's 49 kg weightlifting event. India is super proud of your accomplishment."

The Punjab CM also congratulated her Assistant Coach Sandeep Kumar under whose constant guidance, Chanu honed her skills to perfection thus bringing laurels for the country. Sandeep Kumar hails from village Bara in Jalandhar district and had participated in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics besides 1998 Commonwealth Games held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) winning Bronze medal (69 Kg category) in the latter event. He is serving with the Punjab Police as Inspector and is at present posted at Sports Centre in PAP Jalandhar.

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukh Singh Badal on Saturday visited Baba Labh Singh of Karnal at Matka chowk here to express solidarity with the aged protester who has been sitting at the chowk in support of the Kisan Andolan since the last five months.

Asserting that visiting the Baba was like paying homage to the very spirit of the Kisan Andolan, Badal said "we must all learn from him. He is a true inspiration of selfless service. I wish him good health and pray for the success of the Andolan".



The SAD President said he had come to know about the protest of Baba Labh Singh when he saw a video in this regard during the ongoing parliament session. "I felt honour bound to come here and seek his blessings as well as express solidarity with him". During his interaction with the

aged protester, Badal referred to the former as a strong pillar of the Khalsa panth and said the panth was proud of him. He said the sit-in of the Baba had inspired thousands to join the Kisan Andolan and he had become a symbol of the peaceful struggle for repeal of the three agricultural laws.

Badal sat down with the aged protester for some time and also discussed the latter's problems with him who disclosed that he was being targeted for ouster from the chowk by the UT administration but that he was steadfast in his resolve to continue his sit-in to inspire the future generations.

Hry CM announces increase in rate of DA for employees and pensioners of State

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Saturday announced to increase the rate of Dearness Allowance for employees and pensioners of Haryana Government from 17 per cent to 28 per cent on the lines of the Government of India. This increase in Dearness Allowance will be applicable from July 1, 2021. An official spokesperson said that this increased Dearness Allowance also includes the Dearness allowance payable from January 1, 2020, July 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021. The spokesperson said that this will benefit about 2.85 lakh government employees and 2.62 lakh pensioners of the state. Also, this will put an additional burden of about Rs. 210 crore per month on the state exchequer.

Farmers show black flags to Sidhu

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A group of farmers on Saturday showed black flags to newly appointed Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu when he arrived here to pay obeisance at a gurdwara in Rupnagar. Protesters also raised slogans against Sidhu for his "thirsty walks to the well" remark made during his address in his installation ceremony at Chandigarh on Friday.

Sidhu clarified that his comment was misunderstood and presented in a wrong perspective. The Congress leader said he has high regard for farmers and supports them with heart and soul.

On Friday, Sidhu had said, "I say to the Kisan Morcha people, my elders (farmers) that the

thirsty walks to the well. The well does not go to the thirsty. I today invite you (farmers). I want to meet you."

Meanwhile, the Aam Aadmi Party took exception to the Sidhu's remark and said it "smells of arrogance". "It is a pity that on one hand Navjot Singh Sidhu announced to kill his ego and on the other, to stand in favour of farmers, he also made a condition that the thirsty (farmers) have to come to the well (Sidhu) because the well does not go to the thirsty," said AAP state farmers' wing president and MLA Kulbir Singh Sandhwan in a statement.

Sandhwan appealed to Sidhu that he should immediately apologise for his remark as farmers are "annadatas" of the country.

72nd State Level Van Mahotsav

“It is a matter of great joy that the 72nd State Level Van Mahotsav is being celebrated in Haryana. The State Government is committed to protect forests and make the environment pollution free. In this series of efforts, people are being motivated to plant more trees. On this auspicious occasion, I request the people of the State to plant saplings and protect the planted saplings and trees.”

- Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

“Our morals have always emphasized on the importance of living in harmony with nature. This respect for nature is reflected in our culture and behaviour. With this thought and strength of togetherness we are making holistic and determined efforts to protect the nature.”

- Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Protect Trees, Save Environment

Forests Department, Haryana

Haryana Roadways suspended

Thrashes bus conductor with slippers

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Transport Department on Saturday suspended Haryana Roadways Sub-inspector (SI) for allegedly thrashing bus conductor with slippers but demanding his wife's ticket in

a Haryana Roadways bus.

Haryana Transport Minister Mool Chand Sharma told the Pictorial that the incident occurred about five days ago. Soon after the incident came to light Haryana Roadways Director General Vinendra Kumar Dahiya was directed to take action after conducting an inquiry over this issue.

Sources in the Transport Department said that sub-inspector Rayner Singh got into a Haryana Roadways

bus at Ambala. When Anil Kumar, the conductor of Haryana Roadways asked for the Pictorial, sub-inspector Rayner and his wife became angry and furious. Arguments on this matter went on for a long time as the bus reached Tribune Chowk, Chandigarh, both of them got down and called the conductor and started beating them with

slippers.

On this, Bus Conductor Anil Kumar registered a complaint at the local police station, Sector 31 Chandigarh and the transport department. Chandigarh Police said that investigation is on.

The accused accepted his mistake and the DG on Saturday suspended him with immediate effect.

FIR registered for flouting Covid norms during Sidhu's installation ceremony

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh Police has registered an FIR against unidentified persons for allegedly violating COVID-19 guidelines during the installation ceremony of Navjot Singh Sidhu as Punjab Congress chief.

A case under section 188 (disobedience to order duly

promulgated by public servant) of the Indian Penal Code and the Disaster Management Act has been registered, police said on Saturday.

The case was lodged against unidentified persons who came from different districts of Punjab and assembled at Punjab Congress Bhawan here, they said. They did not

maintain social distancing norms and also did not wear masks, police added. The case was registered at Sector 11 Police station, they said.

Scores of Congress supporters had assembled at Punjab Congress Bhawan on Friday for the installation ceremony of Sidhu as the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee president.

Kin of 17 deceased scribes to get aid

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With the Chief Minister's approval, the Information and Public Relations Department has sanctioned ex-gratia of Rs 15 lakh to the next of kin of 17 working journalists, who died of COVID-19. A sum of Rs 2.55 crore has been sanctioned from the Journalist Welfare Fund. A few more such cases have been referred by the department for which assistance would be disbursed after due verification.

ACF death: Police give clean chit to accused DFO

Say he has no links with ACF's wife or death

Bidyabharati to be grilled again

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

In a major development in the mysterious death case of Paralakhemundi Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Soomya Ranjan Mohapatra, the Gaipati police on Saturday virtually gave a clean chit to Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Sangram Keshari Behera and said he was "innocent".

Gaipati SP Tapan Patnaik said the DFO has no links with the ACF's death or with his wife Bidyabharati Panda.

During questioning, the DFO clarified that he has no connection with Bidyabharati. We have also analysed the Call Detail Records (CDR) of the DFO. As per the CDR analysis, so far, we concluded that he has no link with Bidyabharati. He has no link with the ACF's cook Mamath Kumbh either," said Patnaik.

Asked about the exact cause of death of the ACF, the SP said, "There is need for more investigation about the cause of death. I will speak on it after the probe is completed".

Clarifying on the abrupt stopping of the ambulance that carried a half charred Soomya to hospital, Patnaik said, "The ambulance had stopped for 15 minutes at the forest gate, because Bidyabharati had not carried cash nor any other belongings with her while accompanying her husband in the ambulance. Therefore, she stopped there and took cash from other thing from the woman police officer's house".

Notably, the DFO was one of the three accused named in the murder case filed in connection with the officer's death, the other two being Bidyabharati and his cook.

Asked about the exact cause of death of the ACF, the SP said, "There is need for more investigation about the cause of death. I will speak on it after the probe is completed".

However, the SP said Bidyabharati would be quizzed again in connection with the case. Source said that a five-member police team would visit a college in Balangir district, where Bidyabharati was studying, for a probe. The team would investigate under what circumstances she had been to Balangir after her marriage.

During the probe, it was revealed that Bidyabharati had hosted a party in Balangir post her marriage. The investigators would find out in which vehicle she had visited the venue for celebration.

State's brackish aquaculture grows 747%

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The production of brackish water fish increased

from 11,460 MT in the year 2011-12 to 97,125 MT in 2020-21, thereby marking a record growth of 747.51%. Similarly, the area under brackish water aquaculture increased from 5,860 hectares to 17,780 hectares during the same period. Concomitantly, the sea food export value from Odisha also increased from Rs 80 crore in the year 2011-12 to Rs 3,107 crore in the year 2020-21 in spite of the economic slowdown caused by Covid-19. The quantum of exports in the year 2011-12 was around 21,311 MT which increased to 60,718 MT in the year 2020-21. This was known from a meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra.

BJD silent on Central negligence: Cong

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Congress on Friday accused both the Union and State Governments for neglecting Odisha.

While the Modi Government has been denying the legitimate share of Odisha, the Naveen Patnaik Government has never raised voice about this, it said.

Newly appointed PCC media cell chairman Ganeswar Behera said that since 2014-15, the Central Government has been gradually deducting the States' share up to 37% from the Finance Commission's recommendations.

The Centre even unevenly distributed cess and surcharge on petrol and diesel among the States and ignored the recommendations of the Finance Commission and Odisha bears the loss of minimum 10% of the share of the Centre's apathy, Behera said.

"It's quite unfortunate that the BJP always chooses not to react to the Central negligence except sporadic lukewarm reaction. It clearly indicates that the BJP and the BJP have a secret understanding," he alleged.

Rahul, PCC mourn Mishra's demise

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Former AICC president Rahul Gandhi on Friday mourned the death of former PCC president and former Balangir MP Nityananda Mishra. Gandhi spoke to the late Mishra's son Bibhudutta and consoled him and family members.

AICC State observer A Chella Kumar also spoke to the family members of Mishra and expressed deep grief.

At the Congress Bhawan here, PCC president Niranjan Patnaik laid the Congress flag and offered floral tribute to Mishra describing him as a dedicated politician.

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3 southern dists achieve herd immunity

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As per the findings of the fourth round of sero survey, over 70 per cent of the population in Ganjam district has developed antibodies against Covid-19.

The survey conducted between June 16 and 20 revealed that Ganjam has the highest sero-prevalence of 70.9%, which means around 71% people in the district were infected with the virus and have recovered.

Rayagada and Koraput districts have 63% and 61.3% sero-prevalence, respectively.

Experts claim sero-prevalence of 50%-60% or above population indicates herd immunity because when such a large part of the population develops antibodies against the virus, the chain of transmission is broken and the spread of the disease diminishes.

A total of 1,230 samples from the community and 311 from healthcare workers were collected for the survey conducted in Ganjam, Rayagada and Koraput districts. Overall, 65.12% common people and 85.53% health workers had sero-prevalence, the study revealed.

The State's sero-survey result is satisfactory against the national average. People developed antibodies after being infected with covid-19 in both first and second waves and after getting vaccinated against the virus. Mostly, senior citizens have developed antibodies as they were vaccinated in the first phase," said Health Director Bijay Mohapatra.

Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nargis Didi Moid, Aash R/o Gumbah Road Street No. 10, Abohar Dist. Patiala have changed my name from Nargis to Aida and religious convert Muslim to Hindu.

I, Pardeep Singh S/o Daler Singh R/o H.No. 1744, Ward No. 4, Patna, Bihar, India. I have changed my name from Pardeep Singh to Pardeep Singh Saini. That Pardeep Singh and Pardeep Singh Saini both names pertain to one and the same person is myself. Concerned person.

I, Karan Singh S/o Chandigarh R/o H.No. 96629, Gali No. 3, Vikas Nagar, Punjab declare that my son Vikas is out of my control. So I disown him from my movable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing with him is my responsibility.

I, Ranesh Kumar S/o Hira, 950, Village - Darba, Chandigarh declare that My Son Hira and His Wife Arni and my 2nd Son Rinku and his wife Kajal are out of my control. I disown them all. My Movable and Immovable Property. Anybody Dealing With them Own Risk.

I, Surender Kaur W/o Bhupinder Singh R/o Village Chantharal, Tehsil, Shahadad, Haryana. (Karnal) I have changed my name from Surender Kaur to Surender Kaur S/o Bhupinder Singh and his wife Sangeeta are out of control. So I have disown them from my movable and immovable properties. My family will not be responsible for their actions/transactions in future.

I, Muhammad Saad S/o Israr Ahmed R/o House No. 3768, Malviya Colony, Chandigarh. That my Pan Card the name of my father has been mentioned as Muhammad Israr, also the name of my father has been mentioned on my Marketed of 10th class as Israr Ali. But my father correct name is Israr Ahmed.

I, Santosh Kaur W/o Ram Chand R/o 18, Perry Hotel, Ambala declare that I did not Desown my son Sanjay as he was out of my control. I disown him from all my movable immovable properties but this time his behaviour is good so I cannot Desown and accepted my son Sanjay in my family.

I, Ashok Kumar Sharma S/o Dha Sharma R/o 16, New Jalandhar, Near Kauri Chowk, Ambala, Haryana. Have changed my name from Gurpreet Kaur to Ashok Kumar Sharma.

I, Manpreet Singh S/o Surinder Singh R/o 760/9, S/O, New Anand Nagar, Ludhiana I have changed my name from Manpreet Singh Ghahatory to Manpreet Singh Jind.

I, Anita Didi S/o Sumi Kumar R/o Villa no. 2, Riverside Aerovista, Block-G, Aerovista, Mohali declare that I have changed my name from Anita Arora to Anita.

I, Arun Kumar S/o 1541/103, LNK Sukhdev Singh of 63 Egr. BR Reg. Ambala Cantt. Co. 56 APO states that my wife's name is entered as Anandkumar Kaur in my record whereas her correct name is Anandkumar Kaur.

I, Harneet Kaur Alias Harbajrang Kaur W/o Gurpreet Singh R/o P.O. 137, Main Road, Jalandhar, District, Chandigarh, Tehsil, Jalandhar, Distt. SAS Nagar, Mohali have changed my name from Harneet Kaur Alias Harbajrang Kaur to Harneet Kaur both are use and same name.

I, Sushma Chaudhary W/o Hari Prakash Sharma R/o Flat No. 501 (G-1404) Sector-20 Panchkula have changed my name to Sushma Sharma.

I, Rajinder Singh, R/o Kaur, Punjab Housing Board Colony, Jalandhar, Ludhiana declare that I have changed my name from Rajinder Chitara to Rajinder Singh. Both are the same person. Concerned note.

I, Sushma Chaudhary W/o Hari Prakash Sharma R/o Flat No. 501 (G-1404) Sector-20 Panchkula have changed my name to Sushma Sharma.

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Lost & Found

I, Kullabharan Singh the owner of Plot No. D-962, Indraprastha Colony, Chandigarh. I have lost the original allotment letter pertaining to above plot. Lost document number: 98/192/3605.

I, Satnam Singh S/o Sacha Singh R/o Village, Nuh, District, Haryana. I have lost my original allotment letter pertaining to above plot. Lost document number: 98/192/3605.

I, Gurmeet Kaur W/o Narender Singh R/o Village, Nuh, District, Haryana. I have lost my original allotment letter pertaining to above plot. Lost document number: 98/192/3605.

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Booster shot with 2nd gen vax needed: AIMS



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Director Dr. Randeep Guleria on Saturday said that India might have to adopt a booster dose with second-generation Covid-19 vaccines as the Delta variant of the coronavirus has swept across the world and driven up infections in several countries.

He further said Bharat Biotech's Covaxin trials for children are presently underway and the results are expected to be released by September.

"It seems that we probably need the booster dose for all age groups as the passage of time the immunity tends to fall," Dr Guleria said. "There is waning immunity. We would like to have a booster shot which will cover for various emerging variants," Dr Guleria said adding that the booster dose will be a second-generation vaccine.

"We will have second-generation vaccines which would be better in terms of the immunity they give, covering of the new variants and a having a



better overall efficacy," Dr Guleria said.

On Covaxin trials on children, he said: "The Bharat Biotech's Covaxin trials should be over by August or September, and by that time we should get an approval. Pfizer vaccine has been already approved by the FDA (US regulator - Food and Drug Administration). Hopefully, by September, we should start vaccinating children, and that will be a good boost as far as breaking the chain of transmission is concerned."

Dr Guleria's statement comes as the second dose of Covaxin is likely to be administered to children aged 2-6 years in trials next week. "We need to get our own vaccines too - that's why both Bharat Biotech and Zydus are impor-

tant. Getting the Pfizer vaccine will also be helpful, as there is enough data to suggest it's safe, but we can't be sure if we will get required numbers. We will hopefully have more than one vaccine for children by September," he said. The second dose of Covaxin has already been given to children between the ages of 6-12 years at the Delhi AIIMS. Besides Covaxin, the trials for Zydus Cadila's vaccine for children are also currently underway in the country.

On June 7, Delhi AIIMS started screening children between the age of 2 to 17 for trials of Covid-19 vaccine. On May 12, the DCOI granted permission to Bharat Biotech to carry out phase 2, phase 3 trials of Covaxin on children as young as two.

ICSE declares Class 10th, 12th Board results



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Council of Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), which conducts the exams for the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE), or Class 10, and Indian School Certificate (ISC), or Class 12, on Saturday declared the results of the cancelled exams.

The overall pass percentage for this year is 99.98 per cent for ICSE results and 99.76 per cent for ISC results.

The CBSE is scheduled to declare the results any day next week. The Southern region has secured the best pass percentage for the Class 10th and Class 12th exam results followed by the Western region in Class 10th results and Northern region for Class 12th results. While the pass percentage for the Southern region in ICSE results is 100 per cent, it is 99.91 per cent for ISC exams.

Delhi NCR has recorded a pass percentage of 99.93 per cent. In ISC Class 12 results, Delhi has also recorded 99.93 per cent. The overall pass percentage in West Bengal for ICSE is 99.98 per cent and it is 99.63 per cent for ISC Class 12th. As many as 39,520 and 26,859 students have enrolled for Class

Delhi NCR has recorded a pass percentage of 100%. In ISC Class 12 results, Delhi has also recorded 99.93%.

10th ICSE and ISC Class 12th exams respectively.

Odisha has recorded a pass percentage of 99.98 per cent in the ICSE results while in ISC Class 12 results, the state has recorded 99.83 per cent. In this year, 8,935 students have appeared for the ICSE examination. For ISC exams, 1,813 have appeared this year.

The overall pass percentage in Punjab for ICSE is 99.99 per cent and it is 99.79 per cent for ISC Class 12th. As many as 13,773 and 2,796 students have enrolled for Class 10th ICSE and ISC Class 12th exams respectively.

Karnataka has recorded a pass percentage of 100 per cent in the ICSE results while in ISC Class 12 results, the state has also recorded 99.95 per cent. The analysis of results of other States were being examined till the report filed.

Cong appoints new State chiefs in Assam, Manipur

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday made changes in its Assam and Manipur units. While Bhupen Bora was appointed as chief of its Assam unit by replacing party's Rajya Sabha member Ripun Bora for the post, Loken Singh was appointed interim president of the Manipur Pradesh Congress with immediate effect till a full-time chief is named.

With this, the Congress has effected changes in four States within a week's time including Punjab and Uttarakhand. Of the changes done, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Assam will have polls next year while elections were conducted in April this year in Assam where the party's performance was not good.

Continuing with the organisational revamp, a party statement said Congress pres-

ident Sonia Gandhi has appointed Bhupen Bora as president of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) and also named three working presidents -- Rana Goswami, Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha and Jakir Hussain Siddik.

The organisational changes in the state unit came weeks after the party's defeat in the assembly polls for which it entered into a grand alliance with the Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF and some other parties but failed to stop the BJP from coming back to power.

The party appreciates the contributions of outgoing APCC president Ripun Bora, the statement said.

Bhupen Bora and Rana Goswami are being relieved from their present responsibilities as All India Congress Committee secretaries, it said.

In another appointment, Loken Singh was appointed

interim president of the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee with immediate effect till a full-time chief is named.

AICC general secretary Organisation K C Venugopal in a statement said the Congress high has appointed Nametaram Loken Singh as the interim president of the Manipur unit of the party. The development took place following the resignation of party's leader. Govindas Komthoujam as the MPC president a few days ago. The appointment of Loken Singh, senior vice-president of the MPCC, comes into force with immediate effect. Venugopal said that Loken Singh, also an MLA, will be in his new position till a full-time state unit president is appointed.

Arya Kumar Jnanendra as chief organiser for the Odisha Pradesh Congress Seva Dal.

SC junks PIL to declare NCLT can't act as appellate authority

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has declined to entertain a PIL seeking to declare that the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) cannot act as an appellate authority to the decisions of the top court and find flaws so as to circumvent the "rule of law" laid down.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and M R Shah said the petition is clearly not maintainable and there is no reason to entertain the petition under Article 32.

"It is not necessary for this court to return any finding on the question sought to be raised in the abstract without any live challenge to an order of the adjudicating

authority. In any event there are appellate remedies available under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to an aggrieved party. The petition is dismissed," the bench said.

The apex court was hearing a PIL filed by one Ashok Sarana seeking to declare that the NCLT cannot act as an appellate authority to the decisions of this court and find flaws so as to circumvent the "rule of law" laid down.

The plea also sought directions that the "rule of law" laid down by the top court is binding on the authorities below without any conditions and cannot be

sidelined or overruled.

"Declare that the rule of constructive res judicata (matter decided) applies to the decisions of this court and is a fundamental rule which sustains the rule of law in ensuring finality to litigation," the plea said.

Sarana submitted that the NCLT has misinterpreted the judgments of this court and, hence, the invocation of the jurisdiction under Article 32 is sought to be justified.

He also clarified that he is not a party to any of the proceedings before the adjudicating authority under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016. PTI

Classic case of missing spine: Rahul at Govt's vax drive timeline comment

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Government informed Parliament that no fixed timeline can be indicated at present for the completion of the vaccination drive, former Congress President Rahul Gandhi on Saturday took a swipe saying people's lives are on the line and it's a classic case of a missing spine.

In a tweet he said, "People's lives on the line, Government admits no timeline, classic case of missing spine."

He tweeted with the hashtag of #WhereAreVaccines. His remarks came a day after the government said that no fixed timeline can be indicated at present for the com-



pletion of the vaccination drive.

The government said it is expected that beneficiaries aged 18 years and above will be vaccinated by December 2021. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Bharati

Pravin Pawar in response to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and Lok Sabha MP Mala Roy's unstarred question said, "The Covid-19 vaccination is an ongoing and dynamic process, which is being guided by National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAK) on the basis of concurrent scientific evidence."

She said that in view of the dynamic and evolving nature of the Covid-19 pandemic, "no fixed timeline at present can be indicated for the completion of vaccination drive". Pawar said, "However, it is expected that beneficiaries aged 18 years and above will be vaccinated by December 2021."

MP, Gujarat likely to get intense rainfall in next 2-3 days: IMD



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parts of central and adjoining west India, particularly the States of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, are likely to have some intense rainfall activity for the next two-three days. The India Meteorology Department (IMD) on Saturday said rainfall intensity along the west coast is expected to decrease over the next 24 hours, in a much needed relief to rain-battered Maharashtra and Goa. Rainfall activity will increase over the north Indian plains and hills from July 25, it said.

Having already drenched Chhattisgarh, Telangana, east Madhya Pradesh and central Maharashtra, the system has now shifted its focus on to the western half of Madhya Pradesh. The IMD has indicated that the system will produce isolated extremely heavy falls over west Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, July 24.

Therefore, a red warning has been issued over the sub-division for the day, as it instructs the residents to 'take action' to protect themselves from rough weather. Meanwhile, since the beginning of the monsoon period on June 1, both Madhya Pradesh

and Gujarat have received below-average rainfall.

"Further reduction in rainfall intensity is very likely along the west coast, including Konkan, Goa and adjoining interior Maharashtra, during the next 24 hours," the IMD said. "Fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy falls (a r e) very likely to continue over west coast, including Maharashtra, on July 24 and isolated heavy falls thereafter," it said. Extremely heavy rains have killed scores of people in Maharashtra over the past few days, submerging several areas and damaging property.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has enhanced the number of its teams from 26 to 34 for undertaking rescue operations in the coastal areas of Maharashtra that have been hit by landslides and floods triggered by heavy rainfall.

A spokesperson for the federal contingency force said these teams are being deployed in affected areas of Mumbai, Ratnagiri, Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Satara, Sangli, Sindhudurg, Kolhapur, Pune and Nagpur for rescue and relief work after consultation

with the state administration.

"In view of the severity of the situation, additional eight NDRF teams have been airlifted from Kolkata and Vadodra base which are being deployed in affected areas of Maharashtra," the spokesperson said. "This will take the total NDRF deployment to 34 teams," the spokesperson said.

The IMD said scattered to fairly widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy falls are likely to continue over Gujarat till July and reduce thereafter. Widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy falls are likely to continue over east Rajasthan till July 26 and reduce thereafter.

In north India, rainfall activity is likely to increase over northwest India from July 25. "Fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy falls (are) likely over Uttarakhand during July 25-28; Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and West Uttar Pradesh during July 26-28, and Punjab and east Uttar Pradesh on July 27 and 28," the IMD said.

Isolated extremely heavy falls are also likely over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on July 27 and 28, it added.

SC to hear plea on premature release from jail

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a plea that has raised a legal issue as to whether the policy for premature release from jail existing at the time of conviction or the subsequent one which is in existence at the time of consideration of such relief would be applicable.

The apex court sought the response of the Madhya Pradesh government and others within four weeks on the plea filed by a convict, who is serving a life term and is seeking directions to the state to release him from jail on the grounds that he has undergone a sentence of over 20 years including the period of remission.

The petitioner has said that he also qualifies under the policy for premature release which was applicable at the time of his conviction in the case.

The plea came up for hearing on Friday before a bench of justices L. Nageswara Rao and Hrishikesh Roy which issued a notice seeking the response of the state government and others.

"Issue notice returnable in four weeks," the bench said. The petition, filed through advocate Rishi Malhotra, said the petitioner was convicted by a trial court in a case of 1996 along with others and was sentenced to life imprisonment in September 2005.

The plea said at the time of his conviction, the policy for premature release dated December 4, 1978 was applicable.

"However, for the first time on January 10, 2012, there was a substantial change/departure from the said policy wherein it stipulated that such prisoners who are facing life imprisonment should have to undergo actual sentence of 20 years with a total sentence of 26 years," it said.

The plea said as per the December 1978 policy, any convict who has been sentenced to life imprisonment after December 18, 1978 and has undergone 14 years of the actual sentence and completed a total sentence of 20 years would be entitled to premature release. PTI

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

LEVEL 6th, C-WING, DELHI SECRETARIAT, NEW Delhi-110002

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ban on sharp synthetic/nylon kite flying thread including popularly known "Chinese Manjha"

This is for the information of the general public that in order to prevent the adverse effects on human beings, cattle population, birds, soil and ecology and in exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) read with Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs' Notification No. SO 667 (E), dated 10th September, 1992, a Notification was issued on 10.01.2017 by order and in the name of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of the NCT of Delhi with the following directions:-

1. There shall be complete ban on the sale, production, storage, supply, import, and use of kite flying thread made out of nylon, plastic or any other synthetic material including popularly known as "Chinese manja" and any other kite-flying thread that is sharp or made sharp such as by being laced with glass, metal or any other sharp materials in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
2. Kite flying shall be permissible only with a cotton thread, free from any sharp/metallic/ glass components/adhesives/thread strengthening materials.

Any breach of the above directions may be reported to the office of the following:

S. No.	Designation	Email ID	Helpline Number
1.	The Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police	cp.snsrivrastava@delhipolice.gov.in	100
2.	The Divisional Commissioner, GNCTD	divcom@nic.in	1077
3.	The Chief Wildlife Warden, GNCTD	cctgncd@gmail.com	1800118600
4.	The Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation	commr-northdmc@mdc.nic.in	155304
5.	The Commissioner, South Delhi Municipal Corporation	commissioner-sdmc@mdc.nic.in	155305
6.	The Commissioner, East Delhi Municipal Corporation	commissioneredmc@gmail.com	155303

Note:-

The violation of directions issued under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, or the rules made thereunder shall be punishable under section 15 of the said Act which includes imprisonment upto five years and/or with fine which may be extended to Rs. One Lac or with both.

The above said NOTIFICATION is available at: www.environment.delhigovt.nic.in

Sd/-

Dr. K.S. Jayachandran
Special Secretary (Env.)

Peace in Af possible only through political solution: US

'The US will continue to provide, humanitarian and security support to Afghan govt'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US administration, led by President Joe Biden, believes lasting peace in Afghanistan is possible only through a political solution, the White House has said, noting the ongoing dialogue between the Government of the United States and the Taliban.

"I would note that there are ongoing political negotiations and discussions that we certainly support between Afghan leaders, members of the Afghan Government, and the Taliban," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference on Friday, amid a wave of violence from the Taliban.

"We believe a political solution is the only outcome to lasting peace in Afghanistan, but

we will continue to provide support to the Government in the form of humanitarian support, security support, training. We will also continue to encourage them to take a leading role in defending and protecting their own people," she said.

In an interview to MSNBC, Secretary of State Tony Blinken said the US is determined that Afghanistan does not become a training ground for terrorism directed against the United States or its allies and partners.

"That's exactly why we went there in the first place, which is important to remember. We were attacked on 9/11, we went to Afghanistan to get the folks — who attacked us — to bring them to justice. Osama bin Laden was brought to justice 10 years ago, and the group, al-Qaida, responsible

for those attacks has been dramatically diminished in terms of its capacity to attack anyone from Afghanistan," he said.

"We're going to make sure that we keep our eyes on that. If we see the threat re-emerging, we're going to be in a position to take action against it. But that's why we were there, and now we're 20 years and a trillion dollars and thousands of Americans lost later in that campaign. I think the reason we went there is what we have to keep the focus on, and we've largely succeeded in doing what we needed to do," Blinken said.

The United States, he said, does have deep concerns about the actions the Taliban is taking, indicating that it may be trying to take the country by force.

Senior American military

officers have admitted that the Taliban has gained "strategic momentum," with their forces now controlling about half of Afghanistan's more than 400 district centres.

Blinken said Afghanistan would become a pariah state, if the Taliban took it by force. "It would not get the assistance that it's looking for and that the Taliban says it wants if it has any responsibility for the country. It would not get the support from the international

community that it says it wants. We're actively engaged in diplomacy because there is no military solution to this conflict that's been going on for more than 40 years in Afghanistan, and we're working to try to bring that to an end," he said.

US Central Command, which is in charge of Afghanistan, said recently that the withdrawal of US forces is more than 95 per cent complete.

Pak NSA, ISI chief likely to visit US next week for talks on Afghanistan: Report

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf and ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed are likely to visit the US next week for talks with their American counterparts on the situation in Afghanistan as part of Washington's diplomatic efforts aimed at ensuring a peaceful transfer of power in the war-torn nation, according to a media report.

The efforts also include visits by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to New Delhi and Kabul for talks aimed at formulating a regional response to the Afghan crisis, the Dawn newspaper reported from

Washington while quoting diplomatic sources.

The trip of Yusuf and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Director General Lt Gen Hameed was part of these diplomatic efforts, it said.

"Pakistan has a key role in a new US diplomatic offensive aimed at ensuring a peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan," diplomatic sources told the newspaper on Friday. Under a deal with the Taliban, the US and its NATO allies agreed to withdraw all troops in return for a commitment by the militants that they would prevent extremist groups from operating in areas they control.

Pakistan deploys regular troops along Afghan border: Report

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has deployed regular troops at forward positions along the Afghan border due to the fluid security situation in the neighbouring war-torn country in the wake of the withdrawal of American and NATO troops, a media report said on Saturday.

Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said that Pakistan Army soldiers have replaced the Frontier Constabulary (FC), Levies Force and other militias from the frontline positions, the Dawn newspaper reported. The US and NATO are on the verge of completing their final troops withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Ahmed said the FC Balochistan and other militias working under the interior ministry had been called back from border patrolling.

"Now regular army troops are manning the border after replacing the paramilitary forces," the minister said, adding the decision had been made in wake of the volatile situation across the border.

Ahmed said the situation not only demanded containment of the influx of refugees from Afghanistan but also the

entry of armed army personnel and militants into Pakistan.

"Paramilitary troops including the Frontier Constabulary, Levies, Rangers are deployed at the borders to deal with regular issues including illegal border crossing, smuggling etc," the minister was quoted as saying in the report.

However, the current volatile situation (in Afghanistan) demands that regular military troops be deployed along the border," he said. Military spokesperson Major General Babar Iftikhar recently told a TV channel that troops were manning the border and the move would help prevent escalation of the conflict from the Afghan soil or airspace to the Pakistani side.

Meanwhile, sources in the armed forces told the newspaper that the most serious challenge in the border patrolling was not just the inflow of refugees or any infiltrators in the garb of refugees but the movement of Afghan army personnel or Taliban fighters.

"We have seen that more than 1,000 Afghan soldiers fled into Tajikistan early in July to escape clashes with the Taliban," an officer said.

"But Taliban's presence in

the northern areas of Afghanistan is not as strong as it is in the areas bordering Pakistan. Therefore, if Afghan army troops enter Pakistan while fleeing fighting, there are chances that Taliban would follow them and the conflict would spill over inside Pakistan, and it could spread to the mainland too," the officer added.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have already traded barbs last week after the Taliban took control of the Spin Boldak border crossing, and the Afghan Air Force wanted to attack Taliban positions from the Pakistani side, which was not allowed by Islamabad.

"Pakistan does not want to see any such situation when the Afghan Air Force might use our airspace without permission to attack Taliban and in retaliation the militants attack Pakistani positions creating a new crisis," the officer said.

Meanwhile, responding to a question, the interior minister said that the fight inside Afghanistan was their internal problem and Pakistan was not taking any side and had no favourites.

"It is time that the Afghan politicians and their military leadership learn to deal with their issues," Ahmed said.

GLOBE TROTTER

BANDITS KILL 4 IRANIAN TROOPS NEAR PAK BORDER

Tehran: Armed bandits killed four members of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in a southern province, the official IRNA news agency reported Saturday. The report said the clash between Guard members and the bandits happened Friday night in the Gouni district of Sistan and Baluchistan province. The site of the fighting is some 1,250 kilometers (775 miles) southwest of the capital Tehran. It did not elaborate.

14 KILLED IN WAREHOUSE FIRE IN CHINA

Beijing: Fourteen people died and 26 others were injured after a fire broke out at a warehouse in northeast China's Jilin province on Saturday, local authorities said. The accident happened at a logistic warehouse in Jingyue high-tech industrial development zone at Jilin province's capital Changchun, according to officials with the zone. Fourteen people were confirmed dead in the blaze, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Among the 26 injured, 12 were in severe condition, it said.

US AIRSTRIKE IN SOMALIA IS 2ND THIS WEEK

Washington: For the second time this week, US on Friday conducted an airstrike against the al-Shabab extremist group in Somalia. The earlier strike, on Tuesday, was the first in Somalia since President Joe Biden took office in January. In a brief statement, the Pentagon said the attack was conducted in support of Somali partner forces, and was allowed under existing congressional authorization for the use of military force. A Pentagon spokesperson, Cindi King, said the airstrike was coordinated with the Somali government and took place in the Galmudug area in central

Nawaz Sharif faces flak for meeting Afghan NSA Mohib in UK

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Several Pakistani Ministers on Saturday lashed out at former prime minister Nawaz Sharif for meeting Afghan National Security Adviser Hamdullah Mohib in London, saying the PML-N supremo was a "close friend" of every enemy of Pakistan.

Mohib recently made headlines in Pakistan for calling the country a "brother," evoking a

sharp response from ministers in Islamabad, including from Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi who asked him to "reflect and correct" his behaviour.

Afghanistan's National Security Council on its Twitter account shared a picture of Mohib and Afghan State Minister for Peace Sayed Sadat Naderi meeting Sharif in London, where he has been living since 2019 for medical treatment.

Xi meets top military officials in Lhasa

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping underlined the importance of long-term stability and prosperity in Tibet during a meeting with top military officials in Lhasa, the state media reported on Saturday, a day after he made a previously unannounced visit to the strategically important region, including to Nyingchi, a town close to the border with Arunachal Pradesh.

Xi, also General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, met top officials of the Tibet Military Command of the People's Liberation Army, guarding China's border with India in Arunachal



Chinese President Xi Jinping visits the Drepung Monastery located in the western suburbs of Lhasa, southwestern China's Tibet Autonomous Region on Thursday AP

Pradesh, and also called for "fully strengthening the work of training soldiers and war preparation," the Global Times reported.

Xi, 68, made his first visit to Tibet as President from Wednesday to Friday. But his important visit was kept under wraps by China's official media till the end of the tour on Friday due to the sensitivities

of the trip. As part of his trip, he first went to Nyingchi, a strategically located town close to the border with Arunachal Pradesh. On Thursday, Xi went to Nyingchi Railway Station, learning about the overall design of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway and how the Lhasa-Nyingchi section has been operated since June 25.

It was the first time in recent years, a top Chinese leader visited the Tibetan border town. From there he went to the provincial capital Lhasa by the recently launched high-speed train.

He wound up his visit to the politically sensitive Himalayan region on Friday by meeting "representatives of troops stationed in Tibet."

Xi met with representa-

tives of troops stationed in Tibet, calling for efforts to strengthen military training and preparedness in all aspects and make contributions to the lasting stability, prosperity and development of Tibet," the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

However, the CPC-run tabloid Global Times said that Xi in his meeting with the PLA representatives "stressed that the local troops should fully strengthen the work of training soldiers and war preparation and contribute positive strength to promote the long-term stability and prosperity of Tibet."

Xi's first visit to Tibet took place amid the current India-China military tensions in eastern Ladakh.

Biden stumps for McAuliffe in early test of political clout

AP ■ ARLINGTON

President Joe Biden led the kind of campaign rally that was impossible last year because of the pandemic, Biden motorcaded across the Potomac River Friday night

to back Terry McAuliffe, a former governor looking for a second term whose centrist leanings in many ways mirror those of the president. The race is seen as an early measure of voters' judgment on Democratic control of all branches of the federal government.

The president stood before an enthusiastic and largely unmasked crowd who gathered around a park pavilion and playground on a warm July

night. He emphasized that he shared the same vision as McAuliffe about the need for greater public investments in order to drive economic growth. But Biden was also focused on the political stakes.

"You're not gonna find anyone, I mean anyone, who knows how to get more done for Virginia than Terry," Biden said. "Off-year election, the country's looking. This is a big deal."

COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE
A Statutory Authority of Government of India
Alpha Habitat Centre, Core 6A, 1st Floor, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110003

NATA 2021
EXAMINATION NOTICE: NATA-2021

Subject:- Announcement of Third Test of NATA-2021

The Council of Architecture is pleased to announce that the Third Test of National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) 2021 shall be conducted on September 3, 2021.

As per the Regulations of 2020, all candidates need to qualify an Aptitude Test conducted by the Council (i.e. NATA) for admission to B.Arch. course. Therefore, all candidates who have passed in any other aptitude test in Architecture conducted by other authorities shall also be required to qualify NATA in order to be eligible for admission to the B.Arch. course.

As per NATA 2021 Brochure, a candidate shall be allowed to appear for NATA 2021 only for a maximum of two times. Therefore, candidates who have not appeared in either one or both tests of NATA are eligible to register and appear for Third NATA Test. Further, those candidates who, after registering themselves for NATA, could not appear or remained absent in the either one or both tests of NATA due to any reason, may also register for Third NATA Test.

The NATA portal shall also be opened shortly to facilitate the students to register for Third NATA Test. The NATA 2021 Brochure with details of registration and other important dates for Third Test shall be soon uploaded on the websites www.nata.in and www.coa.gov.in.

The eligible candidates desirous to take admission into 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. degree course are advised to register themselves for Third Test of NATA-2021.

July 25, 2021
New Delhi

Registrar

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Main Road, G.M.S. Road, Dindori-280008
Ph: 0191-2474111, 2474112, 2474113, 2474114, 2474115, 2474116, 2474117, 2474118, 2474119, 2474120, 2474121, 2474122, 2474123, 2474124, 2474125, 2474126, 2474127, 2474128, 2474129, 2474130, 2474131, 2474132, 2474133, 2474134, 2474135, 2474136, 2474137, 2474138, 2474139, 2474140, 2474141, 2474142, 2474143, 2474144, 2474145, 2474146, 2474147, 2474148, 2474149, 2474150, 2474151, 2474152, 2474153, 2474154, 2474155, 2474156, 2474157, 2474158, 2474159, 2474160, 2474161, 2474162, 2474163, 2474164, 2474165, 2474166, 2474167, 2474168, 2474169, 2474170, 2474171, 2474172, 2474173, 2474174, 2474175, 2474176, 2474177, 2474178, 2474179, 2474180, 2474181, 2474182, 2474183, 2474184, 2474185, 2474186, 2474187, 2474188, 2474189, 2474190, 2474191, 2474192, 2474193, 2474194, 2474195, 2474196, 2474197, 2474198, 2474199, 2474200, 2474201, 2474202, 2474203, 2474204, 2474205, 2474206, 2474207, 2474208, 2474209, 2474210, 2474211, 2474212, 2474213, 2474214, 2474215, 2474216, 2474217, 2474218, 2474219, 2474220, 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AGR dues no subject matter of any future litigation: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) related dues payable by telecom majors, including Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel, cannot be a subject matter of any future litigation, the Supreme Court has said. A bench headed by Justice L. Nageswara Rao stated this while dismissing the plea of telecom seeking rectification of alleged errors in the calculation of AGR.

The top court said the dispute relating to AGR has been pending in courts for a very long period of time and the dues payable by TSPs (Telecom Service Providers) cannot be the subject matter of any future litigation. It said there is no room for any doubt from the period of the earlier judgement dated September 1, 2020 with respect to this court entertaining any application for altering the AGR dues of the TSPs.

The court said subject issues concerning the ambit of proceedings under Section 18 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 in relation to spectrum, the manner in which payment has to be made by and liabilities apportioned between the TSPs in case of spectrum sharing and spectrum trading, "with which the order dated July 10, 2020, an attempt was made to

were also dealt with in its judgement dated September 1, 2020. The telecom companies had pleaded before the apex court that arithmetical "errors" in the calculation be rectified and claimed there were cases of duplication of entries. "Though these applications appear to be innocuous at first blush, the end result of the relief sought by the applicants in the guise of correction or rectification of the defects or arithmetical errors in the calculation of AGR dues, would be recalculation which would amount to the AGR dues, as specified in the order of the court dated July 20, 2020, being altered."

"The dispute relating to AGR dues had remained pending in courts for a very long period of time and bearing this in mind, this Court was at pains to emphasise, at the cost of repetition, that the AGR dues payable by TSPs cannot be the subject matter of any future litigation," the bench also said, pronouncing justices S.A. Nazeer and M.R. Shah said.

The apex court said the order dated July 10, 2020 makes it clear that there is no scope for any recalculation/re-computation of AGR dues. "Even at the time of passing of the order dated July 10, 2020, an attempt was made to

seek recalculation and reassessment, as recorded in the order, which was rejected by this court outright," the bench said. The top court in September last year had given a time period of 10 years to telecom service providers struggling to pay Rs 93,520 crores of AGR-related dues to clear their outstanding amount to the government.

During the hearing on the applications on July 19, the bench had referred to an earlier order passed by the apex court in the matter and observed that it said no recalculation of AGR-related dues can be done. One of the lawyers representing a telecom firm had contended that they were not blaming the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for it as there are arithmetical errors and they want to place the entries before the department so that they can re-consider it.

In its September last year order, the apex court had said that telecom operators shall make the payment of 10 per cent of the total dues as demanded by the DoT by March 31, 2021 and the rest amount to be paid in yearly installments commencing from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2031.

India in exciting phase of growth: Paytm CEO

EXPECTED TO BECOME USD 5 TRN ECONOMY IN 5-10 YEARS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The country is in an exciting phase of growth and the economy is expected to add USD 2.5 trillion in the next 5-10 years, Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma said on Saturday. "If this country's economy is USD 2.5 trillion today, in next 5-10 years, you will see another USD 2.5 trillion. It took 70 years for us to make it USD 2.5 trillion... Now only in 10 years all that history will be recreated and doubled. "It's an amazing, inspiring moment for us to be India and lucky to be in India," Sharma said while speaking at a 2-day virtual youth conclave organised by IIMC Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He said one should never hesitate to do what they feel very strongly about even if it seems small. "When somebody makes you that you're alone. That's just the way you handle the

adversity. And once you are a success, all these adversities will become the folklores, so you should never feel bad about it," he added. Meanwhile, Arin Capital Chairman Mohandas Pai in another session of the conclave said, new business models can come up as the wide distribution network is no longer the limiting factor for businesses. "So your business models can come up, you can start a business and produce something in India and sell to the whole world cheaply," he added. He said through technology the disadvantage and advantage of starting a business in any country no longer exist.

India will continue to attract high foreign investments: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday expressed confidence that India will continue to attract high foreign direct investment (FDIs) in the current financial year. He said India has received highest ever FDI in the Covid-impacted 2020, in contrast with a shrinkage in investment inflows globally. In 2020-21, FDI into the country grew by 19 per cent to USD 59.63 billion, Total FDI, including equity, re-invested earnings and capital, rose 10 per cent to USD 81.72 billion during 2020-21 as against USD 74.39 billion in 2019-20.

"This year, we are very confident that we will continue this streak of very high foreign investments," Goyal said at the CII-Horasis India Meeting webinar. Similarly, he said, India's exports too are recording healthy growth, and would reach USD 400 billion by the end of the current financial year. During July 1-21, export crossed USD 22 billion and it is "poised to cross USD 32-33 billion by end of the month (July), which means our run rate is on track to achieve USD 400 billion of exports target for the first time ever."

Further, he said that currently India is in talks with 16 countries including the UK, the EU, Australia, Canada, and the UAE for trade agreements. With some countries, India is working for early handover agreements which will allow the country to quickly identify areas of mutual interest and progress negotiations faster towards a comprehensive economic partnership agreement, or FTAs, the minister said. "We have focused our efforts on a few promising agreements where I can clearly see huge comparative advantages for India to get market access and the ability to trade both in goods and services in a much bigger way. The UK, EU, Australia, Canada, UAE are countries with whom we can very quickly expand our discussions and engagements," he added.



India has inked FTAs with several countries, including Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and ASEAN members. Under such agreements, two trading partners significantly reduce or eliminate import/customs duties on the marketing number of goods traded between them. Talking about vaccination, he said the government had permitted the private sector to procure 25 per cent of Covid-19 vaccines but they are not buying. "CII should take a lead and get all of you to ensure that you take that 25 per cent of Covid-19 vaccine. Some industry group said we will do one crore vaccinations... Nobody has gone to Bihar, North East, Jharkhand to run campaigns to remove vaccine hesitancy," he said.

Open air travel for inoculated passengers: IATA

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

International air travel should be opened up for at least fully vaccinated air passengers, global airlines' association IATA told IANS. As per the association, a comprehensive system should be set in place that allows hassle free travel for those inoculated. Moreover, the system should also ensure testing and verification of passengers who have not been inoculated but without increasing the already strict restrictions.

"Vaccination and testing have a role to play in the recovery of international travel. It is not an option to wait for vaccines to be widely available before reopening borders. The global vaccine roll-out is likely to take time," said Conrad Clifford, IATA's Deputy Director General and Regional Vice President for Asia Pacific. "That's why testing is the alternative for those who do not have access to vaccines or are unable to be vaccinated for various reasons."

According to Clifford, it is not sustainable to maintain a zero case load approach, especially with scientists believing that Covid-19 will end up becoming endemic. "The minister observed that the honest taxpayers are the backbone of the contribution they are making to the progress of the nation by dutifully paying their due share of taxes... She also lauded tax

Honest taxpayers deserve to be recognised for paying due share of taxes: Sitharaman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said honest taxpayers deserve to be recognised for dutifully paying their due share of taxes and appreciated the Income Tax Department for successful implementation of various reforms. In her message to the I-T Department on the 161st anniversary of Income Tax Day, she complimented the department for continuing to work towards simplifying its procedures and processes, and making its functioning hassle-free, fair and transparent. "The minister observed that the honest taxpayers are the backbone of the contribution they are making to the progress of the nation by dutifully paying their due share of taxes... She also lauded tax

payers for discharging their compliance obligations despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic," an official statement said. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary observed that most of the processes and compliance requirements have been shifted to online platforms and the need for taxpayers to physically visit tax offices has been eliminated or minimized. He highlighted the fact that the interaction with taxpayers is now characterized by a spirit of trust and respect, and relying more on voluntary compliance. Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj also complimented the department for having done well in adapting itself to the emergent changes in the economy and having been able to achieve a healthy growth in tax

collections. He also appreciated the initiatives undertaken by the department to reorient its approach towards revenue collection, making its functioning taxpayer-based and taxpayer-centric. Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman J B Mohapatra lauded the tax officers for their colossal efforts and effectively fulfilling their twin role as the revenue earning arm of the nation and provider of taxpayer services. Referring to the larger and far-reaching policy measures like 'Honouring the Honest', Faceless Regime and adoption of the 'Taxpayers' Charter, he noted that these initiatives have made the departmental functioning more transparent, objective and taxpayer-friendly.

7-day relief: No revision in fuel prices in a week

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Oil marketing companies (OMCs) continued to pause fuel price revision for seven consecutive days, the longest period in weeks, as the global development on oil production and rising US inventories softened crude and product rates. However, they stopped short of reducing the retail price of petrol and diesel as more time will be required to study oil price movement before any downward revision. Already, crude has firmed a bit for last few days and this could prevent price cut by the OMCs. With no change in prices on Saturday, in the national capital petrol continues to be sold for Rs 101.84 per litre, while diesel remains at the unchanged price of Rs 89.74 a litre. The pump price of fuel has been static since Sunday. It last increased on July 17 with petrol being revised upwards by 30 paise per litre, while diesel prices remained unchanged. One of the main reasons for pause in fuel price rise is an over 10 per cent fall seen in global oil prices with benchmark crude sliding to \$69 a barrel from a high of over \$77 barrel just a few weeks ago. It had again risen to over \$74 a barrel on strong demand projections.

SBI opens branch in President's Estate

New Delhi: The country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday opened a branch at President's Estate. The branch was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind along with First Lady Savita Kovind, in the presence of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, SBI said in a statement. The branch will provide all types of banking services including safe deposit lockers to the residents of President's Estate, it said. Secretary to the President K D Tripathi, SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara and other senior officials of the bank were also present at the inauguration ceremony, it said. This branch at President's Estate is a jewel in the crown for SBI and will offer a convenient and seamless banking experience to all the customers, said Khara. PTI

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-4, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building
Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001

CA NO 286/2020
DATE: 01.07.2021

AXIS BANK LTD.
APPLICANT
VERSUS
SAJEEVY ANDRIA & ORS.
RESPONDENT

TO: DEFENDANT
1 Rajeev Area, House No. J-10 Gurgaon
Block 2, P-5 Kharola Gurgaon-201002
2 Three Platinum Solihub Pvt. Ltd. A-802 2nd Floor
Hawalland Poojagar Ganga Ram Dey Road
10, Alak, At C-6/40, Sector-32, Faridkot
Haryana-151031

Whereas the above named applicant has filed a suit for recovery of Rs 97,42,000/- (Rupees Ninety Seven Lacs Eighty Four Thousand and Twenty Six Only) against you and whereas it has been decided by the court of the Tribunal that it is not possible to settle the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance on the Tribunal on 18.08.2021 at 10.30 AM. You are advised that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

By Order of the Tribunal
For Registrar
DITL, Delhi

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORKS.

Sri. No. (1) E-Tender No. DATE: 18/07/2021

Work: Upgradation of Platform surface of Shahdol and Anuppur stations. Provision of toilet with water supply in CSMIS's Panel room at Vijaykalka, Lohma and Mudaria & Creation of siding facilities for working of heavy duty Rail Grinding Machine at Shahdol, Anuppur, Nowrozabad, Umaria & Ropar stations under the jurisdiction of S.E.C. Railway.

Tender Value (in Rs.): 1,78,95,535.58/- EMD (in Rs.): 4,00,000/- Completion Period: 12 months.

Start date of Submission of Tender: From 11:00 hrs. on 22.08.2021 till 11:00 hrs. on 22.08.2021. Last date of Submission of Tender: Until 11:00 hrs. on 16.08.2021.

The complete information of above-e-tender Notices is available over e-website <https://etenders.scrail.in> and bids shall not be accepted against this website.

Div. Railway Manager (Engg)
CPRI/1016 S.E.C. Railway/BSP
South East Central Railway (Bhilai)

WESTERN RAILWAY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. 3/2021/2021 Date: 21/07/2021

S.N.	Short Description of item	Quantity	T.O.D
771	Wood Based Resin	1000 Nos.	09.08.2021
772	Gear Case Complete	4 Nos.	09.08.2021
773	Washer for Dia 41 mm Pin	10000 Nos.	09.08.2021
774	Gangway Bridge Mounting Assy.	640 Nos.	09.08.2021
775	Set of Connection Strap Assy for WAPA	302 Set	09.08.2021
776	Roller Bearing	314 Nos.	10.08.2021
777	Filer Assy.	18 Nos.	11.08.2021
778	Plug Assy.	1315 Set	11.08.2021
779	Track Fast Bearing Changer	878 Nos.	12.08.2021
780	Trk Plastic Compound	6734 Kg.	13.08.2021
781	VRLA Valve Regulated (Sealed)	3028 Nos.	13.08.2021
782	Set of 35 mm NABCO Brake Pads	2000 Nos.	13.08.2021
783	LMLA Low Maintenance Load	3028 Nos.	16.08.2021
784	Set of 6 Switches A-250 V	16 Set	16.08.2021
785	RIM Pallet Gentleman Box	38520 Ltr.	16.08.2021
786	Single Bottle Vacuum Bottle Breaker	150 Nos.	16.08.2021
787	VRLA Batteries of 45V/200AH	110 Set	19.08.2021
788	AOH Kit for Tapschanger	98 Set	19.08.2021
789	Gear Oil Odogear RMO	5053 Ltr.	19.08.2021
790	LMLA Secondary Cells 2V/200AH	1647 Nos.	25.08.2021
791	Main LED Signal Lighting Unit Red, Yellow, Green	5323 Nos.	26.08.2021
792	Wire 7 Strand Steel, Galvanised for Signaling Purpose	4594 Kg.	30.08.2021

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.irps.gov.in and www.indianrailways.gov.in

For Principal Chief Materials Manager
Like us on [Facebook](https://facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

General public is here by informed that this person namely Tota Ram S/o Kale Ram R/o H.No. B-391, Gali No. 8, S.B.S. Colony, Karawal Nagar, Delhi Age: About 95 years, Height : 5'5", Face : Round, Build : Thin, Complexion : Shallow, wearing blue colour shirt, white colour lower and slipper in feet, has been missing since 09.07.2021 from his house. In this regard DO No. 78-A dated 10.07.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Karawal Nagar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following:-

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO - P.S. Karawal Nagar, Delhi
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Tel. No. : 011-2205532616
Fax: 24366639 Fax: 24366639 8750870728

INDO COTSPIN LIMITED

REGD. OFFICE: 78 K.M. MILE STONE, G.T. ROAD, NEAR VILLAGE JATTIPUR, POST BOX NO. 3, POST OFFICE SARAWALKA, PANIPAT - 132102
CIN: L1110MH0500202020 Website: www.indocotspin.com
Email: 2rajagopal@indocotspin.com
Statement of Standalone Un-audited Financial Results for the Quarter ended June 30, 2021 (Amounts in Lakhs)

PARTICULARS	3 MONTHS ENDED	YEAR TO DATE ENDED IN THE PERIOD	CORRESPONDING PERIOD ENDED IN THE YEAR
	Un-audited	Audited	Un-audited
Total Income from operations (net)	150.54	618.00	123.84
Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary operations after tax	0.18	4.77	0.37
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary Items)	0.18	4.77	0.37
Reserves (including Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of Previous Year)	420.05	420.05	420.05
Earnings Per Share (after Extraordinary Items) of Rs. 10/-	0.00	0.07	0.00
Dividend (Basic and Diluted) (in Rupees)	0.00	0.07	0.00
Earnings Per Share (after Extraordinary Items) of Rs. 10/- (Basic and Diluted) (in Rupees)	0.00	0.07	0.00

NOTE: 1. There is no qualification on the audit report for the quarter ended 30/06/2021. 2. The above is an extract of the detailed Standalone Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full and Complete Quarterly Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchange website: www.sebiindia.com, www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com

For Indo Cotspin Limited
Bd Krishan Agarwal
Managing Director
CIN: 244512021

BRIEFS

Reliance Jio clocks strong subscriber adds in Q1
New Delhi: Jio's gross subscriber additions, though down 14 per cent QoQ, were still healthy at 26.7 million due to continued traction on new iPhone offer, foreign brokerage, JioFiber adds in a report. This along with lower churn, resulted in 14.3 million net additions in Q1. Assuming 6 mn additions on JioFiber, Reliance Jio added 13.8 mn mobile subscriber on net basis which surprised positively given it was impacted by Covid. "We expect Jio's subscriber additions to remain robust by recent capacity additions, JioPhone offers and launch of JioPhone Next", the report said. Jio reiterated that its device and capacity strategies is in place to gain the next 200m subscribers. "We marginally tweak estimates to factor the results and see Jio gain 530m subscribers by Mar-24. Over FY21-24, we expect Jio to deliver 15% CAGR in revenues and 20% CAGR in profits. We maintain our valuation for Jio at US\$90bn", the report said.

IMPROVING DEMAND TO TRIGGER TIRE INDUSTRY'S GROWTH
New Delhi: Improving demand along with stable competitive intensity, and peak capex is expected to trigger linear growth for the Indian Tire industry. Accordingly, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said the Indian Tire industry is expected to clock a 12 per cent CAGR over FY21-25E. Besides, MOFSL expects sustained recovery from demand on both replacement and OEM segment, coupled with increase in exports. "While OEM demand is expected to see a cyclical recovery in the next 2-3 years, replacement demand is expected to benefit from pent-up demand, import restrictions, and premiumization witnessed across the automotive segments in the last five years," said MOFSL. In the last five years, demand environment was impacted by weak OEM volumes, a feeble economic environment, impact of GST, and higher imports.

ZEE MEDIA CORPORATION REPORTS ₹9.06 CR LOSS
New Delhi: Zee Media Corporation on Saturday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹9.06 crore for the quarter ended in June 2021 on account of exceptional items. The company had posted a net profit of ₹12.26 crore during the April-June quarter of the previous fiscal, Zee Media Corporation Ltd (ZMCL) said in a regulatory filing. Its revenue from operations was up 28.79 per cent to ₹170.16 crore during the quarter under review as against Rs 132.14 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

GO FIRST OPERATES FIRST NIGHT FLIGHT FROM JAMMU TO DELHI
New Delhi: Budget airline Go First, formerly known as GQAir, has operated the first ever night flight from Jammu to Delhi. Accordingly, the flight 'G8 196' took off at 8.00 p.m. on Friday and was operated on Airbus A320neo. "Going forward, Go First will operate scheduled flight from Jammu to Delhi and Srinagar." This heralds the beginning of a new era for the union territory that has long advocated the introduction of night flights for better connectivity with the rest of the country. "Notable, the airline, will operate four flights a week from Jammu on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday to Delhi and three flight from Jammu on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday to Srinagar, respectively. According to Kaushik Khona, Chief Executive Officer, Go First. "This initiative will assist in farming community and also strengthen the tourism sector, which plays a major role in the economic growth of the region."

Indian pharma industry to touch USD 130 bn by 2030: Reddy

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian pharmaceutical industry is expected to grow almost by three times to about 130 billion US dollars by 2030, Chairman of Dr Reddy's Laboratories, K Satish Reddy said on Saturday. "If you see, currently it's (pharmaceutical industry) about 42 billion dollars, half between the domestic sales, half between the exports. We expect that it will grow almost by three times in the coming decade, reaching almost 120 to 130 billion dollars by 2030. Truly, we believe that we are poised for a tremendous growth in the coming decade," he predicted.

Reddy, Chairman of Board of Governors of NIPER-Hyderabad, was virtually addressing the 9th Convocation of the Institute. The government's encouragement (Atma Nirbhar Bharat) policy, a lot of reforms in the industry and thrust being given to innovation, among others, augur well for the industry, he said. The Indian pharmaceutical industry worked continuously during the testing times of Covid-19 pandemic second wave to ensure the availability of life saving medicines.

Equities on tenterhooks: Covid concerns, Fed decision to induce caution

IANS ■ MUMBAI

India's key equity indices are expected to maintain caution on the back of rising Covid cases globally as well as the rate decision of the US Fed during the upcoming week. However, expectations of robust quarterly results along with hopes for an accelerated economic recovery will retain investors' interest in the market. "US Fed interest rate and progress in spread of Coronavirus and its variants will be watched keenly," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities.

"Nifty has formed lower top low, bottom of weekly charts compared to the previous week. Hence 15,962 resistance becomes an important determinant of the future direction of the US Fed during the upcoming week. Besides, Jamsini cited that as long as this level (15,962) is not breached, markets, sectors and stocks could undergo rotational pattern taking. Furthermore, the week ahead will witness the release of Q1FY22 corporate results from ICIPI Bank, ITC, Indusind Bank, Axis Bank, & Tata Motors, Kotak Bank, Dr Reddy's, Maruti Suzuki.

“Decided in Rio Olympics itself that I will prove myself in Tokyo”

MIRABAI LIFTS WEIGHT OF A NATION

An Olympic medal finally around her neck, star Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chalu on Saturday said she can finally take a break at home without worrying about training after managing just five trips to her place in Manipur in the last five years. “I have just been home for five days in the past five years. Now I will go with this medal,” said Chalu, whose family is based in Nongpok Kakching village about 20 kilometres from Imphal. “I will now go home and eat food made by my mother,” she added. Chalu revealed that after the Rio Games debacle she changed her training and technique completely so that she could redeem herself in Tokyo.



Mirabai Chalu Saikhom competes in the women's 49kg weightlifting event at the 2020 Olympics on Saturday

Competing in her second Olympics, Chalu claimed the Silver medal in the 49kg category with a total of 202kg (87kg+115kg). It was India's second Olympic medal in the sport after Karnam Malleswari's Bronze that came 21 years ago at the Sydney Games. “My dream of winning an Olympic medal has been fulfilled. I tried a lot in Rio, put in a lot of effort but it was not my day then. I thought that day only that I will prove myself in Tokyo,” Chalu said during a virtual press conference.

Considered a strong medal contender five years ago in Rio as well, Chalu buckled under pressure in the women's 48kg event and failed to log a legitimate lift. “I learnt a lot from that day — my training and technique was changed, we put in a lot of effort after that. “I was very sad after Rio, there was a lot of pressure on me and I got nervous. I couldn't understand anything for days but then coach sir and the federation counselled me, told me that I have a lot of potential,” she

added. Head coach Vijay Sharma revealed he was also under a lot of pressure after the disappointing outing in Rio. “There was a lot of pressure on me after the Rio failure, we failed in a very important competition and we were expected to win then also,” Sharma said. Determined to prove herself in the Tokyo Games, Chalu and Sharma changed the Manipuri's training, employing a more stringent regimen. “After that we changed the training pattern and technique a lot. The result of which we saw in the 2017 world championship, then we took the Gold in the 2018 Commonwealth Games. We won a medal in the 2019 world championship. We have been growing and improving regularly. “The lesson we learnt was

“Could not have asked for a happier start to @Tokyo2020. India is elated by @mirabai_chalu's stupendous performance. Congratulations to her for winning the Silver medal in weightlifting. Her success motivates every Indian. #CheerIndia #Tokyo2020” —PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

“Many many Congratulations to @mirabai_chalu on winning India's first medal at #Tokyo2020. Such an inspiring performance that will be remembered for a long time to come and will inspire generations. Well done.” —ABHINAV BINDRA

“Congratulations for a beautiful opening on medal tally @mirabai_chalu. This Second place medal medal is a morale boost for our Indian contingent. Thank you for a spectacular performance..... jai hind.” —BAJRANG PUNIA

that we need a lot of determination and discipline. I worked with that and Mira partnered me.

“She hasn't done anything but eat, sleep and train in the last five years. It took us 2.5 years instead of 1.5 for the Olympic qualification because of coronavirus. Overall the result of the journey is that we are sitting here today with the medal.”

The Manipuri's sole focus for the past five years was on winning a medal at the Olympics and that required several sacrifices including staying away from her family. The efforts paid off as Chalu went on to win the world championship in 2017 following it with a Gold at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Mirabai's mother in tears as daughter sports 'good luck' earrings she gifted

New Delhi: A historic Silver medal and a radiant smile were not the only eye-catching things about Mirabai Chalu on Saturday in Tokyo, her gold earrings shaped like Olympic rings were as striking, a gift from her mother who sold her own jewellery for them five years ago.

The hope was that the earrings would bring her ‘good luck’. It didn't happen in the Rio 2016 Games but Chalu made the little sacrifice count in Tokyo on Saturday morning with a Silver medal and Saikhom Ongbi Tombi Leima has struggled to stop her tears from flowing ever since.

“I saw the earrings on TV. I gave them to her in 2016 before the Rio Olympics. I have made it for her from the gold pieces and savings I have so that it brings luck and success,” Leima said from her home in Manipur where a considerable number of relatives, friends and well-wishers gathered to watch Chalu script history in Tokyo.

“I was in tears seeing it and also during the moment she won the medal. Her father (Saikhom Kriti Meitei) was also in tears. Tears of joy. All her hard work has led to the success.”

The Chalu household at Nongpok Kakching village, around 25km from state capital Imphal, visitors had been trickling in since Friday despite the curfew caused in part by the Covid-19 pandemic.

“She had told us she will win Gold or at least a medal. So everybody was waiting for it to happen. Many of our relatives



Family members and neighbours of Mirabai Chalu gather together to watch her lift

atives who lived far came last evening. “They stayed overnight with us,” Chalu's mother said.

“Many came this morning and the people of the locality also thronged. So, we have brought out the television to the verandah and around 50 people were there to watch Mirabai in Tokyo. Many sat at the front courtyard. So, it was a kind of festival.”

The Gold they had wished for didn't come but the Silver was enough to send a packed courtyard, glued to the TV, into frenzy as the tensile crowd broke into celebrations, uncunching their fists and clapping frantically.

Chalu was on video call with her family from the weightlifting arena in Tokyo before her event began and she had sought blessings from her parents.

“She (Chalu) rarely comes home (because of training) and so we have



made a Whatsapp group to communicate with each other,” said Chalu's cousin Aroshini.

“This morning, she had a video call with all of us and she bowed down and sought blessings from her parents.”

“She said ‘bless me to win a Gold medal for the country’. They gave their blessings. It was a touching moment.”

Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag

“Notice”

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the post of Para Pump Operator, Para Fitter and Multipurpose Workers under JSI Division Sundernagar. The essential qualification for the post of (i) **Para Pump Operator**, the candidate should have a minimum qualification of matriculation (10th) with ITI certificate in the trade of Electrician / Wireman / Diesel Mechanic / Pump Mechanic / Motor Mechanic / Pump Operator cum Mechanic from a recognized ITI with certificate in above cited trades under Skill Development scheme of the Government, (ii) **Para Fitter**, the candidate should have a minimum qualification of matriculation (10th) with ITI certificate in the trade of fitter/plumber from a recognized ITI with certificate in above cited trades under Skill Development Scheme of the Government, (iii) **Multipurpose workers**, the candidate should have a minimum qualification of middle pass or above from school duly recognized by the State Government. For other desired qualification, experience and detailed selection criteria can be had from the notice board of Jal Shakti Division Sundernagar. Eligible and interested candidates having age 18 and <45 years can submit their applications on plain paper in the office of the Executive Engineer, JSI Division Sundernagar on any working day from 10.00 AM to 05.00 PM up to 31 July 2021 with following self attested documents: (i) Legitimate proof of age, (ii) Proof of income in case of BPL candidates, issued not later than six month, (iii) Proof of educational and technical qualifications, (iv) Certificate of Bonafide Himachali, (v) Experience certificate. The applications from the applicants should reach in this office on or before 06.08.2021 at 5.00 PM.

Note: Candidates applying for the post of Multi Purpose Workers shall compulsory attach detailed marks sheet of Middle standard and in the event of non issuance of the same by the concerned Education Board, the detailed marks certificates from principal of school needs to be attached as evaluation criteria and short listing, (if necessary) is based upon marks obtained in Middle standard and not of any other standards even if higher qualification is obtained.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Sundernagar,
Phone No.01907-262712.

RO NO. 2694/21-22 Dt. 24-07-2021

Amit Shah, NE CMs give standing ovation to Mirabai

Shillong: Union Minister Amit Shah and Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh broke the news during the meeting which was chaired by the Union Home Minister following which everyone in the meeting gave the standing ovation with pride, they said. Singh also announced a ₹1 crore package besides other perks an Olympian enjoys besides reserving a special post for the 26 year old Manipur woman.

All eight CMs of the Northeast are attending a meeting presided over by Shah in Meghalaya's capital Shillong.

Manpreet & Co start with win, women's lose

Tokyo: Harmanpreet Singh scored a brace and veteran goal-keeper P.R. Sreejesh stood like a wall in the closing minutes as the Indian men's hockey team overcame a late surge from New Zealand to eke out a close 3-2 win in its opening Olympic Games match on Saturday.

Aside from Harmanpreet (26th and 33rd minutes), Rupinder Pal Singh (10th) was the other goal-getter for the eight-time former champions, currently ranked fourth in the world, in the Pool A match at the Oi hockey stadium.

For the eighth-ranked New Zealand, Kane Russell scored from a penalty corner in the sixth minute before Stephen



Jennens (43rd minute) reduced the margin of defeat later in the match.

India will next play mighty Australia on Sunday. The Kookaburras beat hosts Japan 5-3 in another Pool A tie.

India's chief coach Graham Reid was happy to start the campaign on a winning note but said there are many areas to improve ahead of Sunday's tough match.

“Winning three points in a competition like the Olympic Games is really important. I think we had a good second and third quarter but the first and fourth we struggled a little bit,” he said.

“When we watch the video later today, we will be able to find out what we need to get better at and surely there are going to be things we learn from today too,” he added.

INDIA WOMEN LOSE 1-5
The Indian women's hockey team fought valiantly in the first two quarters before losing the steam to go down 1-5 against world No 1 Netherlands in their opening pool match.

Netherlands the lead in the sixth minute before the advantage was evened out by India skipper Rani Rampal in the 10th minute.

The Indians defended bravely in the first two quarters to go into the half time locked at 1-1 but the break seemed to have broken their momentum as the Dutch came out all guns blazing after the change of ends and pumped in three goals to nip any chance of an upset in the bud.

Margot van Geffen (33rd minute) restored Netherlands' lead soon after resumption before the three-time Olympic champions and reigning Silver medalist scored two goals in quick succession through Albers (43rd) and Frederique Matla (45th) to take control of the proceedings.

If that was not enough, there was more agony in store for the Indians as Caita Jacqueline van Maasaker slammed home from their sixth penalty corner in the 52nd minute. India will play Germany in their next Pool A match on July 26.

Digital India - Digital Haryana

Launch of Gram Darshan Portal in Haryana

<https://gramdarshan.haryana.gov.in/>

All round development of the country is only possible through the rural development. To implement this concept the 'Gram Darshan Portal' is being started. It will bring more transparency in the working of Panchayati Raj Systems.

Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

Transparency in functioning of Gram Panchayats

All the complaints will be linked to CM Window

Delivering benefits of Govt. services & schemes to eligible persons in time

Scan to visit 'Gram Darshan Portal'

Uniform schemes for rural and urban areas should be implemented for transparent development. Strengthening the Panchayats in complete manner is one of our utmost priorities. Haryana is a progressive State. The launch of this portal will further strengthen the transparency and the Good Governance in rural areas.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

People of rural areas will be able to reach out their demands directly to the State Government

Status of suggestions/ complaints will be available through SMS

Rural citizens can submit their suggestions, demands & grievances regarding any development work or Govt. scheme etc.

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | www.pcharyana.gov.in | @DiprHaryana

Injured Vikas out



Vikas Krishan stands in his corner during his men's 69-kg boxing match

Tokyo: Indian boxer Vikas Krishan (69kg) was out-punched 0-5 and left with a bloodied eye by local favourite Sewonrets Quincy Mensah Okazawa as he bowed out of Olympics on Saturday after fighting with a shoulder injury in the opening round.

The 29-year-old Vikas sustained a cut below his left eye in the high-voltage clash.

“During the last sparring session in Italy (before the team left for Tokyo), he injured his shoulder. He got treatment and we had hoped that he would be

fine, he started without problem,” India's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva said.

“But when he attempted a jab at Okazawa's body, he hurt the shoulder again and could not use his left hand properly. He fought with one hand today,” the Swede added.

The 29-year-old Indian boxer in action on the day. On Sunday, six-time world champion M.C. Mary Kom (51kg) and Commonwealth Games Silver medalist Manish Kaushik will compete in their opening bouts.



Support system for rural India

If more private companies perceive rural development as a market investment, we will be able to better support our rural regions

2



4

Watch your thoughts

Every individual is born with a stockpile of thought seeds in mind, coming as it may as Karmic carryover from the past



For marriage to be a success, every woman and every man should have her and his own bathroom. The end
Catherine Zeta-Jones



Identifying a passive aggressive partner could be the first step towards curbing the hostility growing between you and your partner, writes NIDHI UPADHYAY

HOW FINE IS 'I AM FINE'?

When I use 'I am fine' as the most powerful means to avoid any potentially costly confrontations, be it with a spouse, with in-laws or at work. But what if your colleague at work agrees with your constructive feedback in the meeting to avoid confrontation and later forgets to copy you in an important email? What if your usually punctual spouse doesn't show up on time for a dinner date simply because he or she disagreed with your choice of restaurant? And what if you have noticed a pattern in this behaviour but every time you try to bring it up with your spouse you are dismissed for reading too much between the lines?

While developing the characters for *That Night*, I accidentally stumbled upon an interesting article about passive aggression in a marriage and how sometimes what might appear like a difference of opinion on the surface could be a classical setup for passive aggressive relationship. Although the partner exhibiting such behaviour in a relationship might not be a full-fledged, card carrying passive aggressive personality, but he or she could be a member of the club, subtly abusing the partner emotionally and sometimes physically too.

According to WebMD: Passive-aggressive behaviour is when you express negative feelings indirectly instead of openly talking about them. During World War II, when soldiers wouldn't follow officers' orders, experts described them as "passive-aggressive." Someone who uses passive aggression may feel angry, resentful, or frustrated, but they act neutral, pleasant, or even cheerful. They then find indirect ways to show how they really feel.

We all might show a streak of passive aggression at times, however, when this repetitive sulking, backhanded compliment, withdrawal, or manipulation becomes a way of life, it can result into grave consequences in a relationship, especially in a marriage. Identifying a passive aggressive partner could be the first step towards curbing the hostility growing between you and your partner.

While each passive-aggressive spouse might operate differently, but they all have one thing in common: they avoid confrontation, and often these individuals appear and behave outwardly supportive or content, which makes it all the more difficult to spot them. However, identifying a behavioural pattern can serve as a key differentiator between a momentary angry acceptance and a passive aggression in a relationship.

RECOGNISING PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR

Below are some red flags that can help you identify a harmless sulking from a hostile one.

- **Disguised Verbal Hostility:** I'm just saying, a sentence that sounds so harmless can be your partner's coping mechanism developed over the years to express his or her angry feel-

ings without being affirmative about it.

- **Disguised Hostile Humour:** 'Can't You Take a Joke?' The backhanded compliment or sarcasm could be another powerful weapon often used by a passive aggressive partner, especially in the instances when they are confronted about their demeaning act. Playing a victim card 'that it was meant to be a joke' is their knee-jerk reaction to avoid any uncomfortable conversations.

- **Guilt-Baiting:** 'You were taking so long to finish that call with your mom that I started the match instead.' Aggressive passive spouses are an expert at wielding guilt as a weapon to show their disagreement or hostility. They inadvertently or skillfully manipulate and coerce you into an agreement by attacking your vulnerable spots.

- **Disguised Psychological Manipulation:** 'I think you need to go for a yoga class to manage your stress.' Passive aggressive spouse usually have a tendency to change your perception by spinning the whole blame on you for being the inconsiderate or the short tempered one.

- **Stonewalling:** Avoiding responsibility, duty, and obligations and withdrawing from a relationship is another trick up the sleeves of these individuals. It's their way of maintaining power and control by imposing many hurdles for you to jump through.

While the phrases such as 'I am just saying', 'It was a joke' and the silent treatment are invariably part of every marriage, it should not be a breeding ground for hostility that leaves the receiving partner shattered and confused about her or his own worth in a relationship.

Unfortunately, often these tricky psychological manoeuvres take absolutely no planning on your passive-aggressive partner's part. On the contrary, they are acting on pure instincts. Hence identifying the cause for such behaviour could work as a powerful tool to stop such manoeuvres in the track.

POSSIBLE CAUSES FOR PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR

- **Upbringing:** Voicing your strong opinion was/is often categorised as disrespectful in most Indian households. However, a constant suppression of opinion during the formative years can impact adversely, pushing an individual to find ways to passively channel their anger or frustration.

- **Sense of powerlessness:** A manipulation in a marriage can often be a side-effect of tussle of power between the partners, especially when one partner feels out of control in a situation or area where his or her spouse is enjoying success. This sense of insecurity can fuel underhanded tactics to sabotage the partner's success and emotional wellbeing, sometimes without even realising it. This power hunger can also manifest into establishing their territories by subtle emotional and physical abuse.



WHILE EACH PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE SPOUSE MIGHT OPERATE DIFFERENTLY, BUT THEY ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON: THEY AVOID CONFRONTATION, AND OFTEN THESE INDIVIDUALS APPEAR AND BEHAVE OUTWARDLY SUPPORTIVE OR CONTENT, WHICH MAKES IT ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT TO SPOT THEM. HOWEVER, IDENTIFYING A BEHAVIOURAL PATTERN CAN SERVE AS A KEY DIFFERENTIATOR BETWEEN A MOMENTARY ANGRY ACCEPTANCE AND A PASSIVE AGGRESSION IN A RELATIONSHIP

- **Inability to accept their own emotion:** Passive aggression is a personality disorder, and these individuals cannot approach situations, feelings, relationships or communication directly. They are often unaware of what they are doing, and when confronted, they refuse to acknowledge both the behaviour and the results.
- **Low self-esteem:** The passive-aggressive partner often feels that he or she is the one at the receiving end, inadvertently playing the victim card. These individuals often operate out of a deep sense of insecurity, and they persistently feed their negative emotions to justify their actions, sometimes to the extent of demeaning the partner in an attempt to elevate themselves.
- **Buried feelings of inadequacy and injustice:** Often words like 'it's unfair' can be passive aggressive person's way of communicating that the spouse has some kind of unfair advantage over them in a relationship. It could be in career, relationships at work and family, or kids.

HOW TO COPE WITH PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR

Once you have identified a classical pattern of passive aggression in your spouse, the most critical step is to protect your and your partner's emotional wellbeing. The following few steps can act as a crucial steppingstone in bringing your relationship back to a healthy track.

- **Accepting the situation:** It's painful to accept that your spouse is operating within a passive-aggressive pattern, especially, because these individuals have a tendency to manipulate your emotions by displaying sacrifices made by them in a relationship. They usually go an extra length to prove that their love for their spouse is unmatched. But if you notice a concrete pattern in the sugar-coated humiliation or purposeful withdrawal to punish you, it's time to trust your instincts and accept the reality.
- **Identify the trigger:** There is no excuse for aggression and abuse of any form in a marriage. However, knowing the reason for this aggression can help you predict the behaviour pattern of your spouse. Also, sometimes the issue can be as trivial as your spouse fearing to hurt your feelings and thus, he or she inadvertently finds an underhanded way to express his or her dislike. Understanding the triggers can minimize the potential damage to your relationships.
- **Don't justify your spouse's behaviour:** The chances are that you have been manipulated enough in a relationship by now that you tend to find flaws in you than in the spouse who appears so nice and non-confrontational. So, train yourself to stop inwardly justifying or finding excuses for your spouse's unacceptable behaviour.
- **Stay calm and keep your anger in control:** It's essential to keep a check on your emo-

tions, especially when the passive aggressive spouse is acting up. If you can recognise triggers of your own anger and get a control of your reactions, you are less likely to get psychologically manipulated or gaslighted by the partner.

- **Establishing a healthy channel of communication:** It is important to approach your spouse with vulnerability and empathy as passive aggressive individuals are hypersensitive and often operate from low self-esteem or sense of insecurity. You can help them by wording their angry feelings in a way that it doesn't appear judgmental yet factual. Share with your spouse how his or her behaviour hurts you but do it without placing the blame on them.

- **Set healthy boundaries and ground rules:** It hurts deeply to accept that your spouse might not have your best interest in mind always. However, it is important to set boundaries to protect yourself from any form of emotional or physical abuse. By drawing a clear list of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour might help you and your partner identify the patterns you've been experiencing. Also, setup consequences for the next time he or she does the same thing and don't back down if they demean you.

- **Seek help of a marriage therapist:** It never hurts to seek help of a good marriage therapist. With the right approach and professional support, you can overcome passive-aggressive patterns and manipulations in a relationship to build a happier, healthier marriage together.

However, even after repetitive efforts at your end, if your partner still believes that you are at fault, in that case, you might be forced to take the tough decision of saving yourself from any form of emotional abuse. If despite all your love and patience your partner is persistently falling back to his or her old ways of demeaning you or manipulating you, or they refuse to seek help, it's time to walk out of a relationship that is ruining you (and your partner) inside out. Because marriage should not be about turning yourself inside out, it should also be about loving yourself and defining your own worth in a relationship, and it can only happen when the boundaries about what is acceptable and not are defined clearly for both the partners. And if something unacceptable still finds its way into your marriage, time and again, despite all your efforts, perhaps walking away from a relationship would be a better idea. Because these episodes of withdrawal, aggression, abuse and manipulation are a double-edged sword that wounds you and your partner, too. So, before you fall out of love with yourself and with your partner seek help.

The writer is an engineer-turned-headhunter. *That Night*, published by Penguin, is her debut novel

NEED TO BUILD A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR RURAL INDIA

If more private companies perceive rural development during and beyond disasters as a market investment, instead of an evangelist or missionary ad-hoc project, we will be able to better support our rural regions

With the tragic second wave of Covid-19 in India done and dusted, malls and restaurants in cities are once again thronging with customers. However, in rural India the devastating effect of Covid-19 this time round has been so grave that the mood there might take far longer to pick up.

By May 2021, one in every two cases was in India's rural areas, while states like Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan had 75% of their cases in rural areas. Exposing the weakness of the public healthcare system, rural India only had 40% of the beds in the country even when it is home to 70% of India's population. In fact the number of hospital beds per 10000 population between 2010 and 2020 reduced from 9 to 5.

I spent much of last month leading the philanthropic effort of a consortium of partners to establish more Covid care facilities in rural parts of India. It has been challenging to raise funds for Covid relief in the second wave as charitable funds for health care in India have dried up while government regulations have clamped down on international funds coming in to the NGOs in the country.

Secondly, given the intensity of this wave, only ICU beds or at least beds equipped with oxygen concentrators were mostly needed in the second wave, pushing up the effort and cost of equipment procurement. Thirdly, many individuals and organisations including established not-for-profits were no longer contributing to the cause voluntarily but instead leveraged the desperate situation of the second wave to make a buck.

Nonetheless with the support of local NGO Bibhar and its founder Anis Bari, the sustained efforts of Anant National University, besides my own firm Sustain Labs, we managed to establish 13 Covid care facilities in rural Bihar.



It is indeed easy and not incorrect to blame the government as state governments with higher expenditure on health had lower confirmed cases of Covid.

However, at a time when the government has demonstrated substantial inertia in effectively managing the pandemic in the country, the civil society must (and has!) step up. With management expertise, wide distribution networks in the country, human resources at disposal, the private sector has an especially strong role to play in disaster management in rural India. Corporations hold enormous influence within their domains and communities around their factories and depots that are often located in remote or rural areas. In this context, government effectiveness in rural areas can thus be strengthened by leveraging existing private

sector capacities, reach and core competencies.

There is a need to emphasize greater market driven ways for the private sector to support rural development in India, during and beyond disasters. A balanced approach to driving market driven rural development strategies ensure that the development is sustained as stakeholders see incentives to do so. CSR funds alone, on the other hand, are undependable as it runs dry exactly at the time of socio-economic crisis such as the current pandemic, which is ironically when it is most needed.

There are at least three ways that the private sector can play a central role in managing disasters better in rural India.

First, through the investments they make and the decisions they take, companies directly impact the

THERE IS A NEED TO EMPHASIZE GREATER MARKET DRIVEN WAYS FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SUPPORT RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

world around us. Establishing markets in rural regions and offering affordable products and services to rural India is a market opportunity. For example, Visaka Industries Limited is a Hyderabad based diversified company that manufactures asbestos cement roofing sheets, building products and textile yarn, in ways that established it as a primarily green business.

Further, 90% of Visaka's asbestos sheets, 30% of VBoard products, and 20% of its ATUM solar roofing are sold in rural and semi-urban parts of the country, thus enhancing the quality of life of rural communities.

Similarly, ICICI too has a substantial rural presence. 650 of ICICI's rural branches are in previously unbanked villages and which also promote entrepreneurship among women by developing

tailored financing and loan options catering to rural India. During disasters such as the ongoing pandemic, the reach and institutionalised presence of companies in these rural areas are of paramount importance for providing sustained livelihood and disaster relief to people.

Secondly, rural India still needs to be better connected to cities via roads, highways, and also telecommunications. Goods for relief work (and beyond) need to be transported by roads to villages and this becomes difficult to do if road infrastructure is inadequate. Until June this year we also saw that the vaccination distribution exclusively relied on a digital portal for booking vaccination slots for a significant population of the country, which became an impediment for rural India to achieve universal immunisation.

Ultimately on June 2, 2021, the Supreme Court asked the government to explain how the use of the CoWin app for booking slots is going to overcome the digital divide in rural and urban India, following which offline channels of vaccine booking were introduced. This again is an opportunity for the private sector to step in and build physical and digital infrastructure that connects rural India better to the rest of the country. Indeed the government needs to also prioritise the development of infrastructure projects, make approvals more efficient, besides tightening quality control.

Third, we need more public private partnerships. Disasters by themselves are beyond anyone's control. However, the preparation and response to them can be managed so that the human and economic losses can be minimised or eliminated. This is why, whereas states have the overall responsibility to drive disaster recovery and mitigation efforts it must be understood as a shared task between the government and relevant stakeholders. Currently the Indian private sector provides disaster support in a less systematic and more ad-hoc manner. Far more strategic and planned partnerships between the government and the private sector for rural development and disaster mitigation and recovery remains to be seen.

If more private companies perceive rural development during and beyond disasters as a market investment, instead of an evangelist or missionary ad-hoc project alone, we will be able to better support our rural regions and not lose as many lives during disasters.

The writer is the CEO of Sustain Labs, a company that transforms companies towards being sustainable and profitable.

She is the author of Indian Instincts: Essays on Freedom & Equality in India, and a Global Leadership Fellow at the World Economic Forum

Changing demographic profiles & women

The formation and the break-up of a society determine the consequences of a radical shift in external forces. For instance, the negligible say of women in the USA before the 1800s prompted women leaders to band together to promote a new, separate women's rights movement and change the direction of Abolitionist Movement of the 1830s.

Generations upon generations, the gender equality rhetoric has filled the gap of responsibilities and rights through gradual and profound movements around the globe. However, the 21st-century demographic picture is still blurry for women, which face constant denial of individual rights and powers.

The Covid-19 pandemic has been the greatest peacetime disruptor of years of progress in demographics of the society, especially in India, where there only 943 females per 1000 males. Moreover, in 2020, India ranked at 189th position out of 201 countries in terms of female to male ratio. In a society where 77% of parents prefer a male child over a female, this disproportion in the gender ratio has had profound implications in the lives of an average Indian woman during the pandemic.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DIVORCE & CHILD CUSTODY

With only 66% women literate as compared to 83% men in India, the social awareness among women is at the lowest, which makes them incapable of voicing their power against domestic violence. Indian women filed more domestic violence complaints than recorded in a similar period in the last 10 years. But even this unusual surge is only the tip of the iceberg as 86% of women who experience domestic violence do not seek help in India. Social isolation amid the pandemic has also caused circumstances where victims and aggressors cannot separate, and there are fewer options

Closing the gender gap in digital inclusion is an urgent priority in the pandemic. This involves a special focus on women-owned enterprises under the stimulus programmers, write RAJESH MEHTA & UDDESHYA GOEL

for women to escape their conditions, especially in the rural regions.

Despite this fact, post first wave, India saw a nearly three-fold increase in cases pertaining to divorce and child custody being filed. From an average of 1,280 cases in a month, their numbers went up to 3,480 during the lockdown. This has placed them in a situation where they have to face social denial and the increased financial burden of their child individually.

THE SECOND SHIFT AND MENTAL WELL-BEING

A study by McKinsey found mothers are more than three times as likely, compared with fathers, to meet the majority of the demands for housework and caregiving during the pandemic. In addition, they are more than one and a half times as likely as fathers to spend three or more hours per day on these activities.

This "second shift" is where women complete their day of paid work and then spend another full shift doing work at home supporting children, families and at-home tasks. This dynamic has been exacerbated by the limits and lockdowns associated with the pandemic.

Naturally, this has brought detrimental effects on the mental fitness of working women, which constitutes 21% of the total workforce in India. According to a LinkedIn survey, the pandemic is taking a toll on the emotional well-being of India's working women as 47% report they are experiencing more stress. For men, this number stood at 38%, pointing towards a disproportionate impact on women.



JOB LOSSES AND POVERTY

Female job loss rates due to Covid-19 are about 1.8 times higher than male job loss rates globally, at 5.7% versus 3.1% respectively. Moreover, 4.5% of

women's employment is at risk in the pandemic globally, compared with 3.8% of men's employment. This is because women are over-represented in industries that are likely to experience the greatest

declines because of the pandemic. These include hospitality and foodservice, retail, education and manufacturing. As a direct consequence, the pandemic will push 96 million

people into extreme poverty by 2021, 47 million of whom are women and girls, widening the gender poverty gap.

WIDENING ENTREPRENEURIAL GAP

In India, women-owned a little over 20% of all micro, small and medium businesses compared to nearly 80% among men in FY21. The crisis has made family resources scarce for women, such as financial capital to invest in businesses or digital devices that families must now share as children's schooling has gone online. This has brought a disproportionate impact on female entrepreneurship, including women-owned microenterprises in developing countries like India.

THE LOST FUTURE TALENTS

The cascading effect of pandemic-induced economic insecurity is not just the income losses but also the ripple effect of years of education denied to women and girls. Impacts on education and employment have long-lasting consequences that, if unaddressed, will reverse hard-won gains in gender equality. According to a UNESCO estimate, a total of 11 million girls may leave school by the end of the Covid crisis; evidence from previous crises suggests that many will not return.

Lack of education and economic insecurity also increases the risk of gender-based violence. Without sufficient economic resources, women are unable to escape abusive partners and face a greater threat of sexual exploitation, trafficking and teen pregnancy.

These consequences won't disappear when the pandemic subsides: women and girls are likely to experience long-term set

backs in workforce participation and income. The fallout will be most severe for the most vulnerable women, those who are rarely in the headlines: migrant workers, refugees, marginalised racial and ethnic groups, single-parent households, youth and the poorest of the poor.

DIRECT INTERVENTIONS

The challenge is huge but the cause is even gargantuan. Direct interventions are needed to draw an inflection point in the current demographic status to bring a fundamental change down the line. This mandates addressing attitudinal biases. Any drive toward gender parity arguably starts with efforts to change entrenched, widespread attitudes about women's role in society. This is an extremely difficult and complex challenge that will require all stakeholders to play a sustained part over the long term.

Addressing unpaid child care cannot be overstated. There is an immediate requirement of reducing the gender imbalance in responsibility for care. This involves employer- or state-funded provision of childcare or tax policies that encourage both spouses to work in a professionalised childcare industry, with public-financing support to enable women to work and create employment for others.

Interventions are also required to address digital and financial inclusion. Closing the gender gap in digital inclusion is an urgent priority in the pandemic. This involves a special focus on women-owned enterprises under the stimulus programmers. Tax burdens should be eased and where possible, governments should source food, personal protection equipment, and other essential supplies from women-led businesses.

Mehta is a consultant in Market Entry, Innovation & Public Policy and Goel is a researcher with interests in public policy, international business and capital markets

EdTech platforms: Same old wine in new bottle?

For a country as populated as ours, where a large section struggles to make a decent living, access to basic education still remains a privilege. However, there exists an inherent paradox where even a good percentage of the educated population find it difficult to have gainful and stable employment. So, given this paradox, how do we expect that educating the underprivileged lot will somehow help them in finding a better livelihood?

But before making an attempt to decipher the underlying code behind this paradox, we need to dig a little deeper beneath the surface to come up with an answer to this question.

Who exactly are the stakeholders that tend to benefit most out of the current education system?

All the educational institutes usually serve the purpose of signalling certain qualities like intelligence, diligence, compliance, and conformity to potential employers. As a result, there is a widespread clamour among students to get themselves validated through a paper degree as it presumably increases the chances of landing a well-paying job.

Therefore, as long as we don't find any fault in subscribing to a free market doctrine, only skills and experiences that are directly convertible to income are considered useful. As a consequence, the need for the education system to make itself sufficiently market aligned has

always managed to remain the top priority, where institutions keep thriving by serving as a certification agency. As long as both the stakeholders (students and institutes) are happy with this arrangement, the 20th-century educational ecosystem will keep haunting us even in the 21st century.

Whereas the third stakeholder (parents) doesn't seem to bother much about the present education system, primarily because they themselves are a product of that system. Besides, in India, the sense of pride associated with raising an academically exceptional child is something difficult to express in words. It is the ultimate validation to prove their worth as successful parents. It helps parents in covering every other possible flaws in their parenting. Not only that, but it also gives them a false sense of assurance that their children will eventually become an overachiever in actual life.

The false promise!
Now given this ground reality, the more we change around this system, the more they seem to remain the same. And that seems to be true for the growth in EdTech platforms. All the changes introduced so far in the education ecosystem remind us of the earlier models of coaching centres that held a promise of a better tomorrow if you could afford their fees.

However, despite these apparent shortcomings, the



media is never tired of celebrating the success of EdTech initiatives that are nothing but a rehash of the same old wine in the shiner bottle. The content and delivery by most of these EdTech platforms are woefully dated, with a minimum collaboration, participation, and feedback from students.

Now given the widespread celebration in media, there is a temptation to accept education as a potent investment opportunity for people with deep pockets. Given the poor quality of public education, people, in general, have been conditioned to accept the association of good quality education at a cost. As a result, there is no dearth of institutes claiming to offer the same.

As an integral part of tar-

geting the gullible parents and students, there is a deliberate attempt from these EdTech entities with deep pockets to sell their product as something very essential for the success of students — an unsubstantiated claim sold as gospel truth.

Celebrity endorsement is another potent method to capture the attention of insecure parents. These insecure parents are made to feel guilty if they dare to deny their kids "the key to success" on financial grounds. There is a lot of unnecessary noise created in the media about the potency of their life-altering products and courses. A kid as young as 5 years is not spared from their tempting media campaigns.

Is there a way to weed out these outright commercial entities occupying the educational

space?

In the era of low-cost internet, the availability of good quality free content has never been in question. It's the concomitant contextual understanding and subsequent follow-up lectures that make the whole difference. You can't expect a student with limited working knowledge of English to comprehend a two-hour lecture by Harvard faculty on quantum physics.

So, what's the solution?

Given the kind of complexity inherent in the problem, the solution needs to incorporate the seemingly conflicting interest of different stakeholders into account. Therefore, it wouldn't make sense to come up with one size solution that fits everyone.

It's important to embrace the true potential of EdTech. It's

not just about reformatting books into pdf or teaching remotely, it's also about using tech to deliver brand-new learning architecture, opening up the world of education to new audiences, boosting student engagement, while cutting costs to improve access for all.

There is no denying that the pre-university generation is digital natives; they favour individual expression and personalisation to such an extent that they expect to resolve all of life's problems with the device in the palm of their hands. They don't mind being bombarded with information via social media.

Therefore, there is a need to go straight to the heart of social media, where Gen Z spends a lot of time. EdTech platforms need to find a way to

cut through the noise and reach students across the social divides who could be given the needed support.

In the name of online classes whatever is being done with books and whiteboard can merely be termed as a good start especially for visual learners, but can't be termed as a technological revolution in the education space by any stretch of the imagination. Because a forward-looking twenty-first-century education envisages more than exposing students to audio-visual content. Here every learner is expected to collaborate, communicate, be creative and think critically to solve problems!

We need to prepare students to work in teams, exchange ideas with peers who may be in different geographies. The students are expected to find solutions by thinking out of the box with the world of information at their fingertips. We need to outgrow the mentality of spoon-feeding, and allow children to learn for themselves and be there to support them as a facilitator.

Till we succeed in bringing these much-needed changes within the existing ecosystem, the promise of gaining a better livelihood after going through the pain of years of formal education will eventually turn out to be a hollow one.

(The writer is an educator, former IRS officer & author of upcoming book "The Current Perspective on INDIAN ECONOMY")

Do we actually need them? The content and delivery by most of these EdTech platforms are woefully dated, with a minimum collaboration, participation, and feedback from students. EdTech platforms need to find a way to cut through the noise and reach students across the social divide



PIYUSH KAMAL

PERSPECTIVE

South Sudan — A decade of Independence

This month South Sudan is celebrating its first decade of Independence, but there is not much to rejoice. Since its separation from mainland Sudan, it has been experiencing continued violence, endemic corruption, poverty and underdevelopment. However, the 10th anniversary of country's historic achievement of Independence provides an opportunity to inject fresh initiatives to the ongoing peace process



MAKHAN SAKIA

South Sudan became the world's youngest nation on July 9, 2011. The birth of the Republic of South Sudan was the culmination of six years of peace process that began with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005. With the signing of the CPA, the war between the South and the North Sudan came to an end and the peace deal, known as the Naivasha Agreement between Khartoum Central Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M), led to a historic referendum which took place in Southern Sudan between January 9 and 15 in 2011.

The main purpose of the referendum was to decide whether the region should continue to remain a part of Sudan or become independent. However, a simultaneous referendum that was supposed to be held in the Abyei region on whether to join South Sudan could not take place due to massive violence. The Referendum Commission published the results of the referendum on February 7, 2011, which showed more than 98 per cent people voted in favour of separation from the mainland Sudan.

South Sudan's partition from Sudan was predicted long ago. Interestingly, this part of Sudan was experiencing upsurge for nearly six decades before its Independence. Omar al-Bashir, then President of Sudan and a former army veteran, who ruled the country from 1989 to 2019, indeed talked about the right of South Sudan to secede from the mainland. Once a powerful strongman who ruled one of Africa's largest nations with an iron fist, Bashir commented that the referendum for South Sudan was helpful as he believed "unity could not be forced by power". However, then he was of the opinion that secession was not the answer for bringing an end to the myriad of problems of South Sudan. He had said, "The stability of the South is very important to us because any instability in the South will have an impact on the north...The

South suffers from many problems. It's been at war since 1959. The South does not have the ability to provide for its citizens or create a state or authority."

The brutal man, who ruled his country for three decades and having the scar of carrying genocide in Darfur, almost turned his words prophetic over the newly independent South Sudan. As of this date, Juba is fervently struggling for peace, stability and unity.

This month the country is celebrating its first decade of Independence, but there is not much to rejoice. Since its separation from mainland Sudan, it has been experiencing continued violence, endemic corruption, poverty and underdevelopment. South Sudan is located in the northern and eastern hemisphere of the planet earth. It is bordered by six other African nations — Sudan to the north, Ethiopia to the east, Kenya to the south-east, Uganda to the south, the Democratic Republic of Congo to the south-west and Central African Republic to the west. The country has been undergoing a number of significant changes since 2011. At its birth, South Sudan had only 10 states, but in 2015, it was divided into 15. In 2017, the country was further made into 32 provinces purely based on ethnic lines. However, after three years of running a troubled Government and signing of a peace treaty in February 2020, the South Sudanese Civil War came to an end. And with this, Juba decided to roll back the ethnic divisions of States created in 2017 and reverted to the earlier system of 10 States.

How the Civil War began in South Sudan? The two titans — Salva Kiir, the President, and Riek Machar, the former Vice President, were fighting to claim their rights over the fragile nation. This conflict started just after two years of the country's Independence. The vast majority (over 80 per cent) of the people fleeing South Sudan in the past are women and children. And sadly, children make up to the 63 per cent of the total South Sudanese refugees during the

country's recent Civil War that lasted between December 15, 2013 and February 22, 2020, covering a period of nearly six years, two months and one week. Since the Civil War erupted, nearly 400,000 people have been killed and over 2.3 million became refugees and asylum seekers.

In November 2013, President Kiir, from the Dinka ethnic group, dismissed Machar who belonged to the Nuer group of South Sudan. Following the rumours of a possible coup, the President immediately replaced the members of the Army and the Government. He added fuel to the fire by dismissing all the main organs of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), citing that their time in office had expired. Further, massive violence sparked between the armed groups of Kiir and Machar, when the President accused the latter of plotting a coup against him in December 2013. Gradually, the violence took an ethnic turn by dividing and arming militias and villagers belonging to the Dinka and Nuer groups. There have also been allegations by both sides of crimes against humanity, including rape, extra-judicial killings, abductions, torture and the use of child soldiers in the war.

How has the UN responded to the crisis so far? As large swathes of South Sudan are facing violence against civilians, particularly children and women, the UN peacekeeping mission in the country known as United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is establishing a number of camps to protect the victims. Nicholas Haysom, the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for South Sudan, briefed the UN Security Council about the current situation on June 21, 2021. In his briefing he said, "I would like to highlight the pervasive insecurity, in particular inter-communal violence, which continues to obstruct the realisation of a durable and sustainable peace in South Sudan. This year more than 80 per cent of the civilian casualties were attributed to inter-com-



munal violence and community-based militias". Therefore, the UNMISS has a turbulent road ahead in South Sudan.

What is the latest peace deal? On September 12, 2018, President Kiir and Vice-President-turned rebel leader Machar signed a renewed peace agreement to put an end to the five-year long ethnic war in South Sudan. The agreement known as the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict of the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) was nothing new and indeed built upon a previous peace deal signed by both the leaders. It's a renewed peace process as both these rebels have come across a number of negotiations in the past. But then all of them failed as both the parties kept violating the terms for strengthening their own militias. The R-ARCSS envisioned an eight-month "pre-transitional period" that focused largely on stabilising the security situation of the country. After eight months, the agreement stipulates the starting of another eight-month "transitional period" when the country would be led by a "Unity Government" with Kiir as President and Machar as

Vice President. Needless to say, that the proposed Unity Government structure resembles the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict of the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) signed on August 17, 2015. Even under that agreement, Machar was supposed to be appointed as the Vice President of the country. But unfortunately, the formation of that Government was delayed till April 2016 as Machar refused to travel to the Capital city, fearing for his security and life. Eventually, fierce fighting between the two groups began in the summer of 2016 in Juba and Machar had to leave as widespread violence engulfed the entire country.

A UN Report highlighted that the slow implementation of the revitalised peace accord may push the country again into a chaos. Experts on Africa say that political, ethnic and military divisions are growing across South Sudan. The parties and factions that signed the peace deal are again fighting in many places. Also, the UN says that nearly 100,000 people are facing famine like situations in the war-torn nation.

Even barely a year after signing the peace deal in 2019, South Sudan's National Security Service recruited a force of 10,000 fighters in President Kiir's stronghold. These were all apparently violating the peace accord. The Kiir administration is taking very little interest in following the terms and conditions of the deal. Sadly, an often-overlooked conflict, the South Sudanese civil war has already taken the lives of more than 400,000 people so far. Violence, disease and dire scarcity mar this land-locked country in East Central Africa even after a decade of its Independence. Women and children are largely bearing the brunt of the violence.

However, the 10th anniversary of South Sudan's historic achievement of Independence provides an opportunity to inject fresh initiatives to the ongoing peace process. The idea is to bring back peace, stability and growth that all South Sudanese people deserve today. Notwithstanding, the recent signs of tranquillity, the over-implementation of the revitalised agreement is abysmal slow. Nevertheless, the feeble and almost paralysed insti-

tutions of State governance throughout South Sudan have directly helped the perpetrators of violence to exploit the existing perennial ethnic and communal cleavages. Entrenched insecurity has prevented the regular cultivation and herd rearing practices of the traditional communities in the countryside leading to food shortage and famine.

Above all, the global Covid-19 pandemic and a continued economic downturn are deteriorating the current state of affairs in South Sudan. The weakened law and order and rising criminal networks are making huge roadblocks in bringing peace back. It is time for Kiir and Machar to rebuild the newest nation of the world once again. Let Juba jubilate!

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the International Journal of Global Studies, an international research journal)



TO BRING ANYTHING INTO
YOUR LIFE, IMAGINE THAT
IT'S ALREADY THERE
— RICHARD BACH



**YOUR
WEEK
AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week your physical health and mental health needs to be looked after. You want to discover, and solve every problem using only your resources, ignoring other's advice. This way you may end up feeling isolated and excluded. Need be, take the advice of a health practitioner. On the work front, expect good news concerning finance. A female may prove beneficial in your career. Give yourself a break, and know that you can make a positive difference to make more prosperity in your life. Some of you may get a promotion and higher positions this week. A great week in personal relationships as well. This is the time when married couples will enjoy good bonding and share good understanding.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week, you are in the best of health. Use this good energy to enhance your habits, improving your exercise routine or adding to your knowledge of nutrition. Trust yourself. You come back in life with double enthusiasm and creativity. On the work front, it is a vibrant and action-packed time. There will be outbursts of emotions and passions. You start the work to finish and with quality. Support of seniors will give a boost to your career. On the personal front, give with kindness and compassion, and know that what goes around always comes around. Some of you might spoil your relations with your loved ones, due to your sensitive nature. Career becomes important and romance and love will take backstage.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Wednesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you may be overworked and overstressed. Addictions and obsessions might bring harm. You are likely to lose self-control. Balance is the key to keeping good health. On the work front, a pleasant surprise will be come your way. A new project or assignment is on the cards. This could be a new job opportunity. You may come up with some new systems or processes that make your work-life simpler and less stressful. Ignore workplace gossip. Rely on your intuition and your inner knowledge, rather than your conscious mind or intellect. On the relationship front, this is a good week for singletons. Those in a committed relationship and have lost some of its shine need to consider some action and consideration to bring back its glory.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week your health remains good and you will bring balance to your life. Professional, personal, and emotional, all fronts go well with your wisdom. Amidst the busy schedule, you take time out for your well-being. Family members will be supportive of you. On the work front, you feel powerful energy and want to achieve the best in all your task. A male at work may behave talk to you in a manner that will bother but the truth is that you may be being too sensitive. He's just doing his job. An exciting opportunity is likely come to you to represent your institution on the academic front. On the relationship front, some moments in life are pure ecstasy and you wonder why. A new bonding is indicated on the horizon.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you are likely to follow a new health regime. You have been pampered for long. Now things are out of your control. You need rest, a planned diet, and peace of mind. So, work out accordingly. Remember health is wealth and there are no other commitments as important as looking after your wellbeing. At work, those waiting for interview results may have to wait longer for a decision. Try to be patient and refrain from pushing people to move before they are ready. Make sure you have done your share of work, and if you haven't, figure out how to explain or make amends. On the relationship front, there may be the end of a relationship. Try to give your beloved some breathing space.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Caramel Brown
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Heart patients should be careful this week. Anger and aggression should be avoided. Your health is good and you will be full of life. Be careful when exercising, there are indications of minor injuries or sprains. Career-wise you feel important as new job opportunities will be coming with a better perspective. You feel creative and gets busy planning your life. Use your intelligence and hard work which will pay you well dividends. You may face a tough time in the relationship area. It can be that your beloved or blood relations maybe your mother or sister is undergoing through mental tension and needs your support. Those who are seeking love don't worry. Your time will eventually come but for now, it's good to stop with your search for some time.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Monday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week you may be more inclined to give up bad habits in the interest of your health. You are energetic, feel a lot of stamina and vitality. Avoid aggression. Give yourself time and space for meditation. Walking can also be very effective as well. A good massage is recommended. On the career front, you are either getting a good job offer or a promotion in the existing one. Your projects are likely to be more successful than expected. You have a lot of reasons to feel pride. If you're waiting on results from an interview, you are likely to get a good response. In the matters of heart, ensure that you are counting your blessings. Focus on the things and people in your life that you have to be thankful for.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

In the first part of the week, you may feel exhausted. Still you will have at least a short period when you feel exceptionally well and upbeat about your future. Give thought to how you may support and continue this good health. You can deepen your spiritual growth. Share the good feelings with your near & dear ones. On the career front, things are changing positively. It is advised to take counselling and seek advice on the career front. It will be beneficial at this point. Your efforts are likely to be valued. Just continue what you are doing. There are promotions and recognition on the card. On the relationship front, there is romance in the air. There is fruition in your affair and you find yourself in the pool of bliss. You feel, happy and contented with life.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Saturday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week do not ignore your health. Take advice from the doctor. Get a second or even third opinion before you sign up for anything that is irrevocable health-wise. Be open to spiritual healing. If you are not happy with the current job, know that you hold the power to change your situation. Maybe you cannot change your work environment, but that should not keep you from looking for a different or better option. On the relationship front, although your intentions are good your sharp attitude may put people off. Try and improve your communication skills. While you are busy with work, money, family taking your time and energy you are suddenly pitched into a whirlwind romance that leaves you empty and lost.

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Any kind of ritual like reading a book will be helpful for your health. At this time a person is likely come into your life who will be a mentor or teacher. You will learn from them at several levels. You will be much more social. Career-wise, you may face tough competition or rivalry. You will get good news about finance. With your creativity, you can reach out to others particularly females, and get the help and advice that you need to make a positive difference financially. On the relationship front, don't get too possessive for your partner. You may face conflicts, both external and internal. Don't escalate conflicts unnecessarily. Think before you act. Things may not work out as you would hope with a love relationship.

Lucky number 30
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week your health will be good. You will find a healer who works with something besides traditional western medicine. Follow your instincts about what is best for your health. Taking advice from a physiotherapist. Meditation & yoga will work in your favour. Work-wise, this is the time when you get the results with the least effort. You are nearing the point where work success and recognition are well within your reach. Do your best to be organized and productive. Do the right thing even if nobody is watching. Your honesty and integrity will pay you well. In the matters of heart, there will be some quick happenings this week that will surprise you. Some of you are feeling ready for a commitment that doesn't seem to be forthcoming.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you will feel strong, physically and mentally. You feel full of vigour and vitality. This week you may decide to finish the pending tasks and many other works which you were not able to do in the past weeks. There is a warning not to overdo things or push your body further. Rest is also a critical part of health. Career-wise, this is a very positive time for you in financial terms. Wise investments will keep your bank balance in a healthy state. Money inflow will be good. There will be an improvement in your career life. You need to be cautious in your relationships this week. Your obsession and passion might give you a job. Secret affairs or extramarital relations might put you in trouble. For those who are seeking love, this is not a favourable time.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

One of friends based in the US, seeking clarification on inter-planetary placements in a horoscope wrote: "Everyone has positive as well as negative thoughts. I believe that good planets excite positive thoughts. Often, bad planets supersede the influence of good planets and breed negative thoughts. Is there any astrological remedy to contain undesirable thoughts? Does counselling help?" As thought trends have bearing on our quality of life, the question deserves attention.

You need to change your perception, I replied. Planets are not doers in their own right. They won't define your thought process. Planets are respectively marked with energy streams of a particular character passing through different regions in the cosmos, with the said planet in the centre. And, energy doesn't have its own drive. It will work accordingly as it is applied or responded to. It is something like electrical energy, which could equally activate a heating element as well as an air conditioner. Similarly, planetary emissions will influence a being, according as an individual mind is inherently framed. There is nothing like a good or

bad planet. All planets have to play their part in carrying on the life cycle, and are available in equal proportion to all. They lack the discriminatory ability necessary to differentiate one person from the other to offer varying influence. So, there is no scope for having astrological remedy to manage your thought process.

The world is a unified organism, where all existences are inseparably framed into an interdependent mechanism. There has to be correspondence among all field players, including human beings. What goes inside the mind, can't be read by others. But planetary motions can be calculated. Based on the principle of correspondence, a look into planetary alignment offers ground to have an insight into your thought trends. Knowing which, you can take corrective measures by self-educating yourself, and then redefine your thought process.

Here, a look into how thought process works, becomes imperative. Every individual is born with a stockpile of thought seeds in mind, coming as it may as Karmic carryover from the past. The imprints of the skill sets you develop, good or bad experiences one would have, habits and attitudes inculcated dur-



ing life time and unfulfilled desires if any, get carried over to the next life in the form of thought seeds. These desire imprints set the premise on which your thought process moves — desire trends, likes & dislikes; prejudices & obsessions; and passions. Accordingly, one sets the goal of life and responds to the situations

Coming to the chemistry of mind, the karmic imprints involuntarily develop individual specific belief pattern. As and when congenial ground becomes available, the belief system comes into active play. Accordingly, you make choices in life. The belief system excites desire trends, which when gravitate after processing in mind, turn into thoughts, that translate into actions. And every action has consequences, good or bad, depending on the content and character of the thoughts driving the mind. Evidently, one does not wish to invite bad consequences.

To overcome this vulnerability, human beings are empowered with an exclusive privilege to guide one's actions by choice and discrimination. The discriminatory ability, however, doesn't play out involuntarily. You need to consciously invoke it for due diligence before taking any call. The paradox, however, is that

more often one's *ahamkara* (ego consciousness) identifies itself with the inherent mind-trend. It takes things on its face value, as if that would be its end game. Also, it gets drawn towards tempting influences of the seeming world and accordingly sets its dream destination. In the process, it fails to utilise its empowerment tool, and evidently to its detriment.

Your empowerment tool enjoins upon you with the capability to observe and evaluate your thought process. Applying this privilege, you could reflect, identify and acknowledge your thought trends, and make necessary corrections. But more often *ahamkara* doesn't let you identify your own mind. Here comes the role of a Guru, who shows your mirror image and then counsels you how to give a positive turn to the mind. Life may then turn into a beautiful experience.

So goes the saying: "Watch your thoughts, they become words; words translate into action; action turns into habit; habit develops your character; and character defines your destiny."

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